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(CONSOLIDATION)

BIHAR

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Bihar Requests Funds Under PMAY-G

Why in News?

Recently, The Rural Development Department (RDD) of Bihar has sent a new request to the Ministry of rural development to approve Rs. 13.5 lakh additional housing units for homeless families under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

Key Points

- The RDD has constructed 36.64 lakh dwelling units out of the total 37 lakh units that were sanctioned under the PMAY-G during the period from 2016-17 to 2023-24.
- Each beneficiary under PMAY-G gets Rs 1.30 lakh for a dwelling unit, along with labour cost as per rates under rural employment guarantee scheme Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)

- **Launch:**
 - To achieve the objective of “Housing for All” by 2022, the erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was restructured to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) from 1st April 2016, as a centrally sponsored scheme.
 - However, the government missed this target and in **August 2022** extended the deadline for ensuring “Housing for All” to **December 2024**.
- **Ministry Involved:**
 - Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Status:**
 - States/UTs have **sanctioned 2.85 crore houses to the beneficiaries** and 2.22 crore houses have been completed till March 2023.
- **Aim:**
 - To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by the end of March 2022.
 - To help rural people Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in the construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses by assisting in the form of a full grant.

➤ Beneficiaries:

- People belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex-servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, disabled persons and minorities.

➤ Selection of Beneficiaries:

- Through a three-stage validation such as Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011, Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging.

➤ Cost Sharing:

- The Centre and states share expenses in 60:40 ratio in case of plain areas, and in **90:10 ratio for northeastern states**, two Himalayan states and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The Centre bears **100% cost in case of other Union Territories, including the UT of Ladakh**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

➤ About:

- MGNREGA is one of the **largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005** by the Ministry of Rural development.
- It provides a **legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household** willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- **Active workers:** 14.32 Crore (2023-24)

➤ Major Features:

- The **cornerstone of MGNREGA’s design is its legal guarantee**, ensuring that any rural adult can **request work and must receive it within 15 days**.
 - If this commitment is not met, an “unemployment allowance” must be provided.
- It requires that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work.
- Section 17 of the MGNREGA has mandated **Social audit of all Works** executed under the MGNREGA.

Note:

➤ **Implementation Agency:**

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.

Bihar's First Sports Academy and University

Why in News?

Recently, On the occasion of **National Sports Day** Bihar chief minister inaugurated the state's first **Sports Academy and Bihar Sports University** which is a part of the **International Sports Complex in Rajgir**.

Key Points

- **The International Sports Complex** will be a **venue for training in 24 sports disciplines** simultaneously.
 - The players will be provided all the facilities including **training, accommodation and medical facilities**, on the same campus.
 - The complex includes a **main cricket stadium**, along with **eight smaller stadiums**, a **world-class sports library and training centres** for various sports.
 - The main stadium will have a seating capacity of about 50,000 spectators, while the smaller stadiums will have a seating arrangement for 10,000 spectators.
 - It includes facilities for **athletics, football, hockey, volleyball, kabaddi**, and many other sports.
- According to the sources, Rajgir would be hosting the **six-nation's Asian Women Hockey Championship** in **November**.
- The state government approved the establishment of **Bihar Sports University** in **July 2021**.
 - The primary objectives of this university are to **promote sports education** in the domains of **physical education, sports science, sports technology, sports management, and sports training** within the state of Bihar.
 - The university is envisioned to serve as a **high-level research and training center for sports**.

National Sports Day

➤ **About:**

- The day was **first designated and celebrated in 2012 as India's National Sports Day**.
- The nation celebrates the day **honouring our sports stars**.
- The president gives away sports awards such as the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, and Dhyan Chand Awards** on this occasion.

➤ **Significance:**

- The primary motto of National Sports Day is to **promote awareness about the significance of sports and being physically active in day-to-day life**.
- The Government of India organises various programs, events, seminars etc to raise awareness about the significance of National Sports Day.

