

# December, 2019

1. <u>Nitish Kumar launches development schemes worth Rs 137 crore in</u> <u>Sheohar district as part of his 'Jal-Jivan Hariyali' Yatra</u>

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launched altogether 167 development schemes, worth Rs 137 crore, through remote control during a 'Jagrukta Sammelan' at Collectorate ground in Sheohar. The sammelan was organised as part of the fourth leg of his 'Jal-Jivan-Hariyali' yatra.

The CM also released a book based on the 'Jal-Jivan-Hariyali Abhiyan' on this occasion.

## 2. New policy for population control to be ready soon for the State

Bihar, one of the most populous states in the country, will have a new populationcontrol policy soon, the state's health minister said.

The new policy will be aimed at increasing the use of injectable contraceptives, creating more awareness among men and women — particularly young women in high schools and colleges — on population control and the use of contraceptives, expanding existing medical festivals and, most likely, offering a package of incentives and disincentives.

The Bihar government in July 2018 introduced Antara, an injectable contraceptive that can block pregnancy for up to three months. It was made available for free to every health centre in the state, with an advisory citing that pregnancy can occur 7-10 months after the last dose of the contraceptive.

## 3. Shiv Das Meena appointed as Chairman of PMRC

Mr. Shiv Das Meena has assumed the charge of Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation Limited (PMRC), a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed to implement Patna Metro Rail project in Bihar.

He is The 1989-Batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre and additional secretary & CVO in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, Meena took the charge of Chairman, PMRC on December 14, 2019.

## 4. Patna, seven other cities stare at water crisis

Even as Bihar continues to face acute shortage of potable water, the proposed 'State Groundwater Authority' is yet to see the light of the day.

In 2006, the state minor irrigation department had proposed to set up a state-level authority on the pattern of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to regulate the exploitation of groundwater resources, but it did not materialize

The proposed Bill was supposed to ensure better management and conservation of groundwater, the level of which is going down fast. Its passage would not only regulate water use, but also focus on its conservation by digging out ponds and cleaning choked water bodies to recharge the groundwater.

So far as Patna is concerned, the water table has reportedly gone down 10 to 15 feet in recent years. Over-exploitation through deep tubewells is forcing the groundwater reservoir to deplete faster than it is being replenished.



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## 5. First-of-its kind turtle rehab centre comes up in Bihar

A first-of-its-kind rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles will be inaugurated in Bihar's Bhagalpur forest division in January 2020. The rehab centre, spread over half a hectare, will be able to shelter 500 turtles at a time.

According to environmentalists, the turtles play a significant role in the river by scavenging dead organic materials and diseased fish, controlling fish population as predators and controlling aquatic plants and weeds. They are also described as indicators of healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The turtles have come under serious threat primarily for two reasons — food and the flourishing pet trade.

#### 6. <u>The Chairman of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Braj Bihari</u> <u>Kumar passed away.</u>

Mr' Kumar was appointed as the chairman of the ICSSR in May 2017. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in the year 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.





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