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On death Due to Snake Bite, Family Members Will Get Rs 4 lakh

Why in News?

On March 31, 2022, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister-cum-Disaster Management Minister Renu Devi announced in the assembly that if any person ever dies due to snakebite in the state, the state government will grant ex-gratia of Rs. 4 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased.

Key Points

- It should be noted that till now there was a provision of ex-gratia grant on snakebite only in the flood period in Bihar.
- In case of death of a person due to snakebite during floods, the Disaster Management Department, considering it as a natural calamity, is paid ex-gratia grant to the kin of the deceased as per the prescribed rate of subsidies from the State Disaster Response Fund.
- The Deputy Chief Minister said that in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Disaster Management Department on March 7, 2022, in addition to the death due to snakebite during the floods, the death due to snakebite was included in the disaster of the local nature of the state, to the immediate family of the deceased. It was decided to pay the ex-gratia grant. This decision has come into effect from March 24, 2022 (date of notification).

Bihar State Information Commission

Why in News?

On April 4, 2022, Bihar Governor Faggu Chauhan administered the oath of office to Phool Chandra Choudhary and Tripurari Sharan as Information **Commissioners** of the state.

Key Points

Bihar State Information Commission is a statutory body, established in June 2006 under Section 15 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

- It is worth mentioning that at present there are three posts of Information Commissioner in addition to the Chief Information Commissioner in the Bihar State Information Commission.
- The Chief Information Commissioner of the state is retired IAS officer Narendra Kumar Sinha.

Bihar Legislative Council

Why in News?

On April 4, 2022, voting was held for the 24 seats of the Bihar Legislative Council.

Key Points

- > Legislative council elections were postponed last year because rural local bodies, which account for about 97.56% of the total electorate, could not be reorganized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Significantly, there are 75 seats in the Bihar Legislative Council, out of which 63 are elected members and 12 are nominated members.
- The term of a member of the Legislative Council (MLC) is six years, with one-third of the members retiring every two years.
- The members of the Legislative Council are elected as follows:
 - One-third of the MLCs are elected by the state legislators.
 - o In addition, 1/3 of the members are elected by local bodies, such as municipal and district boards, etc.
 - o 1/12 members are elected by the people who have been teaching for 3 years.
 - o 1/12 members are elected by graduates from 3 years residing in the state.
 - O The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from amongst those who have special knowledge and practical experience of literature, knowledge, art, cooperative movement and social service.

Nipun Bihar Scheme

Why In News?

Recently, in a review meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary of Bihar Education Department has given instructions to implement Nipun Bihar Yojana in government schools of Bihar in the first week of June.



Key Points

- Under this, children will be made proficient in reading and writing, recognizing alphabets, interpreting its meaning, addition and subtraction and solving other numerical activities related to age.
- > For its implementation, a task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of state primary education director Ravi Prakash.
- It is worth noting that under the new education policy, the Nipun Bharat scheme has been started by the Central Government to improve basic literacy and numerical knowledge among the students of primary classes (mainly classes I to III). There is a plan to start this in the state under the name 'Nipun Bihar'.

Bihar included in the State Energy and Climate Index Round-1

Why In News?

Recently, Bihar has been included in the category of achievers in the report related to State Energy and Climate Index Round-1 released by NITI Aayog.

Key Points

- Bihar ranks 15th in the State Energy and Climate Index, while the score is 38.3.
- > This index has been prepared by NITI Aayog on the basis of 2019-20 data.
- Significantly, this index tracks the efforts made by states and union territories in the climate and energy sector based on 6 parameters - performance of discoms, energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, clean energy initiatives, new initiatives and access, affordability and reliability.
- The scores of Bihar with respect to various parameters are as follows
 - o performance of discoms 61.3
 - Accessibility, Affordability and Reliability 45
 - o Environmental Sustainability 33.7
 - Energy Efficiency 22.8
 - Clean energy initiative 4.9
 - New Initiative 7.6

Baba Kewal Dham State Fair

Why in News?

Recently, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the three-day Baba Kewal Dham State Fair in Indrawara village under Morwa block of Samastipur.

