

Bihar Special

Current Affairs

August 2022



The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag has been granted by the Union Government to Mithila Makhana from Bihar

Why is in News?

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, declared: "Mithila Makhana is registered with the GI tag farmers would get benefit and it will be easy for them to earn.
- People outside of Bihar would be allowed to use this auspicious substance with reverence due to the geographical indication tag attached to Mithila Makhana throughout the holiday season.

Key Points: -

- Interestingly, Mithila Makhana is the fifth product from Bihar to be given the GI label. As its name suggests, it is grown in the Mithila region of Bihar and some areas of Nepal.
- Magahi Paan of Nawada district, Jardalu Mango and Katarni Paddy (Rice) of Bhagalpur district, and Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur district all received GI tags earlier in the year 2016.
- Over 80% of India's supply of makhana, or fox nuts, is produced in Bihar. It is referred to as the super food of today's modern life since it is helpful in various disorders.
- Locally, Mithila refers to Makhana as Makhan. Euryale Ferox salisb is its botanical name. The Mithila region of Bihar and the surrounding regions of Nepal are where this specific kind of Aquatic Fox Nut is grown.
- Fox nuts, also known as makhana, are full of micronutrients like magnesium, calcium, phosphorus, and iron in addition to being high in nutrients like protein and fiber.
- It is important to note that during the Kojagra Puja celebration, the Maithili Brahmin caste of Bihar utilizes and distributes the Makhana widely.



GI tag or Geographical Indication



- According to the World International Property Organization, WIPO, a GI tag is used for items that have a specific geographical origin or distinctive qualities that are precisely identifiable in a single area. The GI tag can only be grown to represent a geographic location, city, region, or according to the nation.
- Geographical Indicator, or GI tag, is known as Geographical Indication in Hindi.
- Additionally, the reputation of the product, qualities, or quality must unavoidably be related to its country of origin. Once a product has this label, neither a person nor a business may market products with a similar name.
- A GI tag that has been discovered on an object or product is valid for ten years before it may be changed.
- In December 1999, the Indian Parliament approved an Act for the registration and protection of diverse items. In English, this law was known as the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. It has been put into effect since 2003.
- The Central Government has awarded the GI label to a total of 11 Bihar-made goods in a variety of categories so far.

List of items granted GI tag in Bihar			
Sl.No.	Items/Product	Category	Region
1.	Silao khaza	Food Stuff	Nalanda (Rajgir)
2.	Sujini Embroidery	Handicraft	Muzaffarpur
3.	Sikki Grass Product	Handicraft	Tirhut region of west Champaran
4.	Madhubani Paintings	Handicraft	Mithila region
5.	Applique work	Handicraft	Bihar
6.	Bhagalpur Silk	Handicraft	Bhagalpur
7.	Shahi Litchi	Agriculture	Muzaffarpur



8.	Katarni Rice	Agriculture	Munger, Banka, and South region of Bhagalpur
9.	Zardalu Mango	Agriculture	Bhagalpur
10.	Maghai Paan	Agriculture	Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Nalada
11.	Makhana	Agriculture	Mithila region

Maithili author Navakrishna Aihik will get the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in 2022.

Why is in News?

- The Yuva Sahitya Puraskar 2022 was awarded, according to a Sahitya Akademi announcement on August 24, 2022.
- The Sahitya Akademi has chosen to present the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in 23 Indian languages this year.

Key Points: -

- The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, 2022, has been given to young author Navkrishna Aihik, a native of the Madhubani district of Bihar state and current resident of Kolkata, for his collection of Maithili satires called "Khurchanbhaik Kachmachhi."
- Navakrishna Aihik has previously received awards such as the CCRT Junior Fellowship Award and the Nav Hastakshar Award.
- Rupesh Kumar Jha is the birth name of Navakrishna Aihik, who was born on May 27, 1989, in Tyontha Village of Madhubani District in Bihar State.
- IT Professional Rupesh is active in the field of freelance writing for the last 15 years. His other works in the Maithili language mainly include the poetry



collection 'Ek Misiya' in the year 2013 and the satirical collection 'Khurchanbhaik Kachhamchhi' in the year 2015.

