



15th National Voters' Day | Jammu & Kashmir | 28 Jan 2025

Why in News?

On the eve of the [15th National Voters' Day](#), the Chief Secretary administered an oath to officers and officials, including the Administrative Secretaries of **the Union Territory**, during a ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat in **Srinagar**.

Key Points

- **Pledge by Participants:**
 - Participants **pledged their commitment to democracy**, vowing to ensure independent, impartial, and peaceful elections.
 - They also **took an oath to cast their votes fearlessly**, without bias based on religion, community, or language.
- **Theme for the Year:**
 - The theme for 2025 is **"Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure"**.
 - It aims to **encourage greater voter participation**, particularly **among the youth**.
- **Historical Context:**
 - **National Voters' Day** was **first observed in 2011** to promote youth involvement in the electoral process.
 - The year 2025 marks the **75th anniversary of [the Election Commission of India](#)**.
 - The primary focus is on **increasing voter enrolment**, especially targeting youngsters who have recently turned 18 and are now eligible to vote.

//

Election Commission of India (ECI)

About

- **Autonomous Constitutional Authority** - Administers Union/state election
 - LS, RS, State LA, the offices of the President and VP
- Estd - **25th Jan 1950** (National Voters' Day)



Constitutional Provisions

Part XV - Article 324 to 329

Structure

- 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners **appointed by President**
- **Tenure- 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier
- Retiring ECs – **eligible for further appointment by the govt.**
- **Removal of CEC-** Resolution on the ground of **proven misbehaviour or incapacity**, with majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house



Major Roles and Responsibilities



- Determining Electoral Constituencies
- Preparing/Revising electoral rolls
- Notifying the schedules and dates of elections
- **Registering political parties and granting them the status of national or state parties**
- Issuing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for political parties
- Advising the President on **matters concerning the disqualification of MPs**

Challenges

- Truncated Tenure of CEC
- Executive Influence in Appointments
- Dependence on Centre for Finance
- Lack of Independent Staff

NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index | Haryana | 28 Jan 2025

Why in News?

[NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index \(FHI\) 2025](#) report ranked Haryana 14th, placing it among the **bottom five of 18 major states**.

- The ranking considers **five parameters**: quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index, and debt sustainability.

Key Points

- **Scope of FHI:**
 - The index covers **18 major states contributing significantly to India's [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#)**, demography, public expenditure, revenues, and fiscal stability.
 - It **evaluates fiscal performance** over the period from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
- **Haryana's Performance:**
 - **Debt Profile and Concerns:**
 - Haryana's **[debt-to-GSDP ratio](#)** rose from 26% in 2018-19 to 33% in 2020-21, stabilising at 31% in 2022-23.
 - **Interest payments** grew by 9.4% in 2022-23, with the interest **payment-to-revenue receipt ratio** at 23%.
 - **Haryana ranked 15th on the Debt Index parameter**, ahead of only Kerala, West Bengal, and Punjab.
 - **Revenue and Fiscal Deficits:**
 - Haryana's **revenue deficit stood at 1.7% of GSDP in 2022-23**, failing to meet the **15th Finance Commission's recommendations**.
 - **Fiscal deficits** from 2017-18 to 2021-22 were primarily financed through **public debt**, including market borrowings and loans from the Central government.
 - **Quality of Expenditure:**
 - **Haryana ranked 16th in quality of expenditure**, with a score of 24.8, ahead of only Punjab and Kerala.
 - **Capital expenditure growth** compared to GSDP has **declined** since 2018-19, constituting just 1.4% of GSDP in 2022-23, below budget estimates.
 - Capital expenditure as a share of total expenditure fell from 16.4% in 2018-19 to 9.7% in 2022-23.
- **Recommendations for Haryana:**
 - Increase **capital expenditure on social services**.
 - Enhance **tax collection efficiency**.
 - Establish a robust **fiscal management framework**, focusing on debt sustainability.
 - **Broaden the revenue base and rationalise expenditures** to improve short- and medium-term fiscal sustainability.

