



Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for India's longest double-decker flyover

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar laid the foundation stone for India's longest double-decker flyover in the Saran district. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 411 crores and it will be completed by 2022. It will be the first of its kind in the state and the longest double-decker flyover in the country.

Calling it "a part of infrastructure development", he said that it will become a symbol of development in the state. The 3.5 km long flyover will connect Gandhi Chowk and Nagarpalika Chowk in Chapra district. Currently the longest double-decker flyover in India is of 1.8 km in Mumbai. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, former Union Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy, along with senior leaders were present at the foundation stone laying ceremony. Chief Minister also inaugurated State Highway 90, connecting Chapra to Mohammadpur.

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It gives me immense pleasure to present to our readers the July, 18 edition of our E-Newsletter. Like the previous editions, this edition too aims to provide you a quick glance at major developments and reformation, which our state has been witnessing for quite a while now. Amongst many such news, we have handpicked a few to help you gauge the success story of Bihar.

In a major news connoting Infrastructure Development, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar laid the foundation stone for India's longest double-decker flyover in the saran district. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 411 crores and it will completed by 2022.

Bihar's famous Shahi Litchi is set to become the fourth product from the state after Jardalu Mango, Katarni Rice and Magahi Paan (betel leaf) to get the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

I would request my readers to scroll further for such vibrant and positive news from Bihar.



- Dr S. Siddharth, IAS

Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Foundation

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister inaugurates Shrawani Mela in Sultanganj

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi inaugurated the month-long Shrawani Mela at Siri Ghat in Sultanganj amidst huge gathering of Kanwariyas. Union Minister Ashwini Choubey along with several state ministers were also present on the occasion. Referring to the inclusion of Shrawani Mela as 'state fair' by the government from this year, the deputy CM said, "Lighting facilities along the trek routes have been improved. Though construction of trekking path is an ongoing activity several culverts have been constructed for the pilgrims. The numbers of kanwariyas are increasing each year and we have to be alert to their growing needs. Efforts have been made to provide safety and security, health services, drinking water facility, sanitation and uninterrupted power supply during the monthlong Mela." "Henceforth the kanwariyas will get 'A' grade facilities after it was declared a state festival by the Nitish Kumar-led government," said the deputy CM.

Union minister Ashwini Choubey suggested upgrading the Mela and declaring it a national fair as the number of pilgrims is growing each year and kanwariyas from neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bhutan too come to attend this fair.

Bihar's famous Shahi Litchi to get GI tag soon

Bihar's famous Shahi Litchi is set to become the fourth product from the state after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi Paan (betel leaf) to get the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The details of Shahi Litchi were advertised in the Geographical Indications Journal of June 5 this year. Muzaffarpur-based Litchi Growers Association in Bihar had earlier





submitted the application for GI registration of Shahi litchi. GI is a name or sign used on products to certify that it possesses certain qualities for being made or produced as per traditional methods or enjoys a certain reputation due to its geographical origin. The chapter in GI journal number 107 related to Shahi litchi published its specification, name of geographical indication, description, production besides method and proof of origin among others.

“It is a unique variety of litchi in the state mainly cultivated in Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Vaishali, East Champaran and Begusarai and some parts of adjoining areas in agro-climatic Zone I of Bihar. The quality of Shahi litchi in Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and adjoining areas is better with juicy aril with very good sugar acid blend and aroma,” the journal stated. However, it would take another three months to get notified with GI tag.

Bihar to play in Ranji matches after 18 years

After the gap of nearly 18 years, Bihar will now play in the domestic season of the Ranji matches. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has released the schedule for the 2018-19 domestic seasons in which 37 teams, including nine new ones, will take part in the tournaments. The tournaments include Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Tournament, Twenty20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Tournament and others.

Bihar has been put in the Plate Group category. The nine teams for the Plate Group this season are Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Pondicherry, Sikkim & Uttarakhand. In January this year, the Supreme Court directed BCCI to permit Bihar to play Ranji matches and hence the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA), an associate member of BCCI, had already started preparations for the domestic season matches.

For selection of players from districts, the BCA from February carried out Hayman Trophy (senior), Under-23 zonal cricket tournaments, U-19 Randhir Verma Tournament and U-16 Shyamal Sinha tournament. Also as the Bihar has been placed in the Plate Group category, the state will host some matches. The BCA has started the renovation of Moin-ul-Haq Stadium.



Madhubani paintings to be showcased on Rajdhani and Sampark Kranti trains



After adorning the walls of Madhubani Railway Station and several other stations of Bihar, Madhubani paintings, commonly known as Mithila Paintings, will now be showcased on two trains Patna-Rajdhani and Bihar Sampark Kranti Express between Darbhanga and New Delhi to popularise the art at the national level. All bogies of both the trains will have Madhubani paintings and work is on in full swing. Both trains will hit the track by the end of July. A total of 100 coaches of Patna-Rajdhani, Sampark Kranti Express and Jansadharan Express will be painted with Madhubani Arts.

In the beginning, 22 coaches of the Patna Rajdhani has been rolled out with the traditional Madhubani paintings inside and outside of the coaches to promote traditional art on premier services.

Madhubani is a folk art of the Mithila region of Bihar that is known for using unique geometric patterns to create colourful paintings. The entire exercise would cost the Railways about Rs 1 lakh per coach. The painting project was launched at Madhubani station as a beautification and cleanliness project which also highlighted the skill of the local artists.

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Jitwarpur village of Madhubani District to become the first Craft Village of Bihar

Widely-known for its stylistic geometrical patterns, Madhubani district will have another feather in its

cap. The first craft village of Bihar will be developed in Jitwarpur village of Madhubani district. The state government has sent a proposal regarding this to Union Textile Ministry for the approval.

Once the concerned ministry gives nod for this project, the work will be started to develop ideal first craft village of the state in Jitwarpur. A total of ten crores rupees will be spent on its development. The traditional weavers from the adjoining area can exhibit their creations made of handicrafts, handloom, wood carving etc in the village. The entire village will be developed. All facilities and amenities concerned to facilitate the sales and exhibition of traditional items will be made available. The sales centre along with guest houses for tourists will be developed. It will also provide employment to the people of this village and surrounding areas. The village is located approximately 10 Kms away from district headquarter. The village has produced three women Padma Shree recipients in Mithila Paintings.



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Patna regional passport office gets award for better performance

The regional passport office of Patna has been adjudged as the better performing passport offices during 2017-18 in the country. The passport office has been awarded for outstanding performance in 2017-18. Out of 37 regional passport offices across the country, six passport offices were awarded for their outstanding performance in 2017-18 on the occasion of Passport Sewa Diwas in Delhi.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj awarded Patna regional passport officer Parveen Mohan Sahai on the occasion. The regional passport office has made notable achievements in average time required to issue passports. In the last few years various initiatives were taken to achieve this goal. Patna office had on a priority basis taken various steps to reduce the number of days taken to issue passports, speedily dispose pending cases, expand passport services, decrease time taken for completion of submission of passport application at Passport Seva Kendras as also time for completion of police verification process.

Currently, 3-4 days are required for a normal category passport to be dispatched, excluding the period of police verification where Tatkal applications are being dispatched within a day. Presently 15 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) are functioning in the state. The POPSKs are functioning at Siwan, Muzaffarpur, Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Gaya, Motihari, Buxar, Samsatipur, Nawada, Munger, Chhapra, Madhubani, Begusarai and Nalanda districts.

Two women farmers from Bihar awarded for innovative farming



Two homemaker-turned-farmers, Rinku Devi and Vinita Kumari, from Banka district of the state have won the Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Navachar Puraskar (Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer Award (Zonal)-2018). The national award, sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), was presented to the duo in New Delhi on July 16 on the ICAR foundation day. The award includes Rs 50,000 each and a prize.

The two inspiring women Rinku (28) and Vinita (42) come from the same Jhirwa village under



Chutia panchayat in Banka. The success story of Rinku and Vinita's struggle started with the need to produce mushroom for livelihood, which helps many others to eke a living and the mushroom which they produce commands good demand in the markets of the neighbouring states. Simple homemakers, both toiled from dawn to dusk in their household work and sometimes in the fields. The mushroom produced by the duo has now become a brand and people from even Bengal have started visiting Jhirwa village for their mushrooms.

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Bihar to get world's cheapest clean drinking water

An innovative cost-effective drinking water project 'Sulabh Jal' has been launched by the Sulabh International, an organisation that introduced the concept of 'Sulabh Sauchalya' in the country, in Darbhanga of Bihar. The project promises to lower the price of one-litre bottle to 50 paise -- cheapest in the world. The 'Sulabh Jal' project will convert contaminated pond and river water into safe drinking water.

The founder of Sulabh International Dr. Bindeshwar pathak laid the foundation of the project at Haribol pond in Darbhanga Nagar Nigam premises. He informed that the project will be functional by December of this year. The water purification process has a capacity to purify 8,000 litres of water per day at nominal cost. The total cost of installing this project would cost around Rs 20 lakhs.



This project was earlier introduced in three districts of West Bengal North 24 Parganas, Murshidabad and Nadia, three years ago by Sulabh International and French organisation on trial basis, which turned out to be very successful.

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Bihar's first wellness centre opens in Darbhanga

The first health and wellness center of the state has been opened in Darbhanga district. Health Minister Mangal Pandey inaugurated the state's first health and wellness centre (HWC) at Kanshi village in Darbhanga. Apart from this, all the 534 health sub-centres across 38 districts of the state would be upgraded as Health and Wellness Center during 2018-19.

Earlier, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said that 534 health sub-centres across 38 districts in Bihar would be upgraded as health and wellness centres (HWCs) during 2018-19. These centres will be operationalised by March, 2019. The expansion of primary care through the 1.5 lakh HWCs, an important pillar of Ayushman Bharat, will provide screening for tuberculosis and leprosy, along with diabetes, hypertension among others. During his Darbhanga visit, the Health Minister Mangal Pandey also inaugurated a CT scan machine and MRI centre, to be operated by Medanta at Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).



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Some important decisions taken by Nitish Cabinet in the month of July

- Instead of earlier administrative approved amount 152,37,54,462/- (one billion five hundred twenty-three million seven hundred fifty-four thousand four hundred sixty-two rupees) on the ground of proposed revised estimate by the Building Construction Department Patna, a revised administrative approval of 301,40,05,500/- (three billion fourteen million five thousand five hundred rupees) has been given with consulting fees for the construction of Buddha Samyak Darshan Museum and Memorial Stupa in Vaishali.

Ref.: Resolution No.41-(08)-47-2018/Agenda No.26/Date: 11th July 2018

Link: <http://csd.bih.nic.in/Upload/Decisions/d11072018.pdf>
- Under the Anganwadi Services (I.C.D.S), an amount of 407,31,82,275/- (Four Billion Seventy three million one hundred eighty two thousands and two hundred seventy five), equivalent to the fixed expenditure of 3 months in advance, has been approved for the uninterrupted implementation of nutritional supplement scheme to normal / malnourished/ severe malnourished children and for pregnant along with women having infant through Anganwadi and mini Anganwadi centers, and the withdraw from State Level (ICDS Directorate) on the basis of Integrated inspection through DBT by Angan Nidhi App has been approved.

(Ref.: Resolution No.41-(08)-51-2018/Agenda No.04/Date: 31st July 2018)

Link: <http://csd.bih.nic.in/Upload/Decisions/d31072018.pdf>
- Free land transfer to Software Technology Park of India through lease (30 years) to establish STPI branch in Bhagalpur has been approved.

(Ref.: Resolution No.41-(08)-51-2018/Agenda No.08/Date: 31st July 2018)

Link: <http://csd.bih.nic.in/Upload/Decisions/d31072018.pdf>
- 'Chief Minister Rural Housing Incentive Scheme' has been approved for providing incentives to the beneficiaries to escalate the construction work under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Rural.

(Ref.: Resolution No.41-(08)-51-2018/Agenda No.15/Date: 31st July 2018)

Link: <http://csd.bih.nic.in/Upload/Decisions/d31072018.pdf>
- The cabinet approves an advance and expenditure of the grant of 2,47,00,000 (two crores and forty seven lakhs) from Bihar contingency fund, released in the financial year 2017-18 for Bihar under the Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme for the prevention of crime related to women and children by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

(Ref.: Resolution No.41-(08)-47-2018/Agenda No.15/Date: 11 July 2018)

Link: <http://csd.bih.nic.in/Upload/Decisions/d11072018.pdf>
- Sultanganj Sharavani Mela in Bhagalpur gets the status of State Fair .

(Ref.: Resolution No.41-(08)-47-2018/Agenda No.16/Date: 11 July 2018)

Link: <http://csd.bih.nic.in/Upload/Decisions/d11072018.pdf>



<http://www.facebook.com/BiharFoundation2015>



<http://twitter.com/biharfoundation>



<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCol7yYZjftGHRb4pAdK3a2A>

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