

Bihar Special Current Affairs

February 2023

Useful for

**BPSC, BSSC, CDPO, and Other State
Special Exams.**



South Asian Women's Film Festival to be organized first time in Patna

Why is in News?

- The South Asian Women's Film Festival will be held for the first time in Patna, the capital of Bihar, from February 2 to February 9, 2023, under the joint auspices of the South Asia Trust and the Bihar State Film Development and Finance Corporation, according to information released on February 1 by Vandana Preyasi, secretary of the state's art, culture, and youth department.

Key Points :-

- The South Asian Women's Film Festival was launched by Jitendra Kumar Rai, Minister of Arts, Culture, and Youth Department, in front of female students from Magadh Mahila Mahavidyalaya, and its closing ceremony was held at NIFT Patna Campus.
- Six South Asian films were screened in Patna, the state's capital, throughout the course of the seven days that the South Asia Women's Film Festival, organised by the Department of Art, Culture, and Youth, was held there. Together with movies, the conversation in this group also covered issues relating to women's empowerment.
- On February 2 and 3, Chanakya National Law University, on February 3 and 4, the Chandragupta Institute of Management in Patna, on February 6 and 7, and on February 8 and 9, NIFT Patna all hosted film screenings as part of this South Asia Women's Film Festival.
- The filmmakers from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and India all highlight and concentrate on under-researched facets of women's discourse. In addition, it influences how South Asian men and women view women.
- At the South Asian Women's Film Festival, the following films were shown:
 - Films from India 'Sita Ke Badalte Roop' and 'The City That Spoke to Me'.
 - Sri Lanka's 'face cover'.
 - Nepal's 'Before You Were My Mother' and 'Flames of a Continuous Field of Time'.
 - Bangladesh's 'Decoding Gender'.



- According to the Bihar government is developing a new film policy that will provide incentives and financial support to filmmakers who choose to shoot movies in the state. He also mentioned that a single-window clearance system would soon be implemented to provide the filmmakers with the necessary clearances and permissions.

In every district of Bihar, the Labor Resource Department will establish a digital library.

Why is in News?

- The Labor Resources Department has made the decision to establish a digital library in each district of the state for the convenience of the students preparing for competitive exams.
- The Department also plans to offer the state's students a variety of skills to improve their employability. The Department is adamant that the only way to harness the demographic dividends, which the state currently enjoys, for the sake of overall economic development is through the skilling of the young.

Key points :-

- Along with books that are helpful for competitive exams, this digital library that will open in the Model Career Center (MIC) will also provide students with information on various job openings across the nation and state.
- The Department of Labor Resources has decided to expand the resources available to students in MIC who are studying for competitive exams. To order to do this, the center's display board and YouTube channel will provide job information to the youngsters.
- It will be mandatory for the youth studying at this center to register on the National Career Service Portal for free.
- All state employees will have access to a social security system, according to the labour resources department's vision. It seeks to effectively administer labour laws while also promoting industrial harmony and state economic growth.
- Students currently receive English and Hindi books in the center connected to competitive exams. The students in the center have access to books about careers in literature, books about competitive contemporary authors, daily newspapers, and career newspapers.



- To ensure that the entire state can directly benefit from this programme, the installation of digital libraries will soon be extended to all panchayats and wards in the state.
- As a result, children in rural areas will have access to improved educational facilities. Here, all the good literature are in one location for them. They will be less reliant on other people. The chances for children who are struggling due to a lack of resources will improve.
- Youngsters who are denied an education in cities will have access to advanced study alternatives in the hamlet. The digital library will be accessible to other young and old residents of the community. Kids will be able to buy books for their studies as well. With the aid of these excellent publications, teachers will be able to instruct students.
- This National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).
- The objective of NDLI is to make digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country to empower, inspire and encourage learning. The National Digital Library of India is developed by IIT Kharagpur.

A maximum of 16 panchayats in Banka are nominated for the National Panchayat Award in 2023.

Why is in News?

- The National Panchayat Award is given annually by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India to the best performing three-tier Panchayats on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April.
- In this regard, a multi-level competition at the block, district, state, and national levels is to be organised in order to choose different Gram Panchayats of the nation for the National Panchayat Award for the year 2023 (evaluation period 2021-22).

