





# STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION


# BIHAR



**MAY**  
**2025**


  
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Burlington Chauraha,  
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## Padma Awardees From Bihar 2025

### Why in News?

**President** Droupadi Murmu presented the **Padma Awards 2025** to **139 distinguished individuals** at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Among them, **seven personalities from Bihar** were honored with Padma Awards in 2025.

### Key Points

Paadma Awardees from Bihar			
Name	Award	Field	Description
Dr. Sharda Sinha	Padma Vibhushan (Posthumous)	Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She was affectionately known as the <b>"Bihar Kokila"</b>.</li> <li>She gained national acclaim for her Chhath songs, which became deeply associated with the <b>spiritual and cultural aspects of the Chhath festival</b>.</li> </ul>
Sushil Kumar Modi	Padma Bhushan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was a <b>former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar</b> and was posthumously conferred the award for his distinguished service in public affairs.</li> </ul>
Kishore Kunal	Padma Shri (Posthumous)	Civil Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kishore Kunal was a former IPS officer and served as the Chairman of the Mahavir Mandir Trust.</li> <li>He was <b>recognized for his contributions to religious and charitable service</b>.</li> </ul>
Bhim Singh Bhavesh	Padma Shri	Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He is a journalist who worked extensively with the <b>Musahar community</b>, a marginalized group in Bihar, to help children gain access to formal education.</li> </ul>
Hemant Kumar	Padma Shri	Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He has been <b>instrumental in both treatment and preventive education around kidney diseases</b>, helping raise awareness and improve patient outcomes.</li> </ul>
Nirmala Devi	Padma Shri	Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She is an artist and was conferred the Padma Shri in recognition of her work in the field of folk and traditional art (<b>Sujni embroidery</b>).</li> <li>Sujni is a traditional folk textile art from Bihar, known for storytelling through stitches.</li> </ul>
Vijay Nityanand Surishwar Ji Maharaj	Padma Shri	Others — Spiritualism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was recognized with the Padma Shri for his contribution to <b>spiritual education and practice</b> in Bihar.</li> </ul>

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### Padma Awards

- 💡 The **Padma Awards** are among the **highest civilian honors in India**, instituted in **1954**.
- 💡 They are announced **annually on the eve of Republic Day** and presented by the President of India.
- 💡 The awards are given in **three categories**:
  - ✦ **Padma Vibhushan** (for exceptional and distinguished service)
  - ✦ **Padma Bhushan** (for distinguished service of a high order)
  - ✦ **Padma Shri** (for distinguished service in any field)
- 💡 **Eligibility and Fields:**
  - ✦ All individuals, regardless of **race, occupation, or gender**, are eligible.
  - ✦ **Government servants** (except doctors and scientists) are **not eligible**.
  - ✦ **Fields include:**
    - 🏆 **Art** (music, cinema, painting, etc.)
    - 🏆 **Social Work and Public Affairs**
    - 🏆 **Science & Engineering, Medicine, Literature & Education**
    - 🏆 **Civil Service, Trade & Industry, Sports**
    - 🏆 Other categories like **human rights, environmental protection**, and **promotion of Indian culture**.
- 💡 **Selection and Nomination:**
  - ✦ Nominations are **open to the public** and **self-nomination** is allowed.
  - ✦ The **Padma Awards Committee**, formed annually by the **Prime Minister**, evaluates all nominations.
  - ✦ The committee is headed by the **Cabinet Secretary** and includes the **Home Secretary, Secretary to the President**, and 4–6 **eminent persons**.
- 💡 **Award Presentation and Rules:**
  - ✦ Awards are typically **presented in March/April** each year.
  - ✦ Each recipient receives a **certificate (Sanad)** and a **medallion**; a **replica** can be worn during official events.
  - ✦ The names of awardees are published in the **Gazette of India**.
  - ✦ The award is **not a title** and cannot be used as a **prefix or suffix**.
  - ✦ Normally, a **maximum of 120 awards** are given per year (excluding posthumous, NRI/foreigners/OCIs).
  - ✦ Awards are **rarely given posthumously**, but exceptions are made for highly deserving cases.
  - ✦ A **minimum gap of five years** is required between two Padma awards for the same individual, unless exceptionally justified.

