



Bihar Cabinet Approves Rural Welfare Initiatives

The Bihar Cabinet approved **village infrastructure**, **social pensions**, [women's entrepreneurship](#), **subsidised meals**, and **strengthened [local governance](#)** and welfare measures.

Key Points:

- **Operationalisation of Jeevika Didi Ki Rasoi:** The Cabinet has sanctioned the operationalisation of [Jeevika Didi Ki Rasoi](#) units at **block-level offices**, as well as at **sub-divisional** and **district headquarters**, to provide **affordable meals**.
 - The **Didi Ki Rasoi** initiative will be extended to **government medical colleges** and **hospitals**, with **subsidised meals** priced, under a projected budget of ₹5 crore.
- **Financial Assistance:** A committee headed by the **Development Commissioner** has been formed to set criteria for disbursing **₹2 lakh** financial assistance to **women entrepreneurs** from 94 lakh economically disadvantaged families identified in the recent [caste-based survey](#).
- **Increase in Pensions:** The Cabinet has approved an **increase in social security pensions** under schemes for the **elderly**, **persons with disabilities**, and **widows**, raising the monthly pension from ₹400 to ₹1,100.
- **Expenditure Ceiling for MGNREGA:** The expenditure ceiling for **gram panchayat-approved works** under the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act \(MGNREGA\)](#) has been raised from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.
- **Allowances for Panchayati Raj Representatives:** **Allowances** for elected representatives in the **three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions** and members of the **Gram Kutchery** have been enhanced by **1.5 times**.
 - An ex gratia of ₹5 lakh will be provided to the next of kin in case of the natural death of panchayat or **Gram Kutchery** members during their term.
- **Marriage Hall Construction:** Each **marriage hall** will be constructed at a cost of ₹50 lakh and implemented in a **phased manner** over a period of **five years**, starting from the current financial year.

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project

- **JEEViKA:**
 - [JEEViKA](#) is the **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project** aimed at the **social and economic empowerment** of rural poor in Bihar.
 - Managed by the **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS)**, an autonomous body under the **Department of Rural Development**, Government of Bihar.
 - Initially supported by the [World Bank](#) and later expanded to include the **Livelihoods Restoration component** of the Bihar Kosi Flood Recovery Project (BKFRP).
 - The [National Rural Livelihoods Mission \(NRLM\)](#) has designated **BRLPS** as the **State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM)** for Bihar to implement NRLM's strategies for poverty alleviation.
- **Didi Ki Rasoi Initiative:**
 - Launched in **2018**, inspired by the **Kerala Kudumbashree model**, with the goal to provide **affordable meals** in Bihar.
 - Supported by the **World Bank** under the **Bihar Transformative Development**

Project and implemented by **BRLPS (JEEViKA)**.

- The first center was set up in **Vaishali**, and now there are **83+ centers** operating across **38 districts** in Bihar, including in **hospitals, medical colleges, and schools**.
- The initiative has employed **1,200+ women entrepreneurs** and **150 full-time staff**, supported by **hotel management** and **catering experts**.
- Women entrepreneurs are trained in **cleanliness, accounting, and customer service** through a **7-day training program** provided by **JEEViKA**.

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