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Chapters	Questions	Pages	in every chapter

CHAPTERS

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✓	Every chapter: Key idea · Traps · Tricks	

For: BPSC Prelims + Mains · BPSC TRE (Teachers) · BSSC · Bihar Police · Bihar SI

How to use this PDF

Every major Bihar exam — BPSC Prelims and Mains, BPSC TRE, BSSC, Bihar Police, Bihar SI — asks questions straight from Bihar-specific general knowledge. This PDF covers the complete static Bihar GK in 11 chapters as 1000 one-liner questions and answers — the facts these exams ask again and again.

1. Read the key idea
A 2–3 line summary opens every chapter.

2. Cover the answer
Hide the highlighted answer with your hand and think first.

3. Never skip the Trap box
Look-alike names, districts and years — this is where marks are lost.

4. Revise three times
Read once, then with answers covered, then only the ones you got wrong.

Exam	Why Bihar GK matters
BPSC Prelims	**Bihar Special — direct questions on history, geography, economy and polity**
BPSC Mains	Bihar-linked questions — facts, figures and examples make answers stronger
BPSC TRE (Teacher recruitment)	Bihar GK in General Studies
BSSC, Bihar Police, Bihar SI	Bihar-specific general knowledge section

Facts are as of November 2026; population figures are from Census 2011. Confirm exam dates and pattern on the official website.

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01 Profile, Formation, State Symbols, Divisions & Districts

Profile, Formation, Symbols, Divisions & Districts

KEY IDEA

In 1912 the province of Bihar and Orissa was carved out of the Bengal Presidency; Orissa separated in 1936 and Jharkhand on 15 November 2000.

Today Bihar covers 94,163 sq km and is divided into 9 divisions and 38 districts; Arwal (2001) is the newest district.

Bihar Diwas, the state symbols, border districts, district headquarters and the formation dates of new districts are asked again and again in exams.

1. What is the total area of Bihar?
   → **94,163 sq km**

2. What is Bihar's approximate share of India's total area?
   → **About 2.86%**

3. What is Bihar's rank by area among the present 28 states?
   → **12th** — 13th in older books, when Jammu & Kashmir was a state

4. What is the approximate north-south length of Bihar?
   → **About 345 km**

5. What is the approximate east-west length of Bihar?
   → **About 483 km**

6. How many districts of Bihar share a border with Nepal?
   → **7** — From West Champaran to Kishanganj

7. How many districts of Bihar border West Bengal?
   → **3** — Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar

8. Which district touches the borders of both West Bengal and Jharkhand?
   → **Katihar**

9. In the east, which state separates Bihar from Bangladesh with its narrow strip?
   → **West Bengal** — Bihar does not border Bangladesh

10. What is the total length of the India-Nepal border?
    → **1,751 km**

11. Which is the only district that shares borders with both Nepal and Uttar Pradesh?
    → **West Champaran**

12. Which district borders both Nepal and West Bengal?
    → **Kishanganj**

13. Which district, lying between Sitamarhi and East Champaran, does not touch Nepal?
    → **Sheohar** — Darbhanga also does not touch Nepal

14. With which country does Araria district share an international border?
→ **Nepal** — Araria does not touch West Bengal

15. From which word is the name 'Bihar' derived?
→ **Vihara (Buddhist monastery)** — A Sanskrit-Pali word

16. Which town near Odantapuri did the Turkic rulers call 'Bihar'?
→ **Bihar Sharif**

17. Purnia district shares a border with which state?
→ **West Bengal** — Purnia does not touch Nepal

18. After the Battle of Buxar, by which treaty did the East India Company get the Diwani of Bihar?
→ **Treaty of Allahabad (1765)**

19. Who was the leading figure of the movement for a separate province of Bihar?
→ **Sachchidananda Sinha** — Also Mahesh Narayan, Ali Imam and Hasan Imam

20. At which Durbar were the annulment of the Partition of Bengal and the new province announced?
→ **Delhi Durbar (12 December 1911)**

21. On which date is Bihar Diwas celebrated every year?
→ **22 March** — Date of the 1912 proclamation of the Bihar and Orissa province

22. When did the province of Bihar and Orissa formally begin functioning?
→ **1 April 1912**

23. When did Orissa separate from Bihar to become a separate province?
→ **1 April 1936**

24. Which two princely states were merged into Bihar in 1948?
→ **Seraikela and Kharsawan**

25. Which region of Bihar was transferred to West Bengal in 1956?
→ **Purulia** — Also a strip of Purnia; effective 1 November 1956

26. On which date was the state of Jharkhand formed?
→ **15 November 2000**

27. Under which Act was Jharkhand formed?
→ **Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000**

28. Jharkhand's foundation day, 15 November, is the birth anniversary of which people's hero?
→ **Birsa Munda**

29. How many districts did undivided Bihar have before the bifurcation?
→ **55**

30. How many districts of Bihar went to Jharkhand in 2000?
→ **18**

31. How many districts remained in Bihar immediately after Jharkhand was formed?
→ **37** — The number became 38 with the creation of Arwal (2001)

32. Which British monarch made the announcement at the Delhi Durbar of 1911?
→ **George V**

33. When the Constitution came into force (26 January 1950), in which category of states was Bihar placed?
→ **Part A state**

34. What is the area of Jharkhand, formed in 2000?
→ **79,716 sq km**

35. Roughly what share of its former area did Bihar retain after the bifurcation?
→ **About 54%**

36. On which bank of the Ganga is Patna situated?
→ **Southern bank**

37. Who shifted the capital of Magadha from Rajagriha to Pataliputra?
→ **Udayin (Udayabhadra)** — Haryanka dynasty

38. Of the three new states formed in November 2000, which was formed first?
→ **Chhattisgarh (1 November)** — Uttarakhand 9 November, Jharkhand 15 November

39. Which ancient literary names of Patna mean 'city of flowers'?
→ **Kusumpura and Pushpapura**

40. Who re-founded Patna in 1541 by building a fort there?
→ **Sher Shah Suri**

41. Who renamed Patna 'Azimabad'?
→ **Azim-ush-Shan** — Grandson of Aurangzeb, 1704

42. What is depicted on the state emblem of Bihar?
→ **Bodhi tree and two swastikas** — 'Bihar' is inscribed at the base

43. What is the state animal of Bihar?
→ **Gaur (Indian bison)**

44. What is the state bird of Bihar?
→ **House sparrow** — Declared in April 2013

45. What is the state tree of Bihar?
→ **Peepal** — Declared in 2013

46. What is the state fish of Bihar?
→ **Mangur (Magur)** — An air-breathing catfish of ponds

47. What is the state song of Bihar?
→ **'Mere Bharat Ke Kanth Haar'** — Adopted in 2012

48. Who wrote the state song of Bihar?
→ **Satyanarayan**

49. Who wrote Bihar's state prayer 'Meri Raftar Pe Suraj Ki Kiran Naaz Kare'?
→ **M.R. Chishti**

50. What is the second official language of Bihar?
→ **Urdu** — First official language: Hindi

51. How many divisions are there in Bihar?
→ **9**

52. How many districts are there in Bihar?
→ **38**

53. How many subdivisions are there in Bihar?
→ **101**

54. Where is the headquarters of Magadh division?
→ **Gaya**

55. Where is the headquarters of Tirhut division?
→ **Muzaffarpur**

56. Where is the headquarters of Saran division?
→ **Chhapra** — Chhapra is also the headquarters of Saran district

57. Where is the headquarters of Kosi division?
→ **Saharsa**

58. Which division of Bihar has only two districts?
→ **Bhagalpur division** — Bhagalpur and Banka

59. How many districts are there in Magadh division?
→ **5** — Gaya, Nawada, Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Arwal

