

# Bihar Special Current Affairs

## March 2023

### *Useful for*

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



## For the first time ever, the Bihar women's team at the 34th Federation Cup National Handball Competition took home a bronze medal.

### Why is in News?

- The women's team from Bihar finished as the second runner-up and earned the bronze medal in the 34th Federation Cup National Handball Competition, which will be held from March 1 to March 4, 2023 in Jhajjar, Haryana. This would be the first time they have ever competed in a national handball competition.

### Key Points :-

- The National Men's and Women's Handball Federation Cup, which the Handball Federation of India hosted in Jhajjar, Haryana, included a total of eight elite national teams.
- Team members came from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, and Maharashtra, among other states.
- The 18-person squad from Bihar included Khushbu Kumari Yadav, Khushbu Sharma, Chanda Kumari, Gayatri Kumari, Suman Kumari, Anshu Kumari, Nisha Kumari, and Manisha Kumari among others.
- As part of the National Handball Championship, Bihar won their first match against Himachal Pradesh 19–08 and their third match against Madhya Pradesh 24–14 in order to go to the semifinals.
- The Bihar squad came in third place in the competition and was unable to advance to the finals after losing to the eventual winners, Haryana, in the semi-finals. Rajasthan took first place.
- Khushboo Kumari, a member of the Bihar Police, served as captain of the Bihar women's handball team, and she led the squad in scoring.
- It is significant that the Bihar women's handball team, competing in the Federation Cup competition, became the first to take home a national medal.
- That fact should not be forgotten, Jitendra Kumar Rai is currently the sports minister for Bihar.



### Handball Federation of India:-

- The administrative and governing authority for handball, beach handball, and wheelchair handball in the Republic of India is the Handball Federation of India, Rohtak.



- In Rohtak, HFI is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. (Haryana). The Indian Olympic Association counts HFI as a member. The Indian Government's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has also recognised HFI.
- Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Vidharbha, and Jammu and Kashmir were among the founding members of the HFI when it was established in 1972.
- In the first HFI Senior Men's National Handball Championship, held in 1972 at Sir Chhotu Ram Stadium in Rohtak, Haryana won the gold medal while Vidharbha took home the silver.

**The amount of GST collected in Bihar this year compared to last year is almost twice as much as the national average.**

### Why is in News?

- According to early estimates, Bihar's economy is expected to increase by 10.98 percent at constant prices in the current fiscal year compared to (-) 3.2 percent in 2020–21 for the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The GST collection's share of the total is 24 percent.

### Key Points :-

- When compared to February 2022, Bihar's GST collection in February 2023 was up twelve percent from that of the prior year. In percentage terms, it is over twice as high as the nation as a whole and the highest among the big states.
- The third-highest growth rate of any state in the nation for Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is seen in Bihar (10.98 percent).
- Bihar's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) is made up of three sectors: the primary sector, the secondary sector, and the tertiary sector, which together account for 60.7 percent of the state's GSVA.
- In the years 2021–2022, Bihar experienced sectoral growth rates of 9.6% for the primary sector, 3.8 % for the secondary sector, and 13.3 % for the tertiary sector, all at constant prices.
- Rural Bihar's inflation rate for the years 2021–22 was 9.3 percent, which was lower than the national average (12.0 percent), however Bihar's urban inflation rate was equal to the national average. (12.2 percent).
- In the years 2021–2022, per capita income climbed by Rs 6,400, reaching Rs 54,383 per person. This is a 13.3% increase over the 47,983 expected in 2020–21.



- The state government will fund 38,839 crore from its own resources in 2021–2022. Receiving money. The amount of tax money derived from this is Rs 34,855 crore (89.7 percent). Revenue from non-tax sources totaled Rs. 3984 crore (10.3 percent).
- Additionally, the gross fiscal deficit as a share of the gross domestic product (GSDP) decreased from 4.8 percent in 2020–21 to 3.8 percent in 2021–22.
- In the ranking of all 38 districts based on per capita Gross State Domestic Product in the years 2020–21, Patna (\$1,15,239), Begusarai (\$45,497), and Munger (\$42,793) are the three most prosperous districts, while Sheohar (\$18,692), Araria (\$19,527), and Sitamarhi (\$19,527) are the three least prosperous districts. (Rs 20,631).
- The total amount of GST income collected in March 2023 was 1,60,122 crore, of which CGST was 29.546 crore, SGST was 37.314 crore, IGST was 82.907 crore (including 42.503 crore collected on goods imported), and cess was 10.355 crore (including 960 crore collected on goods imported).
- The gross GST collection has surpassed the 1.5 lakh crore barrier in the current fiscal year for the fourth time, marking the second-highest collection since the introduction of the GST. The amount of IGST collected this month was the biggest ever.

### Muzaffarpur resident Babita Gupta received the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman in 2023.

#### Why is in News?

- On March 4, 2023, "Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023" was organised by the Ministry of Government of India to honour the extraordinary and exemplary work being done by women at the grassroots level by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Jal Shakti, and 36 women WASH champions of the rural water and sanitation sector.

#### Key Points :-

- Awarded in this programme is Babita Gupta from Bihar, who turned plastic trash into ornamental items.
- Salila Jena from Odisha for managing solid and liquid waste, Munni Devi from Jharkhand for supplying tap water to homes, and Neelam Singh for playing a crucial role in turning the village into an ODF+ through community mobilisation.
- Women from all around the nation who have accomplished extraordinary work in the areas of sanitation and drinking water



were recently invited to submit nominations for the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 online. A total of 130 Bihari women had registered.

- In the end, the Jeevika Group and Lohia Swachh Bihar Abhiyan Phase II award went to Babita Gupta, who is connected to the Sakra, Muzaffarpur, plastic waste processing facility.
- Babita Gupta lives in Sakra, which is part of the state's Muzaffarpur district. She uses plastic to create practical and ornamental items, and by teaching women how to do this, she helps them become independent.
- Babita Gupta is currently employed at the Swachh Bharat (Gramin) Mission's Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU), which was established at Sakra in the Muzaffarpur district .

### **Jeevika Didi:-**

- The Bihar government started a project for the formation of self-help groups in the state by taking a loan from the World Bank, which was named 'Jeevika' and its members were called Jeevika Didi.
- So far, 10 lakh 45 thousand self-help groups have been formed under Jeevika, in which more than 1 crore 30 lakh Jeevika didis have joined.
- Through various collective tasks, Jeevika Didis obtain employment, a source of income, and savings, enabling them to provide for their families with a comfortable lifestyle.
- Women are becoming more self-reliant and more conscious as a result of this. The government is devoted to improving the livelihood of the sisters and developing their society in this way.

### **The State Sports Awards and Honors Scheme has been launched by the government for the winning athletes and coaches.**

#### **Why is in News?**

- The State Sports Awards and Honors Scheme was unveiled by the state government on March 5, 2023, and it will allow the state's top athletes and coaches to be recognised with medals and other mementos at both the national and international levels of competition.
- On the occasion of National Sports Day on 29th August by the state government, general and differently-abled players of the state, who have made the state proud by achieving special achievements in sports, are to be rewarded and honored with the Bihar State Sports Award and Sports Honor.