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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



### Peacetime Gallantry Awards



## Nalanda University

### Why in News?

The economist **Sachin Chaturvedi** became the **Vice-Chancellor** of Nalanda University of Bihar on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

### Key Points About Nalanda University

#### 💡 Founding and Early Flourishing:

- ✦ Nalanda University was **founded in 427 CE** by **Gupta Emperor** Kumaragupta in present-day Bihar.

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- ✦ It flourished for around **800 years** until the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- ✦ The university gained **prominence under rulers** like Harshavardhana and the **Pala dynasty**.

#### 🔦 Notable Visitors and Scholars:

- ✦ **Xuanzang (Hsuan Tsang)**, a 7th-century Chinese Buddhist monk, studied at Nalanda for about five years and brought back many scriptures to China.
- ✦ Another Chinese pilgrim, **I-Tsing**, visited in 670 CE and documented Nalanda's large student population (around 2,000 students) and funding from 200 villages.
- ✦ Nalanda attracted students from **across Asia**, including China, Mongolia, Tibet, and Korea.
- ✦ Scholars like **Nagarjuna, Aryabhatta, and Dharmakirti** made significant intellectual contributions.
- ✦ The region is also spiritually significant, as **Buddha and Mahavira** meditated nearby.

#### 🔦 Attacks and Decline:

- ✦ Nalanda suffered attacks by the **Hunas** (5th century) and the **Goudas** (7th century), both causing destruction but followed by restoration efforts.
- ✦ The final blow came in **1193 CE** when **Bakhtiyar Khilji** destroyed the university.
- ✦ It was **rediscovered in the 19th century** by British surveyors Francis Buchanan-Hamilton and Sir Alexander Cunningham.

#### 🔦 Revival Efforts:

- ✦ The idea to revive Nalanda gained momentum in the **early 2000s**, with support from former President **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, the Singapore government, and East Asian Summit leaders.
- ✦ The revival is envisioned as a **regional knowledge hub** emphasizing collaboration between India and East Asian countries.

#### 🔦 Legal and Institutional Framework:

- ✦ The **Nalanda University Act was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2010**, providing the legal basis for the new institution.

- ✦ The Bihar government allotted a **455-acre site** near the ancient ruins for the university campus.

#### 🔦 Campus Design and Features:

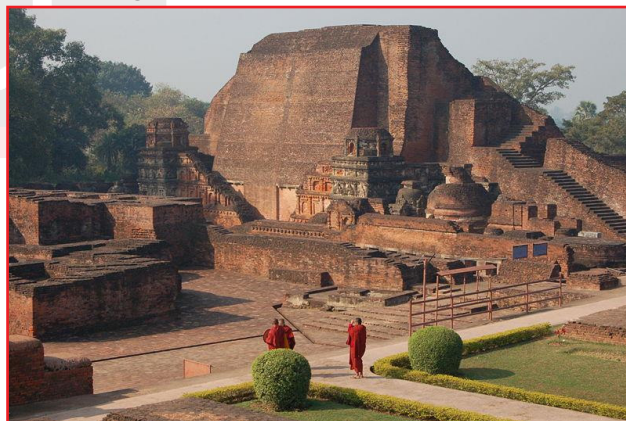
- ✦ The campus was designed by eminent architect **B.V. Doshi**, blending eco-friendly principles with modern amenities.
- ✦ It is a **'Net Zero' Green Campus**, with features including:
  - 🏠 Solar power plant
  - 🏠 Water treatment and recycling systems
  - 🏠 Extensive water bodies covering 100 acres

#### 🔦 Academic Programs:

- ✦ Nalanda University now offers **postgraduate courses** in fields such as Buddhist Studies, Historical Studies, Ecology and Environmental Studies, and International Relations.

#### 🔦 Recognition:

- ✦ The **ruins of ancient Nalanda University were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016**, highlighting its global cultural significance.



