



Jivitputrika Festival

Why in News?

Recently, at least 46 people, including 37 children, drowned in rivers and ponds during the '**Jivitputrika**' festival in Bihar.

Key Points

▪ Jivitputrika:

- Jivitputrika, also known as **Jitiya Vrat**, is a Hindu festival celebrated mainly in northern and eastern India, particularly in **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand**.
- The festival is observed by **mothers** who fast for the **well-being, long life, and prosperity** of their children.
- The celebration lasts for **three days**.
- **Nahai-Khai**: The festival begins with mothers taking a **purifying bath** and enjoying a nourishing meal.
- **Fasting Day**: The second day is marked by the rigorous fasting ritual.
- **Paaran**: The festival concludes on the third day, where the fast is broken with a meal.
- The festival is rooted in Hindu mythology, particularly commemorating the story of **King Jimutavahana**, who is honored for his sacrifice for the welfare of others.

Bihar Festivals

- **Chhath Puja**: An ancient Hindu festival that honors the sun god and his wife, Usha. It is celebrated six days **after Diwali and is native to Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Sonepur Cattle Fair**: Asia's largest cattle fair, held on the full moon day after Diwali at the confluence of the [Ganga and Gandak rivers](#).
- **Makar Sankranti**: Bihar's harvest festival, celebrated in January with flower offerings, holy dips in the Ganges, and pujas.
- **Rajgir Mahotsav**: A colorful festival of dance and music held in the last week of October in Rajgir.
- **Buddha Jayanti**: Celebrated in May on the full moon day
- **Jhijhiya Folk Dance**: A famous folk dance performed by women only during the Navaratri festival.