NITI Aayog

(National Institution for Transforming India)

HISTORY- PLANNING COMMISSION

Set up in **1950** to direct investment activity

Replaced by **NITI Aayog** on January 1, 2015

Composition of #NITLaayog

Chairperson

Prime Minister

Governing Council

CMs (States) and Lt Governors (UTs)

Regional Councils

Formed on need-basis, comprising CMs and Lt Govs of the region

Members

Full-time basis

Part-time Members

Max 2, rotational, from relevant institutions

Ex-officio Members

Max 4 from Council of Ministers, nominated by PM

Special Inviters

Experts, specialists, practitioners with domain knowledge

Chief Executive Officer

Appointed by PM for fixed tenure (Secy rank)

Secretariat

As deemed necessary

OBJECTIVES

- ↳ Foster **cooperative federalism**
- ↳ Develop mechanisms to **formulate credible plans (village level)**
- ↳ Interests of **national security** in economic strategy and policy
- ↳ Special **attention to weaker sections**
- ↳ Provide advice and encouragement to partnerships between **key stakeholders, national-international Think Tanks, research institutions**
- ↳ Create **knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system**
- ↳ **Platform for** inter-sectoral and inter-departmental **issues resolution**
- ↳ Maintain **state-of-the-art Resource Centre**

NITI Aayog vs Planning Commission

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
Advisory Think Tank	Extra-constitutional body
Wider expertise	Limited expertise
Secretaries (CEO) appointed by PM	Secretaries appointed by usual process
Bottom-up approach	Top-Down approach
No Mandate to impose policies	Imposed policies on states
No power to allocate funds	Allocated funds to ministries/state govts

Major Initiatives

- ↳ SDG India Index
- ↳ Atal Innovation Mission
- ↳ e-AMRIT Portal (electric vehicles)
- ↳ Good Governance Index
- ↳ India Innovation Index
- ↳ Aspirational District Programme
- ↳ 'Methanol Economy' programme

Issues

- ↳ **No powers** in granting **discretionary funds** to states
- ↳ Only an **advisory body**
- ↳ **No role in influencing private or public investment**
- ↳ **Politicisation of the organisation**
- ↳ **Lacks the requisite power** to bring positive change



Drishti IAS

Mukhyamantri Gramin Awaz Yojana 2.0 | Haryana | 28 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Haryana Government** allotted plots to **4,533 beneficiaries** across 20 districts through a draw under [the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awaz Yojana 2.0](#).

Key Points

▪ **Residential Plots Allotted in the First Phase:**

- **100 square yards plots** were allotted to all eligible applicants in the gram panchayats of **20 districts**:
 - Ambala, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Fatehabad, Gurugram, Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Narnaul, Nuh, Palwal, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonipat, and Yamunanagar.
 - Eligible applicants from **nomadic caste, widow, and Scheduled Castes in Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Rohtak, and Hisar districts** also received **plots of 100 square yards**.
 - **50-square-yard plots** were allotted to eligible applicants in **Mahagram Panchayat Bahal**.
- **Method of Allocation:**
- The residential plots were allotted to eligible beneficiaries **through a draw system**, ensuring a transparent and fair process.

UPPCS Foundation Course

हि Hindi Medium

En English Medium



Personalised Mentorship



Free Study Material



Answer Writing Practice

Admissions Open

87501 87501

UP Tableau at Republic Day Parade | Uttar Pradesh | 28 Jan 2025

Why in News?

[The Republic Day](#) tableau of Uttar Pradesh celebrated the ongoing [Maha Kumbh](#) in Prayagraj, featuring depictions of 'Samudra Manthan,' 'Amrit Kalash,' and holy men bathing on the banks of [Sangam](#).