## iGOT Karmayogi Platform

### Why in News?

The iGOT Karmayogi platform under the Government of India's **Mission Karmayogi** initiative has crossed 1 crore registered users, significantly advancing the capacity-building agenda of Indian civil services.

- 🔦 **Bihar is among the top five contributing states** besides Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

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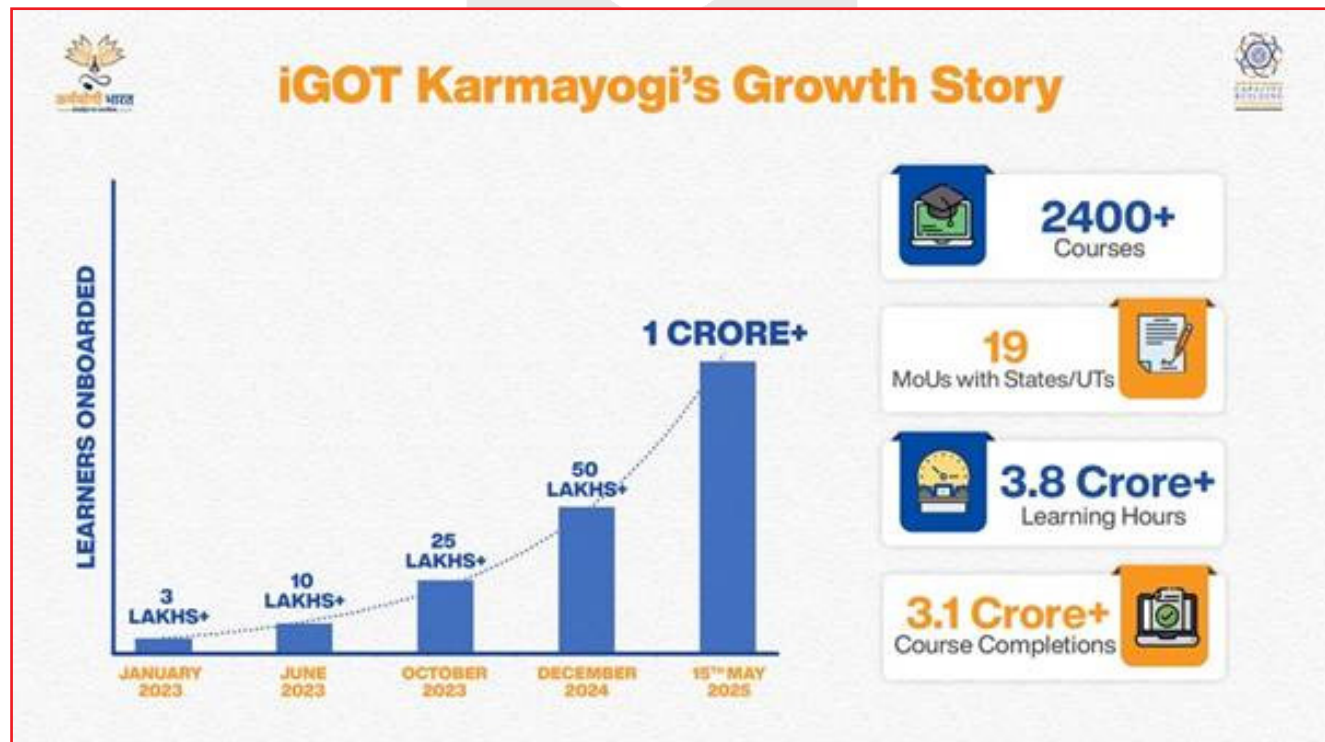
### Key Points

- 💡 **Mission Karmayogi:** It aims to develop a professional, well-trained, and future-ready civil service that supports India's developmental goals and national programs.
  - ✦ The mission emphasizes a shift from rule-based to role-based training, adopting a competency-driven approach that balances Attitude, Skills, and Knowledge (ASK).
  - ✦ It follows the **70-20-10** learning model—**70% experiential learning, 20% learning through peers, and 10% formal training**—while linking learning outcomes with career progression and ensuring objective performance assessments.
- 💡 **iGOT Karmayogi Digital Learning Platform:** It is **Digital Public Infrastructure** that offers a sustainable, scalable and secure digital ecosystem for continuous learning in the public sector.
  - ✦ It is a key component of India's National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (Mission Karmayogi).

