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BIHAR

**MARCH
2025**

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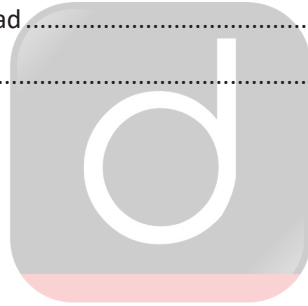
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SEZ in Buxar and West Champaran

Why in News?

Bihar's Industry Minister announced setting up of **Special Economic Zones (SEZ)** in **Buxar** and **West Champaran**.

Key Points

- **About the issue:**
 - The central government had approved their formation till **November 2024**. These zones will be established in Navanagar of Buxar and **Kumarbagh of West Champaran**.
- **Special Economic Zone:**
 - **Introduction:**
 - SEZs are **zones within a country that are often duty-free (fiscal concessions)** and have different trade and commercial laws primarily to encourage investment and create employment.
 - These are also **created to better administer these areas**, making it easier to do business.
 - **SEZs in India:**
 - Asia's **first Export Processing Zones (EPZ)** was established in **Kandla, Gujarat** in 1965.
 - **These EPZs were structured similar to SEZs, with the government establishing EPZs in the year 2000 to address** the infrastructural and bureaucratic challenges of EPZs.
 - **The Special Economic Zone Act** was passed in the year 2005 and came into force along with the SEZ Rules in the year 2006.
 - There are currently **379 SEZs notified**, of which 265 are operational. About 64% of the SEZs are located in five states - Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
 - **The Board of Approval is the apex body** and is headed by the Secretary, Department of Commerce (**Ministry of Commerce and Industry**).
 - **The Baba Kalyani-led committee** was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study India's existing SEZ policy and submitted its recommendations in November 2018.

- It was set up with the broad objective of evaluating the SEZ policy towards making it **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** compatible and bringing in global best practices to optimally utilise the capacity and maximise the potential output of SEZs.

Vikramshila University

Why in News?

A decade after establishing **Nalanda University** in **Rajgir**, Bihar has intensified efforts to revive another ancient center of learning—**Vikramshila University**.

- Since December 2024, **the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has been developing the Vikramshila site to enhance its appeal as a tourist destination.

Key Points

- **About the Project:**
 - The **Centre approved the Vikramshila University project in 2015 and sanctioned Rs 500 crore**, but progress stalled due to delays in land identification by the Bihar government.
 - On 24th February 2025, Prime Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to reviving Vikramshila, emphasizing its historical significance as a global center of knowledge.
- **Archaeological Conservation and Preservation:**
 - Workers are actively engaged in clearing vegetation and exposing architectural **features at the ruins of Vikramshila Mahavihar**.
 - The site has been divided into grids as part of ASI's systematic conservation efforts.
 - A cruciform brick stupa, the centerpiece of Vikramshila, stands surrounded by **208 monastic cells** where student-monks once practiced **Tantrayana Buddhism**.
- **Historical Significance of Vikramshila:**
 - **Founded by Pala King Dharmapala (late 8th–early 9th century AD)**, Vikramshila thrived alongside Nalanda University.
 - While Nalanda gained fame for its broad academic disciplines, **Vikramshila specialized in tantric and occult studies**.

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Note:

- During Dharmapala's reign, Vikramshila was the dominant institution, even overseeing Nalanda's affairs.
- Both universities had a common patron and exchanged scholars known as Acharyas.
- **Academic Excellence and Global Influence:**
 - Vikramshila offered **courses in theology, philosophy, grammar, metaphysics, and logic**, but its primary focus was on Tantrayana Buddhism.
 - **Atisa Dipankara, one of Vikramshila's most renowned scholars**, played a pivotal role in spreading Buddhism to Tibet.
 - The university flourished for nearly four centuries before **declining in the 13th century**, due to the resurgence of Hinduism, the decline of Buddhism, and **invasions by Bakhtiyar Khalji**.
- **Modern Revival Efforts:**
 - The Bihar government has approved Rs 87.99 crore for land acquisition in Antichak village, located 3 km from the ancient Vikramshila site.
 - Bhagalpur district administration has identified 202.14 acres for the new Central university, of which 27 acres belong to the state but are occupied by local families.

