

Birds Census in Bihar

- Conducted by the Department of Forests, Environment, and Climate Change in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).
- Survey duration: January-February 2023.
- Bird species found: 205 (compared to 202 in the 2022 census).
- Coverage included 26 districts, 76 wetlands, and 3 river systems (Ganga, Kosi, and Gandak).
- Maximum species of water birds found in Bhagalpur and Jamui, while Begusarai recorded the highest number of land bird species.
- The initiative aligns with 'India's National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats.'

Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat: Strengthening Connectivity

The inauguration of the Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat train marked a significant stride in enhancing connectivity between the two cities. This project, which was remotely flagged off by Prime Minister Modi on June 27, 2023, saw its commercial run commence from Patna Junction on June 28, 2023. The introduction of this high-speed train is poised to streamline travel between Patna and Ranchi, contributing to the overall development of the region.

Special Olympics World Games, Berlin

Gajendra Kumar Clinches Bronze in Shot Put

In a momentous achievement, Gajendra Kumar, hailing from Jehanabad, secured a bronze medal in the Special Olympics World Games held in Berlin. The accolade was earned in the shot put category, showcasing Kumar's prowess and dedication in the sporting arena. This accomplishment not only brings pride to Jehanabad but also highlights the remarkable talent that exists in diverse corners of the country.

SMART-PDS: Modernizing Public Distribution System in Bihar

Bihar government is set to collaborate with the Centre through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the SMART-PDS initiative. SMART-PDS, which stands for Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System, is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at bringing technological advancements to the Public Distribution System (PDS). This initiative reflects a commitment to modernize and improve the efficiency of the PDS, ensuring the effective distribution of essential commodities.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar in Maithili Language for Akshay Anand 'Sunny'

Akshay Anand 'Sunny' has been conferred with the prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar in the Maithili language for his work titled "OI Katra Jhol Katra." This literary masterpiece earned recognition from both the Literary Cultural Committee and Maisam Yuva Puraskar in the year 2018. Akshay Anand 'Sunny's' literary contributions exemplify the rich cultural and linguistic diversity present in our country, and his work adds to the literary tapestry of Maithili.

Rakshak App: Empowering Women's Safety Through Technology

Rakshak App, a commendable initiative, has been jointly developed by Adarsh Kumar, Avneesh Satyam, and Rishav Anand, students of AN College in Patna. This application is designed to provide valuable information about laws related to women's safety, offering training modules for self-defense, and facilitating emergency calls. The collaborative efforts of these young minds reflect a commitment to leveraging technology for the empowerment and safety of women, contributing to a safer and more informed society.

Best DRP Excellence Award: Recognizing Manas Kumar's Outstanding Contributions

Manas Kumar has been honored with the Best DRP (District Resource Person) Excellence Award for his commendable work under the Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Upgradation Scheme. This award acknowledges his exceptional efforts in coordinating between the district government, banks, and entrepreneurs. The recognition is particularly attributed to his role in facilitating loans for entrepreneurs venturing into self-employment, thereby fostering economic empowerment at the grassroots level.

Krishna Nandan Singh Appointed Additional Solicitor General (ASG)

- Krishna Nandan Singh has been appointed as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) of the Patna High Court.
- Not a constitutional post, the role of ASG is governed by the Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987.

Bihar Biofuel Production Promotion Policy 2023: A Sustainable Vision

Bihar cabinet has recently approved the Bihar Biofuel Production Promotion Policy 2023, signaling a significant step towards sustainable development. This policy aims at the establishment of compressed biogas from various organic wastes and food grains. The benefits under this policy include a capital subsidy of 15% or a maximum of Rs 5 crore for the General Category, and for SC/ST/EBCs, a subsidy of 15.75% or a maximum of Rs 5.25 crore. This policy reflects the government's commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices and generating alternative sources of energy.

Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School for Needy Children

- The Education Department in Bihar is set to establish Subhash Chandra Bose Residential Schools, providing free boys' hostels for economically weak and needy children.
- These schools are planned to be opened in seven districts: Patna, Muzaffarpur, Jamui, Nawada, Gaya, Banka, and Aurangabad.

Bharat Bhushan Award for Anamika Anu

- Anamika Anu, a poet and accomplished translator, has been honored with the Bharat Bhushan Award.
- Known for her poetry collection 'Enjikari' and her latest book 'Yarekh,' which compiles 36 love letters of Hindi writers.
- Anamika Anu, a resident of Muzaffarpur, Bihar, currently resides in Kerala.
- She also received the 'Mahesh Anjum Yuva Kavita Samman' for the year 2023.

