

## BPSCNotes Bihar Current Affairs 2021-22

### Part-2

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- Kerala has retained the top spot in Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals Index for the year 2020-'21. Bihar was the worst performer among all the states. Bihar is ranked 28th in the country in violence against women, and reached the national average in gender parity, which is better than 14 states and Union territories.
- The Bihar government decided to allocate ₹13.38 crore to develop a museum and a theme park on the life of the 10th Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh. The facility will come up at Prakash Punj, a multi-purpose complex being constructed by the state tourism department over 10 acres of land at Patna Sahib at a cost of about ₹50 crores.  
Guru Gobind Singh was born in 1666 at Patna Sahib.
- Bihar government has launched two new schemes- 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojana' and 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana'
- In July 2021, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan took out an Ashirvaad Yatra in Hajipur, Bihar to mark the birth anniversary of his father, late Ram Vilas Paswan.
- Buoyed by the achievement last year, the state has set an ambitious annual target to plant 5 crore saplings till May 2022 in its endeavour to increase its green cover. Last year, the state achieved 3.97 crore plantations, surpassing its target of 2.51 crore,
- Bihar State education minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary inaugurated the E-Sambandhan portal for facilitating the online accreditation process for private schools offering primary education in the state.
- According to India's second annual Lightning Report, Bihar reported the most deaths due to lightning between April 1, 2020- March 31, 2021 (401 deaths), followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. According to the report, the most number of deaths are due to people standing under isolated tall trees.

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- Bihar assembly passed a bill recently to set up **state's first sports university**. The bill was introduced by Alok Ranjan who is the Minister of Art, Culture and Youth Department. The University will be set up at Rajgir. A minimum 33.3 % of the seats would be reserved for women.

- Breastfeeding is considered the first immunization for the newborn and the World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated between August 1 and August 7.

The number of children in Bihar who were breastfed within the first hour of their birth has decreased in the last four- five years, as per National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) reports. NFHS-4, for the year 2015-16, shows only 34.9% children were reported to have been breastfed within an hour of their birth in Bihar and that percentage dipped further for year 2019-20 to 31.1% as per NFHS-5. However, the percentage of **institutional delivery** has increased in the state from 63.8% from 2015-16 to **76.2%** in 2019-20, the reports noted.

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- The Election Commission has introduced biometric voting technology in the **Bihar panchayat elections last year (2021)**, first time in our country **biometrics** has been introduced in panchayat polls to check bogus voting. This was also the first time when electronic voting machines (**EVMS**) were used in the rural areas during a panchayat election.

- With its allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar trying to enhance their political heft inside and outside the state, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has resumed its long-forgotten **'Sahyog'** outreach to strengthen the party's support base in Bihar.

Sahyog entails BJP ministers taking turns to hear and solve people's grievances at state party headquarter in Patna daily, except Sundays. Ministers are assisted by a well-organised team of party leaders that pursue the highlighted issues

- **Tika Express** has been launched by the Bihar government to speed up COVID-19 vaccination. Tika Express is a mobile van that carries healthcare staff to far flung areas offering free vaccination at site to residents .

- The famed **Sikki grass craft of Bihar**, already recognised with Geographical Indication (GI) tag, was honoured with the release of two special postal covers, showcasing its intricate design and beauty. Two special postal covers titled Artwork made from Sikki grass and Sikki grass product of Bihar, were released by the Darbhanga Postal Division at an event held at the Postal Training Centre in the city. Sikki or Vetiver grass or Khus belongs to Poaceae family and its botanical name is Chrysopogon Zizanioides.

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Sikki grass grows abundantly in flood plains of Mithila region and it has cultural significance as well. Women, particularly in rural pockets of Mithila region, have been making handicrafts, using its strong blades, for ages.

- An initiative called the **Sukhet Model**, adopted by Dr Rajendra Prasad Agriculture University in Madhubani and local agricultural research centres to check pollution in the villages, was praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Maan Ki Baat address.

The PM said that the initiative has given strength to the Swachh Bharat Mission, besides providing benefits to the farmers. In his address, the PM talked about the major highlights of the Sukhet Model, like how cow dung and waste from houses of villagers are collected and in return, the villagers are given money for gas cylinders.

The Sukhet Model was launched by the agricultural department as a part of the Climate Resilient Agricultural Programme in 2019.

