

BIHAR

THE HERITAGE STATE



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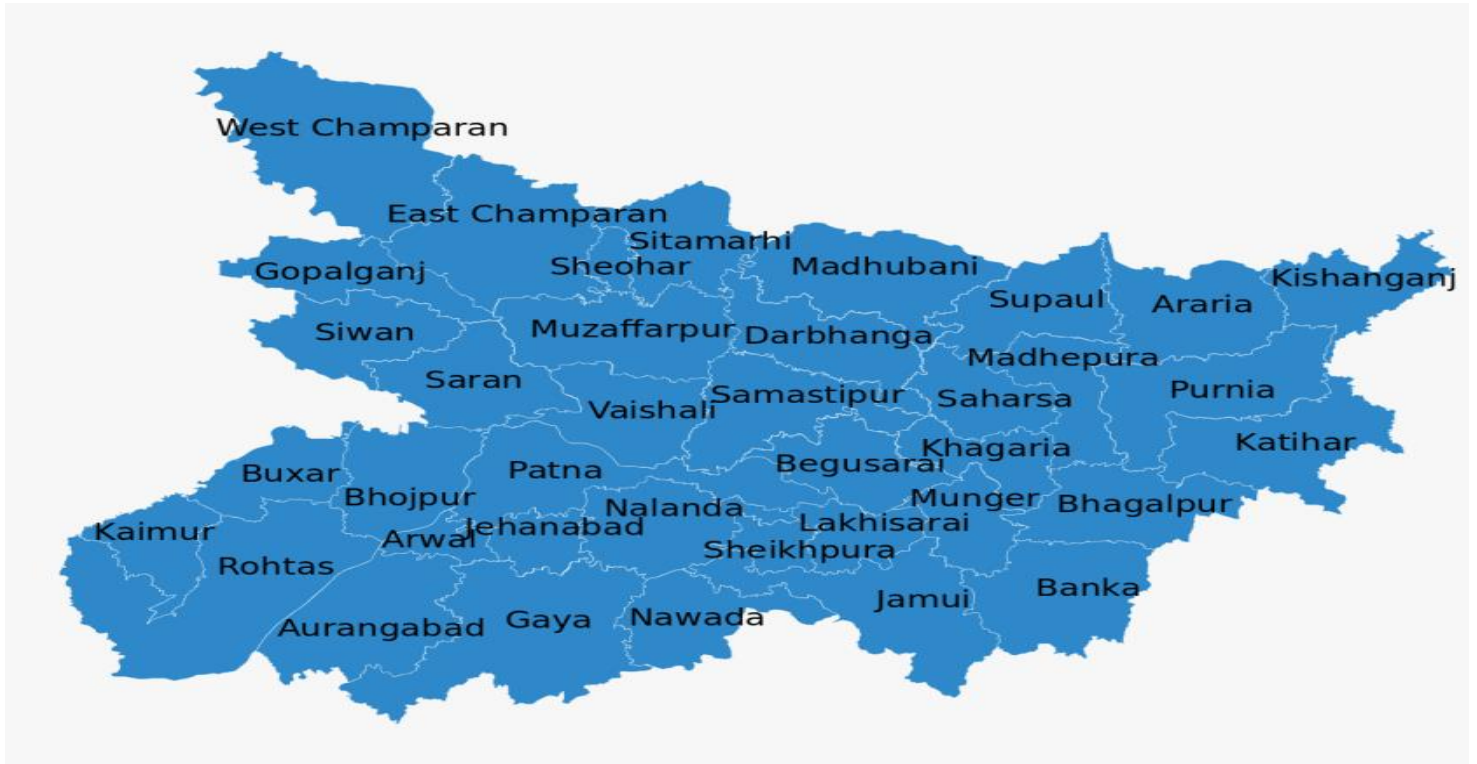
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1. INTRODUCTION



Bihar, a land of rich cultural heritages. The 'Karambhum' of Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavir. A state full of history, cultural, and natural beauties. A state which has been integral part of India from ancient time. Bihar is home of many tourists attraction. Around 6 million tourists visit Bihar every year. It has monuments and architecture which are thousands of years old. This land is also one of the oldest inhabited places on world. It has some oldest cultural heritages. Predominant themes are from myths and legends of Hinduism. The Hindu deities, Lord Rama and his consort Sita and Lord Shiva. A land of many Buddhist Monasteries, known as land Buddha, where Buddha attained Enlightenment. Jainism also finds its route from Bihar, and Mahavira was also born in Vaishali. Bihar is also famous for its folk dances and traditional paintings, from Patna Qalam school of painting to famous Mahabubani painting.

