CURRENT AFFAIRS — 24 NOVEMBER 2026

Tuesday, 24 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR BPSC CCE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

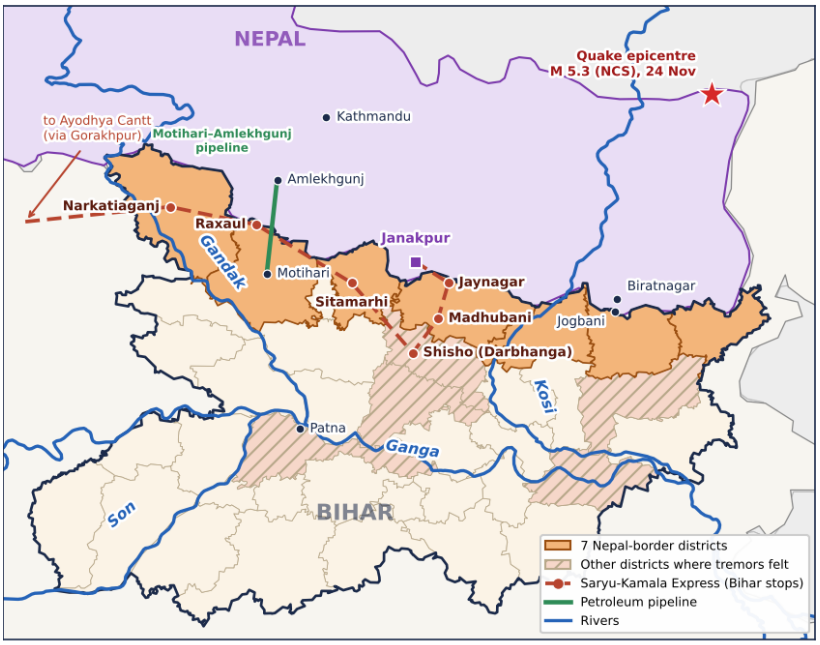
Bihar first, then National & World

- Bihar's revenue courts (about **900**) now hold **virtual hearings**
- **Saryu-Kamala Express** (15595/15596): **6 Bihar stops**, about **604 km**
- **M 5.3** quake in **Koshi Province, Nepal** felt across north Bihar
- Women: about **58%** of **2.90 crore** VB-G RAM G labour days in Bihar
- **8 MLCs** sworn in; **Jan Suraaj** gets its first Council seat
- **Sonepur Mela** runs **22 Nov–23 Dec**; **₹1,000 cr** Hariharnath plan
- India's **₹15,000 cr** package for Nepal; **669 MW Lower Arun** project
- SC notice on PIL to reform **anti-defection law** (Tenth Schedule)
- **Lowy Asia Power Index 2026**: India **3rd** with score **40.5**
- GRSE delivers '**Ashank**', its **120th** warship, to the Navy

SECTION A — BIHAR SPECIAL

State schemes • policy • administration • economy • culture

Bihar–Nepal links & the 24 Nov 2026 quake



KEY NUMBERS

604 km
Janakpur–Ayodhya route

6
Bihar stoppages

17
coaches, weekly

7
Bihar districts on Nepal border

M 5.3
quake, depth 20 km (NCS)



Bihar's revenue courts go virtual

BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: Bihar administration, e-governance, land reforms. **Prelims**: Bihar departments and schemes.
Context	Bihar launched **virtual hearings** in its revenue courts (about **900**) on **23 Nov 2026**; Revenue & Land Reforms Minister **Dr Dilip Kumar Jaiswal** said raiyats can now join land cases online.
Key Facts	■ Online hearings for **dakhil-kharij (mutation)**, **Parimarjan** and other revenue matters; hearings recorded, documents and orders online ■ **Patna HQ** to monitor hearing dates of all courts; expert team to review orders of **COs and DCLRs** ■ **AI-based CCTV** monitoring planned in circle offices; **GPS-enabled laptops** for revenue staff and Amins ■ Action against **144 officials** in 6 months; **Vigilance Investigation Bureau** FIR against the Atri (Gaya) CO over a **₹70,000** bribe demand ■ Land survey records published for **1,617 mauzas** in **20 districts**; **Form 25** every **7 days**, **3-month** appeal window
Way Fwd	Link virtual courts with **digitised land records**, fix time limits for disposal and strengthen grievance redress to cut out middlemen.
Concept	**Land** is a **State List** subject (**Entry 18, List II**). Mutation in Bihar is governed by the **Bihar Land Mutation Act, 2011**; the land survey runs under the **Bihar Special Survey and Settlement Act, 2011**. Central support: **DILRMP**.

