CURRENT AFFAIRS — 19 November 2026

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Thursday, 19 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Nitish Setu** (Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur, Ganga) — PM to dedicate on **21 Nov**
- Bihar Cabinet (**18 Nov**) cleared **15 proposals**
- **Jamui** magnetite + **Banka** Cu-Pb-Zn blocks: VER **Rs 5,053 cr**
- **Buxar–Bhagalpur Expressway** DPR: **Rs 66.58 cr**, **13 districts**
- **Pirpainti** (Bhagalpur) power line: **Rs 493 cr/yr** for **35 yrs**
- **PMFBY** back in Bihar from **Rabi 2026-27**; apply till **15 Jan 2027**
- Census 2027 Bihar: self-enumeration **10–24 Jan**, door-to-door **25 Jan–28 Feb**
- **Barak** point-defence missile upgrade: **Rs 1,976.40 cr** with **IAI**
- First indigenous **H5N1** (Clade **2.3.2.1a**) chicken vaccine — **ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal**
- **Trump–Xi–Putin** first trilateral at **APEC, Shenzhen**

SECTION A — BIHAR SPECIAL: Schemes, Policy, Administration & State Economy

BIHAR — Where the 18 Nov Cabinet decisions & 21 Nov PM visit land

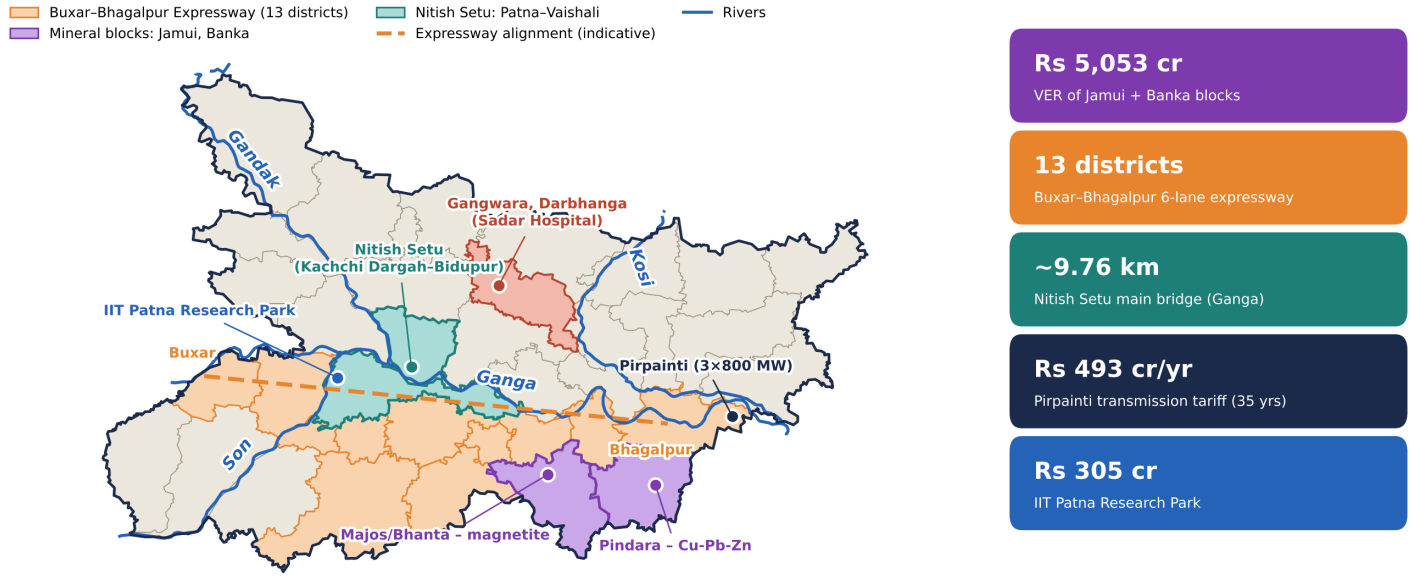


Fig. A1 — Bihar: Nitish Setu, 13-district expressway corridor, mineral blocks & other Cabinet sites (alignment indicative)

