



## Hon'ble President of India inaugurates 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Dharma-Dhamma at Rajgir in Bihar

Hon'ble President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Dharma-Dhamma on January 11, 2018 at Rajgir in Bihar. The conference was organised by Nalanda University in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Religion and Society, India Foundation, and the Ministry of External Affairs with an aim to provide an opportunity to academics and policy makers from India and abroad to share ideas and build collaboration for a better world. Addressing the conference, the Hon'ble President said that Buddhism promoted pluralism and diversity of thoughts.

The inaugural function of the three-day conference was based on the theme 'State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions', and was also attended by Hon'ble Governor of Bihar Satya Pal Malik, Hon'ble Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi along with Sri Lankan foreign minister Tilak Marapana. The participants from 11 countries attended the three-day conference and a total of 60 papers on its theme were presented in the conference.

Welcoming the delegates in conference, Mr. Nitish Kumar presented an idea of setting up of an International Centre for Conflict Resolution at Nalanda University for which his government would provide land.

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The people associated with Bihar Foundation were planning to launch a monthly newsletter since a long time, which could provide a factual account of that month's positive activities in Bihar; an account, which could encourage them to be emotionally attached to the social-cultural and economic mainstream of Bihar. At the same time, it is a natural feeling for any immigrant to be attached to ones roots and heritage. The mainstream media, because of its inherent characteristics, is unable to highlight those points to the non-resident Biharis, which would make them feel very proud of their heritage. Even though, there is no dearth of such initiatives, every day, every week and every month in Bihar, what is required is to preserve such efforts.



Bihar Foundation took this step around two years back through social media. This newsletter was the second important step taken in the same direction. It helped non-resident Biharis to connect to each other, to their roots and to the positive energy flowing in Bihar. The third and the most critical of these steps is to also write about its soft power - language, art, music, painting, food and such binding constituents - in an e-magazine so that people develop self pride and a stronger sense of identity. All these 3 steps - would help all non-resident Biharis to become brand ambassadors of Bihar, wherever they are.

**- Dr S. Siddharth, IAS**

*Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Foundation*



## Farmer in 13 districts of Bihar now can sell agriculture products through online portal E-RaKAM



The farmers of 13 districts in Bihar will now sell their products through online portal. An online portal E-RaKAM (Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi) is being launched to facilitate the online selling and purchasing of agro-products in the state. In the first phase of its implementation, the centre will be opened in 13 districts of the state, namely, Patna, Nalanda, Buxar, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Munger, Bhagalpur, Kishanganj, Jamui and Katihar. JEEVIKA, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, has inked an MoU in this regard with the Central Food and Consumer Ministry. It is getting started with the purchase of maize and later all crops will be incorporated under the scheme.

E-RaKAM is a digital initiative that facilitates the process of sale and purchase of agricultural products by bringing together the farmers, FPOs, PSU, citizens and buyers at one stage. The initiative will enable the buyers of national and international markets to purchase quality agricultural products without involving any middlemen. The farmers can get fair value for their produce. The payment will be made directly in farmers' account through E-payment, thus increasing the income of farmers.

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## Human-chain formed across the state to oppose child-marriage and dowry

A state-wide human-chain over 14,000 kilometres long was formed as part of the state government's campaign to spread awareness against social evils like child-marriage and dowry. Hon'ble Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, along with deputy CM, flagged off the initiative from the historic Gandhi Maidan. The human chain this year was expected to be 13,660 km long with an estimated four crore people participation in the formation in comparison with an estimated distance of 11,292 km involving two crore citizens in last year.

The balloons printed with slogans supporting the campaign against the social evils were released at the programme. The participants stood holding each other's hands, and carrying huge banners and placards carrying the message against dowry and



child marriage. The human-chain passed through National Highway, State Highway, District, Block, Panchayat and the roads and trails of the villages in the state.