National Teachers Awards 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Ministry of Education** has selected **Two Bihar educators** for the **National Teachers Award, 2024**.

Key Points

- The selected teachers are: **Sikendra Kumar Suman**, the principal-in-charge of Tarhani New Primary School in Kaimur district and **Dr Meenakshi Kumari**, teacher at Shiv Ganga Girls High School in Madhubani district.
- They will be **felicitated by President Draupadi Murmu** on **Teacher's Day** at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.
 - The award is given to teachers for outstanding contribution in the field of education. They will be given a **cash prize of ₹50,000, a silver medal and a citation**.
 - A total of **50 teachers** have been **selected for the prestigious award** from all over the country.

Teacher's Day

- Teachers' Day, celebrated annually on 5th September since 1962, **honours the contributions of educators, including teachers, researchers, and professors in India**.

Note:



- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the President of India at the time, suggested observing **his birthday as Teachers' Day** in response to students' requests for celebration.
- **About Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:**
 - **Birth:**
 - He was born into a Telugu family in Tiruttani town of Tamil Nadu, on **5th September, 1888**.
 - **Academics:**
 - He studied philosophy at Christian College, Madras, and later became a professor at Madras Presidency College and the University of Mysore.
 - **Employment:**
 - He served as the **first Vice-President of India** from 1952 to 1962 and the **second President of India** from 1962 to 1967.
 - He was also the **Ambassador of India to the Soviet Union** from 1949 to 1952. He was the **fourth Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University from 1939 to 1948**.
 - **Recognition:**
 - In 1984, he was posthumously (after death) awarded the **Bharat Ratna**.
 - **Notable Works:**
 - Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy, Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, The Hindu View of Life, Kalki or the Future of Civilisation, An Idealist View of Life, The Religion We Need, India and China, and Gautama the Buddha.

Waqf Board Claims Over a Village in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, **The Bihar Waqf Board** has sent notice to villagers in Govindpur village, demanding they vacate the land within 30 days.

Key Points

- After receiving these notices, all landowners filed a petition in the Patna **High Court**.
- The High Court stated that the land has been in the names of the petitioners' descendants since 1910.
 - **The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was also introduced in the Parliament in August 2024.

Waqf Board

- A Waqf board is a **legal entity** capable of **acquiring, holding and transferring property**. It can sue and be sued in court.
- It **administers Waqf properties, recovers lost properties and sanctions the transfer** of immovable Waqf properties through sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease, with at least two-thirds of the board members voting in favour of the transaction.
- **The Central Waqf Council (CWC)**, established in **1964**, oversees and advises state level Waqf Boards across India.
- It is said to be the **third-largest landholder in India** after the Railways and the Defence department.

Key Amendments in Waqf Act (Amendment Bill), 2024

- **Transparency:** The Bill outlines around 40 amendments to the current Waqf Act, including that Waqf Boards **will be required to undergo mandatory verification for all property claims**, ensuring transparency.
- **Gender Diversity:** Sections 9 and 14 of **the Waqf Act, 1995** will be amended to modify the **composition and functioning** of the Waqf Board, including the addition of **women representatives**.
- **Revised Verification Procedures:** New verification procedures will be introduced for Waqf properties to **address disputes and prevent misuse**, with district magistrates potentially overseeing these properties.
- **Limited Power:** The amendments respond to **concerns about the Waqf Boards' unchecked powers**, which have led to extensive land being claimed as Waqf, causing disputes and misuse claims.
 - For example, in **September 2022**, the **Tamil Nadu Waqf Board** claimed the entire **Thiruchendurai village**, which is predominantly Hindu.

Californium

Why in News?

Recently, police in Gopalganj, Bihar, seized **50 grams** of a substance believed to be **Californium**, a highly radioactive metal worth **Rs 850 crore**.

- However, **initial tests by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) revealed no radioactivity**.