Key Points

- Baba Kewal Dham State Fair is the biggest religious fair of Nishad Samaj organized at the national level.
- This fair is **organized in Navratri of Chaitra month** starting from Saptami Tithi till the tenth.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar gave this fair the status of a state fair in 2010.
- Baba Kewal Dham area has been affected by the floods of Noon river, keeping in mind that the left and right banks of the river have been strengthened and uplifted.

Bihar included in the list of 6 leading states in terms of budget spending

Why in News?

On April 12, 2022, Bihar State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Vijendra Yadav said that in terms of annual budget expenditure, Bihar has joined the list of 6 leading states by spending Rs 2 lakh crore in a year, setting a new record.

Key Points

- Bihar is ahead of 5 states in terms of annual budget expenditure. These include Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- ➤ It is worth noting that all these states come under the category of already developed state, as well as they have the facility of industrialization as well as sea-port. Being a sea-port, transportation in the state becomes easy.
- ➤ At the same time, after the separation of Jharkhand, there has been a significant shortage of heavy industry in Bihar. So far this shortcoming has not been overcome.
- Vijendra Yadav said that before 2005, the state government could not spend even Rs 25,000 crore. The income was also limited to 4 digits, which has reached to Rs 56,000 crore at present.



He informed that the state's GST collection has increased by 17% as compared to last year. Apart from this, there has also been an increase in registration tax by 107%, transport tax and mines and land element tax as compared to last year.

GPR Survey for Archaeological Structures in Banka and Patna Districts

Why in News?

Recently, Deepak Anand, Director of Archaeological Directorate said that in the GPR survey being conducted by the Government of Bihar, the GPR survey in Bhadariya village of Amarpur block of Banka is almost complete, while the survey will start soon in Patna district.

Key Points

- Director Anand pointed out that ancient Patna, known as Pataliputra, was the capital of the Magadha Empire. Pataliputra was the land of knowledge, which has been related to astronomers and scholars like Aryabhata, Vatsyayana and Chanakya.
- Regarding the Mandar mountain in Banka, he said that there are many references in Hindu mythology, such as this hill was used in the churning of the ocean.
- ➤ It is worth mentioning that the archaeological importance of Bhadariya village of Banka came to the fore recently when villagers found some ancient bricks and structures made of bricks. According to preliminary studies, the remains found here are 2600 years old.
- Recently, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also visited the discovered archaeological site on the banks of river Chanan and announced to develop the place located in Bhadariya village as a tourist destination.
- GPR is a geophysical method that uses a radar pulse to image the upper surface. This non-destructive method uses electromagnetic radiation in the microwave band (UHF/VHF frequencies) of the radio spectrum and detects reflected signals from subsurface structures.
- > This technique helps in the identification of archaeological sites and their structure, thereby assisting in the interpretation of ancient settlements and man-made structures before possible excavations.

Control of unemployment increased in Bihar during Corona period

Why In News?

Recently data released by the Center for Monitoring of Indian Economy shows that the unemployment rate in Bihar has come down to 14.4% in March 2022.

Key Points

- According to the data, the unemployment rate of Bihar was 15.4% in March 2020 and 46% in April-May 2020.
- On this basis, it can be said that Bihar has controlled the increased unemployment during the Corona period, although even after completely reducing the unemployment increased during the Corona period, the unemployment rate in Bihar is higher than the national average (8%).
- The following are the unemployment statistics for urban and rural areas:

Month	Year	Urban	Rural
March	2020	15.7%	15.4%
March	2022	17.9%	13.9%

Mithila's 'Rohu'

Why In News?

Recently, a team of fish experts has been constituted by the Bihar government as part of efforts to get GI tag to 'Rohu' of Mithila.

Key Points

- > This 'Rohu' is found in the old ponds of Darbhanga and Madhubani districts of Mithilanchal in Bihar.
- The taste of this fish is quite different from the others, due to the climate, the silt of the old puddles and the fruit trees along the banks.
- > The annual growth rate of fish production in Bihar is 7%, however, considering the geography of Bihar, there are immense possibilities in the field of fish production.
- It is worth mentioning that this team has been formed on the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister cum Animal and Fisheries Resource Minister Tarkishore Prasad.