Nalanda University



- **Gupta Emperor** Kumaragupta (Shakraditya) of the **Gupta dynasty** founded Nalanda University in **427 CE** in modern Bihar in the early 5th century, and it flourished for 600 years until the 12th century.
- During the era of **Harshavardhana** and the **Palas monarchs**, it rose to popularity.

- During **King Harshavardhana's reign (606-647 AD)** Chinese scholar **Xuan Zang** (also known as **Hiuen Tsang** and **Moksadeva**, a **7th-century Chinese Buddhist monk**, scholar, traveller, and translator) came here and studied for about 5 years.
 - He also carried back many scriptures from Nalanda, which were later translated into Chinese.
- In **670 AD**, another Chinese pilgrim **I-Tsing** visited Nalanda. He stated that Nalanda housed 2,000 students and was supported by money from 200 villages.
 - A large number of students have come to study from **China, Mongolia, Tibet, Korea**, and other Asian countries.
- Archaeological evidence also indicates contact with the **Indonesian Shailendra dynasty**, one of whose kings built a monastery in the complex.
- Spiritual divines like **Lord Buddha** and **Lord Mahavira** meditated in this region, adding to the positive vibrancy of the area.
- Great masters such as **Nagarjuna, Aryabhatta**, and Dharmakirti contributed to the scholarly traditions of ancient Nalanda.
- The university was **destroyed in 1193** by **Bakhtiyar Khalji**, a general of the **Turkish ruler Qutbuddin Aibak**.
- It was rediscovered in 1812 by Scottish surveyor **Francis Buchanan-Hamilton** and later identified as the ancient university by **Sir Alexander Cunningham** in 1861.

Bihar Diwas

Why in News?

A three-day function was organized from **22 to 24 March 2025** at **Gandhi Maidan, Patna** on the occasion of **Bihar Diwas** which is celebrated every year on **22 March**.

Key Points

- **About the function:**
 - The main purpose of celebrating this day is to **honor the rich cultural heritage, history and development of Bihar**.

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Note:

- This year the **113th foundation day** was organised, the theme of which was '**Advanced Bihar, Developed Bihar**'.
- An **exhibition related to the development works** was organized by various departments in the function, which included the **Education Department, Rural Development, Art, Culture and Youth Department, Disaster Management etc.**
- The Chief Minister released the booklets '**Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap of Bihar**' and '**Chief Minister School Safety Program**'.
- **History of Bihar Day:**
 - On **March 22, 1912**, the British formed a new province '**Bihar**' separate from Bengal.
 - **The Swadeshi movement** against the **Bengal Partition implemented in 1905** led to the cancellation of Bengal Partition and the formation of Bihar and Assam.
 - In **2000**, a new state '**Jharkhand**' was established, separate from Bihar.
 - In 2011, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar established it as a comprehensive celebration, which includes various programs and events. This day is a public holiday in Bihar.
 - Apart from India, the day is also celebrated in countries like **the United States, Germany, Britain (Scotland), Australia, Canada, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mauritius.**

- The total area of the state is 94,163 sq km, making it the **13th largest state in the country**.
- The total geographical area of the state covers 2.86% of India.
- The state's north to south length is 345 km and east to west length is 483 km.
- The **largest district in terms of area is West Champaran** and the **smallest district is Shivhar**.
- **Boundaries:**
 - Bihar **shares its border with 3 states (West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand) and Nepal.**
 - **7 districts** of Bihar (West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria and Kishanganj) **border Nepal.**
 - There are **8 districts** (Rohtas, Kaimur, Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj and West Champaran) **bordering Uttar Pradesh**.
 - **3 districts** (Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar) from West Bengal and 8 districts (Bhagalpur, Banka, Jamui, Nawada, Gaya, Aurangabad, Rohtas and Katihar) from **Jharkhand are connected.**
 - The northernmost district is West Champaran, the southernmost district is Gaya, the westernmost district is Kaimur and the easternmost district is Kishanganj.

