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BIHAR



**SEPTEMBER
2025**


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Chief Minister Women's Employment Scheme

Why in News?

Bihar **Chief Minister** Nitish Kumar launched the Chief Minister Women's Employment Scheme, offering ₹10,000 to women in Bihar to start businesses, provided they join **Jeevika Self-Help Groups**.

- ⚡ This was complemented by the Prime Minister's launch of the Bihar **Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh**, aimed at providing affordable loans to **Jeevika members**.

Key Features of Scheme

- ⚡ **Objective:** To provide **one woman from each family** in Bihar with an initial financial assistance of ₹10,000 to begin **self-employment ventures**.
- ⚡ **Implementation:** Women wishing to start employment under the scheme must join the **Jeevika Self-Help Group**, which will provide the necessary funds. The application form format for the scheme has been finalized, and women will start receiving funds in September.
 - ✦ The **Rural Development Department** will act as the **nodal agency** for the scheme, while the Urban Development and Housing Department will offer necessary support for its implementation.
- ⚡ **Future Prospects:** After six months, an evaluation of the scheme's impact will be carried out. Depending on the success of the initiative, beneficiaries could receive up to **₹2 lakh in additional support**.
- ⚡ **Role of Local Markets:** The scheme will also encourage the establishment of **local markets or 'haat bazaars'**, where women can sell products made by them, boosting their economic independence.
- ⚡ **Impact:** This initiative aims to **curb the outflow of people** from Bihar in search of employment, ensuring better job opportunities within the state.

Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited

- ⚡ **Objective:** The **Jeevika Nidhi** has been conceived as an **alternative financial system** to reduce dependence on **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)** and ensure the timely availability of larger loan amounts at lower interest rates.
- ⚡ **Membership:** All registered cluster-level federations of Jeevika will become members of the Society.
- ⚡ **Funding:** For the operation of this institution, the Government of Bihar, as well as the Central government, will contribute funds.
- ⚡ **Transparency:** The system will function solely on a **digital platform**, enabling faster, more transparent fund transfers directly to **Jeevika Didis' bank accounts**, with 12,000 community cadres receiving tablets to support this process.

Bhutan Prime Minister Visit to Bodh Gaya

Why in News?

The Prime Minister of Bhutan visited the **Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya**, offered prayers before Lord Buddha's statue, and meditated under the **sacred Bodhi tree**.

Mahabodhi Temple

- ⚡ **About:** The Mahabodhi temple marks the site where **Gautam Buddha** attained **enlightenment** under the Bodhi Tree.
 - ✦ The original shrine was built by **Emperor Ashoka** in the **3rd century BCE**, while the present structure dates back to the **5th–6th centuries CE**.
- ⚡ **Architectural Features:** The complex comprises the **50 m high main temple (Vajrasana)**, the sacred Bodhi Tree, and **six other associated sacred sites** of Buddha's enlightenment, surrounded by ancient votive stupas.
 - ✦ It is among the **earliest surviving brick temples of the Gupta period**, with the **Vajrasana (Diamond Throne)** installed by Ashoka to mark Buddha's meditation spot.

