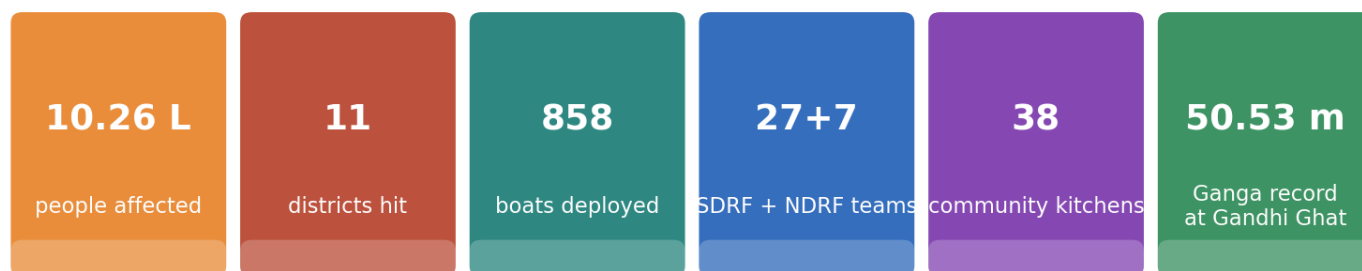


TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Ganga at Patna's Gandhi Ghat touches 50.53 m — 1 cm above the 2016 all-time record.
- Bihar floods hit 10.26 lakh people across 11 districts; 858 boats, 27 SDRF + 7 NDRF teams deployed.
- India's Q1 FY27 (Apr-Jun 2026) GDP grows 7.8%, beating RBI's 7% forecast.
- Union Cabinet approves 5 railway multi-tracking projects worth Rs 10,021 crore.
- Bihar Cabinet backs Rs 15,967 cr AI-monitored road upkeep and 400 new electric AC buses.
- Bihar seeks Rs 2,130 crore for Gaya-Bodhgaya and Nalanda-Rajgir heritage tourism.
- GI-tagged Mithila Makhana reaches Australia by sea for the first time.
- India-Japan air exercise Veer Guardian-2026 begins at Jodhpur (9-22 Sep).
- GalaxEye becomes first Indian startup to win a US patent for OptoSAR satellite imaging.
- Crude oil tops \$100 a barrel on West Asia tensions, pressuring India's import bill.

SECTION A · BIHAR SPECIAL (schemes · policy · administration · state economy)

BIHAR FLOOD 2026 — RESPONSE AT A GLANCE



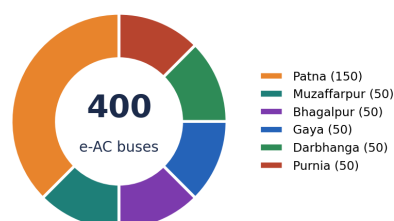
Ganga breaches all-time record at Patna; 10.26 lakh hit across 11 districts

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Disaster Mgmt)	
Syllabus Linkage	Bihar geography, rivers & flood management (Mains GS-II); Prelims: rivers, danger levels, HFL, disaster bodies.
Context	The Ganga crossed its highest-ever flood level at Patna as heavy upstream rain and dam releases swelled north Bihar's rivers, forcing mass evacuation and relief operations.
Key Facts	• Ganga at Gandhi Ghat, Patna: 50.53 m — 1 cm above the previous HFL of 50.52 m (Aug 2016). • 10.26 lakh people affected across 11 districts (Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Buxar, Samastipur, Munger, Katihar, Araria). • 858 boats, 27 SDRF teams and 7 NDRF teams deployed; 38 community kitchens running. • Rivers above danger mark: Gandak, Kosi (at Baltara), Burhi Gandak, Punpun, Ghaghara. • 12,300 polythene sheets and 2,250 dry-ration packets distributed; embankment patrolling ordered.
Way Fwd	Strengthen real-time flood forecasting, desilt the Kosi-Gandak system and enforce floodplain zoning to cut recurring losses.
Concept	HFL = Highest Flood Level ever recorded at a gauge; NDRF is under NDMA (DM Act, 2005), SDRF under the state.

Bihar Cabinet backs AI-monitored roads, 400 e-buses and a State AI Mission

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Governance)	
Syllabus Linkage	Bihar economy, infrastructure & governance, role of science & technology (Mains GS-II); Prelims: schemes, e-mobility.
Context	A recent Bihar Cabinet cleared a large infrastructure-and-technology package aimed at better roads, cleaner public transport and AI-led administration.
Key Facts	• Rs 15,967.03 crore sanctioned to maintain 19,305 km of roads over 7 years using AI/ML-based monitoring. • 400 electric AC buses approved for 12-year operation from FY 2026-27: 150 for Patna, 50 each for Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Darbhanga and Purnia. • State AI Mission approved with training and collaboration with IITs and C-DAC. • \$500 million World Bank loan cleared under the Urban Transformation Programme. • River-erosion protection funds for Shahpur, Sonpur and Vaishali.

New electric AC buses (FY 2026-27)



Way Fwd	Timely tendering and transparent AI dashboards will decide whether these outlays translate into durable roads and reliable e-bus services.
Concept	C-DAC = Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, under MeitY; a key public-sector R&D body for HPC and AI.

Bihar widens free JEE-NEET coaching to 700 model schools; honours 168 toppers**[SOCIETY]** BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Education & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Human resource development, education policy in Bihar (Mains GS-II); Prelims: state schemes & boards.
Context	The state expanded free competitive-exam coaching and rewarded board toppers, part of a wider push to raise Bihar's schooling and skilling outcomes.
Key Facts	- Free JEE and NEET coaching extended to 700 Saraswati Vidya Niketan / model schools. 168 top performers of the 2026 Intermediate and Matriculation exams honoured. - Rewards include cash awards, laptops and scholarships. - Aims to cut dependence on costly private coaching and stem out-migration of students.
Way Fwd	Sustained mentoring, quality teachers and digital labs are needed so coaching access converts into selections.
Concept	'Free coaching' schemes target equity of opportunity, aligning with Article 46 (educational upliftment of weaker sections).

Bihar seeks Rs 2,130 crore for Gaya-Bodhgaya and Nalanda-Rajgir heritage circuit**[BIHAR]** BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Bihar Culture & Heritage)

Syllabus Linkage	Indian culture & Bihar's role, heritage tourism (Mains GS-I); Prelims: Buddhist circuit, PRASHAD scheme.
Context	Bihar has pitched a large heritage-tourism package to the Centre to upgrade its Buddhist and pilgrimage circuit and boost tourism-led jobs.
Key Facts	Rs 2,130 crore plan: Rs 1,080 cr for Gaya-Bodhgaya and Rs 1,050 cr for Nalanda-Rajgir. Rs 12.16 crore for Simriya Ghat (Begusarai) under the PRASHAD scheme. - Bodhgaya to get a Heritage Haat and an international food court. - Targets 'national and international tourism destinations' and tourism-led local economy.

Bihar heritage tourism outlay

Way Fwd	Linking these sites via better roads, signage and homestays can convert footfall into durable rural incomes.
Concept	PRASHAD = Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (Ministry of Tourism).

GI-tagged Mithila Makhana reaches Australia by sea for the first time**[ECONOMY]** BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	Bihar agriculture, GI products & exports (Mains GS-II); Prelims: GI tags, Makhana Board.
Context	Bihar's famous fox nut crossed a new export milestone as GI-tagged Mithila Makhana was shipped to Australia by sea for the first time.
Key Facts	Mithila Makhana (fox nut) received its GI tag in 2022. - First-ever sea shipment to Australia, cutting freight cost versus air export. - A dedicated National Makhana Board anchors production, processing and branding. - Bihar accounts for the bulk of India's makhana output, concentrated in the Mithila region.
Way Fwd	Cold-chain, standardised grading and FPO-led aggregation can scale makhana into a stable export earner for farmers.
Concept	A GI (Geographical Indication) tag links a product to its origin under the GI of Goods Act, 1999.

