



THE BPSC COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION · A
COMPANION

Fire Cannot *Burn It*

The whole syllabus, told as one connected story — through the land, the empires, the freedom struggle, the rulebook of the republic, and the comeback of Bihar. Read it for the plot; keep it for the facts.

“Books may burn in the flames, but the flames cannot burn knowledge.”

— the memory, and the promise, of Nalanda.

Prelims · Mains · Interview | Live cycle: 72nd CCE | Prelims 26 July 2026 | Edge: Bihar-specific

One story, not ten subjects

Why a narrative is the strongest memory system you own

Facts memorised in isolation slip away; facts hung on a story stay. And the BPSC hands you the best story in Indian history for free — because its favourite subject is a *place*: Bihar, the soil where India's first republic met, where its first empire rose, where two world religions were born, where a burning library proved that knowledge outlives fire, and where — after decades written off as “backward” — a comeback is being written in real time.

So we will not study ten disconnected subjects. We will follow one arc. **The land** sets the stage. **Empires** rise on its rivers. **Invaders and reformers** pass through. A free people write a **rulebook**. An economy stages a **comeback**. And the newest chapter is **still wet with ink**. Science, environment, and numbers are the **toolkit** you carry on the journey. Every fact you need is a scene in this story — and scenes are easy to remember.

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

First pass — for the plot. Read cover to cover once, quickly, just to feel the arc and how each subject hooks into the next. **Second pass — for the facts.** Return chapter by chapter and memorise the material in **bold**, the tables, and the mnemonic boxes. **Forever — for revision.** Skim the diagrams and the *Field Kit* at the end. Each chapter closes with *Think about this* prompts — treat them as spoken-aloud self-tests, the way an interviewer would ask.

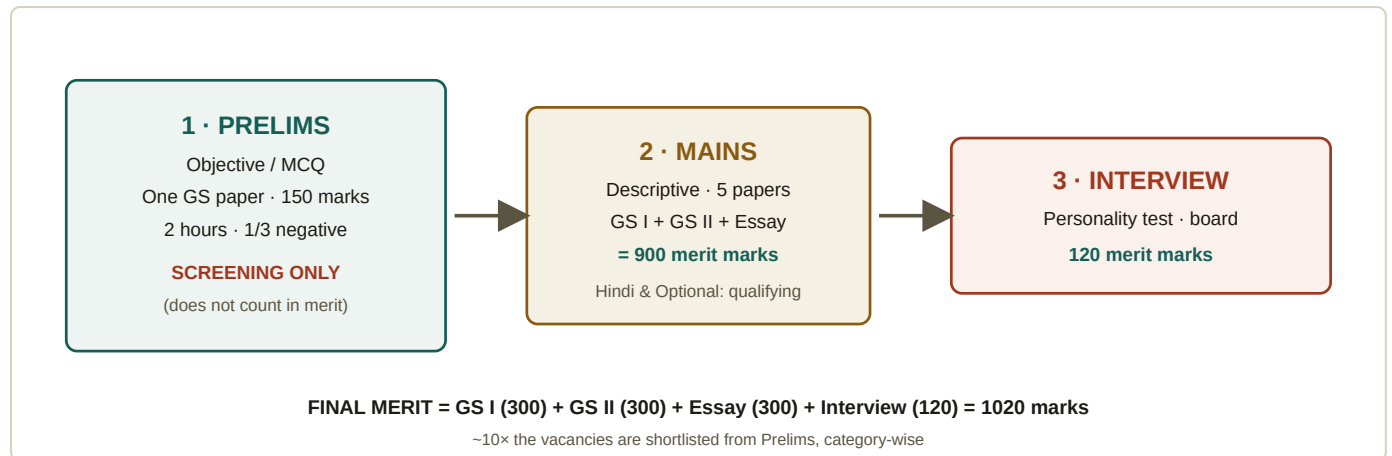
Two honest promises. First, **no single book can literally contain a syllabus this vast** — treat this as the connective spine you hang your NCERTs, standard texts, and current-affairs notes on. Second, **the newest facts move**: the sitting Chief Minister, this year's Budget line-items, the latest report rankings. Everything here was checked against sources current to mid-2026; where a fact is volatile you will see a **verify-before-exam** flag. Trust the **bpsc.bihar.gov.in** notification over any book, including this one.

#	THE STORY	THE SUBJECT UNDERNEATH
I	The Land That Wrote the Story	Geography — India & Bihar
II	Empires Born of the Ganga	Ancient India
III	Sultans, Sufis & the Sur Interlude	Medieval India
IV	The Spark at Champaran	Modern India & the Freedom Struggle
V	The Rulebook of the Republic	Polity & Governance
VI	The Comeback Arc	Economy — India & Bihar
VII	The Traveller's Toolkit	General Science
VIII	The Living World & Its Balance	Environment & Ecology
IX	The Chapter Still Being Written	Current Affairs — national & Bihar
X	Numbers & Reason	Maths / Mental Ability
XI	The Bihar Spine	Bihar Special — the crown jewel, gathered
XII	The Written Test & the Conversation	Mains & Interview
XIII	The Rhythm & the Field Kit	Revision system + exam-hall protocol

Three gates, one funnel

Know the shape of the exam before you pack for the journey

Three gates stand between you and the service. Only the last two decide your rank — but you cannot reach them without clearing the first.



The selection funnel. Prelims is a filter you must survive; Mains + Interview is where the rank is actually built.

Prelims — the screening gate

- **150 questions**, 1 mark each, **2 hours**.
- **Negative marking: 1/3** per wrong answer (in force since the 70th CCE — the “no-negatives” era is over).
- Qualifying cut-offs: **General 40% · BC 36.5% · EBC 34% · SC/ST/Women/PwD 32%**.
- Only a **screening** score — it opens the Mains door, then is discarded.

Mains — where ranks are made

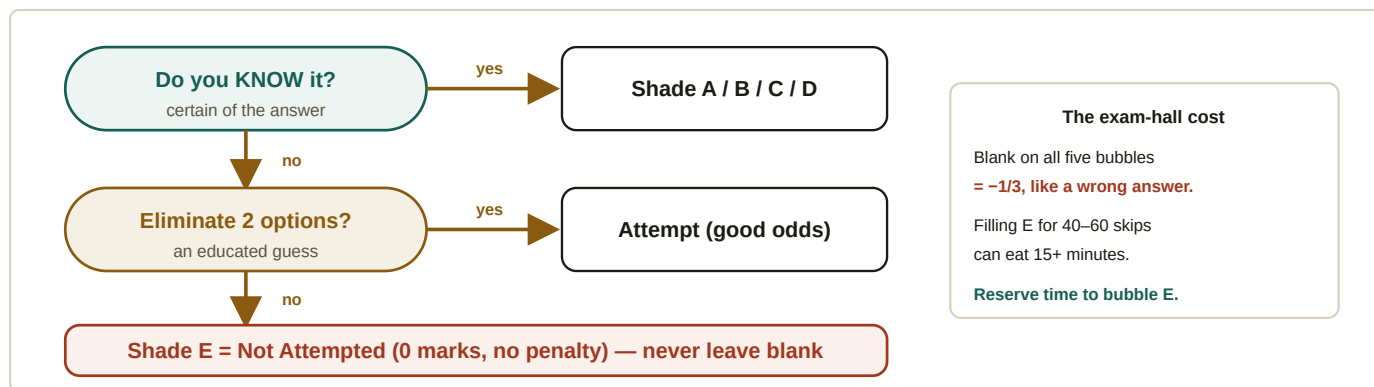
- **General Hindi** — 100, **qualifying** (~30%); not in merit.
- **GS Paper I** — 300, merit.
- **GS Paper II** — 300, merit.
- **Essay** — 300, merit (added from the 70th CCE).
- **Optional** — 300, objective & **qualifying** (required only for certain posts, e.g. CDPO/FAO/SDCO).

VERIFY AGAINST YOUR NOTIFICATION

The **72nd CCE is the live cycle**: notified 5 May 2026, **Prelims on 26 July 2026**, ~1,180+ vacancies. The **73rd CCE is not yet notified** (anticipated 2027). Pattern and syllabus carry forward, so everything here transfers — but confirm vacancies, dates, the exact negative-marking fraction, and whether an Optional applies to *your* post from the official notification.

The one rule change most books miss — Option “E”

BPSC has reintroduced a fifth bubble, “E” = “**Not Attempted.**” This quietly rewrites Prelims strategy, and older notes ignore it. If you don't want to answer, you must now **shade E** → zero marks, no penalty. But **leaving all five blank now costs you 1/3 mark**, the same as a wrong answer. A non-decision is punished. The number of questions, the marks, and the syllabus are unchanged.



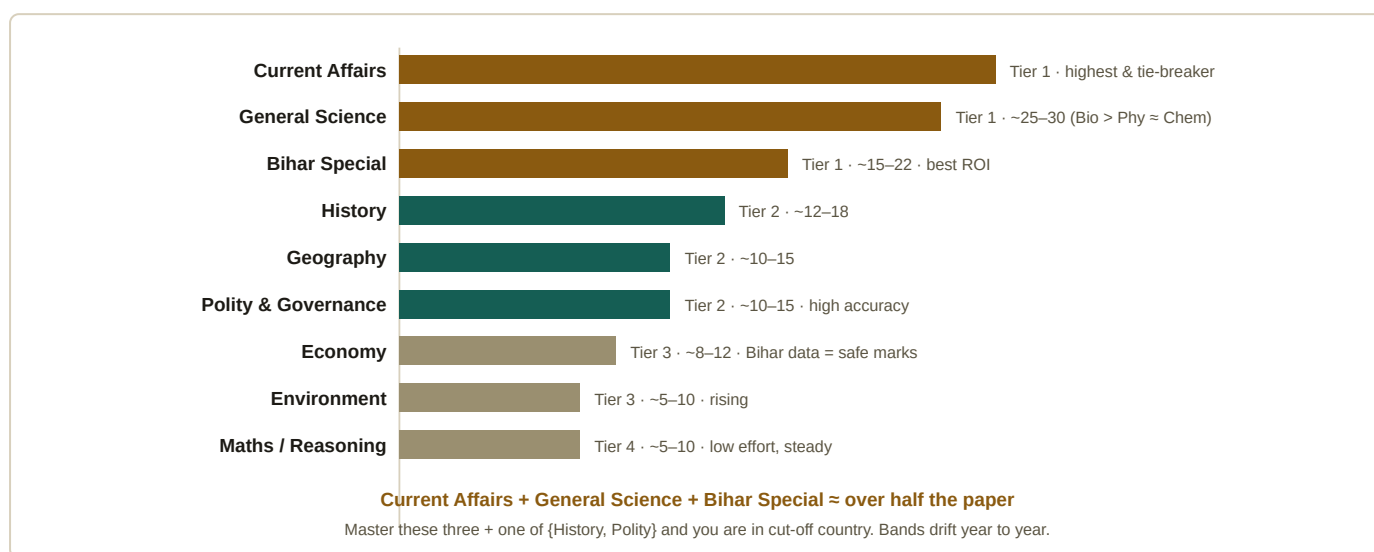
The decision you make on every single question. Rehearse it in mocks until it is automatic.

A FOOTNOTE FOR PYQ READERS

An “Option E” existed in the 60th–62nd CCE (2017) but then meant “none / more than one of the above” — a *content-bearing* choice, later scrapped. **Today's E is pure OMR discipline (“Not Attempted”).** Don't confuse the two in old papers.