60. How many districts are there in Purnia division?
→ **4** — Purnia, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar

61. In which division is Nalanda district?
→ **Patna division**

62. Sheohar district is part of which division?
→ **Tirhut division**

63. In which division is Begusarai district?
→ **Munger division**

64. In which division is Vaishali district?
→ **Tirhut division**

65. Which three divisions have six districts each?
→ **Patna, Tirhut, Munger**

66. Which is the newest (38th) district of Bihar?
→ **Arwal** — In Magadh division

67. When was Arwal district formed?
→ **20 August 2001**

68. Arwal district was carved out of which district?
→ **Jehanabad**

69. How many new districts were created in present-day Bihar between 1986 and 2001?
→ **12** — From Jehanabad (1986) to Arwal (2001)

70. In which year were the most new districts created in present-day Bihar during 1986–2001?
→ **1991** — 5 districts: Jamui, Banka, Buxar, Kaimur, Supaul

71. Jehanabad district was carved out of which district?
→ **Gaya** — 1 August 1986

72. Sheohar district was carved out of which district?
→ **Sitamarhi** — 6 October 1994

73. Sheikhpura district was separated from which district?
→ **Munger** — 31 July 1994

74. Kaimur district was carved out of which district?
→ **Rohtas** — 1991

75. When and from which district was Araria district formed?
→ **14 January 1990, from Purnia**

76. Which old district gave rise to the Jamui, Lakhisarai and Sheikhpura districts?
→ **Munger**

77. Where is the headquarters of Bhojpur district?
→ **Arrah**

78. Where is the headquarters of Rohtas district?
→ **Sasaram**

79. Which town is the headquarters of Vaishali district?
→ **Hajipur**

80. Where is the headquarters of Kaimur district?
→ **Bhabua**

81. Where is the headquarters of East Champaran district?
→ **Motihari**

82. Where is the headquarters of West Champaran district?
→ **Bettiah**

83. Where is the headquarters of Nalanda district?
→ **Bihar Sharif**

84. Which is the largest district of Bihar by area?
→ **West Champaran** — About 5,228 sq km

85. Which is the smallest district of Bihar by area?
→ **Sheohar** — About 349 sq km as per Census 2011

86. Which city is called the 'Land of Litchi'?
→ **Muzaffarpur** — Shahi Litchi has a GI tag

87. In which district is the Barauni oil refinery?
→ **Begusarai** — 1964

88. Where was the famous English writer George Orwell born?
→ **Motihari** — 1903

89. In which year was Patna's famous Golghar built?
→ **1786**

90. Which is the second largest district of Bihar by area?
→ **Gaya**

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- Bihar Diwas is on 22 March (the 1912 proclamation); 1 April 1912 is the date on which the new province started functioning.
- Sasaram is the headquarters of Rohtas, not Kaimur; Kaimur's headquarters is Bhabua.
- Arwal (2001) is the newest district, while Sheohar (1994) is the smallest district by area — these are two separate records.

💡 Memory trick

Districts per division: 'three sixes, one five, one four, three threes, one two' — Patna, Tirhut, Munger 6 each; Magadh 5; Purnia 4; Saran, Darbhanga, Kosi 3 each; Bhagalpur 2 = 38. New districts: 1 in 1986, 2 in 1990, 5 in 1991, 3 in 1994, 1 in 2001 = 12.

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02 Location, Physical Divisions, Climate & Soils

Location, Physiography, Climate & Soils

KEY IDEA

Bihar is almost entirely a flat plain built by the Ganga and its tributaries, with a narrow Shiwalik strip in the north-west and a plateau fringe in the south.

The Himalayan rivers of the north are perennial and bring floods, while the plateau rivers of the south are mostly seasonal.

Rainfall decreases from east to west; alluvium dominates the soils, along with local types such as Balsundari, Tal, Karail-Kewal and Balthar.

91. What is the latitudinal extent of Bihar?
→ **24°20′10″ N to 27°31′15″ N**

92. What is the longitudinal extent of Bihar?
→ **83°19′50″ E to 88°17′40″ E**

93. Which country lies to the north of Bihar?
→ **Nepal** — Bihar's only international border

94. Which state lies to the south of Bihar?
→ **Jharkhand**

95. Which state lies to the west of Bihar?
→ **Uttar Pradesh**

96. With how many Indian states does Bihar share its border?
→ **3** — Uttar Pradesh (west), Jharkhand (south), West Bengal (east)

97. Having no coastline, what kind of state is Bihar called?
→ **Landlocked state**

98. Through which state, south of Bihar, does the Tropic of Cancer pass?
→ **Jharkhand** — Bihar lies entirely north of the Tropic of Cancer

99. The Kaimur Plateau is made of rocks of which system?
→ **Vindhyan** — Layers of sandstone, shale and limestone

100. In which geological period was Bihar's Shiwalik strip formed?
→ **Tertiary period**

101. In which geological period was the Ganga plain formed?
→ **Quaternary period** — It is still being formed today

102. What is the older alluvium of the Bihar plain called?
→ **Bangar**

103. What is the new alluvium deposited by every flood called?
→ **Khadar**

104. In which district is the Shiwalik region of Bihar located?
→ **West Champaran** — Northern part, along the Nepal border

105. Which is the highest point of Bihar?
→ **Someshwar** — About 880 m, West Champaran

106. Which lower range lies to the south of the Someshwar range?
→ **Ramnagar Dun range**

107. Which valley lies between the Someshwar and Ramnagar Dun ranges?
→ **Harha valley**

108. What is the marshy belt at the foot of the Shiwaliks along the Nepal border called?
→ **Terai**

109. What is the belt of coarse pebbles and gravel, in which hill streams disappear, called?
→ **Bhabar** — This belt lies mainly in Nepal

110. Which was the highest peak of undivided Bihar before 2000?
→ **Parasnath** — Now in Giridih, Jharkhand

111. What is the general slope of the North Bihar plain?
→ **North-west to south-east**

112. What are the saucer-shaped shallow depressions of North Bihar called?
→ **Chaur**

113. What is an oxbow lake, formed when a river meander is cut off, called in Bihar?
→ **Maun**

114. What is the low-lying land south of the Ganga that stays submerged in the monsoon called?
→ **Tal**

115. What is the traditional tank-and-channel irrigation system of the Gaya-Magadh region?
→ **Ahar-Pyne** — Ahar = water-storage basin, Pyne = channel

116. What are the lime nodules found in the Bangar alluvium of South Bihar called?
→ **Kankar**

117. Which is the largest plateau region of Bihar?
→ **Kaimur Plateau** — Kaimur and Rohtas districts

118. By how many hills was ancient Rajagriha surrounded?
→ **Five** — Vaibhar, Ratnagiri, Vipul, Udaygiri, Sonagiri

119. In which district of Bihar are the Kharagpur Hills?
→ **Munger** — Different from Kharagpur town in West Bengal

120. Near which place does the Ganga enter Bihar?
→ **Chausa (Buxar)**

121. Which river joins the Ganga from the south near Chausa?
→ **Karmanasa**

122. What is the approximate length of the Ganga in Bihar?
→ **About 445 km** — Sources differ slightly

123. Which is the last town of Bihar on the southern bank of the Ganga?
→ **Pirpainti (Bhagalpur)**

124. In their lower course, the Bagmati and the Kamla merge into which river system?
→ **Kosi** — They do not fall directly into the Ganga