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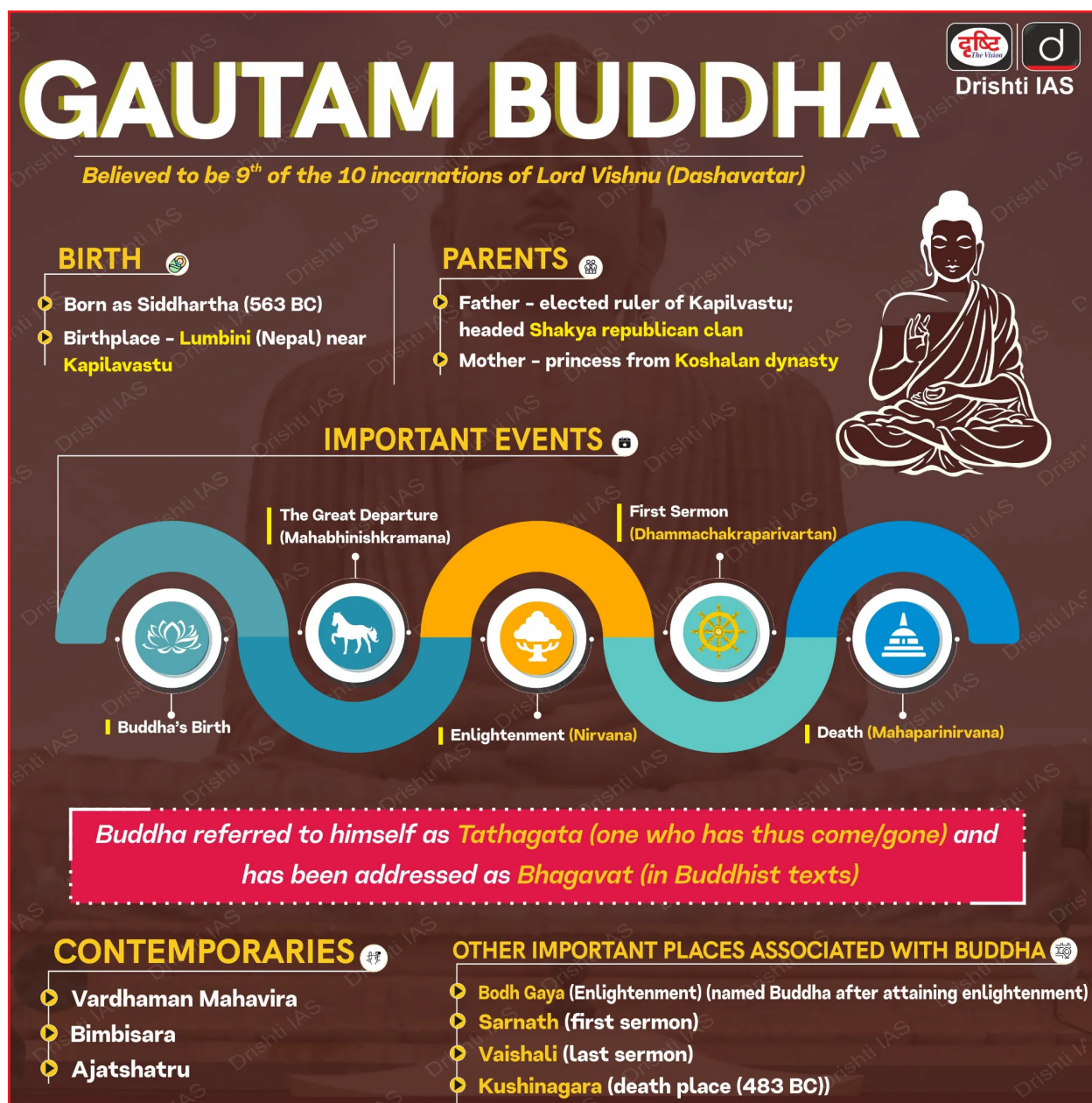
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- 📌 **Sacred Sites:** Key sites include the **Bodhi Tree** (a direct descendant of the original tree), the **Animesh Lochan Chaitya** (where Buddha meditated after enlightenment), and other related spots.
- 📌 **Recognition:** The Mahabodhi Temple was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2002.



Guru-Shishya Parampara Yojana

Why in News?

The Bihar Government's Department of Art, Culture, and Youth has launched the **Chief Minister's Guru-Shishya Parampara Scheme**.

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Key Points

- 💡 **About:** It aims to revive **rare folk arts**, musical traditions, and **paintings** through the traditional **guru-shishya system** between experienced masters and young disciples.
- 💡 **Objective:** The objective of this scheme is to **preserve and promote Bihar's rich cultural heritage** as well as rare and endangered traditional folk and classical arts, by providing **training to young people** under the guidance of expert gurus.
 - ✦ After completing the training under this scheme, a **grand convocation ceremony** will be organized where trainees will showcase their art and also be felicitated.
- 💡 **Funding:** The Bihar Government has sanctioned **₹1.11 crore** for the scheme.
- 💡 **Format and Financial Support:** A total of 20 Gurus, 20 accompanists, and 160 disciples will be selected, with financial assistance directly transferred to their bank accounts.
 - ✦ **20 selected Gurus** will each receive ₹15,000 per month.
 - ✦ **Accompanying artists** will receive ₹7,500 per month.
 - ✦ **160 disciples (shishyas)** will each be given a monthly scholarship of ₹3,000.
 - ✍ Training will be provided for **two years** in selected art forms.
 - ✍ Each participant must attend at least 12 days per month.
- 💡 **Eligibility:**
 - ✦ The Guru must be **50 years of age or older**.
 - ✦ The Guru must be a **permanent resident of Bihar**.