**Key Points :-**

- In this situation, a nine-member selection committee headed by the Director General of the State Sports Authority has been established for the purpose of choosing players for the state.
- The winners of sporting competitions held by organisations like National Sports Federations, All India Inter University Sports Board, School Games Federation of India, Sports Authority of India, and Paralympic Committee of India, among others, will be selected through this committee under the sports for which the International Olympic Committee has issued a notification.
- The Rajya Khel Puraskar Samman Yojana contains a clause that provides a cash prize of Rs 2 crore, Rs 1.5 crore, and Rs 1 crore for the winner of the gold medal in an individual sport in the Olympic Games.
- There is a clause in the Asian Games that states the winner of the gold medal will receive Rs 1.5 crore, the winner of the silver medal will receive Rs 1 crore, and the winner of the bronze medal would receive Rs 75 lakh.
- A monetary prize of Rs 75 lakhs, Rs 50 lakhs, and Rs 30 lakhs are specified in the official Asian Championship rules for gold medalists, silver medalists, and bronze medalists, respectively.
- If there are Bihari players on the Indian cricket team that won the match, they are also recipients of the State Government Sports Awards and Honors Scheme. The state government of Bihar would provide any players from Bihar a cash award of Rs 1.5 crore and Rs 1 crore, respectively, if they are a part of the winning or runner-up Indian World Cup or T-20 team.
- In addition to the aforementioned, the state government will award each Bihari member of the Champions Trophy winning and runner-up teams with a cash prize of one crore and 75 lakh rupees, respectively, as well as four lakh three lakh rupees to the first, second, and third-place finishers in the national level sports. And will receive a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh as compensation.



**Lakshmi Jha establishes a record for climbing Kilimanjaro, the fourth-highest mountain range in the world and the tallest in Africa.**

**Why is in News?**

- Mountaineer Lakshmi Jha broke the record for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the fourth-highest mountain in the world, in just 36 hours on March 8 in honour of International Women's Day. Mount Kilimanjaro is located in South Africa.



### Key Points :-

- In Bihar's Saharsa district, Lakshmi Jha, a late inhabitant of Bangaon, passed away. The youngest of all her siblings, she is the daughter of Binod Jha and Sarita Devi.
- His first ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, which is 19,341 feet above sea level, was on March 7, 2023.
- Lakshmi Jha made history earlier in November 2022 when she completed the climbs of Kala Patthar and Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal in just 9 days, making her the first daughter of Bihar to do so.
- One of the three volcanic cone mountains is Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, which rises 5,895 metres (19,341 ft) above sea level.
- Lakshmi Jha broke the national record for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro by doing so in the quickest time ever.
- Nehru Institute in Uttarakhand has provided Lakshmi Jha with climbing training, and she intends to conquer Mount Everest in 2024.
- Southeast of Tanzania, in East Africa, and nearly at the equator, is where Mount Kilimanjaro may be found. It is the world's tallest free-standing mountain, meaning it is not a part of a mountain range.
- The volcanoes Kibo, Shira, and Mawenzi are all found on Mount Kilimanjaro. This is the highest point of Kibo volcano.



### Gangajal Supply Scheme and Gayaji Dam Receive National Award (CBIP Award 2022)

#### Why is in News?

- Projects involving water resources from all throughout the nation were chosen for the "CBIP Award 2022 (Water Resources)" in ten different categories.
- The Water Resources Department of the Government of Bihar's "Ganga Water Supply Scheme" and "Gayaji Dam," both of which were successfully completed, have won the highly coveted title of "Best Implementation of Water Resources."



### Key Points :-

- The Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP), an organisation founded by the Central Government, presents the "National Award named CBIP" each year to the greatest initiatives in the fields of water resources, power, and unconventional energy.
- For the first time in the nation, flood water is being used as drinking water through the Ganga Water Supply Scheme by being transported to the South Bihar main cities that are water-stressed.
- Eight to ten feet of water are now accessible in the Falgu River as a result of the construction of the biggest rubber dam in the nation next to the well-known Vishnupad temple in Gaya.
- The award for the aforementioned two water resources department of the government of Bihar's water resources programmes was given to Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Secretary of the Department and Chief Engineer of Irrigation Creation Ishwar Chandra Thakur.
- The Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) Award 2022 for "Best Contribution in Solar Energy" has been given to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- The Central Board of Irrigation and Electricity Award, 2022 for the "Best Performing Transmission Power Sector" has been given to Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), the state-run transmission company.