Special Category Status for Bihar

Why in News?

The Bihar **chief minister** reiterated the long-standing demand for granting **Special Category Status (SCS)** to the state before **the 16th Finance Commission** which would increase the state's **tax revenue from the Centre.**

Key Points

- **Special Category Status:**
 - **Historical and structural challenges:** Bihar faces significant economic **challenges**, including **lack of industrial development and limited investment opportunities**.

Bihar State

- **About:**
 - The origin of the name Bihar is believed to be due to the **abundance of Buddhist monasteries (Viharas)**, because this region was the main center of Buddhism in ancient times.
 - The **capital of the state is Patna**, which was also known as **Pataliputra, Pushpapur and Kusumpur** in ancient times.
- **Geographical location:**
 - Bihar is located between **24°20'10" to 27° 31' 15" north latitude and 83°19'50" to 88° 17' 40" east longitude**.

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Note:

- As a result of the division of the state, most of the industries shifted to Jharkhand , which increased the problems of **employment and economic development in Bihar.**
- **Natural Calamities:** The state is facing **natural calamities** like floods in the northern region and severe drought in the southern part .
 - The recurrence of these disasters disrupts **agricultural activities** , especially in the case of **irrigation facilities**, and leads to inadequate water supply, **affecting livelihoods and economic stability** .
- **Lack of Infrastructure:** Bihar's **inadequate infrastructure** hinders the overall **development of the state** , with challenges such as poor **road network, limited healthcare access, and lack of educational facilities** .
 - In 2013, **the Raghuram Rajan Committee** constituted by the Centre placed Bihar in the **"least developed category"**.
- **Poverty and Social Development:** Bihar has a high **poverty rate** and a large number of families live below the poverty line.
 - According to a survey by **NITI Aayog**, Bihar tops the list of poor states, with **multidimensional poverty at 26.59% in 2022-23** , which is higher than the national average of 11.28%.
 - Bihar's per capita **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the year 2022-23 is only Rs 60,000 compared to the national average of Rs 1,69,496.

Special Category Rating

- **Introduction:**
 - **Special Category Status (SCS)** is a classification granted by the Centre to **aid the development of geographically and socio-economically backward states**.
 - The **Constitution does not provide for SCS** and this classification was done later in **1969 based on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission** .
 - This status was **first given to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland in 1969**. **Telangana is the latest state** in India to receive this status.
 - SCS is different from special status, which provides enhanced legislative and political rights, while SCS deals only with economic and financial aspects.

- For example, **before the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had special status.**
- Criteria for getting the rating (based on Gadgil recommendations) :
 - Mountainous **terrain**
 - **Low population density** and/or large proportion of tribal population
 - **Strategic location** on borders with neighbouring countries
 - **Backwardness** in economic and infrastructure
 - The unviable nature of state finances
- **Benefit:**
 - **90% of the funds required in a centrally sponsored scheme** is paid to the special category states, compared to 60% or 75% in the case of other states , while the remaining funds are provided by the state governments.
 - **Unspent funds in a financial year do not lapse** and are carried forward.
 - These states are given significant **concessions in excise and customs duties, income tax and corporate tax.**
 - 30% of the Centre's gross budget is provided to special category states.

Bihar Awarded in Digitech Awards 2025

Why in News?

Bihar was awarded the **Gold Award** for the successful implementation of '**Bihar Krishi' App** and '**Smart Prepaid Meters**' at the **Government Digitech Awards 2025** ceremony held in **New Delhi** on 18th March, 2025.

Key Points

- **Smart Prepaid Metering:**
 - This award was given to **Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (BSPHCL)** for the effective implementation of **smart prepaid metering**.
 - The state's initiative '**Bihar - Proud Torch Bearer of Universal Smart Prepaid Metering for the Nation**' was declared the best in the **Digital Transformation Leader in Public Sector** category.