- ✦ The Guru must have at least **10 years of experience** in the concerned rare or endangered art form.
- ✦ The Guru must have a proper **residence or training space**, along with access to a training centre.

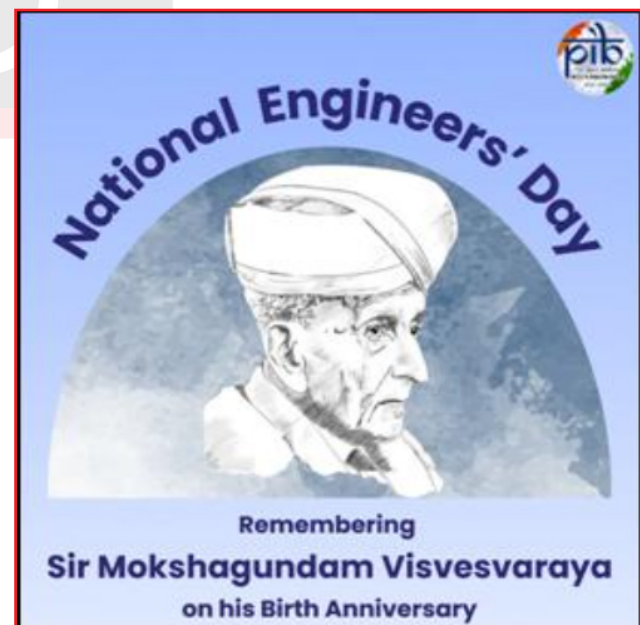
Significance:

- ✦ Senior artists will receive a **respectable monthly income**, supporting their livelihood.
- ✦ Traditional and endangered art forms will be **revived and preserved**.
- ✦ Young talent, especially from rural and semi-urban areas, will get a platform to **nurture their skills**.

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

Why in News?

The **Chief Minister of Bihar**, Nitish Kumar, recently paid tribute to Sir M. Visvesvaraya on his **birth anniversary**.



Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Born on 15th September 1861 in Karnataka, he was an eminent engineer, scholar, and statesman.

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- ✦ A graduate of the College of Engineering, Pune, he went on to become one of India's most respected engineers.

💡 Engineering Contributions:

- ✦ He is best known for his pioneering work in flood control and irrigation projects. His design of the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam in Mysuru revolutionized water storage and irrigation.
- ✦ In 1903, he developed an innovative system of automatic water floodgates, which were installed at the Khadakwasla Dam in Pune.
- ✦ He played a critical role in the planning of the city of Hyderabad, improving its drainage and water supply systems.

💡 Role in Public Service:

- ✦ He served as the Diwan of Mysore (1912–1918) and implemented major industrial and economic reforms.
- ✦ His emphasis on education, public health, and industrialization laid the foundation for economic development in the region.
- ✦ He is widely recognized as an early advocate and practitioner of Economic Planning in India, called the Visvesvaraya Plan, which he presented in a book titled "Planned Economy in India".

💡 Honors and Recognition:

- ✦ In 1955, he was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, for his exceptional service to the nation.
- ✦ In 1915, he was conferred the title of "Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE)" for his contributions to the public good.
- ✦ Sir M. Visvesvaraya was appointed in 1911 as a "Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE)" by King Edward VII.
- ✦ He received an honorary membership from the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, a fellowship from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and several honorary degrees, including D.Sc., LL.D., and D.Litt., from eight universities in India.

- ✦ He presided over the Indian Science Congress in 1923.
- ✦ His birth anniversary, **15th September**, is celebrated annually as **Engineers' Day** in India to honor his legacy and contributions to the field of engineering.

Sex Sorted Semen Facility at Purnea

Why in News?

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a **state-of-the-art Sex Sorted Semen facility** at the Semen Station in **Purnea, Bihar**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The Sex Sorted Semen facility, developed under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission with central assistance of ₹10 crore, aims to transform the dairy sector with a production capacity of 5 lakh doses per year.

- 💡 **Indigenous Technology:** The *Gausort* technology, launched by the Prime Minister on 5th October 2024, is a critical component of this facility.

