




# STATE **PCS CA** CONSOLIDATION


# BIHAR



**APRIL**  
**2025**


  
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## Padma Bhushan Awarded to the Former Deputy CM of Bihar

### Why in News?

Bihar's former Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, was posthumously awarded the prestigious **Padma Bhushan** for his exceptional contributions to public life. The honor was conferred by President Droupadi Murmu.

- 💡 Sushil Kumar Modi was **one of the ten distinguished personalities** to receive the Padma Bhushan.

### Key Points

#### Contributions of Sushil Kumar Modi:

- ✦ **Fiscal Management and State Development:** As Bihar's **longest-serving** Deputy CM and Finance Minister, he played a crucial role in transforming Bihar into a revenue-surplus state.
  - 📌 He was **known for effective fiscal management** and contributing to the state's development through improved governance.
- ✦ **Introduction of GST:** He was instrumental in the **introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)** in India.
  - 📌 As the Chairman of the **Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers** (2011-2013), he played a pivotal role in building **consensus among states for the rollout of GST**, which was a landmark reform in **India's tax structure**.
- ✦ **Political Career and Leadership:** With over three decades in politics, he served in both Houses of Parliament and the Bihar Legislative Assembly.
  - 📌 He also held leadership roles such as the **Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee** on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice.
- ✦ **Gender Budget and Women's Welfare:** While serving as Bihar's Finance Minister, Modi introduced the innovative **concept of a gender budget**, focusing on the welfare and **empowerment of women**, ensuring that their issues were addressed in the state's financial planning.

- ✦ **Advocacy for Organ Donation:** He was a strong advocate for organ donation and founded the '**Dadhichi Deh Daan Samiti**' campaign in Bihar, which promoted awareness about organ donation and encouraged people to donate their organs.

### Padma Awards

#### Background:

- ✦ The Padma Awards are announced annually on **Republic Day** (26th January).
- ✦ Instituted in 1954, it is **one of the highest civilian honours** of India.

#### Objective:

- ✦ To **recognise achievements in all fields** of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

#### Categories:

- ✦ The Awards are given in three categories:
  - 📌 **Padma Vibhushan** (for exceptional and distinguished service),
  - 📌 **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of higher order) and
  - 📌 **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).
- ✦ **Padma Vibhushan is highest** in the hierarchy of Padma Awards followed by Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

#### Disciplines:

- ✦ The awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities like art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

#### Eligibility:

- ✦ All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards.

#### Selection Process:

- ✦ **Padma Awards Committee:**
  - 📌 The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- ✦ **Awarded by President:**
  - 📌 The awards are presented by the President of India usually in March/April every year.

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# CIVILIAN AND GALLANTRY AWARDS

## CIVILIAN AWARDS

### Bharat Ratna

- India's **highest civilian award**; instituted in **1954**
- Awarded for exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour
- Award includes certificate & medallion (no monetary grant)
- Recommended to President by the PM
- Can be given (max) thrice per year



### Padma Awards

- Instituted in **1954**; announced annually on **eve of Republic Day**
- Recognises achievements in all fields/disciplines involving **public service**
- Categories: Padma **Vibhushan** > Padma **Bhushan** > Padma **Shri**
- Recommended by **Padma Awards Committee** (constituted by PM annually)
- Suspended twice** - 1978-79 and 1993-97
- Max no. of awards per year - **120**



## GALLANTRY AWARDS

- Wartime Gallantry** instituted on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950**
- Peacetime Gallantry** instituted on **4<sup>th</sup> January 1952**
- Announced twice** a year - Republic Day and Independence Day
- Order of Precedence - **Param Vir Chakra** > **Ashoka Chakra** > **Mahavir Chakra** > **Kirti Chakra** > **Vir Chakra** > **Shaurya Chakra**

### Eligibility -

- » All officers of all ranks (**Army, Navy, IAF**), Reserve forces, Territorial army
- » People providing nursing services under any of the above forces

### Wartime Gallantry Awards



Param Vir Chakra

Maha Vir Chakra

Vir Chakra

### Peacetime Gallantry Awards



Ashoka Chakra

Kirti Chakra

Shaurya Chakra



## National Panchayat Awards 2025

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India presented the **National Panchayat Awards** during an event organized on the occasion of **National Panchayati Raj Day** (24<sup>th</sup> April 2025) at **Madhubani, Bihar**.