125. By what name is the Ghaghara known in Nepal?
→ **Karnali**

126. Near which town does the Ghaghara join the Ganga?
→ **Chhapra (Saran)**

127. By what name is the Gandak known in Nepal?
→ **Narayani** — Also called Sapt Gandaki

128. At which place does the Gandak enter Bihar?
→ **Valmikinagar (Triveni)** — West Champaran

129. Where is the confluence of the Gandak and the Ganga?
→ **Hajipur-Sonepur** — Opposite Patna

130. Where does the Burhi Gandak originate?
→ **Chautarwa Chaur (West Champaran)** — It rises within Bihar itself

131. Where does the Burhi Gandak join the Ganga?
→ **Near Khagaria** — Opposite Munger

132. Where do the Kamla and the Bagmati meet?
→ **Badlaghat (Khagaria)**

133. Where does the Kamla river originate?
→ **Sindhuli district (Nepal)** — Rises in the Nepal hills (Mahabharat/Churia range)

134. Which is the last (easternmost) major tributary to join the Ganga within Bihar?
→ **Kosi** — The Mahananda joins outside Bihar

135. Which river is called the 'Sorrow of Bihar'?
→ **Kosi**

136. What are the three main streams of the Kosi in Nepal?
→ **Sun Kosi, Arun, Tamur** — They meet at Triveni (Nepal)

137. At which place does the Kosi enter Bihar?
→ **Bhimnagar (Supaul)**

138. Where does the Kosi join the Ganga?
→ **Near Kursela (Katihar)**

139. In which direction has the Kosi mainly shifted over the last 250 years or so?
→ **Westward** — By more than 100 km

140. Where does the Mahananda originate?
→ **Darjeeling hills (near Mahaldiram)**

141. In which country does the Mahananda finally join the Ganga (Padma)?
→ **Bangladesh**

142. Which tributary of the Mahananda forms the India-Nepal border?
→ **Mechi**

143. Where does the Karmanasa originate?
→ **Kaimur range (Kaimur district)**

144. Which river, considered 'impure' in folklore, forms the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh border?
→ **Karmanasa** — Meaning: destroyer of religious merit

145. Where does the Son river originate?
→ **Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh)**

146. Which is the longest tributary joining the Ganga from the south in Bihar?
→ **Son** — Overall, the Ganga's longest southern tributary is the Yamuna

147. Where does the Son join the Ganga?
→ **Near Maner** — Upstream of Patna

148. Where does the Punpun join the Ganga?
→ **Fatuha (Patna)**

149. The Falgu is formed by the union of which two streams?
→ **Lilajan (Niranjana) and Mohana** — They meet near Bodh Gaya

150. On the bank of which river is the Vishnupad Temple of Gaya?
→ **Falgu**

151. Where does the Kiul river originate?
→ **Tisri hills, Giridih (Jharkhand)**

152. Where does the Kiul join the Ganga?
→ **Near Surajgarha (Lakhisarai)**

153. Which river is called the 'lifeline of Banka'?
→ **Chandan**

154. Through which river does the water of Mokama Tal drain out?
→ **Harohar** — The Harohar joins the Kiul

155. What is the approximate area of Mokama Tal?
→ **About 1,062 sq km**

156. Between which places does Mokama Tal extend from west to east?
→ **Fatuha to Lakhisarai**

157. What is called the 'pulse bowl' of Bihar?
→ **Mokama Tal** — Lentil, gram, pea

158. At the foot of which hill are the hot springs of Rajgir?
→ **Vaibhar hill**

159. In which district is the Kakolat waterfall?
→ **Nawada** — A fair is held on Chaitra Sankranti (Bisua)

160. In which district is the Karkat waterfall?
→ **Kaimur** — Area famous for crocodiles

161. Which is the most famous hot spring of Rajgir?
→ **Brahmakund**

162. In which district is Sitakund, the hot spring linked to the legend of Sita?
→ **Munger** — A Magh fair is held there

163. In which district is the Rishikund hot spring?
→ **Munger** — In the Kharagpur Hills

164. Where is the horse-shaped Ghora Katora lake located?
→ **Rajgir (Nalanda)** — Not a Ramsar site

165. Under the Koppen classification, what type of climate does most of Bihar have?
→ **Cwa** — Humid subtropical with a dry winter

166. What brings light winter rain to Bihar?
→ **Western disturbances** — Beneficial for wheat and rabi crops

167. What is the hot, dry westerly wind that blows in the afternoons of April-May called?
→ **Loo**

168. What are the pre-monsoon thunderstorms, more frequent in north-east Bihar, called?
→ **Kalbaisakhi (Nor'westers)** — Useful for jute

169. Which region of Bihar does the monsoon reach first?
→ **North-east (Purnia-Kishanganj)** — Usually around mid-June

170. Roughly what share of Bihar's annual rainfall occurs in June-September?
→ **About 85%**

171. What is the late-September to early-October rain, crucial for paddy, called?
→ **Hathiya rain** — Also provides moisture for rabi sowing

172. What is the normal annual rainfall of Bihar?
→ **About 1,200 mm**

173. Which district of Bihar receives the highest rainfall?
→ **Kishanganj** — More than 2,000 mm

174. Which is the lowest-rainfall, drought-prone part of Bihar?
→ **South-west Bihar** — About 1,000 mm of rainfall

175. In which direction does rainfall generally decrease in Bihar?
→ **From east to west** — Also from north to south

176. What is the calcareous alluvial soil of North Bihar called?
→ **Balsundari** — Suitable for sugarcane, maize and litchi

177. What is the heavy grey clay soil of the Mokama-Barahiya area called?
→ **Tal soil** — Mainly rabi pulses are grown

178. What is the deep, heavy clay soil of South Bihar that cracks on drying called?
→ **Karail-Kewal** — Like black soil, but alluvial

179. What is the sandy, yellowish-red, acidic soil along the southern plateau-plain border called?
→ **Balthar** — A belt from Kaimur to Banka

180. What is the problem of thick sand being deposited on fields after floods called?
→ **Sand casting (balu-jamav)** — More common in the Kosi-Gandak region

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- The Burhi Gandak rises within Bihar (at Chautarwa Chaur in West Champaran), while the Gandak comes from Nepal — they are two different rivers.
- The highest point of present-day Bihar is Someshwar (West Champaran); Parasnath is now in Jharkhand (Giridih).
- Balsundari (calcareous, North Bihar) and Balthar (sandy and acidic, southern plateau fringe) sound alike, but they are opposite in nature and location.

💡 Memory trick

Southern hills from west to east — 'K-G-R-K': Kaimur, Gaya, Rajgir, Kharagpur. Ganga: 'In at Chausa, out at Pirpainti'.

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03 Rivers & Water Resources, Forests & Wildlife, Minerals, Energy and Disasters

Rivers, Water, Forests, Wildlife, Minerals, Energy & Disasters

KEY IDEA

Bihar is poor in forests and, after 2000, in minerals too, but it is rich in fertile alluvial soil and water resources.

The state's forest cover is only about 8%; Valmiki is Bihar's only national park and tiger reserve.

Floods in North Bihar and drought in South Bihar are the state's biggest geographical challenges.

181. Which organisation publishes the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)?
→ **Forest Survey of India, Dehradun** — The report is released every two years.

182. On which date was ISFR 2023 released?
→ **21 December 2024**

183. As per ISFR 2021, what is Bihar's total forest cover?
→ **7,381 sq km (7.84%)** — ISFR 2021; about 8% in ISFR 2023

184. In ISFR 2021, which is the largest density class of Bihar's forest cover?
→ **Open forest (3,762 sq km)** — Very dense forest is only 333 sq km.

185. What is Bihar's approximate green cover (forest and tree cover together)?
→ **About 15%** — State government estimate

186. Under the Fourth Agriculture Road Map, what is Bihar's green-cover target for 2028?
→ **17%**

187. What type of forests are found in the Terai-Shiwalik region of West Champaran?
→ **Tropical moist deciduous forests** — Sal, shisham, semal and bamboo dominate; rainfall above 150 cm

188. Which forests are found on the plateau fringe of Kaimur, Rohtas, Gaya and Jamui?
→ **Tropical dry deciduous forests** — Tendu, mahua and palash are the main trees here.

