



Jivitputrika Festival

Why in News?

Recently, at least 46 people, including 37 children, drowned in rivers and ponds during the '**Jivitputrika**' festival in Bihar.

Key Points

- **Jivitputrika:**
 - Jivitputrika, also known as **Jitiya Vrat**, is a Hindu festival celebrated mainly in northern and eastern India, particularly in **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand**.
 - The festival is observed by **mothers** who fast for the **well-being, long life, and prosperity** of their children.
 - The celebration lasts for **three days**.
 - **Nahai-Khai:** The festival begins with mothers taking a **purifying bath** and enjoying a nourishing meal.
 - **Fasting Day:** The second day is marked by the rigorous fasting ritual.
 - **Paaran:** The festival concludes on the third day, where the fast is broken with a meal.
 - The festival is rooted in Hindu mythology, particularly commemorating the story of **King Jimutavahana**, who is honored for his sacrifice for the welfare of others.

Bihar Festivals

- **Chhath Puja:** An ancient Hindu festival that honors the sun god and his wife, Usha. It is celebrated six days **after Diwali and is native to Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Sonepur Cattle Fair:** Asia's largest cattle fair, held on the full moon day after Diwali at the confluence of the [Ganga and Gandak rivers](#).
- **Makar Sankranti:** Bihar's harvest festival, celebrated in January with flower offerings, holy dips in the Ganges, and pujas.
- **Rajgir Mahotsav:** A colorful festival of dance and music held in the last week of October in Rajgir.
- **Buddha Jayanti:** Celebrated in May on the full moon day
- **Jhijhiya Folk Dance:** A famous folk dance performed by women only during the Navaratri festival.