Key Points :-

- National Panchayat Awards are a means by which the Ministry of Panchayati Raj supports the best performing Panchayats.
- 16 gram panchayats have been chosen for a total of 19 themes out of a total of 297 gram



panchayats that were nominated for each theme from each of the 11 blocks in the Banka district of the state of Bihar.

- When it comes to the execution of Panchayati Raj programmes, Banka is second in the state overall and first in the Agriculture Sensex for the fiscal year 2023–2024.
- Three winners in each of the predetermined subjects from every block in the state will compete for the National Panchayat Award in 2023, and the block level committee will choose the top three candidates. The Department of Panchayati Raj shall appoint this committee.
- The main goals of this competition are to evaluate how well Panchayats are doing in terms of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, to encourage healthy competition among them, and to inspire the Panchayats to accomplish the LSDGs (17 SDGs in total) by the year 2030. to use governmental institutions as a catalyst to move the LSDG process forward.
- In this regard, the prizes will be presented at the national level to the district panchayats and village blocks in the following two categories:-
 1. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Centenary Development Award (for individual subject four performance)
 2. Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Satta Development Award (for overall performance under all subjects)

Salient Features of Panchayat Award :-

- A multi-tiered pyramidal structure is formed by the award competition at the block, district, state/UT, and national levels. For this, all panchayats are graded based on how well they performed in relation to each of the nine LSGD themes listed below:-
 1. Poverty free and enhanced livelihood panchayat
 2. Healthy Panchayat
 3. Child friendly panchayat
 4. Water Adequate Panchayat
 5. Clean and Green panchayat
 6. Self-sustaining infrastructure in Panchayat
 7. Socially Secure Panchayat
 8. Panchayat with Good Governance
 9. Women friendly panchayat
- Part IX of the Constitution was added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, which was published on April 24, 1993. According to Article 243G of the Constitution, States must grant Panchayats the necessary authority and powers to function as institutions of self-government for the



planning and execution of social justice and economic development schemes, including those on the 29 topics listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

- A vital component of building a healthy and competitive ecosystem for the all-encompassing implementation of development plans is providing incentives to Panchayats in the form of awards. The finest performing Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been recognised with prizes by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), which encourages them to improve their performance in local self-governance.

In Bihar, one-third of seats in the Medical and Engineering fields would be reserved for female students.

Why is in News ?

- At the annual meeting of the Bihar College of Engineering (BCE)-NIT Alumni Committee on February 5, 2023, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar declared that from the start of the new academic year, 2023, one-third of the seats in the state's medical and engineering colleges would be reserved for female students.

Key points :-

- According to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, there are now at least a third of seats set aside for female students in engineering and medicine.
- The reconstitution of the Bihar Police in 2013 included a 35 percent reservation for women; as a result, Bihar has more women employed in law enforcement than any other state.
- In addition, Bihar's government has granted women a 35 percent reservation in all jobs.
- For the expansion of NIT Patna in this aspect, engineering institutions are being established in each district. In Bihta, 125 acres of property have been donated, and another 25 acres of undeveloped land will be donated close to the Bihta campus that is currently being built.
- It is noteworthy that the Bihar College of Engineering was accorded the status of NIT by the Central Government, led by the then-Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in the year 2004. The Bihar College of Engineering is now known as BCE-NIT credited to the state of Bihar.
- In the past, the Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana of the state government boosted the quantity of scholarships available to female students. Girls who



graduate will now receive a scholarship of 50,000, while those who pass intermediate (class 12) will receive a stipend of 25,000. Before, graduate females or those with a comparable degree earned a stipend of 25,000, while intermediate girls received a stipend of 10,000.

In the Khelo India women's road cycling competition, Bihar won two Gold medals and two Silver medals.

Why is in News ?

- Four medals in all, including two gold and two silver, were won by Bihar in the Khelo India Women's Road Cycling League, which took place in Giridih, Jharkhand, on February 25 and 26, 2023.

