CURRENT AFFAIRS — 20 NOVEMBER 2026

Friday, 20 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR BPSC CCE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- PM to open **19.76-km Nitish Setu** (Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur) on **21 Nov**.
- CM targets **10%** share for Bihar products; **3 MoUs** at FTA outreach.
- **Jamui–Banka** mineral auctions to fetch **₹5,000+ crore**.
- **₹66.58 crore** DPR for **Buxar–Bhagalpur expressway** (13 districts).
- NDA govt's **1 year**: **1.69 crore** women got **₹10,000** each.
- Drug control drive: **30+** units checked across Bihar.
- Census 2027 (Bihar): self-enumeration **10–24 Jan 2027**.
- **ICJ**: Myanmar committed **genocide** against Rohingya.
- **4th India–Japan 2+2** in Tokyo; Japanese forces to train in India.
- EPFO: final-withdrawal wait cut **12 → 2 months**.

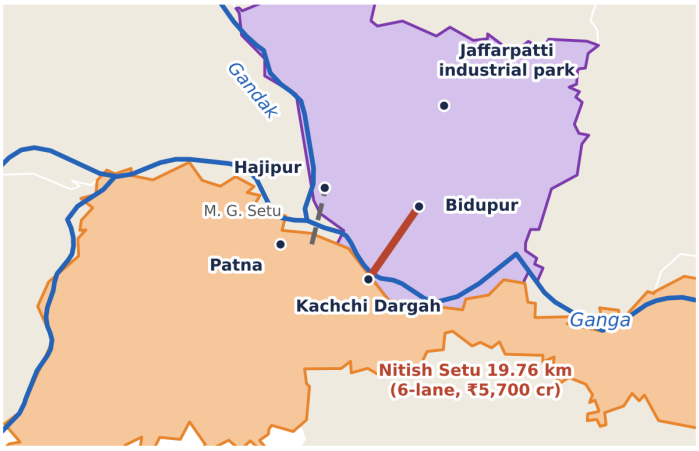
SECTION A — BIHAR SPECIAL: state schemes, policy, administration & economy

A1. PM to open 19.76-km 'Nitish Setu' over Ganga; Vaishali industrial park on 21 Nov

BIHAR | BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Geography)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — infrastructure & industrial development; Bihar geography (Ganga, diara lands). **Prelims**: Ganga bridges, districts of Bihar.
Context	PM **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the six-lane **Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur Ganga bridge**, named **'Nitish Setu'**, on **21 November 2026** in **Vaishali**, and lay the foundation of a **1,243-acre industrial park** at **Jaffarpatti**, as the NDA government completes **one year**.
Key Facts	■ Length **19.76 km**, incl. a **9.76 km extradosed cable-stayed** section; cost about **₹5,700 crore**. ■ Links **Patna (Kachchi Dargah)** and **Bidupur (Vaishali)** in **20–25 minutes**; direct access to **Raghopur diara**; eases load on **Mahatma Gandhi Setu**. ■ Industrial park spans **Rajapakar, Jandaha, Mahua, Sahdei Buzurg** and **Raghopur** blocks along the **Amas–Darbhanga Expressway**. ■ Also: charging stations for **400 e-buses** in **6 districts**; India's **first bridge museum** is coming up near the bridge.
Way Fwd	Tie the bridge to logistics hubs and the industrial corridor, and plan diara livelihoods so riverine villages also gain.
Concept	**Extradosed bridge**: hybrid of box-girder and cable-stayed designs with short, low-angle pylons — suited to long spans over wide, silt-laden rivers. **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** (Patna–Hajipur, **1982**) was once India's longest river bridge.