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## Key Points

### 🔦 Motipur Panchayat:

- ✦ Motipur Panchayat of **Bihar** has been awarded the **National Panchayat Award 2025**. The Prime Minister presented this award to **Mukhiya Prema Devi**.
  - 📎 As part of this award, **an amount of Rs 50 lakh was also awarded** to the Panchayat.
- ✦ Motipur Panchayat is the **only one selected from Bihar for the 'Climate Action Special Panchayat Award'**.
  - 📎 **Only three panchayats** have been selected from across the country in this category.
- ✦ This award is **given for outstanding contributions to environmental protection, green development**, and climate-friendly schemes.

### 🔦 About National Panchayat Awards:

- ✦ This is to encourage top performing Panchayats that are in line with the 9 themes of **Local Development Goals (LSDGs)**, which cover all the **17 SDGs**.
- ✦ For this, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj has established special categories of **National Panchayat Awards** to encourage them.
  - 📎 **Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA)**: To encourage Panchayats to act as climate-responsive local governments.
  - 📎 **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA)**: To promote Atmanirbharta through augmentation of Own Source Revenue (OSR) by Panchayats.
  - 📎 **Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP)**: To recognize excellence in capacity building and training of Panchayati Raj representatives and functionaries.
  - 📎 The winners are awarded trophies, certificates, and cash prizes.

- 🔦 **The first-place winner receives Rs 1 crore**, the second-place winner gets Rs 75 lakh, and the third-place winner is awarded Rs 50 lakh.

## National Panchayati Raj Day

- 🔦 The day is being celebrated **on April 24 since 2010**.
- 🔦 It marks the enactment of the **73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, through which **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** were granted statutory status.

### Panchayati Raj

- 🔦 Panchayats are mentioned in **Article 40** of the Indian Constitution and **Article 246** empowers the State Legislature to make laws on any matter relating to local self-government.
- 🔦 **To establish democracy at the local level**, PRIs were given constitutional status through the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and they were **entrusted with the task of rural development in the country**.
  - ✦ PRI is a system of rural local self-government in India.

## Veer Kunwar Singh Vijay Diwas

### Why in News?

The **Governor** and **Chief Minister** of Bihar paid tribute to **Babu Veer Kunwar Singh** as part of the program organized on his **Vijay Diwas**.



### Key Points

#### 🔦 About Kunwar Singh:

- ✦ Veer Kunwar Singh was born in **Jagdishpur (present-day Bhojpur district, Bihar)** in the year **1777**. He belonged to the Ujjainiya clan of Parmar **Rajputs** of Jagdishpur.

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- ✦ He was the main hero of the fight against the British in Bihar. He led the **Indian Rebellion of 1857** in Bihar. He was about 80 years old when he was called to take up arms and his health was also poor.
- ✦ He was assisted by both his brother, Babu Amar Singh, and his commander, Hare Krishna Singh. Some believe this was the real reason behind Kunwar Singh's initial military success.
- ✦ He displayed excellent war skills and troubled the British army for almost a year and remained invincible till the end. He was an expert in **guerrilla warfare**.
- ✦ He died on April 26, 1858.
- ✦ A commemorative postage stamp was issued in his honour by the **Republic of India on 23 April 1966** for his contribution to India's independence movement.
- ✎ **Veer Kunwar Singh University**, Ara was established in the year 1992 by the Government of Bihar.
- ✎ In the year 2017, **Veer Kunwar Singh Setu**, also known as Ara-Chhapra Bridge, was inaugurated to connect North and South Bihar.
- ✎ In 2018, to commemorate the 160th anniversary of Kunwar Singh's death, the Bihar government moved a statue of him to Harding Park. The park was also officially named '**Veer Kunwar Singh Azadi Park**'.

#### Revolt of 1857

- ✎ It was the first expression of organised resistance against the **British East India Company**.
- ✎ It began as a revolt of sepoys of the British East India Company's army but gained public participation as well.
- ✎ The rebellion is known by many names: the Sepoy Mutiny (by British historians), the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion (by Indian historians), the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Mutiny, and the First War of Independence (by **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**).

## Bihar's First Vande Metro

### Why in News?

On 24<sup>th</sup> April, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the **first Nammo Bharat Rapid Rail service (also known as Vande Metro) of Bihar**, which will be the **second of its kind in India**.

- ✎ The PM will also **launch the Amrit Bharat Train** (connecting Saharsa to Mumbai) along with two other passenger trains, **marking the second such service in Bihar**.

