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BIHAR

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Bihar Business Connect 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar government hosted the **Bihar Business Connect 2024** investor summit to showcase the state's growing economic and business potential.

Key Points

- **Objective:**
 - The summit aimed to attract investments across sectors, including **manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture**, and technology, showcasing Bihar's conducive environment for business growth.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - Key policies and reforms focused on improving **ease of doing business**, along with tax incentives, infrastructure upgrades, and **skill development** programs to create a favorable climate for investors.
- **Networking Platform:**
 - The event provided a platform for networking among industry leaders, government officials, and global investors, enhancing collaboration opportunities in Bihar's economy.
- **Sectoral Focus:**
 - Emphasis on sectors like **renewable energy, IT, tourism**, and **agri-business** aligns with the state's plans to diversify its economic landscape.

Bihar's Land Survey Sparks Mixed Reactions

Why in News?

Bihar's recent **land survey** aims to update century-old records, impacting ownership claims, especially among **marginalized communities**.

Key Points

- **Historical Background**
 - Bihar's last comprehensive land survey dates to the **British period in 1910-1911**, with partial attempts made in 1967 and 1980.
 - The current survey, **initiated in 2013**, aims to cover all **45,000 revenue villages** by 2025.
- **Scope and Process**
 - Over 10,000 personnel, including land surveyors, have been deployed to digitize over **150 million land records**.

- This includes verifying the genealogy charts, critical for proving familial claims to land. Boundary measurement for each landholding is slated for **early 2025**.

➤ Challenges Encountered

- **Verification of Ownership:** Absence of clear partition deeds has led to disputes, with residents struggling to confirm family-owned land as informal, verbal agreements often dictate ownership.
- **Document Translation:** Historical documents, many written in **Kaithi script**, require translation and comprehension, creating delays. The government has introduced training to facilitate script translation.
- **Technology Hurdles:** Poor internet connectivity in rural areas hampers real-time updating and retrieval of records, leading to inconsistencies in uploaded data.

➤ Social Implications

- **Gendered Disputes:** A significant issue is the inclusion of women's inheritance rights, leading to conflicts within families. Married women have faced pressure to relinquish their claims, challenging entrenched patriarchal norms.
- **Community Tensions:** Land claims have led to violence in some cases, with recent instances of Dalit homes being torched due to boundary disputes with upper-caste communities.

Cyclone 'Dana' Impact on Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, **Cyclone 'Dana'** has caused significant changes in the weather pattern across Bihar, leading to heavy rainfall warnings for several districts.

Key Points

- **Affected Districts:** Patna, Gaya, and other nearby regions are likely to experience significant rainfall.
 - The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued a **yellow alert**, warning residents to prepare for potential flooding.
 - Cyclone Dana is also influencing weather conditions in neighboring states like **Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
- **Colour- Coded Weather Warning:**
 - It is issued by the IMD whose objective is to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.

Note:



- The IMD uses 4 color codes are:
 - **Green (All is well):** No advisory is issued.
 - **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.
 - **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
 - **Red (Take Action):** When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.
- These alerts are universal in nature and are also issued during floods, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall.
 - For instance, when the water in a river is 'above normal' level, or between the 'warning' and 'danger' levels, a yellow alert is issued.

Cyclone

- **Cyclones** are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area. The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the **Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.**
- Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.
- The word Cyclone is derived from the Greek word Cyclos meaning the coils of a snake. It was coined by Henry Peddington because the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea appear like coiled serpents of the sea.
- **There are two types of cyclones:**
 - Tropical cyclones; and
 - Extra Tropical cyclones (also called Temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones).
- The **World Meteorological Organisation** uses the term 'Tropical Cyclone' to cover weather systems in which winds exceed '**Gale Force**' (minimum of 63 km per hour).
 - Tropical cyclones develop in the region between the **Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.** They are large-scale weather systems developing over tropical or subtropical waters, where they get organized into surface wind circulation.
- Extra tropical cyclones occur in temperate zones and high latitude regions, though they are known to originate in the Polar Regions.

Russell's Viper Snake

Why in News?

Recently, a man in Bihar shocked everyone by arriving at a hospital with the venomous snake (**Russell's Viper**) that had bitten him.

