CURRENT AFFAIRS — 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

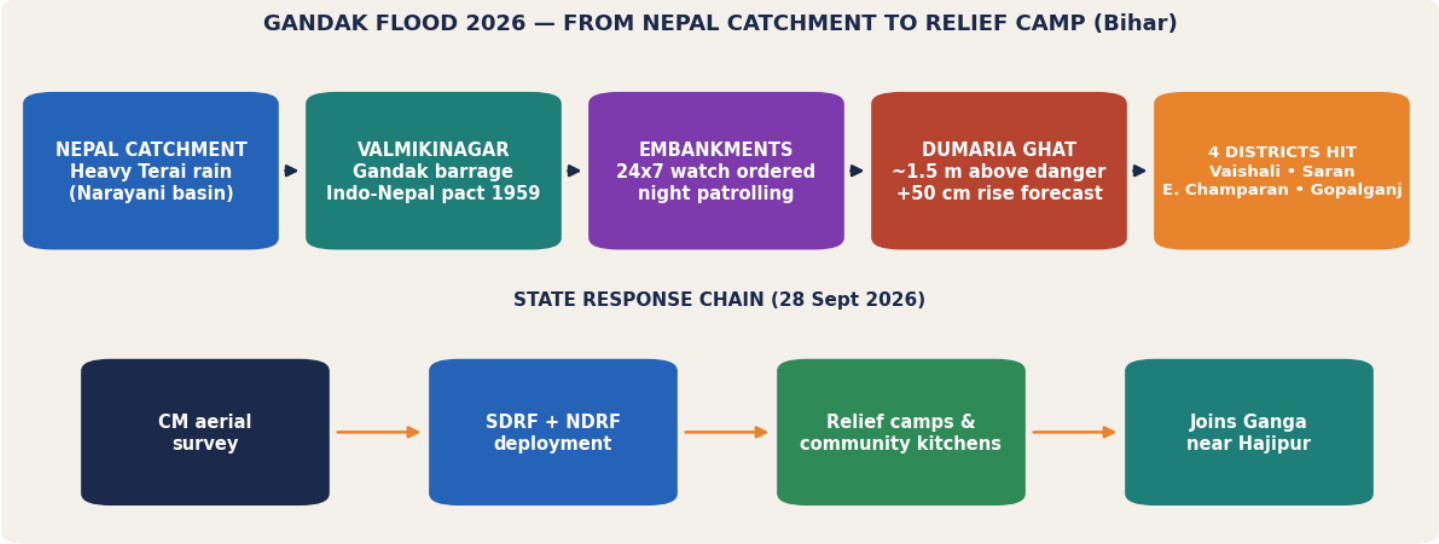
Tuesday, 29 September 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- CM **Samrat Choudhary** did an aerial survey of **Gandak** floods in **4 districts**; river **1.5 m above danger mark** at **Dumaria Ghat**.
- CJI **Surya Kant** opened **India's first Victim Rights Centre** at **BSLSA, Patna** (12-month pilot) on **26 Sept**.
- Bihar cabinet (**24 Sept**): **₹195.28 cr** Siwan wetland aquaculture, **₹160 cr** Gaudhan Vikas Rinn Yojana.
- **Pitru Paksha Mela 2026** at **Gayaji**: **25 Sept – 10 Oct**; Vishnupad corridor worth **₹3,516.05 cr**.
- Patna Metro **Danapur–Patliputra** stretch (**7.39 km**) deadline pushed to **Sept 2030**.
- Bihar: **28 of 38 districts** on the city gas network; **1.52 lakh+** domestic PNG connections.
- **Supreme Court** refused to stay **UPI MDR** (**0.4%** above **₹2,000**, from **15 Oct 2026**).
- SC extended CBSE **three-language** exam exemption to **Class VI** students.
- NH network grew **61%**: **91,287 km (2014)** to **1,46,572 km**; pace **34 km/day**.
- India's **first LNG-powered train** (dual-fuel DEMU) flagged off at **Sabarmati**; cuts diesel use up to **40%**.

