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# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

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## BIHAR

**January  
2022**

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## South African variant Omicron BA.2 found in Patna

### Why in news

- Recently, the genetic pattern BA.2 of the South African Omicron variant has been found in Patna, the capital of Bihar. This variant is contagious and is rapidly infecting people.

### Key Points

- After its spread in South Africa, scientists and experts of the World Health Organization have described it as seven times more infectious than the delta variant. However, according to experts, it is less lethal than Delta.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) there are three variants (ba.1, ba.2 and ba.3) in the Omicron variant (basic B.1.1.529) of the Pango lineage. The ba.2 mutant is also known as 'Omicron-like' and is more difficult to identify.
- BA.1 and BA.3 have a 69–70 deletion in the spike protein, whereas BA.2 does not. Due to this deletion, these sub-variants are successful in bypassing existing vaccines and they spread rapidly.
- Scientists from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) of the Department of Biotechnology (DOB) said that out of these three sub-variants, the presence of BA.1 and BA.2 is being found more in genome sequencing in India. In this too, especially BA.1 is fast replacing the delta and most of the cases are being found in Maharashtra and many other states. BA.3 is not yet available in India.
- Significantly, due to the dense population in Bihar and India, its infection is spreading very fast. The speed with which this infection is spreading can break the previous record of getting the number of infected in a day.
- At the same time, due to its recent spread in India, till now the fatal form has not come to the fore. Only mild symptoms are being seen in the infected so far. Instead of the lungs, this infection is seen going directly from the windpipe to the stomach in most cases. That's why this time the serious victims of shortness of breath are rarely seen.
- The only way to avoid this is to include Corona standards in your practice.

## Now Apple Cultivation will be Done in Bihar too: Agriculture Department's Pilot Project Started in 7 Districts

### Why in News

- Recently, considering the potential of apple cultivation in the state, the Agriculture Department has started the scheme of apple cultivation in 7 districts as a pilot project this year.

### Key Points

- Under the Special Horticulture Crop Scheme, a target has been set to make apple cultivation in an area of 10 hectares. The project is being started for apple cultivation in Vaishali, Begusarai and Bhagalpur in 2 hectares each, while in Muzaffarpur, Aurangabad, Katihar and Samastipur one hectare each.
- Center of Excellence Assistant Director Horticulture Prashant Jha informed that the farmers selected for apple cultivation will be given training at Desiri Center of Excellence in Vaishali.
- Hariman 99 variety saplings will be provided to the selected farmers from Himachal Pradesh. The cost of one plant including training will be around Rs 200. Experts will also come from Himachal Pradesh to impart training to the farmers.

## A Law Will be Made for Smart Prepaid Meters

### Why in News

- Recently, the Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission has taken the responsibility of making a new law for the smart prepaid meters being installed in Bihar and to protect the interests of the consumers.

### Key Points

- On behalf of the power company, the Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission has been told that for making smart meter regulation in Bihar, the commission itself has to issue the draft of the regulation. After

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the draft is issued, public opinion will be taken on it. The company will also present its side on its behalf.

- The company has also submitted some more proposals before the commission regarding smart prepaid meters. If the consumer does not recharge the meter despite three messages on the mobile, then there will be a disconnection, that is, power failure. The company has requested the commission to fix a time, after how many days, the connection of the consumers will be temporarily disconnected. After this, if the consumer takes the connection again, then what should be charged from them.
- It is noteworthy that by the year 2025, the state government has started its scheme to install free smart prepaid meters for all electricity consumers. 11 thousand 100 crores will be spent on this item. This is the biggest plan of the power company so far.
- Bihar is the only state in the country which has started installing prepaid meters. So far more than three lakh meters have been installed and other states of the country are following Bihar.

## Governor Approves Bihar Municipal Amendment Ordinance

### Why in News

- On January 13, 2022, Bihar Governor Fagu Chauhan approved the Bihar Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022. By notifying the ordinance, a new system of election of Mayor-Deputy Mayor or President-Vice President has been implemented in the municipal bodies.

### Key Points

- The Bihar government has amended the municipal ordinance and made a provision that the head and deputy head of government of each city of Bihar shall be elected by the vote of the voters residing within the limits of the municipal body there.
- This system has been implemented for the election of Mayor-Deputy Mayor of all 19 Municipal Corporations of Bihar and President-Vice President of 89 Councils and 155 Nagar Panchayats.