### Key Points

#### About Vande Metro:

- ✦ This train **will operate from Jayanagar to Patna**, passing through Samastipur, Barauni, Mokama, and Bakhtiyarpur.
- ✎ The first Nammo Bharat Rapid Rail was **launched between Ahmedabad and Bhuj in September 2024**.
- ✦ This train service will connect the **north-central region of Bihar to the state capital Patna directly**.
- ✦ The train is equipped with the '**Kavach**' safety system. It features engines at both ends, reducing turnaround time.
- ✎ For the first time in open-line railways, the **train includes a route map indicator** that provides information about each station.

#### Features

- ✦ This is a **modern, indigenous and semi high speed train** of Indian Railways.
- ✦ It is designed for short- distance (**100–350 km**) **intercity and suburban routes**.
- ✦ This train is also known as "**NaMo Bharat Rapid Rail**".
- ✦ Its maximum speed is **130 km/h**.

## Lightning as a Phenomenon

### Why in News?

**Severe weather conditions in Bihar** led to multiple casualties, with lives lost due to **lightning** strikes and storm-related incidents.

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## Key Points

### About Lightning:

- ✦ **Lightning** is a **powerful and visible electrical phenomenon** that takes place when there is a **buildup of electrical charges within clouds and between clouds and the ground**.

✎ The discharge of this electrical energy results in a **brilliant flash of light and a rapid expansion of air**, creating the characteristic thunder that accompanies lightning.

✎ **Cloud-to-ground (CG)** lightning is dangerous because it can electrocute people due to its high electric voltage and current.

### ✦ Strikes Earth's Surface:

✎ The **Earth is a good conductor of electricity**. While electrically neutral, it is relatively positively charged compared to the middle layer of the cloud. As a result, an estimated **20-25% of the current flow is directed towards the Earth**.

- ✎ It is this current flow that results in damage to life and property.

✎ Lightning has a **greater probability of striking raised objects on the ground**, such as trees or buildings.

- ✎ **Lightning Conductor** is a device used to protect buildings from the effect of lightning. A metallic rod, taller than the building, is installed in the walls of the building during its construction.

✎ The most lightning activity on Earth is seen on the shore of **Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela**.

- ✎ At the place where the Catatumbo river falls into Lake Maracaibo, an average 260 storm days occur **every year, and October sees 28 lightning flashes every minute** - a phenomenon referred to as the **Beacon of Maracaibo or the Everlasting Storm**.

- ✦ India ranks among the **five countries worldwide** with an **early warning system for lightning**.
- ✦ The system provides forecasts ranging from **five days to as close as three hours before the occurrence of lightning**.

### Geographical Distribution in India:

- ✦ Lightning frequency is highest in northeastern states and West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Bihar.

✎ However, the number of lightning-related deaths is higher in central Indian states like **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha**.

- ✦ Bihar is one of the **most vulnerable states to lightning strikes**, with a significant number of deaths reported annually.

✎ According to the **Bihar Economic Survey (2024-25)** report, Bihar witnessed **275 lightning or thunderstorm-related deaths in 2023**.

## Mahavir Jayanti 2025

### Why in News?

On 10th April 2025, the **2625th birth anniversary** of Jainism's Tirthankara Lord Mahavir Swami Ji was celebrated in Bihar.

### Key Points

#### About Mahavir Jayanti:

- ✦ **Mahavir Jayanti** is one of the most sacred festivals in the **Jain community**.

- ✦ This day marks the birth of **Vardhamana Mahavira**, the 24th or last Tirthankara and successor of Parshvanatha, the 23rd Tirthankara.

- ✦ According to Jain texts, He was born **on the 13th day of the Shukla Paksha of the Chaitra month**.

✎ According to the Gregorian calendar, Mahavir Jayanti is usually celebrated in the month of March or April.

- ✦ A procession is taken out with the idol of Lord Mahavira which is called **Rath Yatra**.
- ✦ While reciting sthnavas or Jain prayers, the idols of the deities are given a ceremonial bath called **abhishekam**.

#### About Lord Mahavira:

- ✦ Lord Mahavir Swami left an indelible mark on humanity through his profound **spiritual practices and teachings**.

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- ✦ Lord Mahavira's name in his childhood was **Vardhamana** which means 'the one who grows'.
- ✦ During his **twelve years of spiritual practice**, Lord Mahavira demonstrated **four extraordinary qualities** :
  - ✍ **Intense and uninterrupted meditation**: His unbroken meditation helped him achieve profound insights.
  - ✍ **Severe penance**: He endured extreme physical suffering to purify his soul.
  - ✍ **Tolerance of pain**: Mahavira Swami demonstrated amazing tolerance.
  - ✍ **Best Balance**: His inner balance remained stable.
- ✦ **On the tenth day of Vaisakha** , Mahavira's journey reached a decisive moment.
- ✦ To these 5 teachings, Brahmacharya (celibacy/chastity) was added by Mahavira.