Key Points :-

- In the state of Jharkhand, the Giridih Cycling Association hosted the Khelo India Women's Road Cycling League.
- The Khelo India Women's Road Cycling League featured a 13-person Bihari women's cycling team.
- Baby Kumari, Appi Kumari, Srishti Kumari, Shilpi Kumari, Manju Kumari, Kajal Kumari, Gudiya Kumari, Amrita Kumari, Sanju Kumari, and Shalini Kumari made up the Bihar team, which also included coach Keshav Kumar (NIS).
- In the senior division of the competition, Baby Kumari took home the gold medal and Manju Kumari the silver in the 20-kilometer individual time event.
- Shalini Kumari took home the silver medal in the sub-junior division 15 km individual time race, while Amrita Kumari took home the gold.
- It is important to note that Dr. Kaushal Kishore Singh is the current secretary, Ramesh Chandra Dubey is the patron, and Vikram Aditya is the acting president of the Cycling Association of Bihar.



Patna saw the debut of the Bihar startup B-Hub

Why is in News ?

- The state's present chief minister, Mr. Nitish Kumar, met with him at the Bihar Startup B-opening Hub's on February 8th, 2023, in the state's capital, Patna, and asked about the work he was doing. Also, you looked at the company's made goods and services as well as its clientele's facilities.



Key Points :-

- In accordance with the Bihar Startup Policy, 2022, the Maurya Lok Complex in Patna has been transformed into the Bihar Startup B-Hub.
- The Bihar Industries Department has launched Startup B-Hub as an unique effort for people who launch such firms in accordance with the Startup Policy.
- The Chandragupta Institute of Management Institute (CIMP) Business Incubation and Innovation Foundation is in charge of overseeing the management of this B-Hub, or business hub, which is a 13800 square foot structure.
- Here, priority will be given to startups that are registered with the Industries Department of the Government of Bihar. Also, under the Startup Policy, 2022, arrangements have been established for interest-free seed capital up to Rs 10 lakh for 10 years.
- A provision has been introduced to award firms founded by women 5 percent extra money as seed money and startups from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Divyang 15 percent more money. For taking part in the acceleration programme, there is also a provision for a reward of Rs 3 lakh.
- It is important to note that, upon receiving funding from angel investors, the Bihar Startup Fund would arrange a matching loan up to a maximum of Rs 50 lakh equal to the funds obtained from SEBI registered category and angel group and a success fee of 2% of the entire investment.
- The State Government currently provides the Industry Department with a first deposit of Rs 4 lakh interest-free within 45 days in order to launch companies in Bihar.
- While an IT Park at Bihta (in the Patna district) and an IT city in Rajgir (in the Nalanda district) have been suggested for development, work has already begun on the IT tower that would be built at Dakbungalow, the center of the capital, under the PPP model. A common facility center would be created for the startup hub.



Selection of Madhubani's Mohd. Shams for the Para Swimming Championship

Why is in News ?

- Mo. Shams Alam, a para swimmer from the Madhubani region of Bihar, was chosen to compete in the Para Swimming World Series Championship on February 21, 2023.

Key Points :-

- Para Swimmer Mo in the Indian Para Swimming Team for the Para Swimming Championship to be held in Sheffield, England from March 16 to 19, 2023. Shams Alam has been selected.
- Notably, Mohd. Shams Alam had finished sixth in the Para Swimming Championships last June 2022, setting a new national record by completing the 200 meters race in 4 minutes, 39.71 seconds.
- Apart from this, he has also received the National Best Sports Person Award in the year 2021.
- It is worth mentioning that in the National Para Swimming Championship organized at Dr. Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex, Guwahati on November 11-13, 2022, Mohd. Shams Alam has won two gold and one bronze medal.



There will be construction of the Buddha Smriti Stupa and the Buddha Samyak Darshan Museum at Vaishaligarh, Vaishali district.

Why is in News ?

- Recently, the Buddha Samyak Darshan Museum and Smriti Stupa, which will be constructed on 72 acres in Vaishaligarh in the Vaishali district at a price of Rs. 315 crores, were inspected by the current Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr. Nitish Kumar.



Key Points :-

- Vaishali is a historically significant and legendary location in the state; it was from here that women were first admitted to the Buddhist Sangha, and afterwards, many more women began taking up Buddhism.
- The world's first republic started from Vaishali itself, from here Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavir i.e. both Buddhist and Jain religions have been related.
- Vaishali is the only place for all the Buddhists from all over the world who are followers of religion or know everything about Lord Buddha, from where all the things found after the last rites of Lord Buddha are considered authentic for them.
- In the year 2007, on the 2550th Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha, Buddha Smriti Park was built in Patna on about 22 acres, which was inaugurated by the Dalai Lama. The stupa built in this park has been named 'Karuna Stupa' by the Dalai Lama.
- Lord Buddha was cremated in Vaishali itself and his mortal remains were divided into eight parts, one of which was placed in the Mandastupa of Vaishali.
- According to the book of Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang, the bone remains of Lord Buddha were obtained from six places, in which the authenticity of the bone remains found from Vaishali's temple is more.
- Events related to the life of Buddha and events related to Buddhism will be shown here by the Art, Culture and Youth Department so that the attention of tourists coming from abroad is attracted towards Vaishali along with Bodh Gaya and Rajgir.