Key Points

- **Main Theme and Focus:**
 - The focus of the [76th Republic Day celebrations](#) is **75 years of the enactment of the Constitution.**
 - The theme for the tableaux is **'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'**, highlighting India's heritage and progress.
- **Uttar Pradesh Tableau Highlights:**
 - The tableau **showcases the grandeur of Maha Kumbh 2025**, portraying a **metaphorical 'Sangam' of 'virasat' (heritage) and 'vikas' (development).**
 - A prominent **'Amrit Kalash'** tilted forward symbolizes **the flow of the sacred 'Amritdhara.'**
 - Seers and saints are depicted blowing conch shells, performing 'snan' at Sangam, and meditating, while devotees immerse themselves in the holy waters of the [Ganga](#), [Yamuna](#), and mythical [Saraswati](#).
- **Mythological and Cultural Depictions:**
 - The tableau features a vivid depiction of the **mythical tale of 'Samudra Manthan'**, symbolizing the historical and cultural significance of Maha Kumbh.
 - On the back side, **14 gems that emerged from the churning of the ocean are artistically represented.**
- **Technological Features of Maha Kumbh 2025:**
 - The tableau emphasizes technological advancements through the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) for efficient security and crowd management at the Kumbh.
 - This **highlights the state-of-the-art digital preparations** for managing the massive gathering.

Republic Day

- Republic Day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26th January 1950, and the country's transition to a republic which came into effect on 26th January 1950.
 - The constitution was adopted by the [Constituent Assembly of India on 26th November 1949](#) and came into effect on 26th January 1950.
- The Constitution of India repealed the **Indian Independence Act 1947 and Government of India Act 1935** when it became effective on 26th January 1950. India ceased to be a dominion of the British Crown and became a **sovereign, democratic republic with a constitution.**

UPPCS Foundation Course

आ Hindi Medium

En English Medium

Personalised Mentorship

Free Study Material

Answer Writing Practice

Admissions Open

87501 87501

Bihar Tableau at Republic Day | Bihar | 28 Jan 2025

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**.



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.

- 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**.
- 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**.
 - 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:**
 - 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.
 - 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.



Drishti IAS

GAUTAM BUDDHA


Believed to be 9th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH

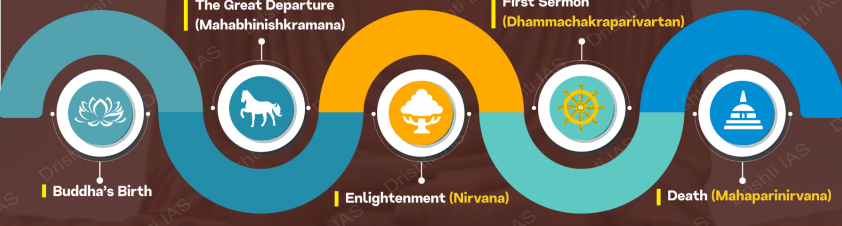
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilvastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshalan dynasty**



IMPORTANT EVENTS



*Buddha referred to himself as **Tathagata** (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as **Bhagavat** (in Buddhist texts)*

CONTEMPORARIES

- **Vardhaman Mahavira**
- **Bimbisara**
- **Ajatshatru**

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA

- **Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- **Sarnath** (first sermon)
- **Vaishali** (last sermon)
- **Kushinagara** (death place (483 BC))