1.1 Geography

Bihar is bounded by Nepal on the north, West Bengal on the northeast, Jharkhand on the south and Uttar Pradesh on the west. Bihar is located in eastern part of India between latitudes 24°20'10" north to 27°31'15" north latitudes and 83°19'50" east to 88°17'40" east longitudes. Bihar is the third largest state by population. It has a vast stretch of fertile plain drained by river Ganga. Other rivers of Bihar are Koshi, Bagmati, Gandak, Son, Falgu, Ghaghra. Bihar is situated mostly in plain landscape but has some hills in central parts like, Rajgir hills, Banka hills. Bihar has subtropical monsoon climate with mild and dry winter and hot summer. May is the hottest month, with temperatures regularly

exceeding 35°C, from June to October its time for monsoon rains and during this period Bihar suffer flood. During winter temperatures goes down to 5°C. The normal rainfall varies from about 100cm to 150cm.

Natural vegetation of Bihar is deciduous forest, but only a small portion of the total is forested. Most of the forest area is located in Himalayan foothills, as large area of plain land is cultivated. Soil type is mostly Alluvial which supports agrarian economy. Bihar has a notified forest area of 6,764 sq.km which is 7.1 km of its geographical population.

1.2 History

Bihar has occupied an important position in the early history of India. From centuries Bihar has been centre of Indian culture and civilization. Different dynasty formed and ended here. The name Bihar is derived from 'Vihara' meaning Monastery. Bihar has been great religious centre for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. It begins with Lord Ram and Sita, where goddess Sita was princess of king Janaka, who was king of Videha, which is situated north of river Ganga. Other kingdoms were Magadh (Rajgir), Anga (near Bhagalpur). It was during Magadh empire Buddha developed religion Buddhism and Mahavira, who was born in Vaishali reformed Jainism. It was Bihar where famous Ashoka was born and became king of Bharat. During Gupta dynasty this region saw some development in arts and architecture, different stupas and temples were built. Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang visited this time and took teachings of Buddhism with himself.

Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh was also born in Patna district in 1666. Bihar was part of Bengal Presidency under British until 1912, when Bengal was divided and Bihar and Orissa formed. Bihar also played important role in Indian nationalism, Gandhiji started his first movement Satyagraha from Champaran district. Birsa Munda the great Santhal tribal leader was also from Bihar who fought against British. After independence in 2000 Bihar was divided and a new state Jharkhand was formed.

1.3 Tourism Interest

Bihar is famous for religious and cultural heritage sites. The most important religious and heritage sites are Bodhi Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Vikramshila, etc which we will discuss in detail in next chapters. Tourist numbers in Bihar have seen increasing numbers along the years. The growth of world tourism was registered as 4.5 percent. Total numbers of tourists in 2000 was around 6 million, in 2010 it touched 1.6 crore and 2019 was around 3.5 crore (Ministry of Tourism data). Tourism of any state cannot be accomplished without proper development of support and infrastructure facilities. As per SWOT analysis Bihar has strength in rich tourism resources both natural and man-made. Its weakness is lack of safety and security measures for tourists. It has a threat of being isolated due to lack of infrastructure, transportation facilities, public facilities such as toilets and refreshment centres. Bihar has opportunity and potential for development of new ideas in heritage tourism, health tourism, Entertainment tourism, and Waterfront tourism.

2. Monuments and Architecture

When we talk about Heritages of Bihar then its historic monuments, architecture, Museums and excavation sites definitely comes in the mind. Bihar has numbers of such heritages whether its Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, or Vikramshila ruins. As per ASI there are 30 protected monuments, 21 museums, around 25 archaeological sites are there in Bihar. In this chapter we will go through some of these sites and monuments in details.

2.1. Bodh Gaya



Bodh Gaya is famous for its Mahabodhi temple where buddha attained enlightenment.