Justice K. Vinod Chandran will become the Chief Justice of Patna High Court

Why is in News?

- Judge K.K. Vinod Chandran was recommended for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court by the Collegium of the Supreme Court of India on February 8, 2023.



Key Point :-

- It should be mentioned that Sanjay Karol, the former chief justice of the Patna High Court, was elevated to the position of judge on the Supreme Court, leaving the position of chief justice of the Patna High Court empty. The Supreme Court will provide the Central Government its recommendation in this case.
- After the approval of the Central Government and the President, a notification would be made to designate Vinod Chandran as the Chief Judge of the Patna High Court.
- Currently serving as the Patna High Court's acting Chief Justice is Chakradhari Sharan Singh, a senior judge on the court.
- It should be mentioned that Judge K Vinod Chandran had previously been recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for the position of Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court. The Collegium then changed its mind in light of the additional openings and Chief Justices' elevation to the Supreme Court.
- After this Justice K. Vinod Chandran was made the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. Of. Vinod Chandran is due to retire on 24 April 2025.
- It is important to note that the Supreme Court Collegium suggested the names of three Chief Justices and two Justices from various national courts as candidates for the Supreme Court's judges on December 13, 2022. Sanjay Karol, the chief justice of the Patna High Court, and Judge Ahsanuddin Amanullah were also mentioned in this.
- "Among the Chief Justices of the High Courts, the State of Jharkhand is not represented. The Collegium consequently decides to suggest that Mr. Justice Apresh Kumar Singh be appointed as the Chief Judge of the High Court of Tripura upon Mr. Justice Jaswant Singh's retirement, according to the resolution. The retirement date for Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh is July 6, 2027.

**Bihar won 7 medals in the 18th National Inter District Junior Athletics Meet****Why is in News?**

- The athletes from Bihar had their greatest result to date at the 18th National Inter District Junior Athletics Meet (NEEDJAM), which took place from



February 9 to February 12, 2023, at the Patliputra Sports Complex in the capital Patna.

Key Points :-

- A total of 7 medals, including 3 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze, were earned by Bihar players in the 18th Need Jam.
- Abhay Pandey of Jamui won the gold medal at the 18th National Inter District Junior Athletics Meet, and Ashish Kumar and Virendra Yadav of Jamui, Alka Kumari of Siwan, Piyush Kumar of Rohtas, and Prashant Kumar of Patna also won medals in other events.
- In the under-16 girls age group shot put, Anshu from Sonipat, Haryana won the bronze medal, Khushi from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh got the silver medal, and Alka Singh from Siwan, Bihar, won the gold medal.
- In the Under-16 girls age group 80m race, Sarvani Rokade of Maharashtra-Pune won the gold medal, Chukka Selja of Nagarkulun, Telangana took home the silver, and Archita Banerjee of Bardman, West Bengal took home the bronze.
- Himanshu Kumar Singh of East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) won the gold medal in the 14-year-old triathlon category B at the 18th National Inter-District Junior Athletics Championship, which was held in the Bihar city of Patna. He scored 1632 points to win the competition.
- Suraj Singh (Uttarakhand) took home the bronze medal with a score of 1608 while Damu Ganesh (Andhra Pradesh) earned the silver medal with a score of 1616 in the 14-year-old Triathlon Group B competition. Notable is that the 60-meter race, standing jump, and standing high jump are all part of Triathlon Group B's competition.
- The 18th National Inter-District Junior Athletics Competition was held from February 10 to February 12 at the Pataliputra Sports Complex in Patna, the capital of Bihar. It was organised under the joint auspices of the Athletics Federation of India (New Delhi) and the Bihar Sports Development Authority (Patna).
- The NIDJAM has included 55,000 district champions since its start in 2003. NIDJAM is a project of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), and it is run in collaboration with the Bihar state government with the help of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport (MYAS).