### Piyush Raj took home a silver medal at the 18th National Youth Athletics Championship.

### Why is in News?

- Piyush Raj and Sunny Raj of Bihar won silver and bronze medals, respectively, at the 18th National Youth Athletics Championships, which were held from March 10 to 12, 2023, at Udupi, Karnataka, and were jointly organised by the Athletics Federation of India, New Delhi, and the Karnataka Athletics Federation.





**Key Points :-**

- In this competition for the first time, Piyush Raj, a citizen of the state's Rohtas district, won the decathlon event's silver medal and took second place.
- In the hexathlon competition at the 18th NIDJAM-2023, the greatest talent search event in the world, which was held in Patna, Piyush Raj had previously set a national record.
- The decathlon is a ten-discipline athletic competition that includes sprints of 100, 400, and 1500 meters as well as long jumps, high jumps, hurdles, discus throws, shot puts, javelin throws, and pole vaults.
- In addition to this, Sunny from Bihar won the bronze medal in the triple jump competition at the same sporting event.
- It is notable that everyone who was chosen to compete in the National Youth Athletics Championships has earned a spot in the Asian Youth Championships.
- Mr. Ravindran Sankaran serves as the Bihar State Sports Authority's director general at the moment.



**First Greenfield Access Controlled Highway in Bihar will be the Patna-Purnia Greenfield Expressway.**

**Why is in News?**

- The DPR (Detailed Project Report) for the Patna-Purnia Greenfield Expressway has been approved.
- Additionally, work has begun on preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the greenfield link from the Purvanchal Expressway to Patna. Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, provided this information in a written Lok Sabha reply.



**Key Points :-**

- For the construction of a brand-new, four-lane road with access control between Patna and Purnia, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has hired Lion Engineering Consultants Agency as its consultant by November 2023.
- This 215 km long greenfield road, which will be built as part of the Bharatmala Phase-II project, will be the state of Bihar's first greenfield access controlled highway.
- Beginning at the Patna Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur Bridge and continuing through Samastipur's Dalsinghsarai, Rosda, Saharsa, Simri Bakhtiyarpur, and Udakishunganj, this greenfield motorway will connect Purnia to Patna.
- Any road that only allows entry between traffic at one or two points is known as an access control road.
- At completion, the distance between the two cities will drop from 366 km to 215 km. The Patna to Purnia greenfield four-lane road will cost Rs 12,000 crore.
- This motorway also goes by the name Greenfield Expressway. Every state highway and every federal highway often have junctions with red lights, however these motorways have fewer entry and exit points for boarding and disembarking.
- They are sometimes known as "green corridors" since greenfield motorways are created from once green spaces.
- By the year 2025, this motorway, which will have six and eight lanes, is expected to be finished.
- Brownfield projects are defined as the widening or development of an existing road, whereas Greenfield projects are defined as projects that are built on a new alignment.
- The Greenfield project typically travels through a newly developed area, where the cost of land acquisition per unit is typically lower because there is less development in these areas. In addition to many other benefits, the construction of the Greenfield route creates additional opportunities for development.



**At the 6th Federation Cup Wushu Championship, Anshu Kumari and Pankaj Singh took home gold.**

**Why is in News?**

- Anshu Kumari of the Bihar Wushu Federation and Pankaj Kumar Singh of the Punjab Lovely Professional University each took home a gold medal at the 6th Federation Cup Wushu Championship, which was held there from March 20 to 24, 2023.



**Key Points :-**

- The Punjab Wushu Association organised the Federation Cup Wushu Championship this year under the auspices of the Wushu Association of India. (WAI).
- The Rajasthan team won the "Overall Champion" title in the sixth Wushu Federation Cup Championship 2022–2023 after obtaining a total score of 68 during the course of the three-day competition.
- The Uttar Pradesh team finished third with 50 points, followed by the Haryana team in second place with 51 points.
- This Federation Cup Championship featured about 450 participants from a total of 28 states of India, all of whom were judged by famous national and international Wushu experts from all throughout the country.
- It is significant that Wushu competition will be featured in the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Senegal in 2026 for the first time.
- It is a full-contact fighting sport with direct contact that was inspired by ancient Chinese martial arts.
- Presently, players from India, particularly those from Punjab, Haryana, Manipur, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and other areas, have adapted the game's essential skills.
- WUSHU was introduced to India for the first time in 1989 thanks to the efforts of Late Sri Anand Kacker, who founded the WUSHU ASSOCIATION OF INDIA. With 35 units spread out across the country and endorsement from the Indian government, the Olympic Committee, and the military and paramilitary forces, the association is growing in popularity.

