



Bihar Public Service Commission

Assistant Engineer Examination

General Knowledge & Economy

with Special Reference to Bihar



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Corporate Office: 44-A/4, Kalu Sarai (Near Hauz Khas Metro Station), New Delhi-110016

E-mail: informep@madeeasy.in

Contact: 011-45124660, 08860378007

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BPSC Assistant Engineer Examination: General Knowledge & Economy with Special Reference to Bihar

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First Edition: 2018

Reprint: 2022

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Preface

The compilation of this book **General Knowledge & Economy with Special Reference to Bihar** was motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) Assistant Engineer Examination.



This particular textbook of General Knowledge & Economy with Special Reference to Bihar provides all the requirements of the students and this concise presentation will help the readers grasp the theory of this subject with clarity and apply them with ease to solve objective questions quickly. This book not only covers the syllabus of BPSC Assistant Engineer Examination in a holistic manner but is also useful for other competitive examinations. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book clarifies all the concepts. We have put in our sincere efforts to present detailed theory and MCQs without compromising the accuracy of answers.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.

With Best Wishes

B. Singh

CMD, MADE EASY Group

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Part-I

General Knowledge

of India & the World

Bihar Public Service Commission | Assistant Engineer Examination



Basic General Knowledge about India & the World

1

Chapter

National Symbols

National Flag

- The National Flag of India is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (Kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of width of the flag to its length is 2:3. In the centre of the white band a navy-blue wheel is located which represents the Chakra.
- It was adopted by Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.
- A tricolour flag was first accepted by the Indian National Congress in 1931, having Charkha in place of today's Chakra.
- The horizontal colour strip of deep Saffron at top represents courage, sacrifice and renunciation, White at middle shows truth and purity in thoughts and dark Green at the bottom is the symbol of life abundance and prosperity.
- A wheel (Chakra) in centre of the white strip is the symbol of progress and movement. It has 24 spokes.
- Supreme Court declared the right to hoist flag as a Fundamental Right under Article 19 (i) (a) of the Constitution in 2002. Flag hoisting in India is regulated by Flag Code of India, 2002.
- The Flag was designed by **Pingali Venkayya** and first time, the flag was hoisted by **Sacchindra Prasad Bose** in 1906 in Calcutta and later on in the year 1907 another tricolour flag was unfurled by **Madam Bhikaji Cama** in Stuttgart, Germany.
- The first flag committee was headed by **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**.

National Emblem

- The National Emblem of India is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. It was adopted by the Government of India on January 26, 1950.

- In this emblem, only three lions are visible, the fourth lion being hidden from view. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a **bull** on **right** and a **horse** on **left**. The bell shaped lotus (as in the original) has been omitted. The other animals present in the emblem are an Elephant and a Lion.
- The words **Satyameva Jayate** are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script. These words are taken from **Mundaka Upanishad**.

National Anthem

- The song **Jana gana mana** is the National Anthem of India which, was composed by **Rabindra Nath Tagore**, originally in Bengali.
- It was adopted by Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950 in its Hindi version.
- The song Jana gana mana was first published in January, 1912 under the title '**Bharat Vidhata**' in Tattva Bodhini Patrika.
- The song was translated in English in 1919 with the title "**Morning Song of India**".
- It was first sung at the Calcutta Session of Congress on December 27, 1911.
- Playing time of full version of National Anthem is 52 seconds while it is 20 seconds for first and last lines of the stanza.

National Song

- "**Vande Mataram**" is the National song of India, which was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, originally in Sanskrit.
- It was adopted on January 24, 1950, providing it equal status with National Anthem **Jana gana mana**.
- It is taken from his novel **Anand Math** published in 1882. Its English translation was done by Sri Aurobindo.
- It was sung for the first time at the Congress Session of 1896.

National Calendar

- National Calendar is based on Saka Era (began on 78 A.D.) with Chaitra as its first month and Phalguna as its last month with a normal year of 365 days adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian Calendar.
- First day of Chaitra normally falls on March 22 and on March 21 in leap year.