# VARDHAMAN MAHAVIRA

*The 24<sup>th</sup> and last Tirthankara; succeeded the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tirthankara, Parshvanatha (Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism)*

## BIRTH

- To King Siddhartha of Kundalgram and Queen Trishala, a Lichchhavi princess
- In **6<sup>th</sup> century BC**, **Vajji kingdom** (modern day Vaishali, Bihar)
- Belonged to **Ikshvaku dynasty**

*Mahavir Jayanti, one of the most auspicious festivals for Jains, marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira*

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Abandoned worldly life at age 30
- Attained '**kaivalya**' (omniscience) at age 42
- Delivered his **first sermon at Pava** (near Patna)

*A symbol is associated with every Tirthankara, Mahavira's symbol was a lion*

## DEATH

- Believed to be passed away and attained **Moksha** at age 72 (5<sup>th</sup> century BC)
- Died at **Pavapuri** (near modern-day Rajgir, Bihar)

*Moksha - liberation from the cycle of birth and death*

## TITLES

- **Mahavira** (great hero)
- **Jaina/Jitendriya** (who conquered all his senses)
- **Nirgrantha** (who is free from all bonds)

## TEACHINGS (JAIN AGAMAS)

- **Ahimsa** (non-violence)
- **Satya** (truth)
- **Asteya** (non-stealing)
- **Aparigraha** (non-attachment)
- **Brahmacharya** (chastity) (propounded by Mahavira)

*Mahavira and his disciples taught in Prakrit to teach ordinary people*



## Birth Anniversary of Emperor Ashoka

### Why in News?

On the **birth anniversary Emperor Ashoka**, the Bihar Governor and Chief Minister paid floral tributes at his statue at the Ashoka Convention Center.

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## Key Points

### About Ashoka:

- ✦ Every year the **Ashtami of Chaitra month** is celebrated as Ashok Jayanti. This time it was celebrated on 5th April 2025.
- ✦ Ashoka was the son of **Maurya emperor Bindusara**. He displayed extraordinary talent in **administrative work**.
- ✦ Impressed by his ability and knowledge, Bindusara appointed him the **governor of Ujjain (Avanti)**.
- ✦ Ashoka fought only one major war, **the Kalinga War**, which is mentioned in his **13th major rock edict**.
  - ✍ He fought this war in the **eighteenth year of his reign (261 BC)**. Ashoka was deeply saddened by the **destruction and bloodshed in this war**, due to which his **personality changed from a warrior to a saint**.
  - ✍ As a result, he abandoned the policy of **Digvijaya** and adopted the policy of **Dhammavijaya**.

### Ashoka's Dhamma:

- ✦ After conversion to **Buddhism**, he remained a **simple worshipper for about two and a half years**. After that, he joined the **Buddhist Sangha and became a Bhikshu Gatika** (those who live in a monastery for a limited time are called Bhikshu Gatika).
- ✦ Ashoka never fully adopted the life of a **Buddhist monk**, but rather he always remained a **worshipper**.
- ✦ **Definition of Dhamma:**
  - ✍ Ashoka has presented the definition of **Dhamma** in his **second and seventh pillar inscriptions**.
  - ✍ According to him, Dhamma includes the following principles:

- 💡 No human being **will be killed**.
- 💡 There will be no **destruction of property**.
- 💡 Service and respect for **parents and elders**.
- 💡 Respect for **elders and teachers**.
- 💡 Good treatment of **slaves and servants**.

### 💡 Spend less and live a simple life.

- ✦ In the **13th major rock edict**, Ashoka has described **Dhammavijaya** as the greatest victory. He was the first ruler in **world history** who adopted the **Dhamma based imperialist policy** through **non-violence**.
- ✦ For the **propagation of Dhamma**, Ashoka created a new administrative category which was called '**Dhammamahamatra**'.
- ✦ In the **fifth major inscription**, Ashoka has mentioned that these officers were appointed in the **13th year of the reign (256 BC)**.
- ✦ Apart from this, other officers like **Yukta**, **Rajukka**, and **Pradeshik** were also given the responsibility of propagating the **principles of Dhamma**.

## Khelo India Games in Bihar

### Why in News?

The seventh edition of **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)** will be held from 4th-15th May 2025 in five cities of Bihar – **Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Begusarai**.