- Another significant work by Navakrishna Aihik is the satirical drama "Kanphuski," which he co-wrote with Rupesh Kumar Jha, who is presently the editor and publisher of the renowned online publication Mythmedia.
- Each year, the Sahitya Akademi presents prizes for both original literary works in the twenty-four languages it recognizes and for literary translations into these languages.

Sahitya Akademi

- Sahitya Akademi was established in the year 1954 as an autonomous institution under the resolution of the Government of India on 15 December 1952.
- The Sahitya Akademi has been recognizing the top literary works written in each of India's main languages since it was founded, and it gives out prizes every year. In 1955, these prizes were presented for the first time.
- The prize money for Sahitya Akademi Award winners is Rs. 1,000,000 as of the year 2010.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru served as the organization's first president. From 2018 to 2022, Prof. Chandrashekhar Kambar will serve as the next president of the Sahitya Akademi.
- Main Awards given by Sahitya Akademi :-
 1. Sahitya Akademi Award
 2. Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman
 3. Sahitya Akademi Translation Award
 4. Sahitya Akademi Children's Sahitya Puraskar
 5. Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar

The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Award, 2022 was given to Dr. Virendra Jha for "Udan-Chhu."

Why is in News?

- The works of 22 authors from various languages were chosen for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2022 during a meeting of the



Executive Board presided over by Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, president of the organization.

- This year the award is not being given in the Punjabi language. The award in the Santhali language will be announced later.

Key Points: -

- Dr. Virendra Jha, who was born in the Bihar state village of Dullipatti in the Madhubani district, is also recognized for penning the histories of Dullipatti and Jayanagar.
- A constructive strategy has been used in the book "Udan-Chu" for raising children's awareness of and interest in traditional schooling.
- Children are taught to be respectful of language, nature, animals, birds, and other things while reading stories in this book since they are presented in basic English. These stories mostly emphasize education and scientific awareness.
- About 20 books by Dr. Virendra Jha have been released so far, of which five are for children, three are novels for children, one is a play, and many more are in the process of being released.
- The prize consists of a copper plate with engravings and an honorarium of Rs 50,000. This year, there won't be a Punjabi ceremony to present the prize. A later date will be set for the Santhali language prize.
- All these prizes are given only to those books which are published for the first time in the last five years of the year immediately preceding the year of the award (i.e. between 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2020).



Due to its superior performance in the MNREGA sector, Buxar took top place in Bihar in the first quarter of 2022–2023

Why is in News?

- What is the current status of MNREGA in Bihar under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, the largest program to offer jobs to people for 100 days.



The report for the first quarter of this financial year has been released by the Rural Development Department of the state.

- By performing better on MNREGA projects during the first quarter of the financial year 2022–23, the Bihar district of Buxar climbed to the top position in the entire state, while the capital of the state, Patna, came in at number 31 with 65.85 points.

Key Points: -

- The Buxar district has been ranked 1 in Bihar according to the MIS (Management Information System) report from April to July. Buxar received 89.15 out of a possible 100 points for the nine parameters necessary for this ranking. Jehanabad is a close second.
- Vaishali is in third place with 81.78 out of a possible 100 points, behind Vaishali. Gaya and East Champaran round up the top five districts, which also include Buxar, Jehanabad, and Vaishali.
- The Sixth position went to Sitamarhi, followed by Muzaffarpur, Munger, and Nalanda in that order. According to the rating, Kaimur is in ninth place, Rohtas is in eleventh place, and Bhojpur is in twenty-five place among the nearby districts of Buxar, Shahabad, and other districts.
- Despite the fact that Amrit Sarovar's work has now been included in the ranking for the first time, the Sheohar district still comes in last in this list. The Samastipur district, which previously held the top spot in the MNREGA rating, is now in 22nd place, indicating that Buxar has improved in this ranking as compared to last year.
- Patna district places third in terms of plantation and 31st in terms of timely completion of initiatives according to the ranking's predetermined criteria. In terms of paying laborers on time, Patna is ranked 26th, and the Patna district is 18th in regards to employing women.
- It is given in this context for MNREGA rating for choosing the Amrit Sarovar building site and finishing the chosen schemes, involvement of scheduled castes and tribes in MNREGA, work for women, an inspection of plantations, and other tasks, as well as how much was spent on agricultural labor.



