

Bihar Current Affairs 2020

Corona Sahayata Anudan Yojana

Bihar government launched Corona Sahayata Anudan Yojana 2020 where the state government will provide cash amount to Anganwadi beneficiaries, children and pregnant women who were already getting food and dry ration from Anganwadi centres but are unable to get it due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown.

All the beneficiaries including children and pregnant women will get cash amount transferred into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

The Social Welfare Department and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) of Bihar have already issued an official notification on 30 March 2020.

As per the notification, children and pregnant women aged 6 months to 6 years will be given food and dry ration.

Salient Features of this Scheme

Assistance Amount – Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the equivalent amount of Rs. 1000 will be paid directly to the bank account in place of hot cooked food and THR given through the Anganwadi centers.

Beneficiaries – The benefits will be available only to the beneficiaries registered in Anganwadi centers. These includes children registered at Anganwadi centres, Lactating Womens, Pregnant Womens.

Mode of Application / Registration – To avail assistance, registration / application form has to be filled online. No form has to be submitted in Anganwadi. However, the applicants can check the offline application format for this scheme for their convenience.



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Bihar Mukhyamantri Vridha Pension Yojana

Bihar Social Welfare department has launched Mukhyamantri Vriddhjan Pension Yojna. Under this MVPY Scheme, all the senior citizens above the age of 60 years to 79 years will get Rs. 400 per month as pension while above 80 years will get Rs. 500 p.m as pension.

All the elder ones belonging to any caste, creed or religion would be eligible for Mukhyamantri Vriddhjan Pension Yojana (MVPY).

People who are not getting pension under any of the previous running state or central govt. schemes would be eligible for MVPY Scheme.

In all other states, pension is only given to SC / ST people, BPL families, Persons with disabilities or widow women. But in Bihar this criteria has been removed and all senior citizens are applicable.

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Bihar Mukhyamantri Vishesh Sahayata Yojana

Bihar government has launched Mukhyamantri Vishesh Sahayata Yojana. Under this scheme, the state govt. provides financial assistance to lakhs of migrant workers stuck outside in other states due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) lockdown.

Within minutes of clicking of mouse by CM, an amount of Rs. 1,000 per migrant worker was transferred in bank accounts of total 1,03,579 workers through DBT mode.

In just 3 days after uploading of link on 3rd April on website / app, around 3.10 lakh migrant labourers applied online and applications are still pouring on dept's website.

A maximum of 55,264 applications comes from Delhi state followed by 41,050 from Haryana, 30,576 from Maharashtra and 25,638 from Gujarat.

Minimum 8 applications were received from Lakshadweep union territory.

Out of total 1.03 lakh workers who received assistance, max. 7281 are originally from Saran district followed by 6,821 from Muzzafarpur and 6,792 from Madhubani. Minimum 469 beneficiaries belong to Arwal district.

Bihar CM Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana

Bihar state government has launched Mukhyamantri Nischay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana (MNSSBY) or the Chief Minister Self Allowance scheme. Under this initiative, state government would financially assist the unemployed youth to find a job.

Under the Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana, Bihar government would provide a financial assistance of Rs. 1000 to each unemployed youth for two years to find a job.

The scheme named as "Mukhyamantri Nischay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana" was started on trial basis from 15th September. But, the scheme has been formerly launched on 2nd October.

Centre approved funds for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Bihar

Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide “Functional Household Tap Connection” (FHTC) to 18 Crore rural households of the country by the year 2024, the Centre has approved funds for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the following states during FY2020-2021.

Centre has allocated Rs. 1832.66 crore for implementation of JJM in Bihar during 2020-21.

Bihar is planning to provide tap connections to the remaining 1 crore 50 lakh households in 2020-21 therefore the state will have 100% coverage of all households with functional tap water connections by 2020-21.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been launched in partnership with States, to enable every household in villages to have a FHTC within the premises by 2024.

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Shri Arjun Munda Flags off “Medicine Van” for Bihar flood Victims

Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has flagged off “Medicine Van” for flood victims of Bihar. The medicine support of Rs. 15 Lakh has been provided by the Thakurdwara Trust, Jorbhag, Delhi.

Around two thousands volunteers are working on ground to serve the flood victims.

Bihar is India’s most flood-prone state, with 76% population in the North Bihar living under the recurring threat of flood devastation.

Bihar makes up 16.5% of India’s flood affected area and 22.1% of India’s flood affected population.

About 73.06% of Bihar’s geographical area, ie 68,800 square kilometres (26,600 sq mi) out of 94,160 square kilometres (36,360 sq mi), is flood affected.

North Bihar districts are vulnerable to at least five major flood-causing rivers during monsoon – Mahananda River, Koshi River, Bagmati River, Burhi Gandak River and Gandak – which originate in Nepal.

Construction of LILO of Kishenganj-Darbhangha 400kV Transmission Line

Union Minister R. K. Singh has laid foundation stone for construction of LILO of Kishenganj-Darbhangha 400kV Transmission Line at Saharsa in Bihar through a virtual event. The execution agency for the ₹ 100 crore worth project is POWERGRID Ltd., a central PSU under Ministry of Power.

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On completion of the Kishenganj-Darbhangha 400kV Transmission Line project, Power scenario of the Saharsa district including Supaul, Khagaria and Begusarai districts shall improve.

Saharsa is located in extreme Northern Part of Bihar and is a flood prone area due to inflow of water from Nepal.

The substation is the part of an electrical supply system which transmits the high voltage from the generating substations to the local distribution networks.

In LILo (Line In Line Out) Substation, a long distribution line is brought in and brought out from newly created substation as shown below. This scheme is bit expensive because of the need of an extra layout. But it is more secure.

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PM to dedicate historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu to nation

Prime Minister Modi will dedicate the historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu (mega-bridge) to the nation through video-conference on September 18. The dedication of the Kosi Rail Mahasetu is a watershed moment in the history of Bihar and the entire region connecting to the North East.

This bridge is of strategic importance along the India-Nepal border.

In 1887, a meter gauge link was built in between Nirmali and Bhaptiahi (Saraigarh).

During the heavy flood and severe Indo Nepal earthquake in 1934, the rail link was washed away and thereafter due to meandering nature of river Kosi no attempt was made to restore this Rail link for long period.

The Kosi Mega Bridge line project was sanctioned by Government of India during 2003-04.

The Kosi is a trans-boundary river which flows through Tibet, Nepal and India.

It drains the northern slopes of the Himalayas in Tibet and the southern slopes in Nepal.

From a major confluence of tributaries north of the Chatra Gorge onwards, the Kosi River is also known as Saptakoshi for its seven upper tributaries. The Saptakoshi crosses into northern Bihar, India where it branches into distributaries before joining the Ganges near Kursela in Katihar district.

2nd Integrated Check Post in Jogbani-Biratnagar

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the PM of Nepal Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post (ICP) Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal) through video conference.

Jogbani – Biratnagar acts as an important trade point between the two nations and is equipped with modern facilities.

Jogbani – Biratnagar ICP: This ICP built with Indian assistance is spread over 260 acres and the project worth is Rs. 140 crores. It is capable of carrying 500 trucks on a daily basis.

1st ICP: Prior to Jogbani – Biratnagar ICP, the first ICP was built at the Raxaul-Birgunj border of India (in Bihar State) and Nepal respectively in 2018.

2015 Post-earthquake housing reconstruction projects (EHRP) in Nepal in which India committed to build 50,000 houses in Nepal's Gorkha and Nuwakot districts was discussed during the video conference. Out of the construction of 45,000 houses have already been completed.

1st NDA state to adopt resolution against NRC, and to implement NPR

Bihar became the 1st National Democratic Alliance (NDA) state in India, which passed a resolution against National Register of Citizens (NRC) and also passed a resolution to implement the National Population Register (NPR), according to 2010 format, with an amendment.

The Bihar State government has written a letter to the Central government of India to drop the “Additional clauses” inserted in the NPR forms.

According to the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi, who presented Bihar’s Budget in the assembly, the first phase of Census 2021 and the process of the National Population Register [NPR] in Bihar would be done between the period of May 15 to June 28, 2020.

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Bihar to get north India’s first bird ringing station

Bihar becomes North India’s first “bird ringing station” for observation, monitoring & research on migratory birds and 4th state in the country after Tamil Nadu (Chennai), Rajasthan (Jaipur) and Orissa (Bhubaneswar).

The bird ringing station will be at Bhagalpur, Bihar, located close to the Ganges & is known to be a favorite destination of migratory birds.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between Deepak Kumar Singh, principal secretary of Bihar government, department of environment, forest & climate changes with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in the presence of C K Mishra, secretary to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate change (MoEFCC).

The MoU was signed on the occasion of CMS-COP13 (Conservation of Migratory species- conference of parties) or the 13th Conservation of Migratory Species- Conference of Parties held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, where delegates from 130 countries are participating in discussions on preservation of migratory species.

The MoU would be valid for 5 years in which the state government of Bihar will spend almost Rs. 5 crore for the new bird ringing station.

In Bihar, migratory birds are also spotted in large numbers in Jamui, Begusarai, Darbhanga and Vaishali.

This will be the first bird-ringing station in the country to be set up with support of a state government & it is one among the only three breeding places of Greater Adjutant across the world, the other two being in Assam and Cambodia.

Bihar integrated with ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ platform

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution approved the integration of 5 more States and Union Territories under “One Nation One Ration Card” plan with the already 12 existing states taking a total number of states/UTs to 17.

The newly approved states/UTs under this plan are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

Already this plan has been initiated in 12 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura.

With this, the facility of national/inter-State portability will be available for nearly 60 Crore beneficiaries of 17 States/UT under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and they may lift their entitled

quota of food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) anywhere in these 17 States/UT by using their same/existing ration card.

This decision to integrate 5 more states has been taken as per the Supreme Court direction to the Centre for taking the appropriate decision regarding the implementation of “one nation-one ration card” under the lockdown scenario, as there have been reports of problems faced by migrant workers in getting subsidised food grains.

NTPC and CPCB signed MoU to set up air quality monitoring stations in Bihar

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited signed an MoU with Central Pollution Control Board to provide financial support for installation & commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS).

The data collected from these stations will be used as inputs for Air Quality Index evaluation for the respective cities.

The MoU was signed by Prashant Gargava, CPCB, Member Secretary and Ravi V Babu, General Manager (Corporate Environment Management), NTPC.

NTPC will provide financial support of Rs 80 crore for installation of 25 CAAQMS across 6 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs).

CAAQMS will be installed in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Patna (Bihar), Varanasi, Lucknow, Kanpur & Allahabad (all in Uttar Pradesh [UP]), Pimpri Chinchwad (Maharashtra) and Madurai (Tamil Nadu).

CAAQMS will also be installed in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Port Blair), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (Silvassa) and Daman & Diu (Daman).

NTPC has also implemented technology to convert Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) into high Gross Calorific Value (GCV) fuel that can be co-fired in conventional boilers at its Dadri Plant in Delhi NCR.

NTPC has commissioned its first FGD unit at Vindhyachal, and is in the process of implementing this eco-friendly technology across all its power plants.

1st of its kind turtle rehab centre comes up in Bihar

In Bhagalpur forest division of Bihar a 1st of its kind rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles is to be inaugurated in January 2020. This centre spread over half a hectare will be able to shelter 500 turtles at a time.

The centre will also treat turtles that are sick, severely injured or smuggled, and then be returned safely into its natural habitat.

The turtles will be properly monitored before being released back.

According to a report by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the turtle species are under threat due to loss through dams and barrages, pollution, illegal poaching, accidental drowning through fishing nets and threats to their nesting habitats etc.

According to a recent study conducted by Traffic India, nearly 11,000 turtles are being smuggled in India annually which makes 1,10,000 turtles in the past 10 years.

New All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga

Union Cabinet has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. This will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

Establishment of new AIIMS involves creation of Hospital, Teaching Block for medical & nursing courses, residential complex and allied facilities/services, broadly on the pattern of AIIMS, New Delhi and other six new AIIMS taken up under Phase-I of PMSSY.

The objective is to establish the new AIIMS as Institution of National Importance for providing quality tertiary healthcare, medical education, nursing education and research in the Region.

Construction of new AIIMS is fully funded by the Central Government and is likely to be completed within a period of 48 months from the date of the approval of Government of India.

Government approved ₹971 crore Munger-Bhagalpur NH road in Bihar

Road Transport and Highways Ministry has approved a proposal to construct 120 km Munger-Bhagalpur-Tirpety-Kahalgaon concrete road on national highway 80 in Bihar. This will be a 2-lane road with paved shoulders, which will also be 4-lane wide at certain stretches.

The road from Munger to Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon and Mirza Chauki of Jharkhand is the busiest route of Bihar. It serves as lifeline for stone supply sector which caters to entire Bihar, Nepal, WB, etc.

It is also a major route for carrying fly ash from NTPC Kahalgaon to Saharsa, Madhepura, Begusarai, Purnima and Kishanganj.

It also connects to the famous Vikramshila University of Bhagalpur, besides being an important tourist route.

Bihar launched 'Pyaar ka Paudha' campaign

The state Government of Bihar's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched 'Pyaar ka Paudha' drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign with an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.

As a part of this initiative, the environment department has appealed to the people to gift the plant of love to their close ones as it will be alive for years & also stalls of Patna plants have been planted for this purpose.

If this experiment is successful, it will be implemented in other areas of the state as well.

Bihar passed resolution for caste-based census

The Bihar Assembly unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Centre to hold the 2021 census on the basis of caste.

This is the second time Bihar has passed this resolution in the recent past. On February 18, 2019, too, it had passed the same resolution.

Bihar Assembly passed a resolution against NRC in the state. Besides, it also passed a resolution favouring the 2010 National Population Register (NPR) format.

The resolution passed by the state assembly showed that the CM is committed to socialism.

Red Cross relief supply for flood affected people in Bihar

The President of India has flagged off nine trucks of Red Cross relief supplies from Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 24, 2020. These relief supplies for the flood affected people of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh shall be carried from Delhi to the concerned states by train and will be received by the state Red Cross branches of respective states.

The relief material included items such as tarpaulins, tents, saris, dhotis, cotton blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, bed sheets, buckets and two water purification units.

In addition, COVID-19 protection items such as surgical masks, PPE kits, gloves and face shields are also part of the relief material flagged off.

These items are meant to safeguard and protect health workers associated with IRCS medical services in these states as well as the volunteers of IRCS who are at the forefront of flood relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The supply of the above materials is in continuation and in addition to the material already provided by IRCS to be distributed by the state Red Cross branches to the affected people.

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Sushil Kumar Modi presented ₹2,11,761 cr Bihar's budget for FY 20-21

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar presented Rs 2,11,761 crore state budget for 2020-21 with a special emphasis on education, health and infrastructure. It was presented by the state's finance minister and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, which was his 11th Budget speech.

The proposed allocations were Rs 11,260.48 crore more than the FY 2019-20. Importantly, Bihar's Budget has increased eight times to Rs 2,11,761.49 crore in 2020-21 from Rs 23,885 crore in 2004-05.

Except for 2012-13, the state has been presenting a revenue surplus budget since 2008-09.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Bihar for 2020-21 (at current prices) is projected to be Rs 6,85,797 crore. This is 11.1% higher than the revised estimate for 2019-20.

Total receipts (excluding borrowings) are estimated to be Rs 1,84,352 crore –Revenue surplus: It is targeted at Rs 19,173 crore or 2.8% of the GSDP.

The Fiscal deficit is targeted at Rs 20,374 crore (2.97% of GSDP).

The Capital expenditure is proposed to be Rs 47,010 crore –Revenue expenditure: It is proposed to be Rs 1,64,751 crore.

In 2020-21, the highest increase in allocations was observed in Water Supply, Sanitation, Housing and Urban Development (8%) while highest decrease observed in Energy (48%).

The state government has made the highest allocation of Rs 35,191.05 crore to the education department. Bihar has allocated 19.3% of its total budget for education in 2020-21. Besides, Rs 17,345 crore was allocated for road building and Rs 10,937.68 crore was earmarked for healthcare.

Bihar has allocated 12.8% of its expenditure on rural development viz. Rs 15955.29 crore.

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