- ✦ Managed by **Karmayogi Bharathas**, the platform offers over 2,400 courses available in 16 languages.
- ✦ All courses are designed in alignment with the indigenous Karmayogi Competency Model, which is rooted in Indic wisdom and the principles of Mission Karmayogi.

### Related Initiatives for Training of Civil Servants

- 💡 **National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI):** NSCSTI is developed by Capacity Building Commission (CBC) to create a baseline for Central Training Institutes on their current capacity, for elevating the capacity of training delivery and to harmonise standards for training of civil servants.
  - ✦ CBC functions under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- 💡 **AARAMBH:** An initiative to bring all the probationers of All India Service, Group-A Central Service and Foreign Service together for a Common Foundation Course (CFC), it aims at making the civil servants capable of leading the transformation and work seamlessly across departments and fields.



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## International Buyer-Seller Meet 2025

### Why in News?

Bihar highlighted its **agri-food potential at the International Buyer-Seller Meet (IBSM) 2025** in Patna, an event jointly organised by the state government, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, **Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, and **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)**.

### Key Points

#### Significance of the Meet:

- ✦ The International Buyer-Seller Meet 2025 is a **pivotal platform to boost the state's role in India's agri-exports**, featuring **Business-to-Business meetings**, technical sessions, and exhibitions to foster partnerships, attract investments, and drive economic growth.
- 👤 The Meet attracted strong interest from global players, including those from the **UAE, Japan, and Germany**, seeking large-scale procurement of Bihar's rice, spices, makhana, and fruits.
- ✦ The event aims to create new market linkages, enhance procurement for local **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** and **Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, and convert Bihar's agricultural strengths into export growth.
- ✦ The event is considered a milestone for rural economic growth and reaffirmed the government's vision of **'Viksit Bharat @2047'**.

#### PMFME Scheme & Future Prospects:

- ✦ In FY 2024–25, 10,270 loans worth Rs 624.42 crore were sanctioned under the **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) Scheme**—the highest among Indian states.
- ✦ The upcoming **NIFTEM (National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management) institute** in Bihar is a future hub of innovation in food technology.

#### Focus on Makhana Exports:

- ✦ The event saw the release of a strategic report titled **"Strategies to Boost India's Makhana Exports"**, underscoring Bihar's leadership in its unique **GI-tagged product**.
- 👤 As of 2024, there are 15 products with the GI tag in Bihar. These include **Shahi Litchi**, **Bhagalpuri Zardalu mango**, Katarni rice, Magahi Paan, **Makhana (fox nut)**, Madhubani paintings, Sikki Grass Products, and Sujini Embroidery, etc.

### PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

#### About:

- ✦ The Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) has launched the PMFME scheme under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- ✦ The PMFME scheme aims to **enhance the competitiveness of new and existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment** of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector.
- ✦ The PMFME scheme is operational for a period of five years from **2020-21 to 2024-25** with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore.

#### Focus Areas:

- ✦ The scheme adopts the **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.
- ✦ Other Focus areas include **Waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts**.

#### Makhana

- 👤 Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: *Euryale ferox* Salisb.) is a special variety of **aquatic fox nut** cultivated in Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.
- ✦ Makhana is **one of the three prestigious cultural identities of Mithila**, along with Pan and fish.

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✦ **Mithila Makhana** received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in 2022, with Bihar contributing **80% of India's total makhana production**.

✦ Makhana contains **protein and fiber**, along with **micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus**.

💡 In **May 2023**, the Central government upgraded the Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga to **"National Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga"** and expanded its mandate to include other aquatic crops such as fish.