Note:

Key Points

➤ About Californium:

- Californium is named after the American state of California and the university.
- It was first synthesized in 1950 by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley.
- Californium is a **silvery-white synthetic radioactive metal** with the **atomic number 98** on the periodic table.
- It is not found **naturally** and is produced through **nuclear reactions**, specifically by **bombarding curium** with helium ions.
 - **Curium** is a **hard metal** having an **atomic number of 96** and symbol **Cm**. This metal is artificially produced in the nuclear reactors.
 - A **helium ion** is a **positively charged atom of helium**, typically denoted as **He+**. It is formed when a helium atom loses one or more of its electrons.
- **Properties:**
 - Californium is **highly radioactive** and is both valuable and hazardous.
 - It belongs to the **actinide series** on the periodic table.
 - Notable isotopes include **Cf-251**, which is the most stable with a **half-life of 898 years**, as well as **Cf-249** and **Cf-250**, which have shorter half-lives.

➤ Radioactivity:

- It is the property of some unstable atoms (radionuclides) to spontaneously emit nuclear radiation, usually **alpha particles** or **beta particles** often accompanied by **gamma-rays**.

➤ Department of Atomic Energy:

- The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** was set up under the direct charge of the **Prime Minister** through a **Presidential Order on August 3, 1954**.
- As per this order, all businesses of the Government of India, related to **Atomic Energy** and to the functions of the Central Government under the **Atomic Energy Act, 1948** were directed to be transacted in the **Department of Atomic Energy**.

➤ Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC):

- **BARC** is **India's leading nuclear research facility** that operates under the **Department of Atomic Energy**.

- As a **multi-disciplinary research center**, BARC is equipped with extensive infrastructure for advanced R&D, spanning the full range of nuclear science, engineering, and related fields.
- It also serves as the primary research support for the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL)**, which manages all of India's nuclear reactors.

Kharif Crops Destroyed in Bihar

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Farmers in northern Bihar** are facing **severe crop damage** due to **unexpected late-season floods** that have submerged thousands of acres of standing crops, **including paddy and vegetables**.

Key Points

- Floodwaters have spread across hundreds of villages in districts like **Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa, Madhubani, and Bhagalpur**, submerging vast stretches of farmland.
 - The rising water levels in the **Kosi and Ganga rivers**, as well as the **Burhi Gandak and Gandak rivers**, have caused significant flooding and crop damage.
- The **floods have displaced many people**, forcing them to live in isolated villages cut off from nearby markets and offices.
 - Also caused a **shortage of both green and dry fodder for animals**, further exacerbating the hardship faced by affected communities.
- Despite the widespread destruction there is a lack of response from **Bihar Disaster Management Department**.
- Flooding is not a new phenomenon in Bihar, affecting thousands of people annually, particularly in the **Ganga, Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, and Mahananda river** basins.
- **Bihar** is the **most flood-prone state in India**, with around 6.88 million hectares of the state's total area of 9.41 million hectares classified as **vulnerable to flooding**.

Flood

- It is an **overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry**. Floods can happen during heavy rains, when ocean waves come on shore, when snow melts quickly, or when dams or levees break.

Note:

- Damaging flooding may happen with only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Floods can occur within minutes or over a long period, and may last days, weeks, or longer. Floods are the most common and widespread of all weather-related natural disasters.
- **Flash floods** are the most dangerous kind of floods, because they combine the destructive power of a flood with incredible speed.
 - Flash floods occur when heavy rainfall exceeds the ability of the ground to absorb it.
 - They also occur when water fills normally dry creeks or streams or enough water accumulates for streams to overtop their banks, causing rapid rises of water in a short amount of time.
 - They can happen within minutes of the causative rainfall, limiting the time available to warn and protect the public.

NCPCR Chief Demands UN Probe in Bihar Madrasas

Why in News?

Recently, the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** chairman raised serious concerns over the “radical” curriculum in government-funded madrasas of Bihar and the enrolment of Hindu children in these schools.