- With the issuance of the Gazette Notification of the Bihar Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022, the old system of election of Mayor-Deputy Mayor or President-Vice President in municipal bodies has ended.
- It is noteworthy that till now the Mayor-Deputy Mayor was elected from amongst the ward councilors in the municipal bodies. There was a system to remove them by the majority of the ward councilors, but now in the event of death, resignation or dismissal of the person sitting on these posts, only the elected person from among the public will take these posts for the remaining period.
- Ward councilors will not be able to remove them from office on the basis of majority by bringing a no-confidence motion against the Mayor-Deputy Mayor or the President-Vice President.
- The state government will introduce the Bihar Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 as the Bihar Municipal (Amendment) Bill, which will be called the Bihar Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2022 after it is passed, in the next session of the assembly.
- Amendments have been made in Section 23 and Section 25 of the Bihar Municipal Act, 2007 to conduct the selection of the President and Vice-Chairman of Municipal Bodies in the manner of direct election of the public. In both the sections, the mayor-deputy mayor or president-vice president has been informed by the designation of chief councilor and deputy chief councilor.
- Through three subsections of Section 23, arrangements have been given for the general election of the Chief Councilor and the Deputy Chief Councilor and the election in alternative circumstances. Similarly, through amendment in three subsections of section 25, the arrangement for dismissal or resignation from both the posts has been given.
- It is to be known that elections to all 263 municipal bodies in Bihar are proposed between April and June.
- Directly elected public representatives of urban bodies will ensure their accountability to the public and will accelerate the ambitious plans and projects being run for the development of cities.

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## Gopal Kumar Gave Bihar the Second Place at the National Level

### Why in News

- Gopal Kumar, a 12<sup>th</sup> student of High School Barbigha in Sheikhpura district of Bihar, gave Bihar the second place in the solo genre of folk songs in the results of the national level art festival competition announced on January 18, 2022. The competition was held online on January 5, 2022.

### Key Points

- Prabhakar Trivedi, music teacher of Plus Two High School, Barbigha and Gopal's guru, said that the examination was taken by Bihar Education Project, Patna at the examination center located at Kilkari Bhawan Patna, in which Gopal participated from Bihar's side.
- Gopal has left behind the artists of many states of the country, due to his musical knowledge, has given Bihar the second place in the solo folklore genre.
- Prabhakar Trivedi said that earlier Gopal had given first place to Sheikhpura district in the state level singing competition organized by Bihar Education Project.
- He said that the date of honoring Gopal successfully in the national competition at the national level has not been decided yet.

## Patna-Kolkata Expressway

### Why in News

- Recently, Bihar Road Construction Minister Nitin Naveen told that a plan is being started for the construction of Patna-Kolkata Expressway for better connectivity between Bihar and Bengal. Patna to Kolkata Expressway will be the first road in Bihar to be edge restricted.

### Key Points

- Minister Nitin Naveen said that with the construction of Patna-Kolkata Expressway, the total journey of 550 kms from Bihar to Bengal will become easy. This road

will be similar to Purvanchal Expressway of Uttar Pradesh. The government is going to start work for this very soon.

- With its construction, connectivity of Northeast India with the rest of India will be strengthened. Five districts of Bihar are involved in this project with an estimated cost of more than 18 thousand crore rupees.
- The Patna-Kolkata Expressway will proceed from Dhalkuni via Patna (Bakhtiarpur), Nalanda (Biharsharif), Sheikhpura, Jamui (Sikandra and Chakai), Katoria of Banka, Madhupur, Durgapur and Panagarh. Bihar Sharif will directly enter Devipur of Deoghar district in Jharkhand from Sikdara, Chakai.
- At Devipur, this expressway will proceed towards Madhupur connecting the proposed four-lane road connecting AIIMS. This will increase the connectivity of Deoghar with Bihar and Bengal.
- Under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-II, this greenfield expressway will serve as an alternative to the old congested National Highway NH-2. With its completion, the doors of development will also open.

## Marg in Bihar in Four Lanes

### Why in News

- On January 21, 2022, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari wrote a letter to Bihar's Road Construction Minister Nitin Naveen, informing that approval has been given to make Ramjanki Marg in Bihar in four lanes.

### Key Points

- In the letter, Union Minister Gadkari said that accepting the request of Ramjanki Marg, Religious Significance and Road Construction Department, Bihar, this highway will be made four-laning in the state.
- The Road Construction Minister of Bihar said that out of the Ramjanki road being built in the length of about 240 km in the state, only 90 km is as per the fourlane standard. The remaining 150 km is proposed as a two-lane road. 150 km length was also proposed to be four-laned from the central government, on which the center has given permission. Now the entire 240 km long Ramjanki Marg will be of four lanes.

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- Ramjanki Marg in the state starts from Mehrauna on the Uttar Pradesh border and goes to Bhita Mor on the international border of Nepal in Sitamarhi district. Its length is about 240 km.
- Under the PM package Bihar-2015, 200 km of this path. The work of developing the part into a four-lane road is being done by NHI.
- Along with this, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that for pre-construction of Hajipur-Mahnar-Bachwara section of NH-122B in Vaishali, Samastipur and Begusarai districts of Bihar and two-laning improvement of Mahnar to Bachwara section. Approval has been given with a budget of Rs 624.43 crore.

### 3 Children of Bihar Honored with Prime Minister's National Child Award

#### Why in News

- On the occasion of National Girl Child Day on January 24, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored 61 children of the country with the Prime Minister's National Child Award for the year 2021 and 2022, in a virtual ceremony as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, in which 3 children are from Bihar.