**The Bihar Tourism Department has chosen folk singer Maithili Thakur to represent its brand.****Why is in News?**

- On March 22, the day of Bihar Day, the state's current administration chose to name folk singer Maithili Thakur the brand ambassador of the Bihar Tourism Department.



**Key Points :-**

- Maithili Thakur, a folk singer, was born on July 25, 2000, in Benipatti, Madhubani. Ramesh Thakur, a music educator, is Maithili's father, and Pooja Thakur is her mother.
- Also in his family are younger brother Ayachi and older brother Rishabh Thakur of Maithili. Maithili's father and grandfather also taught her how to play folk music, in addition to Hindustani classical music.
- Since 2022, Maithili Thakur has served as the brand ambassador for Bihar's handicrafts and Khadi, and she will continue to do so while promoting the state's handicrafts, handloom items, and bringing in tourists.
- Additionally, Maithili Thakur was chosen for the coveted "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar" of the Sangeet Natak Akademi earlier in January.
- The fact that Maithili Thakur has become the symbol of the Indian Election Commission is important. Before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Maithili Thakur will organise a campaign to educate voters in Bihar.
- She served as the brand ambassador for the state's Madhubani district earlier, prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.



**5 districts in the state were recognised as part of the TB eradication campaign.**

**Why is in News?**

- On March 24, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the World TB Convention in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, launched various projects worth more than Rs 1,780 crore and presented several awards.
- In this context, 5 districts of the state have been awarded with sub-national certification award under TB eradication campaign, which include Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Siwan, Saran and Purnia districts.

**Key Points :-**

- By 2025, the state of Bihar's administration hopes to have completely eradicated tuberculosis (TB). The State Tuberculosis (TB) Department is doing a lot of excellent work in this regard.





- Only those districts are given the Sub National Certification award, in which districts have discovered the greatest decrease in the number of TB patients in comparison to the year 2015.
- Gold medals were awarded to Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts, showing 60 percent reduction in comparison to the year 2015, silver medal to Siwan district showing 40 percent reduction and bronze medal to Saran and Purnia districts showing 20 percent reduction.
- Earlier in the year 2015, an official survey of TB patients was conducted under the direction of the state officials.
- 5 lakh to the district that won the gold medal and Rs. 75 lakh to the state, 3 lakh to the district that won the silver medal and Rs. 50 lakh to the state, and 2 lakh to the district that won the bronze medal and Rs. 25 lakh to the state, as stated.
- For the Sub National Certification award, 12 districts from the state were chosen, including Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, Gaya, Gopalganj, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Purnia, Samastipur, Saran, and Siwan districts.
- It's important to note that every year on March 24, World Tuberculosis Day is honoured. In 2023, the topic will be "Yes, We Can End TB." Despite the fact that the topic from the previous year was preserved for 2022, it was invest to End TB Save Lives.



**Legal recognition as an independent organisation was provided to the Bihar State Sports Authority.**

### Why is in News?

- The Bihar State Sports Authority was officially recognised as an autonomous agency on March 25, 2023 by the Bihar government, who is dedicated to the growth of sports and athletes. This was a historic decision.
- The Bihar State Sports Council has been reconstituted under the authority of the Bihar Sports Act, 2013, and is now an independent organisation. This body, which was created on July 31st, 1986, receives financial support from both the state and the federal governments of India.