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Note:

- **Smart prepaid metering** is a modern **energy management system** . It is more **transparent, efficient and consumer friendly** than traditional metering .
 - It aims to **empower consumers, bring transparency in the billing process, save energy and improve revenue recovery** .
- **'Bihar Krishi' App:**
- The **Agriculture Department of Bihar** was awarded the **Gold Award** for the successful implementation of this app.
 - **'Bihar Krishi' App** is a **single digital platform** developed by **Bihar Agriculture Department** , which provides farmers access to **agriculture schemes, crop prices, weather, grievance redressal, soil health card, government announcements and agriculture related contact information** .
- **Government Digitech Awards:**
- The **ET Government Digitech Awards** is supported by the **Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** .
 - These awards recognise pioneers who have played a key role in shaping the **digital transformation in public services** .
 - **30 winners from across India** were felicitated at the event . Several states including **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and Haryana** were also awarded in various categories.
- Enhancing coordination between **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)** and **Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)**.
 - Appointment of **Child Marriage Protection Officers** at every district and sub-division level.
- **Status of child marriage in the state:**
- According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5**, **Bihar ranks second** after West Bengal in terms of rate of child marriage in the country .
 - According to the report, **40.8% of women in the state are married before the age of 18**.
- **Other efforts to eradicate child marriage:**
- Interactive meetings with girl students in schools under **the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign** .
 - Cash reward of up to Rs 5000 for providing verified information under **Informer Incentive Scheme** .
 - **Organizing awareness camps in rural areas** to inform the community about the ill effects of child marriage.

Task Force to Eradicate Child Marriage

Why in News?

The **Bihar government** is going to constitute a state level **'task force'** under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to prevent and **eliminate child marriage** in the state.

Key Points

- **Objectives and functions of the Task Force:**
- To effectively guide the police and other agencies in preventing child marriage.
 - To ensure strict disposal of cases related to **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA)**.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign

- It was **launched in January 2015** with the aim to address **sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The programme is being **implemented across 405 districts in the country**.

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- **About:**
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** It is an act of the Government of India, which has been **implemented to prevent child marriage in the society**.
- **Key provisions of the Act:**
- Under this Act, **marriage of a man below 21 years of age or a woman below 18 years of age will be categorized as child marriage**.
 - Under this child marriage has been considered a punishable offence.

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Note:

- Also, under this Act, any **adult man who solemnizes a child marriage or any person solemnizing the child marriage shall be punished** with rigorous imprisonment for a term of two years, or with fine of up to one lakh rupees, or with both, but no woman shall be punished with imprisonment.
- The offences committed under this Act will be **cognizable and non-bailable**.
- Under this Act, there is also a provision to declare the marriage of a minor child invalid.

Shaurya Vednam Festival

Why in News?

The first Shaurya Vednam festival was organized in Motihari, East Champaran district of Bihar on 7-8 March 2025 .

Key Points

- **About the festival:**
 - **Objective:**
 - The aim of this festival was to **showcase the military might of the Indian Armed Forces** and to **make the youth and common citizens aware and inspire them towards the defence forces**.
 - **Events and Chief Guests**
 - The festival was organised in collaboration with the **Ministry of Defence and East Champaran District Administration** .
 - The festival was inaugurated by **Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan** and the chief guests included **Radha Mohan Singh (Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence)**, Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta and other senior officials.
 - **Military exhibits and attractions:**
 - The event showcased modern military technologies and equipment of the **Army, Navy and Air Force** , which included:
 - The Indian Army showcased advanced equipment like the **K-9 Vajra gun, T-90 Bhisma tank, Swati radar and BMP combat vehicle** .

- The Navy displayed models of **submarines, destroyers and aircraft carriers** , providing a **comprehensive demonstration of naval power**.
- The Indian Air Force showcased its might through a **flypast and display of fighter jets and helicopters**.

Motihari

- Motihari is an important historical town in **East Champaran district of Bihar**.
- It is the headquarters of East Champaran district, located on the Nepal border.
- According to legend, Motihari was named after two men, Moti Singh and Hari Singh .
- It is the **birthplace of the famous writer George Orwell** and has been the **main centre of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha** .
- **Scenic Spots:**
 - **Kesaria Buddhist Stupa:** Located in Kesaria, it is one of the **tallest Buddhist stupas in the world**.
 - **Ashoka Pillar:** This 36½ feet high pillar located in Lauriya village was installed by Emperor Ashoka in 249 BC. It is also known as “**Sthamb Dharma Lekh**”.