#### Key Points

- This year's awardees include 15 boys and 14 girls from 21 states and union territories. These children have been selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in the categories of Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Educational (1), Sports (8), Art and Culture (6) and Gallantry (3).
- Similarly, among the award winners for the year 2021, 32 children from 21 states/UTs in innovation (9), art and culture (7), sports (7), educational (5), gallantry (3) and social service (1) categories have chosen.
- PMRBP awardees participate in the Republic Day Parade every year. Each awardee is presented with a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate.
- Prime Minister's National Children Award- From 2022, Dheeraj Kumar (Gallantry) and Pal Sakshi (Social Service) of Bihar were honored. At the same time, Jyoti

Kumari (Gallantry) of Darbhanga was honored with the Prime Minister's National Children Award - 2021.

- The awardees of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 along with their parents and district magistrates of their respective districts attended the program from the respective district headquarters.
- During the ceremony, the Prime Minister presented digital certificates to 61 winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using blockchain powered technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the National Blockchain Project.

### Padma Award to 2 Persons from Bihar

#### Why in News

- On January 25, 2022, on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day, the President announced 128 Padma Awards for the year 2022. Shaibal Gupta and Acharya Chandnaji of Bihar have been selected for the Padma Shri.

#### Key Points

- Acharya Chandnaji of Bihar has been selected for social work, while Shaibal Gupta has been posthumously selected for the Padma Shri award for his distinguished contribution to literature and education.
- The Padma Awards are the country's highest civilian honors, which are conferred in three categories. These three categories include Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. 'Padma Vibhushan' for exceptional and distinguished service, 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- These awards are given in various disciplines/fields, viz., arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- These awards are announced by the President every year on the occasion of 'Republic Day' and are presented in formal functions held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, usually in March/April.
- This year the President has approved the conferment of 128 Padma Awards, including 2 Jodi Awards (the award given to a pair is counted as one award). The list includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri awards.

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- Among the recipients of Padma awards, 34 are women and 10 persons in this list are under the Foreigner/NRI/PIO/OCI category and 13 persons have been given the award posthumously.

## 4-4 Lakh Rupees to the Dependents of Corona Dead from CM Relief Fund

### Why in News

- On January 28, 2022, in the 21st meeting of the CM Relief Fund Trustee Council held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar through video conferencing, it was told that in case of death due to corona, the dependents of the deceased were given the help of four lakh rupees from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

### Key Points

- Under this, a total of Rs 148 crore 16 lakh has been released from the fund at the rate of Rs 4 lakh each to the dependents of 3704 dead.
- Significantly, the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) was established in the year 1971 to help the people in distress. This fund is recognized as a trust and its income is exempted for return purposes under sections 12A and 139 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- The Chief Minister is the chairman of CMRF and is assisted by officers/staff on an honorary basis.
- It was informed in the meeting that so far Rs 59 crore has been given for the construction of 100 flood shelters in 10 flood affected districts, out of which the construction work of 40 flood shelters has been completed and the construction of the remaining is in progress.
- At present, for complete freedom from Kala-azar disease, under 'Mukhyamantri Kala-azar Rahat Yojna', assistance of Rs.6600 is being given to each Kala-azar patient, which was started in the year 2011.
- Similarly, every child labor freed for eradication of child labor is being given assistance of Rs.25 thousand for housing.

## Tax Exemption Decision for Vehicle Scrapping

### Why in News

- On January 28, 2022, in the cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar through video conferencing, it was decided that the state government would provide exemption in motor vehicle tax on the purchase of new vehicles instead of declaring old vehicles as junk.

### Key Points

- Under this decision, 25 percent tax exemption will be given on the purchase of private vehicles and 15 percent on the purchase of commercial vehicles.
- It is to be noted that 8 percent tax is levied on vehicles up to Rs 1 lakh, 9 percent on vehicles between Rs 1 to 8 lakh, 10 percent on vehicles between Rs 8 and 15 lakh and 12 per cent on vehicles above Rs 15 lakh. In such a situation, this decision will reduce pollution in the state and increase the revenue of the state government from the purchase of new vehicles, while on the other hand, industries for scrap will be developed in the state.
- It is noteworthy that the vehicle scrapping policy was announced by the Central Government in March 2021, under which-
  - Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy, government commercial vehicles older than 15 years and private vehicles, which are more than 20 years old, will be canceled.
  - State governments have been advised to provide road-tax exemption of up to 25% for private vehicles and 15% for commercial vehicles to provide incentives to owners of old vehicles to scrap old and unserviceable vehicles.
  - The automakers will also give a 5% discount to those who use the scrapping certificate. Also, the registration fee will be waived off on the purchase of a new vehicle.



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**Key Points**

**Details**


**Summary**

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**Key Points**

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**Summary**

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