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**BIHAR**

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## Bihar's Poor Health Infrastructure

### Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar government faced criticism for poor performance as the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Audit Report on Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services (2016-2022)** was presented to the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council during the ongoing winter session.

- The report highlighted critical gaps in Bihar's healthcare system, including severe resource shortages, underutilized budgets, and systemic inefficiencies, underscoring the urgent need for structural reforms.

### Key Points

- **Human Resource Shortages in Health Services:**
  - Bihar faced a 49% vacancy in key health departments, including the Directorate of Health Services, State Drug Controller, Food Safety Wing, **AYUSH**, and Medical Colleges and Hospitals (MCHs).
  - Against the **World Health Organization (WHO)** recommendation of 1 allopathic doctor per 1,000 people, Bihar had a ratio of 1 doctor per 2,148 people (58,144 doctors available against the required 1,24,919).
  - Shortages of staff nurses ranged from 18% in Patna to 72% in Purnea, while paramedics faced shortages of 45% in Jamui to 90% in East Champaran.
  - Recruitment for 13,340 healthcare posts out of 24,496 posts remained pending as of January 2022.
- **Gaps in Infrastructure and Facilities:**
  - None of the four inspected Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) had functional Operation Theatres (OT), breaching Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).
  - Only 1% to 67% of pregnant women in 11 test-checked facilities received a full course of Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets.
    - Maternal death reviews were conducted in only 1 out of 24 reported cases during 2016-22.
  - 19% to 100% of required diagnostic facilities were unavailable in 68 healthcare facilities.
- **Shortages of Drugs and Equipment:**
  - Essential drugs were unavailable in 21% to 65% of Outpatient Departments (OPDs) and 34% to 83% of Inpatient Departments (IPDs) during 2016-22.

- Medical colleges reported 45% to 68% drug shortages in FYs 2019-21 due to non-supply.

### ➤ Budget Utilization and Policy Gaps:

- Bihar spent only 69% of the allocated Rs 69,790.83 crore of healthcare budget between FYs 2016-17 and 2021-22, leaving Rs 21,743.04 crore unused.
- Healthcare expenditure against **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** ranged between 1.33% and 1.73%, and against the state budget, it ranged between 3.31% and 4.41%.
- Bihar lacked a comprehensive health policy aligned with the **National Health Policy 2017**, to address infrastructure and equipment gaps.

### ➤ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Performance:

- Bihar scored 66 out of 100 under **SDG-3 (health sector)** in **NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Report (2020-21)**.
- The state's performance on health indicators like **Maternal Mortality Rate, Neonatal Mortality Rate, and Total Fertility Rate** was far below the SDG targets and national averages.

### Comptroller and Auditor General

#### ➤ About:

- The CAG of India, as per **Article 148 of the Constitution**, heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD)**. He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.
  - The CAG upholds the **Constitution and parliamentary laws** in financial administration and is considered one of the key pillars of India's democratic system, alongside the **Supreme Court, Election Commission, and Union Public Service Commission**.
- CAG of India is governed by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.

#### ➤ Appointment and Term:

- The CAG of India is appointed by the **President of India** by a **warrant under his hand and seal**. The officeholder serves a **term of six years or until the age of 65**, whichever is earlier.

#### ➤ Independence:

- The CAG **can only be removed by the President following a constitutional procedure, not at the President's pleasure**.

Note:

## Yuva Sangam

### Why in News?

Under the **Yuva Sangam initiative**, 44 delegates from Bihar embarked on their journey to Karnataka and 50 delegates from Andhra Pradesh set off for Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

- **About Yuva Sangam:**
  - Yuva Sangam is a **flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Education** in 2023.
  - It aimed at **strengthening youth connections across different States and Union Territories.**
  - The program **promotes unity in diversity** by **fostering cultural immersion, knowledge sharing, and meaningful interactions.**
  - Participants, aged 18 to 30, include **students, volunteers, and young professionals from various backgrounds.**
  - A total of **4,795 youth have participated in 114 tours across various phases.**
- **Phase V of Yuva Sangam:**
  - For Phase V, **twenty eminent institutions across India have been selected** to participate.
  - Participants from these institutions will visit their paired states or UTs, led by the nodal **Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).**
- **Key Areas of Exposure:**
  - During the Yuva Sangam tours, participants will receive exposure in five broad areas known as the 5 Ps:
    - Paryatan (Tourism)
    - Parampara (Traditions)
    - Pragati (Development)
    - Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect)
    - Prodyogiki (Technology)
  - The tours last for 5-7 days, excluding travel days.
- **Collaborative Effort:**
  - Yuva Sangam is organized through a **'Whole of Government' approach**, with support from multiple Ministries, Departments, and State Governments.
    - Key stakeholders include the **Ministries of Home Affairs, Culture, Tourism, Youth Affairs & Sports, Information & Broadcasting, Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Railways.**

## Bihar to Host Khelo India Youth Games & Para Games in 2025

### Why in News?

Bihar will host the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)** and **Khelo India Para Games (KIPG)** in 2025.