Key Points

- **Russell's Viper:**
 - **Russell's Viper** is one of India's most dangerous snakes. Its venom is hemotoxic, causing internal bleeding, muscle damage, and renal failure.
 - Bites from this snake can be fatal if untreated, with symptoms including severe pain, swelling, and bleeding.
- **Venom and Antivenom:**
 - **Venom Composition:** The venom of Russell's Viper disrupts blood clotting, leading to internal bleeding.
 - **Antivenom Production:** Venom is extracted from snakes, injected into animals (usually horses), which then produce antibodies. These antibodies are extracted to create antivenom
- **Legal Protection under WPA, 1972:**
 - The **Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972** classifies *Russell's Viper* as protected wildlife **under schedule II.**
 - Handling, capturing, or harming these snakes without permission is illegal.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

- The **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** provides a legal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals and plants, management of their habitats, regulation, and control of trade in wild animals, plants, and products made from them
- The act also lists schedules of plants and animals that are afforded varying degrees of protection and monitoring by the government.
- India's entry to the **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** was made easier by the Wildlife Act, 1972.
- Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir was not covered by the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 now applies to J&K as a result of the **reorganisation act.**

Note:

Hooch Tragedy

Why in News?

Recently, a **tragic hooch** incident in Bihar has claimed eight lives, drawing attention to the severe consequences of **illicit liquor consumption**.

Key Points

➤ Hooch Formation Process:

- **Hooch, also known as illicit or spurious liquor**, is typically made by fermenting and distilling cheap raw materials like **molasses or grains**.
- Often, dangerous chemicals like **methanol** are **added** to speed up production or increase potency. Methanol can cause fatal poisoning even in small amounts.

➤ Contributing Factors:

- Despite strict prohibition laws, the underground liquor trade continues to thrive in Bihar. Poor enforcement and high demand for alcohol contribute to recurring hooch incidents.
- Public health experts point to the need for better regulation and stronger policing to prevent the sale of toxic alcohol.

➤ Prohibition Laws:

- Bihar has enforced a total prohibition on alcohol since 2016 under the **Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016**. However, loopholes and weak enforcement allow the illegal trade to flourish.
- The law includes stringent punishments for those involved in the production and sale of illicit liquor, including heavy fines and imprisonment.

Methanol

- Methanol, chemically represented as CH_3OH , is a simple alcohol molecule consisting of one carbon atom bonded to three hydrogen atoms and one hydroxyl group (OH).
- Regulations:
 - Methanol is classified under **Schedule I** of the **Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules 1989** in India.
 - **Indian Standard IS 517** specifies how the quality of methanol should be determined.

➤ Industrial Production:

- Methanol is primarily produced industrially by combining carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of **copper and zinc oxide catalysts**, typically at pressures of **50-100 atm** and temperatures around 250°C .
 - Historically, methanol was also produced through the destructive distillation of wood, a method known since ancient times, including in ancient Egypt.

➤ Industrial Uses:

- Methanol serves as a crucial precursor in the production of acetic acid, formaldehyde, and various aromatic hydrocarbons. It is widely used as a solvent, antifreeze, and in various industrial processes due to its chemical properties.

➤ Effect on Human Body:

○ Metabolic Acidosis:

- Methanol in the body is broken down into toxic byproducts, primarily formic acid. This acid disrupts the body's delicate pH balance in the blood, leading to a condition called metabolic acidosis (production of excessive acid that cannot be flushed out by kidneys).
- This makes the blood more acidic, hindering its ability to function properly.

○ Cellular Oxygen Deprivation:

- Formic acid also interferes with an enzyme called cytochrome oxidase, which is crucial for cellular respiration. This disrupts the cells' ability to use oxygen, leading to a buildup of lactic acid and further contributing to acidosis.

○ Vision Impairment:

- Methanol can damage the optic nerve and retina, causing methanol-induced optic neuropathy. This condition can lead to permanent vision problems, including blindness.

○ Brain Damage:

- It can cause cerebral edema (fluid buildup in the brain) and hemorrhage (bleeding). These can lead to coma and death.

Note:

Classical Language Demand for Maithili

Why in News?

