

BPSNotes Bihar Current Affairs 2021-22

Part-1

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- Excavations at the site of the ancient Buddhist university in Bihar's Telhara are set to resume after six years with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) giving the go-ahead for it. The digging earlier led to the remains of the ancient university and over half-a-dozen terracotta sealing, similar to the sealing found at ancient Nalanda University. One terracotta sealing has a Chakra flanked by two deer and carried the inscription, Sri Prathamshivpur Mahavihariyaye Bhikshu Sangha in Pali language, which is believed to be the original name of the university.
- Bihar govt to provide Rs 25,000 for girls passing intermediate exam, Rs 50,000 for completing graduation. This financial assistance will be given to unmarried girls to motivate them for higher education under Chief Minister Kanya Utthan Yojana for the financial year 2021-22
- The centenary year of the Bihar Legislative Assembly building was celebrated on February 7 at the Central Hall. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, it was just a day-long session marking 100 years of the first session of the Bihar and Orissa Provincial Legislative Council held under the presidency of Sir Walter Maude on February 7, 1921 and addressed by then Governor Lord SP Sinha. The present-day legislature has its genesis in the December 12, 1911 decision of British emperor George V regarding the creation of a separate province combining Bihar and Orissa with Patna as its headquarters and it was notified on March 22, 1912. Later, an independent building and secretariat for the Provincial Legislative Council was built in 1920.
- Bihar is set to become north India's first "bird ringing station" for observation, monitoring and research on migratory birds, fourth state in the country after Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Orissa. The fourth would be in Bihar's Bhagalpur, which is one of three known breeding places apart from Cambodia and Assam. On the occasion of CMS-COP13 (conservation of Migratory species-conference of parties) at Gandhinagar in Gujarat, principal secretary of Bihar government's department of environment, forest and climate changes, Deepak Kumar Singh has signed an MoU with the Bombay Natural History Society for establishing the 'birds- ringing station' in Bihar.
- Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB), on behalf of the state government, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at New Delhi to formulate climate resilience and low-carbon development strategies. As per the MoU, UNEP will provide technical assistance to Bihar government to prepare its greenhouse gas inventory and carry out climate impact scenario and vulnerability assessments.
- Bihar wins Digital India Award for aiding 21L stranded workers during Covid. During the pandemic, the Bihar government took the initiative to transfer financial assistance directly to the accounts of 21 lakh stranded workers outside Bihar through the Bihar Sahayata Mobile App. For the effort, the state won pandemic category Digital India Awards 2020

- Bihar took a leap in providing health care facilities including telemedicine and other digital health care platforms as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the services of E-Sanjeevani, Ashwini portal, the Wonder-App and the Referral Transport Tracking system at a function organised by the state health department.
- WONDER App: Women's Obstetrical Neonatal Death Evaluation and Reduction (WONDER) will help in reducing maternal mortality rate (MMR). Pregnant women's details, as well as findings of tests conducted on them are saved in the app. If any deficiency is found in test results, the app generates an alarm that helps health workers reach them and give necessary medicines
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed in the presence of Nitish and CEO of the Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (BRLPS) alias JEEVIKA, Bala Murgan D and executive director of health services Manoj Kumar for running the first of its kind kitchen called 'Didi Ki Rasoi' in every government hospitals to provide free foods to admitted patients and their attendants at cheaper rates.
- The Kanwar Taal or Kabar Taal Lake or Kabartal Wetland located in Begusarai district of Bihar, India, is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake. It was declared as a Ramsar site in 2020, become the first Ramsar site in Bihar.
- At 25.3 per cent, Bihar leads the list of 25 states for employing most women in its police force, according to the second annual survey on police, prisons, judiciary and legal aid, India Justice Report, 2020. The state finished ahead of Himachal Pradesh (19.2%) and Tamil Nadu (18.5%). However, although it is the only state to have more than 20 per cent women in the police force, women account for only 6.1 per cent in the officer category. Tamil Nadu, the report says, has the highest percentage of women police officers (24.8%) , followed by Mizoram (20.1%).
- In a bid to boost tourism in the state, Bihar has built an interesting 200 ft glass bridge in Rajgir, Nalanda district. Nalanda district in Bihar is one of the prime tourist hotspots in the state. The destination is historically and culturally rich and is home to the ancient Nalanda University, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- In an attempt to switch to the smarter mode of transportation the Bihar State Road Transport Corporation Limited (BSRTC) has launched the 'Chalo' app and a mobile pass for city-based bus services. While the former provides live location of all BSRTC city buses, the latter ensures cashless and contactless ticketing.