Key Points

- The chairman criticised the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** for its role in developing this curriculum for madrasas.
 - He also called on the **United Nations** to investigate these activities and urged that the **Madrasa Board be dissolved**.
 - Many books included in the curriculum of these madrasas are published in Pakistan and research on their content is ongoing.
- The use of funds for activities outside the scope of the **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009** constitutes a violation of both the **Indian Constitution** and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- NCPCR is a **statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**.
- It is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- The Commission’s mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programs, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It **inquiries into complaints relating to a child’s right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009**.
- It monitors the implementation of the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

- It is a treaty adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly in 1989**.
- It recognises a child as every human being under 18 years old.
- It sets out the **civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child**, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.
 - It includes rights such as Right to Education, Right to Rest and Leisure, Right to Protection from Mental or Physical Abuse including Rape and Sexual Exploitation.
- It is the **world’s most widely ratified human rights treaty**.

Kosi-Mechi Link Project

Why in News?

The **Kosi-Mechi Link Project** in Bihar aims to interlink the Kosi and Mechi rivers. This initiative is part of a larger plan to manage water resources and improve irrigation in the region.

Key Points

- **Fund Allocation:** In the recent **Budget session**, the Centre announced an allocation of **Rs 11,500 crore** to help with flood control in Bihar.
- **Irrigation:** The project aims to provide irrigation support to **215,000 hectares of agricultural land** in the **Mahananda river basin** during the **Kharif season**.

Note:

- **Flood Control:** While the project has the potential to offer some flood control benefits, the primary focus remains on **improving irrigation**.
- **Local Protests:**
 - **Opposition:** There has been significant local opposition to the project. Farmers and residents have voiced concerns that the project may not adequately address **flood control issues** and could potentially **disrupt local water resources**.
 - **Demand for Attention:** Protesters are calling for a focus on **comprehensive flood management solutions** rather than solely relying on river interlinking.
- **Environmental and Social Concerns:**
 - **Impact on Ecosystems:** There are worries about the potential environmental impacts of linking rivers, including changes to local ecosystems and biodiversity.
 - **Displacement and Livelihoods:** There are concerns about the displacement of communities and the impact on local livelihoods.
- **Government Response:** The government is defending the project, emphasizing its benefits for irrigation and potential economic gains for the region. However, there is an ongoing dialogue to address the concerns raised by the local communities.

- As a result, the intestine absorbs fewer sugar molecules, which results in low blood sugar levels.
- In addition, the plant contains flavonoids and saponins, which help regulate lipid metabolism.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- CSIR is the largest **research and development (R&D) organisation** in India. **CSIR has a pan-India presence** and has a dynamic network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.
- **Established:** September 1942
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- CSIR is funded by the **Ministry of Science and Technology** and it operates as an **autonomous body** through the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- CSIR covers a wide spectrum of streams – from radio and space physics, oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.
 - It provides significant **technological intervention** in many areas with regard to **societal efforts** which include the **environment, health, drinking water, food, housing, energy, and farm and non-farm sectors**.

Gurmar Found on Gaya's Brahmayoni Hill

Why in News?

Recently, A team of researchers has uncovered an array of medicinal plants at **Brahmayoni Hill** in Gaya, Bihar, with **Gymnema sylvestre (commonly known as Gurmar)** being one of the notable findings that is known as **anti-diabetic herb**.

Key Points

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has already utilized this medicinal herb in developing the **anti-diabetic drug BGR-34**.
- Gurmar is known for its unique ability to reduce blood sugar levels due to the presence of **gymnemic acid** which works by occupying receptor sites in the outer lining of the intestine, thereby **curbing cravings for sweetness**.

Multipurpose Buildings on Waqf Board Land

Why in News?

The government of Bihar is making preparations to construct **multipurpose buildings**, wedding halls, market complexes and other structures **to develop the properties that are registered under the Sunni and Shia Waqf Boards**.