SECTION A — BIHAR SPECIAL: State Schemes, Policy, Administration & Economy



Gandak in spate: CM Samrat Choudhary surveys flood-hit north Bihar

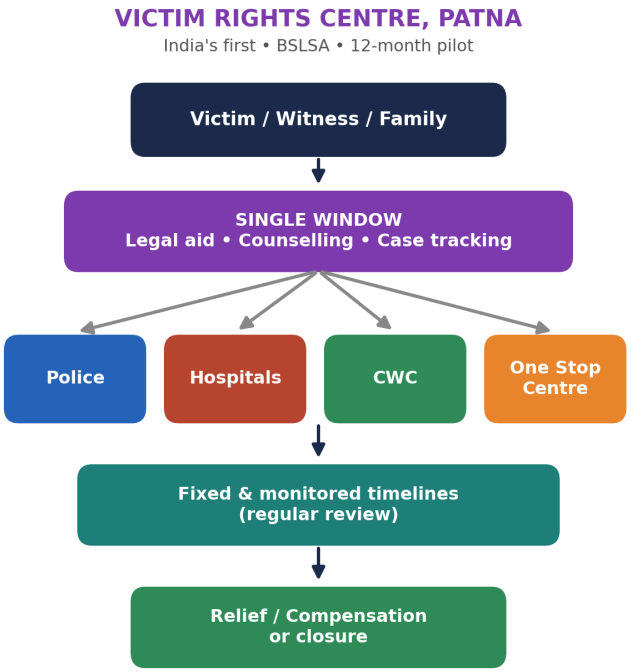
BIHAR — BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Disaster Mgmt)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Geography of Bihar – rivers, floods, disaster management. **Prelims**: Bihar rivers, barrages, flood-prone districts.
Context	Heavy rain in the **Nepal** catchment pushed up the **Gandak**. On **28 Sept 2026**, CM **Samrat Choudhary** conducted an **aerial survey** of affected districts and ordered **round-the-clock embankment monitoring**.
Key Facts	■ Districts surveyed: **Vaishali, Saran, East Champaran, Gopalganj**. ■ Gandak at **Dumaria Ghat** (Gopalganj) ran about **1.5 m above the danger mark**; a further **50 cm** rise was forecast. ■ Orders: **night patrolling**, **SDRF–NDRF** coordination, relief camps and **community kitchens**. ■ Deputy CM **Vijay Kumar Chaudhary** accompanied the CM on the survey.
Way Fwd	Pair embankments with **flood forecasting** shared with Nepal, **basin-level planning** and **flood-plain zoning** so that relief is not the only response.
Concept	**Gandak** (Narayani/Sapt Gandaki in Nepal) enters India at **Valmikinagar**, where the **Gandak barrage** stands under the **1959 India–Nepal Gandak Agreement**; it joins the **Ganga near Hajipur** (Sonepur). About **73%** of Bihar's area is flood-prone.

India's first Victim Rights Centre opens in Patna

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Judiciary, legal aid, rights of vulnerable sections. **Prelims**: Article 39A, NALSA, BSLSA.
Context	On **26 Sept 2026**, CJI **Justice Surya Kant** inaugurated **India's first Victim Rights Centre** at the **Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA)**, Budh Marg, Patna, saying justice must **reach out** to citizens.
Key Facts	■ Runs as a **12-month pilot** in **Patna district**; a **single-window** for legal aid, counselling and case tracking. ■ Links **police, hospitals, Child Welfare Committees, One Stop Centres**; cases follow **fixed, monitored timelines**. ■ Also launched: a **Transgender Helpline** and **multi-utility vehicles** for legal-aid outreach. ■ Present: Patna HC Chief Justice **V. Kameswar Rao** and BSLSA Executive Chairman **Justice Sudhir Singh**.
Way Fwd	Scale the model to all **38 districts**, link it with **victim compensation** funds and train police in **victim-centric** procedure.
Concept	**Article 39A** (added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**) – free legal aid. The **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** created **NALSA** (patron-in-chief: **CJI**) and state bodies like **BSLSA**. Victim compensation now lies under **Section 396 BNSS** (earlier **357A CrPC**).