**Key Points :-**

- In the Indian state of Bihar, the Bihar State Sports Council was established in 1961 and reconvened in 1966. The Bihar State Sports Authority was established on July 31, 1986, again after a short period of time.
- The state's education minister served as its chairman in the past, but the chief minister now serves as that body's ex-officio chairman. The Director and Secretary, working under the Director General, are in charge of running this authority.
- This organisation's principal goals include finding young, outstanding athletes, arranging for their athletic training and participation in regional and national sporting events, and providing them with financial aid. Sports tournaments are organised at all levels, from block to state.
- On Independence Day, Republic Day, and other federal, state, and local holidays each year, the Government of Bihar also utilises this ability to recognize, honor, and adorn individuals from many sectors for their great accomplishments.
- Aside from that, plans have been established to provide digital education to the Eklavya Residential Sports Training Center students enrolled in the Chief Minister's Sports Development Scheme.
- All of Bihar's districts will have stadiums erected as part of the Mukhyamantri Khel Vikas Yojana, which will encourage rural youth to participate in sports.
- Bihar Sports University is being established by the state government with the intention of supplying state children with sports coaches, experts in certain sports, managers of those sports, physical trainers, and technical sports experts.
- Rajgir is now building a cricket stadium and a sports academy of the highest calibre.



**For water conservation, the education department will invest Rs. 21 crore in a number of schools.**

**Why is in News?**

- On March 26, 2023, the education department made the decision to spend Rs 20.80 crore to raise the groundwater level in the buildings of roughly 3000 government girls' secondary and upper secondary schools as part of the "Jan Jeevan Hariyali Abhiyan" for water conservation.



- One tap connection has been made available every second for the current year, from January to March 2023, as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission. This is a fantastic accomplishment, with an average of 86,894 new tap water connections being made every day during the first three months of 2023.

### Key Points :-

- The State Education Department will endeavour to install rainwater harvesting systems in 2,865 school buildings across the state as part of the "Jan-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan" to store rainwater as groundwater and promote water conservation.
- According to a report from the Bihar Education Project, each school would receive Rs 80,000 from the education department's total investment of Rs 20.80 crore so that the physical infrastructure needed for rainwater harvesting can be developed with this sum.
- For this, only those schools have been chosen where there is a minimum of three thousand square feet of land available for the construction of physical infrastructure, in order to ensure that due to the availability of proper water in the schools, aside from drinking water, the cleanliness of toilets can also be ensured.
- The Bihar Education Project will need access to the utility certificate detailing the amount that the schools have spent. Aside from that, the Secondary Director, District Education Officer, Director of the Bihar Education Project, and the concerned school committee will oversee this activity at the school level.
- Additionally, the school handpump-null well will always be maintained in order to prevent the girls from leaving the school grounds in search of drinking water. This will help to maintain the ground water balance. Additionally, it will be made sure that there is no duplication of the plan or waste of the funds in any other way before spending the allocated sum.
- It's important to note that for the current fiscal year 2022–2023, the department has granted administrative clearance for a total plan of more than Rs 62.93 crore for all 38 local bodies covered by Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali.
- The department has made it mandatory in the building ordinances to install a rain water harvesting system in all types of built-up or under-construction structures in order to promote the "Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan".
- It should be noted that the Bihar Municipal Property Tax Rules, 2013, have a clause that holds the plots on which buildings are built for rainwater harvesting harmless from holding tax for 5% of the year.
- The prime minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has ensured that 60% of rural households now have access to safe drinking water at their faucets. In India, more than 1.55



lakh villages, or 25% of all villages, have reported having "Har Ghar Jal," meaning that every household has access to safe drinking water from taps on their property.

### **Bihar won the 36th National Sub-Junior Taekwondo Championship in 2023 overall.**

#### **Why is in News?**

- At the JN Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Orissa, from March 25 to 27, 2023, the 36th National Sub-Junior Taekwondo Championship was held. The winner of this competition was the state of Bihar, which received a total of 8 medals.