Valmiki Festival 2025

Why in News?

On 8 March 2025, the **Chief Minister of Bihar** launched the **Valmiki Mahotsav 2025** .

Key Points

- **About the Festival:**
 - Valmiki Mahotsav is an effective platform to honor the contribution of Maharishi Valmiki as well as to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Bihar.
 - The festival was organised in the River Valley Project School premises, situated in the middle of the Valmiki Tiger Reserve at Valmikinagar in West Champaran district .

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Note:

- The program started with the presentation of ' **Bihar Geet** '. After this, a short film based on **Maharishi Valmiki** was shown, which depicted the importance of this holy place.
- Many important guests including the Chief Minister of Bihar and the Minister of Art and Culture were present in the program.

Maharishi Valmiki

- Maharishi Valmiki is considered the first poet of Sanskrit literature and is known as the author of the epic "**Ramayana**".
- He was a great sage, ascetic and philosopher. His life is mentioned in various texts, according to which he was earlier a robber, but with the inspiration of sage Narada, he did penance and became a great saint.
- **During his penance a 'Valmiki'** (ant mound) was formed around him due to which he was named '**Valmiki**'.
- Maharishi Valmiki was born on **the full moon day of Ashwin month**, which is celebrated as **Valmiki Jayanti in the Hindu calendar**.

Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)

- VTR is the **only tiger reserve in Bihar**, which forms the **easternmost limit of the Himalayan foothills forests in India**.
- VTR is **located in West Champaran district of Bihar** which shares a border with Nepal in the north and Uttar Pradesh in the west.
- Located in the Gangetic plains biogeographical region, the vegetation of this Tiger Reserve is a combination of **Bhabar and Terai regions**.
- As per **Forest Survey of India report 2021**, 85.71% of its total area is forested.
- The wild mammals found in the forests of Valmiki Tiger Reserve include **tiger, sloth bear, leopard, wild dog, bison, wild boar**, etc.
- The rivers **Gandak, Pandai, Manor, Harha, Masan and Bhapsa flow** through various parts of the sanctuary.

Bihar Budget 2025-26

Why in News?

On 3rd March 2025, the **Bihar Finance Minister** presented a **Rs 3.17 lakh crore budget** in the state assembly, prioritizing education and **women's empowerment**.

Key Points

➤ Key provisions of the budget:

- The **total revenue expenditure** in the financial year 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 2 lakh 52 thousand crore, which is 79.52% of the total expenditure.
- The **highest provision of Rs 60,964 crore** has been made on **education**.
- A provision of **Rs 20 thousand crore was made for health and Rs 17 thousand crore for roads**.
- Rs 17831 crore has been made for the Home Department, Rs 16043 crore for Rural Development, Rs 13484 crore for the Energy Department and more than Rs 13 thousand crore for the Social Welfare Department, SC, ST, Minority, Backward, Extremely Backward.
- **Focus on women empowerment:**
 - Construction of **pink toilets**.
 - Mahila Haats will be opened in **Patna**.
 - **Pink bus service** will start (all drivers and conductors will be women).
 - Hostels will be built for **working women**.
 - Appointment of **women tourist guides**.
 - Financial assistance for **purchasing e-rickshaw**.
 - Increase in the number of women police personnel.
 - Construction of '**Kanya Vivah Mandap**' for the marriage of poor girls.
- **Education and social welfare:**
 - The rate of scholarship will be doubled.
 - Incentive amount will be increased for **SC/ST and backward classes**.
- **Health and medical facilities**
 - Construction of a **cancer hospital in Begusarai**.
 - 108 new urban medical centers will open in **Bihar**.