Free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh in Bihar

Why In News?

On April 18, 2022, in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, it was decided that on the lines of the Ayushman scheme of the Central Government, free treatment up to five lakh rupees would be provided annually by the Bihar government to all the ration card holder families.

Key Points

- ➤ It was also decided in the meeting that about six crore people in the age group of 18 to 59 years would be given a free booster dose of Covid vaccine in the state. For this the cabinet has approved Rs.1314.15 crore.
- ➤ It is noteworthy that 55% of the families of the state are the beneficiaries of Ayushman Yojana, in which free treatment facility is available up to 5 lakhs.
- There are about 29% of the families in the state who do not get the benefit of Ayushman Yojana, while considering their economic condition, they should also get this facility. Keeping them in mind, the Bihar government has decided to provide free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh.

10th Meeting of Bihar State Wildlife Council

Why in News?

On April 18, 2022, the 10th meeting of the Bihar State Wildlife Board was held under the chairmanship of CM Nitish Kumar.

Key Points

- In this meeting, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests cum Member Secretary Prabhat Kumar Gupta gave a presentation on the progress made so far on the decisions taken in the 9th meeting (August 2020) of the Bihar State Wildlife Council.
- In the meeting, the proposal regarding wildlife clearance under Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Shelter, Rajauli (Nawada) Wildlife Sanctuary and Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary was discussed.
- > Along with this, the proposal to send the proposal to make Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary a Tiger Reserve to

- the National Council of Wildlife and to declare the horse paras and wild boars causing damage to life and property was also discussed in detail.
- Neeraj Kumar Bablu, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department said that a special request was made in the meeting to set up a center for conservation and rehabilitation of peacocks in Aran village of Saharsa district.

Dilip Jaiswal became Deputy Chief Whip in Bihar Legislative Council

Why In News?

 On April 18, 2022, after the order of the Executive Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council, Awadhesh Narayan Singh, a notification was issued to make Dilip Jaiswal Deputy Chief Whip and Neeraj Kumar and Reena Devi as Whip.

Key Points

- Chief Minister and Leader of the House Nitish Kumar nominated Dilip Jaiswal as Deputy Chief Whip and MLCs Neeraj Kumar and Reena Devi as Whips in the Legislative Council.
- Significantly, the Chief Whip and Whip is the political person who is responsible for the discipline and behavior of the party in the House. Usually the whip instructs the members of the party to stick with the party's view on the main issues, to vote on any issue in the House as per the directions of the party. Sometimes such situations and issues come up in the House, where the party fears the division of votes.
- The Chief Whip issues the whip so that the party members do not vote against the party line in the House. The party can take action for voting against the whip. No whip can be issued to the MPs and members of the Legislative Assembly to cast their votes in the election of the President.

Lohar Caste Delisted From the List of Scheduled Tribes

Why in News?

On April 21, 2022, the Bihar government withdrew



the Scheduled Tribe status from the Lohar caste by issuing an order.

Key Points

- > This decision has been taken by the state government after the decision of the Supreme Court.
- It is noteworthy that in the year 2016, the Lohar caste in Bihar was removed from the category of extremely backward class and given the status of Scheduled Tribe.
- The decision of the state government was challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court in its judgment in Sunil Kumar & Ors vs State Government & Ors set aside the order of the State Government for the year 2016.
- Under this decision of the General Administration Department, due to the inclusion of the Lohar caste in the Annexure Forest like other backward castes, now the Lohar caste will be given the same facilities as other castes coming under the Other Backward Classes.
- Article 366 (25) defines Scheduled Tribes as such tribes or tribal communities or parts or groups of such tribes or tribal communities which are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 for the purposes of this Constitution.

Albendazole

Why In News?

On April 22, 2022, more than 50 children who were given Albendazole medicine at Shah Zubair Middle School Ghorghat in Munger, Bihar fell ill.