### Key Points

#### 💡 About the games

- ✦ KIYG is a **national-level multi-disciplinary sports competition** for **school and college students in India**.
- ✦ The Prime Minister launched the **first edition of Khelo India School Games** at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi **in the year 2018**.
  - ✍ In the year 2019, its name was changed to **Khelo India Youth Games**.
- ✦ These are part of the **Khelo India initiative of the Government of India**.
- ✦ It aims to promote sports culture and recognise sporting talent at the grassroots level.
- ✦ These games are organized in two categories:
  - ✍ School students under the age of 17
  - ✍ College students under the age of 21.
- ✦ The **6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games** was held from 19 to 31 January 2024 in four cities of Tamil Nadu: **Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore**.

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### khelo india App:

- ✦ In the year 2019, the Prime Minister launched the Khelo India App to promote sports and fitness.
- ✦ This app helps people to stay updated about sports events and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

# KHELO INDIA PROGRAMME

**AIM**

- Mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports
- Revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level

**12 VERTICALS OF KHELO INDIA**

**GAMES UNDER KHELO INDIA**

- Khelo India Youth Games** (aka Khelo India School Games till 2019)
  - 1st edition - New Delhi (2018)
  - Age limit - 18
  - KIYG 2023 host - MP (Bhopal)
- Khelo India University Games**
  - 1st edition - Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Odisha (2020)
  - KIUG 2023 host - UP (Lucknow, Varanasi, G.Noida and Gorakhpur)
- Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)**
  - 3 editions held since 2020 (in Leh, Ladakh and Gulmarg (Kashmir))

**SELECTION AND ASSISTANCE**

- 1000 kids elected yearly for a scholarship program, trained to become medal winners
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines are provided Rs. 5 Lakh p.a. for 8 years.

**NODAL MINISTRY**

- Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs

**HQ**

- JawaharLal Nehru Stadium (New Delhi)

## Kosi Mechi Interstate Link Project

### Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of **Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project** of Bihar under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana**-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).

### Key Points

#### About the Project:

- ✦ Under this project, excess water of **Kosi river** will be diverted to the **Mahananda river** basin in Bihar.
- ✦ Under this project, the **Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC)** will be reconstructed, and extended up to the **Mechi River**.
- ✦ The Eastern Koshi Main Canal is a part of the joint Koshi Project (1954) of India and Nepal, which was built to solve the problem of frequent change of course of the Koshi River.

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### Objective:

- ✦ The main objective of this project is to increase the irrigation capacity in Bihar.
- ✦ The scheme will provide additional irrigation facilities to 2,10,516 hectares of area during **Kharif season in Araria, Purnia, Kishanganj and Katihar districts of Bihar.**

### Sanction of Central Assistance :

- ✦ The estimated cost of the project has been fixed at Rs 6,282.32 crore, out of which central assistance of Rs 3,652.56 crore has been sanctioned to Bihar.
- ✦ This amount will aid in the development of the project and implementation of its various components.

### Deadline :

- ✦ This project is targeted to be completed by March 2029.
- ✦ On completion of this project, irrigation facilities will expand in Bihar and it will also help in **flood control.**

## Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme (PMKSY)

- ✦ This is a **centrally sponsored scheme (core scheme)** launched in the **year 2015**. The centre-state share will be in the ratio of 75:25. In the case of the north-eastern region and hilly states, this ratio will be 90:10.
- ✦ This will **benefit around 22 lakh farmers**, including 2.5 lakh Scheduled Caste and 2 lakh Scheduled Tribe farmers.
- ✦ The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** launched a mobile application for geo-tagging of components of projects **under PMKSY in the year 2020**.
- ✦ It has three main components- **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) and Watershed Development.**
  - ✦ **AIBP was launched in 1996** with the objective of expediting the implementation of irrigation projects beyond the resource capabilities of the states.
- ✦ **Objective:**
  - ✦ Convergence of investments in irrigation at the regional level,
  - ✦ expanding the cultivable area under assured irrigation (har khet ko pani),
  - ✦ Improving on-farm water use efficiency to reduce water wastage,
  - ✦ To introduce sustainable water conservation practices by enhancing recharge of aquifers and exploring the feasibility of reuse of treated municipal water for peri-urban agriculture and to attract greater private investment in a precision irrigation system.

### Koshi River

- ✦ It is called **the 'Sorrow of Bihar'**. It originates in the Himalayas at 7,000 metres above sea level from the catchment area of **Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga**.
- ✦ Flowing through China, Nepal and India, this river enters India near Hanuman Nagar and merges with the Ganga River near **Kursela in Katihar district of Bihar**.
- ✦ The Koshi River is formed by the confluence of three main streams: **Sun Koshi, Arun Koshi and Tamur Koshi**.
- ✦ The Koshi river is known for its tendency to change its course and flow westwards, which has moved up to 112 kilometres in the last 200 years, destroying agricultural areas in **Darbhanga, Saharsa and Purnia districts**.
- ✦ **Tributaries:** The river has several important tributaries, including the Trijanga, Bhutahi Balan, Kamala Balan, and Bagmati, all of which flow through the plains and join the Koshi River.

### Mechi River

- ✦ It is a **trans-boundary river flowing through Nepal and India**. It is a tributary of the Mahananda River.
- ✦ The Mechi River is a **perennial river that originates in the Himalayan inter-valley** in the Mahabharat Range in Nepal and then flows through Bihar to join the Mahananda in **Kishanganj district**.

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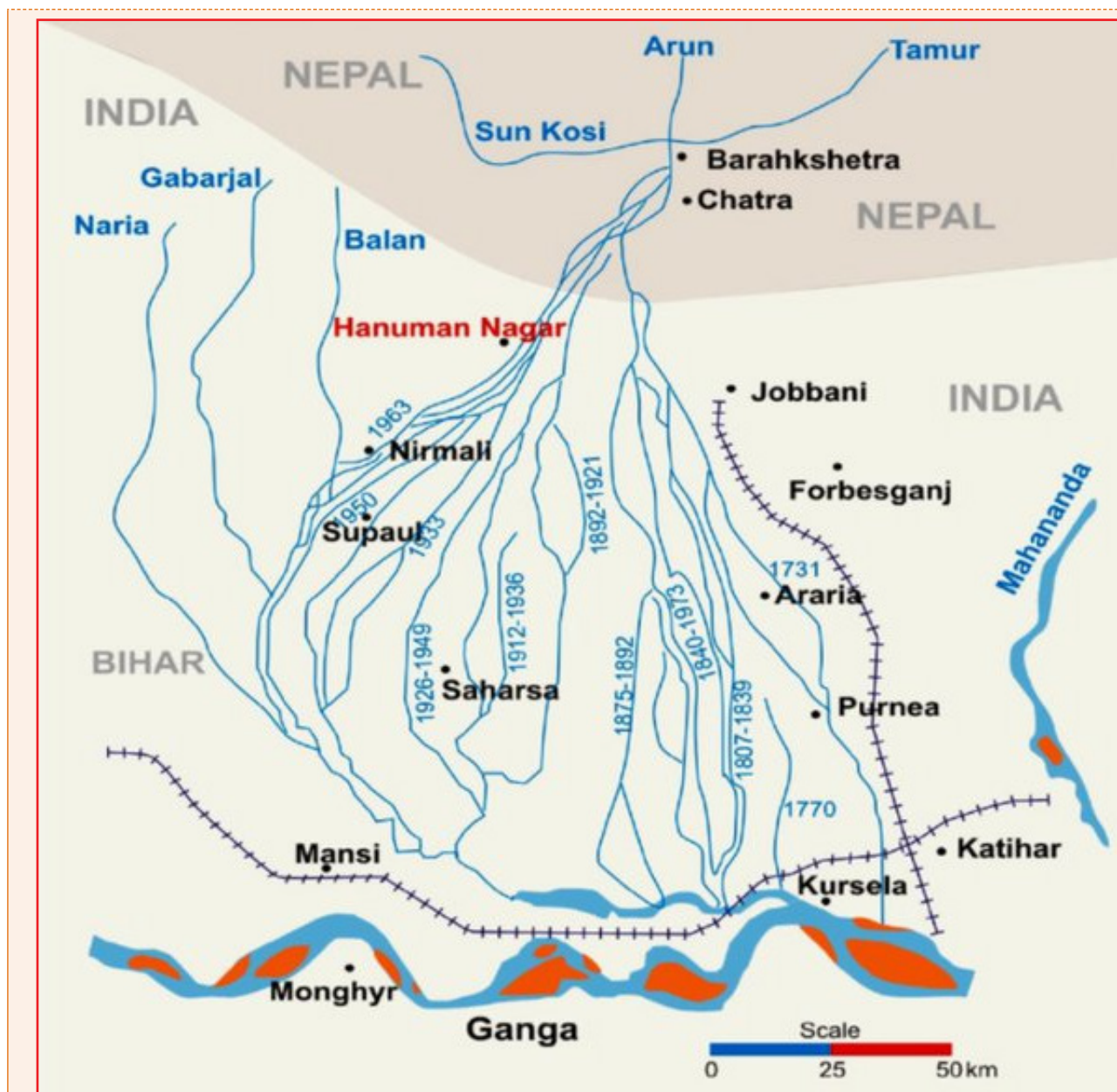
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## Bodhgaya Temple

### Why in News?

Several Buddhist monks are protesting at [Mahabodhi Mahavihara \(Bodhgaya Temple\)](#) in Bihar demanding repeal of the Bodhgaya Temple Act (BTA), 1949.