Nitish Setu: new Patna–Vaishali Ganga link (indicative)



A2. CM sets 10% market-share goal for Bihar products at FTA outreach in Patna

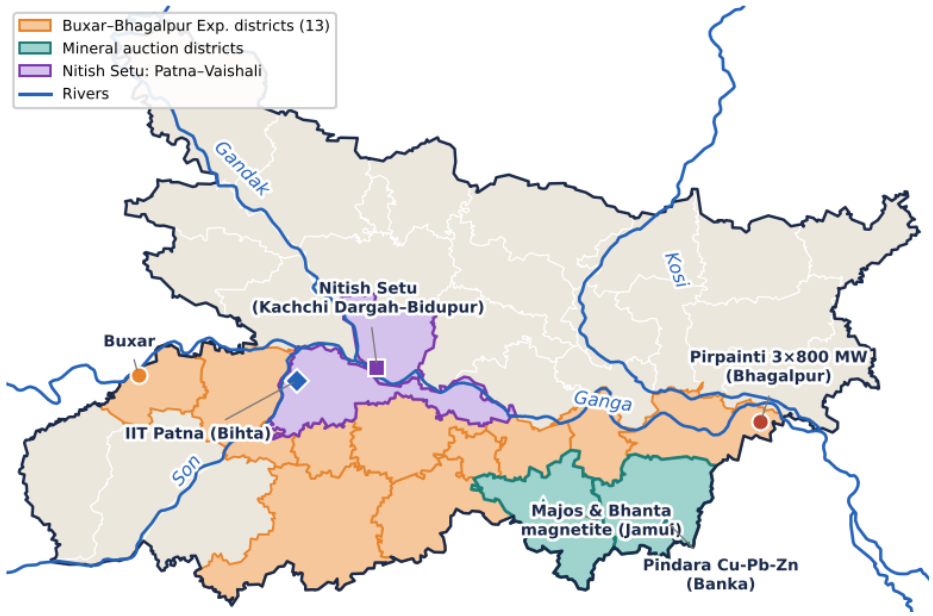
BIHAR | BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian & Bihar Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — agro-exports, trade, industrial policy. **Prelims**: FTAs, GI tags of Bihar (makhana, litchi).
Context	At the **'Leveraging FTAs – Outreach Programme'** in **Patna** on **19 Nov**, organised by the **Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry** with the **Bihar Industries Department**, CM **Samrat Choudhary** set a target of a **10% share** for Bihar's products in national and global markets.
Key Facts	■ Export focus on **makhana, litchi** and **maize**; **3 MoUs** signed, incl. **Bihar State Marketing Authority–IIM Bodh Gaya**. ■ CM cited the state budget at about **₹3.47 lakh crore**, and a per-capita income gap of **Noida ₹13 lakh vs Sheohar ₹36,000**. ■ **Silt use**: about **4 lakh MT** of river silt, mainly from north Bihar, for **NHAI** road works. ■ **30% central subsidy** on container freight up to **400 km**; DMs to bring local units under **ODOP**.
Way Fwd	Build cold chains, residue-testing labs and SPS-compliant certification so makhana and litchi can meet the norms of FTA partners.
Concept	**FTA**: pact cutting tariffs and non-tariff barriers between partners, e.g. **India–UAE CEPA (2022)**, **India–UK CETA (2025)**. **GI tags**: **Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur (2018)**, **Mithila Makhana (2022)**. **ODOP** = One District One Product.

Bihar's FTA export push (19 Nov, Patna)

10% target share in national & global markets	**3** MoUs signed incl. BSMA–IIM Bodh Gaya	**4 lakh MT** river silt for NHAI road works
30% central freight subsidy (up to 400 km)	**₹3.47 L cr** state budget size (as cited by CM)	**3 crops** makhana · litchi · maize export focus

BIHAR: Cabinet (18 Nov) & PM visit (21 Nov) — project map



KEY NUMBERS

₹4,327 cr
Jamui magnetite blocks

₹726 cr
Banka Cu-Pb-Zn block

₹66.58 cr
Expressway DPR, 13 dist.

19.76 km
Nitish Setu, ₹5,700 cr

₹493 cr/yr
Pirpainti transmission, 35 yrs

₹305 cr
IIT Patna research park

A3. Cabinet clears Jamui–Banka mineral auctions, ₹66.58-crore DPR for Buxar–Bhagalpur expressway

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — mineral resources, energy, infrastructure; Bihar geography. **Prelims**: minerals of Bihar, MMDR Act, State Finance Commission.
Context	The state cabinet chaired by CM **Samrat Choudhary** on **18 Nov** approved **15 proposals**, including e-auction of mineral blocks in **Jamui** and **Banka** expected to fetch **over ₹5,000 crore**, and funds to plan a **six-lane greenfield expressway**.
Key Facts	■ **Magnetite (iron ore)** blocks at **Majos & Bhanta (Jamui)** — estimated value **₹4,327 crore**; **copper-lead-zinc** block at **Pindara (Banka)** — **₹726 crore**. ■ **₹66.58 crore** for DPR of the **Buxar–Bhagalpur expressway** through **13 districts**, linking the **Purvanchal Expressway** with the **Raxaul–Haldia** corridor. ■ **IIT Patna research park** — **₹305 crore**; **Adani Energy Solutions** to build transmission for **3×800 MW Pirpainti** (Bhagalpur) at **₹493 crore/year for 35 years**. ■ **₹11,200 crore** state guarantee for grain procurement in **2026-27**; **7th State Finance Commission** term extended to **31 Mar 2027**.
Way Fwd	Run transparent auctions and use **District Mineral Foundation** funds for mining-affected villages of Jamui and Banka.
Concept	**MMDR Act, 1957** (amended **2015**) made **auction** the only route for mineral concessions and created **DMFs**. **State Finance Commission**: **Art. 243-I / 243-Y**, set up by the **Governor** every **5 years** to devolve funds to panchayats and ULBs.

A4. NDA government's first year: 1 crore jobs target, new sector policies

BIHAR BPSC: Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar economy — employment, women's empowerment, industrial & energy policy. **Prelims**: state schemes and policies.
Context	The NDA government in Bihar completes **one year** on **20 Nov 2026** (formed **20 Nov 2025**). Its report card lists targets on jobs, women's livelihoods and new-age industrial policies.
Key Facts	■ 5-year targets: **1 crore jobs/employment**, **10,000 new industries**, **12 satellite townships**; **1 lakh** government posts under recruitment. ■ **Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana**: about **1.69 crore women** got **₹10,000** each (up to **₹2 lakh** more possible); **1 crore Lakhpati Didis** by **March 2029**. ■ **Green Hydrogen Policy-2026** (**₹16,000 crore**, **12,000 jobs**); semiconductor push of **₹25,000 crore**; **Bihar AI Policy-2026**. ■ **IIPP-2025**: land at **Re 1** for large units; sugar mills at **Sakri, Raiyam, Warisaliganj**; mega food park at **Motipur**; **NIFTEM** campus at **Hajipur**.
Way Fwd	Publish outcome data (investment actually grounded, jobs created) on a public dashboard, not just allocations.
Concept	**Lakhpati Didi**: SHG member earning at least **₹1 lakh a year** (DAY-NRLM; in Bihar via **JEEViKA**). **Satellite township**: planned town near a big city to decongest it.

A5. Statewide drug inspection drive checks 30+ units across Bihar

HEALTH BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Governance & Health)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Bihar administration, public health, regulation. **Prelims**: drug regulation in India.
Context	The **Bihar Drug Control Department** ran a special inspection drive on **18 Nov**, checking **30+** pharmacies, manufacturing units and government health institutions for spurious and substandard medicines.
Key Facts	■ In **Patna**, shops at **GM Road** market and a manufacturing unit at **Rukanpura** were inspected; a central team was also involved. ■ Districts covered include **Darbhanga, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Purnia, Bhagalpur, Vaishali** and **East & West Champaran**. ■ **Allopathic** and **Ayurvedic** samples sent to labs — checking for **undeclared allopathic ingredients** in Ayurvedic products. ■ Storage and distribution of **free government medicines** also audited; action to follow lab reports.
Way Fwd	Expand state drug-testing labs and enforce QR-code track-and-trace to curb spurious medicines.
Concept	**Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**: states license sale and manufacture; **CDSCO**, headed by the **DCGI**, is the central regulator. **QR codes** on **APIs** mandatory since **2023**.

A6. Census 2027 in Bihar: self-enumeration from 10 January

SOCIETY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Statistics) & GS-II

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-I**: statistical analysis; **GS-II**: Bihar demography & governance. **Prelims**: Census facts of Bihar.
Context	Revenue & Land Reforms Minister **Dr Dilip Kumar Jaiswal** announced Bihar's schedule for the population-enumeration phase of **Census 2027**, following the **Registrar General & Census Commissioner** notification.
Key Facts	■ **Self-enumeration (online)**: **10–24 Jan 2027**. ■ **House-to-house enumeration**: **25 Jan–28 Feb 2027**. ■ Coordinated by the **Census Cell** of the Revenue & Land Reforms Department. ■ Census 2027 is India's **first digital census** and will also record **caste**.
Way Fwd	Run awareness drives in flood-prone and migrant-heavy districts to avoid undercounting.
Concept	Census is in the **Union List (Entry 69)**; conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**. Census 2011: Bihar population **10.41 crore**, density **1,106/sq km** — highest among major states. Bihar's **caste survey (2023)** counted **13.07 crore**.

BIHAR NDA GOVERNMENT — ONE YEAR (20 Nov 2025 → 20 Nov 2026): FIVE PILLARS

JOBS	WOMEN	INDUSTRY	NEW ENERGY & AI	AGRI & FOOD
1 crore jobs in 5 yrs	Mahila Rozgar Yojana	**10,000 new industries**	Green Hydrogen Policy	Sugar mills: Sakri,
1 lakh posts under	**1.69 cr women got**	**IIPP-2025: land at Re 1**	**₹16,000 cr · 12,000 jobs**	Raiyam, Warisaliganj
recruitment	**₹10,000 each**	Semiconductor push	**Bihar AI Policy-2026**	Mega food park Motipur
12 satellite townships	**1 cr Lakhpati Didis (2029)**	**₹25,000 cr**	**Aryabhatt Drishti ₹209cr**	NIFTEM Hajipur

Note: figures are targets/allocations in the government report card, not achieved outcomes.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Noida ₹13 lakh vs Sheohar ₹36,000

Per-capita income gap cited by the CM (19 Nov, Patna)

A gap of about **36 times** between a top NCR district and Bihar's smallest district — the CM used it to argue that exports and industry must reach Bihar's lagging districts.

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD: polity, economy, S&T; and IR for BPSC

C1. ICJ rules Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya

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

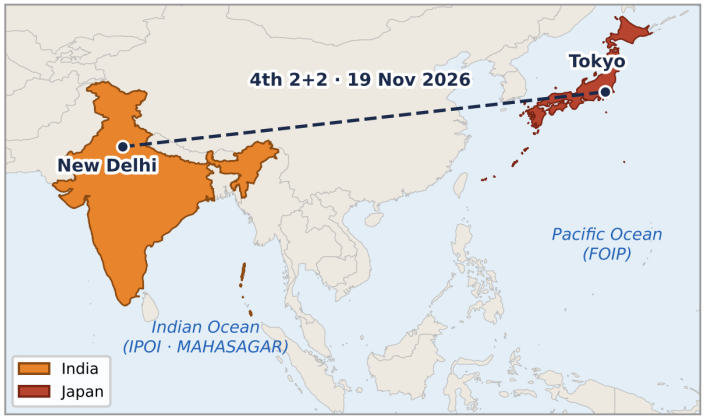
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: international institutions, India's neighbourhood. **Prelims**: ICJ, Genocide Convention.
Context	On **19 Nov 2026**, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** ruled in **The Gambia v. Myanmar** that Myanmar committed **genocide** against the **Rohingya** in northern **Rakhine State** during the **2017 'clearance operations'**.
Key Facts	■ Case filed on **11 Nov 2019** under the **Genocide Convention (1948)**; **11 States** intervened. ■ Verdict read by ICJ President **Yuji Iwasawa** (Japan); first ruling holding a State directly responsible for **committing** genocide (in **2007** Serbia was held liable only for failing to prevent it). ■ Myanmar also breached the **provisional measures order of 23 Jan 2020**. ■ Remedies: prosecute perpetrators, allow **safe return**, pay **compensation**; report within **2 years**.
Way Fwd	India, sharing a **1,643-km** border with Myanmar, should back safe, voluntary repatriation while safeguarding Act East projects such as **Kaladan**.
Concept	**ICJ**: principal judicial organ of the **UN**, seated at **The Hague**; **15 judges**, **9-year** terms; settles disputes between States. **ICC** (Rome Statute, **1998**) tries individuals — India is **not a party**.

C2. 4th India–Japan 2+2 in Tokyo: Japanese forces to train at Indian ranges

DEFENCE BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (IR & Defence)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: India's bilateral relations, Indo-Pacific. **Prelims**: dialogues, exercises, initiatives.
Context	The **4th India–Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** was held in **Tokyo** on **19 Nov 2026** — **Rajnath Singh** and **S. Jaishankar** with Japan's Foreign Minister **Motegi Toshimitsu** and Defence Minister **Koizumi Shinjiro**.
Key Facts	■ **Letter of Intent**: Japan Self-Defense Forces to hold **live-fire training** (incl. surface-to-ship missiles) at **Indian firing ranges** — a **first**. ■ Co-development of the **UNICORN** naval antenna (AoN targeted by **Feb 2027**) under '**Design with Japan, Make in India**'. ■ **JASDF fighters** to visit India for the first time in **Veer Guardian 26**; India to host the **5th Coast Guard Global Summit** (**Feb 2027**). ■ Aligns India's **IPOI** and **MAHASAGAR** with Japan's **Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)**.
Way Fwd	Fast-track co-production (UNICORN, shipbuilding) and supply-chain cooperation in semiconductors and critical minerals.
Concept	**2+2 dialogue**: joint meeting of foreign and defence ministers; India holds it with the **US, Japan, Australia, Russia** and others. **MAHASAGAR (2025)** succeeded **SAGAR (2015)**. India–Japan: **Special Strategic and Global Partnership (2014)**.

India–Japan 2+2: Indo-Pacific partners

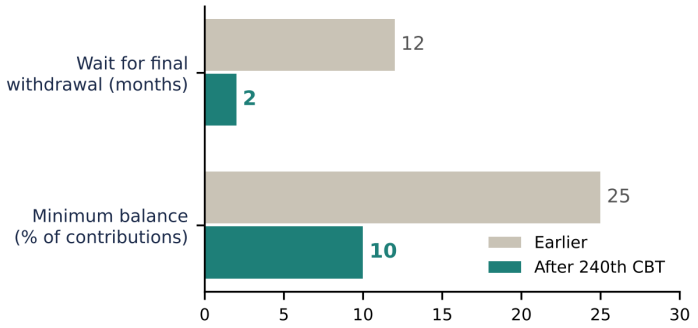


C3. EPFO eases withdrawals: final-withdrawal wait cut to 2 months

ECONOMY BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Indian economy — social security, labour reforms. **Prelims**: EPFO, EDLI, labour codes.
Context	The **240th meeting** of EPFO's **Central Board of Trustees (CBT)**, chaired by Labour Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** on **19 Nov 2026**, approved a package of withdrawal reforms.
Key Facts	■ **Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP)** for retiring members — monthly, quarterly or half-yearly instalments; first for **~6.32 lakh members** aged **55+** with balances above **₹5 lakh**. ■ Waiting period for **final withdrawal** after job loss cut from **12 months to 2 months**. ■ Minimum balance requirement cut from **25% to 10%** of contributions. ■ New **UAN-linked voluntary contributions**; a **6-month window** to settle legacy **EDLI** exemption cases.
Way Fwd	Pair easier withdrawals with financial-literacy nudges so that retirement savings are not depleted early.
Concept	**EPFO**: statutory body under the **EPF & MP Act, 1952**, Ministry of Labour & Employment; the **CBT** is tripartite (government, employers, workers). **EDLI (1976)**: insurance cover linked to PF.

EPFO eases withdrawals (CBT, 19 Nov 2026)



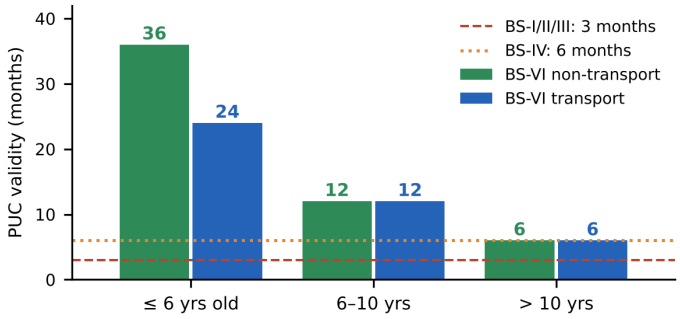
SWP: first for ~6.32 lakh members aged 55+ with balance > ₹5 lakh

C4. PUC certificate validity now linked to vehicle age and emission norm

ENVIRONMENT BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Environment, S&T)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: role of science & technology, environment and pollution control. **Prelims**: BS norms, NCAP.
Context	The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** amended **Rule 115(7)** of the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989**, linking **PUC certificate** validity to a vehicle's **age** and **emission norm**.
Key Facts	■ **BS-I/II/III**: **3 months**; **BS-IV**: **6 months**. ■ **BS-VI non-transport**: **3 years** (up to 6 yrs old), **1 year** (6–10 yrs), **6 months** (over 10 yrs). ■ **BS-VI transport**: **2 years**, **1 year** and **6 months** in the same age bands. ■ Existing certificates switch at **first renewal**; renewal within **10 days** before expiry counts from the old expiry date.
Way Fwd	Add remote-sensing emission checks and the scrappage policy — vital for winter smog in Bihar towns (Bettiah AQI crossed **500** on **19 Nov**).
Concept	**Bharat Stage (BS) norms** follow Euro norms; India leapfrogged from **BS-IV to BS-VI** on **1 April 2020**. **NCAP (2019)** aims to cut particulate pollution in **130+** cities.

New PUC validity (CMVR Rule 115(7))



Validity now linked to vehicle age + emission norm

C5. Draft rules bring antimicrobials under 'new drug' definition to fight AMR

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: role of science & technology, public health. **Prelims**: AMR, NDCT Rules, One Health.
Context	The Health Ministry's draft notification **G.S.R. 983(E)** (**6 Nov 2026**) proposes to bring **antimicrobials** under the **'New Drug'** definition in the **New Drugs and Clinical Trials (NDCT) Rules, 2019**, to curb **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.
Key Facts	■ Makers would need **Central Licensing Authority** permission before applying to a **State Licensing Authority**. ■ Public objections invited within **30 days**. ■ Separate **licence for bulk-drug wholesale** and **Good Storage & Distribution Practices** proposed under the **Drugs Rules, 1945**. ■ Builds on the **G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** on AMR and the **One Health** approach.
Way Fwd	Combine tighter approvals with prescription audits and farm-antibiotic limits under **NAP-AMR 2.0**.
Concept	**AMR**: microbes surviving drugs meant to kill them; WHO lists it among the top global health threats. India's **NAP-AMR 2.0 (2025)**; **Red Line** campaign marks prescription-only antibiotics.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
IR & Culture	**First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum** — PM inaugurates it at **Purana Qila, New Delhi** (**20–22 Nov**); exhibition '**ASTITVA**'.
Defence	**Harimau Shakti-VI** — India–Malaysia Army exercise at **Ipoh, Malaysia** (**19–30 Nov**), counter-terrorism focus.
Culture	**57th IFFI** opens in **Goa** (**20–28 Nov**); **Spain** is Country of Honour, **Russia** Partner Country.
Awards	**Graça Machel** (Mozambique) gets the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament & Development** (**₹1 crore**).
Bihar — Judiciary	**Patna High Court** stays recovery of **₹3,30,848** from an unmarried daughter's family pension; next hearing **15 Dec**.
Bihar — Culture	**Sonepur (Harihar Kshetra) Mela** opens on **22 Nov** at the **Ganga–Gandak** confluence.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to 'Nitish Setu', consider the following statements:
1. It connects Kachchi Dargah (Patna) with Bidupur (Vaishali).
2. It is built across the Gandak river.
3. It includes an extradosed cable-stayed section.
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 **19.76-km** six-lane bridge crosses the **Ganga** (not the Gandak) between **Kachchi Dargah** and **Bidupur**, with a **9.76-km extradosed** section.

Q2. The ICJ case in which Myanmar was held responsible for genocide against the Rohingya (November 2026) was filed by:
(a) Bangladesh **(b)** The Gambia **(c)** Malaysia **(d)** Canada
Answer: (b) — **The Gambia** filed the case on **11 Nov 2019** under the **Genocide Convention, 1948**.

Mains Practice (GS-II): "The per-capita income gap between Bihar's districts and India's richest districts is a development challenge as much as a market opportunity." Discuss how agro-exports (makhana, litchi, maize) and infrastructure such as Nitish Setu and the Buxar–Bhagalpur expressway can reduce regional disparity in Bihar. (250 words)

Hint: Intro with the **₹13 lakh vs ₹36,000** gap → GI-tagged agro-exports & FTAs → logistics (bridges, expressways, freight subsidy) → industrial parks & ODOP → challenges (cold chain, land, power) → conclude with district-level export plans.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Nitish Setu **19.76 km** (₹5,700 cr) | Jamui magnetite **₹4,327 cr** | Buxar–Bhagalpur Exp. **13 districts** | ICJ: **Gambia v. Myanmar** | EPFO wait **12 → 2 months**

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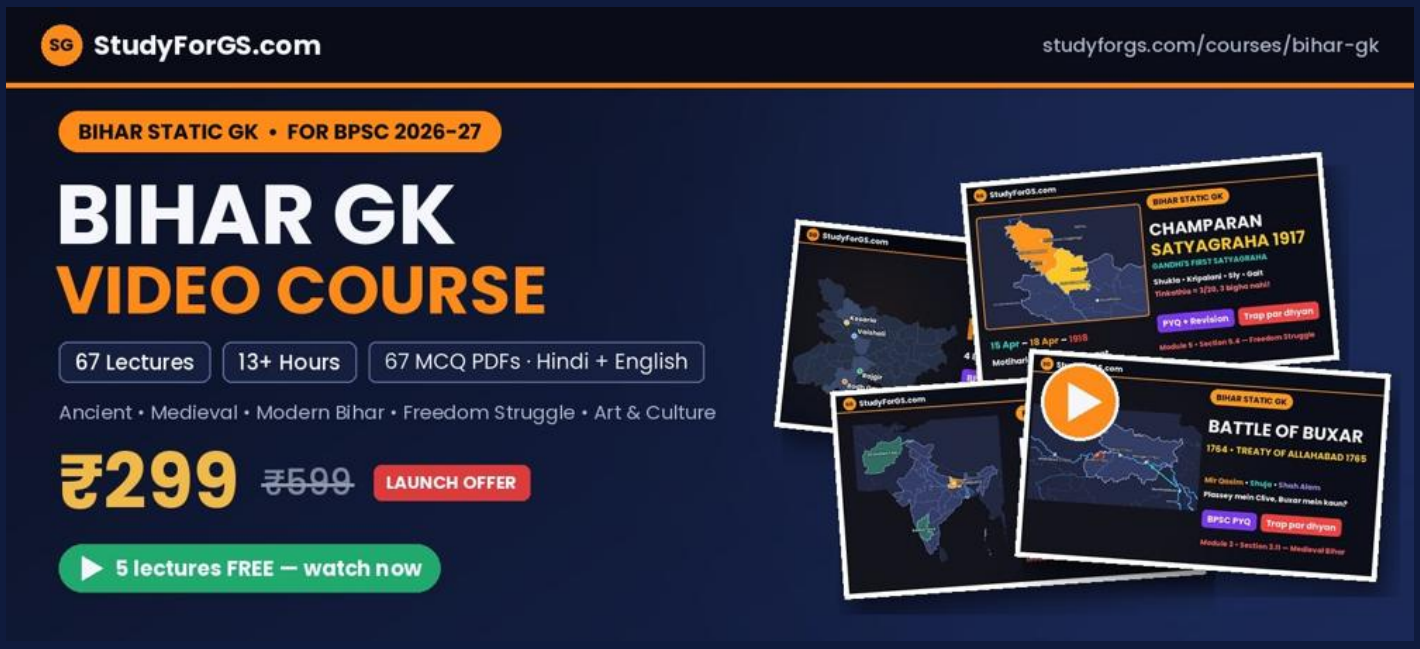

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