

Bihar Specific Current Affairs: July 2021

Valmiki Tiger Reserve becomes one of the 14 Tiger Reserves to receive CA|TS Accreditation

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC) has announced that 14 Tiger Reserves from across India have received accreditation from Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- The Tiger Reserves are located in the following states: Assam(3), Madhya Pradesh(2), Tamil Nadu (2), Maharashtra (1), Bihar(1), Uttar Pradesh (1), West Bengal(1), Kerala(1), Karnataka (1).
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve which is located in West Champaran district of Bihar is one of the Tiger reserves that received accreditation.**
- The announcement was made on the International Tiger Day 2021, which was celebrated on 29 July 2021.
- Along with the announcement of Tiger Reserves, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Singh also released a report “**Status of Leopards, Co-Predators and Megaherbivores 2018**” and special edition of “**STRIPES**” which is the quarterly newsletter of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- In related news, The population of Tigers in Assam has increased to 200 from 159 in 2018. In 2021, there are 121 Tigers in Kaziranga, 48 in Manas, 28 in Orang and 3 in Nameri Tiger Reserve.

Patna among 10 cities where SMILE scheme of Ministry of Social Justice and Environment will be implemented

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Environment has announced a scheme for the welfare of the beggars in the country. SMILE- Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise scheme has been launched to provides support and welfare to millions of Beggars in the country.
- The main objective of the Scheme will be rehabilitation, counselling, basic documents, medical needs, identification, education etc.
- The scheme will engage the local bodies, NGOs, Community based organizations, institutions, and others in achieving its goals.
- Existing shelter homes built by State/UT governments or local bodies will be used to rehabilitate the beggars, in the areas where no existing shelter homes are available, the concerned agencies will develop new shelter homes to rehabilitate the beggars.
- Under the Pilot Project the scheme is being implemented in the following 10 cities: **Delhi, Bangalore (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Lucknow (UP), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Patna (Bihar) and Ahmedabad (Gujarat).**

1st Train movement trial successfully conducted between Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal

- On July 18 2021, The first ever High Speed Rail line between India and Nepal saw a successful trial run between Jayanagar in Madhubani district in Bihar and Kurtha in Mahottari district of Nepal.
- The 50 km Railway line project has been built at the cost of Rs 619 Crores and covers 5 railway stations along the route (Jaynagar, Inarwa, Khajuri, Baidehi and Kurtha).
- The Railway line has been constructed by IRCON (Indian Railway Construction limited) under India-Nepal friendship project. The project has been financed by the Union of India.
- The High-Speed train will cover a distance of 50 km in 23 minutes at a speed of 115 kmph. The 34 km long rail line is yet to be constructed; it will be built in two phases. The first phase will increase connectivity from Kurtha to Bhangaha (17km) in Nepal and the second phase will connect Bhangaha with Bardibas in Nepal (17km).
- Konkan Rail Corporation Limited(KRCL), a part of Indian Railways has delivered two modern DEMU(Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) trains to Nepal for Jaynagar-Kurtha Railway Line Project.

Bihar recorded maximum deaths due to lightning strikes since 2019

Lightning is a very rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere. It is the process of occurrence of a natural 'electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud', accompanied by a bright flash and sound, and sometimes thunderstorms.

- According to the recent, second annual lightning report, Bihar has recorded the highest number of deaths caused by lightning across the country.
- Between April 2020 to March 2021, 401 deaths were reported from Bihar as a direct result of lightning.
- Bihar is followed by Uttar Pradesh where 228 deaths have been reported and Uttar Pradesh is followed by Odisha and Jharkhand with 156 and 132 deaths respectively.
- Maximum states have reported decline in deaths due to lightning except Bihar which has reported a 80% increase in deaths between 2019 to 2020. Overall there has been a 34% increase in the lightning strikes all over the nation.

Private member Bills for Population Control in Lok Sabha by Bihar MPs

- Sushil Kumar Singh, who is Member of Parliament (BJP) from Aurangabad district of Bihar is going to introduce a private member bill in Lok Sabha with an objective of setting up National Population Planning Committee and District Population Planning Committee.

- Another private member Bill by JD(U) MP Dr Alok Kumar Suman is being put forward which aims to suggest immediate measures to control the overpopulation in the country. The bill promotes small family norms of upto 2 children.
- Population Control measure bills have been a matter of discussion after introduction of such bills in the Assembly of Uttar Pradesh and Assam. According to an independent data analysis, 168 out of present 540 MPs have more than 2 children.

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