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Central Government Approves Opening Up of Two-thousand New Anganwadi Centers

Why in News

On July 31, 2022, Bihar's Social Welfare Minister Madan Sahni informed that the central government has approved the proposal to set up two thousand new Anganwadi centers in Bihar.

Key Points

- Madan Sahni informed that the process of setting up two thousand new Anganwadi Centers approved by the Central Government is under process. Soon these will be opened in rural areas. Through these, the nutritional level of malnourished children and women will be improved.
- Sources in the Social Welfare Department said that Anganwadi centers are built on a population of 400 to 800. Depending on the population, there may be one or more than one Anganwadi Center in the Gram Panchayat area. Anganwadi workers and helpers run the centre.
- As per information, the Social Welfare Department had sent a proposal to the Central Government to set up 20 thousand new Anganwadi centers in the state and provide central assistance accordingly, has not been approved.
- It is noteworthy that in the operation of Anganwadi centers, the central and state governments together provide financial assistance.
- Anganwadi centers are a powerful means of making government schemes reach to the deprived and poor sections in remote rural areas.
- At present, 1 lakh 12 thousand 94 Anganwadi centers are operating in the state under the Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Of these, only 1.10 lakh Anganwadi centers are functional at present.
- There are 99 lakh 23 thousand 915 beneficiaries in the Anganwadi centers currently operating in the state. These include children 0 to 6 years old, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women. Anganwadis play

an important role in prenatal and postnatal health, child nutrition, school education and immunization of children.

Mass Hysteria

Why in News

Recently, there was an incident of some children crying, screaming, rolling on the ground, banging their heads and falling unconscious without any reason from a school in Uttarakhand, which is believed to be a case of 'mass hysteria'.

Key Points

- According to sources, this incident is from Raikholi Junior High School in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, in which the crying, insensible girls are said to be of class 8th. This problem was found in a total of 8 children. Among them there were 6 girls and 2 boys.
- Bageshwar Deputy CMO Harish Pokhriyal said that after talking to the children, it was found that they were already nervous and had come to school empty stomach. He said whether this is a case of mass hysteria or not? It will be clear only after thorough investigation. However, according to media reports, cases of such 'mass hysteria' in Uttarakhand have already been seen in schools in Almora, Pithoragarh, Chamoli districts.
- All instances of 'mass hysteria' have been recorded of people suddenly screaming, crying and fainting. In the year 2018, a 9-year-old girl started crying and screaming at a school in Puthan district of Nepal, after seeing 47 children were found crying and screaming in the school. In the same school in the year 2017 and in the year 2016 as well, many children had similar behaviour or symptoms on the same day. This was considered a unique case of repeating 'mass hysteria'.
- Apart from this, the rumor of Monkeyman also took the form of mass hysteria in India's capital Delhi in May 2001. People had stopped leaving the house after sunset. Many people claimed that they were attacked by Monkeyman. Three people were killed, who fell from the roof while running out of fear. Nails and teeth marks were found on people's bodies. After investigating the whole matter, the police had told the monkeyman to be just a rumour. Later studies made it clear that this was 'mass hysteria'.

Note:



- According to a report by Healthline, most of the cases of 'mass hysteria' have been seen and heard, some incident has been seen to happen. Like the behavior, actions, or symptoms that people see or hear in others, they often start to do or feel the same themselves.
- Some experts also use the term 'mass hysteria' for a situation that is not a real threat, but is a fear in a group of people about that danger.
- Behind 'mass hysteria' there are things like rumours, actions, thoughts, fears or dangers. Its symptoms are real, even if there is no real danger or health problem behind it. Symptoms of mass hysteria start and end suddenly. Symptoms include chest pain, lethargy, headache, fainting, tremors, partial paralysis, laughing or crying. Even after investigation, the reason for the symptoms or movements seen in it is not known.

Atul Prasad became the Chairman of Bihar Public Service Commission

Why In News?

On August 4, 2022, the General Administration Department issued a notification intending to make Atul Prasad, who retired from the post of Development Commissioner, as chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC).

Key points

- The notification issued by the general administration department said that the notification of new appointment to the post of chairman will be effective from August 5. Atul Prasad's tenure will be six years from the date of his office or up to the age limit of 62 years.
- Atul Prasad has been appointed as the outgoing Chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission, R. K. Mahajan has been replaced by a new Chairman of the Commission. R. K. Mahajan's term has ended on August 4, 2022.
- Atul Prasad has retired from the post of Development Commissioner this year. Thus, the tradition of making retired IAS officers as chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission continued this time as well.

- Outgoing President R. K. Mahajan was additional chief secretary of the education department before becoming chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission. Shishir Sinha was made chairman of the Bihar Public Service Commission after he retired from the erstwhile Indian Administrative Service.

Municipal bodies will become Tourist Places and Pilgrimage Sites of Bihar

Why In News?

On August 5, 2022, the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar approved the proposal to develop Bihar's tourist places, pilgrimage sites, hill areas and Mandi cities as municipal bodies.