Bihar cabinet backs dairy, wetland fisheries and Warisaliganj sugar mill revival

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy – agriculture & allied sectors, industrial revival, state schemes. **Prelims**: new Bihar schemes and figures.
Context	The state cabinet on **24 Sept 2026** cleared **24 agenda items**, with a clear tilt towards **allied agriculture** (dairy, fisheries), **health IT** and new **universities**.
Key Facts	■ **₹195.28 cr** for a **Siwan wetlands aquaculture** project; **₹126 cr** for **Kosi-region dairy** (2026-28). ■ **Mukhya Mantri Gaudhan Vikas Rinn Yojana**: **₹160 cr** over **2026-27 to 2028-29**. ■ **99.39 acres** of **Warisaliganj Sugar Mill (Nawada)** land transferred; **₹500 cr+** investment expected. ■ **₹29.79 cr** for **e-SushrutNX** hospital IT in **12 institutions**; **₹15 cr** each for **Mata Sita Women's Univ. (Patna)** and **Dinkar Univ. (Begusarai)**.
Way Fwd	Tie dairy and fisheries money to **cold chains, cooperatives and market access** so that allied sectors raise **rural incomes** faster than field crops alone.
Concept	**COMFED** (brand **Sudha**, est. **1983**) runs Bihar's dairy cooperatives on the **Anand pattern**. North Bihar's **chaurs** (wetlands) and flood-plain lakes suit **inland aquaculture**; Bihar is among the top **inland fish** producers.

BIHAR CABINET, 24 SEPT 2026 — KEY NUMBERS (24 agenda items)

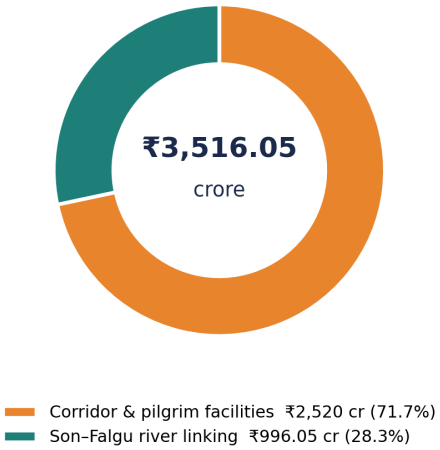


Pitru Paksha Mela 2026 at Gayaji goes tech-enabled; Vishnupad corridor in pipeline

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Culture of Bihar)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-I**: Indian culture with Bihar's role – pilgrimage centres, fairs. **Prelims**: Gaya, Vishnupad, Falgu river.
Context	CM **Samrat Choudhary** inaugurated the **Pitru Paksha Mela Mahasangam** at **Gayaji** on **25 Sept**; it runs till **10 Oct 2026** for **pind daan** and **tarpan** rites.
Key Facts	■ Tech tools: **QR-code wristbands**, **AI crowd alerts**, **facial recognition** for missing persons. ■ Free stay for **75,348** pilgrims; **70 health camps**; **150 free e-rickshaws**; **Jeevika Didi ki Rasoi** meals at **₹30**. ■ Cabinet (15 Sept) approved a **₹3,516.05 cr Vishnupad corridor** on the **Kashi Vishwanath** model. ■ Of this, **₹2,520 cr** is for the corridor and **₹996.05 cr** for **Son–Falgu river linking**.
Way Fwd	Link **Gayaji–Bodh Gaya–Rajgir–Nalanda** as one **heritage circuit** while keeping the **Falgu** flowing through the year.
Concept	**Vishnupad Temple** on the **Falgu** bank was rebuilt by **Ahilyabai Holkar (1787)**. The **Gayaji rubber dam** on the Falgu (2022) holds water for rituals. Nearby **Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya** is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2002)**.

VISHNUPAD CORRIDOR, GAYAJI — COST SPLIT



Patna Metro: Danapur–Patliputra stretch deadline moved to Sept 2030

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy – urban infrastructure, project delays. **Prelims**: Patna Metro corridors, stations.
Context	The **7.39-km elevated Danapur–Patliputra** section, earlier due in **Sept 2027**, is now targeted for **Sept 2030** – a **3-year** slip (reported **27 Sept**).
Key Facts	■ Section is about **70% complete**; stations at **Danapur, Saguna Mor, RPS Mor** under work. ■ Full network: **32.5 km** on **two corridors**; services run on **6.2 km** (ISBT, Zero Mile, Bhoothnath, Malahi Pakri). ■ **Khemnichak–Mithapur** (**3.1 km** elevated) expected by **June 2027**.
Way Fwd	Fix **land and utility-shifting** bottlenecks early and integrate metro with **city buses** for last-mile use.
Concept	Patna Metro is built by **Patna Metro Rail Corporation (PMRC)**, a **50:50 Centre–State JV** model; the **priority corridor** opened in **Oct 2025**. Metro Rail falls under the **Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978**.