211 players and 6 coaches of Bihar were honored on the occasion of National Sports Day (August 29)

Why is in News?

- The Department of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar, awarded the Bihar Khel Samman to 211 athletes and 6 coaches who participated in numerous national and international sporting events.
- This year marks the very first time that the All India University Level Games, Asian Championship Games, and SAIF Games have been added to the official list of Bihar Khel Samman.

Key Points:-

- The state government of Bihar has given the department responsible for art, culture, and youth a total cash prize of Rs 3 crore 11 lakh 15 thousand. The state government of Bihar has given the department responsible for art, culture, and youth a total cash prize of Rs 3 crore 11 lakh 15 thousand and 792 rupees for all the shortlisted players and coaches.
- In the men's singles SL3 category at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Pramod Bhagat won the gold medal with a prize of Rs. 1 crore. In the men's high jump, Sharat Kumar won the bronze medal with a prize of Rs. 50 lakh.
- It is important to note that Hrithik Anand won the gold medal in badminton in the 24th Summer Deaflympics in Brazil in 2021 and received Rs. Nitish Kumar, the chief minister, has previously recognized him.
- Aarti Kumari and Sapna Kumari, two rugby players, received awards of Rs 8 lakh 33 thousand 333 and Rs 15 lakh, respectively, for their performances in the men's force event in lawn ball at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Chandan Kumar won the silver medal in this event.
- It is important to point out that this year's cash prize has been quadrupled from last year's for the chosen contestants who have performed better at the national level. A financial payment has also been offered to players in the general and disabled categories starting this year as a gesture of respect.



- Rajendra Prasad (weightlifting), Anup Kumar (wushu), Gautam Pratap Singh (rugby), Pankaj Kumar Ranjan (sepkatkara), Pinky Kumari (Eklavya Instructor - football), and Asghar Hussain are among the coaches honored with the Bihar Khel Samman (Football).

After taking the oath of office as the Chief Minister for the eighth time, Nitish Kumar, the previous Chief Minister of Bihar, once more expanded the size of his cabinet

Why is in News?

- The Grand Alliance has allowed the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) to have a maximum of 17 MLAs in Nitish Kumar's new cabinet. After them, 11 MLAs from the JDU have been sworn in as ministers.
- For the record eighth time, Shri Nitish Kumar took the oath of office as chief minister. While Pawan Chamling has been the nation's Chief Minister for the greatest period of time, Nitish Kumar has served as Bihar's Chief Minister the longest.

Key Points:-

- Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has been given the Ministry of Health, Road, and Urban Development, and Tej Pratap Yadav has been given the responsibility of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been given the responsibility of General Administration, Home, and Monitoring.
- Two Congress MLAs and one HAM MLA have also been appointed as ministers in this freshly formed cabinet. Sumit Kumar Singh, an independent candidate, has also joined Nitish Kumar's cabinet addition to this.
- All of the newly elected ministers were given their oaths of office and secrecy by the current governor of Bihar, Shri Fagu Chauhan, in batches of five and six. Sheela Kumari and Leshi Singh, two women ministers from the JD(U), and Anita Devi, a member of the RJD, are the three new additions to the cabinet.



