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BIHAR



**JULY
2025**



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Bihar Cabinet Approves Key Schemes

Why in News?

In a significant move aimed at improving youth employability, cultural preservation, and religious tourism, the **Bihar Cabinet approved several key initiatives.**

- Initiatives include financial support for **youth internships**, a **pension scheme** for artists, and a Rs 882 crore development plan for **Punaura Dham**, which will transform the region into a major religious tourism hub.

Key Points

☛ Mukhya Mantri Pratigya Yojana:

- ✦ Youth aged **18–28 years** are **eligible** if they have completed skill training or hold qualifications from Class 12 to postgraduate level.
- ✦ Monthly stipend during internships:
 - Rs 4,000 for Class 12 pass
 - Rs 5,000 for ITI or diploma holders
 - Rs 6,000 for graduates and postgraduates
- ✦ Interns will get an extra Rs 2,000/month for working outside their district and Rs 5,000/month if interning outside Bihar.
 - This additional aid will be provided for a maximum of 3 months.
- ✦ All financial support will be credited through **Direct Benefit Transfer.**
- ✦ The scheme will support 5,000 youth in **FY 2025–26.**
- ✦ From 2026–27 onwards, it aims to benefit one lakh youth over five years.

☛ Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Pension Yojana:

- ✦ The Cabinet approved a **new pension scheme for artists involved in classical, visual, or performing arts** for at least 10 years.
- ✦ Eligible artists aged 50+ with annual income below Rs 1.2 lakh will receive a monthly pension of Rs 3,000.
- ✦ The scheme seeks to **preserve Bihar's cultural heritage.**

☛ Punaura Dham Development:

- ✦ The Cabinet cleared Rs 882.87 crore for the integrated development of the **Maa Janaki temple at Punaura Dham, Sitamarhi.**
- ✦ Believed to be **Goddess Sita's birthplace**, the site will be developed on the lines of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya** to showcase and promote **Mithila's rich culture and heritage.**
- ✦ **Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation** will implement the project.

☛ Factory Employment Rules Amended:

- ✦ The Cabinet also approved amendments to the **Bihar Factory Rules, 1950.**
- ✦ Women, excluding pregnant and lactating women, can now work in factories classified as hazardous.
- ✦ The move aims to **broaden industrial employment opportunities for women.**

Mithila

☛ Geographical Boundaries:

- ✦ Mithila, also known as **Tirhut or Tirabhukti**, is a distinct geological and cultural region.
- ✦ It is bounded by the **Mahananda River** in the east, the **Ganges** in the south, the **Gandaki River** in the west, and the Himalayan foothills in the north.
- ✦ In India, it includes districts such as Darbhanga, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Sitamarhi, Vaishali, and parts of Champaran, Bhagalpur, and Munger.

☛ Language and Identity:

- ✦ The native language is Maithili, spoken by the Maithil people.
- ✦ The name Mithila is believed to derive from the mythological King Miti, symbolizing "soil".
- ✦ The ancient capital of Mithila was Janakpur, located in Dhanusa district, Nepal.

☛ Connection with Jainism and Buddhism:

- ✦ Vaishali, in southern Mithila, is the birthplace of Lord Mahavira (599 B.C.), the 24th and last Tirthankara of **Jainism.**

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- ✦ Gautam Buddha is also believed to have spent part of his life in the Mithila region, delivering sermons and engaging with scholars.

Rich Cultural Heritage:

- ✦ Mithila culture is known for its Language (Maithili), Paag (traditional headgear), Folk dance and festivals, and cuisine.
- ✦ Madhubani Paintings:
 - ✍ **Madhubani art**, a vibrant folk painting tradition, depicts scenes from Hindu mythology (especially Ramayana)
 - ✍ Nature, animals, and social life
 - ✍ It uses natural dyes and geometric patterns
 - ✍ It has received **GI (Geographical Indication) status** for its cultural uniqueness.

Agricultural Specialty – Mithila Makhana:

- ✦ **Makhana**, also known as **fox nut**, is a signature aquatic crop of Mithila.
- ✦ It is cultivated extensively in the **wetlands** of Bihar and Nepal, especially in the Mithila region.
- ✦ Mithila Makhana has also received a **GI tag**, highlighting its economic and cultural importance.

Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949

Why in News?

The **Supreme Court of India** recently refused to entertain a plea (under **Article 32** of the Constitution) challenging the constitutionality of the **Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949**.

- 💡 The Act was challenged due to concerns over religious autonomy and representation in the management of the Mahabodhi Temple.

Key Points

💡 Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949:

- ✦ It regulates the administration of the **Mahabodhi Temple** and aims to ensure its proper management.

- ✦ After India's **Independence**, the **Bodh Gaya Temple Act (1949)** introduced shared management between Hindus and Buddhists.
- ✦ The Act deals with the temple's administration, which is vital for preserving and maintaining the sacred site, which includes the **Bodhi tree**, the **Vajrasana**, and several other sacred structures.