PM to dedicate six-lane 'Nitish Setu' (Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur) over the Ganga on 21 November

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Geography & Infrastructure)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **Bihar geography** (Ganga & diara belts), **infrastructure & connectivity**; Prelims: bridges over the Ganga, districts.
Context	CM **Samrat Choudhary** reviewed preparations for PM **Narendra Modi's 21 November** visit to **Vaishali**, where the PM will dedicate the **Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur bridge**, named **'Nitish Setu'** after former CM **Nitish Kumar**, and launch other projects.
Key Facts	● Links **Kachchi Dargah (Patna)** with **Bidupur (Vaishali)** via **Raghopur diara**; **six-lane**. ● Main bridge about **9.76 km**; about **19.76 km** with approach roads. ● Foundation laid **August 2015**; first phase (Kachchi Dargah–Raghopur) opened **23 June 2025**. ● Main venue: **Jafarpatti**, Jandaha–Rajapakar–Mahua industrial area (Vaishali).
Way Fwd	Decongests **Mahatma Gandhi Setu**; integrate with ring roads and riverfront logistics so **North–South Bihar** trade gains.
Concept	**Diara** = flood-prone riverine islands/belts of the Ganga. Other Patna Ganga bridges: **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** (Patna–Hajipur, 1982), **Digha–Sonpur (J.P. Setu)**, **Rajendra Setu** (Mokama).

Map: see Fig. A1 above

Cabinet clears e-auction of Jamui magnetite and Banka copper-lead-zinc blocks

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Resources)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **Bihar economy**, **mineral resources of Bihar**; Prelims: mineral-district matching.
Context	The **18 November** Cabinet chaired by CM **Samrat Choudhary** approved **15 proposals**, including e-auction of two mineral blocks in **South Bihar** expected to add significant non-tax revenue.
Key Facts	● **Jamui**: **Majos & Bhanta** magnetite (iron ore) blocks — VER **Rs 4,327 crore**. ● **Banka**: **Pindara** copper-lead-zinc block — VER **Rs 726 crore**. ● Bid security set at **5% of VER**; stone blocks **6 & 7** in **Gaya** allotted to **NHAI**. ● Solar panels: **5 kW** at ward water-supply units, **10 kW** on **Panchayat Sarkar Bhawans**.
Way Fwd	Ensure transparent auction, **DMF** spending in Jamui–Banka and eco-safeguards for forest/tribal belts.
Concept	**VER** (Estimated Value of Resources) = resource quantity × average price; basis for bids under the **MMDR Act, 1957** (auction regime since **2015**). Post-2000, most minerals went to **Jharkhand**.

Diagram: see Fig. A2 (six pillars of the 18 Nov Cabinet)



Fig. A2 — Bihar Cabinet (18 Nov 2026): the six pillars of decisions (see items A2–A4)

Rs 66.58-crore DPR approved for Buxar–Bhagalpur six-lane greenfield expressway

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Infrastructure)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **infrastructure & regional development of Bihar**; Prelims: districts on the corridor.
Context	The Cabinet sanctioned **Rs 66.58 crore** for the **Detailed Project Report** and transaction advisory of an east–west expressway across **South Bihar**.
Key Facts	● **Six-lane greenfield** corridor through **13 districts**: Buxar, Bhojpur, Arwal, Jehanabad, Gaya, Nalanda, Sheikhpura, Munger, Lakhisarai, Nawada, Jamui, Banka, Bhagalpur. ● Links **Purvanchal Expressway** (west) with **Raxaul–Haldia Expressway** (east). ● Passes the **Nalanda–Rajgir–Gaya** heritage belt and the mineral districts.
Way Fwd	Time-bound land acquisition and logistics parks along nodes to turn the road into an **economic corridor**.
Concept	**Greenfield** = built on a fresh alignment (not widening an old road). **DPR** = techno-economic blueprint (alignment, cost, viability) needed before sanction.

