



Bihar's Progress in Basic Indicators | Bihar | 08 Oct 2024

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.
- 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.

Rescue of Climbers at Chaukhamba III | Uttarakhand | 08 Oct 2024

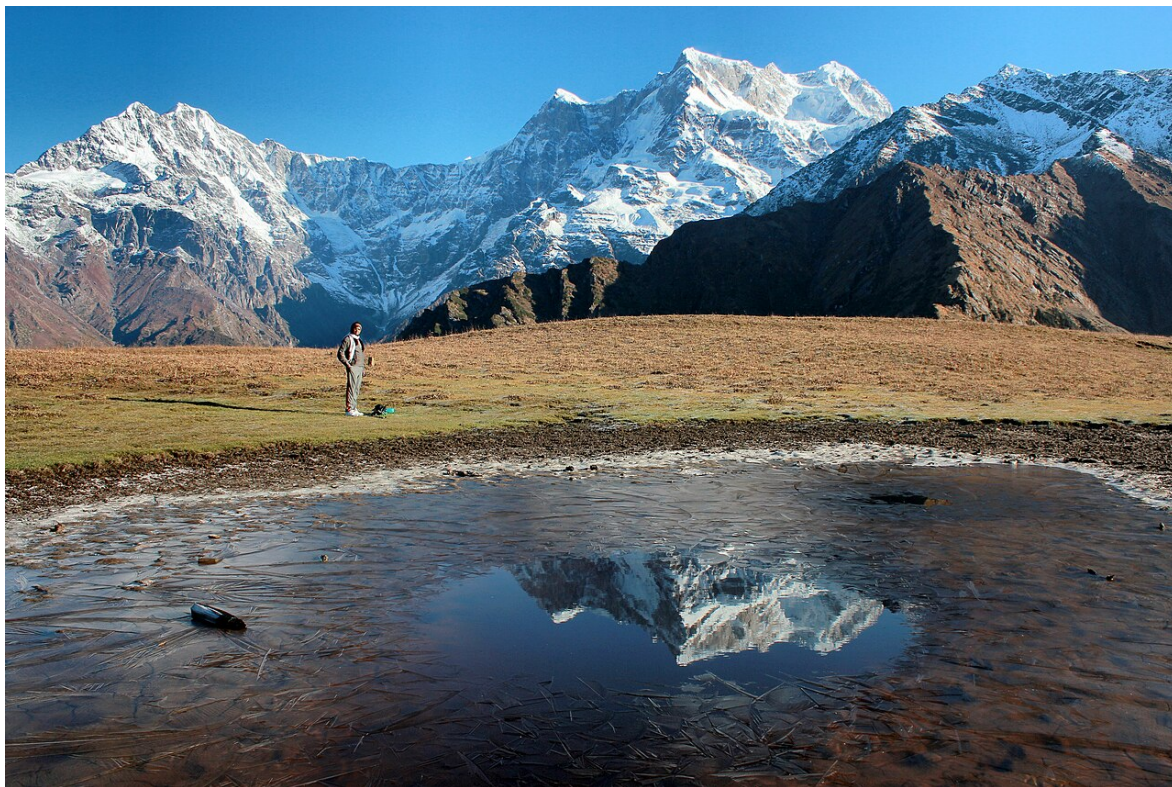
Why in News?

Recently, two foreign climbers, **Michelle Theresa Dvorak (USA)** and **Fay Jane Manners (UK)**, were rescued from **6,015 meters** height near the [Chaukhamba III peak](#) in Uttarakhand's [Chamoli district](#).

Key Points

- **Chaukhamba:**
 - It is a mountain massif in the [Gangotri Group of the Garhwal Himalayas](#), Uttarakhand, India, located west of [Badrinath](#). It features four summits along a northeast-southwest ridge:
 - Chaukhamba I: 7,138 m (23,419 ft)
 - Chaukhamba II: 7,070 m (23,196 ft)
 - Chaukhamba III: 6,995 m (22,949 ft)
 - Chaukhamba IV: 6,854 m (22,487 ft)
- The mountain lies at the head of the Gangotri Glacier, forming the eastern anchor of the group, with the highest peak, [Chaukhamba I](#), being the tallest in the [Gangotri range](#).

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Chamoli District

- Chamoli is a district in Uttarakhand, India, with its administrative headquarters located in **Gopeshwar**.
 - It is bounded by **Tibet in the north** and several Uttarakhand districts, including Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Pauri Garhwal, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi.
- Chamoli is renowned for several **religious and tourist destinations**, such as [Badrinath](#), **Hemkund Sahib**, and the [Valley of Flowers](#).
- Historically, Chamoli holds significance as the birthplace of the [Chipko movement](#), a pioneering environmental campaign.