City gas reaches 28 of Bihar's 38 districts

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

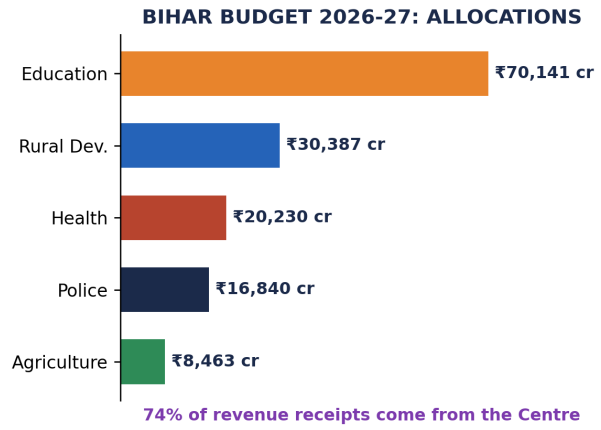
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy – energy infrastructure; role of S&T in clean fuels. **Prelims**: gas pipelines through Bihar.
Context	A state review (**28 Sept**) reported that **28 of 38 districts** are now linked to the **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** network, with **1.52 lakh+** household **PNG** connections.
Key Facts	■ Officials were asked to **speed up expansion** in the remaining districts, focusing on **apartments and housing colonies**. ■ **Darbhanga** got its **first domestic PNG** connection this month under a PSU drive. ■ PNG cuts **LPG cylinder dependence** and is cleaner than solid fuels.
Way Fwd	Push **CNG for transport** and **industrial gas** alongside homes, so the pipeline investment pays back faster.
Concept	The **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga** (Jagdishpur–Haldia–Bokaro–Dhamra) pipeline passes through Bihar. **CGD** areas are authorised by **PNGRB** under the **PNGRB Act, 2006**.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

74%

Bihar Budget 2026-27: share of revenue receipts coming from the Centre

Of revenue receipts, **55%** is Bihar's share in central taxes and **18%** is central grants; **own tax revenue** is **₹65,800 cr** (only **5% of GSDP**). Total spending is **₹3,24,925 cr**, GSDP is **₹13.1 lakh cr**, and the fiscal deficit target is **3% of GSDP**. **Education** gets the largest share (**₹70,141 cr, 21.7%**).

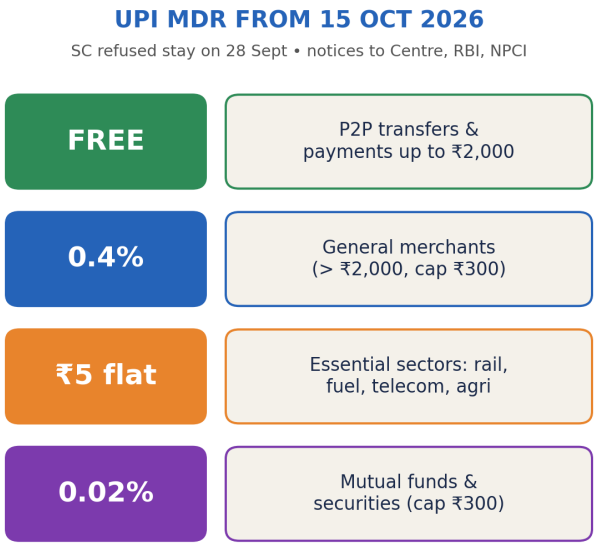


SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

Supreme Court refuses to stay MDR on UPI payments above ₹2,000

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy – banking, digital payments. **Prelims**: UPI, NPCI, MDR.
Context	On **28 Sept 2026**, a bench of CJI **Surya Kant**, Justices **Joymalya Bagchi** and **V. Mohana** refused to stay the new **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** on UPI and issued **notices** to the Centre, **RBI** and **NPCI**.
Key Facts	■ Effective **15 Oct 2026**: **0.4%** on merchant payments above **₹2,000**, capped at **₹300**. ■ Essential sectors (railways, fuel, telecom, insurance, agriculture): flat **₹5** per transaction. ■ **P2P** transfers and small payments stay **free**; Centre says it is a **settlement fee**, not a tax.
Way Fwd	Keep **small merchants** and rural users shielded so that the **digital-payment habit** is not reversed.
Concept	**MDR** – fee a merchant pays to the bank/payment provider per transaction. **Zero MDR** on UPI and RuPay debit applied from **1 Jan 2020**. **NPCI** (est. **2008**) runs UPI (launched **2016**) under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.