189. Which district of Bihar has the largest forest area?
→ **Kaimur (1,025.68 sq km)** — Also first by percentage (30.51%); 2023 assessment

190. Which district ranks second after Kaimur in forest area?
→ **West Champaran** — 908.23 sq km; 2023 assessment

191. Which district ranks second in forest cover as a percentage of district area?
→ **Jamui (21.65%)** — Third: Munger (21.57%); 2023 assessment

192. Which is the only national park of Bihar?
→ **Valmiki National Park** — West Champaran, in the Shiwalik foothills and Terai

193. In which year did Valmiki get tiger reserve status?
→ **1990** — India's 18th tiger reserve under Project Tiger

194. In which year was the Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary first set up?
→ **1978** — The national park was notified in 1989–90.

195. Which river forms the western boundary of Valmiki Tiger Reserve?
→ **Gandak**

196. Which national park of Nepal adjoins Valmiki to the north?
→ **Chitwan National Park** — Sohagibarwa Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh adjoins it to the west.

197. How many tigers were counted in Valmiki Tiger Reserve in the All India Tiger Estimation 2022?
→ **54** — There were 31 in 2018.

198. Which sanctuary has been proposed as Bihar's second tiger reserve?
→ **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary** — Final NTCA approval is still awaited.

199. Which rare bird is found in the grasslands of Valmiki?
→ **Bengal florican**

200. Which is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Bihar?
→ **Kaimur (about 1,505 sq km)** — In Kaimur and Rohtas districts; 1979

201. Excluding bird sanctuaries, which is the smallest wildlife sanctuary of Bihar?
→ **Udaipur (West Champaran)** — About 8.7 sq km; Nagi, Nakti and Baraila bird sanctuaries are smaller.

202. In which district is the Bhimbandh Sanctuary, famous for its hot springs?
→ **Munger** — Kharagpur Hills; 1976

203. In which district of Bihar is the Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary?
→ **Gaya** — On the Jharkhand border; named after the Buddha of Bodh Gaya

204. In which district is the Pant Wildlife Sanctuary located?
→ **Nalanda (Rajgir)** — In the Rajgir hills

205. In which district is the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary?
→ **Bhagalpur** — India's only Gangetic dolphin sanctuary

206. Along which stretch of the Ganga does the Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary extend?
→ **Sultanganj to Kahalgaon** — A river stretch of about 60 km

207. In which year was the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary notified?
→ **1991** — Some government lists give 1990 as the notification year.

208. In which district is Kanwar Lake (Kabartal) located?
→ **Begusarai** — Winter home of migratory birds from Central Asia and Siberia

209. In which district is the Kusheshwar Asthan Bird Sanctuary?
→ **Darbhanga** — Floodplain wetland near a famous Shiva temple

210. In which district is the Baraila Lake Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary?
→ **Vaishali** — Named after Salim Ali, the 'Birdman of India'

211. For what purpose were the Nagi and Nakti reservoirs of Jamui originally built?
→ **Irrigation** — They are man-made reservoirs, not natural lakes.

212. Which are the famous waterfalls of the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary?
→ **Karkat and Telhar**

213. Kanwar Lake is an oxbow lake formed in the plain of which river?
→ **Burhi Gandak**

214. In which year was the Rajgir Zoo Safari opened to the public?
→ **2022** — Inside the Pant (Rajgir) Wildlife Sanctuary

215. Which is Bihar's first Ramsar site?
→ **Kanwar Lake (2020)** — An oxbow lake in Begusarai

216. By 2025, how many Ramsar sites did Bihar have in all?
→ **6**

217. Which two sites of Bihar were declared added to the Ramsar list in June 2024?
→ **Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries (Jamui)** — Formal Ramsar date 11 October 2023; these are two separate sites.

218. In which district is the Gokul Jalashay Ramsar site?
→ **Buxar** — An oxbow lake in the Ganga floodplain; 2025

219. In which district is the Udaipur Jheel Ramsar site?
→ **West Champaran** — Inside the Udaipur Sanctuary; 2025

220. Which Ramsar site of Katihar lies between the Ganga and the Mahananda?
→ **Gogabil** — 2025; India's 94th Ramsar site

221. When was the Gangetic dolphin declared India's National Aquatic Animal?
→ **5 October 2009**

222. On which date is National Dolphin Day observed?
→ **5 October** — Observed since 2022.

223. What is the Gangetic dolphin locally called in Bihar?
→ **Sons (Soons)**

224. By which method does the nearly blind Gangetic dolphin find its food?
→ **Echolocation** — It must surface to breathe every one to two minutes.

225. In the first national dolphin estimation (2025), roughly how many dolphins were found in Bihar?
→ **About 2,220** — Second after Uttar Pradesh; India's total about 6,327

226. Where has the National Dolphin Research Centre been set up?
→ **Patna** — On the Ganga bank, in the Patna University campus

227. When did the Bihar government launch the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan?
→ **26 October 2019**

228. How many components does the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan have?
→ **11** — The last component is solar energy and energy conservation.

229. When was the huge human chain formed in Bihar in support of Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali?
→ **19 January 2020**

230. Which is the nodal department of the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan?
→ **Rural Development Department**

231. Where is Bihar's main pyrite deposit after the bifurcation?
→ **Amjhore (Rohtas)** — Once India's main pyrite deposit; mining has stopped

232. Pyrite is mainly a source of which element?
→ **Sulphur** — Used to make sulphuric acid and fertilisers

233. Where is limestone mainly found in Bihar?
→ **Rohtas (Banjari) and Kaimur Plateau** — Basis of the cement industry

234. Where did the old limestone-based Dalmianagar industrial complex develop?
→ **Dehri-on-Sone (Rohtas)**

235. In which districts do mica deposits remain in Bihar after the bifurcation?
→ **Nawada, Gaya, Jamui** — Northern end of the Koderma mica belt; main part went to Jharkhand

236. Where is Bihar's large gold-ore deposit?
→ **Sono (Karmatiya block), Jamui** — Mining has not started yet.

237. Roughly what share of India's total gold-ore resources does the Sono (Jamui) deposit hold?
→ **About 44%** — Geological Survey of India estimate

238. In which districts of Bihar are quartz, feldspar and glass sand mainly found?
→ **Munger, Jamui, Bhagalpur, Nawada** — Used in the glass and ceramic industries

239. When was the Bihar State Electricity Board split into five companies?
→ **1 November 2012** — Holding, generation, transmission and two distribution companies

240. In 2018, to which company were Bihar's own thermal power stations handed over?
→ **NTPC** — The state's stake in Barauni, Kanti and Nabinagar

241. Which is the largest thermal power station of Bihar?
→ **Barh (Patna), 3,300 MW** — 5 × 660 MW; last unit commissioned in 2025

242. In which district is the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station?
→ **Bhagalpur** — 2,340 MW, on the bank of the Ganga

243. In which district are both thermal power plants of Nabinagar located?
→ **Aurangabad** — NPGC 1,980 MW and BRBCL 1,000 MW

244. The BRBCL plant at Nabinagar is a joint venture of which two?
→ **NTPC and Indian Railways** — It supplies power to the Railways.