#### **Key Points :-**

- Sub-junior athletes from all around India took part in the competition, which was run under the auspices of the Taekwondo Federation of India.
- The 20-member Bihar squad included 10 boys and 10 girls, and gold medalists Rohit Malkar (50 kg category), Ratnesh Kumar (41 kg category), and Abhiraj Nayak (29 kg category) were among them.
- In addition, Chahat Priya and Himanshu Kumar received silver medals in the under 44 kg category, and Vishwajeet Kumar received a silver medal in the under 50 kg category. Varsha Kumari and Ankush Kumar both received a bronze medal in the 32 kg division in addition to this.
- On the other hand, it is noteworthy that Khushbu Rani of the Water Resources Department has made the state proud by obtaining the second position in the 27th Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2022-23 held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from March 26 to March 29, 2023.
- It is important to note that the Bihar State Sports Authority has launched numerous initiatives to develop players at the national level. In line with this, Bhagalpur is getting a Kho Kho Sports Center on the national scale.
- In Cuttack, Odisha, where the Taekwondo Championship was finalized, eight participants from Nagaland had a successful season. The twin brothers Shiusuthong and Shiuthong earning gold and silver medals, respectively, was the highlight.





## For the development of 10 Bihar cities, the Planning Area Authority was established.

### Why is in News?

- The Urban Development and Housing Department of Bihar has informed the Planning Area Authority (Planning Area Authority) about ten newly expanded cities in order to promote the growth of urbanisation in the state. This notification was made on March 28, 2023.

### Key Points :-

- All significant State and Center projects will be suggested to the State Government so that the required funding can be allocated for them. This will be done by alerting the Planning Area Authority, which will then promote urbanisation components with the characteristics of the area in question.
- The planning area authority will be responsible for the preparation of the master plan for the extended area as well as other development plans related to urbanization, its implementation and other regulatory action. Apart from this, the authority will also pass the map for any kind of construction in the concerned area.
- The ten cities that have recently undergone expansion are Nawada, Madhepura, Bhagalpur, Jehanabad, Gopalganj, Banka, Sonpur, Sheikhpura, Supaul, and Arwal. even though 33 planning area agencies in the state have already been alerted. The total number of planning areas has now increased to 43 as a result of the notification of the authorities of ten new planning areas.
- The Chief Executive Officer of the related Planning Area Authority has been appointed Member Secretary in each Planning Area Authority of newly expanded cities, and the District Magistrate of the relevant district has been appointed Chairman.
- As ex-officio members of the authority, in addition to these, are the Deputy Development Commissioner of the relevant district, Additional Collector (Revenue), Road Construction, PHED and Executive Engineer related to the Rural Works Department, Executive Engineer of the relevant municipal body, Chief Municipal Investor, and individuals with specialised knowledge or real-world experience in city investment.
- It is significant that 33 planning area authorities have already received notification from the state. Under which Ara, Araria, Aurangabad, Bagaha, Begusarai, Bettiah, Bhabua, Biharsharif, Bodhgaya, Buxar, Chhapra, Darbhanga, Dehri, Forbesganj,



Gaya, Hajipur, Jamui, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhubani, Motihari, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnia, Rajgir, Saharsa, Sasaram, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Siwan are the cities of the district.

### Japan would contribute Rs 5,509 crore to the building of the Patna Metro Rail.

#### Why is in News?

- Letters (notes) were sent and received on March 29, 2023, between Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi, the Japanese ambassador to India, and Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India. Among other projects, the notes also dealt with the development of the Patna Metro Rail, which cost Rs 5,509 crore (98.612 trillion Japanese yen).