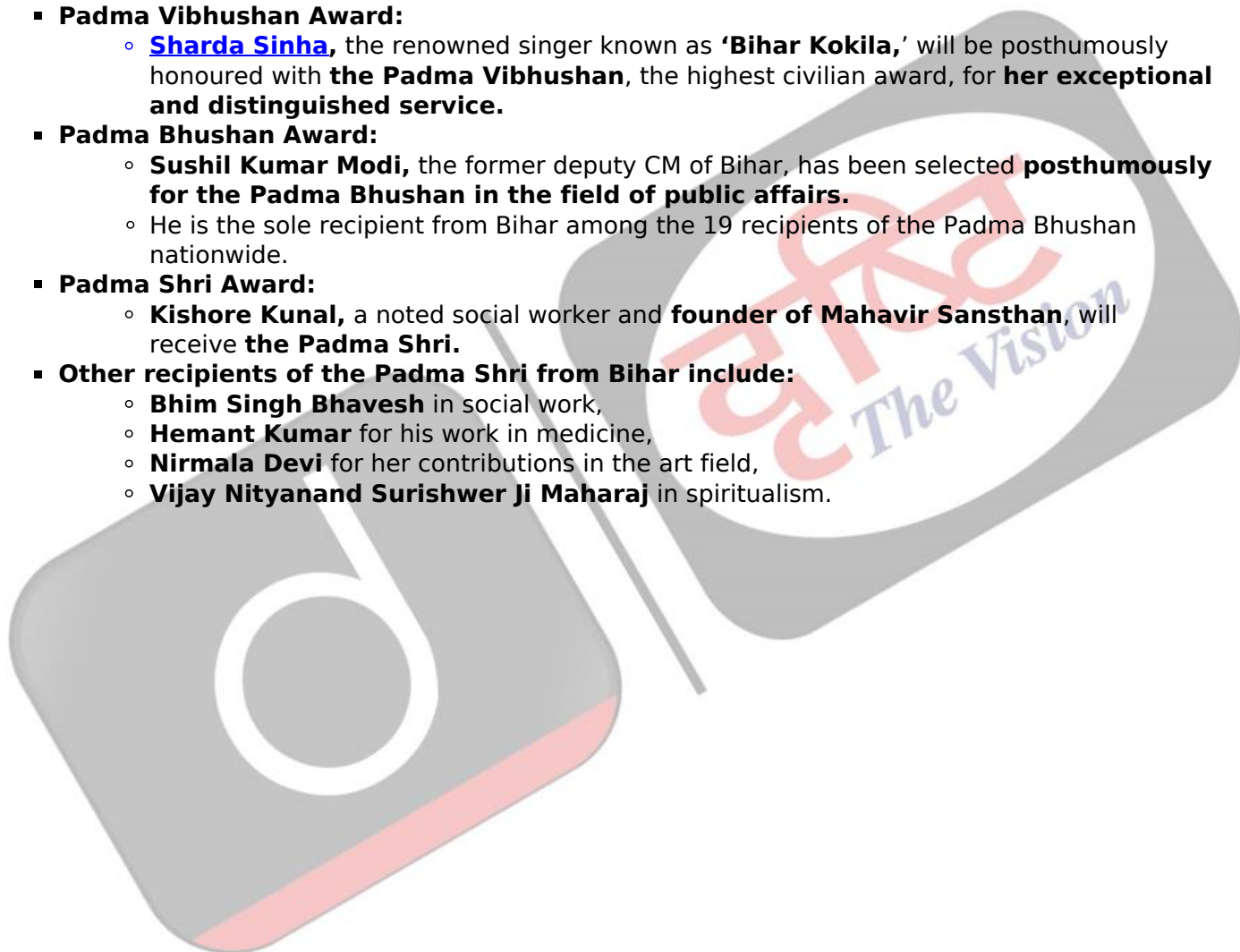
Padma awards 2025 | Bihar | 28 Jan 2025

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**.

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:**
 - [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:**
 - **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:**
 - **Bhim Singh Bhavesh** in social work,
 - **Hemant Kumar** for his work in medicine,
 - **Nirmala Devi** for her contributions in the art field,
 - **Vijay Nityanand Surishwer Ji Maharaj** in spiritualism.



CIVILIAN AND GALLANTRY AWARDS

CIVILIAN AWARDS

Bharat Ratna

- India's **highest civilian award**; instituted in **1954**
- Awarded for exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour
- Award includes certificate & medallion (no monetary grant)
- Recommended to President by the PM
- Can be given (max) **thrice per year**



Padma Awards

- Instituted in **1954**; announced annually on **eve of Republic Day**
- Recognises achievements in all fields/disciplines involving **public service**
- Categories: Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri
- Recommended by **Padma Awards Committee** (constituted by PM annually)
- **Suspended twice** - 1978-79 and 1993-97
- Max no. of awards per year - **120**



GALLANTRY AWARDS

- **Wartime** Gallantry instituted on **26th January 1950**
- **Peacetime** Gallantry instituted on **4th January 1952**
- **Announced twice** a year - Republic Day and Independence Day
- Order of Precedence - **Param Vir Chakra** > **Ashoka Chakra** > **Mahavir Chakra** > **Kirti Chakra** > **Vir Chakra** > **Shaurya Chakra**

- Eligibility -
 - » All officers of all ranks (**Army, Navy, IAF**), Reserve forces, **Territorial army**
 - » People providing **nursing services** under any of the above forces

Wartime Gallantry Awards



Peacetime Gallantry Awards

