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**STATE
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(CONSOLIDATION)

BIHAR

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Bihar Records 18% Rise in Tax Collection in 2023-24

Why in News?

The Commercial taxes department has witnessed a rise of 18.13% in **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection in the financial year 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.

Key Points

- The department collected **Rs 1,058 crore GST in state in March**, the highest in the last seven years.
- The monthly overall revenue of **Rs 5,403.15 crore collected in March** is the highest in any given month so far.
- The state collected a **total revenue of Rs 38,161 crore in GST and other taxes in 2023-24**, as compared to Rs 34,541 crore in the 2022-23 financial year.
- According to the department, special focus was on the **service sector, GST audits, issue-based adjudication and Enforcement Directorate action against tax evasion**.
- Suppliers at panchayat-level were brought under the purview of the **State Goods and Services Tax (SGST)**.

Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

- It is a multi-disciplinary organisation mandated with investigation of offences of **money laundering** and violations of **foreign exchange laws**.
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.
- As a **premier financial investigation agency of the Government of India**, the Enforcement Directorate functions in strict compliance with the Constitution and Laws of India.

NABARD Extends Financial Support to Bihar

Why in News?

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extended **financial support of Rs 10372.86 crore in Bihar** during the financial year 2023 – 24 in the form of refinance, direct finance, and grant support.

- This is the **highest financial support extended by NABARD to the state** in a year so far and recorded a growth of 21 % over the previous financial year (2022-23).

Key Points

- Refinance was extended for production credit, investment credit and for paddy procurement operations of different commercial banks, **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** and **Co-Operative Banks**, while direct finance support was extended to the state government for the creation of rural infrastructures.
 - The **grant support** was extended to various agencies for piloting developmental initiatives in the field of **Farmers' Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, **Watershed Development**, **Tribal Development**, **Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS)** **Computerisation programme**, **Skill and Enterprise Development**, **Financial Literacy and Awareness programmes** in the rural areas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- It is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.
- Its headquarter is located in Mumbai, the country's financial capital.
- It is responsible for the development of the small industries, cottage industries, and any other such village or rural projects.
- It is a statutory body **established in 1982** under the Parliamentary act-**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.

The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- They were **established in 1975** under the provisions of the Ordinance promulgated on 26th September 1975 and **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**.
- RRBs are **financial institutions** which ensure adequate credit for agriculture and other rural sectors.
- The RRBs **combine the characteristics of a cooperative in terms of the familiarity of the rural problems** and a commercial bank in terms of its professionalism and ability to mobilise financial resources.

Cooperative Banks

- It is an institution **established on a cooperative basis to deal with the ordinary banking business**. Cooperative banks are **founded by collecting funds through shares, accepting deposits, and granting loans**.

Note:

- They are **Cooperative credit societies** where members from a community group together to extend loans to each other, at favorable terms.
- They are registered under the Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned or the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
- The Co-operative banks are governed by the:
 - Banking Regulations Act, 1949.
 - Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.
- They are broadly divided into **Urban and Rural cooperative banks**.

Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies

- PACS are **cooperative societies that provide short-term credit** and other services to their members, who are mostly farmers.
- They are the **grassroots level institutions** of the cooperative credit structure in India.
- PACS are being transformed by **computerisation, undertaking multiservice, distribution of electricity, water, medicines** and offering services as **Common Service Centres (CSC)**.

SJVN Partners with IIT Patna to Improve Tunneling Project Performance

Why in News?

Recently, **SJVN Limited** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT Patna)** to use advanced geological models in SJVN's tunnelling projects, thus significantly reducing time and cost overruns.

Key Points

- One of the key outcomes of this partnership will be the **development of predictive analytics algorithms**.
 - These algorithms, leveraging integrated geotechnical data, will **forecast potential risks and provide early warning systems** specifically tailored for tunnelling projects.
 - Such proactive measures are expected to substantially **mitigate time and cost** overruns during project execution.

- The primary focus of the MoU is to **develop cutting-edge methodologies** which integrate diverse geotechnical data sources.
 - These would include **geological surveys, borehole data, geophysical measurements and monitoring data from projects of SJVN**.
- The collaboration also aims to evaluate the intricate relationship between overburden and deformation, thereby enhancing the evaluation and design of support systems crucial for tunnelling projects.
 - By harnessing integrated geotechnical data and 3D geological models, SJVN and IIT Patna aim to **identify and analyze potential risks and hazards**.

Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN Limited)

- It is an **Indian public sector undertaking** involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.
- It was **incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation**, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Centre Aims 7-fold Jump in Wheat Procurement

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has announced plans to significantly increase **wheat purchase from non-traditional states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar** and set a target of seven-fold jump in procurement to 50 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar contributed only 6.7 lakh tonnes to the central reserve during 2023-24.
 - The Union Food Ministry has decided to procure 16% of the total wheat procurement target of 310 lakh tonnes set for 2024-25.
- Wheat procurement at **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is normally undertaken by the Centre's nodal agency **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and state agencies.
- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED)** and **National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF)** have also been included in the procurement target of 5 lakh each in 2024.
 - Wheat MSP has been fixed at Rs 2,275 per quintal for 2024.

Note:



- According to the sources, wheat procurement from non-traditional states will help restore allocation of wheat under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** and other welfare schemes.
- **Steps taken to strengthen wheat procurement in non-traditional states:**
 - The procurement window has been **extended to April instead of March**, and set up a dedicated **farmer helpline** to address procurement-related queries.
 - The government has decided to ensure **transfer of MSP to bank accounts of farmers within 48 hours**, streamlined procurement incidental burden for farmers, smoothened banking-related issues such as **Aadhaar integration with bank accounts**.
 - The government has also opened more procurement centres targeting production hotspots, set up mobile procurement centres, and decided to leverage **Self Help Groups, Panchayats, Farmer Producer Organisations**.
 - A **central control room** has been set up in the **FCI headquarters in Delhi** for real-time monitoring.
- According to the food ministry, six lakh tonnes of wheat have already been procured so far this year from **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar**.
- The **government has banned wheat exports since May 2022** to boost domestic availability and check prices.
 - The wheat production is estimated to be a record 112 million tonnes during 2023-24, compared to 2022's 110 million tonnes, as per the agriculture ministry.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

- It is an **apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce** in India.
- It was founded on **2nd October 1958** and is registered under the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002**.
- NAFED is now one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India.

Vice President Urges Young Professionals for India's 2047 Goal

Why in News?

Recently, **Vice President Jagdeep Thakur** urged young professionals to be part of the endeavour of making **India a developed country by 2047**.

Key Points

- He was addressing the **6th convocation** ceremony of **IIM Bodh Gaya in Bihar**.
- He emphasized that young minds and students are torchbearers of India's future and appealed to young students to harness their skills and talent to script a new chapter in India's growth story.
- The Vice President **conferred degrees to students of MBA in a convocation ceremony**.
- The Vice President also paid a visit to the world famous **Mahabodhi Temple** in Bodhgaya and offered prayers.



The Maha Bodhi Temple

- It is **one of the four holy sites** related to the life of the **Lord Buddha**, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment (Bodhi).
 - The other three are: **Lumbini** (Birth) in Nepal, **Sarnath** (Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana - 1st Sermon) and **Kushinagar** (Mahaparinirvana- death) in Uttar Pradesh.

Note:

- The original structure was built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. However, it was reconstructed entirely in brick in the late Gupta period. The present temple dates from the 5th or 6th centuries.
- It was recognised as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 2002.

Vision India@2047

- It is a project initiated by the **NITI Aayog**, the apex policy think tank of India, to create a blueprint for India's development in the next 25 years.
- The project aims to **make India a global leader in innovation and technology**, a model of human development and social welfare, and a champion of environmental sustainability.

Patwa Toli: The Village of IITians in Bihar

Why in News?

In Bihar, a village named **Patwa Toli** has gained recognition as the **'IIT factory'** for consistently giving over a dozen IITians annually.

- The village, located in **Gaya**, boasts a high number of IIT qualifiers, with almost every household having an engineer.

Key Points

- **Vriksha** is an organisation, which has been providing **free coaching for the JEE Main exam since 2013**.
 - This initiative, funded by **IIT graduates**, equips **students with engineering books and online classes** conducted by prominent educators.
 - To support financially disadvantaged students, **Vriksh Veda Chain** established a **library model offering free education through online classes** conducted by volunteer teachers from Delhi and Mumbai.
- The success story of IIT qualifiers from Patwa Toli traces back to **1991** which ignited a wave of aspirations in the village.
- Initially known as the **'Manchester of Bihar'** due to its history of **cloth weaving**, Patwa Toli has now earned the name **'village of IITians'** for its remarkable educational achievements.