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- Muzaffarpur's **Sharad Kumar** created history by becoming Bihar's first-ever Paralympic medalist after he won a bronze medal in the F42 category of men's high jump in the Tokyo Para Games.
- Shuttler **Pramod Bhagat** wins Gold medal in the Men's Singles SL3 at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. With badminton making its debut at the Paralympics this year, Pramod Bhagat, the current world No. 1, thus became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the sport. Shubhai village in Vaishali erupted into celebrations after shuttler Pramod Bhagat created history at Tokyo Paralympics.
- As per the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Bihar state has the **highest neonatal mortality rate** in India

- The Bihar government will set up **science laboratories in 50 model schools** in two phases at an estimated cost of nearly ₹8 crore.

The move to set up science labs in tie up with **IIT-Patna** is significant as there has been a huge shortage of teachers of science subject as well as adequate lab facilities in the government schools in Bihar.

In the first phase, science laboratories will be set up in Patna-based 7 model higher secondary schools, where students' enrolment is high. A sum of ₹1 crore has been earmarked for it.

In the second phase, 43 model schools will be equipped with the facility across the state at an estimated cost of nearly ₹7 crore.

- **Belwa Dhar scheme** in Sitamarhi involving transfer of surplus Bagmati water to Budhi Gandak has already shown a lot of potential. It is the Bihar's first intra-linking project and set to be completed this year.

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- **Purnia** becomes first district in Bihar to launch menstrual hygiene management plan. District magistrate Rahul Kumar said with the cooperation of NGOs and UNICEF, the management plan first succeeded in the Kasba block, where it started as a pilot project in April last year. NITI Aayog has allotted ₹4 crore for health and nutrition, growth monitoring devices, the toilets and to strengthen 237 panchayat libraries in the district.

- **Education sector** in Bihar, with an allocation of ₹39,191.87 crore for fiscal 2022-23, received the largest share of the state's budget of over ₹2.37 lakh crore for the next financial year, which was presented in the assembly by deputy chief minister and finance minister Tarkishore Prasad.

- The per capita income of Bihar, one of the major indicators of development, has also registered a marginal rise in 2020-21 as against 2019-20, up from ₹33,979 to ₹34,314. Bihar's economy grew at 2.5% in fiscal 2020-21.

- **Saharsa** collectorate has become the first e-collectorate in Bihar for better transparency and to allow most of the work to go paperless.

- Bihar to get 559MW power as NPGC commissions final unit

Bihar will get 559 MW of additional thermal power as the third and final unit, having an installed capacity of 660 MW, of the **Nabinagar Power Generating Company (NPGC)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), was commissioned at Nabinagar in Aurangabad district.

Bihar will get 84.8% share i.e. 559 MW of electricity generated from the power plant, while the remaining would be allocated to Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Sikkim from this unit.

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- The JD(U) has registered a strong presence in **Manipur** on its own once again, winning six seats, its highest ever tally in the northeastern state. The party already has presence in northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

- Bihar pushes for **mega textile park**, identifies 1,719-acre land in West Champaran  
In line with the central government's plans to boost the textile industry, the Bihar government has submitted a proposal to the Union textiles ministry to set up mega hub under the PM Mitra Mega Textile Park envisioned by the NDA regime.

- The state known today as Bihar was carved out of Bengal on **March 22, 1912**. Each year, the day is a public holiday across the state. This year's celebrations took place at capital Patna's iconic Gandhi Maidan under the theme '**Jal, Jeevan, Hariyali.**' Incidentally, March 22 is also observed across the globe as World Water Day.

Environmentalist and India head of the United Nations Environment Programme, Atul Bagai said Bihar was 30 years ahead of the country in the sphere of climate protection and it was striving to achieve net zero carbon emission by **2040**, while India strives to achieve it in 2070.

- Three towns in Bihar — **Katihar, Gaya and Muzaffarpur** — have been ranked on top of the list of aspirational districts classified by the Niti Aayog for their performance on the basis of delta score for the month ending February this year (2022).

Katihar, which also happens to be the home district of the deputy CM, got the delta score of 3.705 and comprehensive score of 55.9 on different aspects of development and stood on the top.

Likewise, Gaya and Muzaffarpur received delta score of 3.405 and 3.112 and overall score of 48 and 52.5 got the 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

- First-time violators of liquor law in Bihar can skip jail for a **fine up to ₹5,000**, instead of being sent to judicial custody. However, those caught in drunken state for the next time are liable for the jail term of one year. The offenders would be detected with the help of computer applications based on biometric samples.

- Bihar's ruling National Democratic Alliance (**NDA**) won **13 of the 24** legislative council seats. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won seven of the 12 seats it contested. JD (U) won five while another NDA ally one seat. RJD bagged six seats. Congress, which contested on its own, and an Independent won a seat each.