#### Key Points :-

- The Patna Metro Rail construction project intends to accommodate the increasing demand for traffic in Patna by constructing new metro corridors 1 and 2, thereby minimising climate change as well as enhancing the urban environment and strengthening the state's economy.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will offer financial support for the metro train project being developed in Patna, the capital of Bihar, in order to help fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 11, and 13.
- For this reason, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with Arunish Chawla, managing director of the Patna Metro Rail Development (PMRC) and additional chief secretary of the Department of urban development and Housing (UDHD).
- According to the plan, JICA will hire consultants to provide consulting services (including construction supervision) for the Patna Metro Rail project by June 2023, and the initial procurement package on project construction will be issued in June 2023 for international competition.
- The Patna Metro Rail Project is expected to cost Rs 13,365.77 crore, and it is anticipated to be completed by 2028. A loan of Rs 5,509 crore has been authorised for this with a grace term of 30 years and a repayment period of 10 years.
- A 5 km portion with 6 stations will be isolated from the rest of the 8 km stretch of the Patna Metro Rail project, which will go underground and have 7 stops. A Patna



Metro depot would also be built concurrently in Bairia, Sampatchak, close to Patliputra Bus Terminal.

- Patna Junction (interchange with Corridor-12), Akashvani, Gandhi Maidan, PMCH, Patna University, Moin Ul Haq Stadium, Rajendra Nagar, Malahi Pakdi, Khemni Chak (interchange), Bhootnath, New Interstate Bus Terminal with 1 stations at Zero Mile, and New ISBT will connect to Patna are all included in the 14.05 kilometer Corridor-2 of the Patna Metro.
- For three infrastructure projects, including the Patna Metro Rail, Japan pledged to lend India a total of Rs 7,084.53 crore in official development aid.
- The cash will go towards the Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project, the West Bengal Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response (which would receive approximately Rs 520 crore), and the Patna Metro Rail Project (about Rs 1,055 crore).

### **The first forestry college in the state and the second in the nation was established at Munger.**

#### **Why is in News?**

- The country's second and the first in Bihar, the Forestry College (college) was recently opened by the state's chief minister, Mr. Nitish Kumar, in Shrirampur Panchayat, Sadar Block of Munger District, as part of his Samadhan Yatra.

#### **Key Points :-**

- Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, oversees this college for forestry. (Bhagalpur).
- Additionally, this college will assist in the expansive Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan programme of the state government.
- Environmental science courses leading to certificates and diplomas will be offered at this college, along with MSc and BSc degrees in forestry, environmental science, and forestry, respectively.
- The outcome of the Joint Entrance Examination, which was held by the State Government, will determine admission to this college.
- On 96 acres in Munger, next to Ganga Pul, this institution was constructed. And the cost of building this college is estimated to be 231 crore 83 lakh 32 thousand.
- It is important to note that this Forestry College's foundation stone was placed three years ago on December 25, 2019, by Nitish Kumar, the then-chief minister.



- Bengaluru is home to the country's first forestry college. Munger would have a special forestry college. The Munger School of Yoga, a renowned institution, will take a striking form in the future. People from all around the world will attend the forestry college once it is finished.

### In the 30th National Children's Science Congress (NCSC), Bihar native Pranav Suman was chosen.

#### Why is in News?

- Out of a total of 16 young scientists from all throughout the country, Pranav Suman of Bihar was chosen to participate in the National Children's Science Congress (NCSC).

#### Key Points :-

- At Science City in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, a 5-day National Children's Science Congress was held. Making trenches for cultivating paddy seeds was mentioned in this Bihar native Pranav Suman's proposal.
- Coconut, onion, and almond peels are used to make this pit. The germination of seedlings is improved.
- Launched in 1993 for kids in the age range of 10 to 17 years old, the National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) is a flagship programme of the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- Regular school students, dropouts, slum children, and street children can all attend the National Children Science Congress.
- The Children's Science Congress attempts to introduce children to the idea of scientific methodology by incorporating the idea of "learning through doing" into their project-based learning activities.
- Generally speaking, the project activities that are being carried out at this Congress enable kids to explore, think critically, and give back to their community. It is able to imbue infants with the nature, traits, and abilities listed below in this column:-
  - make measurements
  - Compare and Contrast Projects
  - classification
  - Estimate
  - Prediction
  - Explanation
  - positive and necessary thinking
  - creative thinking
  - drawing conclusions and
  - cooperative skill