💡 Announced in the **Union Budget 2025–26**, the proposed **Makhana Board** in Bihar seeks to streamline cultivation practices, offer technical assistance, ensure price stability, strengthen marketing infrastructure, and boost export potential.

## Bihar Government Renames Gaya to Gaya Ji

### Why in News?

The Bihar government officially **renamed the historic city of Gaya as 'Gaya Ji'**, honoring its profound religious and historical significance.

💡 The renaming aims to boost religious **tourism** in Gaya, thereby attracting more pilgrims and visitors, **strengthening the local economy, and creating livelihood opportunities**.

### Key Points

#### About Gaya Ji

##### Historical Context:

- ✦ Gaya was part of the ancient **Magadh Empire**, a historically significant kingdom in Indian history.
- ✦ The city is located on the banks of the **Falgu River**, contributing to its spiritual and geographical significance.

##### Religious Significance:

- ✦ Gaya is a major Hindu pilgrimage site, especially known for the **Pitrapaksh festival**,

where millions perform **Pind Daan** to honor ancestors.

👤 According to mythological belief, in **Treta Yuga**, a demon named Gayasur performed penance here and got a boon from Lord Vishnu and became a pure soul. **Since then, this place has been called Gaya.**

✦ **Bodhgaya**, situated in Gaya district, is where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the **Bodhi Tree**.

👤 It is one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage centers globally.

✦ The city is surrounded by sacred hills such as **Mangala-Gauri, Shringa-Sthan, Ram-Shila, and Brahmayoni**.

#### Falgu River

- 💡 The **Falgu River** flows on the east side of Gaya and carries water only during the monsoon season.
- 💡 For the rest of the year, its riverbed appears dry, but water can be found beneath the mud.

#### Pitrapaksh Festival (Pitru Paksha)

- 💡 Pitrapaksh, also called Pitru Paksha or Shraddha, is a 16-day Hindu festival observed during the lunar month of Ashwin (September–October).
- ✦ It **begins on the full moon day (Purnima)** and ends on the new moon day (Amavasya).

## Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Concluded in Bihar

### Why in News?

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Khelo India Youth Games 2025**, a flagship event under the government's Khelo India initiative, was **held in Bihar from 4<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> May**.

### Key Points

#### About Khelo India Youth Games 2025:

- ✦ It was organised in five districts of **Bihar (Patna, Rajgir, Begusarai, Gaya and Bhagalpur)**. While, the three major events – **gymnastics, shooting and cycling** – were held in **New Delhi**.

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- ✦ **Gajasimha** was the mascot of this year's game.
- ✦ The 12-day event took place across 27 sports, with a total of **285 gold medals** awarded.

#### 💡 Top Performing States:

- ✦ Maharashtra finished first in the medal tally by winning a total of **158 medals (58 gold, 47 silver, 53 bronze)**.
- 🏆 The state has **topped the total medal tally five times** so far (2019, 2020, 2023, 2024, 2025).
- ✦ **Haryana secured second place** with 117 medals, including 39 gold, while **Rajasthan finished third** with 60 medals, including 24 gold.

#### 💡 Performance of Bihar:

- ✦ Host state Bihar won a total of **36 medals** (7 gold, 11 silver, 18 bronze).
- ✦ Bihar, which was ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the sixth edition of the Games, jumped six places **this year to secure the 15<sup>th</sup> position**.
- ✦ This is the **first time Bihar has achieved its highest-ever medal count**.

#### 💡 Top 10 States/UTs:

Position	States/Union Territories	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medals
1	Maharashtra	58	47	53	158
2	Haryana	39	27	51	117
3	Rajasthan	24	12	24	60
4	Karnataka	17	26	15	58
5	Delhi	16	20	32	68
6	Tamil Nadu	15	21	29	65
7	Uttar Pradesh	14	20	18	52
8	Kerala	12	5	8	25
9	Manipur	11	8	11	30
10	Madhya Pradesh	10	9	13	32

### Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)

#### 💡 About:

- ✦ KIYG is a national-level multi-disciplinary sports competition for school and college students in India.
- ✦ The **Prime Minister** launched the first edition of the 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**.

#### 💡 Objective:

- ✦ It aims to promote sports culture and recognise sporting talent at the grassroots level.

#### 💡 Categories:

- ✦ These games are organized in two categories:
  - 🏆 School students under the age of 17.
  - 🏆 College students under the age of 21.

#### 💡 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.

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## Bihar First in PMFME Scheme

### Why in News?

Bihar has emerged as the **top-performing state in the country** under the **Prime Minister Micro Food Processing Enterprises Upgradation (PMFME) Scheme**.

### Key Points

#### About the Scheme:

- ✦ The PMFME Scheme aims to **boost the competitiveness of existing private micro-enterprises** operating in the unorganised food processing sector.
- ✦ It also **seeks to promote the formalisation** of this sector by encouraging structured growth and regulatory integration.
- ✦ The PMFME Scheme is operational for a **period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25** with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore.

#### Focused Areas:

- ✦ The scheme adopts **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach to leverage the advantages of scale with respect to procurement of inputs, common services and marketing of products.
- ✦ Other focus areas include **waste to wealth products, minor forest produce and aspiring districts**.
- ✦ **Assistance Available under PMFME Scheme:**
  - 👤 **Individual/Group Category Micro Enterprises:**
    - 👤 **35% of the eligible project cost** will be given as credit-linked capital subsidy, with a maximum limit of Rs 10 lakh per unit.
  - 👤 **Self Help Groups (SHGs) for Seed Capital:**
    - 👤 **Seed capital of up to Rs. 40,000 per member of SHGs** engaged in food processing with a maximum of Rs 4 lakh per SHG for working capital and purchase of small equipment.
  - 👤 **Support for Common Infrastructure:**
    - 👤 **Credit-linked capital subsidy of 35%** with a maximum of Rs 3 crore to

support any Government agency for setting up FPOs, SHGs, **cooperatives and common infrastructure**.

#### Capacity building:

- 👤 The scheme envisages training for **Entrepreneurship Development Skilling (EDP+)**, a modified programme to meet the requirements of the food processing industry and product specific skills.

- 👤 **District Resource Persons (DRPs)** have been appointed to provide assistance to micro food processing enterprises in complying with FSSAI and other statutory requirements.

## Buddha Purnima

### Why in News?

Bihar Chief Minister highlights the importance of **Lord Buddha's** teachings and extends greetings on the occasion of **Buddha Purnima**.

### Key Points

#### About Gautam Buddha:

- ✦ Gautama Buddha, the founder of **Buddhism**, was **born as Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini around 563 BCE** and belonged to the **Shakya clan**.
- ✦ Gautama attained **bodhi (enlightenment)** under a pipal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
- ✦ Buddha gave his first sermon at **Sarnath near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh**. This event is known as **Dharmachakra Pravartan (the turning of the wheel of law)**.
- ✦ He died in **483 BC at the age of 80 in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh**. This event is known as Mahaparinirvana.
- ✦ He is revered as the **eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu** in the **Dashavatara**, the ten principal avatars of the deity.

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# BUDDHISM



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## ORIGIN

- 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, based on the teachings of Gautam Buddha

## MAIN FEATURES

- Essence - Attainment of enlightenment (Nibbana)
- Supreme Deity - None

## PRINCIPLES

- Avoid the extremes; follow Madhyam Marg (middle path)
- Individualistic component (everyone is responsible for their own happiness)
- 4 Noble Truths:
  - Dukkha (suffering)
  - Samudya (cause of suffering)
  - Nirodha (suffering could be ended)
  - Atthanga Magga (8-fold path to achieve this)
- 8-Fold Path:
  - Right - view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, mindfulness, effort and concentration



## BUDDHISM REJECTS

- Authenticity of Vedas
- Concept of soul (atman) (unlike Jainism)

## MAJOR BUDDHIST TEXTS

- Sutta Pitaka (main teachings of Buddha - Dhamma)
- Vinaya Pitaka (rules of conduct for monks/nuns)
- Abhidhamma Pitaka (philosophical analysis)
- Other imp texts - Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panha