SC extends three-language exam exemption to Class VI CBSE students

POLITY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity – Education)

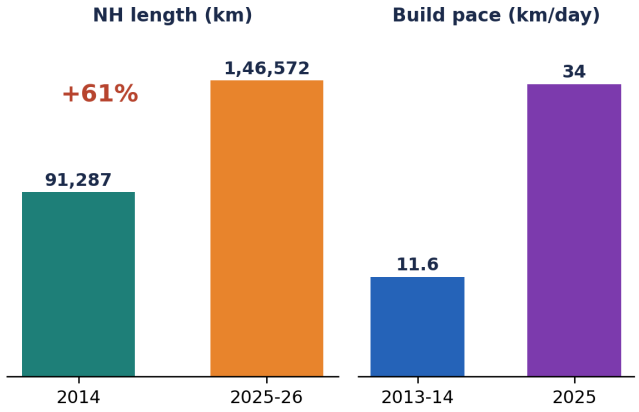
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Constitutional provisions on language and education; NEP 2020. **Prelims**: Articles 350A, 351; three-language formula.
Context	On **28 Sept 2026** the Supreme Court told the Centre and **CBSE** to give **Class VI** the same relief already allowed to Classes VII–IX under the **15 May 2026** three-language circular.
Key Facts	■ Circular: Classes **VI–IX** to study **three languages**, **at least two native Indian**. ■ Relief: students keep studying the third language but face **no mandatory board exam** in it and **no hold on promotion**. ■ Petitioners cited a **shortage of trained teachers and textbooks**; Centre claimed **99%** schools were ready.
Way Fwd	Phase the rollout with **teacher recruitment** and **textbooks first**, keeping flexibility as envisaged in **NEP 2020**.
Concept	The **three-language formula** came from the **Kothari Commission** and **NEP 1968**. **NEP 2020** says at least **two of three** languages be **native to India**. **Art. 350A** – mother-tongue instruction at primary stage; **Art. 351** – development of Hindi.

National Highway network grows 61% to 1,46,572 km

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Infrastructure and growth; **GS-I** statistical analysis (growth rates). **Prelims**: Bharatmala, expressways.
Context	Official data released on **29 Sept 2026** show the NH network rose from **91,287 km (2014)** to **1,46,572 km** – a **61%** jump in 12 years.
Key Facts	■ Construction pace: **11.6 km/day (2013-14)** to **34 km/day** – nearly **3x**. ■ **Bharatmala**: **26,425 km** awarded, **22,590 km** built of **34,800 km** planned (Mar 2026). ■ **Delhi–Mumbai Expressway** (**1,386 km**) is the longest access-controlled corridor.
Way Fwd	Shift focus from length to **road safety, maintenance** and **multimodal logistics** under **PM Gati Shakti**.
Concept	NHs are in the **Union List (Entry 23)**; **NHAI** set up under the **NHAI Act, 1988**. India has the world's **second-largest road network**. Bihar hosts key corridors like **NH-19/NH-27** (East–West).

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS: 12-YEAR JUMP



India's first LNG-powered train flagged off from Sabarmati

SCI-TECH BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Role of Science & Technology)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Role and impact of S&T – clean energy in transport. **Prelims**: LNG, DEMU, Kavach.
Context	Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** flagged off India's **first LNG-powered (dual-fuel) DEMU** on the **Sabarmati–Patan** route on **27 Sept 2026**, with projects worth **₹1,542 cr+**.
Key Facts	■ LNG replaces up to **40%** of diesel; **2,200-litre** tank per power car, range about **222 km**. ■ Over **2,000 km** of field trials done before launch. ■ **Kavach** extended to **404 km** in Ahmedabad division (**₹411 cr**); new **WAG-12** shed (**₹700 cr**).
Way Fwd	Use dual-fuel units on **non-electrified branch lines**, while full **electrification** stays the long-term goal.
Concept	**LNG** is natural gas cooled to about **−162 °C**, cutting its volume about **600 times**. **DEMU** = Diesel Electric Multiple Unit. **Kavach** is an indigenous **Automatic Train Protection** system developed by **RDSO**.