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Note:

- Provision of a **special care centre** for cancer patients .
- **Infrastructure and Transportation**
 - **Construction of Purnia Airport** will start soon.
 - 8 new airports including Rajgir, Sultanganj, Raxaul, Madhubani will be built.
 - **33% reservation for women** in Bihar State Road Transport Corporation.
- **Environment and Clean Energy**
 - Investment of Rs 1 crore for **improving air quality**.
 - **Solar plants** will be installed along the canal banks at a cost of Rs 25 crore.
- **Agriculture and Rural Development**
 - **Market committees** will be empowered.
 - Stalls for selling vegetables will be opened at block level.
 - Formation of vegetable production committee in all blocks.
- **Migrant Biharis and tourism**
 - Help centres in various cities for migrant Biharis.
 - Government assistance for home-stay facility for **Chhath Puja** .
- **Industry and Trade**
 - Promotion to companies setting up compressed **biogas plants**.
 - New incentive policy for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Rural

Why in News?

Recently, the **Chief Minister of Bihar** transferred assistance amount of **Rs 1,200 crore** as the **first installment** for three lakh families under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin** .

Key Points

- The beneficiaries **will be given another 80 thousand rupees** in the form of second and third installments in the next hundred days.
- Apart from this, **Rs 22,050 will be provided as unskilled labour for 90 days** through **MINREGA** and Rs 12,000 will be provided for toilet construction under **Lohia Swachh Bihar Abhiyan** .

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)

- **Launch:** To achieve the objective of “**Housing for All**” by the year **2022** , the erstwhile rural housing scheme **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)** was restructured into **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1 April 2016 .
- **Ministry Involved:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Status:** States/UTs have **sanctioned 2.85 crore houses to the beneficiaries and 2.22 crore houses** have been completed till March 2023.
- **Objective:** To provide pucca houses with basic amenities to all the rural families who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by the end of March 2022.
 - To provide assistance to rural people living **below the poverty line (BPL)** in the form of **full grants for construction of housing units and upgradation of existing unusable kutcha houses**.
- **Beneficiaries:** **Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes** , freed bonded labourers and persons belonging to non-SC/ST categories, widows or next of kin of defence personnel killed in war, ex-servicemen and retired members of paramilitary forces, persons with disabilities and minorities .
- **Selection of Beneficiaries:** Three-step verification such as through Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011, Gram Sabha and **Geo-tagging**.
- **Cost Sharing:** The Centre and the States share expenditure in the ratio of 60:40 in case of plain areas and 90:10 in case of North-Eastern States, two Himalayan States and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir .
 - In case of other Union Territories including Union Territory of Ladakh, the Centre bears 100% of the cost.

Death Anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Why in News?

Bihar Chief Minister honored **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** on his **62nd death anniversary** by paying tribute to his personality and deeds.

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Note:



Key Points

➤ About Dr. Rajendra Prasad:

- He was born on **December 3, 1884** in **Jiradei, Siwan district** of Bihar.
- He was associated with **Mahatma Gandhi** during **the Champaran Satyagraha (1917)** in Bihar.
- Dr. Prasad reacted strongly to **the Rowlatt Act of 1918** and **the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919**.
 - Dr. Prasad called for non-cooperation in Bihar under **Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement**.
- He played an important role in **the Salt Satyagraha** in Bihar in the year 1930, due to which he was also imprisoned.
- He officially joined **the Indian National Congress** during its annual session held in Calcutta in the year 1911.
 - In the year 1946, he joined **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's interim government** as the Minister of Food and Agriculture and gave the slogan **"Grow more food"**.
- He was **elected the first President of India** on 26 January 1950. He served as President for over 12 years, making him **the longest-serving** President in the history of India.
- He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in 1962.
- He wrote several books, including **"Satyagraha at Champaran," "India Divided"** and his **"Autobiography."**
- He died on **February 28, 1963**.

Bihar Economic Survey 2024-25

Why in News?

Bihar Economic Survey 2024-25 was presented in the Assembly by the Finance Minister on 28 February 2025.

- This is the **19th economic survey of the state**, which discusses in detail the state of Bihar's economy and the direction of development.