245. Which company owns the Chausa thermal power project in Buxar?
→ **SJVN** — 2 × 660 MW; first unit commissioned in 2025, second in 2026

246. Which two thermal power stations of Bihar lie north of the Ganga?
→ **Kanti and Barauni** — Kanti in Muzaffarpur, Barauni in Begusarai

247. Where is the Kosi hydroelectric power station?
→ **Kataiya (Supaul)** — 19.2 MW

248. In which district is the Kajra solar-cum-battery storage project?
→ **Lakhisarai** — Phase 1: 185 MW + 254 MWh battery

249. As per the Economic Survey 2025–26, what is Bihar's per capita electricity consumption?
→ **About 374 kWh** — National average is over 1,300 kWh

250. Which is the oldest modern canal system of Bihar?
→ **Son canal system** — The Dehri anicut was built in 1873–74.

251. On which river is the Indrapuri Barrage built?
→ **Son** — 1968, Rohtas; it replaced the old Dehri anicut

252. Where is the barrage on the Gandak river?
→ **Valmikinagar (Bhainsalotan)** — Built in 1968–69

253. When was the India-Nepal agreement on the Gandak project signed?
→ **4 December 1959**

254. Near which Indian border town is the Kosi Barrage built?
→ **Bhimnagar (Supaul)** — The barrage itself is in Nepal, just north of the border; Kosi Agreement 1954

255. When was the Kosi Agreement signed between India and Nepal?
→ **25 April 1954** — Amended in 1966

256. Which is the largest single source of irrigation in Bihar?
→ **Private shallow tubewells** — Especially in North Bihar

257. The traditional Ahar-Pyne irrigation system mainly belongs to which part of Bihar?
→ **South Bihar** — Gaya, Jehanabad, Nalanda, Aurangabad, Nawada

258. In the Kosi-Mechi link project, the Mechi is a tributary of which river?
→ **Mahananda** — For irrigation in Seemanchal

259. Roughly what share of Bihar's geographical area is flood-prone?
→ **About 73%** — Bihar is India's most flood-prone state.

260. What is the approximate total length of flood embankments in Bihar?
→ **About 3,800 km**

261. On which date did the Kusaha embankment of the Kosi breach?
→ **18 August 2008** — Eastern Kosi embankment; in a year of normal rainfall

262. What did the Prime Minister declare the 2008 Kusaha flood to be?
→ **National calamity** — Over 2.3 million (23 lakh) people affected in North Bihar

263. How much gratuitous relief does a flood-affected family in Bihar get through DBT?
→ **₹7,000 per family** — Raised from ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 in 2024.

264. Which single natural disaster causes the most deaths in Bihar?
→ **Lightning** — Highest in open fields during April–September

265. Which mobile app of the Bihar government gives advance warning of lightning?
→ **Indravajra**

266. Which districts were worst hit by the severe heatwave of June 2019?
→ **Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada** — Prohibitory orders were imposed in Gaya to keep people indoors.

267. On which date did the devastating Bihar-Nepal earthquake strike?
→ **15 January 1934** — Magnitude about 8.0; epicentre in eastern Nepal

268. Which two towns of Bihar were almost destroyed in the 1934 earthquake?
→ **Munger and Muzaffarpur** — More than 7,000 deaths in Bihar

269. Who called the 1934 earthquake a punishment for the sin of untouchability?
→ **Mahatma Gandhi** — Rabindranath Tagore publicly disagreed with this view.

270. On which date did the 1988 Bihar-Nepal earthquake strike?
→ **21 August 1988** — Magnitude about 6.8–6.9; epicentre in Udayapur district, Nepal

271. In the 1934 earthquake, what was the phenomenon of wet sandy soil flowing like a liquid called?
→ **Liquefaction** — Fountains of sand and water erupted in the fields.

272. How many districts of Bihar fall in Seismic Zone V?
→ **8** — Araria, Darbhanga, Kishanganj, Madhepura, Madhubani, Saharsa, Sitamarhi, Supaul (fully/partly)

273. In which seismic zone is Patna located?
→ **Zone IV** — 24 districts in Zone IV; no district in Zone II

274. Who is the chairperson of the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA)?
→ **Chief Minister** — Formed in 2007 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005

275. When was the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) of Bihar formed?
→ **2010**

276. Where is an NDRF battalion stationed in Bihar?
→ **Bihta (Patna)**

277. In which country is the site of the Kusaha embankment breach?
→ **Nepal (Sunsari district)** — Upstream of the Kosi Barrage

278. What is the period of the Bihar Disaster Risk Reduction Road Map?
→ **2015–2030** — In line with the Sendai Framework (2015–2030)

279. Under the Mukhyamantri School Safety Programme, what is the safety class held every Saturday called?
→ **'Surakshit Shanivar' (Safe Saturday)**

280. In which year and in which country was the Ramsar Convention signed?
→ **1971, Iran**

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- The district with the largest forest area is Kaimur, not West Champaran — West Champaran has the state's only national park and tiger reserve, but Kaimur has more forest.
- Kanwar Lake is in Begusarai, not Bhagalpur; Nagi and Nakti are in Jamui, not Munger, and they are two separate Ramsar sites.
- The Indrapuri Barrage is on the Son, not the Gandak; the Kosi Agreement dates from 1954 and the Gandak Agreement from 1959.

💡 Memory trick

Ramsar 1-2-3: 1 in 2020 (Kanwar), 2 declared in 2024 (Nagi, Nakti), 3 in 2025 (Gokul, Udaipur, Gogabil). Seismic zones 8-24-6: 8 districts in Zone V, 24 in Zone IV, 6 in Zone III.

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04 Ancient Bihar

Ancient Bihar

KEY IDEA

From about the 6th century BCE (the age of the Buddha) to the 12th century CE (the Pala kings), Bihar was one of India's leading political and intellectual centres.

Both great empires, the Mauryas and the Guptas, ruled from Pataliputra (modern Patna); Buddhism and Jainism took shape here.

Students came from China, Korea, Tibet and South-East Asia to the Mahaviharas of Nalanda, Vikramshila and Odantapuri.

281. Which site in the Munger hills is famous for Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tools?
→ **Paisra** — Hand-axes and cleavers found; major Palaeolithic site of the eastern Ganga region

282. In which district is the Neolithic site of Chirand located?
→ **Saran** — On the northern bank of the Ganga, near Chhapra

283. Which Neolithic site of Bihar is famous for the largest number of bone tools?
→ **Chirand** — About 400 bone tools, mostly of deer antler

284. Which Neolithic site lies in the foothills of the Kaimur hills near Sasaram?
→ **Senuwar (Rohtas)** — Evidence of early rice cultivation; excavated by Banaras Hindu University

285. By what name does the Rigveda refer to the people of the Magadha region?
→ **Kikata** — Their chief is named Pramaganda

286. According to the Mahabharata and the Puranas, which was the earliest dynasty of Magadha?
→ **Brihadratha dynasty** — Most famous king Jarasandha; capital Girivraja (Rajgir)

287. Which text contains the story of Videgha Mathava carrying Agni (fire) eastward?
→ **Shatapatha Brahmana** — His priest was Gotama Rahugana

288. The Sadanira river of the Shatapatha Brahmana is generally identified with which river?
→ **Gandak** — Videha was settled after crossing it

289. Mithila, the capital of Videha, is identified today with which place?
→ **Janakpur (Nepal)** — Not with Darbhanga town

290. Who was the chief sage at the court of King Janaka?
→ **Yajnavalkya** — The Yajnavalkya Smriti is named after him

291. Which woman philosopher debated with Yajnavalkya in Janaka's assembly?
→ **Gargi Vachaknavi** — Symbol of women's education in the Vedic age

292. In which Upanishad is the Gargi–Yajnavalkya debate described?
→ **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad** — Not in the Chhandogya Upanishad

293. Which Buddhist text gives the list of the sixteen Mahajanapadas?
→ **Anguttara Nikaya** — The Jain text Bhagavati Sutra gives a somewhat different list

