



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 .
- 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.