- ✦ It enables the sorting of semen to produce female calves with 90% accuracy, which is pivotal in reducing economic burdens on dairy farmers.

💡 Significance:

- ✦ The facility ensures that Sex Sorted Semen is available at reasonable rates to farmers, especially in the Eastern and North-Eastern regions, aligning with the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.
- ✦ The technology **boosts the production of female calves**, crucial for dairy farming, offering **direct economic benefits to farmers**, particularly small, marginal, and landless laborers involved in dairying.

💡 Purnea Semen Station:

- ✦ Established with a **Central assistance of Rs. 84.27 crores**, the Purnea station is one of the **largest government-owned** semen stations in India and the first of its kind for the Eastern and North-Eastern states.

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- ✦ The station is currently producing **50 lakh doses per annum**, significantly contributing to the growth of the dairy industry in the region.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- 💡 **About:** The RGM, launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, aims to develop and conserve indigenous bovine breeds and is implemented by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- ✦ The mission continues as part of the **Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojna** for the period **2021 to 2026** with a budget outlay of Rs. 2400 crore.
- 💡 **Need:** The decline of indigenous bovine breeds, like **Punganur**(Andhra Pradesh), threatens valuable genetic resources. These breeds are **climate-resilient, produce high-quality milk, and adapt well to local environments**, highlighting the need for preservation efforts.
- 💡 **Objectives:** RGM aims to boost bovine productivity, promote high-quality breeding, and strengthen **Artificial Insemination (AI)** services.
 - ✦ AI is a **reproductive technology** that involves manually introducing sperm into a female's reproductive tract to achieve pregnancy.
- 💡 **Components of RGM:**
 - ✦ **High Genetic Merit:** Enhances **genetic merit** through **bull production** via **progeny testing, Pedigree Selection, genomic selection, and germplasm import**.
 - 📌 It strengthens **semen stations**, implements **in vitro fertilization (IVF) technology** for assured pregnancies, and sets up breed multiplication farms to scale genetic improvement in livestock.
 - ✦ **Artificial Insemination Network:** Promotes establishment of **Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs)** to expand nationwide AI access.
 - 📌 RGM implements the **National Digital Livestock Mission** to improve data management and service delivery.

- ✦ **Conservation of Indigenous Breeds:** Support for **Gaushalas** for the care and preservation of indigenous cattle.
- ✦ **Skill Development and Awareness:** Focuses on skill development through **capacity-building programs, raising farmer awareness, and supporting research and innovation** in bovine breeding.
- 💡 **Funding Pattern:** The components of the RGM are largely funded by a **100% grant-in-aid basis**, with some specific components involving partial subsidies (e.g., IVF pregnancies, sex sorted semen, breed multiplication farms).

PM Launches National Makhana Board In Bihar

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **National Makhana Board** in Purnea, Bihar as part of the **Union Budget 2025** initiative.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** This new board aims to **strengthen the makhana sector**, enhance its production and processing, and expand its export reach globally.
- 💡 **Cost:** The government has approved a **Rs 475 crore** development package to support these efforts.
- 💡 **Focus Areas:** The National Makhana Board is set to focus on key aspects of the sector's growth:
 - ✦ Raising production standards
 - ✦ Improving **post-harvest management**
 - ✦ Introducing innovative technologies
 - ✦ Enhancing **value addition**
 - ✦ Building stronger marketing and **export linkages**
 - ✦ Assist **farmer-producer organizations**, helping them access central schemes
- 💡 **Ideal Geography:** The state of Bihar contributes to around **90% of India's makhana production**, with the crop grown **across 15,000 hectares**, producing nearly 10,000 tonnes of popped makhana annually.

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- ✦ The production is **concentrated in the Mithilanchal region**, covering nine districts in northern and eastern Bihar.
- ✦ Districts like **Madhubani, Darbhanga, and Purnea** have the perfect wetland ecology for growing makhana.

Impact	Challenges
Market Growth Potential: Better grading, packaging, and branding can make Mithila Makhana a premium international product, raising farmer incomes.	Low Productivity: Farming is labor-intensive, with slow adoption of high-yield varieties.
Support for Mallah Community: Provides socio-economic uplift and jobs for the traditionally marginalized Mallah community.	Lack of Processing Units: Limited local infrastructure forces raw makhana sales at low prices to other states.
Economic Diversification: Boosts agriculture and food processing, supported by new export infrastructure like expanded airports.	Export Barriers: Poor cargo facilities and export hubs push processing to other states, limiting global reach.
Productivity Focus: Promotion of high-yield varieties like Swarna Vaidehi and Sabour Makhana-1 .	Export Efforts: Small consignments sent abroad, but large-scale global presence still lacking.