Mahabodhi temple consists of four corners that give balance to the structure. Inside the main temple there is glided image pf buddha. The carved railings round the temple are the oldest remains at Bodhgaya. There is no specific evidence for the origin of this temple but some traditions says it occurred during 3rd century BC. The temple was repaired and restored in 1880 by Cunningham under the orders of Lt. Governor of Bengal. Bodh Gaya also consist of tree known as **Bodhi tree**. It is the most sacred Pipal tree under which Siddhartha become Buddha and attained enlightenment. It is believed to have continued exist since days of Buddha. As per some Buddhist tradition, the queen of Ashoka destroyed the tree out of rage but king revived it immediately. There are various other monasteries also located near Mahabodhi temple like Royal Bhutanese Monastery, Terger Monastery, Karma Dhargye Monastery, Taiwanese Temple. There two museum also located which consist Hindu and Buddhist artifacts. There is large 80 foot statue of Buddha is also situated is backside of Mahabodhi temple which attracts tourists. Bodh Gaya is biggest pilgrimage site of Buddhist and it is so connected by different means of transport. Neary airport is Gaya airport which is around 30km from the Mahabodhi temple.

2.2 Nalanda

Nalanda is also famous location with different cultural and heritages sites which are historically important as well as attracts large numbers of tourists.

Great Ruins of Nalanda an excavation site in about 14 hectares. The ruins contains large numbers of Buddhists stupas and chaityas, monasteries, hotels, cells and rooms on four sides with central courtyard lecture. The university at Nalanda was founded in 5th century and flourished for next 700 years until Bakhtiyar Khilji invaded and destroyed it. The subject taught at Nalanda included Buddhist sculptures, philosophy, theology, grammar, and medicine. Chinese traveller Hiuen-Tsang arrived and gained knowledge here. There is a beautiful structure that has been created in the memory of him named Hieun Tsang Memorial Hall. There is also on-site museum situated near ruins where a good number of archaeological findings are there of various eras.



Ruins of Nalanda



Shanti Stupa

2.3 Vihwa Shanti Stupa

Vishwa Shanti Stupa is a large stupa in Rajgir. The Statue of Buddha are mounted on the stupa in four directions. Its also has a small Japanese Buddhist Temple with a large park. There is temple near the stupa where prayers are conducted for universal peace. The initial pagoda was completed in 1969, but new initiatives in 1993 resulted its present form . It is one of the 80 Peace Pagodas which have been built around the world by Neo-Buddhists organisation. This Stupa is located on Ratnagiri hills, and its is 120 ft tall with the diameter of 103 ft. This stupa attracts large Buddhist tourist around the world.

Veerayatan, which is a unique centre for education, social service for Jain religion is also situated in Rajgir on the foot of Vaibhargiri hills. Its consist of a museum which contains beautiful artifacts depicting the life and preaching's of Lord Mahavira.

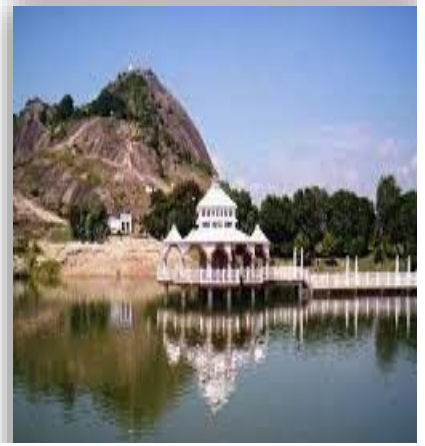
2.4 Jalmandir Pawapuri

Jalamndir, which is also known as Apapuri, the sinless town, which is a very scared Jain pilgrimage destination. According to belief, Lord Mahavira, attained Nirvana here. Hundreds of thousands of his and devotees took away the ashes after his cremation and the rush was so great that even the soils of the area was also taken away and it become a tank like structure and later on water fill into it. Then a beautiful temple of white marble was constructed in the centre of the water tank in the memory of Lord nirvana.



2.5 Mandar Hill

Mandar hill is 4km from Bausi and 48km from Bhagalpur town. The hill is 700ft high that consists of huge mass of granite overgrown near the low jungle. This hill is extremely sacred in Hindu mythology. The famous Puranic story amrit manthan associated with this place as this hill was used to extract amrit. This place has also a temple between water on hill foothills of Hindus. On the top of the hill there are two temples of Jains because of which is become important pilgrimage centre for Jainism.



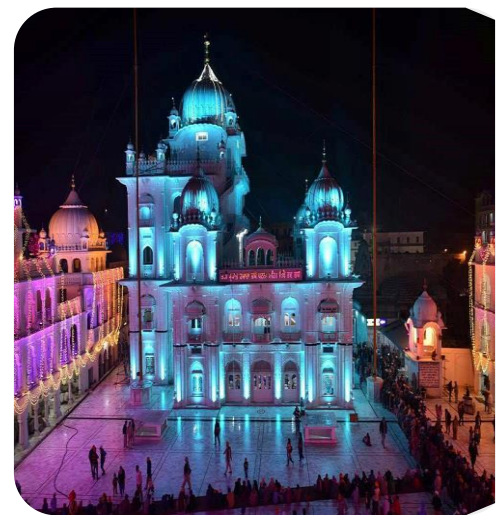
2.6 Bihar Museum



Bihar Museum is located in Patna bailey road near high court. It was opened in 2015. In October 2017 it was opened fully for all public. Its was planed as a history museum for the state of Bihar, and its construction in October 2013 with a budget of 498 crore. It is a 25000 sq.m museum and marketplace concept was developed. It is a six story building spread over 5.6 hectares. Bihar museum has several galleries. These include Orientation gallery, the children gallery, the regional gallery, the contemporary gallery, the historical art gallery and the Bihari diaspora gallery. Each gallery is huge and has many artifacts on display including ones dating back to 4th century. This museum in recent year has attracted a huge amount of domestic and foreign tourist.

2.8 Takhat Sri Harmandir Ji Patna Sahib

Sri Harmandir Ji sahib is considered as the second holiest Thakhat and one of the most important pilgrimage site of Sikhism. It is the birthplace of Sri Guru Gobind Singh, 10th guru among the Sikh gurus. The symbol of valour and fearlessness, the shrines inspires a great piety in pilgrims and holds pride of place in the glorious heritage of Patna City. Takhat Sri Harmandir is also known as Patna Sahib. This temple has a centre structure where Guru granth sahib is kept and 3 others building. One with hall where langar are served and other 2 are 3 story building which are shelters for Sikhs devotes.



2.9 Vikramshila

Vikramshila was one of the most important centres of learning in India during the Pala empire, along with Nalanda. Vikramshila was established by King Dharmapala in response to supposed decline in the quality of scholarship at Nalanda. It was destroyed by the forces of Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji around 1200. Vikramshila is located 50km east of Bhagalpur and about 13 km north-east of Kahalgaon. Carved pillars, Votive Stupas, Buddhist images, images of Hindu deities etc have been recovered from this ancient site. Its altitude is 52m. It also has a Museum inside the campus which has large collection of historical antiques.



2.11 Gol Ghar - Gol Ghar is a massive granary devised by Captain John Garstin of Bengal Engineers and constructed in 1786 in Patna, the capital city of Bihar. The depository has a capacity of 14k tonnes, was built after the orders of Warren Hastings. It was part of plan to store grains in case of famines. It was dome shaped structure reaching up to a height of 29 metres. The top of Gol Ghar is reached by taking the 145 step staircase. Now this monument is a huge tourist attraction owing to its beautiful natural setting and a peaceful ambience. A drive to renovate and repair the structure was carried out in 2002.

2.12 Maner Sharif - It is a large village of historical antiquities, situated in the extreme northwest of Danapur subdivision, about 32 km west of Patna. In the early ages Maner was centre of learning and it is said that grammarian Pāṇini, and also Bhararuchi lived here. Maner contains two well known Mohammedan tombs, which of Shah Daulat, known as Chhoti Dargah, and the other that of Sheikh Yahia Maneri called the Bari Dargah. The building is exceptionally fine one with walls containing carvings of great delicacy and high finish. It stands on a raised platform, and at each corner rises a tower of graceful proportions. A great dome crowns it, and the ceiling is covered with carved inscriptions from the Quran.

2.11 Sitakund - This is a village and Hindu pilgrimage site in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. It has an ancient Hindu temple in irregular shape of 450ft. which is famous for visitors. Temple has middle area with hallow tank where it is said that goddess Sita bathed. A great mela is held there on the Ramanavami when several thousands of Hindus assemble to honour to Rama and Sita. There are several temples and shrines around it, A Vishnu temple, and other is an image of Ravana, with 20 arms and 10 heads. Another temple is of goddess Durga with an image of killing two buffalo demons. Sitakund is also famous for its hot springs. Some say story is that Sita, participated in the fire Agni Parishka and that her body absorbed the fire and then she transferred this inner heat to the spring water.

3. Natural Heritage

3.1 Valmiki National Park - Valmiki national park is a tiger reserve in the west Champaran district of Bihar. It is the only national park in Bihar. This national park covers approx. 898 km sq. It has hills, valleys, cliffs, ridges, dense forest, open woodlands, grasslands, swamps, and riverine system. The dense forest has combination of bhabar and terai tracts. Wildlife found in Valmiki tiger reserve are Tiger, sloth bear, Leopard, Wild dog, Wild boar, deer, flying foxes, langur, monkey etc. The tiger population in the reserve was 10 in 2010, which increased to 22 in 2013 and 40 in 2018. At present 241 bird species have been reported in Valmiki national park. Some of them are paradise flycatcher, green willow, pied hornbill, emerald dove.

In Plant diversity there are seven types of forest found in Valmiki tiger reserve. Bhabar Dun Sal Forest, Dry Siwalik Sal forest, West Gangetic Moist Deciduous forest, Khair Sissoo Forest, Cane Grasslands, Barringtonia swamp forest. Famous tree species found here are Asan, Simal, Mandar, Piper, Teak, Sissam, Banjan, Sal, Satsal.



3.2 Kakolat Waterfalls - Kakolat waterfall is situated on the Kakolat hill which is 33km from Nawada district in Bihar. The Kakolat waterfall of Bihar falls down from a height of between 150 and 160 feet and forms a natural reservoir at the base of the waterfall. The scene is panoramic due to the all-around green forest area. Kakolat falls is a popular tourist spot in India due to its natural scenic beauty. During festivals held at the waterfall for Vaisakhi or Chait Sankranti, many devotees take bath in the waterfall. This waterfall has a history in Hindu mythology; the Pandavas during their exile used to visit this waterfall.

3.2 Rajgir Hills - Rajgir hills are also known as Rajgiri hills, which lie near the city of Rajgir in Bihar. It is surrounded by five hills named Ratnagiri, Vipaulachal, Vaibhavagiri, Sonagiri and Udaygiri. This hill also consists of important Hindu, Buddhist and Jain pilgrimage sites. The hill consists of two parallel ridges extending around 65km. The hills rise to an altitude of 338 meters. These hills are important destinations of Pilgrimage Tourism, Adventure tourism and picnic spots.

3.3 Kaimur Range and Waterfalls - Kaimur range is the east portion of the Vindhya Range which is about 483 km long, extending from state of Madhya Pradesh to Rohtas district in Bihar. The range has two rivers Son on the south and Tons on the north. The hill range of Kaimur have some area with dense forest which are great for biodiversity and wildlife tourism. Kaimur falls have hundred of waterfall ranging in height between 15m and 180m are found due to various fault line river. Some of these waterfalls have become famous tourist destination over the years. The famous waterfalls are –

(a) Karkat Waterfall - Karkat waterfall is located in the karkatgrah village which lies in Kaimur district of Bihar. This waterfall is located on Karmanasa River. It is a natural habitat of the crocodile and Government of Bihar is developing it as crocodile conservation reserve and as a eco-tourism spot. At least 75 crocodiles were spotted around it and in Karmanasa River. In Mughal and British times this fall was a place for crocodile hunting but from 1979 the hunting of Crocodile and other animal are prohibited around this area.

(b) Telhar Fall - Telhar fall also known as Telhar Kund is most popular waterfall in Bihar. It attracts lot of tourist from around the world because of its spectacular beauty. This waterfall is on the Rohtas Plateau which is close to Durgavati River. There are various attractions near the fall including the Maa Mundeshwari Temple which is located 28km from it. The waterfall also has a dam known as Karamchat Dam located near it, surrounded by amazing views on all sides and is perfect for a picnic spot. The waterfall ends into the Telhar Kund Lake that is situated at the bottom of the fall and is a popular spot for tourist to come and take a dip.



Karkat Falls



Telhar Falls

3.4 Hot Springs Rajgir - Hot springs at is located at the foot of the Vaibhava Hill in Rajgir. A staircase leads up to the various temples. Separate bathing places have been organized for men and women and the water comes through spouts from Saptdhara, the seven streams, believed to find their source behind the Saptaparni Caves up in the hills. The hottest of the spring is the Brahmakund with 45°C.

3.4 Nakti Dam Bird Sanctuary - This bird sanctuary is located in Jamui only 15 km from Jhajha Railway Station. The total area of the sanctuary is 3.32 sq.km. Migratory birds are visible during winter are red crested, pochard, common pochard, pintall ducks, pond heron, egrets, swamp patridges.

3.5 Bhimband Wildlife Sanctuary - This wildlife sanctuary is located in south-west Munger district of Bihar. According to Hindu Mythology, Bheema, one of the pandavs, constructed the dam and hence it is called Bhimbandh. The forest area of this sanctuary covers an area of 681 sq.km on the hills. Bhimband is situated near Ganges River. The faunal diversity found here are tiger, leopard, peafowl, wild bear, Indian hare, Langoor, Nilgai, python, jungle cat, Bengal fox, golden fox. In flora there are two biomes present, grasslands and forest. The sanctuary area has mainly Sal forest, bamboo forest and other grasslands.

3.6 Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park (Patna zoo) - Patna zoo was established in the year 1973 with a biological garden. The total area of Park is 153 acres. It stands almost as a forest houses for more than fifty varieties of animals and birds whose total number exceeds 500. Important animal species are Rhinoceros, clouded leopard, Leopard cats, European Fallow Deer, Lion, Deer, Antelope. This zoo is situated in the heart of Patna city and is major tourist spot for domestic tourist.

3.7 Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary - This sanctuary is located in Bhagalpur district of Bihar. It extends from Sultanganj to Kahalogoan in the middle of Ganga. Dolphins inhabit mostly the area of junction of rivers. Due to construction of Farakka Dam, the dolphin population has become isolated and fragmented. Gangetic dolphins are national aquatic animal of India and are classified as endangered on 2006 under IUCN Red List. The best time to visit and saw dolphins are October and June. The sanctuary also contains rich diversity of other threatened aquatic wildlife, including Indian smooth coated otter, Ghariyal and a variety of freshwater turtle.



3.8 Gogabill Bird Sanctuary - Gogabill sanctuary has a total area of 217 acres and is situated at a distance of 26km from Katihar town. Gogabill is an oxbow lake formed through meander of River Kankar. This wetland is rich in flora and fauna and migratory birds. The Gogabill has a great global, national and regional significance because of which government of Bihar has declared it as a closed area.

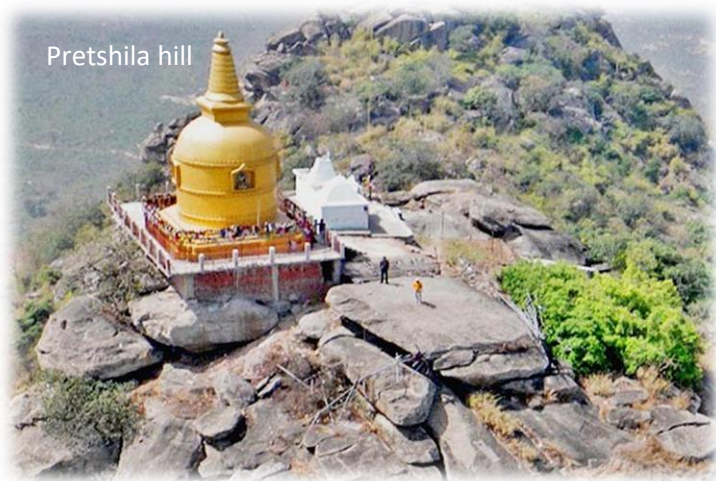
3.9 Glass Bridge (Rajgir) - Glass Bridge in the Rajgir is the second of its type in India apart from Rishikesh. In bid to boost tourism in the state, an interesting 200 ft glass bridge was built on Rajgir hills, in Nalanda district. This bridge is 85 ft long and 6 ft wide and lies between five hills. It can accommodate up to 40 visitors at a time. This is a great place of attraction those who want adventure. This bridge is opened for tourist from 1st January 2022.



3.10 Ramshila Hill - Ramshila hills is situated on the south-east side of Gaya and is considered to be the most sacred place as it is believed that Lord Rama has offered pinda on this hill. A number of stone sculptures belonging to the ancient period can be noticed on the hill. There is a temple which is situated on the top of the hill called as Ramesvara temple which was originally built in 1014 AD. In front of this temple pindas are offered by the Hindu devotees during Pitrapaksh month.

3.11 Pretshila Hill - This hill is 873 ft high and is situated 8 km from Gaya and 10 km from Ramshila Hill. Right below this hill there is Brahma Kund where people take a dip before going for pinda – daan. There is a temple on the top of the hill which is dedicated to Lord Yama, the god of death. The queen of Indore Ahilya Bai built this temple in 1787.

3.11 Aerial Ropeway, Rajgir - This ropeway is built over Ratnagiri, one of the five hills in Rajgir. The ropeway is 1100 ft long and chairlift people from the foothill to the top of the hill providing the wonderful view of the Peace Pagoda from upside. This ropeway is major attraction for tourist who visit Rajgir and want some adventure.



4. Traditional Arts And Paintings

Bihar has a rich historical past. Right from the ancient to the present Bihar arts has been centre of attractions for historians. Bihar is rich in its varied arts and paintings because of the different kingdoms and periods have influenced its history. The unique features of art and paintings in Bihar are the natural beauties and great creativeness. These creative beauties have been preserved in various form like in ancient stone. Wooden structures, grass-cloths, and metal wares. The fine skill and perfection of Bihar arts man is clearly manifested from archaeological excavations in Kumhrar, Nalanda, Vikramshila and other places. Paintings are the reflections of various aspects of human life. As Bihar was the centre of many ancient civilization it has rich heritage and antiquities of painting. They are important part of Bihar culture and tourism. Some of the famous traditional arts and paintings of Bihar are –

4.1 Madhubani Painting



Madhubani painting are among the most famous paintings in the world. This popular belongs to the Mithila region of Bihar. This painting expresses the creativity and sensitivity of its people. Like any traditional art, it also shows the psychology of the society to which it belongs, it reflects moral, values and customs of the region in a very interesting way. This style of painting has been mostly done by the women of this region.

Madhubani painting are characterised by figures that have prominent outlined, bulging fish – like eyes and pointed noses. Originally the painting was done on freshly plastered mud and walls of hut, but now it is also done on cloth, paper and canvas. These paintings are done using fingers and twigs as well as matchsticks and pen ribs in the modern day. Usually bright colours are used in the painting and there is rarely any blank spaces in this paintings.

4.2 Manjusha Painting



Manjusha Art is a heritage of Ang Pradesh (Bhagalpur). This art has been prevalent in Bhagalpur for a long time. Manjusha art came to the forefront between the time periods of 1931-1948. This art is also called as scroll painting because of its sequential form of story display. Manjusha art was traditionally carried out in two parts by two different castes. The Kumbhakar caste was associated with shaping the pots on which the Manjusha art was painted. The Malakar caste was responsible for preparing the actual Manjusha's and painting the art on different structures.

4.3 Sikki Works



Sikki is a grass or a weed thrived on most of the river bank. Sikki work is a craft whereby the craftsman turn these unnecessary riverside weed into beautiful decorative objects. This craft is particularly practised by women artisan in Bihar. Beautiful toys, wares, chairs are manufactured out of this grass. After collecting and drying they stitch these grass into various shapes. Various dazzling colours are also put on these objects to make it more attractive.

4.4 Tikuli Works - Tikuli is a form of art made from broken glass. The craftsman first melt the broken glass and then they give shape and design. Patna and harihans cities are vary famous for manufacturing of this art. These art forms are of considerable cultural value and have a vast heritage attached to it. It also acknowledged the means of women empowerment as women are mostly associated with these arts. Tikuli word itself means Bindi, a dot worn by women's between the eyebrows and is a part of Hindu tradition.

5. Religions And Tribes

Bihar has a vast population and it is third largest state in terms of population in India. And all of them follow some beliefs, rituals and gods. There are also some tribals which are found in some of the forest range of Bihar. Bihar religion demographic is influenced from history. Early in ancient India Bihar was hotspot for Buddhism, Jains and Hindu religions. Mahavira was born here, Buddha attained enlightenment here only. Hindu gods Rama and Sita also finds its root from here. During Mughal period this region saw rise in Islam region. Christianity arrived with the arrival of British in this region.

Bihar population by 2020

was around 12.4 crore and is estimated to 12.83 in 2022 (UDAI records). Bihar has five religion. Hindu (9.4 crore), Islam (2.4 crore), Christianity (1.30 lakh), Sikhism (25 thousand), Buddhism (27 thousand), Jainism (20 thousand). Bihar has some forest cover where peoples live and are dependent on them known as tribes. It has around 30 tribes which have been notified under scheduled tribes. Some important tribal communities in Bihar are -

5.1 Santhal Tribes - Santhal are the largest tribe in Bihar. They are also found in other states like Assam, Jharkhand, Orissa. Due to lack of archaeological records, the original homeland of the Santhals are not known but some folk of Santhal claims they have came from Hihiri. The Santhals have social organisation for rituals called kunti. Sohrai is the principal festival of Santhal community. They traditionally do many of their dances during this festival using two drums. Chadar Badar is a form of puppetry known as Santhal puppetry. Important decision matters is done through a village council headed by a person titled as Majhi. The total population of Santhal tribes in Bihar is about 4 lakhs and they around cantered in Bihar in region of Bhagalpur and borders area to Jharkhand and west Bengal.

5.2 Oran Tribes - Oran tribes are Dravidian ethnic group. They primary speak Kurukh as their native language. Oran depends upon the forest and farms for their ritual and economic livelihood. The Oran community, the village level political organisation is called Praha, which consist a post of headman Pahan. The Oran celebrate traditional festivals like Sarhul, Karma, Dhanbuni. The Oran people have a great rich of folk songs and dances. The Mandar, Nagara and Kartal. Some of their dances are Karma dance, Jadur, Jagra, Matha, Benja Naina Their population in Bihar is about 1.4 lakhs.

5.3 Kharwar Tribes - The Kharwar tribes gets its name from khar which means grass. They don't cut or damage the grass while growing. The Kharwar have their origin from Palamu region in Jharkhand. Kharwar are dependent upon agriculture for their economy. They are also based on forest works like fishing, hunting, trapping. The population of Kharwar tribe in Bihar is about 1 lakh and it is the third largest tribe.

6. Fairs And Festivals

As Bihar is home of different cultures and traditions. Almost all types of religion are found in Bihar. With different religion different festivals come associated with it. Its rich culture brings different fairs through its history. More than 20 fairs and festivals of different religion are held and celebrated in Bihar. Here are the some of the important fairs and festivals -

6.1 Sonpur Mela - Sonpur mela is vey famous fair in Bihar. It attracts lot of tourist from domestic and international. Sonpur mela is also called as Animal fair and its is also the biggest animal fair in Asia. This fair is held in the month of Kartik Poornima over the months of November and December in Sonpur city along river Gandak. This fair last between 15 days to 1 month. This fair has showcase of verity of Cattels, goats, camel, dogs, donkey, rabbits, elephant, horses etc.



6.2 Chatth Puja - Chatth puja is probably the most famous festival of the State. This is actually an ancient Hindu festival which is dedicated to the god Sun and take place 6 days after Diwali. It is an expression of thanks giving and seeking blessings from the god sun for sustaining life on the earth. During the festival the person keep fast for 36 hours til the final day.



6.3 Shravani Mela - This festival or mela is observed every year during month of Shravan. It is and important month-long ritual which is held along 108km route linking town of Deogarh and Sultanganj. They devotees walks barefoot carrying Kanwarias on their shoulder and wearing saffron coloured clothes. This festival draws thousands of people around the year.



6.4 Buddha Jayanti - The Buddha Jayanti is celebrated during the month of May, on the Baisakh Purnima full moon day. It is believed that Buddha was born, enlightened and passed away on the same full moon day. Thus this festival Buddha Jayanti is celebrated. This is especially celebrated in Bodh Gaya and Rajgir. This day marks the prayer and celebration at the Mahabodhi Temple.

6.5 Mahavir Jayanti - Mahavir Jayanti is the festivals of Jains which is also popular in Bihar. According to Jain text, the Mahavir was born in this day in Vaishali in 599 BC. On this day the idol of Lord Mahavir is carried out on a chariot called Rath Yatra. The Jain devotees engage in some prayers, pujas and vratas.

7. Conclusion

Through this whole project we have saw the rich and diverse culture of Bihar. Its different monuments and natural heritages. Its fairs and festivals which attracts lot of tourism. Its people and their religion. Bihar is a true state full of history. It arts, crafts and paintings all have uniqueness. But in present time this history of Bihar seems to be fading slowly. Bihar could have been the hotspot for tourism in the country because of its historical culture and heritage. This state have that potential that it can become the tourism hub of the country in the coming years. International tourist are much interested in viewing India culture and Bihar can play its important role in it. But for this we need some rules promotion of tourism and development of Bihar infrastructure. Today Bihar is considered as one of the poorest state with very less literacy rate. We not only need infra development but also social where all peoples get their basic education and can play there role development of state economy. The people of Bihar has to learn about their rich state history and government has also to play its important part in making Bihar as a major tourism hotspot specially for culture tourism. Government and peoples have also to take care and conserve the monuments and heritages of state from all the odds in the recent times. A sustainable development approach must be carried out which implies that the natural, cultural, and other resources of tourism are conserved for continuous use in future, while bringing benefits to the present society. This approach is actually very important for mass tourism development for Bihar state.

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