Gangotri Glacier

- Gangotri Glacier is situated in the **Uttarkashi District of Uttarakhand**.
- The **Gangotri glacier** originates at the northern slope of **Chaukhamba range of peaks** in Garhwal Himalayas. It is about **30 km long and 0.5 to 2.5 km wide**.
- Gangotri is not a single valley glacier, but a combination of several other glaciers. This glacier comprises three main tributaries, namely **Raktavaran (15.90 km)**, **Chaturangi (22.45 km)** and **Kirti (11.05 km) and more than 18 other tributary glaciers**.
- The **Bhagirathi**, one of the main tributaries of the Ganga, originates from the **gangotri glacier**. The Ganges has five headstreams the **Bhagirathi, the Alaknanda, the Mandakini, the Dhauliganga, and the Pindar** all rise in the mountainous region of northern Uttarakhand.

Why in News?

Recently, [peacocks](#) were sighted at an unusual altitude of **6,500 feet** in Uttarakhand's [Bageshwar district](#), indicating [ecological changes](#) due to increased human activity.

Key Points

- The peacock, normally seen at **1,600 feet**, was spotted in the **Kafligair** (April) and **Kathayatbara** (October) forest ranges.
- Experts believe **warmer conditions** at higher altitudes, influenced by human expansion, may explain the bird's **altitudinal migration**.
- Experts from [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) suggest it may be a **seasonal shift**, as cooler winter temperatures could prompt the bird to retreat.

Peacock



- The collective name for peacocks is peafowl. The male of the variety is called a peacock and the female peafowl is called a peahen.
 - The Indian peacock is also the **National Bird of India**.
 - Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) belongs to the **Phasianidae family**. They are among the largest of all birds that fly.
 - Phasianidae is the pheasant family, a bird family that includes among its members the jungle fowl (from which the domestic chicken is descended), partridge, peacock, pheasant, and quail.
 - The two most-recognizable species of peafowl are:
 - **The blue Peacock/ Indian Peacock found in India and Sri Lanka.**
 - **The green or Javanese peacock (*P. muticus*) found in Myanmar (Burma) to Java.**
- **Habitat:**
 - The Indian peafowl is a native of India and some parts of **Pakistan and Sri Lanka**.
 - The **species are currently habituated more in central Kerala**, followed by southeast and northwest parts of the state.
 - **At least 19% of the states' area is suitable habitat for this species and this may increase by 40-50% by 2050.**
 - They are well adapted to living in forest edges and cultivated areas.

Green Nod for Hydro Project in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 08 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a fresh approval for the [Phata Byung Hydropower Project](#) in Uttarakhand hinges on environmental, forest, and wildlife clearances.

Key Points

- Project:
- It is a 76 MW run-of-the-river project on the [Mandakini River](#) in [Rudraprayag](#).
- The project was extensively damaged during the 2013 floods caused by a [cloudburst](#).
- The [Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry](#) stressed **forest** and [National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#) clearances.
- **Concerns:**
 - [Glacial lake outburst floods](#) are a major concern.
 - There are **24 lakes** near the site and 6 are considered critical.

The Mandakini River

- It is a tributary of the [Alaknanda River in Uttarakhand](#).
- The river runs for approximately 81 kilometers between the [Rudraprayag and Sonprayag](#) areas and emerges from the **Chorabari Glacier**.
- The [Mandakini merges with river Songanga at Sonprayag](#) and flows past the Madhyamaheshwar temple at Ukhimath.
- At the end of its course it drains into the **Alaknanda, which flows into the Ganges**.

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

- **About:**
 - A **glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)** is a type of catastrophic flood that occurs when the dam containing a glacial lake fails, releasing a large volume of water.
 - This type of flood is typically caused by rapid melting of glaciers or the buildup of water in the lake due to heavy precipitation or the inflow of meltwater.
 - In February 2021, [Chamoli district in Uttarakhand witnessed flash floods](#) which are suspected to have been caused by GLOFs.
- **Causes:**
 - These floods can be triggered by a number of factors, including changes in the volume of the glacier, changes in the water level of the lake, and earthquakes.
 - According to [NDMA \(National Disaster Management Authority\)](#), glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the [Hindu Kush Himalayas](#) has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs

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Why in News?

The **Mukhyamantri Ucch Shiksha Rin Byaj Anudan Yojana, 2024** is a newly launched scheme by the Chhattisgarh government aimed at providing loans to students pursuing higher education in technical courses.

Key Points

- **Objective:** To support students from financially weaker sections, particularly those from Maoist-affected districts, by providing education loans at an interest rate of **1%** , up to **Rs. 4 lakh**.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Over **2 lakh students** in Chhattisgarh, particularly those affected by financial instability and residing in areas impacted by [Naxal activities](#).
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - **Residency:** Applicants must be permanent residents of Chhattisgarh.
 - **Income Limit:** The annual family income should not exceed **Rs. 2 lakh**.
 - **Course Requirements:** Students must be enrolled in diploma, graduate, or postgraduate programs in technical fields recognized by relevant authorities like [AICTE](#) or [UGC](#).

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

- The [All India Council for Technical Education \(AICTE\)](#) is a statutory body, and a national-level council for technical education, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- It was set up in November 1945 as a national-level apex advisory body.

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- It came into existence on 28th December, 1953 and became a statutory body by an Act of Parliament in 1956, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in [university education](#).
 - It also regulates the recognition of fake universities, autonomous colleges, deemed to be universities, and distance education institutions.
- The head office of the UGC is located in New Delhi.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/08-10-2024/print>