

## Bihar Current Affairs June 2019

### 1. **Bihar bans tree-felling**

- The Government of Bihar banned felling of trees, citing increasing pollution as well as a fatal heatwave.
- The order was passed under the Forest Conservation Act.
- Trees on private land, however, can be felled in the absence of a tree-protection Act in Bihar.
- Bihar has been able to increase its green cover from seven to 15 per cent under the Green Mission.

### 2. **Bihar govt launched Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna**

- Bihar Government has launched "Mukhya Mantri Vridha Pension Yojna" a universal old age pension scheme.

#### **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 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. **Outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Bihar**

#### **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**

- It is characterized by an acute onset of fever and clinical neurological manifestation that includes mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma.
- It has been caused by several different viruses, bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemical/ toxins etc.
- It predominantly affects the population below 15 years.
- In India, AES outbreaks in the north and eastern India have been linked to children eating unripe litchi fruit on empty stomachs.
- Unripe fruit contains the toxins hypoglycin A and methylenecyclopropylglycine (MCPG), which cause vomiting if ingested in large quantities.
- **Hypoglycin A** is a naturally occurring amino acid found in the unripened litchi that causes severe vomiting (Jamaican vomiting sickness).
- **Methylenecyclopropylglycine** is a poisonous compound found in litchi seeds that causes a sudden drop in blood sugar, vomiting, altered mental states leading to lethargy, unconsciousness, coma and death.



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- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
- Nipah virus, Zika viruses are also found as causative agents for AES.

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