Key Points

- Albendazole is an evidence-based, globally accepted, effective solution of worming, which is used to control worm infestation in all children.
- It is in this context that the National Deworming Days were started in 2015 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which is celebrated on 10 February and 10 August every year.
- It aims to eradicate intestinal worms, also known as soil-transmitted helminths (STHs), in children aged 1-19 years.
- Significantly, intestinal worms live in the human intestine in a parasitic form and consume nutrients and vitamins to make children malnourished.

Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav

Why In News?

On 23 April 2022, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah addressed the Babu Veer Kunwar Singh Vijay Utsav in Jagdishpur, Bihar.

Key Points

- > This was the 164th Victory Festival celebrated under the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence in Jagdishpur, the birth and birthplace of Veer Kunwar Singh.
- > The record for hoisting the highest number of flags was created by hoisting 77 thousand 993 flags simultaneously in this victory festival.
- It is noteworthy that Veer Kunwar Singh had provided leadership in the Jagdishpur area in the revolt of 1857.
- Born in Jagdishpur village of Bhojpur district of Bihar in 1777 AD, the sphere of influence of Veer Kunwar Singh was also in Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Ballia, Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh along with Bihar.

First meeting of the newly formed governing body of Bihar Museum Committee

Why In News?

On 26 April 2022, the first meeting of the newly formed governing body of Bihar Museum Committee was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Key Points

- It was decided in the meeting that the foundation day of Bihar Museum would be celebrated on 7th August every year. On this day the children of the state will be specially invited to visit the museum.
- Along with this, the proposal was approved for free visit to the Bihar Museum (Museum) for women on the occasion of Women's Day, for children on the occasion of Children's Day and for senior citizens on the occasion of Bihar Day.



- In the meeting, the Chief Minister said that apart from expanding the Patna Museum (Museum), Patna Museum (Museum) and Bihar Museum (Museum) are being interconnected so that people coming from outside can visit both the museums together.
- ➤ It is worth noting that in January this year, while changing the structure of the governing body of the Bihar Museum, the responsibility of its chairman was entrusted to the Chief Minister, which was earlier with the Development Commissioner. Also, the designation of the Director of the Museum was changed to that of Director General.

Darbhanga: Makhana Hub

Why in News?

On April 27, 2022, Darbhanga MP Dr. Gopal G. Thakur inaugurated the one-day workshop at Makhana Research Centre, Darbhanga under the 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 New FPO Scheme' scheme of the Central Government by lighting a lamp.

Key Point

- The objective of the workshop is to consider measures to establish Darbhanga on the world stage as a makhana hub by forming a cooperative farmers producers' association of makhana growing farmers in the district.
- ➤ It may be recalled that darbhanga district has been awarded by the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister at the State level for outstanding work in the field of production and development of Makhana under 'One District One Product'.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mp Dr. Thakur said that the construction of cargo complex at Darbhanga airport will give a boost to the global business of makhana and other local products.

- ➤ It may be mentioned that the scheme was launched in February 2020 at Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh with a budgetary provision of Rs 6,865 crore.
- ➤ Under this, more than 2200 FPOs generation clusters have been allocated for formation of FPOs in the year 2020-21.
- > The financial assistance provided under it is as under:
- > 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 3 years.
- Each farmer member of the FPO will be provided an equity grant of Rs 2,000 (maximum of Rs 15 lakh per FPO).
- In order to ensure institutional credit access to FPOs, a provision has been made for credit guarantee facility up to Rs.2 crore per FPO from eligible lending institution.

National selection of new paddy variety 'Heera'

Why In News?

At the 57th Annual Paddy Research Meeting of the Integrated Rice Improvement Project held in Hyderabad on April 27, 2022, a new variety of paddy 'Heera' was selected for national production.

Key Point

- The new variety has been developed by Dr. Prakash Singh, a scientist from Veer Kunwar Singh Agricultural College, Dumraon and his team under the jurisdiction of Bihar Agricultural University, Bhagalpur.
- > This variety of paddy will not deteriorate even after being submerged in flood water for 15 days.
- Its production capacity is also one and a half times that of normal paddy.





Key Points	Details
Summary	

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