Bihar revenue courts go virtual

~900
revenue courts now virtual

144
officials acted against (6 months)

1,617
mauzas: survey records published

20
districts in survey release

7 days
Form 25 published every

3 months
window to appeal (Addl. Collector)

Saryu-Kamala Express links Janakpur to Ayodhya via 6 Bihar stations

BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & IR)

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: Bihar geography, India–Nepal ties, connectivity. **Prelims**: border districts, cross-border projects.
Context	On **23 Nov 2026**, PM **Narendra Modi** and Nepal PM **Balendra Shah** flagged off the weekly **Saryu-Kamala Express** (Janakpurdham–Ayodhya Cantt). Several outcomes of the visit run through **north Bihar**.

Key Facts	■ Trains **15595/15596**; about **604 km**, **17 coaches**, **weekly**; **Jaynagar** is the maintenance centre
	■ Bihar stops: **Jaynagar, Madhubani, Shisho (Darbhanga), Sitamarhi, Raxaul, Narkatiaganj**
	■ **Motihari–Amlekhgunj** petroleum pipeline **Phase II** dedicated
	■ **Raxaul–Kathmandu** rail link: location survey finalised; last sections of **Jaynagar–Bardibas** and **Jogbani–Biratnagar** lines to be completed
Way Fwd	Fast-track rail links, check posts and the **Buddhist circuit** (Lumbini–Bodhgaya) so that north Bihar gains trade and tourism.
Concept	**7 Bihar districts** border Nepal: **West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj**. Motihari–Amlekhgunj (**2019**) is **South Asia's first cross-border petroleum pipeline**. The **Kamala** river rises in Nepal and enters Bihar near **Jaynagar**.

Nepal-epicentre quake jolts north Bihar on Kartik Purnima morning

ENVIRONMENT **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Disaster Management)**

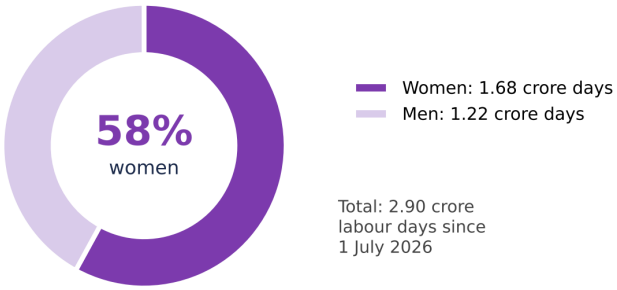
Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: Bihar geography and disaster management. **Prelims**: seismic zones, Himalayan tectonics.
Context	An earthquake of magnitude **5.3 (NCS)** struck **Koshi Province in eastern Nepal** at about **7:02 am IST** on **24 Nov 2026**; tremors were felt across north and east Bihar. No major damage was reported.
Key Facts	■ Epicentre near **Lelep, Koshi Province**; depth **20 km** (NCS); recorded at **07:02 am IST**
	■ Felt in **Supaul, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Bhagalpur**, and also in Patna, Purnia and Araria
	■ Also felt in **West Bengal, Meghalaya, Bhutan and Bangladesh**
	■ No casualties or major damage reported in Bihar
Way Fwd	Enforce **earthquake-resistant building bye-laws**, retrofit schools and hospitals, and hold regular **mock drills** in north Bihar.
Concept	Himalayan quakes arise as the **Indian Plate** pushes under the **Eurasian Plate**. Major Bihar quakes: **15 Jan 1934 (Nepal–Bihar)** and **21 Aug 1988**. **NCS** works under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**. North Bihar along Nepal lies in high seismic zones (**Zone IV–V** in the earlier BIS map).