Key Points

- **Ten projects had been proposed for construction** of multi-purpose buildings, market complexes and libraries in **Patna, Purnea, Kaimur, Katihar, Kishanganj, Nawada and Siwan in 2023-24**.
- Under the **Bihar Rajya Madarsa Sudridhikaran Yojana (BRMSY)** the state government has also decided to set up 21 new madrasas in various parts of the state.

Note:

- Facilities such as **drinking water, libraries, equipment, toilets and computer science labs** are provided for strengthening the madrasa infrastructure.

Waqf Board

- A Waqf board is a **legal entity** capable of **acquiring, holding and transferring property**. It **can sue and be sued in court**.
- It **administers** Waqf properties, **recovers** lost properties and **sanctions** the transfer of immovable Waqf properties through sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease, with at least two-thirds of the board members voting in favour of the transaction.
- The **Central Waqf Council (CWC)**, established in **1964**, oversees and advises state level Waqf Boards across India.
- **Waqf Properties:** The Waqf board is said to be **the third-largest landholder** in India after the Railways and the Defence department.
 - Currently, there are 8,72,292 registered Waqf properties spread across 8 lakh acres. These properties generate Rs 200 crore in revenue.
 - Once a property is **designated as a Waqf**, it becomes **non-transferable** and is **detained perpetually** as a charitable act toward God, essentially transferring ownership to God.

Stampede at Temple in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, several people died after a **stampede** occurred at **Baba Siddhnath Temple** in Makhdumpur, located in the **Jehanabad district** of Bihar.

Key Points

- The incident was reportedly sparked by a **dispute among kanwariyas and flower vendors near the temple entrance**.
- Local authorities are investigating the cause, and **financial assistance has been announced for the families of the victims**.

Stampede

- **About:**
 - A stampede is an impulsive mass **movement of a crowd** that **often results in injuries and deaths**.

- It is often **triggered by response to a perceived danger**, loss of physical space and a collective will to attain something seen as gratifying.

Types:

- **Two main types of stampedes are Unidirectional stampedes** occur when a crowd moving in the same direction encounters a sudden change in force, triggered by forces like sudden stops or negative forces like broken barriers.
- **Turbulent stampedes** happen in situations with uncontrolled crowds, induced panic, or crowds merging from multiple directions.

Fatalities in Stampedes:

- Stampedes can cause fatalities through:
 - **Traumatic Asphyxia: It is the most common cause that occurs** due to external **compression of the thorax or upper abdomen**. Can happen even in moderate crowds of 6-7 people pushing in one direction.
 - **Other causes:** Myocardial infarction (heart attack), Direct crushing injuries to internal organs, Head injuries and Neck compression.

GI Tag for Five Iconic Products

Why in News?

The Bihar state agriculture department is working together with **Bihar Agricultural University (BAU)** in Bhagalpur to obtain **geographical indication (GI)** certification for at least 54 distinct region-specific products.

- Research is already in advanced stages for **five key items** as part of this collaborative effort.

Key Points

- Five advanced stage products are **'litti chokha' (Bihar's staple dish), Sonachur rice and Gulshan tomato from Rohtas, 'singhara' (water chestnut) and Digha Malda mango from Patna**.
- The states with the **most geographical indication (GI) tags** are **Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
 - Bihar has **six GI-tagged products** - **Shahi litchi, Bhagalpuri Zardalu mango, Katarni rice, Maricha rice, Magahi paan (betel leaf) and makhana (foxnut)**.

Note:



- The central government's commerce ministry is backing the drive for Geographical Indication (GI) tags, in accordance with India's commitments as a member of the [World Trade Organization](#) and under the [TRIPS \(Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights\) agreement](#).

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the **authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory** are allowed to use the popular product name.
 - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered GI is **valid for 10 years**.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Bihar Mandates Registration of Temples, Mutts, and Trusts

Why in News?