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## Darbhanga to get air connectivity soon

Regional air flight-operation is set to take off in Bihar. Air service is going to start from Darbhanga, 150 km northeast of the state capital. The civilian flight operation will start from this Indian Air Force's Darbhanga airstrip within the next six months for which all the plans are in progress. Private sector low-cost airlines IndiGo and SpiceJet have expressed interest to start flight operations to New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore under the Central Government's UDAN scheme.

Before starting the flight operation, a terminal building will be constructed at Darbhanga Air Force Airport. A four-member team of Airport Authority of India and DGCA visited Darbhanga in November 2017 to start the operation. Under the central UDAN scheme, central government will spend 100 crores for the development of Darbhanga airport. Darbhanga Airport is supposed to be suitable for airbus flights such as Airbus 320 and Boeing 737.

Apart from flight operation from Darbhanga, a plan to extend Patna airport is also in pipeline. Soon, 108 acres of land acquired for Bihata Airport will be handed over to the Airport Authority. Project management consultants and designs have been approved for the new terminal with capacity of 45 million passengers at the cost of 803 crores to be built at Patna airport. Also, the IAF controlled airstrip of Purnea will be opened for commercial flights by the end of the year.

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## CM Nitish Kumar discusses Delhi-Patna Expressway projects with Nitin Gadkari

A meeting was held between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways. Long discussions were held in the meeting regarding roads projects and Ganga rejuvenation in the state. Nitin Gadkari instructed the officials to speed up the re-construction work of



Mahatma Gandhi Bridge, the life-line of north Bihar, to finish the work within stipulated time.

The meeting also witnessed the discussion about Delhi-Patna Expressway. He advised to make DPR of Delhi-Patna Expressway. After this proposed expressway, the estimated travel time from Patna to Delhi will be 11 hrs only. A proposed new bridge on the Ganges, parallel to the Vikramshila Setu in Bhagalpur, along with Patna Ring Road project also figured in meeting.

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## Boating facilities to begin up to 50 kms in Ganga from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon in Bhagalpur

Promoting eco-tourism in Bihar, Forest and Environment Department will start boating facilities in Ganga from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon, covering approximately 50 Kms of distance. For this, a 25-seater motor boat has been purchased at a cost of 15 lakhs. By the end of March, eco-tourism will begin in the Dolphin Sanctuary area.





The visitors now can enjoy the aquatic birds including the dolphin with the help of boat and can infer their contribution in protecting the environment. The environmentalists will also accompany the visitors to provide them information about these aquatic creatures and birds.

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## Bihar government to help new start-up

A new initiative has been taken up in the state to promote start-up. This decision of the government will benefit particularly IT, food processing, textile, apparel and leather industries.



In addition, the Govt. will give relaxation in the amount spent on GST return, EPF and ESI. The state government will also provide Skill Development Subsidy assistance of Rs 20 thousand on every job provided under the start-up. Out of total 3,751 proposals received online for startup, a total of 22 proposals have already received the first installment of 55 lakhs. Under this scheme, the government will provide maximum 10 lakh rupees interest-free loans for 10 years to the entrepreneurs.

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## State to have an agro-forestry policy soon to raise greenery

In connection with an agro-forestry policy to raise greenery in the state, the department has started work on setting up a committee that would formulate the policy. The committee will submit the comprehensive document, which would be the first-of-its-kind in Bihar, in the three-month time.



This initiative has great significance as Bihar has been laying special emphasis on promoting agro-forestry to add to its green cover on one hand and to add to farmers' income by diverse use of farm land on the other. Agro-forestry is the habit of planting particular varieties of trees on some part of agricultural land that give good economic returns to farmers in four to five years. Bihar aims to plant 3.8 crore plants of other species and 1.5 crore of popular species plants in five years under its agro-forestry scheme.

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## State to sign MoU with Bihar Cricket Association to develop Moin-ul- Haq Stadium

After Supreme Court's nod to resume participation of Bihar Cricket Association in Ranji Trophy, Bihar Government is planning to sign an MoU with the association to develop Moin-ul- Haq Stadium. The stadium will be developed in such way that high level training can be provided to Biharis who aspire to be cricketer.

There has not been a single international match at Moin-ul-Haq Stadium post partition of Bihar. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi inaugurated the four-day





Bihar Eklavya Games and informed that 370 children are being trained by 22 Eklavya State Residential Sports Training Centers currently in the state. He also informed that the Government's aim is to open 17 Eklavya residential sports training centers next year and to train 1,000 children.

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## Bihar gets Kalam award for grievance redressal

Bihar has won Kalam Innovation in Governance Award (KIGA) for exemplary implementation and monitoring of the Bihar Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act (BRPGR).

Additional mission director Dr. Pratima received the award on behalf of Bihar Prashasanik Sudhar Mission Society (BPSMS) at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan on January 20.

Bihar Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act, first of its kind in the country, was introduced in 2015 to give legal right to citizens for time-bound hearing and redressal of their grievances. Since its implementation, the Act has benefited lakhs of citizens, including those with long-pending grievances. The Act is also the first in the country to ensure that an impartial authority

looks into each and every grievance and passes orders based on evidence from citizens as well as public authorities.

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## Sharda Sinha and Manas Verma conferred with Padma Bhushan and Padma Shree Award



Noted folk-singer from Bihar Sharda Sinha was bestowed with the coveted Padma Bhushan award for her contribution in the field of art and music. Manas Bihari Verma, an eminent scientist from Darbhanga, was conferred with Padm Shri 2017 for his contribution in the field of science and engineering.

While Sinha is well known for her folk songs including many super-hit Chhath songs, Verma, a graduate of erstwhile Bihar College of Engineering in Patna, is a former Program Director of Tejas, India's first indigenous supersonic fighter aircraft who also worked closely with former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam at the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for over three decades.

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## Key Decisions taken by Nitish Cabinet in the month of January

- In regard with establishing Modern School under the centrally sponsored scheme of the financial year 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, the expenditure and exemption of revamping the underdeveloped buildings along with new construction of total 81 Model Schools have been approved.
- To universalize the secondary education, the minimum availability of land 0.75 acres in all Panchayats for the establishment of a high secondary school has been approved and the promotion of higher secondary school (2) from secondary school under Rahtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and other programm
- Free permanent transfer of land in status quo to the National Highways Authority of India, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, have been approved in Aurangabad District for the 6 lane project of National Highway No. 2 from Aurangabad to Barbadia
- The execution instruction amendment for 'Bihar Shatabdi Nalkoop Yojna' has been approved for the implementation under Small Water Resources Department, Bihar
- Giving the administrative approval to establish a cultural center in Bodh Gaya under Swadesh Darshan Yojana, Building Construction Department was authorised to designate an executive agency.
- Administrative approval was provided for consulting and selecting the consultancy group for architect, content design, exhibit design, and project management for proposed Dr. A. P.J. Kalam Science City in Patna.
- Approval of the extension of the period of judicial inquiry committee formed to determine the liability for the recovery and loss of the leftover food under Sampoon Gramin Rojgar and National Food for Work Scheme
- Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the amount of nutritional supplements given to the children, pregnant mothers and children of the underprivileged children at Anganwadi centers have been increased up to Rs.8, 9.50 and Rs.15 per day respectively with immediate effect
- Under the scheme for adolescent girls, the amount of nutritional value for the girls of age group 11-14 who do not attend schools have been increased at Anganwadi centers to 9.50 Rs. per day. Along with the scheme which is currently implemented in 12 districts has been approved to implement in all districts with immediate effect.
- The creation of the posts of directors and coordinators for establishing and managing 'Center for Geographical Studies' in the premises of Aryabhata University, Patna, has been approved. The proposals for forming the search committee for the appointment of directors for other three academic centers, namely 'School of Journalism and Mass Communication', 'Patliputra School of Economics', and 'Center for River Studies' along with proposed 'Center for Geographical Studies' in the premises of Aryabhata University and the proposals for salary allowance of directors have been approved. es by dint of this policy have been approved.



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<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCol7yYZjfTGHRb4pAdK3a2A>

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