294. What was the capital of the Anga Mahajanapada?
→ **Champa** — Near Bhagalpur; a river port and trade centre

295. What was the first capital of the Magadha Mahajanapada?
→ **Rajagriha (Girivraja)** — Surrounded by five hills; the capital later moved to Pataliputra

296. Where was the capital of the Vajji confederacy?
→ **Vaishali**

297. The Vajji confederacy was a union of how many clans?
→ **Eight (Atthakula)** — A gana-sangha, i.e. a republic

298. Which was the leading clan of the Vajji confederacy?
→ **Licchavi**

299. What is the modern site of ancient Vaishali?
→ **Basarh (Vaishali district)**

300. What was the hall called in which the Licchavi assembly met and took decisions by vote?
→ **Santhagara**

301. Which daughter of the Licchavi chief Chetaka married Bimbisara?
→ **Chellana** — Chetaka's sister Trishala was Mahavira's mother

302. In the presence of which minister of Ajatashatru did the Buddha state the 'seven conditions' of Vajji prosperity?
→ **Vassakara** — Described in the Mahaparinibbana Sutta

303. Who is regarded as the real founder of Magadha's greatness?
→ **Bimbisara** — Haryanka dynasty; capital Rajagriha

304. Which bamboo grove did Bimbisara donate to the Buddha?
→ **Venuvana**

305. Which Mahajanapada was Magadha's first conquest?
→ **Anga** — By Bimbisara

306. Who was Bimbisara's royal physician?
→ **Jivaka** — Sent to treat King Pradyota of Avanti

307. What was the stone-throwing war engine used by Ajatashatru called?
→ **Mahashilakantaka** — The other engine was 'Rathamusala', a chariot fitted with maces

308. Who built the fort at Pataligrama on the bank of the Ganga?
→ **Ajatashatru**

309. Who founded the city of Pataliputra (Kusumapura)?
→ **Udayin (Udayabhadra)** — Capital shifted from Rajagriha to Pataliputra

310. At the confluence of which two rivers was Pataliputra founded?
→ **Ganga and Son**

311. Which major rival kingdom of Magadha did Shishunaga destroy?
→ **Avanti (Ujjain)**

312. Which Magadha ruler made Vaishali the capital for some time?
→ **Shishunaga** — His son Kalashoka moved the capital back to Pataliputra

313. Who is called 'Sarvakshatrantaka' and 'Ekarat' in the Puranas?
→ **Mahapadma Nanda** — Founder of the Nanda dynasty

314. Who was the ruler of Magadha at the time of Alexander's invasion (326 BCE)?
→ **Dhanananda** — Greek writers called him Agrammes/Xandrames

315. What are the two other names of Chanakya?
→ **Kautilya and Vishnugupta** — Brahmin scholar associated with Taxila

316. In about which year did Chandragupta Maurya defeat Seleucus Nicator?
→ **About 305 BCE** — In the treaty, Chandragupta gave 500 elephants

317. Megasthenes came to Pataliputra as whose ambassador?
→ **Seleucus Nicator**

318. According to Jain tradition, with which Jain monk did Chandragupta Maurya go to the south?
→ **Bhadrabahu** — Died by sallekhana at Shravanabelagola (Karnataka)

319. Who discovered and published the manuscript of Kautilya's Arthashastra?
→ **R. Shamasastry** — Discovered 1905, published 1909

320. By what name did Megasthenes call Pataliputra?
→ **Palibothra** — His book 'Indica' now survives only in quotations

321. According to Megasthenes, how many gates did the wooden wall of Pataliputra have?
→ **64** — The wall had 570 towers

322. According to Megasthenes, how many committees ran the city administration of Pataliputra?
→ **6 committees** — Each committee had 5 members

323. Who excavated the 80-pillared assembly hall at Kumhrar (Patna)?
→ **D.B. Spooner** — Excavation 1912–15

324. Which Mauryan ruler did Greek writers call 'Amitrochates'?
→ **Bindusara** — Sanskrit 'Amitraghata'; the envoy Deimachus came to his court

325. Which rock edict of Ashoka describes the Kalinga War (c. 261 BCE)?
→ **13th Rock Edict** — The war took place in the 8th year of Ashoka's reign

326. Whom did Ashoka send to Sri Lanka to spread the Dhamma?
→ **Mahendra and Sanghamitra** — Ashoka's son and daughter

327. Who deciphered the Brahmi script of Ashoka's inscriptions in 1837?
→ **James Prinsep** — Most inscriptions are in the Prakrit language, Brahmi script

328. In which inscription is the name 'Ashoka' found?
→ **Maski** — Also in some other minor rock edicts; elsewhere 'Devanampiya Piyadasi'

329. In which district is the Ashokan pillar of Lauriya Nandangarh?
→ **West Champaran** — Single lion capital; monolithic shaft; Pillar Edicts I–VI

330. In which district is the Ashokan pillar of Lauriya Areraj?
→ **East Champaran** — Capital now missing; Pillar Edicts I–VI inscribed

331. Where is the bull capital of the Rampurva pillar kept today?
→ **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi** — Rampurva's lion capital is in Kolkata

332. What is special about the Ashokan pillar at Vaishali (Kolhua)?
→ **Single lion capital, no inscription**

333. Which inscription of Ashoka is found at Sasaram (Rohtas)?
→ **Minor Rock Edict** — On Chandan Shahid hill; there is no pillar here

334. Which are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves of India?
→ **Barabar Caves (Jehanabad)**

335. To which sect did Ashoka donate the Barabar caves?
→ **Ajivikas** — Not to the Buddhists

336. Who donated the Nagarjuni caves to the Ajivikas?
→ **Dasharatha** — Grandson of Ashoka

337. When was the chauri-bearer statue, the Didarganj Yakshi, found?
→ **1917** — Now in the Bihar Museum, Patna

338. On the bank of which river did the Buddha attain enlightenment?
→ **Niranjana (Lilajan)** — Under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya (ancient Uruvela)

339. When did the Mahabodhi Temple Complex get UNESCO World Heritage status?
→ **2002**

340. Under which Act is the Mahabodhi Temple managed?
→ **Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949** — Committee chaired by the Gaya DM; 4 Buddhist and 4 Hindu members

341. Which courtesan of Vaishali donated a mango grove to the Buddha?
→ **Amrapali**

342. Where were women first admitted to the Buddhist Sangha?
→ **Vaishali** — First nun: the Buddha's foster mother Mahaprajapati Gautami

343. Where did the Buddha give his last sermon and announce his parinirvana?
→ **Vaishali**

344. Which museum opened at Vaishali in 2025 to house the Buddha's relics?
→ **Buddha Samyak Darshan Museum** — Along with a Smriti Stupa; relic casket excavated in 1958

345. In which district is the huge Kesariya Buddhist stupa?
→ **East Champaran** — Linked to the Buddha giving his begging bowl to the Licchavis

346. At which place in Rajgir was the First Buddhist Council held?
→ **Saptaparni Cave** — About 483 BCE, under Ajatashatru's patronage

347. Who presided over the First Buddhist Council?
→ **Mahakassapa** — Ananda recited the Sutta, Upali the Vinaya

348. Where was the Second Buddhist Council (c. 383 BCE) held?
→ **Vaishali (Valukarama)** — Under the patronage of King Kalashoka

349. Who presided over the Second Buddhist Council?
→ **Sabakami**

350. At which Buddhist Council did the Sangha split into the Sthaviravadins and the Mahasanghikas?
→ **Second Council (Vaishali)**

351. Who presided over the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra (c. 250 BCE)?
→ **Moggaliputta Tissa** — Under Ashoka's patronage; Abhidhamma and Kathavatthu added

352. Where was Mahavira born?
→ **Kundagrama (near Vaishali)** — Most historians' view; other claims: Kundalpur (Nalanda), Lachhuar (Jamui)

353. Where did Mahavira attain Kaivalya?
→ **Jrimbhikagrama** — Under a sal tree on the Rijupalika river, at age 42

354. Where did Mahavira attain nirvana?
→ **Pavapuri (Nalanda district)** — About 527 BCE; Jal Mandir stands in a lotus pond there

355. Which of the five great vows (Mahavratas) was added by Mahavira?
→ **Brahmacharya** — The other four vows were Parshvanath's

356. Who presided over the First Jain Council?
→ **Sthulabhadra** — Pataliputra, c. 300 BCE; the 12 Angas compiled

357. In Jain tradition, which is the birthplace of the 12th Tirthankara, Vasupujya?
→ **Champapur (Bhagalpur)** — Mandar Hill in Banka is also associated with him

358. Who killed Brihadratha, the last Mauryan ruler?
→ **Pushyamitra Shunga** — Mauryan commander-in-chief; performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices

359. Who founded the Kanva dynasty?
→ **Vasudeva Kanva** — Minister of Devabhuti, the last Shunga king

360. Which Licchavi princess did Chandragupta I marry?
→ **Kumaradevi** — 'King-Queen' type gold coins mark this marriage

361. From which year is the Gupta Era reckoned?
→ **319–320 CE** — Linked to the accession of Chandragupta I

362. Who composed Samudragupta's Prayag Prashasti?
→ **Harishena** — Inscribed on an Ashokan pillar, now at Prayagraj (UP)

363. Who called Samudragupta 'the Napoleon of India'?
→ **V.A. Smith**

364. Which Gupta ruler called himself 'Lichchhavi-dauhitra'?
→ **Samudragupta** — Son of a Licchavi daughter

365. During the reign of which Gupta ruler did the Chinese traveller Fa-Hien visit India?
→ **Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)** — Spent about 3 years at Pataliputra learning Sanskrit

366. Who founded Nalanda Mahavihara?
→ **Kumaragupta I** — 5th century CE; Hiuen Tsang called him 'Shakraditya'

367. In which year did Aryabhata write the 'Aryabhatiya'?
→ **499 CE** — At the age of 23

368. Which city did Aryabhata name as his place of work?
→ **Kusumapura (Pataliputra)** — Birthplace disputed; his place of work is what links him to Bihar

369. By tradition, Aryabhata's observatory is associated with which place?
→ **Taregna (Masaurhi, Patna)**

370. According to Hiuen Tsang, who had the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya cut down?
→ **Shashanka (Gauda)** — Later revived by Purnavarma, king of Magadha

371. Under which teacher did Hiuen Tsang study at Nalanda?
→ **Shilabhadra** — Studied there for about 5 years

372. What is the name of Hiuen Tsang's travel account?
→ **Si-Yu-Ki** — Hiuen Tsang came to India during Harshavardhana's reign

373. Which Chinese traveller came in 673 CE and stayed about 10 years at Nalanda?
→ **I-Tsing** — He recorded more than 3,000 monks at Nalanda

374. Whom did the people choose as king to end 'matsyanyaya' (anarchy)?
→ **Gopala** — Mentioned in Dharmapala's Khalimpur copper plate

375. Who founded Vikramshila Mahavihara?
→ **Dharmapala** — Title 'Paramasaugata'

376. Where is the Somapura Mahavihara founded by Dharmapala?
→ **Paharpur (Bangladesh)** — Not in Bihar

377. The Nalanda copper plate belongs to which Pala king?
→ **Devapala** — 5 villages granted at the request of Shailendra king Balaputradeva of Suvarnadvipa

378. Who wrote 'Ramacharita', the story of the Pala king Rampala?
→ **Sandhyakar Nandi**

379. According to Tibetan tradition, what was the name of Nalanda's library?
→ **Dharmaganja** — Three buildings: Ratnasagara, Ratnodadhi, Ratnaranjaka

380. Which teacher of Nalanda took Buddhism to Tibet?
→ **Shantarakshita**

381. Traditionally, the destruction of Nalanda Mahavihara is linked to whose invasions?
→ **Bakhtiyar Khilji** — Exams usually give the year c. 1193; end of the 12th century

382. When did the 'Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara' become a UNESCO World Heritage Site?
→ **2016** — ASI excavations 1915–1937

383. Where are the remains of Vikramshila Mahavihara?
→ **Antichak, Kahalgaon (Bhagalpur)** — On the bank of the Ganga

384. Vikramshila Mahavihara was famous for the study of which Buddhist school?
→ **Vajrayana (Tantric)**

385. Which teacher of Vikramshila went to Tibet in the 1040s?
→ **Atisha Dipankara Shrijnana** — Reformed Tibetan Buddhism

386. According to Tibetan tradition, who founded Odantapuri Mahavihara?
→ **Gopala** — Tibet's Samye monastery is believed to be modelled on it

387. Which institution did the Bihar government set up at Nalanda in 1951?
→ **Nava Nalanda Mahavihara** — Now a deemed university under the Union Ministry of Culture

388. The international Nalanda University was established by an Act of which year?
→ **2010** — Classes from 2014

389. When was the new Rajgir campus of Nalanda University inaugurated?
→ **19 June 2024** — By the Prime Minister; a net-zero campus

390. Mithila tradition links the Mimamsa scholar Mandana Mishra with which place?
→ **Mahishi (Saharsa)** — Debated with Shankaracharya; his wife Ubhaya Bharati was the judge

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- Udayin founded Pataliputra; Ajatashatru only built a fort at Pataligrama.
- Kalashoka (Shishunaga dynasty) convened the Second Buddhist Council (Vaishali) and Ashoka (Maurya) the Third (Pataliputra); the Fourth Council (Kanishka) was held in Kashmir, not in Bihar.
- The First Jain Council was held at Pataliputra under Sthulabhadra, whereas the First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgir under Mahakassapa.

💡 Memory trick

Bihar's three Buddhist Councils: places R-V-P (Rajgir–Vaishali–Pataliputra), kings A-K-A (Ajatashatru–Kalashoka–Ashoka). Chinese travellers F-H-I: Fa-Hien (Chandragupta II) → Hiuen Tsang (Harsha) → I-Tsing (after Harsha).

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05 Medieval Bihar

KEY IDEA

Bihar's medieval period runs from the Turkish invasions of the 1190s–1200s to the Battle of Buxar in 1764.

In this period Sher Shah Suri of Sasaram defeated Humayun, the Karnata and Oinwar kings preserved the culture of Mithila, and Patna (Azimabad) became the capital of a Mughal suba and a major trade centre.

Maner and Bihar Sharif became centres of the Firdausi Sufis, and Patna is sacred to Sikhs as the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh.