💡 Mahabodhi Temple:

- ✦ It was built by **Emperor Ashoka** in the 3rd century BCE.
- ✦ It is located in **Bodh Gaya, Bihar**, and is one of the most sacred places for Buddhists worldwide.
- ✦ It is believed to be the location where **Lord Gautam Buddha** attained enlightenment under the **Bodhi tree**.
- ✦ The temple remained an important Buddhist site through the **Pala period** and was visited by the Chinese traveler **Hiuen Tsang** in 629 AD.
- ✦ After the **13th-century invasion by Bakhtiyar Khilji**, Buddhism in the region declined.
- ✦ The current temple, constructed during the **5th–6th century CE** (Late Gupta period), is made entirely of brick.
- ✦ In **1590**, a Hindu monk established the **Bodh Gaya Math**, transferring temple control to Hindus.

✦ Architectural Features:

- ✍ It includes a **Shikhara**, **Vajrasana (Diamond Throne)**, **Chaitya niches**, **amalaka**, **kalasha**, **sculpted balustrades**, and **Buddha images**.
- ✍ Seven sacred sites within the temple complex commemorate **Buddha's seven weeks** of meditation post-enlightenment, including the **Animeshlochan Chaitya**, **Lotus Pond**, and **Ajapala Nigrodh Tree**.

✦ Mahabodhi Temple Complex:

- ✍ The **Mahabodhi Temple complex** is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, consisting of a **50-meter high grand temple**, the **sacred Bodhi tree**, the **Vajrasana**, and **six other sacred sites** related to Buddha's enlightenment.

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- ✍ A **Lotus Pond** located outside the temple is also considered sacred. These sites are surrounded by **votive stupas** and are well-maintained with multiple circular boundaries for protection.

Gautama Buddha

- 💡 **Gautama Buddha**, the founder of Buddhism, was born in **563 BC** on **Vaisakha Purnima** day at **Lumbini** (now in Nepal), in the **Sakya Kshatriya** clan.
- 💡 His father, **Suddhodhana**, was the king of **Kapilvastu**, and his mother, **Mahamaya**, was a princess of the **Kollia** republic.
- 💡 After his mother's early death, he was raised by his **stepmother** and aunt, **Mahaprajapati Gautami**.
- 💡 Buddha married **Yasodhara**, a princess of the **Shakya** dynasty, and had a son, **Rahul**.
- 💡 At age 29, Gautama encountered four sights—an **old man**, a **sick person**, a **dead body**, and an **ascetic**—which led him to renounce his royal life and become a wandering ascetic.
- 💡 His first teacher, **Alara Kalama**, taught him meditation techniques. He later studied under **Udraka Ramputra**.
- 💡 At age 35, after meditating under the **Pipal tree** at **Bodh Gaya** (near the **Niranjana River**), he achieved **Nirvana (enlightenment)** after **49 days** of meditation.
- 💡 Buddha delivered his first sermon at **Sarnath** (Deer Park) to five disciples, known as the **Dharmachakra Pravartana** (Turning of the Wheel of Law).
- 💡 Buddha passed away at age 80 in **483 BC** at **Kushinagar**, a moment referred to as **Mahaparinirvana** (Final Nirvana).
- 💡 **Key Figures:**
 - ✦ **Kanthaka**: Buddha's horse.
 - ✦ **Channa**: His charioteer.
 - ✦ **Devadatta**: His cousin.
 - ✦ **Sujata**: The farmer's daughter who offered Buddha rice milk at Bodh Gaya.
- 💡 **Other Names:** **Gautama** (clan name), **Siddhartha** (childhood name), **Shakyamuni** (sage of the Shakya clan).

Bihar's New Domicile Rule Excludes Non-Residents from Women's Quota

Why in News?

The Bihar government **approved** the **domicile rule** for the existing **35% reservation** for women in all state government jobs, reversing Bihar's earlier policy of not requiring domicile status for government employment.

Key Points

About the New Rules:

- ✦ With the new rule in place, **women who are not Bihar residents can no longer access** the 35% quota in government jobs.
- ✦ **Eligibility Criteria for Domicile in Bihar:**
 - ✍ Have lived in the state for at least three years,
 - ✍ Own land or a house in the state, or
 - ✍ In the case of women, be married to a Bihar resident.
- ✦ While a **voter ID** card is desirable, it is **not mandatory for establishing domicile status**.

Employment Landscape in Bihar:

- ✦ Bihar has a relatively small state government workforce, with less than 1.57% of its population employed in the public sector.
- ✦ As of June 2025:
 - ✍ The state employed 36,000 women in the police force.
 - ✍ Over 2.5 lakh women teachers have been recruited since 2007.
- ✦ **Structural Employment Issues in Bihar:**
 - ✍ According to **NITI Aayog's** March 2025 report, Bihar's economy remains predominantly agrarian, with:
 - 👤 49.6% of the workforce in agriculture,
 - 👤 5.7% in manufacturing (one of the lowest in India),
 - 👤 26% in services, and
 - 👤 18.4% in construction.

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- ✦ The demand for domicile-based reservation arises from these economic and employment challenges.

💡 Bihar Youth Commission:

- ✦ The Cabinet also approved the **Bihar Youth Commission** to address youth **employment and empowerment**.
- ✦ The Commission will consist of one Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons, and seven Members, all aged 45 or below.
- ✦ Functions:
 - 📎 The Commission will advise the government on improving education, employment, and skill development for youth.
 - 📎 It will coordinate with departments to:
 - 🏠 Promote private sector jobs for youth,
 - 🏠 Safeguard students and **migrant workers**, and
 - 🏠 Run de-addiction and awareness programmes.

Special Voter Roll Revision in Bihar

Why in News?

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has initiated a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of the electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections scheduled for November 2025.

Key Points

💡 Constitutional Mandate:

- ✦ **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution entrusts the ECI with the superintendence, direction, and control over the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to **Parliament** and **State Legislatures**.
- ✦ **Article 326** guarantees the right to vote to every citizen of India who is **not less than 18 years of age**.

💡 Legal Framework under the Representation of the People Act, 1950:

- ✦ **Section 16** disqualifies non-citizens from being enrolled in the electoral rolls.
- ✦ **Section 19** mandates that a person must be at least 18 years old on the qualifying date and be an ordinary resident of the constituency.
- ✦ **Section 20** defines “ordinarily resident,” clarifying that mere property ownership in a constituency does not qualify one as a resident.
 - 📎 However, a person who is temporarily absent from their place of residence is still considered ordinarily resident.
- ✦ **Section 21** empowers the ECI to carry out a special revision of electoral rolls at any time, for reasons recorded in writing.

💡 Reasons for Initiating SIR:

- ✦ The ECI has observed significant changes in the electoral rolls over the past two decades due to widespread urbanisation and internal migration.
- ✦ Concerns over duplicate and ineligible voter entries have prompted ECI to launch a nationwide SIR, starting with Bihar.
- ✦ Bihar last underwent an **SIR in 2003** and has been prioritized by the ECI for the exercise ahead of the November 2025 Assembly elections.
- ✦ The qualifying date for the current revision has been set as **1st July 2025**.

💡 Revised Procedure for SIR:

- ✦ **Voters enrolled before 2003** need only submit an extract of the 2003 roll.
- ✦ **Voters enrolled after 2003** must submit additional documents proving their own and their parents' **date and place of birth**.

💡 Supreme Court's Observations and Directives:

- ✦ The Supreme Court observed that the ECI's list of **11 acceptable documents** for voter verification is **not exhaustive**.
- ✦ The Court advised the ECI to consider **Aadhaar cards**, **Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)** and **Ration cards** as proof for voter registration in the ongoing SIR.

💡 Jurisdictional Authority of the ECI:

- ✦ The ECI lacks the constitutional or statutory authority to determine questions of citizenship.

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- ✦ The power to determine citizenship rests with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✦ The Supreme Court's judgment in **Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995)** held that individuals already listed in the electoral roll cannot be asked to re-prove their citizenship.

💡 Challenges associated with SIR:

- ✦ The SIR guidelines now require additional documentation even where Aadhaar exists, potentially excluding many eligible citizens.
- ✦ According to the **RPA, 1950**, only those who are "ordinarily resident" should be included in the electoral roll of a constituency.
 - 📎 Migrants can register in their current place of residence if they have moved permanently for work or education.
- ✦ The SIR places the entire burden of proof on citizens to verify their eligibility.
- ✦ According to a Bihar government survey **87% of people possess Aadhaar cards, only 14% have matriculation certificates and merely 2% have passports.**
- ✦ The exclusion of Aadhaar from the list of valid documents could disproportionately affect poor and marginalised groups.

Bihar Idea Festival

Why in News?

The **Bihar government** launched the '**Bihar Idea Festival**' portal to promote grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship.

- 💡 The initiative invites students, youth, entrepreneurs, and **startup** teams—even from rural areas—to submit their ideas directly to the government.

Key Points

💡 About the Bihar Idea Festival:

- ✦ The initiative aims to **collect innovative ideas and practical solutions from across Bihar** and offer a strong platform to support and scale them.

- 📎 The portal is mobile-friendly, making it easily accessible for people from remote and rural areas.

- ✦ The government plans to gather at least 10,000 ideas from all 38 districts of Bihar to ensure inclusive participation.
- ✦ A team of experts will assess the submitted ideas. At least 100 ideas will be shortlisted initially based on innovation and feasibility.
- ✦ Shortlisted participants will be **eligible for technical and financial support**, including seed funding of up to Rs 10 lakh under the **Startup Bihar Policy**.
- ✦ Winners of the Idea Festival will get a wild card entry to the seed funding pitch round.
- ✦ The initiative also aims to empower women entrepreneurs, enabling many to emerge as '**Startup Didis**', inspired by the **JEEVIKA initiative**.

💡 JEEVIKA:

- ✦ JEEVIKA is the **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project** aimed at the **social and economic empowerment** of the rural poor in Bihar. It was **launched in 2006**.
- ✦ Managed by the **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS)**, an autonomous body under the **Department of Rural Development**, Government of Bihar.
- ✦ Initially supported by the **World Bank** and later expanded to include the **Livelihoods Restoration component** of the Bihar Kosi Flood Recovery Project (BKFRP).
- ✦ The **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** has designated BRLPS as the **State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM)** for Bihar to implement NRLM's strategies for poverty alleviation.

Bihar Start-up Policy

- 💡 The state government launched the **Bihar Start-up Policy in 2016** to build a transparent and independent start-up ecosystem through funding, promotion, and policy support.
- ✦ It was later amended as the **Bihar Start-up Policy 2017**.

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💡 The state established a dedicated **Start-up Trust** with an initial corpus of Rs 500 crore, which serves as the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy.

💡 **Bihar Start-up Policy 2022:**

- ✦ To make the ecosystem more **inclusive and youth-centric**, the government approved the **Bihar Start-up Policy 2022**.
- ✦ It aims to **expand its reach, ensure faster execution**, and position Bihar as a preferred start-up destination by tapping into the potential of local talent.

✦ **Key Objectives:**

- 📌 Foster inclusive growth by building a **conducive environment for start-ups**.
- 📌 Leverage local youth potential to **drive innovation and entrepreneurship** across the state.

✦ **The government plans to:**

- 📌 **Develop new incubators** and expand existing ones.
- 📌 Set up **common infrastructure and co-working spaces** to support start-ups across the state.

✦ **To nurture an entrepreneurial mindset, the policy promotes:**

- 📌 **Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs)** and **Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres (EFCs)**.
- 📌 Integration of entrepreneurship education in **schools, universities, MOOCs**, and through internships.

Bihar's Free Electricity and Solar Power Initiative

Why in News?

The Bihar government will offer **125 units of free electricity** to 1.67 crore families and **install solar power plants** over the next three years with consumer consent.

Key Points

Key Highlights of the Announcement

- 💡 **Free Electricity Scheme:** Starting 1 August 2025, 1.67 crore families in Bihar will receive up to 125 units of free electricity, offering **significant financial relief** to domestic consumers.
- ✦ **Financial Impact:** The state government will bear the cost of providing free electricity, estimated to result in an **additional burden of approximately ₹3,375 crore** on the state exchequer. A total subsidy of around ₹19,370 crore will be required for this initiative.
- 💡 **Solar Power Plant Installations:** Over the next three years, with the consent of domestic consumers, the state government also plans to **install solar power plants** on rooftops and at nearby public spaces.
- ✦ This initiative aims to provide **sustainable energy solutions** and reduce the dependency on **conventional electricity sources**.
- ✦ **Financial Support:** The Bihar government will fully bear the cost of installing solar power plants for **extremely poor families** under the ongoing **Kutir Jyoti scheme**.
 - 📌 For other consumers, the government will provide financial assistance to install solar power plants.
- ✦ **Target for Solar Energy Production:** It is projected that up to **10,000 megawatts of solar energy will be available** in the state over the next three years, marking a significant step towards enhancing the state's renewable energy capacity.

About Kutir Jyoti Scheme

- 💡 **About:** The Kutir Jyoti Scheme is a government initiative in India primarily aimed at **improving the quality of life for rural families living below the poverty line (BPL)** by providing them access to electricity.
- ✦ **Launched in 1988-89** as a centrally financed program, the main objective of the scheme was to extend single-point light connections to BPL households in rural areas, including those belonging to **Scheduled Castes (SC)** and **tribal communities**.

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Bihar Polling Station Rationalisation

Why in News?

Bihar has become the **first Indian state to ensure all polling stations have fewer than 1,200 electors**, marking a major reform to enhance **voter convenience and electoral accessibility**.

- ⚡ This move aligns with a broader push by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to rationalize polling stations nationwide, particularly in the context of upcoming Assembly elections and the proposed **'One Nation, One Election'** plan.

Key Points

About Polling Station Rationalisation

- ⚡ **Revised Elector Cap per Booth:** The **State Instructional Representation (SIR) Order of June 2025** revised the maximum number of electors per polling station from **1,500 to 1,200**, reversing the 2009 standard to reduce voter congestion.
- ⚡ **Increase in Polling Stations:** Bihar added **12,817 new polling stations**, raising the total to **90,712**, up from 77,895. This effort places **all booths within 2 km** of voters, improving accessibility in rural areas.
- ⚡ **Inclusive Voter Registration Drive:** Electoral officers conducted widespread consultations with **12 political parties** and shared lists of:
 - ✦ **29.62 lakh electors** whose forms were pending,
 - ✦ **43.93 lakh electors** not found at their registered addresses.
- ⚡ **Draft Electoral Roll Timeline:** The **Draft Rolls will be published on 1 August 2025**, after which voters can submit claims, objections, or corrections for a month, as per the SIR Order.

Implications for Electoral Management

- ⚡ **Impact on One Nation, One Election (ONOE):** The voter cap rationalisation will influence the logistics of ONOE, especially the **requirement for EVM-VVPATs** and polling personnel.

- ✦ The ECI earlier projected over **13.57 lakh booths** and a cost of **₹7,950 crore** for a **2029 simultaneous poll**.

- ⚡ **Judicial Intervention Prompted Reform:** A **December 2024 Supreme Court petition** demanded reverting to the 1,200-voter cap, citing long queues and voter apathy.

- ✦ The EC's reform aligns with the Court's concerns about **voter fatigue and inefficiencies** under the 1,500-voter cap.

- ⚡ **Historical Evolution of Booth Size Norms:**

- ✦ **Pre-2009:** 1,200 electors per station (standard).
- ✦ **Post-EVMs (2009):** Raised to 1,500.
- ✦ **During COVID:** Reduced to 1,000–1,200.
- ✦ **2024 General Elections:** Returned to 1,500.
- ✦ **Post-2025 SIR:** Back to 1,200 nationwide, starting with Bihar.

What the Shift Entails

Poll Panel's decision to limit voters to 1,200 per station could add **3 lakh polling stations**, raising costs and logistics

THE NEW LIMIT WILL TAKE EFFECT BEFORE THE BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING POLLING STATIONS

CEC
Gyanesh Kumar announced the shift, ensuring **no polling station will exceed the set limit** and that all stations will be within **2 kms** of voters

ECI's 2009 guideline set 1,500 voters per station but reverted to 1,200 during the pandemic. The **new announcement follows the SC's recommendation** to restore the 1,200 cap

Significance of the Reform

- ⚡ **Template for Other States:** The ECI called Bihar's initiative a **model for other States and UTs**. Over **3 lakh new booths** may be needed nationwide to implement this cap before upcoming elections.
- ⚡ **Administrative and Financial Burden:** The change will **increase election infrastructure costs**, with higher demand for EVMs, VVPATs, and personnel.
- ⚡ **Strengthening Electoral Democracy:** These changes aim to **enhance the quality of voter participation, reduce disenfranchisement**, and ensure every eligible voter is registered and conveniently able to vote.

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Ajay Seth Appointed as Chairman of IRDAI

Why in News?

Former Finance and Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), succeeding **Debasish Panda**, whose term ended in March 2025.

- ⚡ This appointment, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, is for a **three-year term** or until Seth reaches the **age of 65**, whichever occurs first.

Key Points

About IRDAI

- ⚡ **About:** IRDAI, founded in 1999, is a regulatory body created with the aim of protecting the interests of insurance customers.
- ✦ It is a statutory body under the **IRDAI Act, 1999**, and is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**.
- ✦ It regulates and sees to the development of the insurance industry while monitoring insurance-related activities.
- ✦ The powers and functions of the Authority are laid down in the IRDAI Act, 1999 and Insurance Act, 1938.
- ⚡ **Chairman and Members of Authority:** According to **Section 4 of the IRDAI Act, 1999**, the Authority is **composed of ten members**, including a Chairman, five whole-time members, and four part-time members, all of whom are appointed by the Government.

Bihar Patrakar Samman Scheme

Why in News?

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced a hike in pensions for retired journalists under the Bihar Patrakar Samman Scheme (BPSS).

Key Points

- ⚡ **About:** Under BPSS, the monthly pension has been increased from Rs 6,000 to Rs 15,000.
- ✦ In the case of the pensioner's death, **dependents/spouse will now receive Rs 10,000 per month**, up from the earlier Rs 3,000.
- ✦ The scheme recognised the **vital role of journalists as the fourth pillar of democracy** and reiterated the state's commitment to their dignity post-retirement.
- ⚡ **Eligibility of Journalists Under BPSS:** The **revised pension applies to all eligible retired journalists** registered with the Bihar government who meet the following eligibility criteria under the scheme:
 - ✦ The applicant must be a resident of Bihar.
 - ✦ Retired journalists with **20 years of experience in journalism** are eligible.
 - ✦ The applicant must be **60 years of age** to avail the benefits of the scheme.
 - ✦ The journalist must be **recognized by the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD)**, and the certificate must be **verified by the State Government**.

Vipul Pancholi Appointed Chief Justice of Patna HC

Why in News?

Justice Vipul M. Pancholi was sworn in as the **45th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court (HC)** at the Raj Bhavan in Patna, with Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administering the oath of office.

- ⚡ He **succeeded Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran**, who was elevated to the Supreme Court of India.
- ⚡ Earlier, Justice Vipul served as an advocate in the Gujarat High Court and as a judge of both the Gujarat High Court and the Patna High Court.

Key Facts About Patna High Court (HC)

- ⚡ **Creation:** The Patna High Court was established following a proclamation by the Governor-General of India in 1912, which **promoted Bihar and Orissa** to the status of a separate province.

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💡 **Foundation:** The foundation stone of the Patna High Court building was laid on 1st December 1913, by Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

✦ The first Chief Justice of the Patna High Court was Sir Edward Maynard Des Champs Chamier (March 1916- October 1917).

💡 **Post-Independence:** After India became a republic in 1950, the Patna High Court's jurisdiction was extended, allowing it to issue writs under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution.

✦ The first Chief Justice of the Patna High Court in independent India was Sir Clifford Monmohan Agarwala (January 1948- January 1950).

Composition & Appointment of High Court Judges

💡 **Composition:** Each High Court consists of a Chief Justice and other judges as determined by the President.

✦ The President decides the strength of a High Court based on its workload.

💡 **Appointment of High Court Judges:** A **High Court (HC)** judge is appointed by the President under Article 217 of the Constitution.

✦ The Chief Justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the **Governor** of the state concerned.

✦ For the appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted.

✦ In case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the President.

📌 The oath to a High Court judge is administered by the governor of that state.

💡 **Qualifications of Judges:** A person to be appointed as a judge of a High Court should have the following qualifications:

✦ He should be a citizen of India.

✦ He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years, or

✦ He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years.

💡 **Minimum Age:** The Constitution does not prescribe a minimum age for appointment as a judge of a High Court.

💡 **Tenure of Judges:** A judge of a High Court can hold office until he attains the age of 62 years.

High Courts in India

💡 **Position:** The High Court operates below the Supreme Court and above subordinate courts in India's judicial system.

✦ The High Court is the highest judicial body in the state (**total 25 High Courts in India**).

💡 **Constitutional Provisions:**

✦ **High Court for each State:** The Constitution of India provides for a High Court for each state (Article 214).

📌 Article 231 provides that the Parliament may by law establish a common High Court for two or more States or for two or more States and a Union Territory.

✦ **Jurisdiction:** Territorial jurisdiction is co-terminus with the state's territory (or a common High Court's jurisdiction is co-terminus with the territories of the concerned states and Union Territories).

✦ **Articles 214 to 231:** These deal with the organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, and procedures of High Courts.

Satish Prasad Singh: Bihar's Shortest-Serving CM

Why in News?

As Bihar heads toward the **2025 Assembly Elections**, the state's political history is being revisited, with particular focus on its leaders. Among them, **Satish Prasad Singh**, the **sixth Chief Minister of Bihar**, holds the record for the **shortest tenure** as CM, serving just **4 days**.

Key Points

💡 **Shortest Tenure as CM:** Satish Prasad Singh created history by serving as Bihar's Chief Minister for just

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four days, from 28th January 1968 to 1st February 1968.

- ✦ His term was marked by **political instability**, as he was appointed as a stopgap CM before the rise of **B.P. Mandal**.

💡 **Political Beginnings:** Satish Prasad Singh, born in Khagaria, was deeply influenced by **socialist ideologies** from an early age.

- ✦ His political career was shaped by his dedication to **social justice** and the **farmers' cause**.

Longest-serving Chief Minister

💡 **Nitish Kumar is currently the longest-serving Chief Minister in Bihar** with a total tenure of **over 18 years** (as of 2025). He broke the previous record held by Sri Krishna Sinha, who served for 17 years and 52 days.

- ✦ **Longest Continuous Term:** Sri Krishna Sinha still holds this **record with 14 years and 314 days of uninterrupted service**.

- ✦ **Nitish Kumar's longest continuous term:** 8 years and 239 days (2005-2014, with brief interruption by Jitan Ram Manjhi).

💡 **CM Who Has Taken Maximum Number of Oaths:** Nitish Kumar holds the record for taking the maximum number of oaths as Chief Minister (**sworn in 9 times as the CM of Bihar**).

💡 Bihar has experienced President's Rule 8 times since its formation as a state (Total 37 terms including 8 periods of President's Rule).

Note:

💡 **Under the Government of India Act 1935**, the heads of provincial governments in British India were officially designated as **"Prime Ministers" or "Premiers"** (not Chief Ministers).

💡 **Mohammad Yunus** (1 April 1937 – 19 July 1937) was the **first Prime Minister of Bihar Province**, serving for 109 days under the Muslim Independent Party. Notably, he was the first person to take the oath as 'Prime Minister' in all of British India.

Complete List of Bihar Chief Ministers (1947-2025)

S. No.	Name	Tenure	Political Party/Alliance
1	Sri Krishna Sinha	15 Aug 1947– 31 Jan 1961	Indian National Congress
2	Deep Narayan Singh	1 Feb 1961 – 18 Feb 1961	Indian National Congress
3	Binodanand Jha	18 Feb 1961 – 2 Oct 1963	Indian National Congress
4	Krishna Ballabh Sahay	2 Oct 1963 – 5 Mar 1967	Indian National Congress
5	Mahamaya Prasad Sinha	5 Mar 1967 – 28 Jan 1968	Jana Kranti Dal
6	Satish Prasad Singh	28 Jan 1968 – 1 Feb 1968	Shoshit Dal
7	Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal (B.P. Mandal)	1 Feb 1968 – 22 Mar 1968	Shoshit Dal
—	President's Rule	29 Jun 1968 – 26 Feb 1969	—
8	Harihar Singh	26 Feb 1969 – 22 Jun 1969	Indian National Congress
9	Bhola Paswan Shastri	22 Jun 1969 – 4 Jul 1969	Indian National Congress
—	President's Rule	4 Jul 1969 – 16 Feb 1970	—
10	Daroga Prasad Rai	16 Feb 1970 – 22 Dec 1970	Indian National Congress
11	Karpoori Thakur	22 Dec 1970 – 2 Jun 1971	Samyukta Socialist Party
12	Bhola Paswan Shastri	2 Jun 1971 – 9 Jan 1972	Indian National Congress
—	President's Rule	9 Jan 1972 – 19 Mar 1972	—
13	Kedar Pandey	19 Mar 1972 – 2 Jul 1973	Indian National Congress
14	Abdul Gafoor	2 Jul 1973 – 11 Apr 1975	Indian National Congress

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15	Jagannath Mishra	11 Apr 1975 – 30 Apr 1977	Indian National Congress
—	President's Rule	30 Apr 1977 – 24 Jun 1977	—
16	Karpoori Thakur	24 Jun 1977 – 21 Apr 1979	Janata Party
17	Ram Sundar Das	21 Apr 1979 – 17 Feb 1980	Janata Party (Secular)
—	President's Rule	17 Feb 1980 – 8 Jun 1980	—
18	Jagannath Mishra	8 Jun 1980 – 14 Aug 1983	Indian National Congress
19	Chandrashekhar Singh	14 Aug 1983 – 12 Mar 1985	Indian National Congress
20	Bindeshwari Dubey	12 Mar 1985 – 13 Feb 1988	Indian National Congress
21	Bhagwat Jha Azad	14 Feb 1988 – 10 Mar 1989	Indian National Congress
22	Satyendra Narayan Sinha	11 Mar 1989 – 6 Dec 1989	Indian National Congress
23	Jagannath Mishra	6 Dec 1989 – 10 Mar 1990	Indian National Congress
24	Lalu Prasad Yadav	10 Mar 1990 – 28 Mar 1995	Janata Dal
—	President's Rule	28 Mar 1995 – 5 Apr 1995	—
25	Lalu Prasad Yadav	5 Apr 1995 – 25 Jul 1997	Janata Dal / Rashtriya Janata Dal
26	Rabri Devi	25 Jul 1997 – 11 Feb 1999	Rashtriya Janata Dal
—	President's Rule	11 Feb 1999 – 9 Mar 1999	—
27	Rabri Devi	9 Mar 1999 – 2 Mar 2000	Rashtriya Janata Dal
28	Nitish Kumar	3 Mar 2000 – 10 Mar 2000	Samata Party
29	Rabri Devi	11 Mar 2000 – 6 Mar 2005	Rashtriya Janata Dal
—	President's Rule	7 Mar 2005 – 24 Nov 2005	—
30	Nitish Kumar	24 Nov 2005 – 17 May 2014	Janata Dal (United)
31	Jitan Ram Manjhi	20 May 2014 – 22 Feb 2015	Janata Dal (United)
32	Nitish Kumar	22 Feb 2015 – 20 Nov 2015	Janata Dal (United)
33	Nitish Kumar	20 Nov 2015 – 26 Jul 2017	Janata Dal (United) - Mahagathbandhan
34	Nitish Kumar	27 Jul 2017 – 16 Nov 2020	Janata Dal (United) - NDA
35	Nitish Kumar	16 Nov 2020 – 9 Aug 2022	Janata Dal (United) - NDA
36	Nitish Kumar	10 Aug 2022 – 28 Jan 2024	Janata Dal (United) - Mahagathbandhan
37	Nitish Kumar	28 Jan 2024 – Present	Janata Dal (United) - NDA

Bihar's Sitakund Mela Gets Official Management

Why in News?