### Key Points

#### 📌 About the Issue:

- ✦ This protest is being carried out by various Buddhist groups led by All India Buddhist Forum (AIBF).

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- ✦ They are opposed to the provision of making Hindu followers members of **the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC)** under this Act.

- ✦ Buddhist monks say that the management of the temple should be completely in the hands of the Buddhist community.

#### 💡 **Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC):**

- ✦ BTMC was established in 1953 under the Bodhgaya Temple Act, 1949 to manage the Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
- ✦ This committee has four members from the Buddhist community and four from the Hindu community.
- ✦ As per the Act, **the District Magistrate (DM) of Gaya is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.**

#### 💡 **Bodhgaya Temple**

- ✦ The Mahabodhi Temple located in Bodh Gaya is a sacred place of Buddhism.
- ✦ It deals with the life of **Lord Buddha** and especially his attainment of enlightenment.
- ✦ The Mahabodhi Temple was built by **Emperor Ashoka** in 260 BC after he adopted Buddhism.
  - 📎 It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely of bricks.
- ✦ It was included in **the UNESCO World Heritage List in the year 2002.**
- ✦ Chinese pilgrim **Huen Tsang** has given a detailed description of this temple.
- ✦ The present temple structure was built by **the Gupta rulers** in the 5th or 6th century AD.

## Inauguration of Various Schemes in Bihar

### Why in News?

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation inaugurated and launched various **Central and State Government schemes** worth over Rs 800 crore in Patna, Bihar, on **International Cooperative Day**, March 30, 2025.

### Key Points

#### 💡 **About the Schemes:**

##### ✦ **Grain Storage Scheme :**

- 📎 Under the **world's largest foodgrain storage scheme**, the foundation stone was laid for the project to develop a storage capacity of 62,500 metric tonnes in twenty-five **PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies)**. The cost of which will be **Rs 83.16 crore.**

##### ✦ **Police Building :**

- 📎 The foundation stone was laid for the **construction of a total of 133 police buildings under the Home Department.** The cost of which has been fixed at Rs 181.14 crore.

##### ✦ **Road Transport and Highways Projects :**

- 📎 The foundation stone was laid for **three projects under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, with a total cost of Rs 109.16 crore.

##### ✦ **Hostel in Deep Narayan Singh Cooperative Institute :**

- 📎 A **hostel built in Patna** at a cost of Rs 27.29 crore was inaugurated.

##### ✦ **Makhana Processing and Marketing Center:**

- 📎 **Darbhanga district Makhana processing and marketing center** was inaugurated at a cost of Rs 46 lakh under the **Integrated Cooperative Development Project.**

##### ✦ **Drinking Water Supply Schemes :**

- 📎 Five drinking water supply schemes were inaugurated at a total cost of Rs 421.41 crore under **the Amrit-1 project** of the Urban Housing and Development Department.

#### Amrit Yojana

##### 💡 **Introduction:**

- ✦ Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was **launched on June 25, 2015 in 500 selected cities across the country**, covering about 60% of the urban population.

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- ✦ The mission aims to enhance infrastructure and implement improvements in selected urban areas, including **water supply, sewerage, drainage, green spaces, non-motorised transport and capacity building.**

#### 💡 Amrit 2.0 Scheme:

- ✦ The scheme was **launched on October 1, 2021, covering AMRUT 1.0 for a period of 5 years** i.e. from financial year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✦ This includes universal coverage of water supply from 500 cities to about 4,900 statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the first phase of the AMRUT scheme.
- ✦ AMRUT 2.0 aims to **promote the circular economy of water** through development of the **City Water Balance Plan (CWBP)** by recycling/reuse of treated sewage, revival of water bodies and water conservation.
- ✦ The mission also includes a reform agenda to improve the ease of living of citizens through urban planning, strengthening urban finance etc.

## Xavier University

### Why in News?

On 29 March 2025, the **Chief Minister of Bihar** inaugurated the **Xavier University** located on 36 acres in Patna, Bihar.