- With a rich legacy of producing engineers and medical professionals, Patwa Toli stands as a testament to the **transformative power of education and community support**.

Kesariya Stupa

Why in News?

Kesariya Stupa is the **largest Buddhist Stupa** in the world. It is **located in Kesariya**, at a distance of 110 kilometers from Patna, in the **East Champaran district of Bihar**.

Key Points

- The **first construction of the Stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE**. The original Kesaria stupa probably dates to the time of **Ashoka (circa 250 BCE)**, as the remains of a capital of a **Pillar of Ashoka** were discovered there.
- The current stupa dates to the **Gupta Dynasty between 200 AD and 750 AD** and may have been associated with the 4th century ruler **Raja Chakravarti**.
- The **stupa mound may even have been inaugurated during the Buddha's time**, as it corresponds in many respects to the description of the stupa erected by the Licchavis of Vaishali to house the alms bowl the Buddha has given them.
 - In ancient times, **Kesaria was under the rule of the Mauryas and the Licchavis**.



- **Two great foreign travelers, Faxian (Fahien) and Xuan Zang (Hsuan Tsang)**, had visited this place in ancient times and have left interesting and informative accounts of their travels.
- The **discovery of gold coins bearing the seal of the famous emperor Kanishka of the Kushan dynasty (AD 30 to AD 375)** goes on to further establish the ancient heritage of Kesaria.

Note:

- Its exploration had started in the early 19th century after its discovery led by Colonel Mackenzie in 1814.
- Later, it was excavated by General Cunningham in 1861-62 and in 1998 an ASI team led by archaeologist K.K. Muhammad had excavated the site properly.

No Manufacturing Unit from Bihar on Stock Exchange

Why in News?

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has over 66.5 lakh registered investors. The third most populous State in the country, Bihar, does not have a single manufacturing unit listed on the stock exchange.

Key Points

- Data from BSE shows that, although Bihar accounts for just 2.65% of the total number of registered investors on BSE, it has witnessed a rise of over 10% in the last quarter and over 47% in 2023.
- Before the separation of Bihar and Jharkhand, the region encompassed both an agriculture-based and consumer-based economy, as well as a thriving mineral and manufacturing sector.
 - After separation, Bihar found itself predominantly relying on agriculture and consumer-centric industries. This transition had significant implications for Bihar's economic landscape.
 - The absence of a robust manufacturing sector, coupled with limited access to essential resources, has hindered the state's ability to compete on a national scale.
- To attract industry, in 2023 the State government organized Bihar Business Connect summit in Patna, where Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed for Rs 50,500-crore investment proposals.
 - The government showed opportunities in Textiles, leathers, IT/ITeS & ESDM, Food Processing, and Hospitality & Tourism sectors.
- Bihar is plagued with negative stereotypes and misconceptions that deter potential investors. Conducting roadshows, engaging in awareness campaigns, and leveraging platforms like CII can play pivotal roles in reshaping perceptions.

Stock Market

- Stock markets are venues where buyers and sellers meet to exchange equity shares of public corporations.
- Stock markets are components of a Free-Market economy because they enable democratized access to investor trading and exchange of capital.
 - A free-market economy is an economic system in which the prices of goods and services are determined by supply and demand, without interference from government regulation.
- India has two stock exchanges – the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulator of the securities market in India. They set the legal framework and regulate all entities interested in operating in the market.
 - The SCRA (Securities Contracts Regulation Act), 1956 has empowered SEBI to recognise and regulate stock exchanges and later commodity exchanges in India; this was earlier done by the Union government.

Poll Timing in Bihar Over Heatwave

Why in News?

The Election Commission of India has decided to prolong the voting period by two hours in certain areas of four parliamentary constituencies in Bihar.

Key Points

- To increase voters' participation the state's chief electoral officer has decided to extend the polling hours due to the ongoing heatwave.
- The decision follows a comparatively lower voter turnout during the initial round of polling on 19th April.

Heatwaves

- These are prolonged periods of excessively hot weather that can cause adverse impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy.
- India, being a tropical country, is particularly vulnerable to heatwaves, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years.

Note:

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:
 - Heat waves **need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains** and **at least 30°C for Hilly regions**.
 - If the **normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C**, then an increase of **5°C to 6°C** from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition.
 - Further, an **increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature** is considered a severe heat wave condition.
 - If the **normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C**, then an **increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, an **increase of 6°C or more** is considered a **severe heat wave condition**.
 - Additionally, if the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more** irrespective of **normal maximum temperature**, a heat wave is declared.

