



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.

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