Recent Developments in Bihar: A Comprehensive Overview

• Gandak-Ganga River Link:

- A 170 km long link channel connecting Gandak river near Hirapakad in Gopalganj to Ganga river near Haispur in Saran district is set to be constructed.
- Beneficiary districts include Gopalganj, Siwan, and Saran.

• Barh Super Thermal Power Project (STPP):

- NTPC Ltd commissioned the 660 MW unit-2 of the stage-I of the Barh Super Thermal Power Project.
- Bihar's share in electricity is 58% (383 MW), and the total generation capacity of the Barh plant increased to 2640 MW.
- Bihar's daily scheduled power share from NTPC plants now stands at 6943 MW.

• Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC):

- The 137 km long route connecting Pt Deen Dayal Upadhaya Junction (DDU) to Sonenagar has been inaugurated, linking Bihar directly to the EDFC.
- The corridor is a high-speed, high-capacity railway exclusively meant for freight transportation, covering multiple states.

• Heritage Trees in Bihar:

- The Botanical Survey of India identified two heritage trees in Bihar, a 300-year-old banyan tree in Munger and a 200-year-old Pakad tree in Bathnaha village, Sitamarhi.
- Bihar State Biodiversity Board launched an app to collect details of trees over 50 years old with socio-cultural, religious, and ecological significance.

• Bikhari Thakur:

- Commemorated on his 52nd death anniversary on July 10, 2023.
- Known as the "Shakespeare of Bhojpuri," his literary masterpiece is 'Bidesiya,' exploring the emotional struggles of those forced to leave their homeland for employment.

• Microfinance Borrowings in Bihar:

- Bihar leads in microlending borrowings in India as of March 2023, surpassing Tamil Nadu.
- Bihar's MFI borrowings amount to Rs 48,900 crore, constituting 14.5% of the overall portfolio.

● **Visitor's Award for Innovation 2021:**

- Awardee: Venkatesh Singh, Head of the Department of Physics at Central University of South Bihar (CUSB).
- Recognized for his significant contributions to research in physics.

● **Menstrual Health in Bihar:**

- A study by the Population Research Centre of Patna University focused on menstrual health and hygiene among adolescent girls in climatically vulnerable areas in Bihar.
- Findings indicate challenges such as the use of cloth instead of sanitary napkins, restrictions on bathing, and a lack of government-supplied napkins for many girls.

○ **Municipal Finance:**

- Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) incurred a revenue loss of Rs 8.92 crore due to the failure to collect user charges for door-to-door garbage collection.
- PMC fixed user charges within the range of Rs 30 to Rs 5,000 per month under solid waste management rules.

○ **All India Sainik Schools National Games 2023-24:**

- Concluded in Nalanda with 244 participants, including 42 girls, from Sainik schools in Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- Toppers: Sainik School Nalanda, Sainik School Tilaiya, Sainik School Gopalganj, and Sainik School Purulia.

○ **Faizan Mustafa as VC of CNLU, Patna:**

- Faizan Mustafa appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna, by Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran.
- Mustafa, a professor of Aligarh Muslim University, previously served as VC of NALSAR University of Law.

○ **Bhoomi Samman 2023:**

- President Draupadi Murmu conferred the Bhoomi Samman 2023.
- Awardees included Brajesh Mehrotra, Additional Chief Secretary, Land Records Department, Bihar, and collectors of five districts recognized for outstanding performance in land management.

○ **Ramsar Sites in Bihar:**

- Bihar government to propose four wetlands for inclusion as Ramsar sites.
- The four wetlands are Udaipur lake (West Champaran), Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary (Bhagalpur), Gogabeel lake (Katihar), and Gokul reservoir (Buxar).

○ **2nd National Multidimensional Poverty Index:**

- Bihar achieved the second-highest poverty reduction, with 2.25 crore people coming out of poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- The state contributed 16.65% of the national total of people moving out of poverty during this period.

○ **Bihar Bhawan in Mumbai:**

- Bihar Bhawan to be established in Mumbai by the State building construction department.
- The land, allotted by Bombay Port Trust, was secured on a 60-year lease for Rs 155 crore.

○ **Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway:**

- A 6-lane greenfield expressway named NH319B, connecting four districts of Bihar, is underway.
- The entry in Bihar is at Chand (Kaimur), exit at Imamganj (Gaya), covering about 160 km in the state.
- The project includes a proposed 5 km tunnel in the Kaimur hills and aims to enhance Bihar's access to Kolkata port for exports.
- The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs 35,000 crore.