Pirpainti power evacuation, IIT Patna Research Park and treasury-payment UC relief cleared

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Energy, S&T, Governance)**

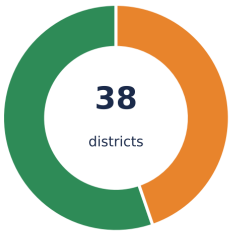
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **Bihar energy sector**, **role of S&T**, **financial administration**; Prelims: State Finance Commission.
Context	Alongside minerals and roads, the **18 November** Cabinet took energy, research and fiscal-governance decisions.
Key Facts	● **Adani Energy Solutions** selected for transmission line evacuating power from **3 × 800 MW** units at **Pirpainti (Bhagalpur)**; tariff **Rs 493 crore/yr** for **35 years**, then free transfer to **BSPTCL**. ● **IIT Patna Research Park** — **Rs 305 crore**; **CUBE, IIT Madras** as PMC. ● No separate **Utilisation Certificates** for salaries, pensions, DBT scholarships and FC grants to ULBs/PRIs. ● **7th State Finance Commission** tenure extended to **31 March 2027**.
Way Fwd	Link Pirpainti power with industrial clusters; make the research park an **incubation hub** for Bihar start-ups.
Concept	**SFC**: constituted every **5 years** under **Art. 243-I** (PRIs) and **243-Y** (ULBs) to recommend devolution of state funds. **BOOT/TBCB** = tariff-based competitive bidding for transmission.

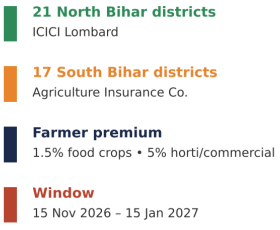
PMFBY returns to Bihar from Rabi 2026-27, replacing the state crop-assistance scheme

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Agriculture & Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **agriculture in Bihar's economy**, **welfare schemes**; Prelims: PMFBY premium rates.
Context	Bihar is rejoining **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** in place of the **Bihar Rajya Fasal Sahayata Yojana** (run since **2018**); enrolment opened **15 November**.
Key Facts	● **18 crops** covered incl. **5 horticulture**: mango, **litchi**, banana, jackfruit, guava. ● Farmer premium **1.5%** (food crops); **5%** or actuarial rate (commercial/horticulture). ● **Raiyat & non-Raiyat** farmers eligible; Farmer ID via **AgriStack**. ● Insurers: **ICICI Lombard** (21 North Bihar districts), **AIC** (17 South); window till **15 Jan 2027**.
Way Fwd	Faster claim settlement via **YES-TECH** remote sensing and wide enrolment of sharecroppers.
Concept	**PMFBY (2016)**: Rabi premium **1.5%**, Kharif **2%**, commercial/horti **5%**; voluntary for all farmers since **2020**. **Gair-Raiyat** = tenant/sharecropper without land title.

PMFBY returns to Bihar — Rabi 2026-27





Census 2027 in Bihar: self-enumeration 10–24 January, door-to-door from 25 January

BIHAR **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Statistics) & GS-II (Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-I: **statistical analysis/data**; GS-II: **governance**; Prelims: Census facts & Bihar demography.
Context	Revenue & Land Reforms Minister **Dilip Kumar Jaiswal** announced Bihar's schedule for the **population-enumeration** phase, following the Registrar General's notification.
Key Facts	● **Self-enumeration** online: **10–24 January 2027**. ● **Door-to-door** enumeration: **25 January – 28 February 2027**. ● Reference date: **1 March 2027 (00:00 hrs)**; first **digital Census**, with **caste enumeration**. ● Coordinated by the **Census Cell**, Revenue & Land Reforms Dept.

Way Fwd	Reach migrant workers and students outside Bihar; awareness drives in low-literacy blocks.
Concept	Census: **Union List (Entry 69)**, **Census Act, 1948**. Bihar 2011: **10.41 crore** population, density **1,106/km²** (highest), literacy **61.8%** (lowest).

Census 2027 in Bihar — Population Enumeration



Phase-1 (House-listing) done in 2026 • first digital Census • caste enumerated

'Ganna Vikas Rath-2026' flagged off to modernise sugarcane farming

BIHAR BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Agriculture & Industry)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **agro-industry of Bihar** (sugar belt of **Champaran**); Prelims: sugar policy.
Context	CM **Samrat Choudhary** flagged off sugarcane-development chariots on **17 November** to carry scheme information and modern practices to villages of major cane districts.
Key Facts	● Under **Bihar Sugarcane Industry Promotion Policy-2026**. ● Plan to revive **9 closed mills** and set up **25 new sugar mills**. ● Online portal for registration, subsidy and **digital payments**; **Champaran** as hub.
Way Fwd	Timely cane-price payment and **ethanol** linkage to make mills viable.
Concept	**FRP** (Fair & Remunerative Price) of cane is fixed by the **Centre** on **CACP** advice; **Champaran Satyagraha (1917)** was against **indigo** (tinkathia), not sugar.

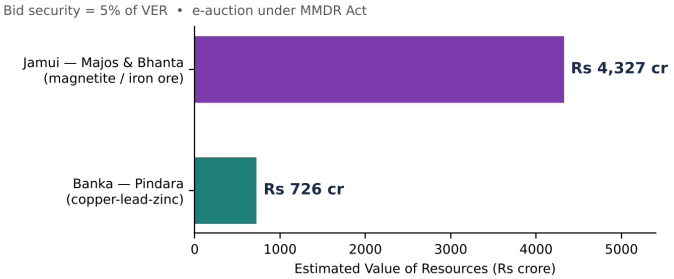
SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Rs 5,053 crore

Estimated Value of Resources (VER) of the Jamui + Banka mineral blocks cleared for e-auction

Jamui (Majos & Bhanta magnetite) **Rs 4,327 cr** + **Banka** (Pindara copper-lead-zinc) **Rs 726 cr**; bidders deposit **5% of VER** as security.

DATA POINT: Rs 5,053 cr of minerals for auction



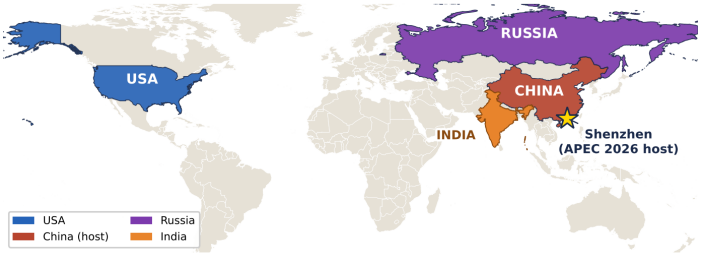
SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

Trump, Xi and Putin hold first-ever trilateral on APEC sidelines in Shenzhen

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **India and the world**, great-power relations; Prelims: **APEC** members and hosts.
Context	China hosts **APEC 2026** in **Shenzhen**; US President **Donald Trump**, President **Xi Jinping** and President **Vladimir Putin** meet in their first trilateral format.
Key Facts	● Focus: **nuclear arms control** after expiry of **New START** (Feb 2026), trade tensions, West Asia. ● Xi hailed **China–Russia ties** as a source of stability ahead of the meet. ● **India is not an APEC member** (observer aspirations since 1990s).
Way Fwd	India must hedge through **strategic autonomy** — Quad, SCO, BRICS — and guard against a G-3 condominium.
Concept	**APEC (1989)**: **21 member economies**, secretariat **Singapore**; non-binding, consensus-based. **New START (2010)**: US–Russia cap of **1,550** deployed warheads.

First-ever US-China-Russia trilateral at APEC



Rs 1,976.40-crore deal with IAI to upgrade Navy's Barak point-defence missile system

DEFENCE BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Role of S&T / Security)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **role of science & technology** in defence; Prelims: missiles, naval aviation.
Context	The **Ministry of Defence** signed the contract with **Israel Aerospace Industries** on **18 November** in New Delhi; the Navy also marked **50 years of Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR)**.
Key Facts	● Upgrade of hardware & software of **Barak point-defence** on warships; tackles **obsolescence**. ● Signed under **Other Capital Procurement** procedure. ● LRMR jubilee = golden jubilee of **INAS 312 'Albatross'**; **P-8I** at **INS Rajali (Arakkonam)** since **2013**.
Way Fwd	Push **co-development** and Make-in-India content in future air-defence buys.
Concept	**Barak-8/MRSAM** is jointly developed by **DRDO–IAI**; point defence = close-in protection of a single platform vs. area defence of a fleet.

India's first indigenous H5N1 bird-flu vaccine for chickens to be dedicated on 20 November

HEALTH BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (S&T, Agriculture-Livestock)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **role of S&T** in agriculture & animal husbandry; Prelims: zoonotic diseases.
Context	Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** will dedicate the vaccine at **ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal**, amid recurring avian-influenza outbreaks.
Key Facts	● **Inactivated** vaccine against **H5N1 Clade 2.3.2.1a** circulating in India. ● Developed by **ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases** (BSL-3+ lab). ● Aims to cut losses from **culling** and trade bans in the poultry sector.

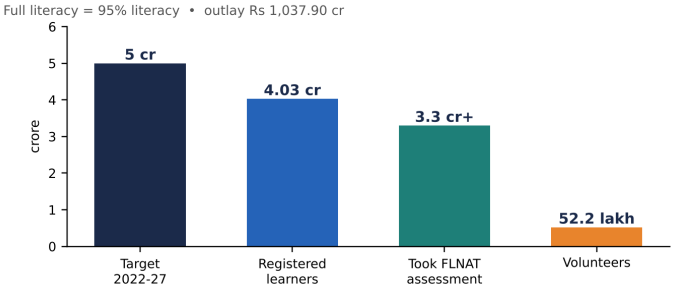
Way Fwd	Combine vaccination with **One Health** surveillance and farm biosecurity.
Concept	**H5N1** = highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), **zoonotic**. Inactivated vaccine = killed virus; cannot replicate. Bihar poultry hubs: Patna, Purnia, Vaishali.

11 States/UTs now 'fully literate' under ULLAS; adult-literacy drive gathers pace

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Social sector / Education)

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: **education & human development in Bihar**; Prelims: literacy data, schemes.
Context	Latest data show **11 States/UTs** have crossed the **95%** literacy mark under **ULLAS**, with **Madhya Pradesh** leading in the number of adult learners.
Key Facts	● Early achievers: **Ladakh** (first, 2024), **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh**. ● About **4.03 crore** learners registered; **3.3 crore+** took **FLNAT**; **52.2 lakh** volunteers. ● Target **5 crore** learners in **2022–27**; outlay **Rs 1,037.90 crore**.
Way Fwd	Bihar (lowest literacy in 2011) needs mission-mode adult literacy targeting **women** and **Mahadalit** tolas.
Concept	**ULLAS** = Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (**New India Literacy Programme**), for **15+** non-literates; aligned with **NEP 2020**. Full literacy = **95%**.

ULLAS — Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick Fact
Nitish Setu	Main span about **9.76 km**; links Patna–Vaishali via **Raghopur diara**
Bihar 7th SFC	Tenure extended to **31 March 2027**
Quad	First formal **joint military exercise** planned for **2027** (maritime surveillance)
NIA conference	Two-day **anti-terror** meet, New Delhi; theme '**Cross-Border Terrorism**'
Voyager 1	Launched **1977**; now about **one light-day** from Earth
Defence production	Crossed **Rs 1.80 lakh crore**; exports record **Rs 38,000 crore**

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following statements about 'Nitish Setu': 1. It connects Kachchi Dargah (Patna) with Bidupur (Vaishali). 2. It is built over the Gandak river. 3. It passes through the Raghopur diara. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) — The six-lane bridge is over the **Ganga**, not the Gandak; it links **Kachchi Dargah** with **Bidupur** via **Raghopur diara**.

Q2. Recently approved for e-auction, the Pindara block in Banka district of Bihar is associated with which minerals?

(a) Magnetite (iron ore)
(b) Copper-lead-zinc
(c) Limestone
(d) Mica

Answer: (b) — **Pindara (Banka)** = **copper-lead-zinc**, VER **Rs 726 cr**; **Majos & Bhanta (Jamui)** = **magnetite**, VER **Rs 4,327 cr**.

Mains Practice: After bifurcation in 2000, Bihar lost most of its mineral wealth. Discuss how the recent auction of mineral blocks in Jamui and Banka, along with the Buxar–Bhagalpur Expressway, can reshape the economy of South Bihar. (BPSC Mains GS-II, ~38 marks)
Hint: Intro: 2000 bifurcation & resource gap → Body: VER **Rs 5,053 cr**, royalty/DMF, jobs, expressway as **economic corridor** through **13 districts**, power from **Pirpainti** → Challenges: forests, tribal rights, land acquisition → Conclusion: **mineral-led cluster growth** with sustainability.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Nitish Setu = Ganga, Patna–Vaishali (21 Nov) | Jamui magnetite + Banka Cu-Pb-Zn = Rs 5,053 cr | Expressway = 13 districts | PMFBY back (1.5% Rabi) | Census: 10 Jan–28 Feb 2027

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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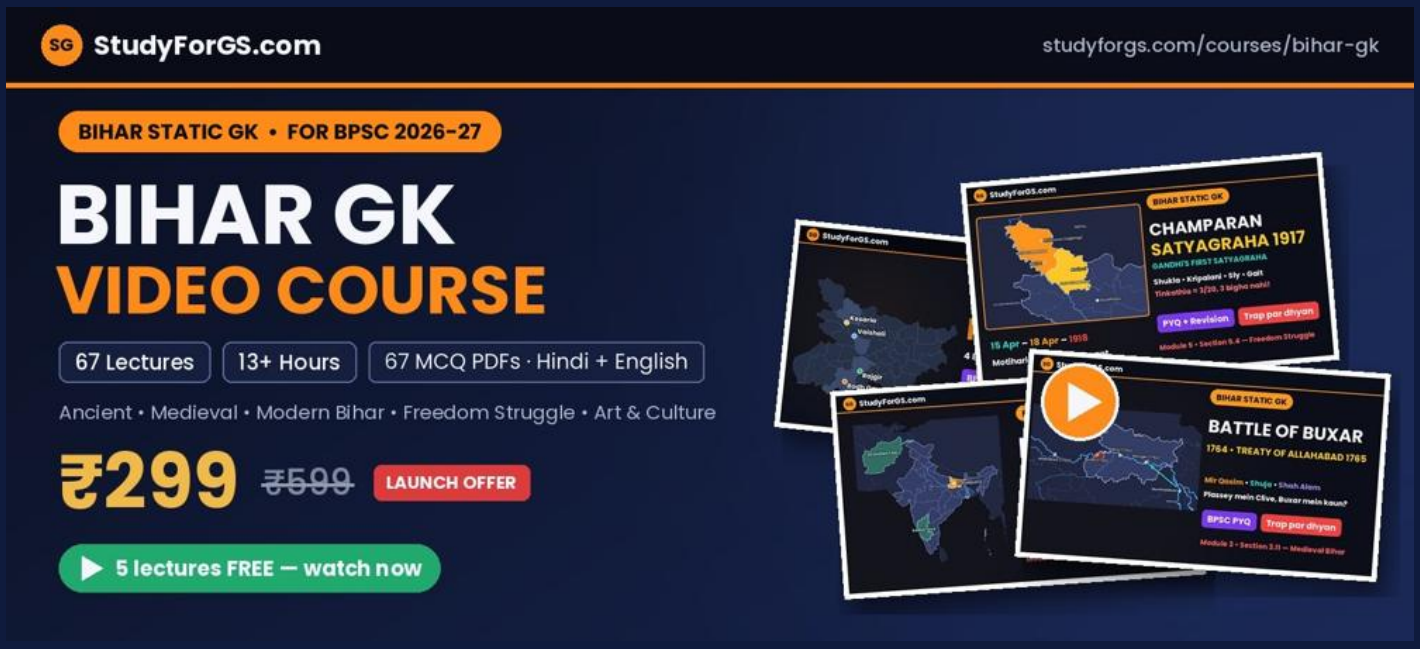

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