The battle map — where the marks actually live

From PYQ analysis across roughly the 50th–71st CCE, a handful of areas dominate. Spend your hours in proportion to the weight, not your comfort.



Approximate Prelims weightage. The three gold bars are your daily-first priorities.

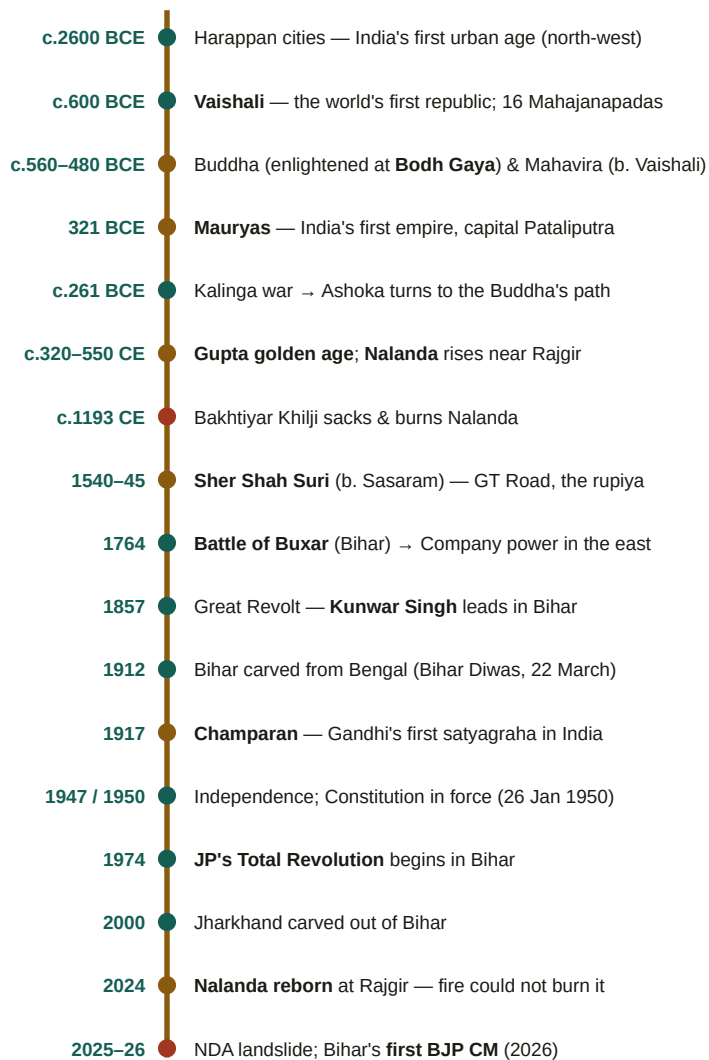
BEFORE YOU TURN THE PAGE

Write the **Option-E rule** in one sentence you could recite at 2 a.m. Circle your **three Tier-1 areas** — they get your first, freshest hours every day. And accept the frame: you are not cramming subjects, you are learning **one story** well enough to retell it.

Two and a half thousand years, one thread

Everything that follows is an expansion of a point on this line

Before the detail, fix the skeleton. If you can retell this timeline aloud, you already hold the shape of History, Polity's origins, and half of Current Affairs — and you will see how each chapter is simply one date, opened up.



The Bihar-centric master timeline. Gold dots = the “can't-miss” beats; teal = supporting; red = rupture & comeback.

THE LOOP TO REMEMBER

1193 → 2024. Nalanda burned by Bakhtiyar Khilji, and reborn at Rajgir eight centuries later. Loss and revival on one flashcard — and the sentence the whole book is named for: *fire cannot burn knowledge.*

The Land That Wrote the Story

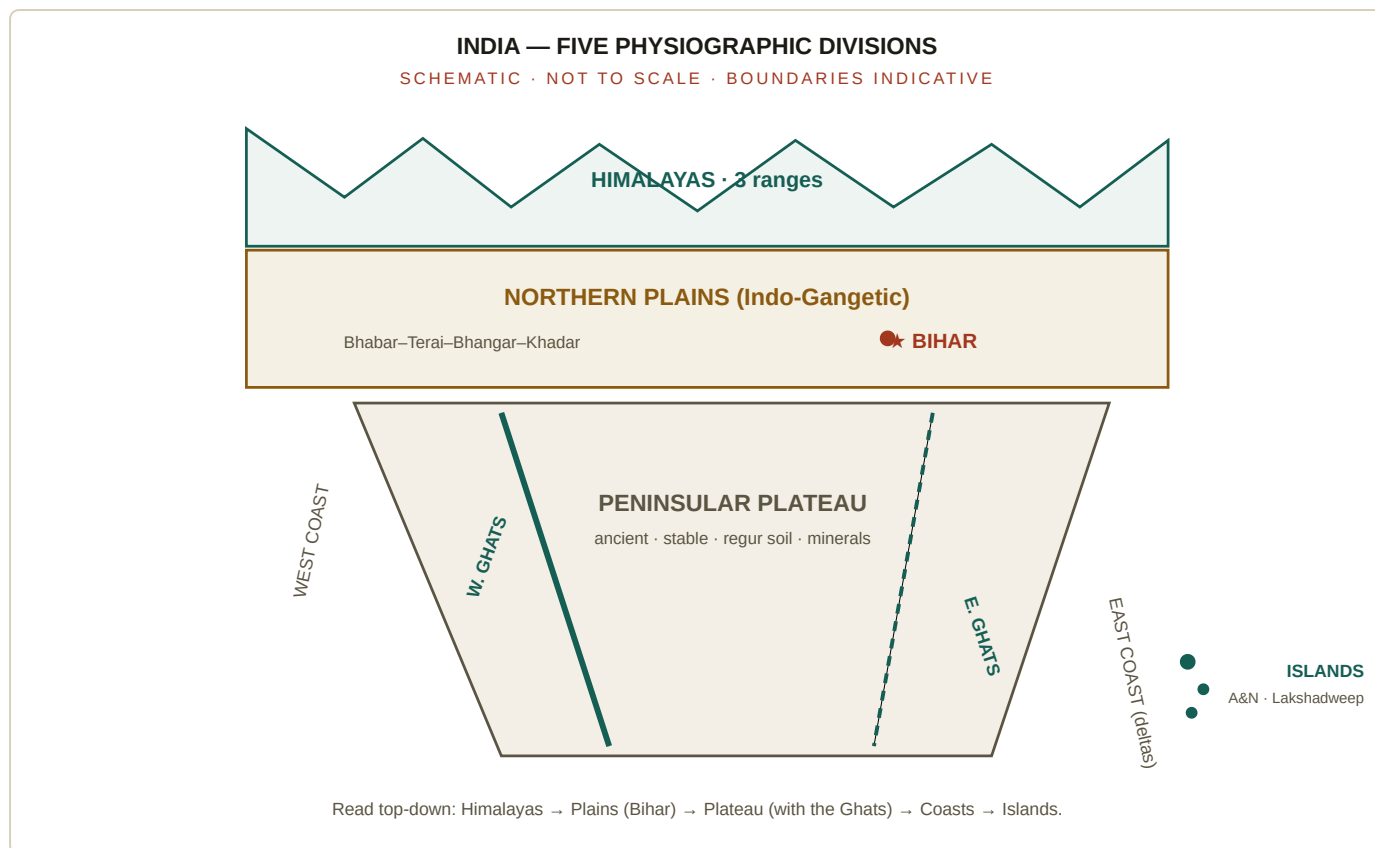
Before any king is crowned, the geography has already decided the plot

Rivers falling off the young Himalaya drop their silt across a vast trough, laying down the most fertile plain on Earth. Into this cradle — flat, watered, feeding elephants and iron and grain — steps a small kingdom called Magadha. It will not stay small. **The land made the empire possible.** So the story begins with the ground itself.

India in five great strokes

Hold India as **five physiographic zones** and half of physical geography falls into place. Read the map from the top down and you are reading the country's spine:

1. **The Himalayas** — young fold mountains in three parallel ranges: the **Greater (Himadri)** with the highest, snow-fed peaks; the **Lesser (Himachal)**; and the outer **Shiwaliks**. They are the source of the perennial rivers and the home of the passes.
2. **The Northern Plains** — the alluvial Indo-Gangetic trough. **This is where Bihar sits.** North to south off the hills, the plain is layered: **Bhabar** (pebbly foothills where streams vanish underground), **Terai** (marshy re-emergence belt), **Bhangar** (old alluvium), and **Khadar** (new, fertile flood alluvium — the richest soil, renewed every monsoon).
3. **The Peninsular Plateau** — the ancient, stable Deccan, flanked by the **Western Ghats** (higher, continuous) and **Eastern Ghats** (lower, broken). Its black cotton (**regur**) soil and its mineral wealth make it India's resource chest.
4. **The Coastal Plains** — a narrow Western coast and a wide, deltaic Eastern coast built by the peninsular rivers.
5. **The Islands** — the volcanic **Andaman & Nicobar** in the Bay of Bengal and the coral **Lakshadweep** in the Arabian Sea.



The five-zone frame. Fix the vertical order once and most “which-lies-where” questions answer themselves.

Rivers — the two families

Himalayan rivers (Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra) are **perennial** — fed by snow and rain — antecedent, and build big deltas. **Peninsular rivers** are **seasonal** and rain-fed: the Godavari (the “Dakshin Ganga,” largest of the peninsula), Krishna, and Kaveri flow east to the Bay; the Narmada and Tapi flow *west* through rift valleys to the Arabian Sea. That single east-vs-west split is a classic MCQ.

Climate — the monsoon engine

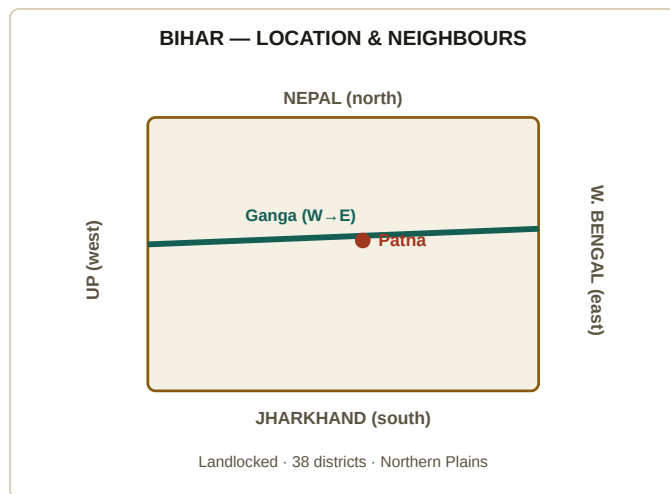
The **South-West monsoon** (June–September) delivers roughly **75% of India's rain** as the heated land pulls in moist ocean air. The **retreating / North-East monsoon** (October–December) then soaks the Tamil coast. **El Niño** tends to weaken the monsoon; **La Niña** tends to strengthen it. This one system decides Bihar's floods and India's harvests — remember it, because it returns in Environment and in Current Affairs.

REMEMBER THE PLAIN'S LAYERS

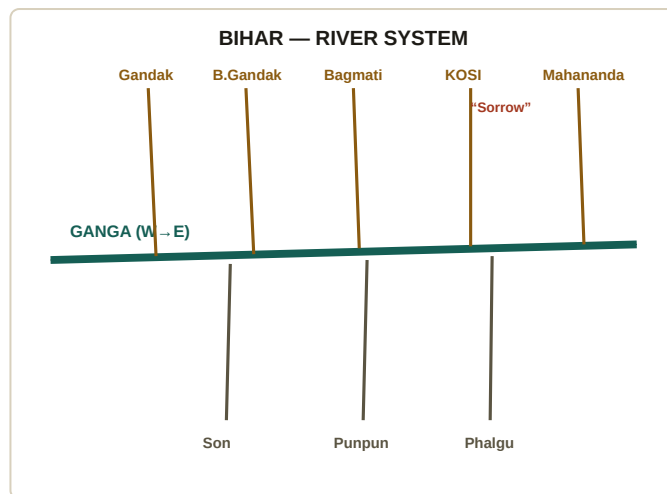
North → south off the hills: “**Bhabar–Terai–Bhangar–Khadar.**” Pebbles, then marsh, then old soil, then the young fertile flood-soil where the best crops grow — and where the floods come.

Bihar — the fertile heart, and its temper

Picture a green table split by a silver ribbon. The **Ganga flows west-to-east** straight through Bihar, dividing it into a **North Bihar plain** and a **South Bihar plain**. From the north, Himalayan torrents pour in and, every monsoon, overflow. From the south, older peninsular rivers arrive tamer. Two halves, two temperaments — and one river both loved and feared.



Landlocked, in the plains. N-E-W-S: Nepal, Bengal, UP, Jharkhand.



North-bank (Himalayan, flood-prone) vs south-bank (tamer). Kosi = the “Sorrow of Bihar.”

BIHAR GEOGRAPHY — THE EXAM SPINE

Extent	38 districts ; landlocked; entirely in the Northern Plains.
North-bank rivers	Himalayan, flood-prone: Gandak, Kosi, Bagmati, Budhi Gandak, Mahananda .
South-bank rivers	Peninsular, tamer: Son (largest tributary within Bihar), Punpun, Phalgu.
The Kosi	“Sorrow of Bihar” — shifts course, drowns North Bihar; India's most flood-prone belt.
National park	Valmiki (West Champaran) — Bihar's only National Park & Tiger Reserve; borders Nepal.
Ramsar site	Kanwar / Kabartal Lake (Begusarai) — wetland of international importance.

What grows here — Bihar's agricultural signature

Staples are **rice, wheat, maize, and pulses**. The famous crops are the ones examiners love: **litchi of Muzaffarpur** (GI-tagged, nationally dominant), **makhana** (fox-nut) from the Mithila/Darbhanga belt — **Bihar grows about 90% of India's makhana** — plus mango, banana, sugarcane, jute, and a huge vegetable output. Hold the logic, not just the list: **flood-enriched Khadar soil + abundant water = a horticulture superpower**. The same monsoon that *floods* North Bihar is what *feeds* it — a tension that pays in both Prelims MCQs and Mains essays.

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Why did Magadha, sitting on this plain, become the seed of India's first empire? (Iron, elephants, grain, river defence.) **2.** Trace one raindrop from a Nepal hill to a Begusarai field — which rivers, which flood? **3.** Explain Bihar's makhana-and-litchi dominance from soil and water alone.

Empires Born of the Ganga

Two golden ages, half a millennium apart, on the same soil

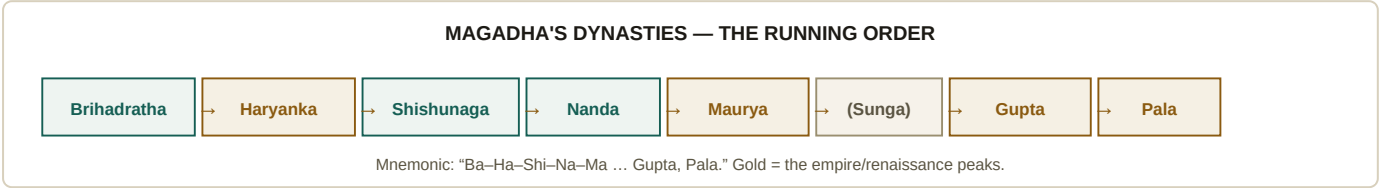
Long before Magadha, the subcontinent had learned to build cities. Then the story moves east — down the Ganga into Bihar — where, around the 6th century BCE, sixteen kingdoms jostle, two revolutionary teachers preach, and one ruthless, well-fed kingdom swallows the rest. That kingdom is **Magadha**, and its capital, **Pataliputra**, will govern almost all of India.

The prologue: Indus and Vedic India

- **Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation** — Bronze Age; superb town planning (Mohenjo-daro's **Great Bath**; Dholavira; Lothal's dockyard; Kalibangan; Rakhigarhi). The script is **undeciphered**; weights were standardised; the decline is debated (climate and river shifts). Chiefly urban and trade-based.
- **Vedic Age** — the Rigvedic phase (Sapta-Sindhu, pastoral) gives way to the **Later Vedic**, when culture pushes east into the Ganga plain — **into Bihar** — iron spreads, kingship and the varna order harden, and the Upanishads bloom.

Sixteen kingdoms, one winner

By about 600 BCE, **16 Mahajanapadas** dot North India. Among them, **Vaishali** runs a *gana-sangha* (oligarchic republic) — remembered as the **world's first republic** (hold this thought; it returns in the Polity chapter). But the future belongs to Magadha, blessed by geography: Ganga defence, iron at Rajgir, war-elephants, and grain.



The dynastic spine of Magadha. Learn the order once; hang the rulers off it.

Haryanka	Bimbisara (contemporary of the Buddha) & Ajatashatru , who fortified a river-village into Pataliputra .
Nanda	Vast, wealthy, unpopular — swept away by Chandragupta.
Religion born here	Buddha — enlightenment at Bodh Gaya , first sermon at Sarnath. Mahavira , 24th Tirthankara of Jainism — born at Kundagram (Vaishali) .

The Mauryas — India's first great empire (321–185 BCE)

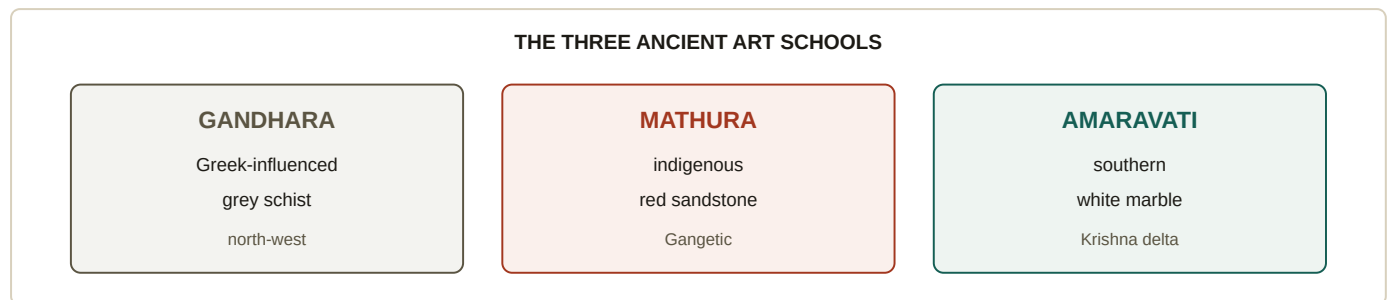
Chandragupta Maurya, guided by the strategist **Chanakya (Kautilya)** — author of the **Arthashastra**, the ancient world's coldest, sharpest manual of statecraft — overthrows the Nandas and rules from Pataliputra. The Greek envoy **Megasthenes** writes **Indica** about it. Two generations later, **Ashoka** wins **Kalinga**, is sickened by the slaughter, embraces the Buddha's path, and carves his conscience into rock and pillar across the land.

MAURYAN MUST-KNOWS

Chanakya → **Arthashastra**; **Megasthenes** → **Indica**. Ashoka's edicts (on rocks & pillars) are the earliest deciphered Indian inscriptions (in **Brahmi**). **Kumhrar (Patna)** = ruins of the **80-pillared hall**, excavated by D. B. Spooner (1912-13). Ashokan pillar sites in Bihar: **Lauriya-Areraaj**, **Lauriya-Nandangarh**, **Rampurva**, **Vaishali**. The **Lion Capital of Sarnath** became India's National Emblem.

Between the giants: post-Mauryan India

After the Sungas came outsiders and traders. The **Kushanas** under **Kanishka** patronised the **Gandhara** (Greco-Buddhist) and **Mathura** art schools; the **Satavahanas** ruled the Deccan; the **Sangam age** flourished in the far south. Learn the three art schools as a set:



Sort by material and influence — the classic four-option trap. Grey/Greek · Red/indigenous · White/south.

The Gupta “Golden Age” — Bihar again

Centuries later, from the same Magadhan soil, the **Guptas** raise a classical golden age of mathematics, astronomy, Sanskrit poetry, and temple-building. **Samudragupta**, the “Napoleon of India,” has his conquests praised by the court-poet **Harisena** in the **Allahabad (Prayag) Prashasti**. **Chandragupta II Vikramaditya** keeps the “Navaratnas” and hosts the Chinese pilgrim **Fa-Hien**. And under this dynasty rises the jewel of the whole story: **Nalanda**.

Samudragupta	“Napoleon of India”; Prayag Prashasti by Harisena.
Chandragupta II	Vikramaditya; the Navaratnas; Fa-Hien visits.
Kumaragupta I	Traditionally credited with founding Nalanda .
Skandagupta	Repelled the Hunas ; the last strong Gupta.

The two universities — and the fire

Nalanda (near Rajgir) became the world's first great **residential** university — thousands of scholars from China, Korea, Tibet, and Southeast Asia; libraries so vast they were named *Ratnasagara*, *Ratnadadhi*, *Ratnaranjaka*. The Chinese pilgrim **Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang)** studied there; **I-Tsing** followed. Its rival, **Vikramshila** (Bhagalpur), was founded by the **Pala** king **Dharmapala**. Then, around **1193 CE**, **Bakhtiyar Khilji** sacked Nalanda and burned its libraries; the manuscripts, it is said, smouldered for months. Darkness fell — but not, as the final chapter shows, forever.

The Palas — Buddhism's last great patrons

Gopala (founder) → **Dharmapala** (Vikramshila) → **Devapala**. Champions of Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism; the **Pala-Sena school** of art flourished around Nalanda, Gaya, and Nawada.

WHO BURNED NALANDA?

Bakhtiyar Khilji, c. 1193 CE. Pair it in memory with the golden fact: the ruins were named a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016**, and a **new Nalanda University reopened nearby in 2024** (Chapter IX). Loss and revival — one flashcard.

Digging up Bihar — the archaeology one-liners

- Palaeolithic: Munger, Nalanda. Neolithic/Chalcolithic: **Chirand (Saran)**, Chechar (Vaishali).
- Mauryan royal complex: **Kumhrar (Patna)**. Kushana remains: Chirand.
- Bihar's three culture-regions (the frame for everything): **Magadha** (Rajgir → Pataliputra: empire & learning), **Mithila** (Vedic learning, King Janaka, Sita, Maithili, Madhubani art), **Bhojpur** (Bhojpuri, folk culture, resistance).

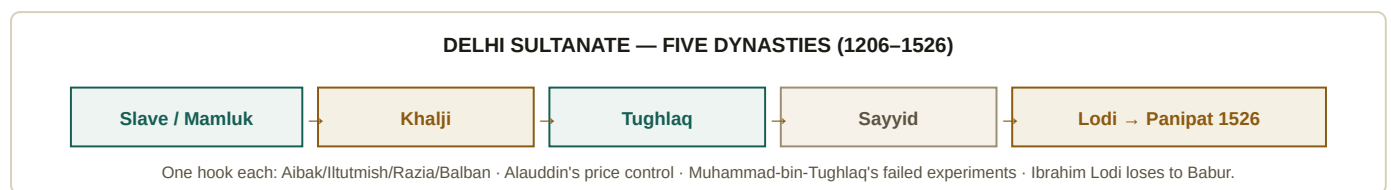
THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Why did this plain produce not one but two golden ages (Maurya, Gupta) half a millennium apart? **2.** Sort the three art schools by material and influence. **3.** Nalanda's motto is that fire cannot burn knowledge — which later chapter completes that sentence, and why is it a guaranteed current-affairs question?

Sultans, Sufis & the Sur Interlude

Three centuries of Delhi's power — and a five-year Bihari who out-administered the Mughals

With the ancient empires gone, power in the north gathers at Delhi. Turkish and Afghan sultans rule and quarrel for three centuries; the Mughals then build the grandest court India has seen. But tucked inside this age is a very Bihari surprise — a man from Sasaram who briefly out-administered the Mughals and left behind the road and the coin we still recognise.

The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526) — five dynasties, fast



Learn the sequence first, then one memorable ruler per dynasty.

- **Slave (Mamluk):** Qutb-ud-din Aibak (Qutb Minar begun); Iltutmish (consolidator); **Razia Sultan** (first woman ruler of Delhi); Balban (theory of kingship).
- **Khalji:** **Alauddin Khalji** — market/price control, strong revenue, repelled the Mongols.
- **Tughlaq:** **Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq** — the “wise fool” of failed experiments (capital shift to Daulatabad; token currency).
- **Lodi:** Afghan; **Ibrahim Lodi** loses at **Panipat, 1526**, to Babur.

To the south, the rival **Vijayanagara** and **Bahmani** kingdoms shaped the Deccan.

The Mughals (1526–1707, then decline)

Babur	1526 Panipat; founder.
Humayun	Lost to — and later regained the throne from — Sher Shah.
Akbar	Din-i-Ilahi; the Mansabdari system; land revenue via Todar Mal ; religious tolerance.
Jahangir	Art, and the English (Sir Thomas Roe's embassy).
Shah Jahan	The Taj; the architectural zenith.
Aurangzeb	Widest expansion, deepest strain; decline follows.

The heart of the age: Bhakti & Sufi movements

Devotional currents softened orthodoxy and shaped languages. **Bhakti** saints — Kabir, Guru Nanak, Mirabai, Chaitanya, Tulsidas — and **Sufi** orders — Chishti (Moinuddin Chishti of Ajmer), Suhrawardi. Their message of a personal, casteless devotion is a recurring theme in both Prelims and Mains — and it clusters around *language and social reform*, not theology.

The Bihar surprise — Sher Shah Suri

Born **Farid Khan** near **Sasaram**, **Sher Shah Suri** defeated Humayun and ruled North India (**1540-45**) with an administrative genius the Mughals later copied. He rebuilt the **Grand Trunk Road** (with rest-houses and *kos minars* as milestones), reformed the currency — his silver “**rupiya**” is the ancestor of the rupee — and streamlined land revenue. His **tomb still rises from a lake at Sasaram**, a masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture. A five-year reign; a five-century footprint.

MEDIEVAL BIHAR — EXAM NUGGETS

Sher Shah Suri — born Sasaram; GT Road; the rupiya; revenue reform; tomb at Sasaram. **Guru Gobind Singh** (10th & last human Sikh Guru) was born in Patna → **Takht Sri Patna Sahib**, one of the five Takhts of Sikhism. Mughal-era Patna thrived on **indigo, saltpetre (potassium nitrate), and textiles** — remember those goods; they explain who came knocking next.

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** How did a five-year ruler shape an empire that outlasted him — road, coin, revenue? **2.** Why do Bhakti-Sufi questions cluster around language and social reform? **3.** Connect Patna's medieval trade goods to why the Europeans arrived.

The Spark at Champaran

The east fell at Buxar; the nation rose at Champaran

The Europeans came for indigo, saltpetre, and cloth — and stayed to rule. Company power in the east was sealed not at Plassey but at **Buxar (1764)**, on Bihar's soil. A century of extraction bred the revolt of 1857 — and in Bihar an old warrior, **Kunwar Singh**, rode out against the British. Then, in **1917**, a barrister just back from South Africa chose a Bihar district to try a new weapon: truth-force. **Champaran was the spark.**

How the Company took the east

- **Plassey (1757)** — the Company gains a foothold in Bengal.
- **Buxar (1764)** — the **decisive** victory over the combined forces of the Mughal emperor, Awadh, and Bengal; **fought in Bihar**. It led directly to the **Diwani (1765)** — the right to collect revenue in Bengal-Bihar-Odisha. This is when a trading company became a territorial power. *Buxar, not Plassey, is the true turning point in the east — a favourite trap.*
- Land revenue systems: **Permanent Settlement / Zamindari** (Bengal-Bihar; Cornwallis, 1793; fixed revenue, powerful landlords), **Ryotwari** (south/west), **Mahalwari** (north/central). Bihar's agrarian pain flows from Zamindari — a ready-made Mains argument.

1857 — and Bihar's warrior

The **Revolt of 1857** (sepoy grievances, greased cartridges, and deeper economic and cultural anger) spread across the north. In Bihar it was led by the aged **Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur (Bhojpur)** — remembered for his courage against a far larger British force. Aftermath: the Company was abolished; India passed to the **British Crown (1858)**.

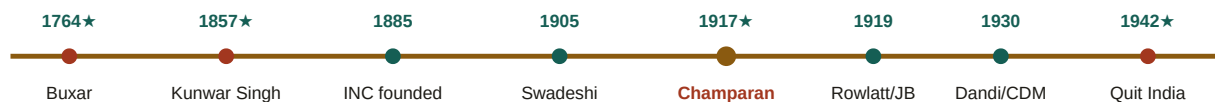
The birth of organised nationalism

- **Indian National Congress** founded **1885**. Early split: **Moderates** (petition, prayer) vs **Extremists** (Lal-Bal-Pal; swadeshi, self-reliance).
- **Partition of Bengal (1905)** → the **Swadeshi Movement** — the first mass boycott of British goods.

The Gandhian era — and it starts in Bihar

In 1917, the peasants of Champaran were trapped in the **tinkathia** system — forced to grow indigo on part of their land for the planters' profit. A local, **Raj Kumar Shukla**, persistently drew Gandhi to Bihar. There Gandhi ran his **first Satyagraha on Indian soil**, won relief for the farmers, and discovered the method — non-violent mass resistance — that would carry India to freedom. Kheda and Ahmedabad followed; the movement was born.

THE FREEDOM TIMELINE — BURN IT IN (★ = on Bihar's soil)



1920–22 Non-Cooperation (called off after Chauri-Chaura) sits between 1919 and 1930.

1947 — Independence & Partition; princely states integrated by Patel.

The dates BPSC loves — with Bihar's fingerprints (★) on four of them.

Parallel streams & Bihar's giants

- Revolutionaries (**Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad**) and **Subhas Chandra Bose's INA**.
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** — from Bihar; **first President of India**.
- **Jayaprakash Narayan (JP)** — later led the **1974 “Total Revolution” / JP Movement** from Bihar against corruption and authoritarian rule (a seed of the Emergency-era resistance).

THREE DATES, ONE RHYTHM — BIHAR'S STATEHOOD

1 April 1912 — Bihar carved out of the Bengal Presidency (**Bihar Diwas = 22 March**). **1 April 1936** — Bihar & Odisha separated. **15 November 2000** — Jharkhand carved out of Bihar. Say the trio together: **born 1912 · split 1936 · lost Jharkhand 2000**.

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Why is Champaran the *hinge* of the freedom movement, not merely its earliest date? **2.** Map Bihar's presence across each Gandhian phase — a recurring Mains prompt. **3.** How did land-revenue policy (1793) seed the peasant grievance Gandhi harnessed (1917)?

The Rulebook of the Republic

From Vaishali's assembly to 395 articles of modern law

Recall **Vaishali** — the world's first republic, on Bihar's soil (Chapter II). Two and a half millennia later, a free India sits down to write the longest constitution on Earth, turning that ancient instinct for collective rule into modern law. This is the **most scoring** chapter in the exam because the answers are exact: read them once, and the marks are almost promised.

The founding facts

MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Constituent Assembly convened **1946**; **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** chaired the Drafting Committee. **Adopted 26 Nov 1949**; came into force **26 Jan 1950** (Republic Day). The **Preamble** declares India **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic**, securing **Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity**. (“Socialist,” “Secular,” and “Integrity” were added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**.)

India borrowed the best of the world's constitutions and stitched them into one — a fact examiners test as a matching exercise:

BORROWED FEATURES — WHO GAVE US WHAT

UK

Parliamentary
system · rule of
law · CAG

USA

Fundamental
Rights · judicial
review · preamble

IRELAND

Directive
Principles (DPSP)

GERMANY

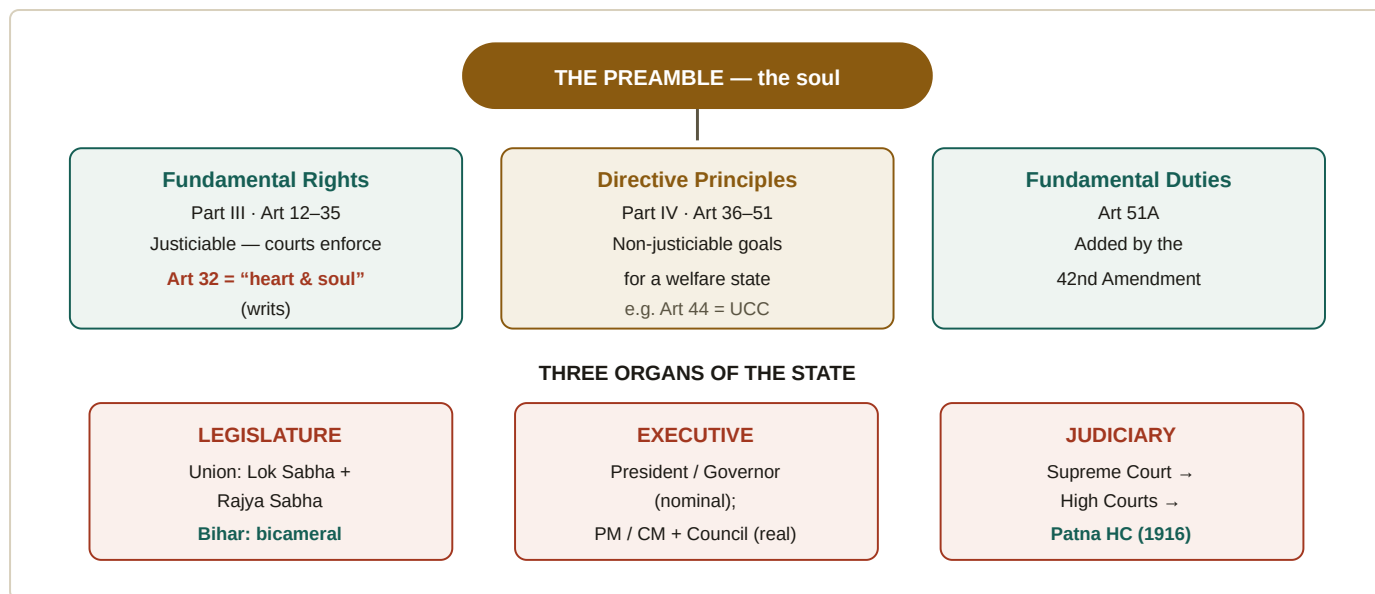
Emergency
provisions

CANADA

Federation with
a strong Centre

The world's constitutions, assembled into one. A reliable matching-type question.

The architecture — rights, goals, duties, and organs



The whole Constitution on one page: a Preamble that sets the values, three pillars (rights / goals / duties), and three organs that run the state.

Fundamental Rights (Part III): Equality (14–18), Freedom (19–22), Against Exploitation (23–24), Religion (25–28), Cultural & Educational (29–30), and **Constitutional Remedies (Art. 32)** — which Ambedkar called the **“heart and soul”** of the Constitution. The remedy is the **writ** — *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *prohibition*, *certiorari*, *quo warranto* — the court's power to command the state to obey the law. **Art. 21** (life & personal liberty) is the article courts have expanded the most.

THREE ARTICLES THAT ALWAYS APPEAR

Art. 32 = the “heart & soul” (writs). **Art. 44** = Uniform Civil Code. **Art. 21** = life & personal liberty. If you remember three articles, remember these.

Federalism & the grassroots

Powers are split by the **Seventh Schedule** into Union, State, and Concurrent Lists. The turning point for local democracy was the **73rd & 74th Amendments (1992)**, which gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies.

BIHAR'S QUIET FIRST

Bihar was the first state to provide about 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions — a genuine milestone in grassroots empowerment, and exactly the kind of Bihar-specific governance fact that separates a prepared candidate from a generic one. Bihar's legislature is also **bicameral** (Vidhan Sabha + Vidhan Parishad) — a favourite MCQ on composition and mode of election.

Constitutional & statutory bodies (know which is which)

Constitutional (created by the Constitution itself): Election Commission, **UPSC / BPSC**, CAG, Finance Commission, Attorney-General. **Statutory** (created by an ordinary law): NHRC, CIC, CVC, Lokpal, and NITI Aayog (an executive think-tank). Sorting these is a standard question.

AMENDMENT	WHAT IT DID — CANNOT SKIP
42nd (1976)	The “Mini-Constitution”; added Socialist/Secular & the Fundamental Duties.
44th (1978)	Rolled back Emergency excesses; property → a legal (not fundamental) right.
73rd & 74th (1992)	Panchayati Raj & municipalities.
101st (2016)	Goods & Services Tax (GST).
103rd (2019)	10% EWS reservation.

Emergencies (a common MCQ cluster): National Emergency (Art. 352), President's Rule in a state (Art. 356), and Financial Emergency (Art. 360). Pair with **Art. 368** (amendment) and **Art. 108** (joint sitting of the two Houses).

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** If DPSPs aren't enforceable, why are they “fundamental to governance”? How have courts harmonised them with Fundamental Rights? **2.** What makes Bihar's Vidhan Parishad (composition, mode of election) a recurring MCQ? **3.** How did the 73rd Amendment — plus Bihar's women's reservation — change who holds village power?

The Comeback Arc

The land of the first empire, out-growing the nation it once ruled

The land of the first empire spent the late 20th century labelled “**BIMARU**” — a byword for backwardness. But the arc bends: for several recent years Bihar's economy has grown **faster than India's**, even if it starts from a low base and still trails on per-capita income. This chapter is where the exam quietly rewards you — the **Bihar Economic Survey and Budget** throw up direct, data-based questions every single cycle. Learn the numbers; collect the marks.

The grammar of the economy — read this once, slowly

Economics has only a few load-bearing ideas; the rest is vocabulary. Here is the grammar, in plain language, so the Bihar data below actually means something.

1 · How we measure size — GDP, GNP, and “real” vs “nominal”

GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is the value of everything produced *inside* a country in a year. **GNP** adds what a country's people earn *abroad* and subtracts what foreigners earn here. At the state level the same idea is called **GSDP** (Gross State Domestic Product), and net of depreciation, **NSDP**. The single trap examiners love: **nominal (“current prices”)** counts today's rupees, so it is inflated by rising prices; **real (“constant prices”)** strips inflation out by fixing a base year (currently **2011-12**). That is exactly why Bihar reports two GSDP numbers — a big current-price figure and a smaller, truer constant-price one.

2 · How prices move — inflation, CPI, WPI

Inflation is the general rise in prices over time. It is tracked two ways: the **CPI** (Consumer Price Index) measures *retail* prices a household pays and anchors the RBI's target; the **WPI** (Wholesale Price Index) measures prices at the *wholesale* stage. A little inflation is healthy; too much erodes savings and hurts the poor most.

3 · How the government's books work — the three deficits

A Budget has receipts and expenditure. When spending exceeds income you get a **deficit**, and three versions are tested together: the **revenue deficit** (day-to-day income falls short of day-to-day spending — a warning sign, because you're borrowing to eat), the **fiscal deficit** (total borrowing needed to cover the whole gap — the headline number), and the **primary deficit** (the fiscal deficit minus interest payments — what the gap would be if there were no old debt to service). All state spending flows through the **Consolidated Fund**.

4 · How money is steered — the RBI's levers

The **Reserve Bank of India** is the central bank. To cool inflation it makes money costlier; to spur growth it makes money cheaper. Its main levers: the **repo rate** (the rate at which it lends to banks — the master dial), the **CRR** (Cash Reserve Ratio — the share of deposits banks must park with the RBI), and the **SLR** (Statutory Liquidity Ratio — the share they must hold in safe assets). Below the RBI, ordinary **banks** and **NBFCs** (non-banking finance companies) channel credit to the economy.

5 · How India plans — from Five-Year Plans to NITI Aayog

For decades India steered growth through **Five-Year Plans** under the Planning Commission. In **2015** that body was replaced by the **NITI Aayog**, a *think-tank* that advises rather than allocates — a shift from central planning to “cooperative federalism.”

6 · How the state earns — direct vs indirect taxes

Direct taxes (income tax, corporate tax) fall on the person who pays them. **Indirect taxes** fall on goods and services and are passed on to the consumer; the great reform here was the **GST** (the **101st Amendment, 2016**), which merged a tangle of indirect taxes into “one nation, one tax.”

TWO DOCUMENTS, ONE HABIT

The **Budget = the plan** (how money *will* be spent). The **Economic Survey = the report card** (how the economy *did*). BPSC turns the Survey's exact figures into MCQs — revise GSDP, growth %, per-capita income, and sector shares three times over.

Bihar's numbers — the guaranteed-marks file

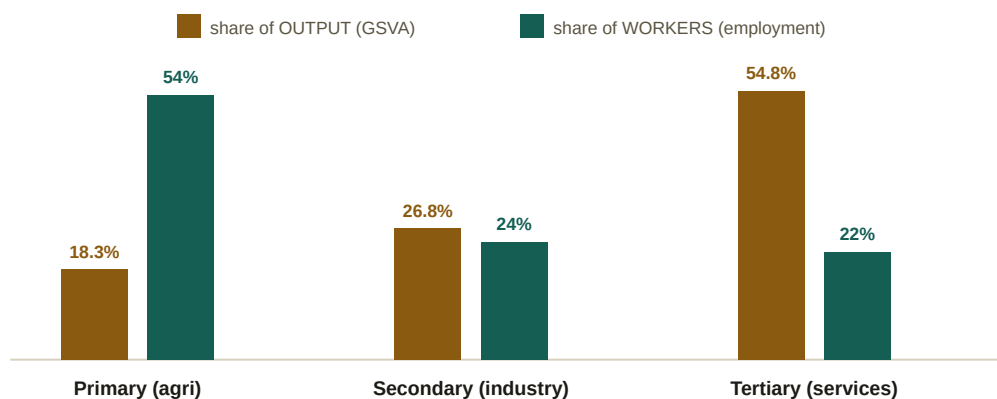
BIHAR ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025–26 (PRESENTED 2 FEB 2026, IN THE ASSEMBLY)

Prepared by the **Bihar Institute of Public Finance & Policy**; presented by Finance Minister **Bijendra Prasad Yadav**.

- **GSDP 2024-25: ₹9,91,997 crore** (current prices); **₹5,31,372 crore** (2011-12 constant prices).
- **Growth 2024-25: 13.1%** (current) · **8.6%** (constant) — vs India's 9.8% / 6.5%. **Bihar grew 3.3 percentage points faster** than the nation.
- **Per-capita GSDP (current):** rose to **₹76,490** (2024-25) from ₹46,412 (2020-21) — but still below the national average.
- **Highest per-capita district: Patna** (₹2,41,220), then Begusarai, then Munger.
- Prior years' current-price growth: **17.9% (2022-23), 14.9% (2023-24)**. Projected GSDP 2025-26 ≈ **₹10.97 lakh crore**.

The most revealing fact in the whole Survey is a mismatch — and it is the essay-ready heart of Bihar's story. **More than half of Bihar's workers still depend on agriculture, yet agriculture produces less than a fifth of the state's output.** Services and industry produce far more with far fewer hands. That gap is *exactly* what “development” means in Bihar: moving people from low-value farm work into higher-value jobs.

BIHAR'S GREAT MISMATCH — SHARE OF OUTPUT vs SHARE OF WORKERS



Agriculture: half the workers, a fifth of the output. Services: a fifth of the workers, over half the output. That gap IS the development task.

The one Bihar chart worth memorising. It explains migration, the jobs deficit, and every welfare scheme at once.

THE BUDGETS — PLAN SIDE (CONFIRM THE LATEST FOR YOUR CYCLE)

Bihar Budget 2025-26 (presented 3 March 2025 by then-Dy-CM & FM **Samrat Choudhary** — the same man who became CM in 2026): size **≈ ₹3.17 lakh crore**; **Education the top allocation at ₹60,964 crore**; Health **≈ ₹20,335 cr**; Rural Development **≈ ₹16,193 cr**; Energy **≈ ₹13,483 cr**. Women's schemes: **Pink Buses, Mahila Haat, Pink Toilets, Kanya Vivah Mandaps**, 33% women's quota in state transport. The Budget has grown roughly **15×** since **2005-06** (₹22,568 cr).

Bihar Budget 2026-27 (the newest): Education again highest at **₹68,216 crore**; guided by the **Saat Nischay-3 (2025-30)** roadmap (double per-capita income, 1 crore jobs); launches the **Jannayak Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Nidhi** (₹3,000/yr to farmers, on top of PM-Kisan's ₹6,000); five new expressways.

Bihar's economic signature (Prelims MCQs + Essay fuel)

- **Makhana** (fox-nut — Bihar grows ~90% of India's; think the new **National Makhana Board, Purnea, Ch IX**), **litchi**, and a fast-growing food-processing, fisheries & dairy base.
- **Migration & remittances** — out-migration for labour is a defining feature: a strength (money sent home) and a symptom (jobs deficit) at once. This is the human face of the mismatch chart above.
- **Ethanol/biofuel policy, renewable energy, an electronics/semiconductor push, and expressway/logistics corridors** as the new growth engines.
- Social-sector focus: female literacy, health indicators, multidimensional poverty, skilling (**DDU-GKY, RSETI**).