Heat wave Scenario		40°C	30°C
Maximum Temperature		Plains	Hills
Heat wave conditions prevail when...		Severe heat wave conditions prevail when....	
Normal maximum temperature	Deviation from normal	Normal maximum temperature	Deviation from normal
Above	4-5°C or more	Above	6°C or more
40°C		40°C	
At or below	5-6°C or more	At or below	7°C or more
40°C		40°C	

Child Trafficking

Why in News?

95 children who were allegedly being transported from Bihar to Uttar Pradesh illegally were rescued by the Uttar Pradesh Child Commission.

- Children were taken to other states to be kept in madrasas to earn donations on the basis of religion is a violation of the Constitution.

Key Points

- The children who were rescued were **between the ages of 4-12**. The incident raised concerns surrounding **child trafficking**.

- According to the Chairperson of the **National Commission for Protection Of Child Rights, the Constitution** of India has given the **right to education** to every child. It is compulsory for every child to go to school.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) was **set up in 2007** under the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005**.
- The Commission's Mandate is to **ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms** are in consonance with the **Child Rights perspective** as enshrined in the **Constitution of India** and also the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**.

Child Trafficking

- It manifests in the form of **domestic labour, forced child labour** across industries, and illegal activities such as **begging, organ trade and commercial sex purposes**.
- In 2021, **the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** reported a staggering statistic: an average of **eight children fell victim to trafficking every day in India**. These cases encompassed various forms of exploitation, including forced labor, begging, and sexual exploitation.
- The figures reveal a concerning trend, with **2,834 cases documented in 2018, 2,914 in 2019, and 2,222 in 2020**.
 - It's important to note that these statistics only account for confirmed trafficking cases, excluding instances of missing children.
 - The true extent of the issue may be more profound than these numbers suggest.

Bihar: Highest Lightning Related Deaths

Why in News?

A new study of lightning-related deaths in Bihar has revealed that **Sheohar, Banka, Kaimur and Kishanganj districts** were the **most vulnerable** in the state to this natural hazard, recording the **highest casualty rate** per million population.

Note:



- The study examined data from the 2017-2022 period and found that 1,624 people died and 286 were injured due to lightning.

Key Points

- As per the study by **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** scientists, nearly all the **1,624 deaths were in rural areas** and most of these casualties and injuries, about **76.8%, were caused by lightning strikes** that occurred between 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm.
 - The study identified gender-segregated data for 1,577 deaths. Out of these 1,577 deaths, **1,131 (71%) were men**. Rural men between the **age groups of 11-15 years and 41-45 years** were particularly vulnerable.
 - On average, there were **271 human deaths and 57.2 injuries** due to lightning strikes each year in Bihar during **the six-year study period**.
 - The state's annual casualty rate per million of **2.65 was higher than the national average of 2.55**.
 - The period between May to September was the peak for lightning strikes with June and July accounting for 58.8% of lightning-linked deaths.
- Researchers explained that lightning strikes reach a record high in **June and July** with the monsoonal current setting in, mainly due to the interplay of **easterly and westerly winds**.
- According to the **Earth Sciences Ministry**, Cloud-to-ground lightning strikes claim thousands of lives each year and Bihar ranks among the top three most-affected

states in terms of lightning-linked casualties along with **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**.

- The **plains area is prone to thunderstorms and lightning activity** as warm, dry air from north-west India converges with moist air emanating from the Bay of Bengal, creating conditions that are favorable for the formation of deep convective clouds.
- In **North West Bihar, the lightning strikes are lower but casualties are higher**. These parts of Bihar are not urbanised and may be having poor shelter density around farm areas. Socio-economic factors play an important role in mitigating the impact of such natural hazards.
- The threat potential of lightning strikes is not uniform. **Topography, elevation, and local meteorological factors** determine the spatial distribution of lightning strikes.
- A higher lightning frequency is seen in the eastern region owing to higher moisture incursion.
- Assessing vulnerability and hotspots is important for policymakers and to design mitigation measures.

Westerly Winds

- They **originate from sub tropical high pressure belts** and move towards **subpolar low pressure belts** and, prevail between 35° to 60° latitudes.
- They are also permanent but **more intense during winters**. They transport warm and moist air toward the pole.
- Westerly causes formation of fronts along sub polar low pressure zones and transport cyclones toward the western margin.

Note:



Key Points

Details

Summary