Buddha's teachings were rehearsed, authenticated & divided in 3 Pitakas at the 1<sup>st</sup> Buddhist Council

These teachings were written down c. 25 BC in Pali

## 4 BUDDHIST COUNCILS

Buddhist Council	Patron	Venue	Chairman	Year
First	Ajatashatru	Rajgriha	Mahakashyapa	483 BC
Second	Kalashoka	Vaishali	Sabbakami	383 BC
Third	Ashoka	Patliputra	Mogaliputra	250 BC
Fourth	Kanishka	Kundalban (Kashmir)	Vasumitra	72 AD

## Neera Production in Bihar

### Why in News?

Under the 'Mukhyamantri Neera Samvardhan Yojana' launched on 30 April 2025, the Bihar government aims to provide employment and financial support to palm tree owners and toddy tappers who extract Neera, the unfermented palm sap drink.

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## Key Points

### Implementation of the Scheme:

- ✦ The scheme runs from **toddy season (April to July 2025)** and is jointly implemented by **Prohibition, Excise and Registration Department and Jeevika (Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society).**
- ✦ The Bihar government will provide Rs 8 per litre of Neera to 20,000 toddy tappers through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).**
- ✦ The scheme targets production from 2 lakh palm trees identified across Bihar.

### Support for Palm Tree Owners:

- ✦ Palm tree owners will receive an incentive of Rs 3 per litre of Neera from up to 10 trees.
- ✦ This translates to Rs 585 per tree and a maximum of Rs 5,850 for 10 trees.
- ✦ The incentive will be paid directly to their bank accounts via DBT by Jeevika.

### Health Benefits of Neera:

- ✦ Neera is **rich in minerals** like **calcium, iron, potassium, sodium, and phosphorus.**
- ✦ It is a natural **probiotic**, helps boost immunity, and **increases hemoglobin levels.**
- ✦ These health benefits are a major reason for its promotion by the state government.

## Contaminated Mid-Day Meal

### Why in News?

The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** took **suo motu cognizance** of over 100 students falling ill from contaminated **Mid Day Meal** in Patna and issued a notice to the Bihar government.

### Key Points

#### About Mid Day Meal Scheme:

- ✦ The **Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)** is the largest school nutrition programme of its kind in the world, **covering students enrolled in government schools from classes 1 to 8.**
- ✦ **The basic objective of this scheme is to increase enrollment in schools.**
- 📍 **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education
- 📍 **Background:** This programme was first started in **1925 in the Madras Municipal Corporation for underprivileged children.**
- ✦ It was a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched on a pilot basis in the year 1995 for children **from Classes 1 to 5 and by October 2007 MDMS was extended to Class 8.**

## NATIONAL HUMAN Rights COMMISSION (NHRC)

*According to NHRC, Human Rights are the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Watchdog of Human Rights in India</li> <li>■ <b>Estd:</b> 1993 (in conformity with Universal Declaration of Human Rights)</li> <li>■ <b>Act:</b> Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993</li> </ul>	<p><b>State Human Rights Commissions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Also constituted under the PHR Act, 1993</li> <li>■ <b>Appointment of Members:</b> by Governor</li> <li>■ <b>Removal of Members:</b> by President</li> </ul>
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**Human Rights Day: 10 December**

<p><b>Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 Investigates Complaints of human rights violations</li> <li>🕒 <i>Suo Moto</i> cognizance of cases</li> <li>🕒 Reviews and recommends human rights implementation</li> <li>🕒 Spreading human rights awareness</li> <li>🕒 Conduct studies, publish reports on human rights issues</li> </ul>	<p><b>Powers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 Summon individuals, examine witnesses, and receive evidences</li> <li>🕒 Inspect prisons and other institutions to ensure conditions are humane</li> <li>🕒 Intervene in court proceedings relating to human rights</li> </ul>
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**Members of NHRC**