VB-G RAM G: women generate 58% of labour days in Bihar

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: Bihar economy, rural employment, women's empowerment. **Prelims**: central schemes.
Context	Bihar's Rural Development Department reported on **23 Nov 2026** that women account for about **58%** of labour days created under **VB-G RAM G** in the state since it came into force on **1 July 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Total labour days: **2.90 crore** (2,90,89,000); women: **1.68 crore** (1,68,71,000)
	■ About **2.25 crore** households registered under job cards
	■ Guarantee of **125 days** of wage work per year; a **60-day pause** in the peak farming season
	■ Minister: **Shravan Kumar** (Rural Development)
Way Fwd	Pair worksites with **JEEViKA SHGs**, crèches and timely wage payment to keep women's participation high.
Concept	**VB-G RAM G** = **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)**, under the **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025**; it replaced **MGNREGA (2005)**, which guaranteed **100 days**. Nodal ministry: **Rural Development**.

VB-G RAM G in Bihar: who did the work?

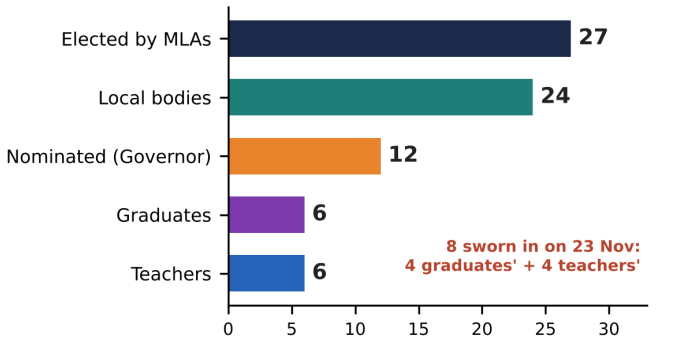


Eight newly elected MLCs take oath in Bihar Legislative Council

POLITY **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (State Legislature)**

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: State legislature, Bihar Vidhan Parishad. **Prelims**: Articles 169, 171, 188.
Context	On **23 Nov 2026**, Acting Chairman **Ramvachan Rai** administered the oath to **8 MLCs** elected from **4 graduates'** and **4 teachers'** constituencies in the polls of **23 Oct 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Graduates' seats: **Patna, Darbhanga, Tirhut, Kosi**; teachers' seats: **Patna, Darbhanga, Tirhut, Saran**
	■ **Jan Suraaj Party** won its **first Council seat**: **Suresh Prasad Rai** (Darbhanga Teachers')
	■ **Neeraj Kumar** (JD(U)) retained **Patna Graduates'**; **2 Independents** won (Tirhut Graduates', Saran Teachers')
	■ Present: CM **Samrat Choudhary** and Leader of Opposition **Tejashwi Prasad Yadav**
Way Fwd	Graduates' and teachers' seats should remain a voice for **education and expert opinion** in state law-making.
Concept	**Art. 169**: Parliament creates or abolishes a Council on an Assembly resolution. **Art. 171**: about **1/3** elected by MLAs, **1/3** by local bodies, **1/12** graduates, **1/12** teachers, **1/6** nominated by the Governor. Term **6 years**; oath under **Art. 188**.

Bihar Legislative Council: 75 seats



Kartik Purnima snan today; Sonepur Mela underway at Ganga–Gandak confluence

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Bihar Culture)**

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-I**: Indian culture and Bihar's fairs and festivals. **Prelims**: Bihar fairs, rivers, temples.
Context	Devotees took holy dips at Bihar's Ganga ghats on **Kartik Purnima (24 Nov 2026)**. The month-long **Harihar Kshetra Sonepur Mela** (Saran) runs from **22 Nov to 23 Dec 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Patna Municipal Corporation readied **31 ghats** with **three-tier barricading**; **NDRF and SDRF** deployed
	■ CM **Samrat Choudhary** opened the mela on **22 Nov**; announced redevelopment of **Baba Hariharnath Temple** (estimated **₹1,000 crore**)

	■ Also announced: **Sonpur–Hajipur** bridge to go **4-lane** before **June 2027**; milk target **1 crore litres/day** by **2030**
	■ Mela gets an official **website, mobile app and AI chatbot**; today is also **Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 557th Prakash Purab**

Way Fwd	Promote Sonepur Mela on Bihar's **tourism circuits** while keeping **crowd and river safety** at ghats as the first priority.
Concept	Sonepur Mela is held at the **Ganga–Gandak confluence**, linked with the **Gaj–Grah** legend, and is famed as **Asia's largest cattle fair**. The **Hariharnath** temple honours **Hari (Vishnu) and Har (Shiva)** together.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Bihar statistic

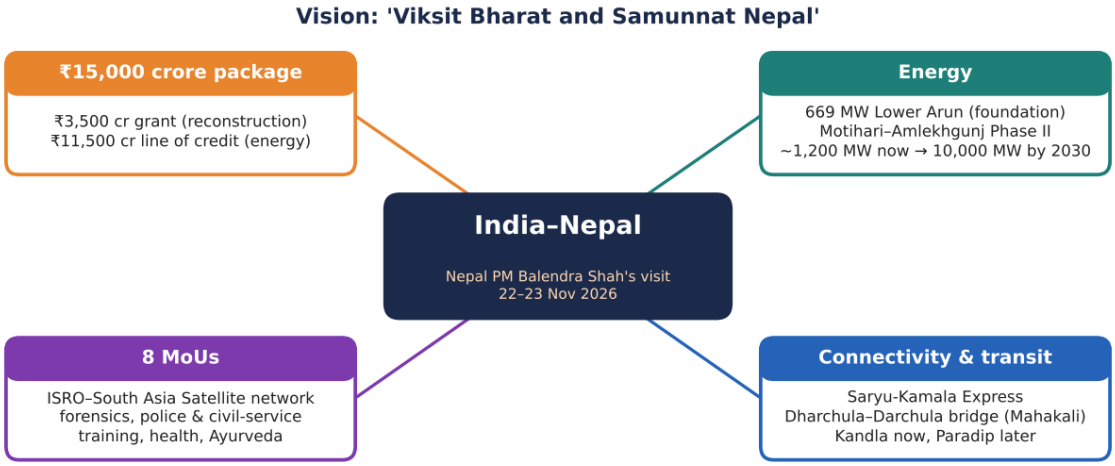
BIHAR ROAD ACCIDENTS, 2025

10,349 deaths in 12,615 accidents

3,438 of these deaths came in **November–February** (fog season). On **23 Nov 2026**, the lead agency of the **Bihar Road Safety Council** (chaired by Transport Commissioner **Arif Ahsan**) made **reflective tape** mandatory for commercial vehicles to get a **fitness certificate**.

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

Polity • economy • IR • reports • defence



India announces ₹15,000 crore package for Nepal; new vision document adopted

IR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: India and its neighbours, Bihar–Nepal border economy. **Prelims**: treaties, projects, ports.
Context	During Nepal PM **Balendra Shah**'s state visit (**22–23 Nov 2026**), talks were held at **Hyderabad House** on 23 Nov. Both sides adopted the vision document **'Viksit Bharat and Samunnat Nepal: Re-imagining the Partnership'**.
Key Facts	■ Package of **₹15,000 crore**: **₹3,500 cr grant** (post-disaster reconstruction and infrastructure) + **₹11,500 cr** rupee **line of credit** (energy)
	■ **8 MoUs**, incl. an **ISRO** satellite network using the **South Asia Satellite**, forensics, police and civil-service training, health and **Ayurveda**
	■ Foundation stone of the **669 MW Lower Arun** hydro project; **Dharchula–Darchula** bridge over the **Mahakali** opened
	■ Transit via **Deendayal (Kandla) Port**, **Paradip** once ready; India imports about **1,200 MW** of power from Nepal, target **10,000 MW** by **2030**
Way Fwd	Speed up delivery through the new high-level monitoring group and widen **power trade** and **people-to-people** links.
Concept	**India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950**. Nepal borders **5 Indian states**: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, **Bihar**, West Bengal and Sikkim. **South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9)** was launched in **2017**.

SC seeks Centre, EC response on PIL for anti-defection law reform

POLITY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity & Governance)

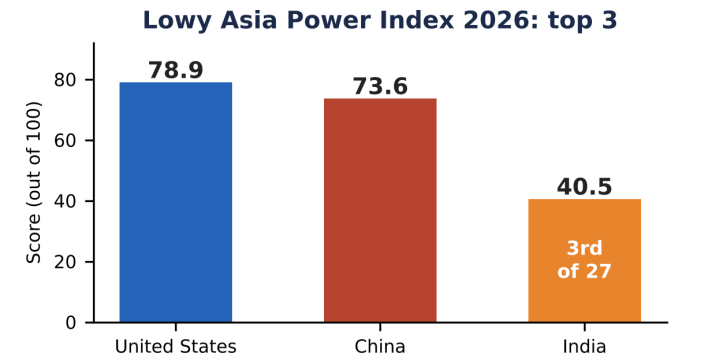
Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: Parliament and state legislatures, Tenth Schedule. **Prelims**: amendments and landmark cases.
Context	On **23 Nov 2026**, a bench of CJI **Surya Kant** with Justices **Joymalya Bagchi** and **V. Mohana** sought responses on a PIL by **A. Sethu** seeking reform of the **Tenth Schedule**.
Key Facts	■ Responses sought from the **Election Commission**, **Law Commission**, **Ministry of Law & Justice** and **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**
	■ PIL: a **'strategic resignation'** during pending disqualification should not make the case **infructuous**
	■ Seeks **reasoned, time-bound** decisions by the Speaker/Chairman and a review of the **Speaker-centred** mechanism
	■ Seeks floor tests only after members take oath under **Article 188**
Way Fwd	Fixed timelines or an **independent tribunal** for disqualification pleas would curb delay and misuse.
Concept	**Tenth Schedule** added by the **52nd Amendment, 1985**; the **91st Amendment, 2003** removed the 'split' exception (merger needs **2/3** of members). **Kihoto Hollohan (1992)**: Speaker's decision open to **judicial review**; **Keisham Meghachandra (2020)**: decide ordinarily within **3 months**.

Lowy Asia Power Index 2026: India stays 3rd as a 'Major Power'

REPORT BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Reports & Indices)

Syllabus Linkage	**Prelims**: reports and indices. **Mains GS-II**: India's place in the world.
Context	The **Lowy Institute** (Australia) Asia Power Index 2026, reported on **23 Nov 2026**, places India **3rd of 27** countries and territories with a score of **40.5** (up **0.5**).
Key Facts	■ **US 78.9** (1st), **China 73.6** (2nd), **India 40.5** (3rd); based on **131 indicators**
	■ India: **diplomatic influence 70.3**, **resilience 55.4**, **future resources 56.2**, **economic capability 26.4**
	■ **Defence networks 18.6** (**9th**, up two places); India **2nd** in investment attractiveness
	■ PM **Modi** ranked the **2nd** most effective regional leader, after **Xi Jinping**
Way Fwd	Lift **economic capability** and deepen **defence networks** to match India's diplomatic weight.

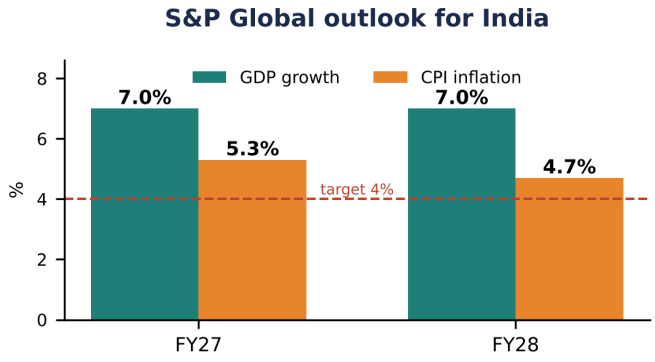
Concept	The Asia Power Index is published by the **Lowy Institute**, a think-tank in **Sydney, Australia**; first edition **2018**. Other indices to revise: **Global Hunger Index**, **Human Development Index (UNDP)**.



S&P sees India as fastest-growing in Asia-Pacific in 2027; RBI drafts e-banking safeguards

ECONOMY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: Indian economy, growth, inflation, banking. **Prelims**: RBI, inflation targeting.
Context	S&P Global's **Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q1 2027** (**23 Nov 2026**) projects India's growth at **7%** in both **FY27** and **FY28**. The same day, the **RBI** issued draft directions to protect customers in electronic banking.
Key Facts	■ CPI inflation forecast: **5.3%** (FY27) and **4.7%** (FY28) ■ S&P expects the RBI to raise rates by **25 bps** in **December** ■ RBI draft: more customer control over **digital channels and limits**; a wider meaning of '**negligence by banks**' ■ Covers commercial, small finance, payments, regional rural and cooperative banks; comments till **14 Dec 2026**
Way Fwd	Balance growth with **inflation control**, and match the growth of digital payments with clear **fraud-liability** rules.
Concept	**Flexible inflation targeting**: CPI **4% ± 2%**, target set under **Sec. 45ZA** of the **RBI Act, 1934**; the **6-member Monetary Policy Committee** is constituted under **Sec. 45ZB**. **1 basis point = 0.01%**.



GRSE delivers ASW shallow-water craft 'Ashank', its 120th warship

DEFENCE BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Science & Tech: Defence)

Syllabus Linkage	**Mains GS-II**: role of science & technology, indigenisation. **Prelims**: naval ships, defence PSUs.
Context	**Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, Kolkata, delivered '**Ashank**' to the Indian Navy at **Visakhapatnam** on **23 Nov 2026**.
Key Facts	■ **120th** warship built by GRSE; its second delivery in Nov 2026, after '**Amini**' ■ About **88% indigenous** content; GRSE-made **30 mm** naval surface gun ■ Accepted by **Rear Adm Gautam Marwaha**, Eastern Naval Command ■ Navy ordered **16 ASW-SWCs**: **8 Arnala-class** (GRSE) + **8 Mahe-class** (Cochin Shipyard)
Way Fwd	Timely induction strengthens **coastal anti-submarine** defence under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
Concept	**ASW** = **Anti-Submarine Warfare**; SWCs hunt submarines in **shallow coastal waters**. GRSE is a **Defence PSU** under the **Ministry of Defence**; **Eastern Naval Command** HQ: **Visakhapatnam**.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Bihar + National quick facts

1. **BIADA** cleared **73 industrial units** on about **100 acres**: investment **₹1,380.80 crore**, about **10,000** jobs
2. **Mashaal-2026**: Bihar school sports talent hunt in about **37,000** schools, **5 sports**, **U-14 and U-16**
3. **Patna–Gaya–Dobhi** four-lane road (**127 km**) now targeted for **February 2027**
4. India crossed **1 crore HPV vaccine doses** for **14-year-old** girls (about **87%** of the annual cohort)
5. **COP31** (Antalya, Türkiye) ended on **22 Nov** without the 'Antalya Pact'; **COP32**: **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia
6. **World Chess Championship**: **D. Gukesh** vs **Javokhir Sindarov** (Uzbekistan); Game 1 on **24 Nov**, Geneva

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

BPSC-pattern questions

Q1. With reference to the Bihar Legislative Council, consider the following statements: 1. It has 75 members. 2. About one-twelfth of its members are elected by graduates' constituencies. 3. Its members are elected for a term of five years. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 1 and 2 only **(C)** 2 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (B) — The Bihar Legislative Council has **75** members, of whom **6** are elected by graduates' constituencies (about **1/12**, as Art. 171 provides). Members serve a **6-year** term, with one-third retiring every 2 years, so statement 3 is wrong.

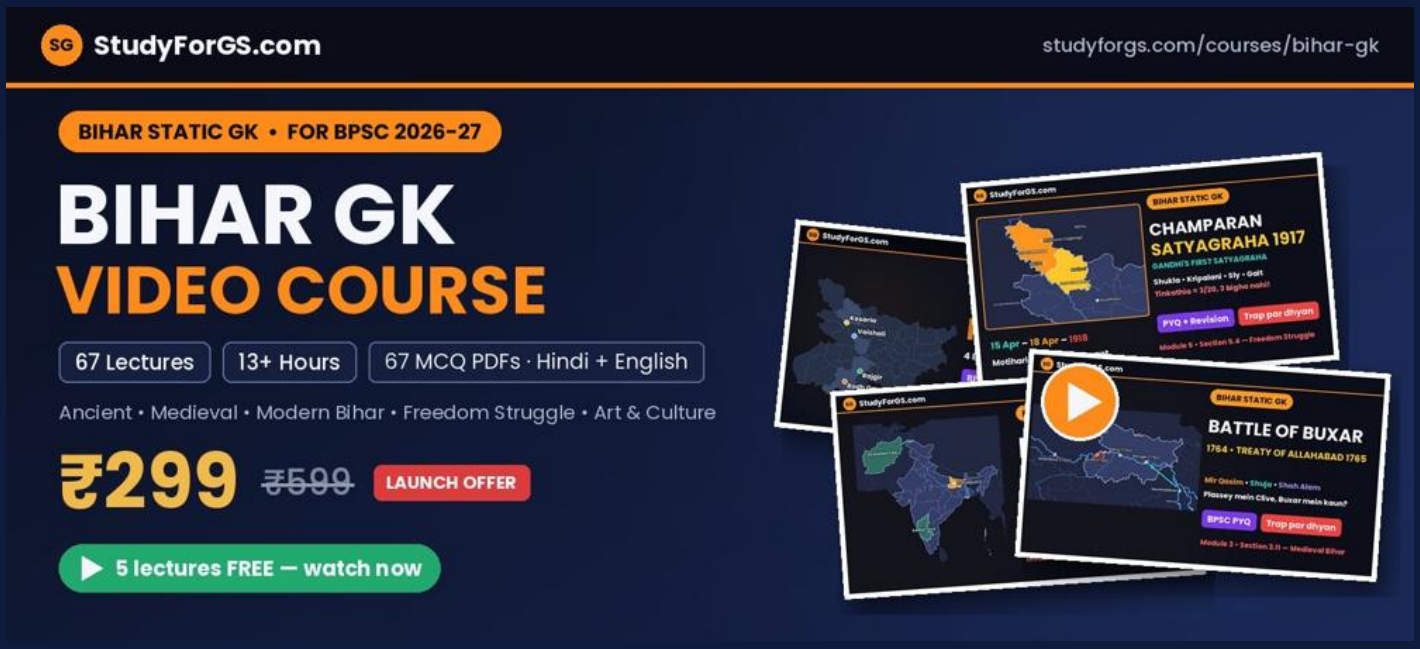
Q2. Which one of the following is NOT a Bihar stoppage of the Saryu-Kamala Express flagged off on 23 November 2026?

(A) Raxaul **(B)** Sitamarhi **(C)** Muzaffarpur **(D)** Jaynagar

Answer: (C) — The Bihar stops are **Jaynagar, Madhubani, Shisho (Darbhanga), Sitamarhi, Raxaul and Narkatiaganj**. **Muzaffarpur** is not on the route.

MAINS PRACTICE — Bihar has moved its revenue courts (about 900) to virtual hearings. Examine how e-governance in land administration can reduce land disputes in Bihar, and discuss the challenges in implementing it. (BPSC Mains GS-II, about 250 words)

Hint: *Intro: land disputes as a major cause of litigation and crime in Bihar. Body: virtual hearings, recorded orders, online mutation and Parimarjan, HQ monitoring, land survey (1,617 mauzas, Form 25), action against 144 officials. Challenges: digital literacy of raiyats, internet access, old unsurveyed records, staff capacity. Way forward: link with digitised records (DILRMP), time limits, help desks at circle offices.*



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