J&K Assembly passes resolution seeking restoration of full statehood

POLITY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Polity – Federalism)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Federalism, Union Territories, reorganisation of states. **Prelims**: Article 3, J&K Reorganisation Act 2019.
Context	On **28 Sept 2026**, the **J&K Legislative Assembly** adopted a resolution moved by CM **Omar Abdullah** urging the Centre for the **immediate restoration of full statehood**.
Key Facts	■ **BJP** members **walked out** during voting and moved a **no-confidence motion** against the Speaker. ■ The resolution is **advisory**; only **Parliament** can change the status by law. ■ J&K has been a **UT with legislature** since **31 Oct 2019**.
Way Fwd	A **time-bound roadmap** for statehood, as the SC urged in **Dec 2023**, would strengthen **cooperative federalism**.
Concept	**Article 3** lets Parliament form, alter or rename States by simple majority. The **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** split the State into **two UTs** (J&K and Ladakh). In **In Re Article 370 (Dec 2023)** the SC upheld the abrogation and asked for statehood **at the earliest**.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

TOPIC	QUICK FACT
Makhana	Bihar grows **85%+** of India's makhana on **41,000 ha** (2025-26); **Mithila Makhana** has a **GI tag**; target **82,000 ha** by **2030-31**.
Chess Olympiad	46th edition at **Samarkand, Uzbekistan** (15–27 Sept): India won **Silver (Open)** and **Bronze (Women)**.
Ex VARUNA	24th **India–France** naval exercise; **INS Trishul** reached **Toulon**. Began **1993**, named VARUNA in **2001**.
DDU-GKY	Completed **12 years** on **25 Sept** (launched **2014**); **18.47 lakh** trained, **12.43 lakh** placed; age **15–35**.
FASTag Pass	**FASTag Annual Pass** crossed **1 crore** passes since its **Aug 2025** launch.
World Heart Day	Observed on **29 Sept** every year to raise awareness on **cardiovascular disease**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Victim Rights Centre inaugurated in September 2026:
1. It is India's first such centre and is located in Patna.
2. It functions under the Bihar State Legal Services Authority.
3. It has been set up as a 24-month pilot project.
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 centre at **BSLSA, Patna** is **India's first**, but it is a **12-month** pilot, so statement 3 is wrong.

Q2. The Gandak river, currently in spate in north Bihar, enters India at which place and meets the Ganga near which town?

(a) Bhimnagar; Kursela
(b) Valmikinagar; Hajipur
(c) Raxaul; Barh
(d) Birpur; Munger

Answer: (b) The Gandak enters India at **Valmikinagar** (site of the **Gandak barrage**, 1959 India–Nepal agreement) and joins the Ganga near **Hajipur**. Bhimnagar/Birpur relate to the **Kosi**.

MAINS PRACTICE

Floods in north Bihar recur almost every year despite a long network of embankments. Examine the causes and suggest a mix of structural and non-structural measures, with reference to the Gandak and Kosi basins. (BPSC Mains GS-II, 38 marks)

Hint: Intro: about **73%** of Bihar's area flood-prone; Nepal catchment. Causes: **heavy siltation**, **embankment breaches**, shifting channels, poor drainage. Structural: **Valmikinagar/Kosi barrages**, desilting (**Silt Management Policy 2026**), high dams in Nepal. Non-structural: **forecasting with Nepal**, flood-plain zoning, **SDRF** readiness, crop insurance. Conclude with **basin-level** India–Nepal cooperation.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Revise today: **Gandak** (Valmikinagar → Hajipur) • **Art. 39A** + **Victim Rights Centre, Patna** • **Vishnupad** (Ahilyabai, 1787) • **UPI MDR 0.4%** above ₹2,000 • **NH 1,46,572 km** • **Art. 3** and J&K statehood.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team • ▶ YouTube: @Study_ForGS • ➤ Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies