



# Bihar Cabinet Approves Key Schemes

## Why in News?

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

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

## Key Points

- **Mukhya Mantri Pratigya Yojana:**
  - Youth aged **18-28 years are eligible** if they have completed skill training or hold qualifications from Class 12 to postgraduate level.
  - Monthly stipend during internships:
    - Rs 4,000 for Class 12 pass
    - Rs 5,000 for ITI or diploma holders
    - Rs 6,000 for graduates and postgraduates
  - Interns will get an extra Rs 2,000/month for working outside their district and Rs 5,000/month if interning outside Bihar.
    - This additional aid will be provided for a maximum of 3 months.
  - All financial support will be credited through **Direct Benefit Transfer.**
  - The scheme will support 5,000 youth in **FY 2025-26.**
  - From 2026-27 onwards, it aims to benefit one lakh youth over five years.
- **Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Pension Yojana:**
  - The Cabinet approved a **new pension scheme for artists involved in classical, visual, or performing arts** for at least 10 years.
  - Eligible artists aged 50+ with annual income below Rs 1.2 lakh will receive a monthly pension of Rs 3,000.
  - The scheme seeks to **preserve Bihar's cultural heritage.**
- **Punaura Dham Development:**
  - The Cabinet **cleared** Rs 882.87 crore for the integrated development of the **Maa Janaki temple at Punaura Dham, Sitamarhi.**
  - Believed to be **Goddess Sita's birthplace**, the site will be developed on the lines of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya** to showcase and promote **Mithila's rich culture and heritage.**
  - **Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation** will implement the project.
- **Factory Employment Rules Amended:**
  - The Cabinet also approved amendments to the **Bihar Factory Rules, 1950.**
  - Women, excluding pregnant and lactating women, can now work in factories classified as hazardous.
  - The move aims to **broaden industrial employment opportunities for women.**

## Mithila

▪ **Geographical Boundaries:**

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

▪ **Language and Identity:**

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

▪ **Connection with Jainism and Buddhism:**

- Vaishali, in southern Mithila, is the birthplace of Lord Mahavira (599 B.C.), the 24th and last Tirthankara of **Jainism**.
- Gautam Buddha is also believed to have spent part of his life in the Mithila region, delivering sermons and engaging with scholars.

▪ **Rich Cultural Heritage:**

- Mithila culture is known for its Language (Maithili), Paag (traditional headgear), Folk dance and festivals, and cuisine.

◦ **Madhubani Paintings:**

- **Madhubani art**, a vibrant folk painting tradition, depicts scenes from Hindu mythology (especially Ramayana)
- Nature, animals, and social life
- It uses natural dyes and geometric patterns
- It has received **GI (Geographical Indication) status** for its cultural uniqueness.

▪ **Agricultural Specialty - Mithila Makhana:**

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