National Animal

- The Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National Animal of India. It has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes.
- Lion was the National Animal of India till 1972. Later on, it was replaced by Tiger.

Other Indian National Symbols

National Bird	Peacock (<i>Pavo Cristatus</i>)
National Flower	Lotus (<i>Nelumbo Nucipera Gaertn</i>)
National River	Ganga
National Tree	Banyan (<i>Ficus Benghalensis</i>)
National Fruit	Mango (<i>Mangifera Indica</i>)
National Aquatic Animal	Ganges River Dolphin
National Heritage Animal	Elephant
National Game (De-facto)	Hockey

Official Publications of Countries/Organizations

Publication	Issued/Released by
Blue Book	Report by the British Government
Green Book	Government of Italy and Iran
Grey Book	Japanese and Belgium Government
Orange Book	Government of the Netherlands

Official Publications of Countries/Organizations

Publication	Issued/Released by
White Book	Official publication of Germany, Portugal and China
White Paper (Shwet Patrika)	Issued by the Government of India
Yellow Book	Issued by the Government of France
Economic Survey	Ministry of Finance (Government of India)
Report on Currency and Finance	Reserve Bank of India
Wholesale Price Index	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
National Accounts Statistics	Central Statistical Organization

National Emblems of Countries

Country	Emblem
India	Sarnath Lion Capital
Australia	Kangaroo
Bangladesh	Water Lily
Canada	White Lily
France	Lily
Germany	Corn flower
Iran	Rose
Italy	White Lily
Japan	Chrysanthemum
Pakistan	Crescent
Spain	Eagle
Sri Lanka	Sword & Lion
Russia	Sickle and Hammer
Norway	Lion
United Kingdom	Rose
USA	Golden Rod

Significance of Signs and Symbols			
Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
Red triangle	Family planning	Yellow Flag	Displayed by ship with infectious disease on board or ship in quarantine.
Red cross	Hospital/Ambulance	White Flag	Truce
Red light	Danger/Emergency	Tricolour	National Flag of India
Green light	Line clear signal	Lotus	Culture and civilization
Olive branch	Peace	Wheel	Progress
Black arm-band	Sign of mourning/protest	Flag flown half mast	National mourning
Dove	Peace	Flag flown upside down	Distress
Black flag	Demonstration of protest	A blind-folded woman holding a balance	Justice
Red flag	Sign of danger, revolution	Pen	Symbol of Culture and Civilization

Country Symbols			
Country	Symbol	Country	Symbol
India	Royal Bengal Tiger	Japan	Cherry Blossom
China	Dragon	England	Rose
Russia	Brown Bear	Australia	Golden Wattle Flower
USA	Bald Eagle	South Africa	Blue Crane
Spain	Red Carnation	Greece	Olive Branch



Sl.	Particulars	Name
1	Chief Justice of India	Justice Harilal J. Kania
2	Indian athlete to win a medal (Bronze) at the World Athletic Championship	Anju Bobby George
3	Indian Governor of a British Province	Lord S.P. Sinha
4	Indian Commander-in-Chief (Chief of Staff)	Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa
5	Indian to get the Bharat Ratna Award	C. Rajagopalachari
6	Indian Governor of the Reserve Bank of India	Dr. C.D. Deshmukh
7	Indian to become President of the UN General Assembly	Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
8	Woman Cabinet Minister of an Indian state	Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
9	Indian to win the election as Vice-President of INTERPOL	F.V. Arul
10	Woman to become a Union Cabinet Minister	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
11	Indian C.A.G.	C.V. Narahari Rao