### Key Points

- **Khelo India Youth Games:**
  - **About:**
    - KIYG is a **national-level, multi-disciplinary sports competition** for school and college students in India.
    - The games are held annually in January or February and are part of the government's **Khelo India initiative.**
    - It aims to promote sports culture and identify sporting talent at the grassroots level.
    - The previous 5 editions of the Youth Games have been held in **Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula and Bhopal.**
  - **Format:**
    - It is held in two categories, namely **under-17-year-old school students and under-21 college students.**
    - It operates in a **team championship format**, wherein the medals earned by individual athletes or teams contribute to the overall medal tally of their respective state or Union Territory (UT).
    - Upon the event's conclusion, the **state or UT securing the highest count of gold medals** is declared the winner.
- **Khelo India Para Games:**
  - The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) is **aimed at empowering para athletes in India.**
  - It is organized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Sports Authority of India, and other bodies.**
  - It is part of the broader **Khelo India Initiative.**
    - Khelo India was **introduced by the Indian government in 2017.**
- **Sports Infrastructure in Bihar:**
  - Bihar has **38 Khelo India Centres** and **one Khelo India State Centre of Excellence**, which provide facilities for athletes at various levels.

Note:

- There are three Sports Authority of India Training Centres catering to the state's sporting needs.

# KHELO INDIA PROGRAMME



### AIM

- Mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports
- Revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level

### 12 VERTICALS OF KHELO INDIA



1. Play Field Development
2. Community Coaching Development
3. State Level Khelo India Centres
4. Annual Sports Competition
5. Talent Search and Development
6. Utilization and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure
7. Support of National/Regional/State Sports Academies
8. Physical Fitness of school children
9. Sports for Women
10. Promotion of Sports amongst disabilities
11. Sports for Peace and Development
12. Promotion of Para and High Potential Athletes

### GAMES UNDER KHELO INDIA

- Khelo India Youth Games (aka Khelo India School Games till 2019)
  - 1st edition - New Delhi (2018)
  - Age limit - 18
  - Host of 5th Edition of KIYG - MP (Bhopal)
- Khelo India University Games
  - 1st edition - Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Odisha (2020)
  - KIUG 2023 host - UP (Lucknow, Varanasi, G.Noida and Gorakhpur)
- Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)
  - 3 editions held since 2020 (in Leh, Ladakh and Gulmarg (Kashmir))

### SELECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- 1000 kids elected yearly for a scholarship program, trained to become medal winners
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines are provided Rs. 5 Lakh p.a. for 8 years.

### NODAL MINISTRY

- Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs

### HQ

- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (New Delhi)



## NHRC Takes Suo Motu on Food Poisoning Report

### Why in News?

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken **Suo Motu cognizance** of a media report about people dying due to **food poisoning** at a Patna shelter home. The shelter is funded by the Bihar government's Directorate of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

### Key Points

- **Human Rights Violation Concern:**
  - The NHRC observed that the media report **highlights a serious human rights violation** concerning the victims.
  - The Shelter Home authorities are responsible for providing proper care to the inmates as their lawful custodians.
- **Notice to Bihar Government:**
  - The NHRC issued a **notice to the Chief Secretary of Bihar**, requesting a detailed report within two weeks.
  - The report should include **the victims' health status and information** on whether any compensation has been provided to the victims or their families.
  - The Chief Secretary is also asked to **inform the NHRC about the steps taken** or proposed to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future.

Note:

- Unhygienic Conditions at the Shelter Home:
  - A media report highlighted that, during an inspection, **authorities found unhygienic conditions at the Shelter Home.**
  - The report also mentioned that **proper hygiene was not being maintained** during food preparation at the Shelter.

### National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- About:
  - It ensures the **protection of rights related to life, liberty, equality, and dignity** of individuals.
  - Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and international covenants enforceable by Indian courts.
- Establishment:
  - Established on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1993, under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.**
  - Amended by the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006**, and **Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019.**
  - Established in **conformity with the Paris Principles**, adopted for promoting and protecting human rights.