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Bihar grows fast in percentage terms yet ranks low on per-capita income — reconcile it (base effect, population, structure). **2.** Why is migration simultaneously an asset and an alarm? **3.** Pick two Budget priorities and argue how each targets a specific Bihar development gap — a ready Mains paragraph.

The Traveller's Toolkit

Some things you don't narrate — you pack. But every tool has a story of use.

General Science is the compass, the flint, and the map in your bag — usually the **single largest static block on the paper (~25-30 questions)**, and the most answerable straight from NCERT. Older notes reduce it to a list. We won't: each tool below comes with a **scene you can picture**, because a fact you can *see* is a fact you keep. BPSC's tilt is **Biology > Physics ≈ Chemistry**, with a strong appetite for everyday and in-the-news science.

Biology — study this first, study it most

Think of the human body as the traveller themselves — a set of systems that must all keep working on the road. Learn each system as **organ → job → what fails**:

SYSTEM	KEY ORGANS	ITS ONE JOB — AND THE FAILURE EXAMINERS TEST
Digestive	mouth, stomach, small intestine, liver, pancreas	Break food into absorbable nutrients. (Liver makes bile; pancreas makes insulin.)
Circulatory	heart, blood, arteries/veins	Carry oxygen & nutrients. Heart has 4 chambers; arteries carry <i>away</i> from the heart.
Respiratory	lungs, trachea, diaphragm	Exchange O ₂ for CO ₂ in the alveoli.
Excretory	kidneys, ureters, bladder	Filter blood, remove waste as urine. (Failure → dialysis.)
Nervous	brain, spinal cord, nerves	Sense & command. Neuron = the signal cell.
Endocrine	thyroid, pancreas, adrenal, pituitary	Chemical control via hormones (insulin, thyroxine, adrenaline).
Skeletal	206 bones (adult)	Support, movement, protection; marrow makes blood cells.

Nutrition & deficiency is near-guaranteed. Do not merely read this table — rebuild it from memory. The chemical names and the deficiency diseases are the two columns BPSC asks:

VITAMINS — NAME & DEFICIENCY (one breath)		
Vitamin	Chemical name	Deficiency disease
A	Retinol	Night blindness
B1	Thiamine	Beriberi
B3	Niacin	Pellagra
B12	Cobalamin	Pernicious anaemia
C	Ascorbic acid	Scurvy
D	Calciferol	Rickets (bones)
E	Tocopherol	Reproductive/antioxidant
K	Phylloquinone	Poor blood clotting

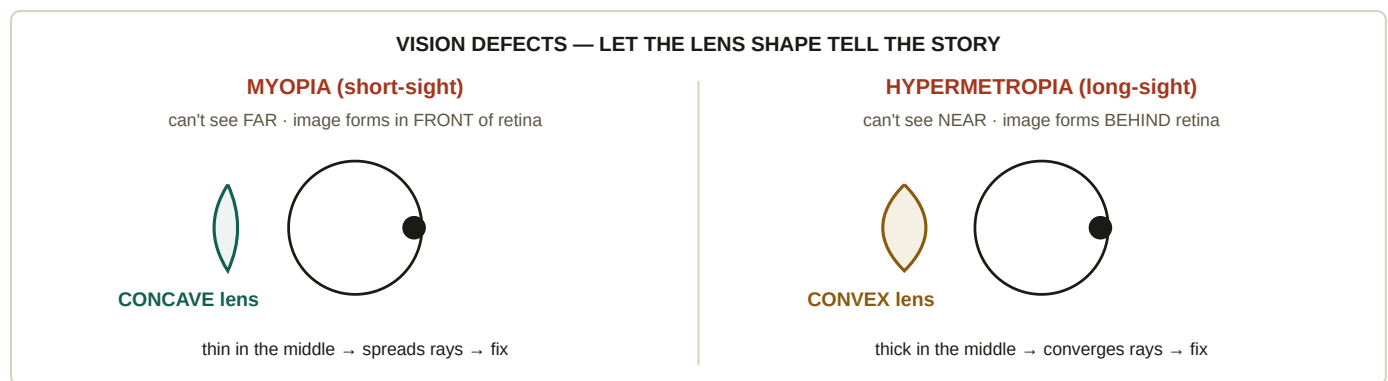
The vitamin table — arguably the highest-frequency single science fact set in the exam.

Blood & transfusion: group **O-negative** is the universal **donor**; **AB-positive** is the universal **recipient**. **Diseases** are easiest to hold when classified by cause — **bacterial** (TB, cholera, typhoid), **viral** (dengue, hepatitis, COVID-19), **protozoal** (malaria, kala-azar — a Bihar-relevant one), **deficiency** (the table above). **Immunity & vaccines** link straight to current affairs. Round it off with **cell & genetics** (DNA/RNA, chromosomes, Mendel's ratios) and **plant physiology** (photosynthesis, respiration, plant hormones).

Physics — think in everyday pictures

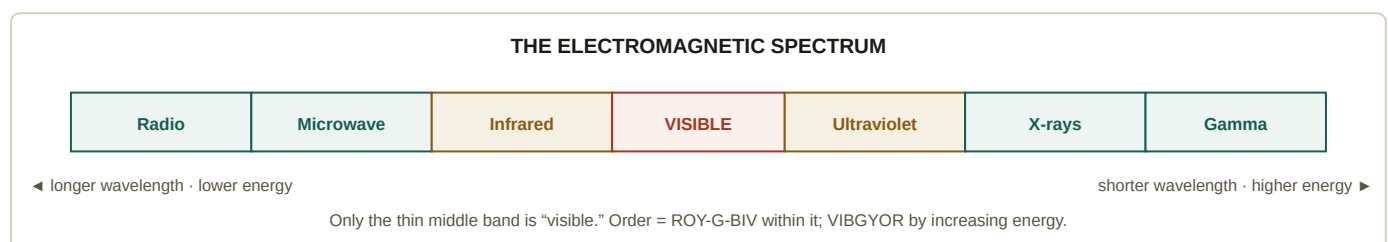
Anchor each idea to a scene you can see. A bus braking throws you forward — that's **inertia** (Newton's first law). A rocket rises because exhaust pushes down — **action-reaction** (third law). You weigh less on the Moon because **gravity** is weaker there. A cooking pot spreads heat by **conduction**, boiling water by **convection**, and the Sun warms you across empty space by **radiation**.

The richest vein is **light**. Two vision defects appear again and again — and the trick is to picture the lens shape fixing the fault:



Myopia → concave; hypermetropia → convex. Picture the shape, never memorise blind.

Why is the **sky blue** and the **sunset red**? Sunlight scatters off air molecules, and blue (short wavelength) scatters most — so the day-sky is blue, and at sunset, with light travelling a longer path, only the reds survive (**Rayleigh scattering**). Round off physics with **sound** (echoes, ultrasound), **electricity & magnetism** (the household circuit, fuses, transformers), and **modern physics** (atomic structure, radioactivity, half-life). Light itself is one band of a larger family — the electromagnetic spectrum:



One family, seven bands. Energy rises left → right; visible light is only a sliver.

Chemistry — the fact-dense corner

Chemistry is where the traveller reads labels. Start with **matter & states**, **atomic structure**, the **periodic table** (periods, groups, trends), and **bonding** (ionic vs covalent). Then the two topics BPSC returns to: the **pH scale** and **alloys**.

THE pH SCALE (0–14)

ACIDIC (0–6)			7 · NEUTRAL	BASIC / ALKALINE (8–14)	
lemon (2)	vinegar (3)	rain (5.6)	pure water (7)	baking soda (9)	lye (13)

Lower than 7 = acid · exactly 7 = neutral · above 7 = base. Each step is ten times stronger.

Fix the anchors — 0 acid, 7 neutral, 14 base — and any pH MCQ becomes easy.

ALLOYS — MEMORISE THE COMPOSITIONS

Brass = Copper + Zinc. Bronze = Copper + Tin. Steel = Iron + Carbon. Stainless steel = Iron + Chromium + Nickel. (Solder = Tin + Lead; Amalgam = a metal + Mercury.)

Close chemistry with **metals vs non-metals**, **carbon compounds** (hydrocarbons — the backbone of fuels and plastics), and **everyday chemistry**: fertilisers, soaps & detergents, polymers, and common gases (CO₂, the greenhouse gas; O₂; N₂).

Science & technology in the news (the bridge to Current Affairs)

BPSC loves “in-news” science. Keep crisp one-liners — **what · when · why it matters** — on: **ISRO** (recent launches & missions), **DRDO** (indigenous missiles/systems), nuclear & space, **IT / AI / digital public infrastructure**, and health & biotech breakthroughs. This is where the “static” toolkit meets the “live” chapter (IX).

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Rebuild the vitamin → deficiency table from memory before re-reading it. **2.** List ten “everyday physics” phenomena that recur across PYQs (blue sky, mirage, cooling by evaporation, red sunset...). **3.** For every recent ISRO/DRDO headline, can you say in one sentence what it *does*?

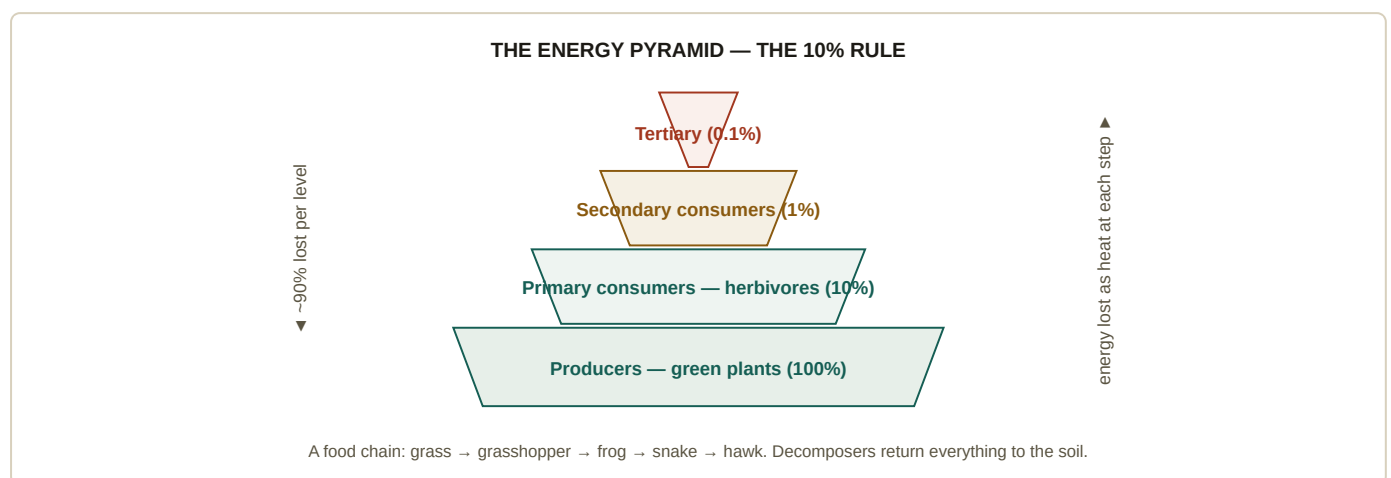
The Living World & Its Balance

We opened with the land as a stage; we close it as a living system under strain

The same plain that hosted empires is a **living system** — one that Bihar's floods, the Ganga's health, and a warming planet are all straining at once. Environment is a rising slice of the paper, and it overlaps beautifully with Current Affairs and Bihar. A small subject with cheap marks — if you track the news.

The fundamentals — how nature keeps its books

An **ecosystem** runs on a one-way flow of energy and a cycling of matter. Energy enters as sunlight, is captured by **producers** (green plants), passes to **consumers** (herbivores, then carnivores), and is returned to the soil by **decomposers**. The iron law: **only about 10% of the energy at one level passes up to the next** — which is why food chains are short and top predators are few.



Why top predators are rare: nine-tenths of the energy is lost at every step up.

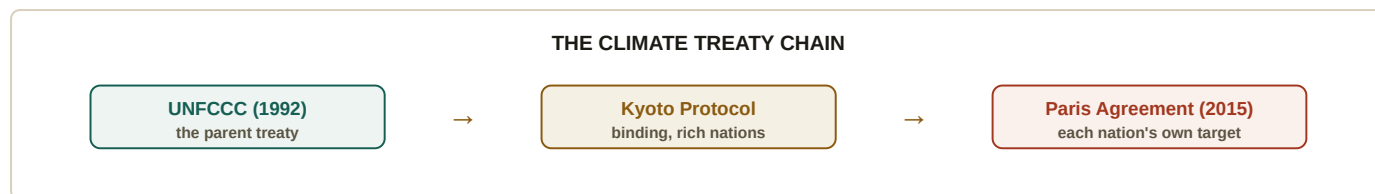
Matter, unlike energy, is **recycled** through **biogeochemical cycles** — the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, the water cycle. And life's variety is measured as **biodiversity** at three levels — **species, genetic, and ecosystem** — concentrated in **biodiversity hotspots** (India has several, including the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalaya). **Endemic** species live nowhere else, which is why hotspots matter so much.

The conservation framework (India)

- **Protected areas:** National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Biosphere Reserves; flagship programmes **Project Tiger** (and tiger reserves) and **Project Elephant**.
- **Ramsar sites** (wetlands of international importance) — India's list keeps growing; **Kanwar/Kabartal (Begusarai) is Bihar's Ramsar site**.
- **Key laws:** the **Wildlife (Protection) Act**, the **Forest (Conservation) Act**, and the **Environment (Protection) Act** (the umbrella law, passed after the 1984 Bhopal disaster).
- **Institutions:** **MoEFCC** (the ministry), the **NGT** (National Green Tribunal — the environmental court), and the **CPCB/SPCBs** (pollution control boards).

Climate change & India's stance

The global effort runs on a chain of agreements. The **UNFCCC** (1992, the parent treaty) leads to the **Kyoto Protocol** (binding cuts for rich nations) and then the **Paris Agreement** (2015, where every country sets its own targets). Nations meet each year at the **COP**; the science is assessed by the **IPCC**.



UNFCCC → Kyoto → Paris. Add “COP meets yearly; IPCC assesses the science.”

INDIA'S PLEDGES — MEMORISE THE SET

Net-Zero by 2070; the “**Panchamrit**” five commitments (Glasgow); **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment); the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, co-founded by India. Also recognise three more conventions: **CBD** (biodiversity), **CITES** (trade in endangered species), and the **Montreal Protocol** (ozone layer).

The Bihar angle

Bihar makes the abstract concrete. **Floods & river ecology** — the Kosi problem is ecological, not just a relief emergency. **Namami Gange** — cleaning the river that built the state. **Wetland conservation** at Kabartal. Solar and renewable expansion; urban air quality in Patna; afforestation drives. And a neat crossover fact: the **reborn Nalanda University is a “Net-Zero” green campus** (Chapter IX) — environment meeting history in one sentence.

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Why do Ramsar-site and new-tiger-reserve notifications reliably surface in Prelims? **2.** Frame Bihar's floods as an ecological-and-engineering problem, not a seasonal emergency. **3.** Tie one climate term (Panchamrit / LiFE / Net-Zero-2070) to a concrete Bihar action.

The Chapter Still Being Written

Every story we've told is still going — run it as a system, not a scrapbook

In **June 2024**, near the ruins Bakhtiyar Khilji burned in 1193, a **new Nalanda University** opened its doors. And in **November 2025**, the state that birthed India's first republic delivered a landslide and, months later, its **first-ever BJP Chief Minister**. Eight centuries and two-and-a-half millennia later, the story's threads are still live. Current Affairs is the **biggest, most volatile slice** of the paper — and its tie-breaker.

How to run current affairs (method, not hoarding)

- **One national monthly + one Bihar-special monthly + a daily habit** (newspaper/PIB). Don't drown in five sources.
- Make one-line notes: **what · when · who · why it matters**.
- Window: roughly the **last 12-14 months** before the exam, weighted to the most recent six.
- **Golden rule**: link every item to a *static* concept and, where possible, to **Bihar**. BPSC's "current" trigger usually tests a static idea in disguise.

National buckets to track

Polity/governance (major bills, landmark SC judgments, new schemes, key appointments); economy (Union Budget & Survey headline numbers, RBI moves, big reports & indices); science & tech (ISRO/DRDO, AI, digital public infrastructure); environment (COP outcomes, new Ramsar/protected areas); international (India's summits & groupings — **G20, BRICS, QUAD, SCO**); plus awards, sports, defence exercises, and major obituaries.

Bihar current-affairs anchors — the spine to memorise

BIHAR POLITICS — THE 2025 TURN (HIGH-YIELD, BUT VERIFY THE SITTING CABINET)

- **2025 Assembly election** (voting 6 & 11 Nov; results 14 Nov 2025): the **NDA won a landslide — 202 of 243 seats**; the RJD-led **Mahagathbandhan** took just 35.
- **BJP became the single largest party** in the Bihar Assembly for the first time; RJD fell to third.
- **Nitish Kumar (JD-U)** took oath as CM for a record **10th time (20 Nov 2025)**.
- In **April 2026**, Nitish Kumar moved to the **Rajya Sabha**; his deputy **Samrat Choudhary (BJP)** was sworn in as **Chief Minister on 15 April 2026** — Bihar's **first-ever BJP Chief Minister** (the 24th CM).
- Also note the pre-poll **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls — a live polity/CA topic in its own right.

Political specifics move fast — re-verify the sitting CM, deputies, and cabinet from a recent source just before your exam.

2025 BIHAR ASSEMBLY — 243 SEATS



Majority mark = 122. A landslide — and, for the first time, BJP as the single largest party.

The 2025 seat share. NDA 202 · MGB 35 — the scale of the mandate is itself an MCQ.

NALANDA REBORN — A GUARANTEED FAVOURITE

- New **Nalanda University campus inaugurated 19 June 2024 at Rajgir**, by the PM.
- A **Net-Zero “green” campus**; built with **East Asia Summit** countries (an **Act East** initiative); envoys of **17 nations** attended.
- Established by an **Act of Parliament (2010)**; the **President of India is the Visitor**; a postgraduate research university. The revival idea was floated by **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**.
- The ancient ruins are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2016)**. Loss (1193) → revival (2024): the loop the whole book is named for.

BIHAR DEVELOPMENT & ECONOMY ANCHORS

- **National Makhana Board** — inaugurated by the PM in **Purnea, Bihar, on 15 Sept 2025** (announced in the Union Budget 2025-26); HQ Purnea; a **₹476-crore** package. Bihar grows ~90% of India's makhana.
- **Union Budget 2025-26 for Bihar**: the Makhana Board; a **National Institute of Food Technology** (under “Purvodaya”); IIT Patna expansion; greenfield airports; and the **Western Kosi Canal** project (Mithilanchal, ~50,000 ha).
- The **Economic Survey 2025-26 & the Budget figures** (Chapter VI) — near-certain marks.
- Watch for **reports & rankings** placing Bihar (health, education, agriculture, ease-of-living) — note the rank *and* the metric.

Bihar's GI tags & cultural signatures (a one-liner factory)

Shahi Litchi (Muzaffarpur), **Mithila Makhana**, **Jardalu mango** (Bhagalpur), **Katarni rice**, **Magahi Paan**, **Madhubani/Mithila painting**, and **Bhagalpuri Tussar silk** — each a GI-tagged product that doubles as a culture question.

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** For every scheme you learn, ask: which Fundamental Right / DPSP — or which development gap — does it serve? **2.** Build a one-page Bihar CA sheet you can revise in 15 minutes on exam morning. **3.** Which five Bihar developments this year could become *Essay* topics, not just MCQs?

Numbers & Reason

Not every gate needs a saga — a modest slice, high-accuracy for low effort

Maths and reasoning are the **quiet points** — a modest slice of the paper, pitched at a basic level, and therefore **high-accuracy for low effort**. Master a fixed toolkit of shortcuts, practise under the clock, then redirect your hours to Tier-1. Do *not* fall in love with hard problems here; the marginal mark lives elsewhere.

Quant — drill only these ~8–10

- Number system
- Percentages
- Ratio & proportion
- Profit & loss
- Simple & compound interest
- Time-speed-distance
- Time & work
- Averages
- Basic mensuration

Reasoning — the recurring types

- Series & analogy
- Coding-decoding
- Blood relations
- Direction sense
- Syllogism
- Calendar & clock
- Simple seating arrangement

Data interpretation (DI) — tables, bar/pie/line charts — appears reliably, and note that **Bihar-data-based statistical questions** come straight from the Economic Survey.

THE SMARTEST PRACTICE TIP IN THIS CHAPTER

Practise DI on the actual Bihar Economic Survey tables. You rehearse graph-reading and memorise exam-relevant Bihar data at the same time — two subjects, one drill. (Recall the mismatch chart in Chapter VI: that is a DI question waiting to happen.)

THINK ABOUT THIS 1. Which 8–10 quant chapters cover ~90% of BPSC's maths? Drill only those to speed. **2.** Time yourself: what's your accurate attempt-rate per minute on reasoning? Raise it, then stop.

The Bihar Spine

Finite, repetitive, under-contested — the highest return on effort in the whole exam

Everything in this book has leaned on Bihar; here the Bihar-specific facts are **gathered in one place** for revision. This is the exam's **crown jewel**: ~15-22 Prelims questions, heavy weight in GS-II and the interview, and content most candidates under-prepare. Own this chapter and you move up the list.

The name itself carries the story: **“Bihar” comes from “Vihara”** — the Buddhist monasteries that dotted the land — hardening into a regional name around the 12th century. And everything sorts neatly into **three culture-regions**:

BIHAR'S THREE CULTURE-REGIONS — THE FRAME FOR EVERYTHING

MAGADHA
South Bihar · Patna/Gaya/Rajgir
cradle of the empires
Rajgir → Pataliputra

MITHILA
North-east + Nepal Terai
Janaka · Sita · Maithili
Madhubani painting

BHOJPUR
West-central Bihar
Bhojpuri · folk culture
resistance (Kunwar Singh)

Sort every Bihar fact — a king, a painting, a battle — into one of these three, and it stays put.

“FIRSTS” IN BIHAR — MEMORISE		STATE SYMBOLS & MARKERS	
First CM	Sri Krishna Sinha (“Bihar Kesari”)	State animal	Gaur (Indian bison)
First Dy CM	Anugrah Narayan Sinha	State bird	House Sparrow
First President of India	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (from Bihar)	State tree	Peepal
First Governor	Jairamdas Daulatram	State flower	Kachnar
First woman Governor	Rama Devi (1999)	State fish	Mangur (verify)
First BJP CM	Samrat Choudhary (2026)	Language	Hindi (Urdu 2nd official; Maithili in the 8th Schedule)
Ancient first capital	Rajgir (Girivraja)	Bihar Diwas	22 March (formation, 1912)
Oldest modern university	Patna University (1917)	High Court	Patna HC, est. 1916

ANCIENT BIHAR SITES — THE MAP IN YOUR HEAD

Bodh Gaya	Buddha's enlightenment (Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO site)
Vaishali	World's first republic; Mahavira born nearby (Kundagram)
Nalanda	Ancient university; UNESCO WHS 2016; reborn 2024
Vikramshila	Bhagalpur; founded by the Pala king Dharmapala
Kumhrar	Mauryan 80-pillar hall (Patna)
Sasaram	Sher Shah Suri's tomb
Takht Sri Patna Sahib	Birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh

THE BIHAR EDGE, IN ONE LINE

Every other candidate can learn national GK. **Bihar Special is where the prepared separate themselves** — in Prelims, in GS-II, and in the interview. Treat this chapter as your competitive moat, and revise it until it's reflex.

The Written Test & the Conversation

Prelims asks if you recognise the answer; Mains asks if you can compose one

Everything you gathered on the journey now has to flow from your pen in three-hour bursts, and then from your mouth across a table. This is where ranks are truly made — and where the **Bihar layer, widely under-prepared, becomes your sharpest edge.**

The five papers, in one breath

General Hindi (100, qualifying) · **GS I** (300) · **GS II** (300) · **Essay** (300) · **Optional** (300, objective & qualifying — required only for certain posts). **Merit = GS I + GS II + Essay (900) + Interview (120) = 1020.**

GS Paper I — content priorities

- **Modern history of India & Bihar** — the freedom struggle with Bihar woven throughout (Champaran, 1857/Kunwar Singh, JP).
- **Indian culture & Bihar's contribution** — art, architecture, literature, the great universities.
- **Statistical analysis & graphs** — interpret and present data; rehearse on Bihar Survey tables.

GS Paper II — content priorities

- **Polity, governance & Bihar's political system** — the bicameral legislature, Panchayati Raj with women's reservation.
- **Indian & Bihar economy** — national concepts anchored to Bihar's Survey/Budget data.
- **Role & impact of science & technology** — including Bihar's tech/agri-tech push.

Where ranks are made: Bihar-specific content carries heavy weight in GS II and is widely under-prepared. Own it and you move up the list.

THE ESSAY PAPER (300, NEWLY ADDED) — TREAT IT SERIOUSLY

Likely multiple essays across sections (verify the exact format). Theme clusters: **Bihar's development & society, governance, economy, education/women/youth, environment/agriculture, ethics & nation-building**, plus topical national issues. Structure: crisp intro (define/context) → multi-dimensional body (political / economic / social / environmental / administrative) → forward-looking conclusion. **Your edge:** deploy Bihar-specific examples & data (Survey/Budget, Nalanda, Champaran, makhana, migration) to stand out from generic essays. Write one essay a week and get it reviewed.

The answer-writing framework (all descriptive GS)

- **Decode the directive:** *discuss / examine / critically analyse / evaluate* each demand a different shape — respect it.
- **Structure every answer:** intro → labelled dimensions → balanced, solution-oriented conclusion.
- **Substantiate:** facts, data, constitutional articles, scheme names — Bihar examples are the differentiator.
- **Presentation:** short paragraphs, occasional keyword underlining, a diagram/flowchart/map where it helps; strict time-per-question discipline.

- **Practice beats reading:** answer-writing is a motor skill. Simulate full papers.

General Hindi (100, qualifying) — don't trip

Typically grammar (Sandhi, Samas, Karak), essay/precis, translation, letter/application, and comprehension (verify components). You need only **~30%** — but failing it **disqualifies** you. Targeted grammar revision + a few timed sets; don't over-invest, don't neglect.

The interview (120) — cheap, high-leverage

The board reads **personality, clarity, administrative aptitude, and Bihar awareness**. Know your **DAF** cold — home district (geography, history, issues, famous people), your graduation subject, your hobbies. Own Bihar's issues — floods, migration, agriculture, education, women's empowerment — with a balanced, solution-oriented stance. At ~12-15% of merit, this stage moves ranks.

THINK ABOUT THIS **1.** Take one national topic and rewrite its conclusion using a Bihar example — that's the Mains edge in miniature. **2.** Draft three essay skeletons on Bihar themes now, before you're under pressure. **3.** Can you speak for two minutes on your home district's biggest development challenge — and a fix?

The Rhythm & the Field Kit

A river doesn't cut the plain in one flood — it does it by flowing every day

Preparation is a **rhythm, not a sprint of heroics**. Below is a workable macro-plan, the daily current-affairs loop, the exam-hall protocol, and — the thing to photograph and keep — a one-page **Field Kit**.

A workable macro-plan

- **Phase 1 — Foundation:** NCERTs + one book per subject; begin Bihar static; start daily CA. Finish each subject with its PYQs.
- **Phase 2 — Consolidation:** second reading + notes; deepen Bihar static + Survey/Budget; begin weekly full-length Prelims mocks with E-marking, OMR & timing.
- **Phase 3 — Prelims sprint (~45 days):** revise notes only; daily mock + analysis; hammer Bihar + CA + Science; drill the Option-E rule.
- **Post-Prelims → Mains (~3 months):** daily answer-writing, one essay a week, Bihar-centric GS II, Hindi practice; build the fact/quote/data bank.
- **Pre-interview:** DAF prep + Bihar issues + mock interviews.

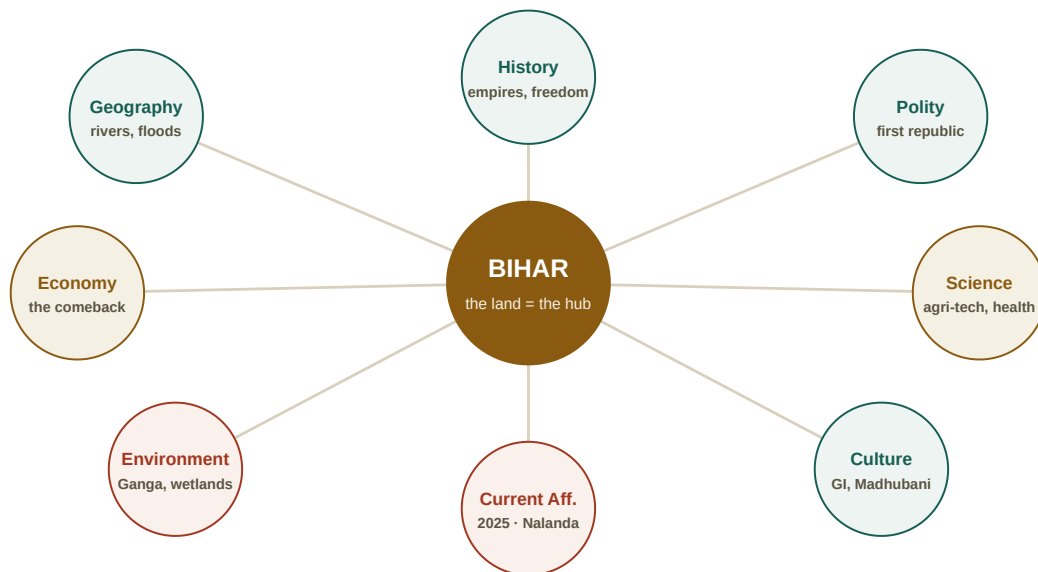
The current-affairs loop & exam-hall protocol

- **Daily (30-45 min):** one newspaper/PIB → one-line notes, bucketed by subject.
- **Monthly:** consolidate into one national + one Bihar compilation; do MCQs.
- **Two passes in the hall:** certain answers first, then eliminate-2-or-mark-E.
- **Reserve 10-15 min** so every question is shaded — an answer or E, never blank.
- Check the **set/booklet code** and bubble accuracy before you hand in.

Why this works — the whole book on one diagram

The thesis of this Codex is that the syllabus is not ten islands but **one connected map, and Bihar is its hub**. That is not a study trick — it is literally how the marks cluster. Hold this web in mind and every fact has a neighbour to hang onto:

THE CONNECTIONS WEB — EVERYTHING THROUGH BIHAR



The syllabus is one map. Learn Bihar well and every other subject has a handle.

The Field Kit — one page, exam-morning revision

MASTER MNEMONICS

- **Plain layers:** Bhabar-Terai-Bhangar-Khadar
- **Dynasties:** Ba-Ha-Shi-Na-Ma ... Gupta, Pala
- **Art:** Gandhara (grey) · Mathura (red) · Amaravati (white)
- **Nalanda:** burned 1193 → reborn 2024
- **Statehood:** 1912 born · 1936 Odisha · 2000 Jharkhand
- **3 articles:** 32 (writs) · 44 (UCC) · 21 (life)
- **Lenses:** Myopia → concave; Hypermetropia → convex
- **Rivers:** N-bank flood (Kosi); S-bank Son

KEY ARTICLES & AMENDMENTS

14 / 19 / 21	equality / freedoms / life
32 / 44 / 51A	writs / UCC / duties
108 / 356 / 368	joint sitting / Pres. Rule / amend
42 / 44 (Amdt)	mini-constitution / undo emergency
73-74 / 101 / 103	PRIs / GST / EWS

EVERYDAY SCIENCE

Myopia / Hyper.	concave / convex
Blue sky, red sunset	Rayleigh scattering
pH	0 acid · 7 neutral · 14 base
Brass / Bronze	Cu+Zn / Cu+Sn
Steel / Stainless	Fe+C / Fe+Cr+Ni
Donor / Recipient	O- / AB+

BIHAR FIRSTS & SYMBOLS

1st CM	Sri Krishna Sinha (Bihar Kesari)
Pres. of India	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
1st woman Gov.	Rama Devi (1999)
Animal / Bird	Gaur / House Sparrow
Tree / Flower	Peepal / Kachnar
Ramsar / Park	Kabartal / Valmiki

BIHAR ECONOMY NUMBERS

Survey	2 Feb 2026 · FM B. P. Yadav
GSDP (current)	₹9,91,997 cr
Growth 24-25	13.1% cur · 8.6% const
Per-capita	₹76,490 (below national)
Budget top head	Education (₹60,964 cr → ₹68,216 cr)

BIHAR CURRENT AFFAIRS — VERIFY BEFORE EXAM

2025 poll	NDA 202 · MGB 35
CM (2026)	Samrat Choudhary — 1st BJP CM
Nalanda	Rajgir campus, 19 Jun 2024; Net-Zero
Makhana Board	Purnea, 15 Sep 2025

A LAST WORD

No single book replaces full subject reading — and the newest facts must always be re-checked against the official notification and a current source. But if you carry the *story*, the facts have somewhere to live. You now hold the arc: the land, the empires, the fire and its rebirth, the rulebook, the comeback, and the chapter still being written. Study in proportion to weight, drill closed-book, log every miss, and never leave a bubble blank. **Fire cannot burn knowledge — go and prove it.**