Key Points

- The proposal to develop pilgrimage sites, tourist places, hill areas and Mandi towns located in Bihar as municipal bodies (Municipal Corporation, Nagar Parishad and Nagar Panchayat) was brought by the Department of Urban Development and Housing.
- After the approval of the Cabinet, the Department of Urban Affairs and Housing will now be able to notify the hilly area, pilgrimage site, tourist spot or Mandi town as a municipality.
- Under this proposal, pilgrimage places and tourist places with a population of more than 1.5 lakh will be made municipal corporation. At the same time, these places with a population of 30 thousand to 1.5 lakh will be made city council and those with a population of 9000 to 30 thousand will be made as Nagar Panchayat.

Bihar's 106-year-old Astronomical Observatory Included in UNESCO Heritage List

Why In News?

Recently, the 106-year-old astronomical observatory established at Langat Singh College in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar has been included in **UNESCO's endangered** heritage list.

Note:

Key Points

- This observatory is **the first of its kind in eastern India**. It was established in 1916 to impart astronomical knowledge to the students on the said college campus.
- Principal of Langat Singh College O. P. A planetarium was also set up at the college in 1946, Roy said. After 1970 the position of the observatory as well as the constellation began to decline gradually and most of the machines installed there have either been lost or turned into junk.
- After being included in UNESCO's list of endangered heritage observatories, hopes of reviving and preserving it have now been raised.
- As per college records, Prof. Romesh Chandra Sen had consulted J Mitchell (an astronomer and principal of Wesleyan College, Bankura in West Bengal) in February 1914, taking the initiative to set up an astronomical observatory in the college. In 1915, a telescope, astronomical clock, chronograph and other instruments were obtained from England and in 1916 the Astronomical Observatory started working.

Nitish Kumar Became Chief Minister of Bihar for the Eighth Time

Why in News?

On August 10, 2022, Janata Dal United (JDU) leader Nitish Kumar took the oath of office and secrecy as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the eighth time. Governor Fagu Chauhan administered the oath to him.

Key Points

- Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister. It is worth mentioning that Nitish Kumar has taken oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the eighth time while Tejashwi Yadav has taken oath for the second time as the Deputy Chief Minister.
- On August 9, 2022, after the split of Janata Dal United from the National Democratic Alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party, Nitish Kumar was unanimously elected the leader of the Grand Alliance in a joint meeting of Janata Dal United, Rashtriya Janata Dal

and Congress. After this, Nitish Kumar met Governor Fagu Chauhan and submitted a claim to form a new government.

- He submitted the list of support from 164 MLAs of seven parties to the Governor. These include Rashtriya Janata Dal, Congress, Hindustani Awam Morcha, Left parties and an independent MLA.
- Significantly, on March 3, 2000, Nitish Kumar became the Chief Minister of Bihar for the first time. After that from 2005 to 2010, from 2010 to 2014, again in the year 2015, from 2015 to 2017, from 2017 to 2020, from 2020 to August 8, 2022 and again in 2022, now he has become the Chief Minister for the 8th time.

Three Jawans Honoured in Rohtas

Why in News?

On August 15, 2022, three soldiers of Rohtas Police were awarded the President's Police Meritorious Service Medal in the Independence Day program organized at Rohtas Police Line, Bihar.

Key Points

- Rohtas district's SP Ashish Bharti and DM Dharmendra Kumar gave this award to the three jawans - constables Deepak Kumar Poddar, Vyas Prasad and Basant Kumar.
- On this occasion, the SP informed that Rohtas Police had sent a proposal of 6 qualified police officers and personnel, out of which 3 policemen have been awarded President Police Meritorious Service Medal.
- It is worth mentioning that the President's Police Medal has been announced on the eve of 76th Independence Day. The names of three police constables of Rohtas have been included in them. The police personnel who have received the President's Medal include Deepak Kumar Poddar of Dehri Police Line and two jawans of Rohtas District Police, Vyas Prasad and Basant Kumar.
- The SP said that the President's Police Meritorious Service Medal is one of the highest police awards. It is given to those police officers/personnel who have completed at least 18 years of their service and their entire service life has been commendable.
- It is noteworthy that Sepoy Deepak Kumar Poddar has been working in the police service since the year 2000, Vyas Prasad from the year 1999 and Basant Kumar since the year 2000.

Note:

Mithila's Makhana gets GI Tag

Why In News?

On August 20, 2022, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal informed that the central government has provided **GI (geographical indication) tag to Makhana of Mithila in Bihar**, famous all over the world.

Key Points

- So far, 5 agricultural products of the state, including Makhana in Mithila, have got the GI tag. Earlier, in the year 2016, Jardalu mango and katarni paddy of Bhagalpur, Magahi paan of Nawada and Shahi litchi of Muzaffarpur have been given GI tag.
- It is noteworthy that Mithila makhanas are famous all over the world. The taste of these makhanas and the process of growing them naturally makes them special. More than 90% of the makhanas found in different regions of the country come from Mithila.
- With the GI tag, now about five lakh farmers and makhana growers of Mithila region will get better prices for their produce.
- Significantly, the GI tag is mainly given to a natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods), originating from a certain geographical area. Usually such a name assures quality and uniqueness, which is due to its place of origin.
- The benefits of GI registration include legal protection of that item, prevention against unauthorized use by others, and promotion of exports.
- It is known that makhana is basically a crop grown in water. It contains 9.7 grams of protein and 14.4 grams of fiber. It is also a good source of calcium. People use it to make sweets, namkeen and kheer. Apart from this, soaked in milk and fed to young children.