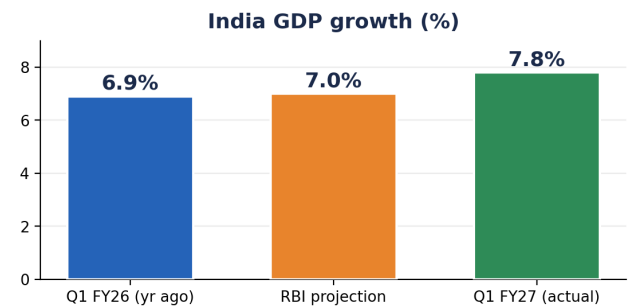
MITHILA MAKHANA — FROM POND TO GLOBAL MARKET

SECTION B · DATA POINT OF THE DAY

INDIA Q1 FY27 GDP GROWTH

7.8%

India's real GDP grew **7.8%** in **Q1 FY27 (Apr-Jun 2026)**, up from **6.9%** a year earlier and above the **RBI's 7% projection** — the fastest among major economies.



SECTION C · NATIONAL & WORLD (polity · economy · sci-tech · IR · defence)



Union Cabinet clears 5 railway multi-tracking projects worth Rs 10,021 crore

[ECONOMY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Infrastructure & Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Infrastructure, transport & the economy (Mains GS-II); Prelims: railways, PM Gati Shakti.
Context	The Union Cabinet approved five railway multi-tracking projects across five states to raise line capacity and speed up freight movement.
Key Facts	Five multi-tracking projects approved worth about Rs 10,021 crore. - Spread across five states to decongest key rail corridors. - Aim: higher capacity, faster freight and better logistics efficiency. - Aligned with PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy goals.
Way Fwd	Faster land acquisition and time-bound execution are key to realising the projected freight and capacity gains.
Concept	Multi-tracking (doubling/tripling) adds parallel lines to ease congestion and cut transit time.

India-Japan air exercise Veer Guardian-2026 begins at Jodhpur

[DEFENCE] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Security & International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	India's bilateral defence ties & internal-external security (Mains GS-II); Prelims: exercises, aircraft.
Context	The second edition of the India-Japan bilateral air exercise, Veer Guardian-2026, opened at Jodhpur to deepen air-combat interoperability.
Key Facts	Veer Guardian-2026 held at Jodhpur, Rajasthan from 9-22 September 2026. Second edition, following the first in Japan (2023). - IAF assets: LCA Tejas, Su-30 MKI and Rafale. - JASDF participation: 3 F-2A aircraft and 110 personnel.

VEER GUARDIAN-2026

India-Japan bilateral air exercise

Jodhpur venue (Rajasthan)

9-22 Sep 2026 window

Tejas / Su-30 / Rafale IAF assets

3 F-2A + 110 JASDF jets & personnel

Way Fwd	Regular joint drills bolster India-Japan defence trust within the wider Indo-Pacific security framework.
Concept	JASDF = Japan Air Self-Defense Force; such exercises build 'interoperability' between partner air forces.

GalaxEye becomes first Indian startup to win a US patent for OptoSAR imaging

[SCI-TECH] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Science & Technology)

Syllabus Linkage	Role & impact of science & technology (Mains GS-II); Prelims: space-tech, remote sensing.
Context	Bengaluru space-tech startup GalaxEye secured a US patent for its OptoSAR technology, a first for an Indian startup in this domain.
Key Facts	- GalaxEye (Bengaluru, founded 2021) won a US patent for OptoSAR. OptoSAR fuses optical + Synthetic Aperture Radar imaging in one system. - Works in all-weather, day-night conditions, unlike optical-only sensors. - Uses span national security, agriculture, infrastructure, maritime and disaster management.
Way Fwd	Homegrown dual-sensor satellites can reduce import dependence and strengthen India's Earth-observation stack.
Concept	SAR = Synthetic Aperture Radar; it images through clouds and darkness by using microwave signals.

India objects to UN map's depiction of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin

[IR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	India and its neighbourhood, boundary disputes (Mains GS-II); Prelims: borders, LAC, McMahon Line.
Context	India formally objected to a UN map's portrayal of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, reaffirming its sovereign territorial position.
Key Facts	- India protested the UN map's depiction of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin. - New Delhi reiterated Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. Aksai Chin remains under Chinese control but is claimed by India. - The boundary in the east follows the McMahon Line; the de-facto line is the LAC.
Way Fwd	Consistent diplomatic pushback on maps guards India's cartographic and sovereignty claims in multilateral forums.
Concept	LAC = Line of Actual Control, the de-facto India-China boundary; not a mutually delimited border.

Crude oil tops \$100 a barrel on West Asia tensions, pressuring India

[ECONOMY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Economy & Energy)

Syllabus Linkage	Indian economy, energy security & inflation (Mains GS-II); Prelims: crude, CAD, import basket.
Context	Global crude oil prices climbed above \$100 a barrel amid West Asia tensions, raising fresh concerns for import-dependent India.
Key Facts	- Crude oil crossed \$100 per barrel on Middle East / West Asia tensions. - India imports over 85% of its crude, so higher prices widen the import bill. - Costlier oil can push retail inflation and pressure the rupee and CAD. - Comes as India's July 2026 CPI hit 4.45%, a 19-month high, with food inflation at 5.52%.
Way Fwd	Diversified sourcing, strategic reserves and a faster energy transition cushion India against oil-price shocks.
Concept	CAD = Current Account Deficit; a rising oil bill worsens it by increasing the value of imports.

SECTION D · PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Q1. Ganga HFL at Patna's Gandhi Ghat (previous record): **50.52 m (Aug 2016)**; now **50.53 m**.

Q3. Army AASHVAST lab (DG EME, Delhi): detects **Chinese components** in drones via an air-gapped, read-only system.

Q5. GalaxEye (Bengaluru, 2021): first Indian startup with a **US patent** for **OptoSAR**.

Q2. DRDO SHIELD: S-band **High-Power Microwave** system using **Gallium Nitride (GaN)**, peak field min **3 kV/m**.

Q4. PM-SETU: new ITI-cluster investment **Rs 735.70 cr**; cumulative **Rs 2,171 cr** across **9 clusters**.

Q6. New lichen *Buellia maharajensis* found in **Mathikettan Shola NP, Kerala** (Western Ghats).

SECTION E · PRACTICE CORNER

Prelims Q1. With reference to Mithila Makhana, consider the following statements:

1. It received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022.
2. It is cultivated mainly in the Mithila region of Bihar.
3. A dedicated National Makhana Board has been set up for it.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only

(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (D) — Mithila Makhana got its GI tag in 2022, is grown mainly in Bihar's Mithila region, and is supported by a National Makhana Board — all three statements are correct.

Prelims Q2. The bilateral air exercise 'Veer Guardian-2026' is held between India and which one of the following countries?

(A) France

(B) Japan

(C) Australia

(D) United States

Ans: (B) — Veer Guardian is the India-Japan bilateral air exercise; the 2026 edition was held at Jodhpur, with the IAF flying Tejas, Su-30 MKI and Rafale, and the JASDF fielding F-2A aircraft.

Mains Practice. Recurring high-magnitude floods in north Bihar are as much a problem of governance and river management as of rainfall. Critically examine, with reference to the 2026 Ganga floods.

Hint: Discuss Kosi-Gandak sediment load and embankment failures, inter-state/Nepal water flows, HFL breaches at Patna, and remedies: flood forecasting, desilting, floodplain zoning, and NDRF/SDRF preparedness.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Ganga at 50.53 m sets a Patna flood record (10.26 lakh hit); Q1 FY27 GDP 7.8%; Rs 10,021 cr rail plan; Veer Guardian-2026 with Japan; Mithila Makhana sails to Australia.

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com** Research Team

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