Makhana

- 💡 Makhana, or fox nut, comes from the aquatic plant ***Euryale ferox***, which grows in freshwater ponds **across South and East Asia**.
 - ✦ Often called the 'Black Diamond' in its raw dark seed form, it turns white once popped.
- 💡 Makhana is **low in calories and fat**, high in plant-based protein, and packed with dietary fibre, antioxidants, and essential minerals like magnesium, potassium, and phosphorus.
- 💡 Makhana has been **part of Hindu rituals** for centuries.

Mega Conclave on PM Vishwakarma in Bihar

Why in News?

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, organized the **PM Vishwakarma and National SC-ST Hub Mega Conclave** to commemorate the second anniversary of the **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**.

- 💡 The event aimed at empowering traditional artisans and craftsmen, fostering entrepreneurship, and showcasing the achievements of the scheme.
- 💡 The Ministry of MSME signed agreements with the **National Institute of Design (NID)**, Ahmedabad, and the **Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)** to strengthen the **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- 💡 **About:** PM Vishwakarma is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched on **17th September 2023**, to provide **comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople** engaged in **manual and tool-based work**.
- 💡 **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- 💡 **Eligibility:**
 - ✦ The applicant must be an **artisan or craftsperson working with hands and tools** in one of the **18 family-based traditional trades** in the **unorganized sector** on a **self-employment basis**.
 - ✦ **He/she must be above 18 years** at the time of registration and must be **actively working** in the trade at registration.
 - ✦ **He/she** should not have availed loans under **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**, **MUDRA**, **PM SVANidhi** in the past **5 years**, except those who have fully repaid.
 - ✦ Only **one member per family** (husband, wife, and unmarried children) can benefit.
 - ✦ **Government employees and their family members are not eligible**.

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Eligible Trades:

- ✦ **18 eligible trades** include **Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith, Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Sculptor, Stone breaker, Cobbler/ Shoesmith/ Footwear artisan, Mason, Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker, Barber, Garland maker, Washerman, Tailor, and Fishing Net Maker.**
- 📎 The list can be **updated and modified** by the National Steering Committee with the approval of the **Ministry for MSME.**

Key Features:

- ✦ **Recognition:** Beneficiaries receive **PM Vishwakarma Certificate & ID Card**, enabling access to all scheme benefits.
- ✦ **Skill Upgradation:**
 - 📎 **Basic Training (40 hours over 5-7 days, Rs 500/day stipend):** Covers skill enhancement, modern tool usage, digital transactions, and marketing.
 - 📎 **Advanced Training (15 days, Rs 500/day stipend):** Focuses on entrepreneurship, modern technology, and business expansion.
- ✦ **Toolkit Incentive:** Up to **Rs 15,000** provided via **e-RUPI/e-vouchers** for modern tool procurement, improving productivity, and product quality.
- ✦ **Credit Support:** **Collateral-free loans of Rs 1 lakh (1st tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (2nd tranche)** in the form of '**Enterprise Development Loans**' with **interest subvention** to promote business growth.

Implementation:

- ✦ **National Steering Committee (NSC):** The NSC shall be the Apex Committee constituted by the **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.**
 - 📎 The NSC will be empowered to take **all major policy and strategy decisions** with respect to the implementation of the Scheme and approve any **modifications** required in the Scheme, like the inclusion of further categories of trades.

- ✦ **State Monitoring Committee (SMC):** The SMC shall be responsible for the **operational implementation and monitoring** of the Scheme at the **state level**; it will also act as a **bridge between the NSC and the field-level setup.**
- ✦ **District Implementation Committee (DIC):** The DIC shall be responsible for the **actual roll-out and implementation of the Scheme at the field level** and will **coordinate with the State Government** and other committees.

Self-Help Allowance Scheme for Unemployed Graduates

Why in News?

On 18th September 2025, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an extension of the **CM Self-Help Allowance Scheme** under the state's flagship **7 Nischay** program.

