

February 2019

1. Bihar Budget 2019-20

- Sushil Kumar Modi presented the state budget of Rs 2,00,501 crore for the Financial Year 2019-20.
- Bihar has finished with highest growth rate among all the states by size of this budget at Rs 2 lakh crore is nine times more than the budget of 2004-05.
- The maximum allocation of Rs 34,799 crore is made to the Education Sector.
- Rs 2,958.77 crore allocated for Rural Development and Rural Works Department.

Note:

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2. Bihar government announced Mukhya Mantri Vriddha Pension Yojana

- Bihar Chief Minister announced a Universal Old Age Pension scheme, named Mukhya Mantri Vriddha Pension Yojana (MMVPY).

Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna (MVPY)

- The scheme covers a person above the age of 60 (if they are not getting any another pension from state or central government), irrespective of their financial, family or caste status will get a sum of Rs. 400/ month directly in their bank account.
- Each person above at the age of 80 or above will get a pension of Rs. 500/ month directly in their bank account.
- The scheme aims to cover an estimated 36 lakh senior citizens who were still not privy to any salary, pension or family pension.
- The state cabinet had sanctioned a sum of Rs 384 crore from Bihar Contingency Fund for the payment of the universal old age pension scheme for the financial year 2019-20.
- **Bihar has become the first state in India to launch a universal old age pension scheme.**
- In other states, old age pensions are provided only to members of either BPL family of 60 years and above, SC/ST or widows or disabled persons.

3. Ganga basin States stare at the three-fold rise in crop failures by 2040

- According to an assessment by the World Bank submitted to the Central Water Commission the Ganga river basin could see crop failures rise three-fold and drinking water shortage can go up by as much as 39% in some States between now and 2040.

Highlights of the Report

- The report says that Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar are likely to face a deficit in irrigation water of 28%, 10%, 10% and 15% respectively in 2040 as compared to the current levels if no proper steps are taken.

4. Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon and Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh jointly inaugurated three-day Krishi Kumbh in Motihari (Bihar).



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5. **Gupteshwar Pandey** has taken charge as the new **Director General of Police (DGP)** of Bihar. He succeeds current **DGP K S Dwivedi**.

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