Marine Drive in Patna will be upgraded to international standards.

Why is in News?

- On February 19, 2023, Mr. Tejashwi Yadav, the deputy chief minister of Bihar, announced at a review meeting held in Patna that the current state government had decided to build the Marine Drive along the banks of the Ganges in the state capital Patna to a level appropriate for international commerce.

Key Points :-

- People will enjoy many such facilities of a national and international level at the Marine Drive, which was constructed on the banks of the Ganges.
- On this location, the state government is building a stadium, a mall, a cultural and leisure centre, a museum, a parking lot, a water sports facility, and a cycling track along the Ganga riverfront.
- The Department of Housing and Tourism, the Department of Urban Development, and the Department of Road Construction will be in charge of the development plan. It can also accommodate the construction of two large stadiums, one for football and the other for cricket.
- The state's residents won't need to travel to pricey locations like Goa and the Andaman to enjoy water sports once these facilities are built.
- A plan to build tourist facilities here in the near future has been made in light of the growing number of visitors. At first, parking lots and other locations will be designated selfie sites. Moreover, as part of the Rajdhani River Front Development Project, 20 ghats were to be built throughout the city; however, only 16 of them have been finished.
- The Ganga Trail, which is being built in this context from Digha to Didarganj, is 5 kilometres long overall. The first stage of it, from Digha to PMCH, is finished. 7.4 kilometres, or 6.5 kilometres, make up this section. By building a dam, the road was built.
- It is noteworthy that the government approved the Ganga Trail project in 2011, and that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar lay its cornerstone in 2013.
- The Bihar State Road Development Corporation Ltd (BSRDC) has started the bidding process for creating a master plan, comprehensive architectural and structural design, along with landscaping along the driveway on the bank of the Ganga, as a further step towards the development of top-notch amenities along the JP Ganga Path in Patna.



Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar became the 41st Governor of Bihar

Why is in News?

- The 41st Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, took the oath of office on February 17, 2023, from Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court Chakradhari Sharan Singh. Fagu Chauhan, who had previously served as governor but is now governor of Meghalaya, was replaced by Mr. Arlekar.

Key Points :-

- 68-year-old Arlekar, Rajendra Vishwanath Shri Arlekar, who was born on April 23, 1954 in Panaji, Goa, previously served as the governor of Himachal Pradesh before being named to the position of governor of Bihar.
- On July 6, 2021, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was named governor of Himachal Pradesh. Mr. Rajendra served from 2015 to 2017 as both the Minister of State for Forest and Environment and the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. It is Rajendra Arlekar's achievement that the Goa Legislative Assembly is now paperless.
- In addition, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, a senior BJP politician who joined the party in 1989, has held the position. During the years of 2012 and 2015, he served as the Speaker (Chairman) of the Goa Legislative Assembly in addition to serving as a BJP Legislator in Goa from the years 2002 to 2007.
- Notable fact: Shri Fagu Chauhan, a previous governor, presided over Bihar as the state's 40th governor. On July 29, 2019, Shri Fagu Chauhan was sworn in as the new governor of Bihar. For roughly three and a half years, he served as governor of Bihar.
- Governors for 13 states, including Bihar, were appointed by President Draupadi Murmu on February 12, 2023.



Many key provisions of the Constitution relating to the Governor

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| Article 153 | Each state will have a governor. But by the 7th Constitutional Amendment (1956), a provision was made that the same person can be the governor of two or more states. |
| Article 154 | Executive Power of the State:- At the head of the executive of the state is the Governor, but the real power is vested in the Council of Ministers of the state. All executive powers are vested in the |