Key Points

- 📌 **About:** The scheme, **aimed at empowering youth**, will now extend financial support of **₹1,000 per month** for a **maximum of two years** to:
 - ✦ Graduate youths who are in the 20-25 age group
 - ✦ Not studying and are seeking employment opportunities
 - ✦ Not self-employed
 - ✦ Not employed in any government, private, or non-government sector
- 📌 **Scheme Expansion:** The scheme was previously available to unemployed youth who had completed their **intermediate exams.**
- 📌 **Objective:** The scheme aims to equip young people with the **resources to pursue skill development** and competitive exam preparation, ultimately contributing to their **self-reliance** and future career prospects.
- 📌 **Employment Strategy:** The state government's target is to provide **one crore employment opportunities** over the next five years, creating both government and private sector job openings.

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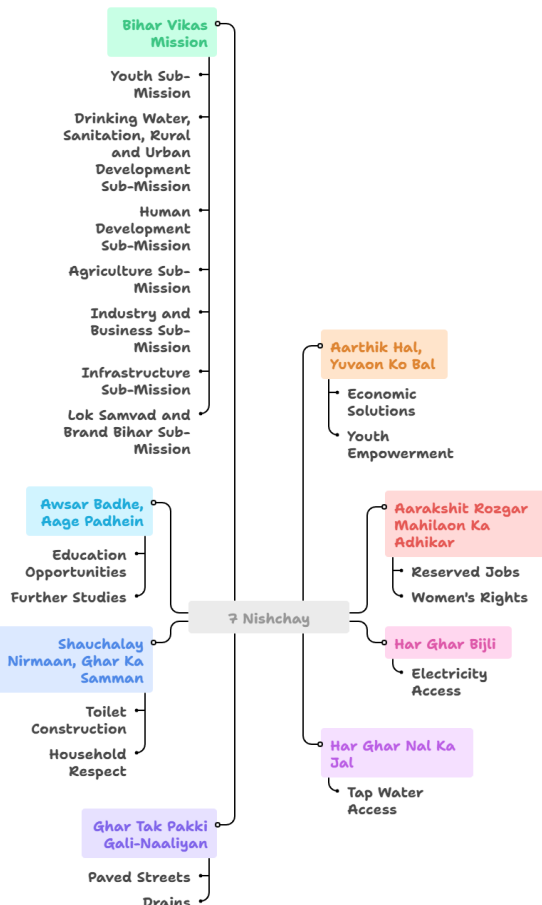


- 💡 **Application Process:** Eligible youth can apply through the “**Mukhyamantri Nischay Swyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana**” portal by registering via their mobile number and email.

7 Nischay Program

- 🔦 The **Mukhyamantri 7 Nischay**(Seven Resolves) **Yojana** is a flagship initiative by the Bihar Government, comprising **seven key programs** aimed at youth and overall state development.
- 🔦 Seven Nischay have been designed in such a way that the schemes formulated under them **reach across every class** of society equally without any bias or prejudice.
- 🔦 The 7 Nishchay for a developed Bihar, outlined in the **Good Governance Programme 2015-2020** in mission mode, are monitored through **7 Sub-Missions** under the **Bihar Vikas Mission**.

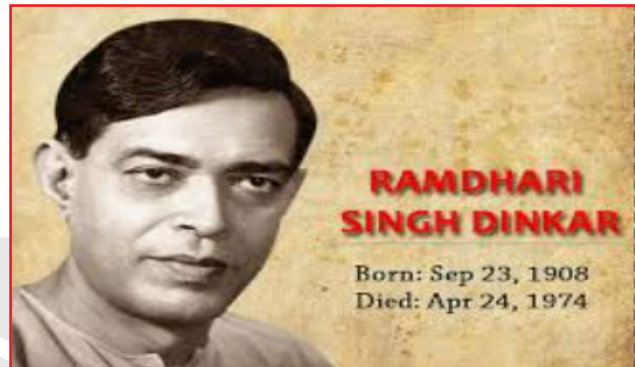
7 Nishchay and Sub-Missions for Good Governance



Birth Anniversary of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the legendary poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on his **birth anniversary**, highlighting his **contributions to Hindi literature** and his inspiring, patriotic poems that continue to ignite the **spirit of nationalism**.



