Bihar sanctions ₹3.07 crore for its first skin bank at AIIMS Patna

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News

The Bihar Government has sanctioned ₹3.07 crore for 2026–27 to set up the State's first skin bank at the Burns Centre of AIIMS Patna, with administrative approval from the State Health Department, it was reported on 26 November 2026. The money will fund a dedicated facility and specialised equipment to retrieve, process, preserve and safely store donated skin. In extensive burns, skin donated by deceased donors serves as a temporary biological dressing that cuts fluid loss and the risk of infection. The bank is expected to reduce the need for severe-burn patients to travel to other States for treatment. What has been given now is approval to set it up; the skin bank is not yet functioning.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Approval	Govt of Bihar; administrative approval by Health Dept
Amount	₹3.07 crore (2026–27)
Location	Burns Centre, AIIMS Patna
Significance	Bihar's first skin bank
Use	Temporary biological dressing for major burns
Reported on	26 November 2026

Point	Details
Status	Approved for set-up; not yet functioning

Background

- Science: Skin is the largest organ of the human body. It has three layers – epidermis, dermis and hypodermis. It protects against germs, prevents fluid loss, regulates body temperature and makes vitamin D in sunlight. The liver is the largest internal organ.
- Types of burns: A first-degree burn affects only the epidermis; a second-degree burn reaches the dermis and causes blisters; in a third-degree (full-thickness) burn both epidermis and dermis are destroyed and grafts are needed. When a patient's own skin is not enough, donor skin is used as a temporary cover.
- Skin donation: Skin must be retrieved within 6 hours of death; brain-dead patients can also donate; donors should be over 18 and free of HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and cancer; the body is not disfigured. Organ and tissue donation is regulated by the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (1994 law, amended in 2011).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's first public-sector skin bank opened at Stanley Medical College Hospital, Chennai, in August 2016; skin there can be preserved at 4°C for up to five years. In January 2018, 'south India's first tissue bank' was opened at Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital by the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) and NOTTO. In July 2025, Coimbatore Medical College Hospital was reported to be seeking approval for a skin bank, which would be western Tamil Nadu's first.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Approval: Govt of Bihar; administrative approval by Health Dept; Amount: ₹3.07 crore (2026–27); Location: Burns Centre, AIIMS Patna; Significance: Bihar's first skin bank.

What is the background to this news?

Science: Skin is the largest organ of the human body. It has three layers – epidermis, dermis and hypodermis. It protects against germs, prevents fluid loss, regulates body temperature and makes vitamin D in sunlight.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Skin is the largest organ of the human body overall. Which is the largest internal organ?

A) Pancreas

B) Liver

C) Spleen

D) Kidney

Answer: B – Explanation: The liver – about 1.5 kg; it secretes bile and is also the body's largest gland. Skin covers the entire outer surface of the body.

2. Within at most how many hours of death must skin be retrieved from a deceased donor?

A) 6 hours

B) 24 hours

C) 48 hours

D) 72 hours

Answer: A – Explanation: Six hours. Brain-dead patients can also donate; donors must be over 18; the body is not disfigured.

3. Which vitamin is produced in human skin on exposure to sunlight?

A) Vitamin A

B) Vitamin C

C) Vitamin D

D) Vitamin K

Answer: C – Explanation: Vitamin D – UV-B rays convert 7-dehydrocholesterol in the skin. Deficiency causes rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults.

4. A burn that destroys both the epidermis and the entire dermis is classified as which type?

A) First-degree

B) Second-degree

C) Scald

D) Third-degree

Answer: D – Explanation: Third-degree (full-thickness) – nerve endings die, so pain may be less; grafts are needed. First-degree: epidermis only; second-degree: blisters.

5. Which Chennai hospital opened Tamil Nadu's first public-sector skin bank in 2016?

A) Rajiv Gandhi GGH

B) Kilpauk Medical College

C) Omandurar Govt Hospital

D) Stanley Medical College

Answer: D – Explanation: Stanley Medical College Hospital (Aug 2016) – skin can be stored at 4°C for up to five years. Kilpauk got a tissue bank in 2018.