- In the newly formed Mahagathbandhan government, there are five Muslims: Zama Khan of the JD(U), Mohammad Afaq Alam of the Congress, Shamim Ahmed, Israel Mansoori, and Shahnawaz Alam of the RJD.
- Ashok Choudhary of the JD(U), Kumar Sarvjeet and Surendra Ram of the RJD, Murari Gautam of the Congress, and Santosh Kumar Suman of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (HUM) are among the five ministers from the Dalit community who have been appointed to the Grand Alliance government.

A list of some new ministers is provided, along with certain important ministries.	
Ministers	Allotted Ministry
Nitish kumar (Chief Minister)	General Administration, Cabinet Secretariat, Home, Vigilance, Election Dept., and all the departments that have not yet been assigned to anyone.
Tejashwi Prasad Yadav (Deputy Chief Minister)	Health, road construction, housing, urban development, and rural work.
Vijay Kumar Choudhary	Finance Department
Brijendra Prasad Yadav	Energy, Planning & Development
Alok Kumar Mehta	Revenue & land Reforms
Afaque Alam	Animal Husbandry & Fisheries
Ashok Choudhary	Building Construction
Shravan Kumar	Rural Development
Surendra Prasad Yadav	Co-Operative

Murli Manohar Srivastava, the author, received an India Book of Records-2022 award

Why is in News?

- A research book on the life of shehnai player Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan by Murli Manohar Srivastava has been recognized by the India Book of Records-2022.



Key Points:-

- In the year 2008, Prabhat Prakashan Delhi released the first edition of this book. There have been four editions of this book released to date, and it has also been listed as a Best Seller in Biography for the past ten years.
- Shri Nitish Kumar, the chief minister of Bihar, announced the launching of the book on November 15. In the Dumraon village in the Buxar district, Mr. Murli Manohar Srivastava was born in the home of Dr. Shashi Bhushan Srivastava.
- The United Kingdom has proposed Shri Murli Manohar Srivastava for an honorary doctorate.
- In addition to the biography of Bismillah Khan, Shri Murli Manohar Srivastava has produced two other documentaries. One of them is for Safar-e-Bismillah, and the other is for Doordarshan.
- Since 2006, the India Book of Records has been the unquestioned defender and curator of several Indian records.
- Every year, the India Book of Records, a registered organization with the Indian government, produces a record book to help authors achieve their potential on a national and international level.

**Saurav Suman and Nishi Kumari, two teachers from Bihar, have been honored with the 2022 National Teacher Award****Why is in News?**

- On the occasion of Teacher's Day in 2022, the National Teacher Award, 2022 would be granted to 46 educators from all around India.
- Only two teachers from Bihar could be included in the final selection list out of a total of six teachers who were shortlisted for the National Teacher Award 2022.

Key Points:-

- Every year on September 5th, Teacher's Day, the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education of the Government of



India presents the President with awards for the greatest teachers in the nation at a nationwide ceremony.

- Nishi Kumari, a selected teacher, is presently a teacher at Mahadev Higher Secondary School in Khusrupur, Patna, while Saurav Suman teaches at Lalit Narayan Laxmi Narayan Project Girls High School in Triveniganj, Supaul.
- The head teacher of Adarsh Kanya Plus Two School in Ramgarh, Bhabua, Naseem Akhtar of Bibi Ram Senior Secondary School in Saran, Ravi Roshan Kumar of Upgraded High School in Madhopatti, Darbhanga, and Anil Kumar Singh of Girls Middle School in Chandmari, Motihari are the other four teachers who have been shortlisted. The head teacher in charge of the occasion was Mamta Pandey.



Shri Atul Prasad was appointed as the new chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC)

Why is in News?

- The Bihar government has appointed former IAS officer Shri Atul Prasad as the new chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) (BPSC).
- He has been appointed in place of former chairman RK Mahajan, it is noteworthy that the term of RK Mahajan has ended on August 4, 2022.