Key Points

- 💡 **Early Life and Education:** He was born on 23rd September 1908, in the village of Simaria, Begusarai, Bihar.
 - ✦ He pursued studies in philosophy, politics, and history at Patna University and became well-versed in multiple languages, including **Sanskrit, Urdu, Bengali, and English.**
- 💡 **Contribution to Hindi Literature:** Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, also known by his pen name **Dinkar**, was a **prominent Hindi and Maithili poet**, freedom fighter, and academic.
 - ✦ His literary contributions, especially the epic **Rashmirathi**, which recounts the life of Karna from the Mahabharata, remain a vital and influential part of Hindi literature.
- 💡 **Influences on Dinkar's Work:** Dinkar was influenced by a blend of **Rabindranath Tagore's** poetic style, **Mahatma Gandhi's** political philosophy, and **Karl Marx's** revolutionary ideas, creating a **unique poetic voice** that resonated with the masses.

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- 💡 **Role in India's Freedom Struggle:** Dinkar's poetry, especially his fiery verses in **Veer Rasa (the emotion of bravery)**, played a pivotal role in igniting a nationalist spirit during India's struggle for independence.
- 💡 **Political and Academic Engagement:** Dinkar made significant contributions to both politics and academia, serving as a **Rajya Sabha** member from 1952 to 1964.
 - ✦ He also served as **Vice-Chancellor** of Bhagalpur University in the 1960s, reinforcing his influence in the academic sphere.
- 💡 **Recognition and Honour:** In 1959, Dinkar was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan** for his exceptional contributions to literature, solidifying his place as one of **India's greatest literary figures**.
 - ✦ Renowned as a **Rashtrakavi (national poet)**, Dinkar earned recognition for his patriotic and inspiring compositions that captured the essence of his era.
 - ✦ In 1999, Dinkar was featured among **prominent Hindi writers** on a **series of commemorative postal stamps** released by the Government of India, marking 50 years since Hindi became the official language.
 - ✦ On 22nd May 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **golden jubilee celebrations of Dinkar's significant works**, **Sanskriti ke Chaar Adhyaye** and **Parshuram ki Pratiksha**, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

Bihar Displays Folk Art Treasures at PM Mementos

Why in News?

The 7th edition of the **Prime Minister's** Mementos e-Auction showcases Bihar's rich cultural heritage, with 40 unique items, including stunning examples of **Madhubani** and **Sikki Art**, now available for public bidding.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The PM Mementos e-Auction, organised by the **Ministry of Culture** through the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi, invites citizens to acquire mementos gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi since its **inception in 2019**.
 - ✦ The proceeds from this auction support the **Namami Gange project**, dedicated to the rejuvenation of the **Holy River Ganga**.
- 💡 **Bihar's Artistic Highlights:**
 - ✦ **Madhubani Painting:** This intricate Madhubani painting **captures Lord Krishna with the Gopis**, reflecting divine love and spiritual harmony.
 - 📌 Known for bold lines, intricate patterns, and natural colours, this painting **represents the Mithila region's** deep-rooted folk traditions.



- ✦ **Mithila Painting:** A vibrant Mithila painting, featuring a woman holding a **lotus flower** and a **Shiva Lingam**, symbolising Lord Shiva, this artwork is a beautiful representation of Bihar's folk art.
 - 📌 Done in poster colours on paper, the painting is framed in a traditional brown textured frame, showcasing the intricate and vibrant line drawings characteristic of Mithila art.
 - 📌 This piece reflects the **rich tradition of Mithila painting**, which is deeply connected to Hindu deities, nature, and daily life.

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✦ **Sikki Art Frame:** This frame depicts **Lord Ram and Sita in golden hues**, showcasing the couple's divine grace.

- ✎ Executed in the traditional Sikki art style of Bihar, the piece contrasts the divine couple's golden portrayal against a dark background, emphasising their power and elegance.
- ✎ Sikki art is known for its **intricate craftsmanship**, and this artwork reflects Bihar's cultural richness, particularly the **portrayal of divine figures in folk traditions**.



Pirpainti Thermal Power Plant

Why in News?

The opposition party in Bihar held a protest march in Patna against the state government's decision to lease **1,050 acres of land in Bhagalpur** to the **Adani Group** for just **Rs 1 per year**, to establish a **thermal power plant in Pirpainti, Bhagalpur**.

What is the Pirpainti Thermal Power Plant Project?