<p><b>Composition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 5 full-time members and 7 deemed members</li> <li>🕒 <b>Chairperson:</b> Retired CJI/Judges of the SC</li> <li>🕒 <b>Administrative Head:</b> Secretary-General</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tenure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 3 years / till age 70 (whichever is earlier)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Appointment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 All members appointed by <b>President</b> on recommendations of a <b>6-member</b> committee (PM, Speaker of LS, Deputy Chairman of RS, Union Home Minister and Leaders of Opposition of both Houses of Parliament)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Removal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 President can remove the chairman or any member</li> <li>🕒 <b>Ground:</b> Charges of proved misbehaviour or incapacity</li> </ul>

**Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Status**

- NHRC has been accredited 'A' Status since 1999
- Retained 'A' Status: 2006, 2011 and 2017
- Suspension of 'A' Status: 2023 and 2024

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## Development Projects Inaugurated in Bihar

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various **development projects in Madhubani, Bihar.**

### Key Points

#### 🔦 Rail Connectivity and Projects:

- ✦ The Prime Minister launched several important projects to boost rail connectivity.
- 👤 **Amrit Bharat Express** between Saharsa and Mumbai , **Namo Bharat Rapid Train** between Jaynagar and Patna and trains between Pipra, Saharsa and Samastipur were flagged off. Along with this, new railway lines and bridges were inaugurated in Bihar.
- ✦ This will provide better transportation facilities in various parts of the state and promote socio-economic development.

#### 🔦 Power Projects:

- ✦ The foundation stone of projects worth Rs 1,170 crore was laid to strengthen the power infrastructure in Bihar.
- ✦ Several projects worth more than Rs 5,030 crore were also inaugurated under the **Restructured Distribution Area Scheme.**
- 👤 This will **improve power supply in rural and urban areas** and give a new direction to development.

#### 🔦 Prime Minister Housing Scheme:

- ✦ Under this **scheme** , more than one lakh beneficiaries took home the house warming ceremony and keys were handed over to more than 54,000 beneficiaries.

#### 🔦 Assistance to Self Help Groups:

- ✦ **Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, assistance amount of about Rs 930 crore was distributed to more than two lakh **self-help groups** of Bihar under the Community Investment Fund.

### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

- 🔦 **Launch:** To achieve the objective of “**Housing for All**” , the erstwhile rural housing scheme **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)** was restructured into **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1 April 2016 .
- 🔦 **Concerned Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- 🔦 **Objective:** To provide assistance to rural people living **below poverty line (BPL)** for construction of housing units and upgradation of existing unusable kutch houses by providing full subsidy.
- 🔦 **Beneficiaries:** **Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes**, freed bonded labourers and persons belonging to non-SC/ST categories , widows or next of kin of defence personnel killed in war, ex-servicemen and retired members of paramilitary forces, **persons with disabilities and minorities.**
- 🔦 **Selection of Beneficiaries:** Through three-step verification like **Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 , Gram Sabha and Geo-tagging .**
- 🔦 **Cost Sharing:** The Centre and the States share the cost in the ratio of 60:40 in case of plain areas and 90:10 in case of North Eastern States, two Himalayan States and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
  - ✦ In case of other Union Territories including Union Territory of Ladakh, the Centre bears 100% of the cost.

### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)

- 🔦 **Launch:** Launched on **25 June 2015**, the scheme aimed to provide housing for all in urban areas by the year 2022.
- 🔦 **Concerned Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 🔦 **Status:** A total of 118.64 lakh houses have been sanctioned and more than 88.02 lakh houses have been completed/delivered to the beneficiaries.

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**features:**

- ✦ To address the urban housing shortage among the urban poor including slum dwellers by ensuring pucca houses to the eligible urban poor.
- ✦ The Mission covers the entire urban area, including statutory towns , notified planning areas, development authorities, special area development authorities , industrial development authorities or authorities entrusted with the function of urban planning and regulation under State legislation.
- ✦ The Mission promotes women empowerment by providing ownership of houses in the name of women members or in joint names.

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## Key Points

## Details

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## Summary

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# Summary