Recently, the Janata Dal (United) party in Bihar has formally demanded the Indian government grant **classical language** status to **Maithili**, following the inclusion of several other languages in this category.

Key Points

- **Languages Recognized:** The central government has recently granted classical language status to languages including **Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese**.
 - Previously, languages such as **Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia** were recognized as classical.
- **Historical Context:** Maithili has a literary history of around **1,300 years**, and the state has demanded it to be classified as a classical language.
 - An expert committee constituted by the government had made 11 recommendations in **August 2018**, including the inclusion of **Maithili in classical languages**.

Understanding Classical Languages:

- The term **“Indian classical languages,”** or **“Semmozhi,”** refers to languages with a long history and a rich literary legacy. Eleven languages are recognized as classical languages in India.
- **The recognized classical languages include:**
 - **Tamil** (2004)
 - **Sanskrit** (2005)
 - **Telugu** (2008)
 - **Kannada** (2008)
 - **Malayalam** (2013)
 - **Odia** (2014)
 - **Marathi** (2024)
 - **Bengali** (2024)
 - **Pali** (2024)
 - **Prakrit** (2024)
 - **Assamese** (2024)
- **Significance of Classical Language Status:** According to a government resolution from 1st November, 2004, classical languages hold significant importance, which includes:
 - Annual international awards for scholars of classical Indian languages.

- Establishment of **Centers of Excellence for Classical Language Studies**.
- The **University Grants Commission** will create professional chairs for distinguished scholars in classical languages, starting with central universities.

- **Criteria for Declaring a Language as Classical:** As per the **Ministry of Culture**, the criteria for a language to be declared classical include:
 - **Age of the Language:** The language must have a documented history or early texts between **1,500 and 2,000 years old**.
 - **Cultural Value:** It should possess ancient literature that its speakers regard as part of their cultural legacy.
 - **Originality:** The literary heritage must be original and not borrowed from other languages.
 - **Discontinuity:** There should be a clear distinction between the classical language and its modern forms, indicating a potential discontinuity in its development.

Other Provisions to Promote Language

- **Eighth Schedule:** To encourage the continued development, enhancement, and promotion of the language. 8th Schedule consists of 22 languages:
 - Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- **Article 344 (1)** provides for the constitution of a Commission by the President on the expiration of five years from the commencement of the Constitution for the progressive use of Hindi .
- **Article 351** provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language
- **Other Efforts to Promote Languages:**
 - **Project ASMITA:** The **project ASMITA** aims to produce 22,000 books in Indian languages within five years.
 - **New Education Policy (NEP):** The **NEP policy** aims to turn Sanskrit universities into multi-disciplinary institutions.
 - **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL):** This institute works to promote four classical languages: Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia.

Note:

Bihar's Progress in Basic Indicators

Why in News?

Recently, **NITI Aayog's** CEO highlighted Bihar's achievements in key development areas such as education, health and governance.

Key Points

- **Performance in Education and Health:** Bihar is making notable progress in basic indicators like **education** and **health**, expected to catch up with national standards in a few years.
- **Aspirational Blocks:** Improved **governance** and service delivery are transforming **aspirational blocks** into inspirational ones.
- **AI in Governance:** Bihar is the first Indian state to implement an **AI-driven decision support system for policymakers and mid-career officers**.
- **BIPARD's Role:** The **Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD)** introduces three advanced labs focused on data-driven governance, simulation-based training, and collaborative policy formulation.
 - **Introduction of New Labs at BIPARD:**
 - **GenNext Lab:** This lab will leverage **secure artificial intelligence** to train administrators in data-driven decision-making, predictive analysis, and governance optimization.
 - **Niti Shala Lab:** An immersive learning environment using advanced simulation technologies. Trainees will engage with real-world scenarios to enhance their **governance skills**.
 - **Viksit Chintan Kaksh:** A collaborative space for state officers to strategize and deliberate on pivotal policy decisions. Equipped with communication and data-sharing tools to drive **policy consensus and governance reforms**.

NITI Aayog

➤ Background:

- Planning Commission was replaced by a new institution **NITI Aayog** on **1st January, 2015** with emphasis on 'Bottom –Up' approach to envisage the vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, echoing the spirit of **'Cooperative Federalism'**.

- It has two Hubs.
 - Team India Hub acts as interface between States and Centre.
 - Knowledge and Innovation Hub builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.

➤ Composition:

- **Chairperson:** Prime minister
- **Vice-Chairperson:** To be appointed by Prime-Minister
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all states and Lt. Governors of Union Territories.
- **Regional Council:** To address specific regional issues, Comprising Chief Minister and Lt. Governors Chaired by the Prime Minister or his nominee.
- **Ad-hoc Membership:** Two members in ex-officio capacity from leading Research institutions on a rotational.
- **Ex-Officio membership:** Maximum four from the Union council of ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Chief Executive Officer:** Appointed by the Prime-minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- **Special Invitees:** Experts, Specialists with domain knowledge nominated by the Prime Minister.

➤ Objectives:

- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded Think Tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.

Note:

- To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.
- To offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- To maintain a state-of-the-art Resource Centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stakeholders.

Logo and Mascot for Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Bihar Chief Minister unveiled the **logo and mascot** for the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2024**, set to take place in **Rajgir, Bihar** from **11th November to 20th, 2024**.

Key Points

- **Mascot Unveiling - 'Gudiya':**
 - The mascot for the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2024** is "**Gudiya**," a term of endearment in Bihar for young girls.
 - Inspired by the **house sparrow**, an endangered species, the mascot represents **resilience, strength, and natural heritage**.
 - Gudiya's bold stance and confident expression reflect the **determination and athleticism** of the players, symbolizing empowerment and awareness for endangered species protection.
- **Logo Design:**
 - The logo features the **Bodhi Tree**, symbolizing **growth and resilience**, tied to Bihar's spiritual heritage.
 - The intertwining branches reflect the journey of an athlete, connecting the past and future, showcasing Bihar's increasing role in international sports.

➤ Promoting Women's Empowerment and Sports Infrastructure:

- The tournament and its symbolic elements align with Bihar's mission to promote **women's empowerment** and further develop the state's **sports infrastructure**.
- Hosting such prestigious international events brings global attention to Bihar, creating new opportunities for **local talent and sports development**.

Women's Asian Champions Trophy

- The **Women's Asian Champions Trophy** is a **biennial international field hockey competition** featuring the top six women's national teams from member associations of the **Asian Hockey Federation**.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - The tournament includes the **best six women's national teams** from Asia.
 - **South Korea** holds the most titles, having won the tournament **three times**.
 - **India and Japan** have each won the tournament **twice**.

Bihar's Annual Flood Crisis

Why in News?

Bihar faces devastating **floods** every year due to its unique geography and decades-old **flood** control methods.

Key Points

- **Flood-Prone Nature of Bihar**
 - Bihar is India's most flood-prone state, with **76% of North Bihar's** population affected.
 - The region is crisscrossed by both **snow-fed and rain-fed rivers**, increasing flood risk.
 - Bihar is located below **Nepal**, with **Himalayan rivers (Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati)** flowing into the state.
 - These rivers carry high sediment loads due to loose Himalayan soil, leading to overflow during heavy rains.
- **Impact of Embankments:**
 - Embankments along rivers like **Kosi were built in the 1950s** to control flooding.
 - Embankments narrowed river channels, leading to sediment buildup and higher riverbeds, making the rivers more prone to overflow.
 - **Kosi**, known as the "**sorrow of Bihar**," floods annually despite embankments.

Note:

- **Recent Flooding (2024):**
 - Heavy rainfall and Nepal's release of water from the **Kosi barrage** led to severe floods in **North Bihar**.
 - Embankments have breached in several districts, **affecting 11.84 lakh people**.
 - The **Birpur barrage** released **6.6 lakh cusecs of water**, the highest in six decades.
- **Economic and Social Impact:**
 - Flooding results in crop loss, livestock destruction, damage to infrastructure, and forced migration.
 - Bihar government spends **Rs 1,000 crore annually on flood relief and management**.
- **Proposed Solutions:**
 - **Structural:** Proposals for dams and additional barrages on Kosi and other rivers.
 - **Non-structural:** Enhancing flood warnings, improving reaction times, public awareness, and training to mitigate flood effects.



Note:

Key Points

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Summary

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Key Points

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