- 💡 **About:** Adani Power Limited is developing the **Pirpainti Thermal Power Plant**, a **2,400-MW coal-based project (USD 3 billion)** in Bhagalpur district's Pirpainti region.
 - ✦ The project will comprise **three units of 800 MW each** and is expected to create **10,000–12,000 jobs during construction** and about **3,000 permanent jobs once operational**.
- 💡 **Allegations Against the Project:**
 - ✦ **Land Lease:** **1,050 acres** leased to **Adani Power** for **33 years** at **Rs 1/year**, termed a **gift** by the opposition party.
 - ✦ **Environmental Impact:** Alleged cutting of **10 lakh trees**, leading to **ecological damage**.
 - ✦ **Farmland Conversion:** **Fertile agricultural land** reportedly reclassified as **barren** for project clearance.
 - ✦ **Power Tariff:** Bihar residents may pay around **Rs 6 per unit**, higher than rates in **Maharashtra** and **Uttar Pradesh**.
- 💡 **Government Response:** Adani Power secured the project through a **transparent Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)** process under **Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003**.
 - ✦ The land had already been leased in **2022** to the **Bihar State Power Generation Company (BSPGCL)** at **Rs 1 per year**, prior to the latest bidding in which Adani emerged as the winner.
 - ✦ The nominal lease rate was included in the bidding framework to **lower power generation costs**, while **land ownership remains with Bihar's Energy Department**.

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Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Package 2025

- 💡 In **August 2025**, the Bihar cabinet approved the **Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Package 2025**, which allows land allocation at a **token rate of Rs 1** to eligible investors.
- 💡 **Under the policy:**
 - ✦ Investments of **Rs 100 crore** with **1,000 jobs** created qualify for **10 acres free land**.
 - ✦ Investments of **Rs 1,000 crore** qualify for **up to 25 acres of free land**.
 - ✦ **Fortune 500 companies** are entitled to **10 acres of free land**.
 - ✦ Other investors receive a **50% discount on Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) land rates**.
- 💡 This scheme is open to all qualifying investors until **31st March, 2026**, making the **Rs 1 land transfer not exclusive to Adani**.

Two Wetlands in Bihar Designated as Ramsar Sites

Why in News?

India has added two new wetlands from Bihar — **Gokul Jalashay in Buxar** and **Udaipur Jheel in West Champaran** — to the global list of **Ramsar Convention Sites** of International Importance.

- 💡 With these additions, India's Ramsar tally now stands at **93 sites**, covering 13,60,719 hectares, maintaining its **top position in Asia** and third globally after the UK (176) and Mexico (144).

Key Points

- 💡 **Gokul Jalashay, Buxar District:**
 - ✦ **Type:** **Oxbow lake** located on the **southern edge of the river Ganga**.
 - ✦ **Ecological Role:** Functions as a natural flood buffer for nearby villages while providing habitat for over 50 bird species.

- ✦ **Community Linkages:** Provides livelihood through **fishing, farming, and irrigation**.
- ✦ **Local Tradition:** Villagers clean the catchment annually during a **festival**.

Udaipur Jheel, West Champaran District:

- ✦ **Type:** Oxbow lake surrounding a village.
- ✦ **Biodiversity:** Home to **280 plant species**, including ***Alysicarpus roxburghianus*** (endemic to India).
 - 📎 It is an important wintering ground for **35 migratory bird species**, including the **vulnerable common pochard**.

- 💡 **About Wetlands:** They are areas of **marsh, fen, peatland, or water (natural or artificial)** with **water that is static or flowing**, including **marine areas with a depth not exceeding six meters**.

- ✦ Wetlands are an **ecotone**, having land transitional between **terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems**.

- 💡 **About Ramsar Convention:** It was adopted in **1971** in **Ramsar, Iran**, and provides a global framework for **wetland conservation and wise use**. **India joined it in 1982**.

- ✦ The **Montreux Record** (threatened list) lists wetlands with **deteriorating ecological character** due to human activity or pollution. India has **two wetlands** in the Montreux Record:

- 📎 **Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan (1990):** A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- 📎 **Loktak Lake, Manipur (1993):** The **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India**, known for its **Phumdis** (floating masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter).

- ✦ **Chilika Lake** was included in the Montreux Record in **1993** but was removed in **2002 (the first site from Asia)**.



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Key Points

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Summary