Key Points

➤ Economic growth rate:

- **Bihar ranks second** among the fastest growing states in the country.
- **The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** of Bihar in the financial year 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 8,54,429 crore at current prices and Rs 4,64,540 crore at 2011-12 constant prices.
 - The GSDP recorded a growth of 14.5% (at current prices) and 9.2% (at constant prices) in the financial year 2023-24.
- Per capita income increased to Rs.36,333 at constant prices and Rs.66,828 at current prices in the financial year 2023-24, which is higher than last year.
- **Patna is the richest district** and **Sheohar is the poorest district** in Bihar.

➤ Fiscal deficit:

- The fiscal deficit was Rs 44,823 crore in the financial year 2022-23, which is reduced to Rs 35,660 crore in the financial year 2023-24.
- It is estimated to be Rs 29,095 crore in the financial year 2024-25.
- **The revenue saving** stood at Rs 2,833 crore in the financial year 2023-24 while it is expected to be Rs 1,121 crore in the financial year 2024-25.
- **The total expenditure of the state** was Rs 2.52 lakh crore in the financial year 2023-24, which is estimated to increase to Rs 2.79 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25.
- **Development expenditure** is estimated to increase from Rs 1.69 lakh crore to Rs 1.77 lakh crore.

➤ Agricultural and Industrial sector:

- Rice production increased by 21% and wheat production increased by 10.7%.

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- Livestock and fisheries have increased at the rate of 9.50%.
- The Bihar government is implementing the Agricultural Investment Promotion Policy for seven products. These products are makhana, fruits, vegetables, maize, medicinal plants, honey and tea.
- Investment of Rs 75293.76 crore proposed in the industrial sector of Bihar.
- The **service sector (tertiary sector)** remains the largest contributor to Bihar's **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)**, accounting for 58.6%, followed by the **industry (secondary sector) at 21.5%** and **agriculture (primary sector) at 19.9%**.
- Investment in micro-enterprises has surged by 135%, accompanied by a **107% rise in employment**.
 - Similarly, investment in large-scale units has grown by 131%, leading to a 187% increase in employment opportunities.
- Additionally, Bihar's **mining sector has recorded a 9% growth**.
- **Roads and infrastructure**
 - During the year 2005-2025, rural paved roads have increased from 835 km to 1.17 lakh km.
 - The transport system in the **state is expanding with the construction of new expressways and national highways**.
 - Bihar recorded the third highest growth (7.6%) in the transport and communication sector during 2011-24, after Uttar Pradesh (10.1%) and Karnataka (7.7%).
 - The road density in Bihar is 3167 per thousand square kilometres. It is at third place in terms of road density.
- **Digital Governance and the Energy Sector**
 - The government adopted technologies like CCTNS, CFMS, Cyber Cell, **e-Challan** while promoting **e-governance**.
 - **Per capita energy consumption** to increase from 134 kilowatt-hours (2012-13) to 363 kilowatt-hours (2023-24).
- The top five districts in electricity consumption are Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Rohtas and Nalanda.
- Public utility services like water supply, electricity and gas connections have registered an increase of 14.5%
- **Women empowerment:**
 - 1,063.5 thousand **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** were formed.
 - **Women empowerment** was promoted by providing a cumulative credit of Rs 46.9 thousand crore to 2,198.4 thousand SHGs.
 - **Total deposits** stood at Rs 5.27 lakh crore by FY 2024-25, of which Rs 2.97 lakh crore was disbursed as loans and the credit-deposit ratio stood at 56.3%.
 - The **female labour force participation rate** has improved from financial year 2022-23 to 2023-24. The rate increased from 24.8% to 33.5% among rural women and from 13.8% to 18% among urban women.
 - The labour force participation ratio of men and women in Bihar is lower than the overall Indian average.
- **Education and Health Sector:**
 - In the last 18 years, expenditure on education has increased 10 times, on health 13 times and on social services 13 times.
 - The **child welfare budget** was introduced in 2013-14 and grew by 19.4% annually between 2016-23.
 - Dropout rate in government secondary schools recorded a decline of 62.25% in five years.
- **Environment and climate change:**
 - Efforts have been made to tackle climate change in the state by implementing schemes like **Green Budget** and **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Mission**.
 - There has been an increase of 687 square km in forest cover in the state in 12 years.



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Note:

Key Points**Details**

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Summary

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