Key Points:-

- Appointment of Shri Atul Prasad as 24th Chairman of Bihar Public Service Commission effective from 5 August 2022 Shri Prasad has been an IAS officer since 1987.
- Shri Atul Prasad departed from his position as Development Commissioner for Bihar in February 2022 before taking over as Chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission. In addition, Shri Prasad served



as Principal Secretary for several government agencies throughout Bihar.

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur is where Atul Prasad obtained his B.Tech. in electrical engineering. He then completed a CAS in Public Administration at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in 2010 and studied Master of Business Administration (MBA), Finance, and Financial Management Services at Indira Gandhi National Open University.
- It is important to note that the chairman and members of the Bihar Public Service Commission are appointed for terms of six years or until they reach the age of 62.

BPSC

- The Bihar Public Service Commission was established on 1 April 1949 by subsection (1) of section 261 of the Government of India Act, 1935, following the division of the states of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.
- With the adoption of the Constitution of India, it was given constitutional standing on January 26, 1950. The Indian Constitution's Article 315 designates it as a constitutional body.
- The Bihar Public Service Commission's first headquarters were in Ranchi. From Ranchi to Patna, the commission's administrative center was moved by the state government on March 1 of that year.
- Shri Rajandhari Sinha served as the Bihar Public Service Commission's first chairman, and Shri Radha Krishna Choudhary served as the organization's first secretary.

On the 75th Independence Day in 2022, the Agriculture Department's glimpse(tableaux) won first prize.

Why is in News?

- The primary state event for Bihar was held in Gandhi Maidan in Patna on August 15, 2022. Tableaux from a total of 9 departments participated on this occasion.

Key Points:-

- The tableau of the Agriculture Department took first place among all the tableaux presented on the occasion of Independence Day, followed by the



tableau of the Fire Department in second place and the tableau of the Education Project in third place.

- In addition to the tableaux mentioned above, tableaux for the Prohibition Department, Department of Livelihood, Department of Industry, Department of Tourism, Department of Information and Public Relations, and Department of Building Construction were also displayed.
- All the tableaux engaged were given rewards based on their strong performances at this time when the entire nation is commemorating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.
- Ahead of awarding the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with the top medal for the finest parade, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar examined fourteen security force contingents.



The Patna Dairy Project will receive the Most Trusted Brand Award in 2022.

Why is in News?

- Honorable Minister of State, Shri Kaushal Kishor, Department of Urban Affairs, Government of India, presented the "Rural and Urban Development Summit Award - 2022" to Vaishali Patliputra Milk Producers Cooperative Federation Ltd., Patna (Patna Dairy Project) in New Delhi. Shri Sree Narayan Thakur, the association's managing director, received the "Most Trusted Brand Award-2022" and the "Dairy CEO Award-2022."

Key Points:-

- Since its inception, the Patna Dairy Project has worked to assist milk producers in rural regions by giving them a fair price for their milk and by linking them with other institutions through its effective administration.
- The Patna Dairy Project Institute was given this honor because Sudha is a well-known



brand both inside and outside of the state.

- This quality mark was initially used by the Vaishali Patliputra Milk Producers Cooperative Federation Ltd., often known as Patna or the Patna Dairy Project, in the nation.
- Super Sudhadan of the Patna Dairy Project has received a quality rating for the first time in Bihar. The primary source of vital nutrients for raising milk production in milch animals in Bihar is Super Sudhadan cow feed.
- It should be noted that there is now no special regulation in place to keep an eye on the caliber of the mineral mixtures and animal feed produced in India. The National Dairy Development Board is putting in place a quality mark for various kinds of animal feed and mineral combinations with this in mind.

The Bihar Start-Up Policy - 2022 was launched by Syed Shahnawaz, the state's former industries minister.

Why is in News?

- To encourage entrepreneurship in the nation, the Central and State Governments are running several number of programs.
- The Bihar Start-Up Policy - 2022 has been introduced in this order by the Bihar government to offer financial support to the state's budding entrepreneurs.