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| | Governor, which he exercises on the advice of the Council of Ministers according to constitutional rules. |
| Article 155 | <p>Appointment of Governor:- The Governor is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Union Council of Ministers. India has adopted the provision of appointment of Governor from Canada. The Sarkaria Commission (1983) presented some recommendations regarding the appointment of the Governor: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Minister of the concerned State should be consulted before the appointment of the Governor. • The persons defeated in the elections should not be appointed as governors. • The governor should not be appointed in the state of which he is a native. |
| Article 156 | Term of Office of the Governor:- Normally the tenure of the Governor is 5 years, but in reality the Governor remains in office till the pleasure of the President. |
| Article 157 and 158 | <p>Qualifications and conditions for appointment as Governor:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He should be a citizen of India. • He should be at least 35 years of age. • He should not be a member of either House of the Parliament or the State Legislature. • He does not hold any office of profit. |
| Article 159 | Oath or Affirmation by the Governor:- The oath of office and secrecy to the Governor is administered by the Chief Justice of the concerned State High Court or in his absence by the senior most judge. |
| Article 161 | Judicial Powers:- The Governor also has the power of pardon and reprisal etc. |
| Article 163 | In addition to some discretionary powers, there is a provision to constitute a Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to aid and advise the Governor in all his other functions. |
| Article 164 | The Chief Minister and other ministers of the state are appointed by the Governor. |
| Article 176 | Governor's Special Address |



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| article 200 | The Governor gives assent to the bill passed by the state assembly, withholds assent or reserves the bill for the consideration of the President. |
| Article 213 | The Governor can promulgate ordinances under certain circumstances. |
| Article-356 | The Governor sends a report to the Central Government, which forms the basis of the recommendations of the Union Council of Ministers to the President for the imposition of President's Rule. On the basis of the Governor's report, President's rule is imposed in the state, in which case the Governor acts as the agent of the Union. It can also be called emergency powers of the governor. |

Among the 112 aspirational districts in the nation, Banka and Katihar are two of the districts in Bihar that rank in the top five.

Why is in News?

- A ranking called "Champion of Change Delta Rating" was recently published by NITI Aayog on February 8, 2023, for a total of 112 underdeveloped aspirational districts across the nation. Bihar is home to two of the top five aspirational districts in India in terms of agriculture and water resources. Katihar is in second place, and District Banka is in first.
- This report not only offers a preliminary evaluation of the ADP, but it also has the potential to spur action across India. ADP has the possibility to serve as a model for India's future economic and social development strategy by focusing on "what works" in advancing inclusive growth and social progress.

Key Points :-

- To compete with the aspirational districts of the nation, NITI Aayog periodically releases this report. Education and library facilities in schools, as well as school infrastructure, including restrooms and drinking water, are the primary topics for the sector of education in this.
- Health and nutrition, education, agricultural and water resources, financial inclusion, and skill development



in these building blocks are some of the indicators that will receive special emphasis in the initial phase.

- The Aspirational Districts Program was introduced in 2018 and comprised 13 districts from Bihar: Katihar, Begusarai, Sheikhpura, Araria, Khagaria, Purnia, Aurangabad, Banka, Gaya, Jamui, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, and Nawada. In each of these 13 districts' blocks, special support is available.
- Some districts will also get additional Center funding, which will be managed separately. Blocks will be rated so that there will be more competitiveness to advance through them.
- In the districts covered in the Aspirational Districts Programme, special emphasis is also given to the development of important areas like as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial status, and basic infrastructure.
- It is noteworthy that the Center has announced 500 aspirational blocks across the nation, including 61 aspirational blocks in Bihar, where the central government would implement special initiatives with the assistance of the state government.
- The Aspirational Block Program of the Center was used to choose these blocks. Using a number of development-related criteria, efforts will be undertaken to classify these disadvantaged blocks as developed blocks.
- The initiative also included the selection of blocks in the state's 13 Aspirational Districts (AD). Of the state's districts, Bhagalpur and Kaimur each have a maximum of 10 blocks, compared to 5 in Begusarai, 4 in Munger, 4 in Jamui, and 4 in each of Aurangabad, Gaya, and Gaya. The names of three blocks in Bhojpur, Katihar, and Banka are also listed simultaneously.

Sagar Kumar, a player from Patna, was chosen for the Indian junior kabaddi team.

Why is in News ?

- The 2nd Junior World Kabaddi Championship, which will take place in Urmia, Iran from February 26 to March 5, will feature the Indian Junior World Cup Kabaddi squad, for which all of the players have been chosen.

Key Points :-



- Sagar Kumar, a resident of the hamlet of Roopas Marwahi in the Bakhtiyarpur block of the Patna district, is a player for the Patna Pirates squad in the Pro Kabaddi League at the moment.
- When Sagar Kumar represented Bihar in the Junior Federation Cup Kabaddi competition held in Madurai from January 1 to 4, 2023, he played to his greatest ability.
- He was chosen for the Junior India Camp held in Gandhinagar on the basis of this game. Sagar, who competed for SAI and won a national gold medal, also won a gold medal at the national junior championship in Rohtak in 2020.
- The greatest performance in the Kabaddi camp held at the Sai Centre in Gandhinagar was taken into consideration for choosing the 15-member Indian squad for this second series of the Junior World Kabaddi Championship.
- The general secretary of the Association of Jharkhand and a former national Kabaddi player is Bipin Kumar Singh, the father of Sagar Kumar. Bipin Kumar Singh took part in the 1996 National Games in Karnataka.
- The older brother of Sagar, Saurabh, has also participated in national Kabaddi competitions. Sanjeev Kumar, Sagar's uncle, is also a former national Kabaddi player.
- The whole roster of athletes chosen to represent Men in Blue is included below along with a brief description of each player:
 - Raiders: Manjeet Sharma, Manu Deshwal, Narender Kandola, Jai Bhagwan, and Abhijit Malik
 - Ankush Rathee, Yogesh Dahiya, Ashish Malik, Sachin, Rohit Kumar, Vijyanth Jaglan, and
 - Sagar Kumar is an all-rounder.
 - Partheek Dahiya, Vinay Redhu, and Ashish are reserves.



At the Bihar Legislative Assembly, a budget of Rs 2.61 lakh 885 crore was tabled for the following year.

Why is in News ?

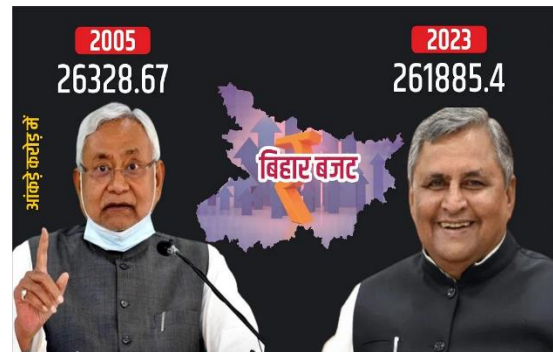
- A budget of Rs 61 lakh 885.4 crore for the fiscal year 2023–2024 was presented to the Bihar Legislative Assembly on February 28, 2023, by the state's finance minister, Mr. Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, in front of representatives from all walks of life, including youth, women, professionals in the workforce, and even the last resident of the state. The provision of benefits has been discussed in terms of development.



- The global economic growth rate for the fiscal year 2021–2022 was 6.0 percent. The nation's economy grew at a rate of 8.7% in that same year, compared to Bihar's 10.98% growth rate. Bihar's growth rate is 2.28 percentage points greater than India's growth rate and 4.98 percentage points greater than the rate of growth for the entire world.

Key Points :-

- The GDP of Bihar has nearly tripled during the past ten years. In 2011–12, the state's gross domestic product was Rs. 47 lakh crore; by 2022–23, it will be Rs. 6.75 lakh crore.
- The estimated total expenditure budget for the fiscal year 2023–24 is Rs. 2,61,885.40 crore, which is an increase of Rs. 24,194.21 crore above the projected amount for the fiscal year 2022–23 of Rs. 2,37,691.19 crore.
- The budget estimate for establishment and committed spending for the fiscal year 2023–24 is Rs. 1,61,855.67 crore, which is Rs. 24,394.72 crore higher than the budget estimate of Rs. 1,37,460.94 crore for the fiscal year 2022–23.
- The yearly scheme's overall budget estimate for the financial year 2023–2024 is Rs. 1,000,000.00 crore, which is the same as the projection for the fiscal year 2022–2023.
- 2020–25 good governance initiatives: A total budget allocation of Rs 5,000.00 crore has been allocated under various departments for the financial year 2023–2024 as part of Self-reliant Bihar's seven decisions–2 (2020–2025).
- 10 lakh youth would be given jobs by the Bihar government. In addition, by instilling self-confidence and independence in them, employment will be generated. In Rajgir, a university dedicated to sports is being developed.
- 100 crore will be allocated for a programme to promote girls' education, 50 crore for a bicycle programme, and 100 crore for clothing. For the scheme on women's empowerment, a deal for Rs 60 crore has been made.
- The scholarship programme for female students who graduated from the 10th grade has been allocated Rs 94 crore. On the other side, Patna Medical College has been allocated 5540 crore.
- For individuals who pass the Bihar School Examination Board's matriculation exam in the first division, a provision of Rs 5 crore has been allocated.