- Bihar's first state-level bird festival 'Kalrav' held at the world famous Nagi-Nakti bird sanctuaries in the Jamui district in January (15-17) 2021.
- The vaccination drive against the deadly novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) began in Bihar January 16, 2021. Sanitation worker Ram Babu, 35, was the first person in Bihar who got the vaccine shot at IGIMS.
- Bihar has finished last by getting 17th rank in the second edition of the India Innovation Index, 2020 released by NITI Aayog. The state had secured 16th rank in the country in the first edition of the index in 2019. Karnataka tops among major states, Delhi tops among UT/ city states
- After years of efforts, Patna is now declared 'Open Defecation Free' (ODF). With this distinction achieved, the Patna Municipal Corporation has taken up another task -- to make the capital 'Garbage free.' After being declared 'open defecation free' city, Patna now aims for 'garbage free' status. The Government of India has given ODF certificate declaring Patna Municipal Corporation area as "ODF Plus" with effect from December 2020.
- India's largest reclining Buddha statue, some 30 meters in length (100-feet long), is to be installed on the premises of the Buddha International Welfare Mission (BIWM) temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, within the next few months. The statue was originally intended to be installed on Buddha Purnima, which this year fell on 26 May, according to BIWM founder Venerable Ariyapala Bhikkhu, but the unveiling ceremony was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The renowned sculptor Mintu Pal from Kolkata and his team of 22 artisans were commissioned to create the statue at the Nainan Bandhab Samiti ground in Baranaga's Ghoshpara on the outskirts of Kolkata. The statue, which was fabricated entirely from fiberglass infused with a golden pigment, was made in several parts. Each section of the statue is now at BIMW, where it will finally be assembled. A concrete foundation and an iron-and-steel-based structure have been created at the venue where the statue will be permanently installed.

The figure of the reclining Buddha was first depicted in Gandharan art between 50 BCE and 75 CE, peaking during the Kushan period between the first and fifth centuries CE. Reclining Buddha statues show the Buddha lying on his right side, with his head resting on a cushion or his right elbow. The imagery expresses the message that all living beings have the potential to become awakened and to be released from the cycle of death and rebirth.

As of now, the likely date is set for Buddha Purnima in 2022.

- Four major towns of Rajgir, Bodhgaya, Gaya and Nawada know for their historical, tourist and religious importance would be provided piped drinking water round the year through a 148.77 km pipeline under "Ganga Water Lift Scheme". Under the scheme, water from Ganga will be lifted during four months of the monsoon in various reservoirs and will be supplied by a pipeline, the minister said, adding work is under progress for setting up water treatment plant for Rajgir, Bodhgaya and Gaya.

- No city from Bihar in top 10 of Ease of Living Index, Patna climbs to 33rd. Four cities from Bihar -- Patna, Biharsharif, Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur, participated in the survey. Muzaffarpur was adjudged the lowest in the Ease of Living Index. Patna has recorded a significant improvement in its ranking in the Ease of Living Index 2020, a survey of cities across the country conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The city has ranked 33rd out of the 111 cities that participated, 49 of them in over one million category and 62 in less than a million population category. In the first edition of the Ease of Living Index in 2018, Patna had scored 18.67 out of 100 and was ranked 109th among the 111 cities across the country. In the latest survey, Patna has scored 53.26 out of 100 and is ranked ahead of Ranchi (42). In the less than a million population category, Biharsharif, with a score of 52.42, has ranked 28th out of 62 cities; Bhagalpur (52.19) points ranked 30th. Muzaffarpur, with 45.53 points, is the lowest among all categories.
- Bihar has shown a remarkable jump from 23rd to 8th rank in the country in digitization of land records and its quality, according to the annual index report released by a Delhi-based think tank NCAER. The annual land records and services index for 2020-21 prepared by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) revealed that the state's endeavour towards modernizing land records and offering citizen centric services led to a total score of 64.8 in 2020-21 as against 28.8 in 2019-20, an increase of 125%. With the surge in its performance, Bihar has joined the coveted list of top 10 to 8th position compared to 23rd rank in 2019-20. However, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha were adjudged the best performing states in land digitization.
- With Bihar keen to develop a port facility in the Odisha coast, the State government is reported to have given green signal to the proposal.
- Bihar first state to have two green towns: If everything goes as per plan, Bihar is set to become the country's first state to have two green energy efficient towns in Rajgir and Bodh Gaya. The towns will start getting solar energy through the first of its kind renewable energy project from 2023. To implement this project, the state government has decided to use the land available in Lakhisarai and Bhagalpur district to construct solar energy plants. 500-megawatt solar energy plants will be set up at Lakhisarai and Bhagalpur. The Solar Energy Corporation of India has agreed to provide green energy and develop the system.
- Recently, the Government of India has launched the Gram UJALA Programme - an ambitious scheme offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a mere Rs. 10. In its first phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of 5 districts - Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra),