Key Points:-

- For ten years, the entrepreneurs who qualify for this scheme would receive loans up to Rs 10 lakh at no interest. The entrepreneurs who would benefit from it will be given a loan in the amount of this sum as a starting capital.
- The state government will further offer help to the businesses that will benefit from this strategy in the areas of marketing and training, if necessary.
- A startup would receive additional financial support of Rs 3 lakh under this policy from the state government for product development and training if it participates in any state development program.



- In addition to 2% of the total investment made by the beneficiaries, the state government will provide financial help to young entrepreneurs as a success fee if they are successful in securing angel investment for their firms.
- The state government will provide financial aid to young business owners as a success fee in addition to 2% of the total investment made by the beneficiaries for those who are successful in securing angel investment for their enterprises.
- In this context, the state government has established a goal to boost the competitiveness of traditional industries including handicrafts, khadi, village industries, etc. to support micro, small, and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs).
- Each company in the state run by a woman entrepreneur would receive an additional 5% of the funds, or financial support in the amount of Rs 10 lakh 50 thousand, as seed money, and Rs 3 lakh 15 thousand for taking part in the development program.
- 15% more, or an extra Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) startup founders will receive Rs 11 lakh 5000 from the state government in the form of seed cash, and Rs 3 lakh 45 thousand if they want to take part in state development initiatives. There will be money made accessible.

Shikha Goyal was posthumously awarded the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award for Maithili-2021

Why is in News?

- On August 4, 2022, the Maithili version of the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award for 2021 was released. Shikha Goel, a late resident of Bihar's Darbhanga district, received this honor in memory of her late mother.
- It's interesting to notice that the Sahitya Akademi had already announced translation awards for other languages. Technical issues have caused a delay in the Maithili announcement of this award.

Key Points:-

- The honor has been granted to Late Goel for his translation of the autobiographical Marathi novel "Smaranagatha," authored by Go.Ni.Dandekar, into Maithili.



- By the late Shikha Goyal, this work was translated and released by Sahitya Akademi in 2018.
- Dr. Dilip Kumar Jha, a former animal husbandry officer from the Saharsa Animal Husbandry Department, is the father of the late Shikha Goyal. While they get married in Chandigarh, their mother's house Goyal resides in Mirzapur, Darbhanga.
- The Sahitya Akademi has been presenting awards for translations since 1989 in addition to those granted for creative literature. Exceptional translators of 24 languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi are given this honor. However, 22 works have been chosen as finalists for the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award 2021.
- The prize money for this discipline in 1989 was just Rs. 10,000. In the year 2001, it was raised to Rs. 15,000. This sum was changed to Rs. 20,000/- as of 2003. 2009 saw an increase in this sum to Rs. 50,000/-.



A total of 27 Bihar cities, including Gaya, were nominated for the AMRUT Yojana 2.0, which comprised 22 Bihar cities.

Why is in News?

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has added the years 2025–2026 to the Atal Renewal and Urban Transformation Mission (AMRUT) program. of which is referred to as AMRUT Yojana 2.0.
- According to the Bihar State Government's recommendation, this program has been expanded to cover 22 cities around the state, including Bodh Gaya. As a result, throughout the following three years, every home in the chosen city would have access to clean tap water, sewage, and wastewater treatment. In addition to the septage connection, all other arrangements will be made.



Key Points:-



- Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Biharsharif, Darbhanga, Purnia, Ara, Begusarai, Katihar, Munger, Danapur, Sasaram, Saharsa, Dehri, Siwan, Chapra, Bettiah, Motihari, Bagaha, Kishanganj, Jamalpur, Jehanabad, Buxar, Hajipur Aurangabad and newly selected city Bodh Gaya are included.
- The number of cities covered by the AMRUT scheme in Bihar has now expanded from 26 to 27 as a result of the inclusion of Bodh Gaya in this list.
- The central government would allocate 20, 40, and 40% of funds to the state in three installments for the execution of the suggested initiatives in the chosen Amrit city by the local administration. The relevant body is required to pay property tax and use it to order to get the third year's payment. The central government must be provided with all the information regarding the fee correction.
- For the improvement of public amenities in 27 cities across the state, it is expected that the AMRUT scheme will cost more than Rs 3835 crore over the five years of the scheme.
- The scope of this program includes cities with a population of at least a lakh. Water supply, sanitation, sewerage, septage, rainwater drainage, toilets, beautifying of river ghats, and the creation of parks are all being undertaken through this program.
- Aurangabad, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, Gaya, Jehanabad, Katihar, Kishanganj, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, West Champaran, Patna, East Champaran, Purnia, Rohtas, Saharsa, Saran, Siwan, and Vaishali are the Bihar cities that are part of AMRUT 2.0

Without opposition, Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was chosen as the new Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Why is in News?

- The new Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly was unanimously chosen following the resignation of the previous Speaker, Vijay Kumar Sinha.
- Awadh Bihari Chaudhary of the RJD was chosen by the Grand Alliance as its nominee for Speaker of the Assembly as a result. He received no additional nominations against him, and as a result, he was elected without opposition.

Key Points:-



- Shri Awadh Bihari Choudhary, who was recently elected Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, would be the second Speaker of the state assembly to come from his party since the formation of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).
- Avadh Bihari Chaudhary served as a minister in the Rabri Devi administration as well.
- Previously, Shri Devnarayan Yadav served as Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from the RJD. He held the position from 1995 to 2000.
- Vijay Kumar Sinha, the former speaker of the assembly, has been elected to the Lakhisarai Assembly by the Bharatiya Janata Party in a series of victories (BJP).
- The 17th Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly is Awadh Bihari Chaudhary. It is interesting that Vijay Kumar Sinha, a previous speaker of the Bihar Assembly, resigned from his position on August 24.
- Shri Awadh Bihari Chaudhary, 76, was elected as a member of the legislative assembly for the Siwan district in the years 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, February 2005, and 2020.
- In 2020, he ran against Vijay Kumar Sinha for the position of Speaker, but he was unsuccessful.



The Muzaffarpur district's astronomical observatory is listed among the endangered observatories on UNESCO's world heritage list.

Why is in News?

- The 106-year-old Planetarium Astronomical Observatory at Langat Singh College in the Bihar district of Muzaffarpur has been listed by UNESCO as one of the world's most important and endangered observatories.

Key Points:-

- Up until the early 1970s, the Muzaffarpur observatory and planetarium operated successfully, but as a result of government



negligence, the observatory started to deteriorate routinely after then.

- This observatory is currently in total disrepair. The officials are hoping to receive funding from the state government for its rehabilitation now that it has been added to the list of UNESCO's endangered historic observatories.
- The year 1899 saw the founding of Langat Singh College. The observatory in question is the first of its kind in eastern India. This astronomy observatory located in Muzaffarpur was built in the year 1916, which provides extensive astronomical education to the pupils.
- Initiating the construction of an astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College was a first-time initiative by Professor Romesh Chandra Sen. He consulted astronomer Jay Mitchell in the year 1914 for advice.
- In this case, telescopes, chronographs, astronomical clocks, and other devices were imported from England in 1915. Finally, the astronomical observatory was established here in the year 1916. A planetarium was also built in this Muzaffarpur institution in 1946.

UNESCO

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded on November 16, 1945. Its headquarters are in Paris (France), and Audrey Azoulay is the organization's current director.
- The UNESCO World Heritage Convention recognizes places with significant cultural and natural heritage around the globe. The first iteration of this conference took place in 1972.
- India currently holds the sixth-highest number of World Heritage Sites with a total of 40 sites, making it the world's most diverse nation. In addition to that, there are 7 natural sites, 32 cultural sites, and 1 mixed site.
- A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Jantar Mantar in Jaipur is also a part of it. The largest stone solarium in the world may be found inside Jantar Mantar, a collection of 19 astronomical instruments that Raja Sawai Jai Singh II erected.