Recently, The **Bihar government** has instructed all the officials to ensure that **unregistered temples, monasteries, and religious trusts are registered**, and the details of their immovable properties are submitted to the [Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts \(BSBRT\)](#).

Key Points

- According to the **Bihar Hindu Religious Trusts Act, 1950**, all **public temples, mutts, trusts, and dharamshalas** must be registered with the BSBRT.
 - The **state government will take stringent action against those involved in illegal property transactions** of registered temples, mutts, or trusts, as well as against unregistered entities that fail to register with the BSBRT.
- According to the latest data from BSBRT, there are approximately **2,512 unregistered temples and mutts in the state, owning 4,321.64 acres**.
 - The state has about 2,499 registered temples, which collectively own over 18,456 acres.

Alert in Bihar Districts due to Bangladesh Situation

Why in News?

Recently, an alert was issued in many parts of Bihar in the wake of the [unrest in neighbouring Bangladesh](#).

Key Points

- None of the districts in Bihar is located along the border with Bangladesh, the state does share a long and porous **boundary with Nepal**.
 - This border is frequently **used by infiltrators** from other countries **to enter Indian territory**.
- Bangladesh was thrown into uncertainty after **massive street protests over job quotas** compelled **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee**.

Situation in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh has experienced a **major political upheaval**. **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned and left the country** amid widespread protests and unrest.
- The Bangladesh Army, led by **General Waker-uz-Zaman**, has announced the **formation of an interim government** with the support of political parties.
- This development marks a significant **shift in Bangladesh's political landscape, ending Hasina's 15-year tenure as Prime Minister** and raising questions about the nation's future stability and governance.

Adani Cement Investment in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the **Bihar Chief Minister** laid the **foundation stone for a Rs 1,600 crore** cement grinding unit of **Ambuja Concrete North Private Limited**, a subsidiary of Gautam Adani's **Ambuja Cement Limited (ACL)**, in the Warisaliganj industrial area of **Bihar's Nawada district**.

Key Points

- The **6 Million tonnes per annum (MTPA) project** will be implemented in stages, with the first phase slated for completion by December 2025. It will create 250 direct jobs and 1,000 indirect jobs.

Note:

- The cement unit is anticipated **to generate Rs 250 crore in revenue** for the government on an annual basis.
- The **Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority** has allocated 73 acres of land for the establishment of the cement unit.
- Adani Group has **also proposed additional investments of Rs 5,500 crore in Bihar** for a **new cement plant in Muzaffarpur's Motipur**, a logistic godown near Patna, and agricultural logistic godowns at Araria, Kishanganj, and Begusarai.

Lightning Strike Kills in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, At least 12 people were killed by **lightning strikes** in different parts of Bihar. The **Chief Minister expressed his condolences** over the deaths and **announced an ex gratia of 4 lakh each for their families.**

- **Ex gratia** meaning is a **payment made out of virtue** to individuals by an organization or government for **claims and damages.**

Key Points

- The Chief minister has asked people to be **vigilant and stay at home during thunderstorms.**

- He has also encouraged citizens to adhere to the advisories released by the **State Disaster Management Department** regarding thunderstorms and heavy rainfall.
- According to the **Bihar Economic Survey report for 2023-2024**, the state witnessed **400 deaths related to lightning and thunderstorms in 2022-23** and the highest number of deaths were reported from Gaya (46), Bhojpur (23) and Nawada (21).
- The state government allocated Rs 430 crore for management of disasters in 2022-23 and of this Rs 285.22 crore went toward local disasters like lightning and drowning.

Lightning

- It is the natural process of “**an electrical discharge of very little duration and high voltage** between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud,” accompanied by a bright flash, a loud sound, and occasionally thunderstorms.
- **Cloud-to-ground (CG) lightning is dangerous because** it can electrocute people due to its high electric voltage and current. **Inter- or intra-cloud lightning** is visible and safe.

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Note:



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