- A provision of Rs 3323 crore has been established in the Bihar Budget 2023 for the building of bypasses in metropolitan areas and the energy industry. Also, there is a strategy in the budget to boost solar power.
- For those that build water harvesting devices, there is a provision for a 5% holding tax exemption.
- A new start-up policy will be developed by the Bihar government to encourage innovation. Several girls' colleges are being built, according to plans in the budget.
- Police stations, particularly those for women, will undergo structural modifications. There has been a 155 crore rupee arrangement made for this.

| Some important financial terminology | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Revenue Savings :- | Revenue savings are the sum left over after revenue expenditure is subtracted from revenue revenues. In the fiscal year 2023–24, there will be a savings in revenue of Rs. 4,478.97 billion. To build up productive capital assets, this revenue excess will be invested in physical infrastructure such as roads, buildings, electricity, schools, health centres, irrigation projects, etc. |
| Fiscal deficit :- | Fiscal deficit refers to the amount that remains after deducting tax revenues, loan recoveries, and loan repayments from the total expenditure. According to estimates, the budget deficit for the fiscal year 2023–24 will be Rs. 25,567.84 crore, or 2.98 percent of the expected Rs. 8,58,928.00 crore total state domestic product. |
| Capital outlay :- | Capital outlay is the sum spent on the creation or improvement of assets. The budget projection for the year 2022–2023's capital outlay has been increased from Rs. 29,749.64 crore to Rs. 29,257.31 crore in 2023–2024—a decrease of Rs. 492.33 crore from the previous year. |
| Debt Management :- | In the light of the provision of the Bihar Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, the fiscal deficit has to be kept up to 3.0 percent. Loan has to be taken under fiscal deficit only. The loan ceiling is decided by the Government of India which has not been notified yet. |



In 500 of Bihar's police stations, a special support desk for women will launch concurrently.

Why is in News?

- The facility of women help desks was launched concurrently in 500 police stations throughout Bihar on February 26, 2023 by the state's chief minister, Mr. Nitish Kumar. Together with this, he launched the Bihar Police's revamped website and social media hub.
- In order to address issues brought up by women and children, district police teamed up with a number of administrative departments to establish Women Help Desks. The desks would serve as a one-stop shop for women's complaints against the policing system, with help from the Nirbhaya Fund, established by the national government.

Key Points :-

- During the performance "Jan-Jan Ki Oer Barte Kadam" at Mithilesh Stadium, the state's Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, officially opened the social media centre, which included a women's assistance desk and an upgraded website, as part of Bihar Police Week.
- In order for common victims to easily maintain their point, the women's support desk will only be run by concerned female police officers and female staff. This arrangement has been made in 500 state police stations as part of the initial phase of this operation.
- The newly renovated website for the Bihar Police will be user-friendly and include screen readers so that even those who are blind can listen to the material.
- Common people will be able to obtain information on FIRs, missing individuals, and other issues thanks to the citizen service feature on this website of the Bihar Police. All of the district's police officers' mobile phones will also be listed here for contact.
- The social media centre was established in order to quickly and accurately inform the general public so that false information can be disproved. It will be operational every day of the week, around-the-clock.



Pradeep Jain of Patna will be honored with RDP Award

Why is in News?

- Pradeep Jain, a resident of Patna, will be presented with the RDP Samman, a unique stamp collector award, on February 23, 2023.

Key Points :-

- The Royal Philatelic Society of London, the most prominent philatelic society in the world, announces the recipients of the Distinguished Philatelist Award RDP.
- Pradeep Jain will receive this RDP award during a special event that will be held in the German city of Essen on May 26.
- It is interesting that just three Indians have won this honour since India's independence, including Brigadier DM Virk in 1993 and DN Jatiya in 1983, and Pradeep Jain will receive it in 30 years.
- King George V established the Royal Philatelic Society in 1921, and there are currently 2360 members. The RDP award from this organisation has only been given to 400 individuals thus far.
- A few years ago, Pradip Jain and Pragya Jain, father and son philatelists from Patna, took part in the philately exhibition at the Javits Center in New York. This eight-day stamp collector feast is anticipated to draw over 2.5 lakh attendees. Six people from the nation, including two from Bihar, have been chosen to attend this occasion.

