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BIHAR

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Credit Outreach Programme in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister distributed Rs 1,121 crore in loans to 50,294 beneficiaries during the **Credit Outreach Programme** in Bihar's Madhubani district.

Key Points

- **Highlight of the Credit Outreach Programme:**
 - Drone Didi Scheme:
 - The Union Finance Minister highlighted the crucial role women will play in achieving a developed India by 2047.
 - She urges women to participate in government schemes for financial empowerment.
 - For instance, she mentioned the **Drone Didi initiative** aimed at empowering **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and creating "Lakhpatididis," SHG members with annual household incomes exceeding Rs 1 lakh.
 - **Loan Sanctioning Initiatives:**
 - Loan sanction letters were distributed under programs like **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**, **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme**, **Kisan Credit Card (Crop and Animal Husbandry & Fisheries)**, **Stand Up India**, **PM-SVANidhi**, and **PM Vishwakarma**.
 - **Infrastructure and CSR (corporate social responsibility) Initiatives:**
 - **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** approved Rs 155.84 crore, and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** sanctioned Rs 75.52 lakh for rural road projects.
 - Various banks contributed through **CSR** activities to improve infrastructure in schools, particularly those for girls.
 - **Engagements in Madhubani:**
 - The minister visited the **Mithila Chitrakala Sansthan**, interacting with artisans specializing in **Mithila paintings** and **terracotta art**.

- Copies of the Constitution in Maithili and Sanskrit, recently released on **Samvidhan Divas**, were distributed to the attendees.
- The Minister toured around 25 stalls showcasing local products and handicrafts financed by banks.
- **Ayushman Bharat Cards Distribution:**
 - Senior citizens aged 70 and above received **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) cards** during the programme.

Drone Didi Initiative

- It was launched by the PM on 30th November 2023 after his interaction with women beneficiaries of the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**.
- It aims to **provide drones to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs)** in the **next two years to be rented out to farmers for agricultural purposes**.
- The Centre will provide each SHG identified a **subsidy up to 80%** towards the cost of a drone or a maximum of Rs 8 lakh. It is expected to generate an additional income of about Rs 1 lakh per head for them.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

- **About:**
 - PMMY was launched by the Government of India in 2015.
 - The PMMY provides collateral-free institutional loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs for small business enterprises.
- **Funding Provision:**
 - It is provided by **Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)** i.e. **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)**, **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and **Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)**.
- **Types:**
 - The loan can be used for income-generating activities in the **manufacturing, trading, services sector, and agriculture**.
 - There are three loan products under PMMY:
 - **Shishu** (loans up to Rs. 50,000)
 - **Kishore** (loans between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 5 lakh)
 - **Tarun** (loans between Rs. 5 lakh and Rs. 10 lakh).

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Note:

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

- The Government of India approved the **introduction of a credit linked subsidy programme** called Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) **in 2008** for generation of employment opportunities **through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas.**
- It allows entrepreneurs **to set up factories or units.**
- It is a **central sector scheme administered** by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).**
- The implementing Agency at the National Level is **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** - a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME.

Kisan Credit Cards➤ **About:**

- The scheme was **introduced in 1998 for providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system**, under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs like purchase of agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and to draw cash for their production needs.
- The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in the year 2004.
- In the Budget-2018-19, government **announced the extension of the facility of KCC to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers** to help them to meet their working capital needs.

➤ **Implementing Agencies:**

- Commercial Banks
- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- **Small Finance Banks**
- **Cooperatives**

Stand-Up India Scheme➤ **About:**

- Stand up India Scheme was **launched by the Ministry of Finance in April 2016** to promote entrepreneurship at grassroot level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.

- This scheme has been extended up to the year 2025.

➤ **Purpose:**

- **Promote entrepreneurship** amongst **women, Scheduled Caste (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** category.
- Provide loans for **greenfield enterprises** in manufacturing, services or the trading sector and activities allied to agriculture.
- Facilitate bank loans between **Rs.10 lakh and Rs.100 lakh to at least one SC/ST borrower** and at least **one-woman borrower** per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks.

PM-SVANidhi

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** i.e., fully funded by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** with the following objectives:
 - To facilitate working capital loan;
 - To incentivize regular repayment; and
 - To reward digital transactions
- Introduction of 3rd term loan of **up to Rs 50,000 in addition to 1st & 2nd loans of Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000** respectively.
- The loans would be without collateral.

PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- **Objective:** Uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople by enhancing the quality and market accessibility of their products and integrate them in both domestic and global value chains.
- **Features:**
 - Budgetary allocation for scheme – Rs 13,000 crore for 5 financial years (2023-24 to 2027-28).
 - Provides recognition to beneficiaries through a PM Vishwakarma Certificate and an ID Card.
 - Stipend of Rs 500 for skill training per day and Rs 15,000 grant for the purchase of modern tools.
- **Category:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**

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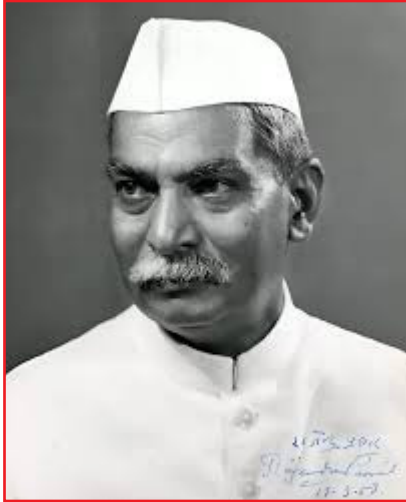


Note:

Rajendra Prasad Birth Anniversary

Why in News?

The Prime Minister paid tributes to the country's first **President, Bharat Ratna** Dr. Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary.



Key Points

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born in Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar on 3rd December 1884.
- **Education:**
 - He joined the **Calcutta Presidency College** in 1902.
 - In 1915, Prasad appeared in the **examination of Master's in Law from the Department of Law, University of Calcutta**, passed the examination and won a gold medal.
 - In 1916, he commenced his **legal career in the Patna High Court**. He completed his **Doctorate in Law from Allahabad University in 1937**.
- **Role in Fight for Freedom:**
 - **Association with Gandhiji:**
 - While **Gandhiji** was on a fact-finding mission in **Chamaparan district of Bihar** to address grievances of local peasants, he **called on Rajendra Prasad to come to Champaran with volunteers**.
 - The **Champaran Satyagraha** not only brought him closer to Mahatma Gandhi, but also changed the entire course of his life.
- **The Rowlatt Act of 1919** and the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919** pushed Rajendra Prasad closer to Gandhiji.
- **Call for Non-cooperation:**
 - Dr. Prasad called for non-cooperation in Bihar as part of **Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement**.
- **Salt Satyagraha:**
 - In March 1930, Gandhiji launched the **Salt Satyagraha**. Under the guidance of Dr. Prasad, a salt Satyagraha was launched in **Nakhas Pond, Bihar**.
- **Dr. Prasad & Indian National Congress:**
 - He officially **joined the Indian National Congress in 1911**, during its annual session held in Calcutta.
 - He presided over the **Bombay session of the Indian National Congress in October 1934**.
 - Following the **resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose** as the President of the Congress in April 1939, **He was elected President for the second time**.
 - In 1946, **he joined the Interim Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** as the Minister of Food & Agriculture and gave the slogan of **"Grow More Food"**.
- **Dr. Prasad & Constituent Assembly:**
 - In July 1946, when the **Constituent Assembly** was established to frame the **Constitution of India**, he was elected its President.
 - Committees of Constituent Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. Prasad includes:
 - Ad hoc Committee on the National flag
 - Committee on the Rules of Procedure
 - Finance and Staff Committee
 - Steering Committee
 - On **26th January 1950**, the **Constitution of independent India was ratified** and he was elected **India's First President**.
- **Awards & Recognition:**
 - In **1962**, after 12 years as President, **Dr. Prasad retired**, and was subsequently awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, the nation's highest civilian award.
 - Dr. Prasad recorded his life and the decades before independence in many books, which includes:
 - Satyagraha at Champaran
 - India Divided

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Note:

- His autobiography "Atmakatha"
- Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences
- Bapu ke Kadmon Mein

➤ **Death:**

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad spent the last few months of his life in retirement at the Sadaqat Ashram in Patna. He died on 28th February 1963.

Meeting to Review Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) Performance

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Minister for Finance** reviewed the performance of eight **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** from the Eastern Region, covering **Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal**, during a meeting held in Patna.

Key Points

➤ **Focus Areas of the Meeting:**

- Business performance, digital technology upgrades, and fostering growth in agriculture and micro-industry-related activities were the primary focus.
- The Union Finance Minister emphasized increasing credit disbursement under flagship schemes like **MUDRA** and **PM Vishwakarma** with sponsor banks' support.

➤ **Directives for Agriculture and Allied Activities:**

- RRBs were directed to boost ground-level agricultural credit, especially for allied activities such as dairy, animal husbandry, and fisheries.
- **Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank** was tasked to enhance credit for fisheries and **foxnut (makhana)** to realize their regional potential.

➤ **Emphasis on Technology Upgradation:**

- The Union Finance Minister stressed accelerating technology enhancements to improve RRB efficiency and service delivery.
- Financial parameters showed improvement, with **Capital Adequacy Ratio** rising from 7.8% (FY 2022) to 9.4% (FY 2024) and **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA)** decreasing from 25% to 15% during the same period.

- RRBs in the Eastern Region recorded a profit of Rs 625 crore in FY 2024 compared to a net loss of Rs 690 crore in FY 2023.

➤ **Financial Inclusion Initiatives:**

- The Union Finance Minister emphasized saturating beneficiaries under Financial Inclusion schemes like **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.
- Sponsor banks were urged to work with RRBs to ensure the success of these initiatives.

➤ **Digital Services and Deadlines:**

- RRBs were directed to offer **Internet Banking**, **Mobile Banking**, and **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** services to all customers by December 2024.
- Sponsor banks were tasked with promoting these services to increase customer adoption.

➤ **Promoting Self-Employment and SHGs:**

- The **One District One Product (ODOP) program** was highlighted as a tool to boost self-employment in the region.
- State governments were urged to collaborate with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **SIDBI** to provide support for women SHGs, including training and marketing assistance.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- RRBs were **established in 1975** under the provisions of the Ordinance promulgated on 26th September 1975 and **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**.
- These are **financial institutions** which ensure adequate credit for agriculture and other rural sectors.
- They **combine the characteristics of a cooperative in terms of the familiarity of the rural problems** and a commercial bank in terms of its professionalism and ability to mobilise financial resources.
- After the reforms in the 1990s, the government in 2005-06 **initiated a consolidation** program that resulted in the number of RRBs declining from 196 in 2005 to 43 in FY21.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

- PMMY was **launched by the Government of India in 2015**.

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- The PMMY provides collateral-free institutional loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs for small business enterprises.
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Makhana Mahotsav

Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar government has organised a two-day 'Makhana Mahotsav' in Bengaluru to expand the market for Bihar's important crop, **makhana**, and other food products in Karnataka.

Key Points

- **About the Mahotsav:**
 - The mahotsav and related initiatives aim to position Bihar as a leader in makhana production while promoting its economic and cultural significance across India.
 - It also seeks to introduce Bihar's primary crop, **makhana**, to South Indian markets, creating new opportunities for its growth.
- **Makhana Production and Market Expansion:**
 - Bihar contributes 50% of the country's makhana production, with strong demand in Northern States.
 - Bengaluru is strategically chosen as a gateway to expand the market to South Indian States, including Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- **Boosting Production through Research:**
 - A dedicated research center has been established to enhance makhana production and ensure quality improvements.
 - In May 2023, the Central government upgraded the Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga to "**National Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga**" and expanded its mandate to include other aquatic crops such as fish.
 - Makhana's GI (**Geographical Indication**) tag has elevated its recognition on international platforms.
 - Makhana products are being produced and marketed under the Central government's **Make in India initiative**.

Economic Impact of Makhana Production:

- According to the State Agriculture and Health Minister, **makhana production has significantly boosted employment and industry in Bihar.**
- The market for makhana products reached Rs 150 crore last year, marking a **30% growth in 2023–2024** compared to 2022–2023.

Mithila Makhana

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: *Euryale ferox* Salisb.) is a special variety of **aquatic fox nut cultivated in Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.**
- Makhana is the **one of the three prestigious cultural identities** of Mithila.
 - **Pan, Makhan and Machh (fish)** are the three prestigious cultural identities of Mithila.
- It is also very famous in the **Kojagara festival of Maithil Brahmins** celebrated for newly married couples.
- Makhana contains **protein and fiber**, along with **micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus.**
- It received its **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2022.**

Bihar Khel Pratibha Khoj Pratiyogita

Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Bihar launched 'Bihar Khel Pratibha Khoj Pratiyogita', the **largest talent search competition in the world of sports**, lighting the torch at the **Patliputra Sports Complex** in Patna.

Key Points

- **Participation and Scope:**
 - Approximately **60 lakh children from 40,000 government secondary and higher secondary schools will participate.**
 - The competition will also **welcome children from outside schools to compete.**
 - Total **prize pool is set at 10 crore rupees.**
- **Promoting a Sporting Ecosystem:**
 - It aims to build a **robust sporting culture in Bihar.**

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- Follows the success of the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey** held in Rajgir, where India defended its title.
- Designed as a **step toward nurturing future sporting talent**.
- **Olympic Aspirations:**
 - One of the long-term goals is to **identify and prepare potential medal contenders for the 2032 and 2036 Olympic Games**.
- **Competition:**
 - Participants will compete at three stages, **Block, District, and State level**.
 - Key sports in the competition include **Athletics, Kabaddi, Football, Volleyball**.
 - **Winners will be awarded sports kits and certificates** as part of the recognition and encouragement package.

Excavation of Mauryan Empire in Patna

Why in News?

Recently, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** initiated the excavation of the **'80-pillared assembly hall' at Kumhrar**, a site regarded as the only surviving evidence of the **architectural achievements of the Mauryan emperors** in the Indian subcontinent.

Key Points

- **Uncovering the Mauryan Palace at Kumhrar:**
 - According to ASI, the excavation began on 1st December 2024 at the **Kumhrar protected site in Patna**, focusing on the **Asokan Sabha Ghar (assembly hall)**.
 - The primary aim is to assess the current condition of the buried **Mauryan stone pillars**.
 - A detailed scientific analysis will be conducted, including collaboration with the **Central Ground Water Board** to measure the water table.
 - Based on the findings, the possibility of uncovering all 80 pillars will be considered.
- **Historical Context and Past Excavations:**
 - The Mauryan period hall, believed to have been used by **Emperor Ashoka** for the **Third Buddhist**

Council in the 3rd century BCE, was first revealed through excavations between 1912–1915 and 1951–1955.

- **Challenges:**
 - In the late 1990s, the ruins **suffered from waterlogging due to groundwater seepage**, causing damage to the structure.
 - To prevent further deterioration, the **site was covered with soil and sand in 2004**.
 - Initially, a **few pillars will be uncovered for condition assessment**. If the condition permits, more pillars may be revealed to the public.
- **Importance of Kumhrar:**
 - Kumhrar, located in Patna, houses remnants of the **ancient city of Pataliputra**, the Mauryan Empire's capital.
 - Archaeological **discoveries at Kumhrar, dating to 600 BCE**, provide insights into the history of rulers like **Ajatasattu, Chandragupta Maurya, and Ashoka**.
 - The site includes artifacts spanning four historical periods, from 600 BCE to 600 CE, highlighting its historical significance.

Mauryan Dynasty

- **Chandragupta Maurya (321–297 BCE):** The **founder of the Mauryan Empire**, overthrew the **Nanda dynasty** and expanded the empire by annexing regions such as the **Hindu Kush**.
 - In 305–303 BCE, he formed a treaty with **Seleucus Nicator**, gaining additional territories. Later in life, **Chandragupta became a disciple of Jainism**.
 - **Chanakya**, the prime minister under the reign of Chandragupta Maurya (322 BCE - 297 BCE) and his successor Bindusara. Chanakya played a significant role in the empire's success.
- **Bindusara (298-272 BCE):** Expanded the empire to the Deccan, known as **"Amitraghata" (slayer of enemies)**. Adopted the **Ajivika sect**. **Deimachus** was a Greek ambassador at his court.
- **Ashoka (272-232 BCE):** After the **Kalinga War**, which led to massive casualties, he embraced Buddhism and promoted peace through his **Dhamma (moral laws)**. Organized the 3rd Buddhist Council and spread Buddhism globally.
- **Dasharatha (232–224 BCE):** Last Mauryan ruler to issue imperial inscriptions. Faced territorial losses.

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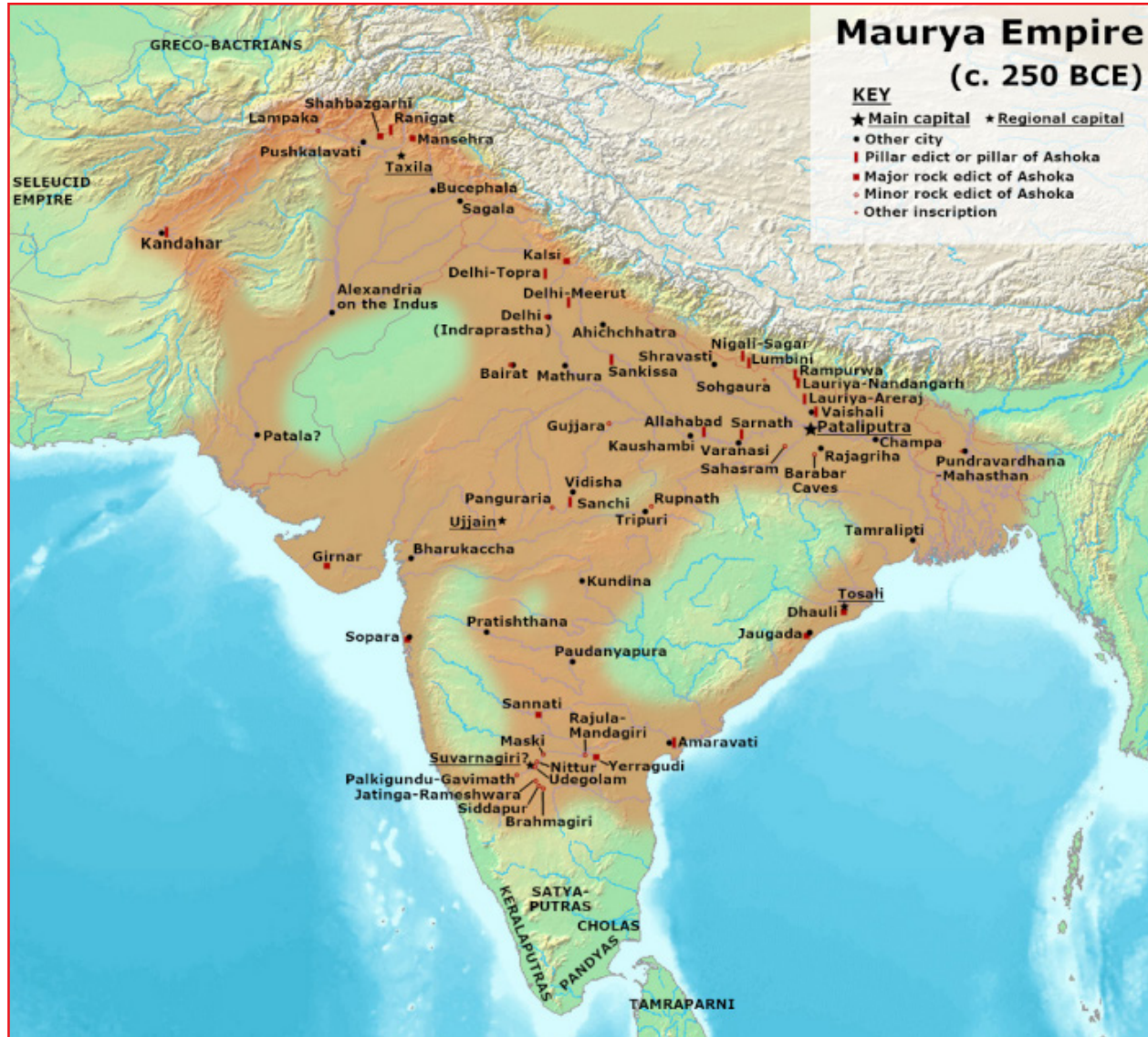


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Note:

- **Samprati (224–215 BCE):** Re-established Mauryan control over disintegrated territories and promoted Jainism.
- **Shalishuka (215–202 BCE):** Known as a quarrelsome ruler with a negative reputation.
- **Devavarman (202–195 BCE):** Brief reign, mentioned in the Puranas.
- **Shatadhanvan (195–187 BCE):** Lost territories due to external invasions.
- **Brihadratha (187–185 BCE):** The last Mauryan emperor, assassinated by **Pushyamitra Shunga**, marking the end of the Mauryan dynasty.



Water Causing Cancer in Bihar's Gangetic Plains

Why in News?

Recently, a study by scientists from **Mahavir Cancer Sansthan, Patna** revealed that **Manganese (Mn)** contamination of water is causing cancer in the **Gangetic plains** of Bihar.

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Note:

Key Points

- **Rise in Cancer Cases in Bihar**
 - Significant increase in **cancer** cases in Bihar over the last few decades.
 - Multiple contributors to cancer, with **manganese toxicity** highlighted as a trace element influencing **carcinogenesis**.
- **Study Findings:**
 - **Sample Size:** Blood samples from 1,146 cancer patients across **Patna, Vaishali, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Siwan, and Saran**.
 - **Gender Distribution:** 67% females, 33% males, aged 2-92 years.
 - **Cancer Types:**
 - **Breast Cancer:** 33.25%
 - Hepatobiliary and Gastrointestinal Cancer: 26.96%
 - **Cervical Cancer:** 5.58%
 - Other Cancers (Oral, Nasal, etc.): 34.78%
 - **Cancer Classification:**
 - Carcinoma: 84.8%
 - **Leukemia:** 9.86%
 - **Lymphoma:** 3%
 - **Sarcoma:** 2.27%
 - **Observation:**
 - **Blood samples from cancer patients** revealed **Mn contamination**, with levels reaching up to **6,022 µg/L** in severe cases.
 - **Elevated Mn levels in household hand pump water** showed a strong correlation with Mn in patients' blood.
- **Manganese in Hand Pump Water:**
 - 84.8% of samples were within **Bureau of Indian standards (BIS)** mandated limits (100 µg/L).
 - 15.2% of samples exceeded permissible levels, with some above 400 µg/L.
- **Geospatial Analysis:**
 - **High Mn levels** found in the **Middle Gangetic Plain and southwestern- northeastern Bihar**.
 - **Geo-mapping** highlights correlation between Mn concentrations in water and cancer incidence.
- **Toxicity of Manganese:**
 - Manganese is critical for body **homeostasis** but toxic in excess.

- **Sources of Exposure** can be from sedimentary or igneous rock deposits, Industrial pollution, etc.
- **First Case in India** was documented in **1957** among **miners in Maharashtra**, movement.
- Other Affected Areas reported in **West Bengal, Karnataka**, and globally in countries like **Nigeria, Bangladesh, and China**.

Heavy Metal Pollution

- **Heavy Metals:**
 - **Heavy metals** may be defined as elements with an **atomic number larger than 20** and an **atomic density greater than 5 g cm⁻³** that must possess metal-like characteristics. **Example: arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, uranium etc.**
- **Heavy Metal Pollution:**
 - Heavy metal pollution has been caused in our **ivers, soils, and environment** as a result of rapidly growing **agriculture and metal industries, improper waste management, heavy use of fertilizers, and pesticides**.
 - **Agricultural and industrial operations, landfilling, mining, and transportation** are the primary sources of heavy metals in **groundwater**.
 - Through the **agricultural water runoff heavy metals** reach upto river.
 - **Discharge of wastewater** from industries (like the tannery industry which is a big source of chromium heavy metals) directly into **river bodies** intensified the severity of the **heavy metal pollution**.
 - Heavy metals have the property of long persistent in plants, animals and the environment with symptoms including weakness, emotional instability, and difficulty with

Super Speciality Eye Hospital in Patna

Why in News?

Recently, the **Bihar government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Sankara Eye Foundation India, Coimbatore** to facilitate the construction and operation of a super-specialty eye hospital in Patna.

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Key Points

- **Land Allocation Approval:**
 - The **Bihar Cabinet approved the allocation of 1.60 acres of land in Kankarbagh, Patna** on a conditional lease at a nominal cost of Rs 1 to Sankara Eye Foundation India.
 - This land will be utilized for the construction of the super-specialty eye hospital.
- **Hospital Details and Benefits:**
 - Sankara Eye Foundation India, an **internationally acclaimed eye treatment hospital**, will construct and operate the hospital at its own expense.
 - Advanced treatments such as **corneoplasty, retinal detachment surgeries, and eye cancer treatments** will be offered along with general eye care.
- **Free Treatment Provision:**
 - **75% of the patients will receive free treatment**, while the remaining **25% will pay for services**.
 - **Families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually** will qualify for **free treatment**.
- **Contrasting Health Infrastructure Report:**
 - CAG Audit Findings on Bihar Health Infrastructure:
 - **The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** report on Public Health Infrastructure (2016–2022) presented during the winter session criticized the state's performance.
 - Out of the Rs 69,790.83 crore health budget allocated from FY 2016-17 to 2021-22, only Rs 48,047.79 crore (69%) was spent, leaving Rs 21,743.04 crore (31%) unutilized.
 - **Low Health Expenditure:**
 - Bihar's healthcare spending as a percentage of **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%.
 - **Resource Shortages:**
 - The report highlighted shortages in drugs, medical equipment, and consumables, pointing to critical gaps in public health infrastructure.

Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 to be Held in Bihar

Why in News?

Bihar will host the **Women's Kabaddi World Cup**, in the indoor hall of the **Rajgir Sports Academy** in **March 2025**.

Key Points

- A total of **14 countries**, including India, China, Japan, South Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Poland, Argentina, and South Africa, are expected to participate.
- Bihar will host the **Women's Kabaddi World Cup** for the **second time**, after previously hosting the event in **2012** at the **Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna**.

Women's Kabaddi World Cup

- The **Women's Kabaddi World Cup** is an international kabaddi competition for women's teams.
- It is organized by the **International Kabaddi Federation (IKF)**.
- The tournament features top kabaddi teams from around the world, competing for the title.
- The **first Women's Kabaddi World Cup** was held in **2012** in **Patna, Bihar**.

Bihar Business Connect 2024 Investment

Why in News?

In '**Bihar Business Connect-2024**,' the state received **investment proposals worth Rs 1.80 lakh crore**.

- The State government announced that it will ensure the conversion of **memorandums of understanding (MoUs)** into tangible investments on the ground within a year.

Key Points

- **Nodal Officers for Ease of Doing Business:**
 - The appointment of "**one nodal officer for every five to ten MoUs**" to facilitate **ease of doing business** was announced.

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Note:

- These officers will assist investors in securing land and obtaining all required clearances across 11 sectors for which proposals have been received.
- **Periodic Review of Progress:**
 - The **State Investment Promotion Board** will regularly review the progress of these initiatives to ensure timely implementation of investments.
- **Investment Commitments in 2024:**
 - During the **two-day global investors' summit in Patna**, a total of **423 investment commitments were signed**.
 - In the **2023 edition** of the investors' meet, **Bihar had secured investment commitments worth Rs 50,300 crore**.

Bihar Business Connect-2024

- **Objective:**
 - The summit aimed to attract investments across sectors, including **manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture**, and technology, showcasing Bihar's conducive environment for business growth.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - Key policies and reforms focused on improving **ease of doing business**, along with tax incentives, infrastructure upgrades, and **skill development** programs to create a favorable climate for investors.
- **Networking Platform:**
 - The event provided a platform for networking among industry leaders, government officials, and global investors, enhancing collaboration opportunities in Bihar's economy.
- **Sectoral Focus:**
 - Emphasis on sectors like **renewable energy, IT, tourism**, and **agri-business** aligns with the state's plans to diversify its economic landscape.

BPSOC Rules Out Exam Cancellation

Why in News?

Recently, **Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSOC)**

Chairman ruled out cancellation of the **70th Integrated Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) 2024** which got mired in allegations of **question paper leak**.

Key Points

- **Disruption in Exam Centre:**
 - The **disruption was limited to one examination center**, and the Commission is **addressing the issue with a re-examination**.
 - The preliminary examination at the Bapu Pariksha Parisar center, canceled due to **disruption caused by unruly aspirants**, will be **re-conducted on 4th January 2025 at another venue in Patna**.
 - Around 12,000 candidates are expected to participate in the re-examination.
- **Show-Cause Notices:**
 - The BPSOC has issued **show-cause notices** to 34 aspirants alleged to have been involved in the disruptions.
 - These **candidates must respond by 26th December 2024**, failing which decisions will be made based on the available evidence.
- **Protests Demanding Complete Cancellation:**
 - **A group of aspirants continues to demand the cancellation of the entire exam** conducted on 13th December 2024, citing concerns over fairness.
 - Protesters have been sitting on dharna at Gardani Bagh for several days, arguing that re-examination for only one center violates the principle of a "level playing field."

Note: A Show Cause Notice is a **formal communication issued by a court, government agency, or another authoritative body** to an individual or entity, asking them to explain or justify their actions, **decisions, or behavior**. The purpose of a show cause notice is to give the recipient an **opportunity to provide a response or clarification regarding specific concerns** or alleged violations.



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