## NATIONAL HUMAN *Rights* COMMISSION (NHRC)

*According to NHRC, Human Rights are the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India*

- Watchdog of Human Rights in India
- **Estd:** 1993 (in conformity with Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- **Act:** Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993

**State Human Rights Commissions**

- Also constituted under the PHR Act, 1993
- **Appointment of Members:** by Governor
- **Removal of Members:** by President

**Human Rights Day: 10 December**

**Functions**

- ⌚ Investigates Complain of human rights violations
- ⌚ *Suo Moto* cognizance of cases
- ⌚ Reviews and recommends human rights implementation
- ⌚ Spreading human rights awareness
- ⌚ Conduct studies, publish reports on human rights issues

**Powers**

- ⌚ Summon individuals, examine witnesses, and receive evidences
- ⌚ Inspect prisons and other institutions to ensure conditions are humane
- ⌚ Intervene in court proceedings relating to human rights

**Members of NHRC**

**Composition**

- ⌚ 5 full-time members and 7 deemed members
- ⌚ **Chairperson:** Retired CJI/Judges of the SC
- ⌚ **Administrative Head:** Secretary-General

**Appointment**

- ⌚ All members appointed by **President** on recommendations of a **6-member** committee (PM, Speaker of LS, Deputy Chairman of RS, Union Home Minister and Leaders of Opposition of both Houses of Parliament)

**Tenure**

- ⌚ 3 years / till age 70 (whichever is earlier)

**Removal**

- ⌚ President can remove the chairman or any member
- ⌚ **Ground:** Charges of proved misbehaviour or incapacity

**Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Status**

- NHRC has been accredited '**A**' Status since 1999
- **Retained 'A' Status:** 2006, 2011 and 2017
- **Suspension of 'A' Status:** 2023 and 2024



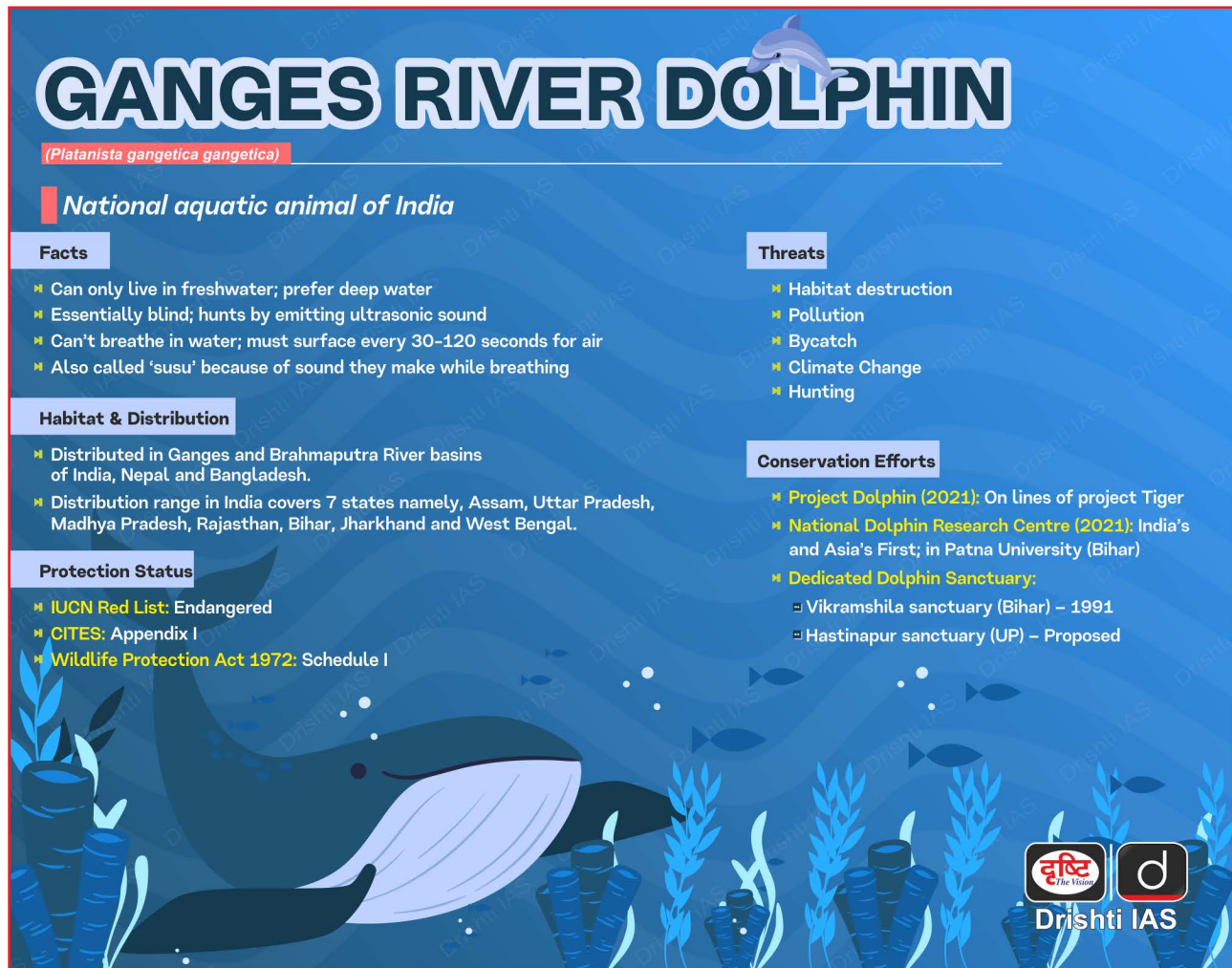
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Note:

## Inactivity at India's First Dolphin Research Centre

### Why in News?

Dolphin conservation in India faces challenges as **the National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) in Bihar**, remains non-operational, months after inauguration due to a **lack of advanced equipment and skilled manpower**.



# GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

*(Platanista gangetica gangetica)*

**National aquatic animal of India**

#### Facts

- Can only live in freshwater; prefer deep water
- Essentially blind; hunts by emitting ultrasonic sound
- Can't breathe in water; must surface every 30–120 seconds for air
- Also called 'susu' because of sound they make while breathing

#### Habitat & Distribution

- Distributed in Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Distribution range in India covers 7 states namely, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

#### Protection Status



- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I

#### Threats

- Habitat destruction
- Pollution
- Bycatch
- Climate Change
- Hunting

#### Conservation Efforts

- Project Dolphin (2021):** On lines of project Tiger
- National Dolphin Research Centre (2021):** India's and Asia's First; in Patna University (Bihar)
- Dedicated Dolphin Sanctuary:**
  - Vikramshila sanctuary (Bihar) – 1991
  - Hastinapur sanctuary (UP) – Proposed


  
 Drishti IAS

### Key Points

- **Inauguration and Current State:**
  - The NDRC, **located near the Ganga in Patna**, was inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister on 4th March 2024.
  - Despite its opening, the centre remains non-functional, marked by neglect and locked glass doors.
- **Impact on Dolphin Conservation:**
  - The delay has hindered essential research on **Gangetic dolphins**, India's national aquatic animal.
  - **RK Sinha, the "Dolphin Man of India,"** who proposed the NDRC 15 years ago, expressed disappointment over the lack of progress.
- **Official Assurance:**
  - Bihar Forest and **Chief Wildlife Warden** assured that the NDRC would begin operations within the financial year 2024-25.

Note:

- The centre aims to conserve dolphins, study their behaviour and habitat, and train fishermen to safeguard dolphins during fishing.
- **Strategic Location and Importance:**
  - The 4,400-square-metre facility is situated on Patna University campus near the Ganga, allowing direct observation of dolphins in their natural habitat.
- **Conservation Challenges:**
  - Bihar, hosting half of India's 3,000 Gangetic dolphins, faces threats to habitats due to activities like construction and pollution.
  - **The National Green Tribunal** recently highlighted the danger posed by bridge debris in Bhagalpur to the dolphin population.
- **Significance of Gangetic Dolphins:**
  - These endangered dolphins, blind and reliant on echolocation, are crucial to the river ecosystem.
    - Echolocation is a technique used by bats, dolphins and other animals to determine the location of objects using reflected sound.
  - They thrive in deep waters with minimal currents and are protected under **the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**, and **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** guidelines.
  - The Ganges river dolphin, discovered in 1801, historically inhabits the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna** and **Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems** in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
  - Recent studies in the Ganga River Basin show their presence in the mainstream and tributaries like **Ghagra, Kosi, Gandak, Chambal, Rupnarayan, and Yamuna.**

## Rajgir to Host Men's Hockey Asia Cup

### Why in News?

According to the officials, the **Rajgir Sports Complex** will be hosting the **Men's Hockey Asia Cup in 2025**. Scheduled from **27th August to 7th September**, the event will also be a qualifying event for the **World Cup, 2026**.

### Key Points

- **Preparation for Hosting a Men's Event:**
  - Following the success of the **women's six-nation**

event, Bihar is gearing up to host the prestigious **Asia Cup men's tournament**.

- The Asia Cup, a qualifying event for the 2026 World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands, is expected to draw larger crowds and increased interest.

### The Men's Hockey Asia Cup

- It is an event held annually by the **Asian Hockey Federation** since 2011 with India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and China participating in the inaugural tournament.
- The **Asian Hockey Federation** is the governing body for hockey in Asia.
- It has **33 member associations** and it is affiliated to the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)**.
- The Asia Cup is an eight-team tournament, with the winner securing qualification for the 2026 World Cup.

## 150th Birth Anniversary of Birsa Munda

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister launched a commemorative stamp and coin to mark the **150th birth anniversary** of tribal icon and freedom fighter **Birsa Munda** in Bihar's Jamui district.

### Key Points

- Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebration:
  - The Centre declared **November 15**, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, as **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas** in 2021.
  - The 2024 event also initiates year-long celebrations for the **150th anniversary of Birsa Munda's** birth.
- Various Projects and Initiatives:
  - The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for **various tribal welfare projects** totaling over Rs 6,640 crore.
  - The PM also inaugurated **two tribal freedom fighter museums** and **tribal research institutes**.
  - Foundation stones were laid for 1.16 lakh homes under the **Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Yojana** and 25,000 homes under the **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) scheme** for **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
  - Approximately **50 mobile medical units** were launched to improve healthcare in tribal regions.

Note:



- 10 **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** for tribal students, including hostels across the country were inaugurated.
- The government has enhanced tribal education through EMRSs, scholarships, and other educational opportunities.
- Exhibition Honoring Tribal Legacy:
  - The PM engaged with beneficiaries of welfare schemes and visited an **exhibition honoring the legacy of Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters**.
  - The **exhibition includes artwork from EMRS students and literature on the life and struggles of Birsa Munda**, as well as displays highlighting tribal history and achievements.

#### Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

- Originally named the **PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)**, is an umbrella scheme to implement existing schemes across 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages.
  - Dharti Aaba refers to **Birsa Munda, a 19th-century tribal leader and anti-colonial icon from Jharkhand**.
- The initiative aims to **address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood** through 25 interventions implemented by various 17 Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

#### Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

- PM-JANMAN was launched on **15th November 2023**, to improve the socio-economic welfare of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- It is **implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTGs communities.
  - It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the **PM-Awas Scheme**, access to **clean drinking water**, improved **healthcare, education, nutrition**, road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- The plan also includes the establishment of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** for **trading in forest produce**, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.

- The scheme is expected to **enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGs**, by addressing their multiple and intersecting forms of **discrimination and exclusion**, and by recognizing and valuing their unique and valuable contribution to national and global development.

## PM Inaugurates Various Projects in Bihar

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister** laid the foundation for the **All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) hospital** and **other projects worth Rs 12,100 crore** in Darbhanga, Bihar.

- **25 additional projects in rail, road, health, and energy sectors** were also inaugurated across the region.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About the Projects:

##### ○ AIIMS, Darbhanga Project:

- The **AIIMS project in Darbhanga**, costing Rs 1264 crore and covering 187 acres in the **Sobhan area**, is expected to be completed within three years.
- This will be the **second AIIMS in Bihar**, aimed at expanding healthcare infrastructure in the state.
- The project will feature a **super-speciality hospital, an AYUSH block, a medical college, a nursing college**, along with a **night shelter and residential facilities for staff**.
- It will provide **advanced tertiary healthcare services** for people in Bihar and nearby regions.

##### ○ Jan Aushadhi Kendras:

- The PM will dedicate **18 Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations** nationwide to **increase the availability of affordable medicines**.
- These centers aim to **promote the use of generic medicines**, helping to lower healthcare costs for passengers.
- It was **launched to provide affordable and quality medicines**, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged, and was revamped as the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY)** in September 2015.

Note:

# AYUSH Systems of Medicine

AYUSH encompasses Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homeopathy, with Ayurveda having a documented history of 5000+ years.

## Ayurveda

- ③ **Samhita Period (1000 BC):** Emerged as mature medical system
  - ④ **Charaka Samhita:** Oldest and most authoritative text
  - ④ **Sushruta Samhita:** Gives fundamental principles and therapeutic methods in eight specialties
- ④ **Main Schools:**
  - ④ **Punarvasu Atreya** - School of physicians
  - ④ **Divodasa Dhanvantari** - School of surgeons

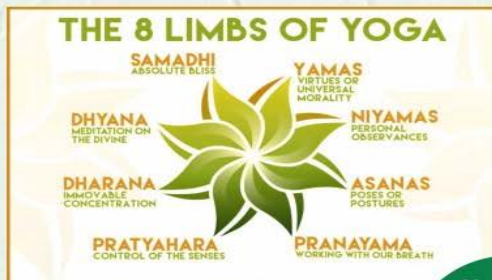
Lord Brahma is believed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> proponent of Ayurveda

### Branches of Ayurveda:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ■ Kayachikitsa (internal medicine)                       | ■ Agada Tantra (toxicology)                      |
| ■ Shalya Tantra (surgery)                                | ■ Bhootavidya (psychiatry)                       |
| ■ Shalakyata Tantra (disease of supra-clavicular origin) | ■ Rasayana Tantra (rejuvenation and geriatrics)  |
| ■ Kaumarabhritya (paediatrics)                           | ■ Vajikarana (eugenics & science of aphrodisiac) |



## Yoga & Naturopathy



- ④ **Naturopathy:** Healing with help of 5 natural elements - Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether
  - ④ Based on theories of self-healing capacity of body and principles of healthy living
  - ④ Encourages a **person-centred approach** rather than disease-centred

Yoga first propounded by Maharishi Patanjali in systematic form Yogsutra

## Unani

- ④ **Pioneered in Greece, developed by Arabs as 7 principles (Umoor-e-Tabbiya)**
- ④ Based on the framework of teachings of **Buqrat** (Hippocrates) and **Jalinoos** (Galen)
  - ④ Hippocratic theory of **four humors** viz. blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile
- ④ **Recognised by WHO** and granted official status by India as an alternative health system

## Siddha

- ④ **Dates back to 10000 – 4000 BC; Siddhar Agasthiyar - Father of Siddha Medicine**
- ④ Preventive, promotive, curative, rejuvenative, and rehabilitative health care
- ④ **4 Components:** Latro-chemistry, Medical practice, Yogic practice & Wisdom
- ④ Diagnosis based on 3 humors (**Mukkuttram**) and 8 vital tests (**Ennvagai Thervu**)

## Sowa Rigpa

- ④ **Origin: Lord Buddha in India before 2500 years**
- ④ Traditional medicine in Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, etc.
- ④ Recognised in India by Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 (As amended in 2010)

## Homeopathy

- ④ **German physician Dr. Christian F. S. Hahnemann codified its fundamental principles**
- ④ Medicines prepared mainly from natural substances (plant products, minerals, animal sources)
- ④ Brought in India by European missionaries - 1810; official recognition - 1948
- ④ **3 Key Principles:**
  - ④ **Similia Similibus Curentur** (let likes be cured by likes)
  - ④ Single Medicine
  - ④ Minimum Dose



## ○ National Highway Development:

- The PM will inaugurate and lay the **foundation stones of several highway projects** worth Rs 5,070 crore.
- This includes the new **four-lane Galgalia-Araria section on NH-327E**, providing an alternative **route from Araria to West Bengal**.

## ○ Railway Infrastructure Projects:

- Railway projects worth over Rs 1,740 crore will be inaugurated, including **gauge conversions and a bypass line** to ease traffic congestion.

Note:

- New **Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train services** in the Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar section will improve access to jobs and education for nearby communities.
- A MEMU is an **Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) train** that serves short and medium-distance routes.
  - Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector Initiatives:
    - The PM will initiate projects worth more than Rs 4,020 crore in the **petroleum and natural gas sector**.
    - These include a **City Gas Distribution network** in five districts of Bihar – **Darbhanga, Madhubani, Supaul, Sitamarhi and Sheohar** – by the **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited**.
    - The PM also laid the foundation stone for a **new bitumen-manufacturing unit at the Barauni refinery** to reduce dependency on imports.

#### AYUSH

- AYUSH is the acronym of the medical systems that are being practised in India such as:
  - **Ayurveda:** Ancient system emphasising holistic well-being.
  - **Yoga:** Union of body, mind, and spirit through physical postures and meditation.
  - **Naturopathy:** Natural healing using elements like water, air, and diet.
  - **Unani:** Balance restoration through herbal medicines and humoral theory.
  - **Siddha:** Traditional Tamil medicine with roots in five elements and humours. **Homeopathy:** Highly diluted remedies stimulating self-healing responses.
- These systems are based on **definite medical philosophies** and represent a way of **healthy living with established concepts** on **prevention of diseases** and promotion of health.
- The **Ministry of AYUSH**, is responsible for developing education, research and propagation of AYUSH in India.

## Development of Integrated Manufacturing Cluster in Gaya

### Why in News?

Recently, **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)** and the **Bihar Industrial Area**

**Development Authority (BIADA)** have signed the **State Support Agreement (SSA)** and **Shareholder Agreement (SHA)** for the establishment of an **Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC)** in Gaya.

### Key Points

- **Vision of the Project:**
  - It aims to establish an IMC in Gaya, part of the **Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC)**.
  - The project aligns with the '**Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi**' vision, blending industrial growth with the **cultural heritage of Gaya**, a renowned pilgrimage and heritage tourism site.
- **Industrial Growth and Employment Generation:**
  - IMC Gaya, located near **Gaya International Airport**, with a project cost of Rs 1,339 crore is expected to generate approximately 1,09,185 jobs, boosting local economic growth.
  - Targeted industries include building materials, agri-food processing, leather goods, garments, furniture, handloom, handicrafts, engineering, fabrications, and medical equipment.
- **Strategic Connectivity and Access:**
  - IMC Gaya offers strategic connectivity with **National Highways, Gaya Junction**, and the upcoming **New Paharpur Railway Station**.
  - Key airports include Gaya International, Patna International, and Ranchi Airport.
  - It is close to major ports and inland terminals like **Haldia Port, Gaihat in Patna, and Ramnagar in Varanasi** enhances logistics.
  - Three greenfield road projects are also proposed to improve accessibility, leveraging connections like the **Golden Quadrilateral** and multi-track railways.
- **Planned Infrastructure and Facilities:**
  - Facilities include a skill development center, fire station, administrative office, parking, and commercial space to support industries.
  - Infrastructure includes Common Effluent Treatment Plant, **Sewage Treatment Plant**, Water Treatment Plant, **Solid Waste Management**, stormwater drainage, and green landscaping.
  - The IMC Gaya is anticipated to drive economic growth, create extensive employment, and **strengthen Bihar's role as an industrial hub in Eastern India**, advancing the '**Make in India**' vision.

Note:

### Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC)

- It covers **Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.**
- The Project extends **from Amritsar (Punjab) to Dankuni (West Bengal)** for a length of 1839 kms.
- The **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor** is the backbone of this economic corridor.

## Rajgir Sports Complex

### Why in News?

Rajgir Sports Complex is set to host the **Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, 2024** from 11th to 20th November, 2024 in Rajgir, Bihar.

### Key Points

- Built at a **cost of approximately Rs 740 crores**, the complex stands out as **one of India's largest and most advanced complex**, designed to be self-sufficient.
- Sports Facilities and Standards:
  - In addition to the main cricket stadium, the complex will **accommodate 25 sports**, including hockey, football, kabaddi, volleyball, swimming, and wrestling, all built to meet international standards.
  - The first arena to be completed, it can seat around 8,000-10,000 spectators and features a playing field identical to the one used in Paris.
- Architectural Style and Design:
  - The Bihar government chose **brick and stone** for office buildings, residential facilities, and sports venues, **giving the complex a grand, traditional look.**
  - The hockey arena includes murals of **ancient Nalanda** as a center of learning, with this theme carried into the changing rooms.
    - A mural is a **piece of graphic artwork** that is painted or applied directly to a wall, ceiling or other permanent substrate.

### Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

- It is a **biennial international field hockey competition** featuring the top six women's national teams from member associations of the **Asian Hockey Federation.**
- The tournament includes the **best six women's national teams** from Asia.

- **South Korea** holds the most titles, having won the tournament **three times.**
- **India and Japan** have each won the tournament **twice.**

## Chhath Puja

### Why in News?

The third day of the **Chhath festival**, known as the **sanjhkaarag** or the **evening offering**, was observed on **7th November**. Chhath has been **celebrated for centuries in Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, and Nepal.**

### Key Points

- **About Chhath:**
  - Chhath Puja is a **four-day festival** dedicated to the **worship of the Sun.**
  - It involves **strict fasting without water** and making offerings to Usha (the rising Sun) and Pratyusha (the setting Sun), while standing in a water body.
  - The festival **starts on the sixth day of Kartik Shukla Paksha**, the waxing-moon fortnight of the month of Kartik.
- **Origins and Beliefs:**
  - It is believed to be an **ancient tradition rooted in nature worship.**
    - In the **Ramayana**, Lord Ram and Goddess Sita fasted and performed a yagna for the Sun after returning victorious to Ayodhya.
    - In the **Mahabharata**, Draupadi observed a fast and prayed to the Sun, while Karna held a ceremony in honor of Surya.
- **Chhath Rituals:**
  - **First Day (Naha Kha):** Devotees take a ceremonial bath in a river or pond before having their first meal.
  - **Second Day (Kharna):** Fasters **eat only one meal.** The preparation of thekuas begins, and a 36-hour fast begins after the meal.
  - **Third Day (Sanjhka Arghya):** Devotees go to the riverbanks to offer fruits and light diyas while performing the Sanjhka Arghya (evening offering) to the setting Sun. Offerings include seasonal fruits like sweet potato, water chestnuts, pomelo, and bananas.

Note:

- **Fourth Day (Bhor ka Arghya):** The same ritual is repeated at dawn for the rising Sun. After the offering, devotees return home, marking the conclusion of the festival.
- **Underlying Message of Chhath:**
  - The festival conveys the message that **all people are equal in the eyes of God** and that **nature is sacred and should be honored**.
  - It highlights the **cyclical nature of life**, where both dusk and dawn are important. The **setting Sun represents the promise of a new rise**.

## Cat Snake Spotted in Valmiki Tiger Reserve

### Why in News?

The **common cat snake (*Boiga trigonata*)**, a rare and minimally venomous species, was recently discovered in Bihar's **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**.



### Key Points

- **About Common Cat Snake:**
  - Also known as **Indian gamma snake**, the common cat snake is a species of **rear-fanged snake** endemic to **South Asia**.
- **Features:**
  - **Thin, long body** with smooth, non-glossy scales.
  - **Greyish-brown dorsal** with **light zig-zag patterns**; **whitish belly** with tiny spots.
  - Triangular head with a **distinct Y-pattern on top**.
  - **Large golden eyes** with **vertical pupils**.

- **Habitat:**
  - Found widely across the **Indian Subcontinent**.
  - Inhabits dense and open forests, rocky hills, and scrub jungles.
  - Hides in tree holes, crevices, and dense vegetation at low to moderate heights.
- **Venom Characteristics:**
  - **Mildly venomous**, the snake poses no significant threat to humans but impacts small animals.
- **Lifespan:** 12-20 years
- **Diet:** It primarily consists of **small vertebrates**.
- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern.

### Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)

- The VTR is located in **Bihar's West Champaran district**, bordering Nepal to its north and Uttar Pradesh to its west. It is the **only tiger reserve in Bihar**.
- Situated in the **Gangetic plains** bio-geographic region, the vegetation of this Tiger Reserve is a **combination of Bhabar and Terai regions**.
- **Wild mammals include** tiger, sloth bear, leopard, wild dog, bison, wild boar etc.
- **Rivers Gandak**, Pandai, Manor, Harha, Masan and Bhapsa flow through various parts of the reserve.

## Maithili Missed Classical Status

### Why in News?

According to the sources, **Maithili** was not granted **classical status**, despite recurring demands, as the **Bihar government** did not formally submit the proposal.

### Key Points

- **Recommendation Process:**
  - **Classical status for languages** is recommended by a **Linguistics Expert Committee** with representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, **chaired by the Sahitya Akademi president**.
  - After the committee's recommendation, Union Cabinet approval and a gazette notification are required.
- **Maithili Proposal Technicality:**
  - Although the **Maithili Sahitya Sansthan in Patna** prepared a proposal for **Maithili's classical status**, the Bihar government did **not forward it to the Union Home Ministry** as required.

Note:



- **Cultural and Linguistic Importance of Maithili:**
  - According to the **2011 census**, India has approximately 12 million Maithili speakers.
  - Recognized in the **Eighth Schedule** since 2003, Maithili is an **optional subject in the Union Public Service Commission exam** and has **official language status in Jharkhand as of 2018**. It is **widely spoken in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nepal**.
- **Political Advocacy for Maithili's Status:**
  - The **Janata Dal (United)** has consistently supported Maithili's classical status.
  - Maithili's **1,300-year literary heritage** and ongoing evolution are highlighted as grounds for its classical status.
- **Recent Classical Language Recognitions:**
  - In October 2024, **Assamese, Bengali, and three other languages were granted classical status**, following proposals from respective state governments.
  - Previously, Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit were considered by the committee, with only **Sanskrit recognized in 2005**.
- **Benefits of Attaining Classical Language Status:**
  - Recognized classical languages **receive Ministry of Education support**, including **two annual awards to honor distinguished scholars**.
  - A **Centre of Excellence** is established for dedicated studies, and professional academic chairs are set up at central universities.

### Maithili Language

- Maithili is a language **spoken in Bihar** belonging to the **eastern sub-group of the Indo-Aryan branch**. **Bhojpuri and Magadhi** are closely related to the language.
- The language is claimed to have **developed from the Magadhan Prakrit**.
  - It was the literary language of all of eastern India during the medieval period.
- It was **popularised in the 14th century by poet Vidyapati** and solidified the importance of the language in literature.
- Maithili language has been accorded **Constitutional status in 2003** and it became one of the **22 languages** mentioned in the **8th Schedule of the Constitution**.

## Demise of Bihar's Folk Icon

### Why in News?

Recently, **Bihar's folk music icon Sharda Sinha** passed away. She was **widely celebrated for her soulful Chhath songs**.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - Sharda Sinha, fondly known as **'Bihar Kokila,'** was a celebrated Indian folk singer who made immense contributions to **Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Magahi music**.
  - She played a **crucial role in popularizing Bihar's traditional music**, bringing it to a broader audience across India and beyond.
- **Awards:**
  - Honoring her **significant contributions to Indian folk music**, she was awarded with **Padma Bhushan in 2018**.



### Chhath Puja

- Chhath is **celebrated six days after Diwali** and is native to Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is dedicated to **Sun and Shashti Devi**, often referred to as **Chhathi Maiya**, and it involves religious rituals.



Note:



