



Bihar Requests Funds Under PMAY-G | Bihar | 30 Aug 2024

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.
- **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 | Bihar | 30 Aug 2024

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.
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Jharkhand Cabinet Waives Power Dues | Jharkhand | 30 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The **Jharkhand government** has decided to **waive Rs 3,584 crore in power dues for around 39.44 lakh consumers** benefiting from the 200-unit free electricity scheme.

Key Points

- The decision aims to alleviate the financial pressures on domestic consumers registered under the **Mukhyamantri Urja Khushali Yojana**.
- Other decisions that were approved by the state government are:
 - [Ex gratia payment](#) of **Rs 10 lakh** and a government job for the families of [Agniveer soldiers](#) from Jharkhand who die during duty or military operations.
 - **Ex-gratia payment** is the money which is paid due to moral obligation and not due to legal obligation.
 - Extending the remuneration period for [anganwadi poshan sakhis](#) and cooks from 10 to 12 months.
 - The re-appointment of 10,388 poshan sakhis in six districts - Dhanbad, Dumka, Giridih, Chatra, Koderma, and Godda.

Agnipath Scheme

- The term "**Agniveer**" translates to "Fire-Warriors" and is a **new military rank**.
 - It is a scheme of **recruiting army personnel below officer ranks** such as **soldiers, airmen, and sailors** who are not commissioned officers to the **Indian Armed Forces**.
 - They are recruited for a period of **4 years**, after which, **upto 25%** of these recruits (called Agniveers), can join the services on a **permanent commission** (another 15 years), subject to merit and organisational requirements.
 - At present, **all sailors, airmen, and soldiers**, except the technical cadre of the medical branch, are recruited to the services under this scheme.
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No Snow on Om Parvat | Uttarakhand | 30 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, For the first time in recorded history, snow has vanished from [Om Parvat in Uttarakhand](#), sparking profound concerns among **environmentalists**.

Key Points

- Experts have attributed this unprecedented event primarily to the deficient rainfall and sporadic snowfall observed in the upper [Himalayan region](#) over the past five years.
- The significant **decline in precipitation has directly contributed to the diminishing snow cover on Om Parvat**. Moreover, the escalation of vehicular pollution and the effects of [global warming](#) have further aggravated the situation.
 - The implications of this event has potential repercussions for the region's [tourism industry](#).
- The disappearance of snow from Om Parvat serves as a stark indicator of the broader ramifications of [climate change](#).
 - The Himalayan region, characterized by its fragile ecosystem, is especially **susceptible to alterations in temperature and precipitation patterns**.
 - The rise in global temperatures has **accelerated glacier melt and diminished snowfall**, impacting the region's natural beauty and the water resources.
- **Efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change** in the region must encompass measures such as **reducing vehicular emissions, managing forest fires, and promoting sustainable tourism practices**.
 - Assessing the carrying capacity of [ecologically sensitive areas](#) and **enforcing stringent regulations on vehicular activity** can aid in preserving the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Himalayas.



Om Parvat

- It is located in the **Vyas Valley of Pithoragarh district**, Uttarakhand at an altitude of approximately 14,000 feet.
 - It is renowned for its snow-capped peak that **naturally forms a pattern resembling the Hindu symbol "Om."**
 - This unique feature has made it a **popular destination for tourists and pilgrims alike**.
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New Rail Projects | Chhattisgarh | 30 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, [the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs](#), chaired by the Prime Minister **approved the three new rail projects** with a total estimated cost of Rs 6,456 crore.

Key Points

- According to the Prime Minister, the three new railways related projects approved by the Cabinet will greatly benefit **Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh**.
- According to the railway ministry, these **projects will improve logistical efficiency, increase line capacity, and enhance transportation networks, resulting in streamlined supply chains and accelerated economic growth**.
 - The projects are result of [PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity](#) which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

- **Chaired by the Prime Minister**, CCEA lays down the **priorities for public sector investment** and considers specific proposals for investment of not less than specific levels as revised from time to time.
- Its responsibilities includes **setting priorities for public sector investment, Considering investment proposals, Reviewing economic trends, Developing an economic policy framework, and Directing and coordinating economic activities and policies**

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity

- It is a [Made in India](#) initiative, a transformative 'whole-of-government' approach for **integrated planning of multimodal infrastructure connectivity** to economic nodes and social infrastructure, thereby improving logistics efficiency.
 - PM Gati Shakti principles bring **socio-economic area-based development as part of regional connectivity**.
 - PM GatiShakti was **launched in October 2021**.
- The Gati Shakti scheme subsumed Rs. 110 lakh crore [National Infrastructure Pipeline](#) launched in 2019.
- PM Gatishakti National Master Plan is a [Geographic Information System \(GIS\)](#) data-based digital platform with over 1400 data layers and 50+ tools.
 - It provides visual representation of trunk and utility infrastructure, land use, existing structures, soil quality, habitation, tourism sites, forest sensitive areas etc.
- The initiative is also being implemented to enhance connectivity with regional partners as well. Some of the suitable examples are:
 - The **Indo-Nepal Haldia Access Controlled** Corridor project (eastern Indian states and Nepal)
 - [Regional Waterways Grid \(RWG\) project](#) for multimodal connectivity to growth centres and border points.