The **Sitakund Mela** in **Munger**, Bihar, one of the state's most revered religious, cultural, and tourist attractions, will now be managed by **Bihar State Mela Authority** under the **Bihar State Fair Authority Act, 2008** to streamline the fair's operations and enhance its significance in the region.

Key Points

- 🔦 **Historic and Cultural Importance:** The **Sitakund Mela** is held annually from **Maghi Purnima** (late January or February) to **Phalgun Purnima** (usually March), attracting millions of devotees from **Munger** and surrounding districts.

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✦ **5,000 foreign tourists** also visit the temple annually for worship and tourism.

💡 **Religious Significance of Sitakund:** Located on the banks of the **Ganga River**, **Sitakund** is believed to be the site where **Mata Sita** underwent her **Agni Pariksha** (fire test).

✦ The place features five sacred kunds (pools), including one that continuously flows with **hot water**, marking the test of Sita's purity, and the other four kunds with **cold water**.

💡 **Mela Management and Development:** As part of the **Bihar State Mela Authority**, the fair will now benefit from better organization, infrastructure, and management.

✦ The fairs are not **only promoting Bihar's rich cultural** heritage but also providing **employment opportunities** for local communities.

Bihar to Constitute 'State Safai Karmachari Commission'

Why in News?

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced the formation of the **Bihar State Safai Karmachari Commission**, which aims to ensure the welfare, protection, and **socio-economic upliftment of sanitation workers across the state**.

💡 It will also monitor the implementation of various welfare schemes and work towards ensuring the protection of their rights.

Key Points

💡 **Composition of the Commission:** The commission will consist of a **chairperson, vice-chairperson, and five members**, including a **woman** and a **transgender person**.

✦ This inclusive structure aims to address the concerns of marginalized sections of society engaged in sanitation work.

💡 **Key Functions and Goals:** The commission will provide **suggestions** on the rights and welfare of sanitation workers, advise the government on

policy matters, and **review and implement** welfare schemes designed for their benefit.

✦ It will also play a key role in integrating sanitation workers into the social and economic mainstream.

💡 **Jurisdiction of Commission:** According to an estimate, **more than 4 lakh sanitation workers employed in various urban local bodies, panchayats, and other areas across Bihar** will be covered under the purview of the commission.

✦ There are **more than 260 urban local bodies in Bihar**, including 19 municipal corporations and over 8000 panchayats, where a large number of sanitation workers are engaged in cleanliness campaigns and sanitation works.

Setup of Dairy and Milk Powder Plants in Bihar

Why in News?

To boost the **dairy industry** and improve the livelihoods of farmers, **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** announced the establishment of **three new dairy plants and two milk powder manufacturing units** in the state.

Key Points

💡 **New Dairy Plants and Milk Powder Units:** The three **dairy plants**, with a combined capacity of **5 lakh litres per day**, will be established in **Darbhanga, Wazirganj (Gaya), and Gopalganj**.

✦ The two **milk powder manufacturing plants**, each with a capacity of **30 metric tonnes per day**, will be set up in **Dehri-on-Sone (Rohtas) and Sitamarhi**.

✦ These plants aim to meet the growing demand for **milk products** and provide **employment** in local areas.

💡 **Dairy Industry's Role in Agricultural Growth:** The state government emphasized the importance of **dairying** as a key contributor to the **state's GDP** and the need for **improved breeds** of milch cattle.

✦ The new dairy units will also help in **cooperative extension** and improve the **quality of milk**.

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- 💡 **Finance of Project:** The plants will be financed through loans from **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** and **Bihar State Milk Cooperative Federation (COMFED)**.

Sectoral Contributions in Bihar's GDP

- 💡 As per Niti Aayog, Bihar's real GSDP has grown at an average rate of 5.0% between 2012-13 and 2021-22, which is lower than the national average growth rate of 5.6% during the same period.
- 💡 Over the past three decades, Bihar's share in nominal terms of the national GDP has decreased from 3.6% in 1990-91 to 2.8% in 2021-22.
 - ✦ Its nominal per capita income was only 30% of the national per capita income in 2021-22.
- 💡 The services sector has the highest share in GSVA (57.1%), followed by agriculture (24.3%), and industry (17.2%).
 - ✦ The share of the agricultural sector in the total GSVA (nominal) was 24.9% in FY 2021-22.
- 💡 Between 2013-14 and 2022-23, the state's service sector, industry, and agriculture grew by 6.4%, 8.6%, and 2.6%, respectively.



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Key Points

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Summary

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Summary