Sl.	Particulars	Name
12	Attorney General of India.....	M.C. Setalvad
13	Indian woman Governor.....	Sarojini Naidu (UP, 1963-67)
14	Indian woman President of the Congress	Sarojini Naidu
15	Woman Chief Minister of an Indian State	Sucheta Kripalani (UP)
16	Indian woman High Court Judge	Anna Chandy (Kerala)
17	Indian woman Supreme Court Judge	M. Fathima Beevi
18	Indian woman to conquer the Everest	Bachhendri Pal
19	Indian in Space.....	Sqdn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma
20	Indian woman to swim across the English Channel	Aarti Saha
21	Indian to become President of the International Court of Justice	Dr. Nagendra Singh (1970)
22	Indian to win an Oscar Award.....	Bhanu Athaiya
23	Indian woman to win an Olympic Medal	Karnam Malleswari
24	Indian to get the Booker Prize (Britain's top literary prize)	Salman Rushdie
25	Indian woman to get the Booker Prize	Arundhati Roy
26	Indian to receive the Magsaysay Award	Acharya Vinoba Bhave (1958)
27	Chief of Army Staff	Gen. Maharaj Rajendra Singhji
28	Woman to swim across the Strait of Gibraltar	Arti Pradhan
29	Indian actress to be awarded Padma Shri.....	Nargis Dutt (1958)
30	India musician to be awarded Bharat Ratna.....	M.S. Subbulakshmi
31	Woman Foreign Secretary of India.....	Chokila Iyer
32	Indian Captain of Independent India's Cricket team.....	Lala Amarnath
33	Indian woman candidate to contest elections (1926)	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya
34	Woman Air Vice-Marshal.....	Padmavathi Bandopadhyay
35	Indian to be appointed as UN Civilian Police Adviser	Kiran Bedi
36	Chief of RAW (Research & Analysis Wing).....	Rameshwar Nath Kao
37	Indian Origin woman prosecutor in the USA.....	Kamala Harris
38	Indian woman to become Deputy Governor of RBI.....	K.J. Udeshi
39	Woman Chairperson of NABARD.....	Ranjana Kumar
40	Indian woman to win a Grand Slam Tennis title.....	Sania Mirza (Wimbledon)
41	Indian ICS officer	Satyendra Nath Tagore
42	Woman to win an Asiad Gold.....	Kamaljit Sandhu (1970)
43	Indian Talkie Film	Alam Ara (1931)
44	Chief Election Commissioner	Sukumar Sen (1950-58)
45	Submarine	INS Kalyani (commissioned in 1967)
46	Aryabhatta Medal Winner	K.R. Ramanathan (1977)
47	Captain of Test Cricket	C.K. Nayudu (1932)
48	Century in Test Cricket	Lala Amarnath (1933-1934)

Sl.	Particulars	Name
49	Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	S.V.Krishnamoorthy Rao (1952)
50	Chevalier Award Winner	Sivaji Ganesan
51	Chief of Army Staff to die in harness	B.C. Joshi (1994)
52	Chief of Coast Guard	V.A. Kamath (1978-1980)
53	Chief of Naval Staff	R.D. Katari (1958-1962)
54	Cricketer to have batted in all positions (1 to 11)	Vinoo Mankad
55	Dada Saheb Phalke Award Winner	Devika Rani Roerich (1969)
56	Dancer to perform abroad	Uday Shankar
57	Deputy Prime Minister	Vallabhbhai Patel (1947-1950)
58	Deputy Prime Minister to die in harness	Vallabhbhai Patel (1950)
59	Elected President	S. Radhakrishnan (1962-1967)
60	Field Marshal of India	S.H.F.J. Manekshaw (1973)
61	Film Star Chief Minister	M.G. Ramachandran (Tamil Nadu, 1977)
62	Finance Minister to present the Budget three times in a row ...	Manmohan Singh (1993, 1994, 1995)
63	Home Minister.....	Vallabhbhai Patel (1946)
64	Lady of the Indian Film	Devika Rani Roerich
65	Lata Mangeshkar Award Winner	Naushad (1984)
66	Man to climb Mount Everest	Tanqing Norgay (with Edmund Hillary, 1953)
67	Man to make solo flight (from US to India)	Satish Soman (1994)
68	Man to swim across English Channel	Mihir Sen (1966)
69	Man to swim several Straits in one calendar year.....	Mihir Sen (1966)
70	Managing Director of World Bank	Gautam Kaji (1995)
71	Member of British Parliament.....	Dadabhai Naoroji (1862)
72	Member of Viceroy's Executive Council	S.P. Sinha (1909)
73	Miss Universe	Sushmita Sen (1994)
74	Miss World	Reita Faria (1966)
75	Musician to get Padma Bhushan & Padma Vibhushan	M.S. Subbulakshmi (1954, 1975)
76	Musician to get Ramon Magsaysay Award	M.S. Subbulakshmi (1974)
77	Naval Pilot.....	Y.N. Singh (1941)
78	Nishan-i-Pakistan Award Winner	Morarji Desai (1991)
79	Nobel Prize Winner	Rabindranath Tagore (for Gitanjali in 1913)
80	Olympic Medal Winner.....	Norman Pritchard (Silver, 1900)
81	Pilot	J.R.D. Tata (Tata Airlines, 1929)
82	Presentation of Budget	R.K. Shanmugham Chetty, Finance Minister (1947)
83	Presentation of General Budget.....	C.D. Deshmukh, Finance Minister (1952)

Sl.	Particulars	Name
84	President.....	Rajendra Prasad (1950-1962)
85	President of Indian National Congress.....	W.C. Bannerjee (1885)
86	President to die in harness	Zakir Hussain (1967-1969)
87	Prime Minister	Jawaharlal Nehru (1947-1964)
88	Prime Minister to be assassinated	Indira Gandhi (1984)
89	Prime Minister to die in harness.....	Jawaharlal Nehru (1964)
90	Prime Minister to head a minority government.....	Ch. Charan Singh (July 28, 1979 – Jan.14, 1980)
91	Prime Minister to resign from office.....	Morarji Desai (1979)
92	Prime Minister who did not face Parliament.....	Ch. Charan Singh (July 28, 1979-Jan 14, 1980)
93	Raman Medal Winner.....	Salim Moinuddin Ahmed Ali (1979)
94	Recipient of Stalin Peace Prize	Saifuddin Kitchlew (1954)
95	Recipient of World Food Prize	M.S. Swaminathan (1987)
96	S. Ramanujan Medal Winner.....	S. Chandrashekhar (1962)
97	S.S. Bhatnagar Medal Winner	Atma Ram (1959)
98	Slave Ruler of India.....	Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206-1210)
99	Speaker in Hindi at the UN	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1977)
100	Speaker of Lok Sabha	Ganesh Vasudeo Mavalankar (1952-1957)
101	Test-tube Baby.....	Harsha or Indira (1986)
102	Vice-President.....	S. Radhakrishnan (1952-1962)
103	Woman (Muslim) Ruler of India	Razia Sultan (1236-1240)
104	Woman Ambassador	Vijayalakshmi Pandit (U.S.S.R., 1947-1949)
105	Woman at Antarctica.....	Meher Moos (1976)
106	Woman Chief Justice (of High Court).....	Leila Seth (Himachal Pradesh, 1991)
107	Woman Deputy Foreign Minister	Lakshmi N. Menon (1957-1966)
108	Woman Secretary General of Rajya Sabha.....	V.S. Rama Devi (1993)
109	Woman to go in Space.....	Dr.Kalpana Chawla (November 1997)
110	Woman IAS Officer.....	Anna Rajam George (1950)
111	Woman IPS Officer	Kiran Bedi (1974)
112	Woman Jnanpith Award Winner	Ashapurna Devi (1976)
113	Woman Missionary.....	Sanghamitra, daughter of King Ashoka (Sri Lanka, 3rd C.BC)
114	Woman Pilot (Commercial).....	Prem Mathur (Deccan Airways, 1951)
115	Woman Prime Minister	Indira Gandhi (1966-1977, 1980-1984)
116	Woman Sahitya Akademi Award Winner	Amrita Pritam (1956)

Part-II

General Knowledge *of Bihar*

Bihar Public Service Commission | Assistant Engineer Examination



Introduction

-
- BIHAR**
DISTRICT MAP
- LEGEND**
- International Boundary
 - State Boundary
 - District Boundary
 - State Capital
 - District Headquarter
- DISTRICTS AND HEADQUARTERS:**
- PASCHIM CHAMPARAN: Bettiah
 - PURBI CHAMPARAN: Motihari
 - SITAMARHI: Sitamarhi
 - GOPALGANJ: Gopalganj
 - SIWAN: Siwan
 - SARAN: Chhapra
 - MUZAFFARPUR: Muzaffarpur
 - SHEOHAR: Sheohar
 - MADHUBANI: Madhubani
 - SUPAUL: Supaul
 - ARARIA: Araria
 - KISHANGANJ: Kishanganj
 - VAISHALI: Patna
 - HAYIPUR: Haypur
 - SAMASTIPUR: Samastipur
 - SAHARSA: Madhepura
 - PURNIA: Purnia
 - KATIHAR: Katihar
 - BHAGALPUR: Bhagalpur
 - MUNGER: Munger
 - LAKHISARAI: Lakhisarai
 - JAMUI: Jamui
 - BANKA: Banka
 - NAWADA: Nawada
 - GAYA: Gaya
 - AURANGABAD: Aurangabad
 - ROHTAS: Sasaram
 - ARWAL: Arwal
 - BHOJPUR: Buxar
 - KAIMUR (BHABHUA): Bhabhua
 - JAHANABAD: Jahanabad
 - BIHAR SHARIF: Bihar Sharif
 - SHEIKHPURA: Sheikhpur
 - BEGUSARAI: Begusarai
 - SAHARSA: Saharsa
 - VAISHALI: Patna
 - PATNA: Patna
 - PATNA: Patna
 - NAWADA: Nawada
 - GAYA: Gaya
 - AURANGABAD: Aurangabad
 - ROHTAS: Sasaram
 - ARWAL: Arwal
 - BHOJPUR: Buxar
 - KAIMUR (BHABHUA): Bhabhua
 - JAHANABAD: Jahanabad
 - BIHAR SHARIF: Bihar Sharif
 - SHEIKHPURA: Sheikhpur
 - BEGUSARAI: Begusarai
 - SAHARSA: Saharsa
 - VAISHALI: Patna
 - PATNA: Patna
 - PATNA: Patna
 - NAWADA: Nawada
 - GAYA: Gaya
 - AURANGABAD: Aurangabad
 - ROHTAS: Sasaram
 - ARWAL: Arwal
 - BHOJPUR: Buxar
 - KAIMUR (BHABHUA): Bhabhua
 - JAHANABAD: Jahanabad
 - BIHAR SHARIF: Bihar Sharif
 - SHEIKHPURA: Sheikhpur
 - BEGUSARAI: Begusarai
 - SAHARSA: Saharsa
 - VAISHALI: Patna
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- It is the 13th largest state of India, area-wise [94,163 km² (36,357 sq. mi)]. As per Census 2011, the State has population of 104,099,452. It is the third-largest state of India by population.
- The Bihar plains are divided into two unequal halves by the river Ganga that flows through the middle of the state from west to east.
- It is one of the largest agriculture occupational states. The percentage of population employed in agricultural production in Bihar is around 80 per cent, which is much higher than the national average.
- Bihar is an amalgamation of three main distinct regions, namely Magadh, Mithila and Bhojpur.

- On November 15, 2000, Southern Bihar was ceded to form the new state of Jharkhand.
- Only 11.3% of the population of Bihar lives in urban areas, which is the lowest in India after Himachal Pradesh. Additionally, almost 58% of population is below the age of 25, giving Bihar the highest proportion of young people of any Indian state.
- The official languages of the state are Hindi and Urdu. Other languages commonly used within the state include Bhojpuri, Maithili, Magahi, Bajjika, and Angika (Maithili is the only one of these to be officially accepted by the Government of India i.e. has been included in 8th schedule of Constitution).

Basic Statistics

Particulars	Name/Data	Particulars	Name/Data
Area	94,163 sq. kms	Capital	Patna
Length (North to South)	345 km	Governor	Satya Pal Malik
Breadth (East to West)	483 km	Chief Minister	Nitish Kumar
Latitude	24° 20' - 27° 31' N	Districts	38
Longitude	83° 19' - 88° 17' E	Cities and towns	199
Height above sea level	173 ft	Divisions	9
Population (2011)	104,099,452	Sub-divisions	101
Decennial growth rate (2001-2011)	25.42%	Panchayats	8406
Highest Decennial growth district	Madhepura (30.65%)	Number of Urban Agglomeration	14
Lowest Decennial growth district	Gopalganj (18.83%)	Police stations	853
Literacy rate	63.8% (Overall) 73.39% (Male) 53.33% (Female)	Revenue villages	45103
Highest Literacy rate district	Rohtas (75.59%)	Development blocks	534
Lowest literacy rate district	Purnia (52.49%)	Members of Lok Sabha from Bihar	40
Sex ratio (2011)	918	Members of Rajya Sabha from Bihar	16
Child sex-ratio (2011)	935	Members of Bihar Legislative Assembly	243
Highest sex-ratio district	Gopalganj (1015)	Members of Bihar Legislative Council	75
Lowest sex-ratio district	Munger and Bhagalpur (879)	Schedule caste population	16%
Child population (0-6 years group) to total population	17.9%	Schedule tribe population	1.3%
Population density	1,106 per sq. km	Most populous district	Patna
Highest population density district	Sheohar (1882 per sq. km)	Least populous district	Sheikhpura
Lowest population density district	Kaimur (488 per sq. km)	Infant mortality rate (As on 2016)	38
Urban population to total population	11.29%	Maternal mortality rate (As on 2017)	93

Do You Know?

In ancient times, Patna was known as Pataliputra, Pataligrama, Pushppur, Kusumpur and Azimabad.

Divisions and Districts of Bihar

Divisions (9)

Patna, Magadh, Saran, Tirhut, Darbhanga, Koshi, Purnea, Bhagalpur, and Munger

Districts (38)

Arwal, Patna, Nalanda, Rohtas, Bhabhua, Bhojpur, Buxar, Gaya, Jehanabad, Nawada, Siwan, Gopalganj, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, West Champaran, East Champaran, Vaishali, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Purnia, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar, Banka, Bhagalpur, Munger, Lakhisarai, Aurangabad, Saran, Shekhpura, Jamui, Khagaria and Begusarai.

History of Bihar

- Bihar, the ancient land of Buddha, has witnessed golden period of Indian history. It is the same land where the seeds of the first republic were sown and which cultivated the first crop of democracy.
- The history of Bihar is very ancient. Earliest myths and legends of Hinduism. The Sanatan (Eternal) Dharma are associated with Bihar.
- Sita, the consort of Lord Rama, was a princess of Bihar. She was the daughter of King Janak of Videha. The present districts of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Samastipur, Madhubani, and Darbhanga in North-central Bihar, mark this ancient kingdom.

According to legend, the birthplace of Sita is Punaura, located on the west-side of Sitamarhi, the headquarters of the district. Janakpur, the capital of King Janak, and the place where Lord Rama and Sita were married, lies just across the border in Nepal.

- The ancient kingdoms of Magadh and of Licchavis (around about 7-8th century B.C., produced rulers who devised a system of administration) were ruled from the present state of Bihar. Kautilya, the author of Arthashastra, the first treatise of the modern science of Economics, lived here. Also, known as Chanakya, he was the wily and canny adviser to the Magadh king, Chandragupta Maurya.
- The present-day Bodh Gaya town where Prince Siddhartha attained enlightenment and became the Buddha, is located in the State. It is here also that Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankar of Jainism, was born and attained nirvana (death). That site

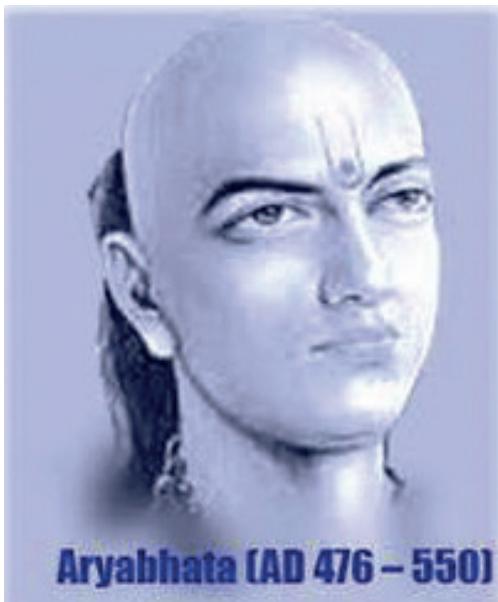
is located at the present town of Pawapuri, some miles to the south-east of Patna, the Capital of Bihar.



- The state was ruled by the famous Mauryan king, Ashoka, (also known as Priyadarshi or Priyadassi), around 270 B.C. He was the first to formulate firm tenets for the governance of a people. These tenets, the so-called Edicts of Ashoka, were inscribed on stone pillars which

were planted across his kingdom. The pillars were crowned with the statue of animals, most notably one or more lions sitting on top of a pedestal which was inscribed with symbols of wheels. Among these, a figure of four lions, atop a pedestal, with inscription of a wheel, was adopted as the Official Seal of the independent Republic of India. Also, Ashok's dharma chakra was incorporated into the National Flag of India, the Indian Tricolor.

- At Nalanda, the world's first seat of higher learning, a university, was established during the Gupta period. It continued as a seat of learning till the middle ages, when the Muslim invaders burned it down. The ruins are UNESCO world heritage site and a popular tourist spot.
- Rajgir, was capital of the Mauryan Empire during the reign of Bimbisara. It was frequently visited by Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavira. There are many Buddhist ruins here. It is also well-known for its many hot-springs which are reputed to have medicinal property.
- Aryabhata, the famous Indian mathematician and astronomer, was born in a place known as Taregana in Bihar. He is credited to discover many mathematical terms including Place Value System and approximation of π . Besides, he contributed many new ideas in the field of Trigonometry, Indeterminate Equations, Algebra, etc. He is also credited to contribute in astronomy, like Motions in Solar System, Eclipses, Sideral Periods, Heliocentrism, etc.



- The tenth and last Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh was born in Patna. A majestic Gurudwara (a temple for Sikhs) built to commemorate his memory - the Harmandir Sahib- is located in eastern Patna. Known reverentially as the Patna Sahib, it is one of the five holiest places of worship (Takhat) for Sikhs.
- In medieval time, Bihar lost its prestige as the political and cultural center of India. The only remarkable person of these times in Bihar was Sher Khan Suri, an Afghan. Based at Sasaram (Bihar), he was Jagirdar of the Mughal King Babur and later defeated Humayun, twice - once at Chausa and then again at Kannauj. Sher Shah Suri was a ferocious warrior but also a noble administrator - like the tradition of Ashoka and the Gupta kings.
- During most of British India, Bihar was a part of the Presidency of Bengal, and was governed from Calcutta (now Kolkata). When separated from the Bengal Presidency in 1912, Bihar and Orissa (now Odisha) comprised a single province. Later, under the Government of India Act of 1935, Odisha became a separate province; and the Province of Bihar came into being as an administrative unit of British India.
- Resurgence in the history of Bihar came during the struggle for India's independence. It was from Bihar that Mahatma Gandhi launched his first civil-disobedience movement in India- the Champaran Satyagraha. At the persistent request of a farmer Raj Kumar Shukla from the district Champaran district, Gandhi came to Champaran in 1917. Here he learned the sad plight of the indigo farmers suffering under the oppressive rule of the British.

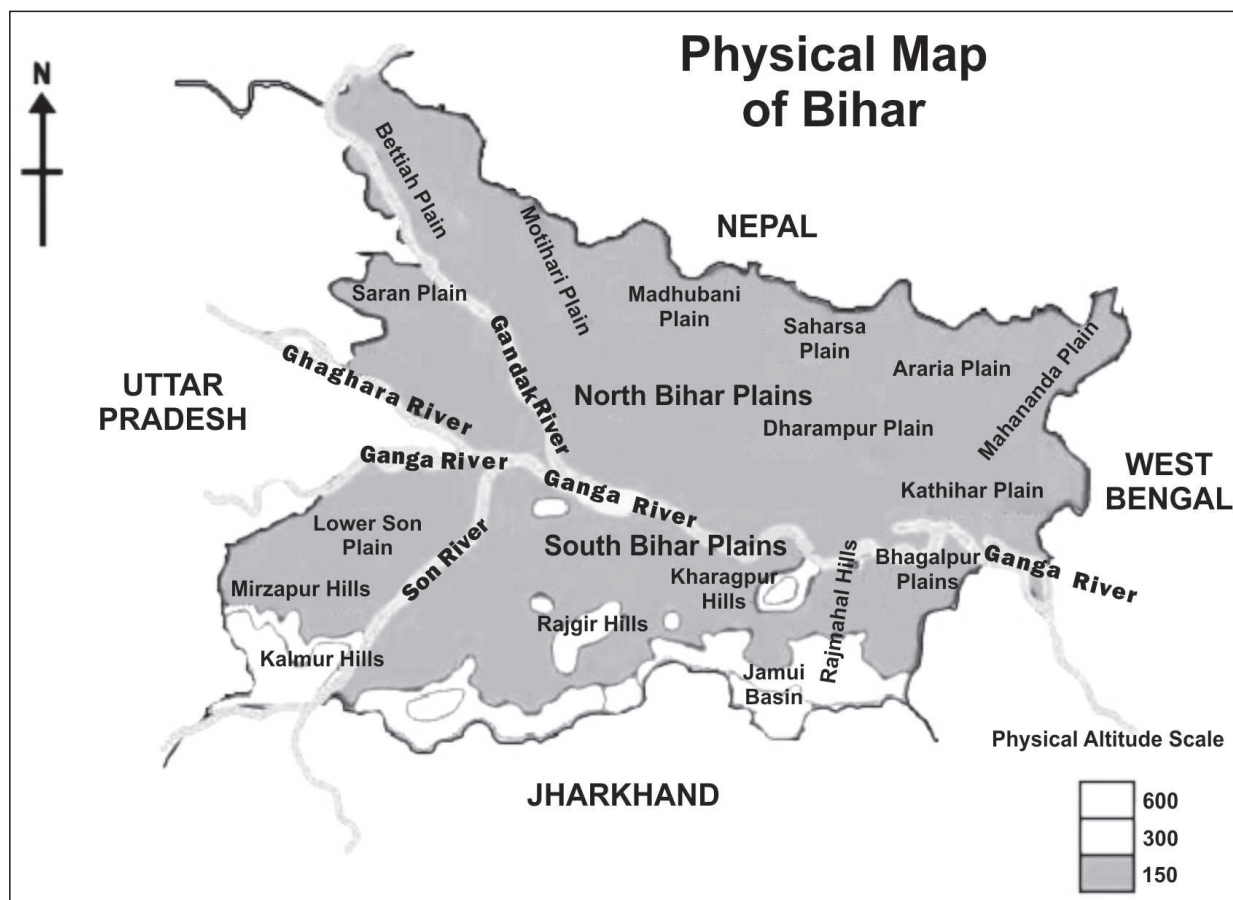


- Alarmed at the tumultuous reception Gandhi received in Champaran, the British authorities served notice on him to leave the Province of Bihar. Gandhi refused to comply, saying that as an Indian he was free to travel anywhere in his own country. For this act of defiance, he was detained in the district jail at Motihari, the district headquarters of Champaran. This was the first instance of the success of civil-disobedience as a tool to win freedom.
- The many people from Bihar became leading participants in India's struggle for independence. Most notably among others was Dr. Rajendra Prasad who became first President of India. Another was Jay Prakash Narayan, affectionately called JP, who led a movement against Emergency imposed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Geography of Bihar

Physiography

- Bihar is divided into mainly three physiographic units on the basis of physical and structural conditions i.e. Shiwalik Range; Bihar Plain; and Southern Plateau Region.



Shiwalik Range

- This range shadows the state from Northern part of West Champaran district over an area of 32 km long and 6-8 km wide and it is sub-divided into three parts on the basis of variation:
 - Ramanagar Doon
 - Someshwar Range
 - Harha Valley