and villages in western Gujarat.

- The National climate vulnerability assessment report released today has identified Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal as states highly vulnerable to climate change. These states, mostly in the eastern part of the country, require prioritization of adaptation interventions, the report pointed out.

#1. Jharkhand

#6. Bihar

#29. Maharashtra

District-wise:

#1. Karimganj (Assam)

#5. Katihar (Bihar)

- An innovative Home Isolation Tracking (HIT) app developed by the Bihar government to keep an eye on the condition of COVID patients recuperating at their residence.
- Shahi litchi was the fourth agricultural product to get GI certification from Bihar in 2018, after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan. GI registration for Shahi Litchi is held with the Muzaffarpur-based Litchi Growers Association of Bihar.
- Under the Bihar Mukhyamantri Bal Sahayata Yojana, how much money will be given to the children orphaned due to COVID-19 each month till the age of 18? 1500
- In an attempt to help those worried about oxygen scarcity amid the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the Bihar government launched a campaign to encourage installation of oxygen-giving indoor plants. Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bihar launched the campaign '#NatureCuresYou' to sensitise people about how nature can help beat coronavirus. The department said that plants and nature have been the base of ancient Ayurvedic science and their use in the domestic treatment of common diseases continues to date.
- In a bid to strengthen the online learning system for government school students amid Covid-19 pandemic, Bihar state education department launched a web portal named e-LOTS on Wednesday to converge e-books and audio-visual learning materials on a single digital platform. The web portal has been jointly developed by the Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC) and Unicef and has created a digital library for students and teachers as well, education department officials say. As schools are facing closure due to the pandemic, the web portal has been designed to continue the teaching and learning process. Subject-wise and chapter-wise e-books have been uploaded in English and Hindi. Those who wish to access audio-visual learning materials can switch to linked gateways with a single click.

- Bihar road construction department (RCD) will now use a “high precision laser-based technology” to check the quality of newly constructed roads and maintenance of old ones to save time, cost and ensure accuracy in assessment. The department till now relied on manual verification of quality control measures as stipulated under the International Roughness Index (IRI), which was not only time-consuming and costly but also prone to fudging. It has now decided to adopt the laser-based network survey vehicle (NSV) technology, recently introduced to check the quality of construction of national highways. Vehicles equipped with NSV technology come with high resolution camera and laser-beam throwing capacity to record and assess the condition of roads beneath the surface. Bihar has around 5,000 km of national highways, 4000km of state highways and around 11,000km of major district roads
- Bihar state transport department has announced subsidy on purchase of ambulances under Mukhya Mantri Gram Parivahan Yojana (MMGPY). Launched in 2018, MMGPY aims to ease transportation facilities in rural areas and generate employment. Bihar government’s transport department’s decision comes at a time when the state’s health infrastructure has come under massive strain due to the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in a flood of infected patients seeking healthcare facilities such as ambulance services, oxygenated hospital beds, life saving medicines etc. Earlier, subsidy was offered only on purchase of three or four-wheeler passenger vehicles. Now, subsidy will be provided on purchase of 1068 ambulances under the scheme, which will incur an expenditure of ₹21 crore. All ambulances will be equipped with oxygen and basic medical facilities. Under the scheme, two people from backward classes from each block will be given a subsidy, which amounts to 50% of the cost of vehicles not exceeding ₹2 lakh, on purchase of an ambulance.