Devesh Chandra Thakur appointed chairman of Bihar Legislative Council

Why In News?

On August 24, 2022, JDU leader Devesh Chandra Thakur has been elected as the Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council. Mahagathbandhan candidate Devesh Chandra Thakur was elected unopposed for the post of chairman.

Key Points

- Devesh Chandra Thakur has been elected as the Chairman of the Legislative Council in place of Executive Chairman Awadhesh Narayan Singh.
- Devesh Chandra Thakur had filed his nomination for the post of Bihar Legislative Council Chairman on August 24 as the Grand Alliance candidate.
- A special meeting was scheduled to be held on August 25 to elect the chairman of the Legislative Council, but the grand alliance candidate Devesh Chandra Thakur was elected unopposed as no candidate filed nomination from the opposition.
- Devesh Chandra Thakur has been the Minister of Disaster Management in Nitish Kumar's government, having won the election in 2002 as an independent candidate from Tirhut graduate constituency. He then joined JDU in 2004. He was nominated by JDU from Tirhut graduate constituency in 2008 and he managed to win the election and became a minister in the Nitish government.

Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022

Why In News?

On August 24, 2022, the Sahitya Akademi announced that the Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022 would be given to writers of 22 languages. It also includes two litterateurs from Bihar, Zafar Kamali and Dr. Virendra Jha.

Key Points

- Academy secretary K. Srinivas Rao said in a release that in the meeting of the Executive Board of the Akademi under the chairmanship of Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, the President of the Sahitya Akademi, approval was given to the writers for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022 and the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar.
- The Akademi has announced the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022 for writers in a total of 22 languages, while writers and writers in 23 languages will be given the Yuva Sahitya Puraskar.
- Zafar Kamali from Bihar's Siwan district has been selected for the award in Urdu language for 'Hauslon Ki Udaan', a collection of children's poetry published in 2020.

Note:

- At the same time, Dr. Virendra Jha has been announced for his Maithili Balkatha collection 'Udan-Chhu'.
- The Akademi secretary said that in the category of Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the award in Punjabi language is not being given this year, while the award in Santhali language will be announced later. At the same time, in the category of Youth Award, the winner will be announced later in Marathi.
- The selected authors will be given an engraved copper plaque and a sum of Rs 50,000 as prize money.

National Teacher Award

Why In News?

On August 25, 2022, the Ministry of Education, Government of India released the final list of names of 46 teachers from different states of the country selected for the National Teacher Award 2022. It also includes the names of two teachers from Bihar.

Key Points

- President Draupadi Murmu will present the National Award for the year 2022 to the selected teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day on September 5, 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. As an award, a sum of Rs 50,000 and a silver medal will be given to the teachers.
- Two teachers from Bihar selected for the National Teacher Award given by the Ministry of Education, Government of India on Teachers' Day are Nishi Kumari, a teacher of Mahadev Higher Secondary School Khushrupur, Patna and Sourav Suman, a teacher of Lalit Narayan Laxmi Narayan Project Girls High School Triveniganj, Supaul.
- It is known that the names of six teachers from Bihar were sent by the state government for the National Teacher Award.
- On the occasion of Teachers' Day, the Department of School Education and Literacy of the Ministry of Education organizes a national function every year on September 5, in which national awards are given to the best teachers of the country.
- The selection of teachers for the awards is done in a transparent manner through an online three-tier selection process.

- The objective of conferring the National Awards to teachers is to highlight the unique contribution of teachers of the country and to honour such teachers who have not only improved the quality of school education with their commitment and hard work, but have also enriched the lives of their students.

Awadh Bihari Choudhary Appointed New Speaker of Bihar Assembly

Why In News?

On August 26, 2022, senior Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was unanimously elected Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Key Points

- Awadh Bihari Chaudhary has replaced former Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha as the 17th Speaker of the Bihar Assembly. On August 24, Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha resigned from his post.
- The Grand Alliance had nominated RJD's Awadh Bihari Choudhary as its candidate for the speaker's post. There was no other nomination against him, so he was unanimously elected president.
- Maheshwar Hazari, who was sitting on the chair of the Speaker of the Assembly, started the process of election for the post of Speaker. After this, Jitan Ram Manjhi of 'HAM' proposed the name of Awadh Bihari Chaudhary. After this, with the consent of the entire House, Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari announced the election of Awadh Bihari Chaudhary as the Speaker.
- The new speaker Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was made to sit on the Speaker's podium by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and leader of opposition as per tradition.
- 76-year-old Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was elected MLA from Siwan in 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and in February 2005 and 2020. He contested for the Speaker's post in 2020 but lost the contest to Vijay Kumar Sinha. Awadh Bihari Chaudhary has also been a minister in the Rabri government.



Note:

