



Union Budget 2025: Major Allocations for Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Finance Minister **announced a series of projects for Bihar** in [Budget speech 2025](#).

Key Points

- **Boost for Foxnut Farmers:**
 - The newly announced [Makhana Board](#) will enhance production, processing, value addition, and marketing of **foxnuts**.
 - [Mithila Makhana](#) received a [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#) in 2022, with Bihar contributing 80% of India's total production.
 - The initiative is expected to **benefit over five lakh farmers**, particularly in Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Saharsa, Katihar, Purnia, Kishanganj, Araria, Supaul, and Madhepura.
- **Expansion of Aviation Infrastructure:**
 - **New greenfield airports** in Bihar to meet future demands.
 - Capacity expansion of Patna airport and the development of a brownfield airport at Bihta are also planned.
- **Investment in Education and Infrastructure:**
 - Additional funds will be allocated for capital investments, and Bihar's requests for external assistance from multilateral development banks will be fast-tracked.
 - A [National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management](#) will be set up under the Purvodaya initiative to develop eastern India.
 - Infrastructure expansion, including hostels, is planned for [the Indian Institute of Technology \(IIT\) Patna](#).
- **Temple and Tourism Development:**
 - The Budget pledges support for the comprehensive development of the [Vishnupad and Mahabodhi temple corridors](#), modeled after [the Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor](#).
 - Nalanda will be developed as a major tourist center, with efforts to restore [Nalanda University](#) to its historical prominence.

Vishnupad Temple and the Mahabodhi Temple

- **Vishnupad Temple at Gaya:**
 - It is situated on the banks of the Phalgu/Falgu river in Gaya district of Bihar. The temple is dedicated to **Lord Vishnu**.
 - **Legend:**
 - According to local mythology, a demon named **Gayasur requested the gods to grant him the power** to help others attain moksha (liberation from the cycle of rebirth).
 - However, after misusing this power, Lord Vishnu subdued him, leaving a footprint in the temple, believed to be a mark of that event.
 - **Architectural Features:**
 - The temple stands about 100 feet tall and features 44 pillars constructed from **large gray granite blocks** (Munger Black stone) joined with **iron clamps**.

- The **octagonal shrine** is oriented towards the east.
- **Construction:**
 - It was constructed in **1787** under the orders of **Queen Ahilyabai Holkar**.
- **Cultural Practices:**
 - The temple is particularly significant during **Pitra Paksha**, a period dedicated to honoring ancestors, attracting many devotees.
 - The **Brahma Kalpit Brahmins**, also referred to as Gayawal Brahmins, have been the traditional priests of the temple since ancient times.
- **Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya:**
 - It is believed to be the **site where Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment** under the Mahabodhi Tree.
 - **Construction of Temple:**
 - The original temple was built by **Emperor Ashoka** in the 3rd century BC, with the current structure dating back to the **5th-6th centuries**.
 - **Architectural Features:**
 - It comprises the **50 m high grand temple (the Vajrasana), sacred Bodhi Tree** and other 6 sacred sites of Buddha's enlightenment.
 - It is surrounded by numerous ancient **Votive stupas**, well maintained and protected by inner, middle and outer circular boundaries.
 - It is one of the earliest **brick temples** from the **Gupta period**, influencing later brick architecture.
 - The **Vajrasana (the Diamond Throne)** was originally installed by **Emperor Asoka** to mark the spot where **Buddha sat and meditated**.

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