### Key Points

#### 💡 About Patna:

- ✦ It is the **capital** and largest city of Bihar.
- ✦ This ancient city is situated on the southern banks of **the Ganga.**
- ✦ Patna has been a centre of **administration, education, tourism, historical heritage, religion, spirituality, and culture.**
- ✦ **Demographics (2011 census):**
  - 📎 **Total Population :** 58,38,465 (Male – 30,78,512, Female – 27,59,953)

- 📎 **Population growth rate** (2001–2011): 23.73%
- 📎 **Density:** 1,800 km<sup>2</sup>
- 📎 **Literacy rate :** 70.68% (Male – 78.48%, Female – 61.96%) Official language: **Hindi.**
- 📎 Other spoken languages: **English , Urdu , Bengali , Oriya.**
- 📎 Local dialect: **Magahi , Bhojpuri , Maithili.**

#### 💡 History:

- ✦ The **old name of Patna was Pataliputra or Patalipattana**, which is found in history before 600 BC.
- ✦ **Chandragupta Maurya** made his capital here in the 4th century AD.
- ✦ **Ajatashatru** laid the foundation of Pataliputra, which later developed as **Patna.**
- ✦ It is believed that Patan was combined with the ancient village Patali to form Pataliputra.
  - 📎 In **Greek history** it was called Patalibothra.
- ✦ **Great rulers like Emperor Ashoka , Chandragupta Maurya , and Samudragupta** ruled from this city.
  - 📎 The famous travellers **Fa-Hien** (3rd AD) and **Xuanzang** (7th AD) visited the city and wrote extensively about its governance and society.
  - 📎 **Scholars like Kautilya** also lived here and wrote important works like **Arthashastra.**
- ✦ In **1703 AD, Prince Azim-e-Shan** was made the governor of Patna and he gave it a modern look and named it Azimabad, but among the general public it remained popular by the name Patna.
- ✦ Major places of interest:
  - 📎 Bihar Museum
  - 📎 Patna Planetarium
  - 📎 Japanese Peace Pagoda
  - 📎 Sanjay Gandhi Botanical Garden
  - 📎 Lauria Nandangarh
  - 📎 Golghar
  - 📎 potter
  - 📎 Ajanta Gandhi Museum
  - 📎 Jalan Museum

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## Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025

### Why in News?

India won the gold medal in [the Sepaktakraw World Cup 2025](#) held in Patna, Bihar.

### Key Points

#### About the medals:

- ✦ Indian Men's Regu team won the gold medal by defeating Japan in the final of the Bihar Sepaktakraw World Cup 2025.
  - ✎ This is the **first time India has won the gold medal** in the Sepaktakraw World Cup.
- ✦ The Indian team won **a total of seven medals**.
  - ✎ **Gold Medal:** Men's team won the gold medal in the Regu category.
  - ✎ **Silver Medal:** The women's doubles team won the silver medal.
  - ✎ **Bronze Medal:** Men's Doubles Team, Women's Regu Team, Mixed Quad Team, Women's Quad Team, Men's Quad Team.
- ✦ A total of eight countries won medals in this World Cup. India finished **fourth in the medal tally**, while Thailand topped the list with four medals.

#### Sepaktakraw World Cup 2025:

- ✦ The competition was held from 20 to 25 March 2025 at the Patliputra Indoor Stadium in Kankarbagh, Patna.

- ✦ It is organised by the **International Sepak Takraw Federation (ISTAF)** while it is hosted by the **Indian Sepak Takraw Federation**.
- ✦ **20 countries of the world** participated in this World Cup, which included **more than 300 players and coaches**.
- ✦ It was the **fifth edition of the ISTAF World Cup**.

#### Sepaktakraw:

- ✦ **Sepaktakraw** is a **traditional Malaysian sport** that is extremely popular in **Southeast Asian countries**.
- ✦ This game is a combination of **football and volleyball** and is also known as **kick volleyball** in India.
- ✦ In India, it was first introduced in **Nagpur, Maharashtra in the 1980s**.

#### Sepaktakraw Federation of India

- ✦ The **Sepaktakraw Federation of India** was **formed in 1982** on the eve of the **Delhi Asian Games**.
- ✦ This federation is the main body for governing the sport of Sepaktakraw in India.
- ✦ **Headquarters** : New Delhi

#### International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF)

- ✦ The **International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF)** was **founded in 1982**.
- ✦ It is the world governing body of sepaktakraw.
- ✦ **Headquarters** : Bangkok, Thailand



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## Details

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