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Bihar Government Revamps Mid-Day Meal Menu

Why in News?

The Government of Bihar has announced significant changes to the mid-day meal (PM Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM Poshan) menu across all government schools in the state, aiming to enhance the nutritional value and variety of meals provided to students.

Key Points

- Changes to the meal are designed to ensure that children receive balanced and wholesome nutrition, thereby promoting better health and learning outcomes.
- > This updated menu emphasizes the inclusion of protein-rich foods like soybeans and lentils, as well as a variety of seasonal vegetables, to ensure a balanced diet for the students.
- > The mid-day meal scheme is a pivotal initiative by the government to provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren, thereby encouraging higher attendance rates and supporting the overall development of students.
- \geq These changes are set to be **implemented across all** government schools in Bihar, reflecting the state's dedication to fostering a healthier and more conducive learning environment for its children.

Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

- > About:
 - It is the largest school feeding programme of its kind in the world, covering students enrolled in government schools from Classes 1 to 8.
 - The **basic objective** of this scheme is to **enhance** enrolment in schools.
- > Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Education
- Background: The programme was first introduced \geq in 1925 for disadvantaged children in Madras **Municipal Corporation.**
 - The Union government launched as a **centrally** sponsored scheme on a pilot basis in 1995 for children in Classes 1 to 5, and by October 2007, MDMS had been scaled up to Class 8.

Bihar Sets Minimum Teacher Requirements for Primary & Middle Schools

Why in News?

The Bihar Education Department has established new standards for the **minimum number of teachers** required in primary and middle schools.

Key Points

- > According to these new guidelines, primary schools (classes 1 to 5) must have at least five teachers, including the head teacher.
 - For schools encompassing classes 1 to 8, a minimum of nine teachers, including the principal, is mandated.
 - District Education Officers have been instructed to upload reports detailing the approved and required number of teachers for each school on the e-ShikshaKosh portal by 31 January 2025.
 - The department emphasizes that each teacher should have at least one dedicated classroom, and the actual assessment of teacher requirements will be based on the availability of rooms in each school.
- > In primary schools with student numbers ranging from 1 to 120, five teachers are mandatory.
 - For student numbers between 121 and 150, six teachers are required. For every additional 40 students beyond 150, one extra teacher will be appointed.
- > In classes 6 to 8, for student numbers up to 105, the staffing requirements are as follows:
 - O One teacher for Science and Mathematics
 - One teacher for Social Studies
 - One teacher for Hindi
 - One teacher for **English**
 - Additionally, provisions can be made for **Urdu** and Sanskrit teachers as needed.
 - For every additional **35 students** beyond **105**, one extra teacher will be appointed.

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> These measures aim to ensure adequate teacherstudent ratios and improve the quality of education in Bihar's schools.

e-ShikshaKosh Portal

- > About:
 - o e-ShikshaKosh is an integrated digital platform designed to streamline educational data management, enhancing decision-making, optimizing resources, and enabling real-time monitoring by consolidating data from various sources.
- > Key Benefits
 - Enhanced Decision-Making: Consolidates data to improve decision-making and resource optimization.
 - o Real-Time Monitoring: Provides up-to-date information for continuous monitoring.
 - o Efficiency: Addresses inefficiencies, reduces redundancy, and ensures strong governance.
 - o Comprehensive View: Offers a holistic view of educational metrics.
 - o Academic Improvement: Supports continuous improvement in academic quality and equity.
 - Sustainability & Inclusion: Promotes a sustainable, inclusive, and well-managed learning environment.
 - o Integrated Functions: Combines multiple educational functions like teaching standards, student performance monitoring, and e-learning programs into one platform.

Bihar Tableau at Republic Day

Why in News?

Bihar's tableau at the Republic Day parade showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region, symbolically representing the revered Bodhi Tree and the legendary Nalanda University.

> The display highlighted **Bihar's historical identity as** the 'land of Buddha' and a center of ancient wisdom.

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Key Points

- Bihar's Tableau:
 - Bihar's tableau made its presence at the 76th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path after a gap of eight years.
 - The tableau was aligned with **the central theme** 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas' and stood out with the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University as the dominant element.
 - o The tableau featured an installation of a Lord Buddha statue in a meditative Dharmachakra Mudra, symbolising peace and harmony. The statue's original location is at the Ghora Katora reservoir in Rajgir.
 - o Bihar's tableau highlighted the state's tradition of knowledge and peace, emphasizing its historical identity as a land of knowledge, salvation, and peace.
 - **Depictions of Historical and Cultural Landmarks:**
 - The tableau included representations of the sacred Bodhi Tree from Bodh Gaya, where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, and the ancient ruins of Nalanda University, established in 427 CE by Emperor Kumaragupta.
 - o The tableau emphasized Nalanda University's role as the world's first residential university, which was a global hub for knowledge, attracting scholars from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, and beyond.
- **Murals and Modern Innovations:**
 - o Murals on the tableau's side panels depicted the contributions of Chanakya, who mentored Chandragupta Maurya, and scenes from ancient Vedic assemblies, showcasing democratic governance and judicial systems.





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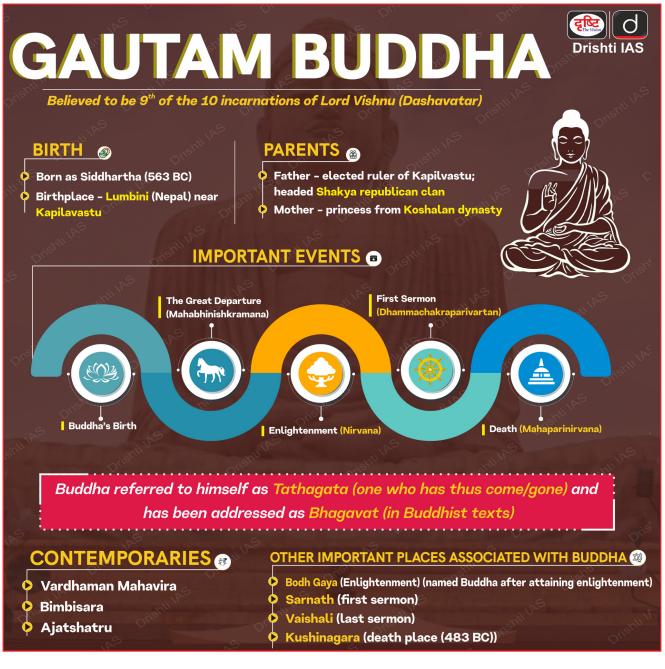








- o Another mural highlighted the 'Guru-Shishya' tradition and Aryabhata's contributions to mathematics.
- An LED screen displayed the **newly constructed Nalanda International University campus**, designed with carbon-neutral and net-zero sustainability goals, reflecting modern educational progress.



Padma awards 2025

Why in News?

Seven people from Bihar were selected for the prestigious Padma awards, including noted singer Sharda Sinha, former Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, and eminent social worker Acharya Kishore Kunal.





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Key Points

- Announcement of Winners:
 - The Union government announced the names of the Padma award winners on the eve of **Republic Day.**
 - A total of 139 people from across the country were selected for the highest civilian awards in various categories.
- Padma Vibhushan Award:
 - o Sharda Sinha, the renowned singer known as 'Bihar Kokila,' will be posthumously honoured with the Padma Vibhushan, the highest civilian award, for her exceptional and distinguished service.
- Padma Bhushan Award: >

- o Sushil Kumar Modi, the former deputy CM of Bihar, has been selected posthumously for the Padma Bhushan in the field of public affairs.
- He is the sole recipient from Bihar among the 19 recipients of the Padma Bhushan nationwide.
- > Padma Shri Award:
 - Kishore Kunal, a noted social worker and founder of Mahavir Sansthan, will receive the Padma Shri.
- Other recipients of the Padma Shri from Bihar include: \geq
 - Bhim Singh Bhavesh in social work,
 - Hemant Kumar for his work in medicine,
 - o Nirmala Devi for her contributions in the art field,
 - o Vijay Nityanand Surishwer Ji Maharaj in spiritualism.



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Bihar CM Felicitates Olympians, **Paralympic Athletes**

Why in News?

During the Sportstar Focus Bihar Conclave at the Taj City Centre in Patna, Bihar Chief Minister honored athletes and paraathletes for their achievements and contributions in sports.

Key Points

- > Athletes Felicitated:
 - The event honored notable athletes and para-athletes, including:
 - Deepa Malik, Paralympic silver medallist.
 - Vijender Singh, Olympic bronze medal-winning boxer.
 - P.R. Sreejesh, double Olympic bronze medallist in hockey.
 - Sharad Kumar, double Paralympic medallist.
 - Shiva Keshavan, six-time Winter Olympian.
 - Harendra Singh, head coach of the Indian women's hockey team.
- **Special Awards for State Athletes:** \geq
 - In keeping with the Sportstar Conclave tradition, two special awards were given to athletes from Bihar:
 - Jai Prakash Singh, a decathlete, received the Unsung Champion Award.
 - Md. Reyan, a teenage chess talent, was honored with the Young Achiever Award.
 - Both awardees were granted a **cash** prize of Rs 50,000 each.

The Paralympics

- The Paralympics is the largest international event for disabled \geq athletes and takes place shortly after the Olympic Games.
- ≻ Olympic-style games for athletes with a disability were organised for the first time in Rome in 1960.
- It is supervised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), ≻ a body recognised by the IOC.

MPIC

Ancient History

- Originated Olympia, Greece (776 BC)
- Connected to Greek culture and reliaion
- Events Running, wrestling, and chariot racina
- Abolished 393 AD by Emperor Theodosius I

Modern History

- B Revived Late 19th century by Pierre de Coubertin (Founding member of IOC)
- First modern Olympics Athens, Greece (1896)

Upcoming Events

- SWinter Olympics 2026: Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy
- Summer Olympics 2028: Los Angeles, USA
- Summer Olympics 2032: Brisbane, Australia
- India intends to host Olympic Games 2036

Logo and Motto

- Sinterlocking rings of blue, yellow, black, green, and red colors on a white background (represents union of 5 continents and meeting of world athletes)
- Motto: Citius, Altius, Fortius Communiter (Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together) ('Communiter' was added in 2021)



International Olympic Committee (IOC) Estd - 1894

- © Guardian of the Olympic Games
- 9 HQ Lausanne, Switzerland
- new sports added in Tokyo 2020 Olympics: Surfing, Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, Karate and Baseball/Softball

PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

Indian Sportspersons /Team	Medal	Event
Neeraj Chopra	Silver	Men's Javelin Throw
Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh	Bronze	10m air pistol mixed team event
Swapnil Kusale	Bronze	Men's 50m rifle 3 positions
Indian Hockey team	Bronze	Men's hockey
Manu Bhaker	Bronze	Women's 10m air pistol event
Aman Sehrawat	Bronze	Wrestling Men's 57kg freestyle event
dian Olympic Associat		दस्टि
Founded - 1927		elects athletes to represent India Usympics, Asian Games and CWG Drishti L

India at 74st place in the model talks a decline from 49th place in Takyo 2020)

Bihar Man Files FIR Against Political Leader

Why in News?

A Bihar resident has filed a case against a political party leader, accusing him of causing financial loss.

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Key Points

- > The complainant, reportedly a milk vendor, approached the local court, alleging that a political rally led by a political leader disrupted his business operations.
- The complainant, however, has asserted **his right to seek compensation** for the inconvenience caused by the rally. \geq
 - The incident underscores the growing trend of citizens seeking legal redress for grievances stemming from political events, reflecting a larger debate on balancing political expression with public convenience.
- A resident of Sonupur village is seeking the trial of the political leader under various sections of the Bharatiya ≻ Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, including Section 152, which deals with sedition.
 - Section 152 of the BNS criminalises any act of exciting secession, armed rebellion, and subversive activities.
 - It also criminalises acts encouraging feelings of separatism or endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.

BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA (BNS), 2023

BNS 2023 replaced Indian Penal Code 1860, incorporating 358 sections (511 in IPC), maintaining most of the IPC provisions, introducing new offences, eliminating court- struck-down offences, and enhancing penalties for various offences.

New Offences

- Promise to Marry: Criminalising "deceitful" promises to marry
- Mob Lynching: Codify offences linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders
- Ordinary criminal law now covers Organized () Crime and Terrorism, including a broader scope for terror financing in BNS compared to UAPA
- Attempt to Suicide: Criminalises attempts to commit suicide with intent to compel or restrain any public servant from discharging official duty
- Community Service: Added as possible form of punishment

Deletions

- Unnatural Sexual Offences: Section 377 of the IPC, which criminalised homosexuality among other "unnatural" sexual activities repealed completely
- Adultery: Offence of adultery omitted in consonance of apex court judgement
- Thugs: Section 310 of IPC fully omitted
- Gender Neutrality: Some laws dealing with children modified to bring gender neutrality



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Other Modifications

- Fake News: Criminalisation of publishing false and misleading information
- Sedition: Introduced under a new name 'deshdroh' with wider definition
- Mandatory Minimum Sentence: In several provisions, mandatory minimum sentences prescribed which may limit scope for judicial discretion
- Damage to Public Property: Carry a graded fine (i.e. fine corresponding to the amount of damage caused)
- Death by Negligence: Elevates punishment for causing death by negligence from two to five years (for doctors - 2 yrs imprisonment)

Key Issues

- Criminal Responsibility Age Discrepancy: Criminal responsibility starts at seven, extendable to 12 based on maturity, potentially conflicting with global recommendations
- Inconsistencies in Child Offense Definitions: It sets child age below 18, but age criteria for offenses like rape differ, causing inconsistency
- **Retention of IPC Provisions on Rape and Sexual** Harassment: Maintains IPC provisions on rape and sexual harassment, omitting Justice Verma Committee's 2013 suggestions for gender-neutral rape and recognizing marital rape as an offense.





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Bihar's First Sports University Gets UGC Recognition

Why in News?

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recognised <u>Bihar's first sports university</u>, inaugurated by the State Chief Minister on <u>National Sports Day 2024</u> in Rajgir, Nalanda district.

Key Points

> UGC Recognition:

- The Bihar Sports University, Rajgir, has received recognition from the UGC under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956.
- This recognition empowers the university to offer academic courses, including undergraduate and diploma/PG diploma programs in physical education and sports sciences.
- > Academic Programs and Future Plans:
 - The university plans to launch various academic programs starting from the 2025-2026 academic session.
 - These programs will include:
 - Diploma/PG diploma in sports coaching (covering two or three sports).
 - Diploma/PG diploma in Yoga.
 - Four-year Bachelor of Physical Education (pending recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education).

> Sports Complex and Additional Developments:

- The Bihar Sports University and the State's first sports academy are part of the <u>International</u> <u>Sports Complex in Rajgir.</u>
- The complex also hosted <u>the Women's Asian</u> <u>Champions Trophy</u> in November 2024.
- > Grievance Redressal Mechanism:
 - The UGC guidelines mandate the appointment of an ombudsperson for addressing student grievances, as per the UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students' Regulation, 2023), ideally within two months of the university beginning academic activities.

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- The University Grants Commission (UGC) came into existence on 28th December, 1953 and became a statutory Organization of the Government of India by an Act of Parliament in 1956, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in university education.
- It operates under the Ministry of Education, the Central Government appoints a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and ten other members to the UGC.
- It functions from New Delhi as well as its six Regional offices located in Bangalore, Bhopal, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Pune.
- It also regulates the recognition of fake universities, autonomous colleges, deemed to be universities and distance education institutions.

Royal Mint of Britain Honors George Orwell

Why in News?

The Royal Mint of Britain has issued a coin to honor George Orwell, born in Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar, marking his **75th death anniversary**.

The commemorative £2 coin features a design symbolizing Orwell's legacy.

Key Points

- George Orwell, the great English novelist, was born on 25 June, 1903, in Motihari, Bihar.
- His father was a British civil servant, and his mother was of Burmese descent.
- Orwell's famous novels **1984** and **Animal Farm** are considered landmarks in **English literature**, and he is often referred to as a "century writer".
- Orwell's work, particularly the concept of "Big Brother" and totalitarian control, remains relevant today.
- The coin highlights Orwell's deep connection to themes of truth, power, and privacy, and serves as a tribute to his enduring influence in literature and global discourse.

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42nd Governor of Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, Arif Mohammad Khan was sworn in as the 42nd Governor of Bihar.

Key Points

- > Oath Administration:
 - o Patna High Court Chief Justice administered the oath at the Raj Bhawan.
 - o The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputies, and Leader of Opposition.
- \geq Governor:
 - The Governor's appointment, his powers and everything related to the office of Governor have been discussed under Article 153 to Article 162 of the Indian Constitution.
 - The role of the Governor is guite similar to that of the President of India. He stands as executive head of a State and under the Constitution of India, the governing machinery is the same as that of the Central Government.
 - o It is stated that the Governor has a dual role.
 - He is the constitutional head of the state, bound by the advice of his council of ministers.
 - He functions as a vital link between the Union Government and the State Government.

President - Article 52 -78 in (Part V); Governor - Article 153 -167 (Part VI)						
Governor and President - Similarities						
Point of Similarity	Characteristics					
Head	 Both are nominal executive heads (constitutional/ titular heads) at their level 					
Promulgating Ordinances	Both are empowered (under Article 123/213 - President/Governor)					
Civil and Criminal Proceedings	Both are immune from any criminal proceedings during tenure; cannot be arrested or imprisoned Civil proceedings can be instituted after giving a 2-months' notice					
Re-appointment/Re-election	 Both are eligible for reappointment/re-election to the same office 					
Appointing Officers	 What President appoints at National level, Governor appoints at state level (members of Public Service Com- mission, Judges of courts, Election Commissioners etc.) 					
Role in Legislature	 Power to summon or prorogue the State/Union Legislature and dissolve the State LA/Lok Sabha 					
Financial Powers	Constituting Finance Commission at State/Union level					
Situational Discretionary Power	Appointing PM/CM (in case of PM/CM's death or when no party has clear majority) Dismissal of Council of Ministers Dissolution of Lok Sabha/ State LA					

Point of Difference	President	Governor
Election	Indirectly elected	Appointed by President
Pleasure Doctrine	No concept of Pleasure doctrine	Serves at the Pleasure of the President
Declaring Scheduled Area	Can declare any area as scheduled area	Role is limited to consultation
Amending Constitution	His assent to the bill is required	No role in a Constitutional Amendment Bill
Pardoning Power	Can pardon a death sentence/punishment by a court-martial	Can't pardon a death sentence, no role in affairs of military
Constitutional Discretionary Power	No Constitutional Discretion	Constitutional Discretion in reserving a bill, impositior of President's rule & administrating an adjoining UT
Condition of Impeachment	Violation of the Constitution	No grounds laid

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Complaint Against Police Action on BPSC Students

Why in News?

A Bihar-based advocate has filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regarding the police lathi charge on BPSC students protesting for a re-examination of the 70th BPSC Combined (Preliminary) Competitive Examination (CCE) after an alleged paper leak.

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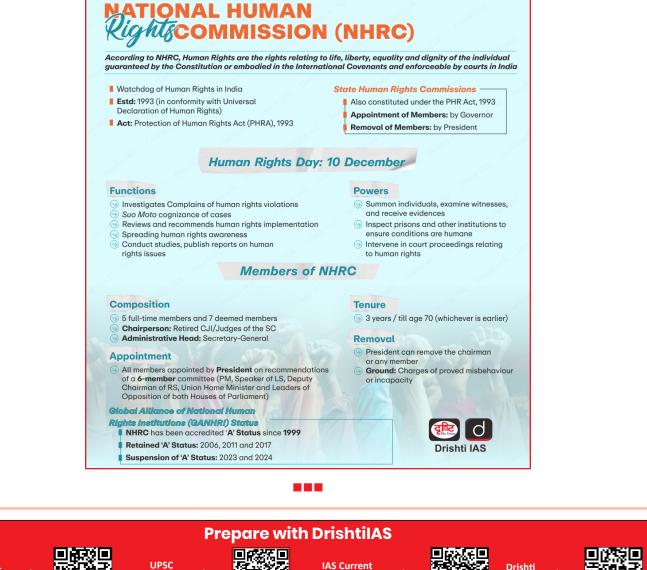
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Affairs Module

Key Points

- Examination Controversy:
 - The BPSC exam, conducted on 13th December 2024, saw 3.28 lakh candidates across 912 centres.
 - Allegations of a paper leak at one of the exam centers led to the announcement of a reexamination on 4th January 2025 for affected candidates.
 - The **commission denied the paper leak**, asserting that the exam was peaceful at other centres.
- Protests and Police Action:
 - For 15 days, BPSC aspirants protested at Gardanibagh, Patna, demanding justice.
 - o On 28th December 2024, police used canes and water cannons to disperse the crowd.
 - o Following the lathi charge, a delegation of students met the Chief Secretary to present their demands.

- Allegations of Excessive Force:
 - o It is alleged that police fractured students' bones and used force indiscriminately, even against peaceful protesters with folded hands.
 - Police used water cannons on protesters during chilling winter nights, describing the actions as aggravated human rights violations.
 - The complaint also claimed that male police officers brutally beat female protesters in the presence of senior officials.
- **Constitutional and Ethical Violations:**
 - The excessive force violated Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to peaceful assembly.
 - o Code of Conduct was breached as Principle 4 of India's Police Code of Conduct, emphasized that force should be minimal and used only as a last resort after persuasion, advice, and warnings.



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Key Points	Details

Summary

Key Points	Details

Summary