391. Which frontier iqtas near Mirzapur were given to Bakhtiyar Khilji?
→ **Bhagwat and Bhiuli** — Given by Qutbuddin Aibak's officers

392. Which text is the main contemporary source for Bakhtiyar Khilji's Bihar campaign?
→ **Tabaqat-i-Nasiri** — Persian work written around 1260

393. Who wrote the 'Tabaqat-i-Nasiri'?
→ **Minhaj-us-Siraj**

394. Which Buddhist vihara did Bakhtiyar Khilji plunder, mistaking it for a fort?
→ **Odantapuri** — Described in the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri; the best-attested event

395. In which present-day town was Odantapuri Mahavihara located?
→ **Bihar Sharif (Nalanda district)** — The province got its name 'Bihar' from this 'vihara'

396. Which Tibetan monk visited Nalanda in 1234–36 and found teaching still going on?
→ **Dharmasvamin** — Rahula Shribhadra was then teaching a few monks

397. After conquering Nadia in Bengal, where did Bakhtiyar Khilji set up his capital?
→ **Lakhnauti (Gaur)**

398. Which king of Bengal did Bakhtiyar Khilji defeat at Nadia?
→ **Lakshman Sen**

399. Who killed Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1206?
→ **Ali Mardan Khilji** — After the Tibet expedition

400. Who founded the Karnata dynasty of Mithila?
→ **Nanyadeva** — 1097 CE; date from the Simraongarh inscription

401. In which country is Simraongarh, the Karnata capital, today?
→ **Nepal (Bara district)** — In the Nepal Terai, adjoining the Bihar border

402. Who wrote 'Varna Ratnakara', the oldest known prose work in Maithili?
→ **Jyotirishwar Thakur** — Minister-poet of Harisimhadeva; not Vidyapati

403. The 'Panji' system of Maithil family genealogies is linked to which Karnata ruler?
→ **Harisimhadeva** — The most famous ruler of the Karnata dynasty

404. Whose invasion of Tirhut (1324–25) ended the Karnata dynasty?
→ **Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq** — Harisimhadeva fled to the hills of Nepal

405. To which community did the Oinwar kings, who ruled Tirhut after the Karnatas, belong?
→ **Maithil Brahmins**

406. Vidyapati's 'Kirtilata' praises which Oinwar king?
→ **Kirti Singh** — Regained his throne with Jaunpur's help

407. Who was the queen of Oinwar king Shiv Singh, whose name appears in Vidyapati's songs?
→ **Lakhima Devi**

408. Who was the last ruler of the Oinwar dynasty?
→ **Lakshminath Singh** — Killed around 1526 by Nusrat Shah of Bengal

409. To whom did Akbar grant Mithila around 1557?
→ **Mahesh Thakur** — Founder of the Khandavala family, later Raj Darbhanga

410. The Oinwar dynasty was named after which village?
→ **Oini** — Present-day Muzaffarpur/Samastipur area

411. According to tradition, which king granted the village of Bisfi to Vidyapati?
→ **Shiv Singh**

412. Where is the tomb of the Tughlaq-era governor Malik Ibrahim Bayu?
→ **Pir Pahari, Bihar Sharif** — Bayu died in 1353

413. According to tradition, after whom is Hajipur named?
→ **Haji Ilyas (Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah)** — Sultan of Bengal

414. Who founded the Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur?
→ **Malik Sarwar** — 1394; title 'Malik-us-Sharq'

415. Whom did Sikandar Lodi appoint governor of Bihar?
→ **Dariya Khan Nuhani**

416. Which title did Bahar Khan Nuhani, son of Dariya Khan, take on becoming independent?
→ **Sultan Muhammad Shah**

417. Who gave Farid the title 'Sher Khan'?
→ **Bahar Khan Nuhani** — For killing a tiger; not Babur or Humayun

418. Near which place was the boundary between Sikandar Lodi and Bengal fixed?
→ **Barh** — Agreement with Alauddin Husain Shah of Bengal

419. In which region of Bihar was Babur's Battle of Ghaghra (1529) fought?
→ **Saran** — Near the Ghaghara–Ganga confluence; Babur defeated the Afghans

420. What was Sher Shah Suri's childhood name?
→ **Farid Khan** — Sur Afghan tribe

421. Which parganas did Sher Shah's father, Hasan Khan Sur, receive as jagir?
→ **Sasaram and Khawaspur Tanda**

422. Who wrote 'Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi'?
→ **Abbas Khan Sarwani**

423. In which battle did Sher Khan defeat the Bengal army in 1534?
→ **Surajgarha** — On the Kiul river, present-day Lakhisarai district

424. According to tradition, which fort did Sher Khan capture by hiding soldiers in palanquins?
→ **Rohtasgarh** — Around 1538–39

425. On which date was the Battle of Chausa fought?
→ **26 June 1539** — Sher Khan defeated Humayun

426. In which district of Bihar is the Chausa battlefield today?
→ **Buxar** — Near the Ganga–Karmanasa confluence

427. Which title did Sher Khan assume after the victory at Chausa?
→ **Sher Shah**

428. What was the name of the water-carrier (bhishti) who helped Humayun cross the Ganga while fleeing Chausa?
→ **Nizam**

429. On which date was the Battle of Kannauj (Bilgram) fought?
→ **17 May 1540** — In Uttar Pradesh; beginning of the Sur Empire

430. Where did Sher Shah die?
→ **Kalinjar** — 22 May 1545, in a gunpowder explosion during the siege

431. In Sher Shah's administration, who was the law-and-order officer at the sarkar level?
→ **Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran**

432. In Sher Shah's administration, which sarkar-level officer handled civil, revenue and judicial matters?
→ **Munsif-i-Munsifan**

433. Sher Shah's 'rupiya' was of which metal and about how many grains?
→ **Silver, about 178 grains** — The copper coin was called 'dam'

434. What was the state's share of the produce under Sher Shah?
→ **One-third**

435. In Sher Shah's revenue system, what was the deed of acceptance given by the peasant called?
→ **Qabuliyat** — The state gave the peasant a 'patta'

436. Sher Shah's Sadak-e-Azam (GT Road) is now which National Highway in Bihar?
→ **NH-19** — From Sonargaon to the north-west; passes through Sasaram–Aurangabad

437. Who carried Sher Shah's land-measurement-based revenue system forward to Akbar's time?
→ **Raja Todar Mal**

438. What was Sher Shah's crop-rate schedule called?
→ **Rai** — Zabti/Dahsala is the Akbar–Todar Mal system

439. Who originally introduced the 'dagh' and 'huliya' system?
→ **Alauddin Khilji** — Sher Shah revived them

440. To which place did Sher Shah shift Bihar's capital from Bihar Sharif?
→ **Patna** — Made Patna a fortified town in 1541

441. Who was the architect of Sher Shah's tomb at Sasaram?
→ **Mir Muhammad Aliwal Khan**

442. Sher Shah's tomb was completed on 16 August 1545 during whose reign?
→ **Islam Shah** — Sher Shah's son

443. Which is regarded as the finest example of Mughal architecture in Bihar?
→ **Chhoti Dargah, Maner** — Tomb of Shah Daulat, completed in 1616

444. Which Mughal governor built the Chhoti Dargah at Maner?
→ **Ibrahim Khan Kakar** — During Jahangir's reign

445. Who built Patna's 'Pathar ki Masjid' (Stone Mosque)?
→ **Prince Parvez** — Jahangir's son, 1621; not Aurangzeb

446. The Badi Dargah at Maner belongs to which Sufi saint?
→ **Makhdoom Yahya Maneri** — Father of Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri

447. From whom did the Mughals capture Patna and Hajipur in 1574?
→ **Daud Khan Karrani** — Daud was defeated and killed in 1576

448. Into how many subas did Akbar divide the empire in 1580?
→ **12** — Bihar was one of them, with Patna as capital

449. According to the Ain-i-Akbari, how many sarkars did Suba Bihar have?
→ **Seven** — Bihar, Munger, Champaran, Hajipur, Saran, Tirhut, Rohtas

450. Who made Rohtasgarh his base while subedar of Bihar (1587–94)?
→ **Raja Man Singh**

451. In which year did Alivardi Khan become Naib Nazim of Bihar?
→ **1733** — Became Nawab of Bengal in 1740 after the Battle of Giria

452. Who were the parents of Guru Gobind Singh?
→ **Guru Tegh Bahadur and Mata Gujri**

453. Who built the old building of Takht Sri Harimandir Ji, Patna Sahib?
→ **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** — Damaged in the 1934 earthquake; present building 1948–57

454. Which was the most famous Sufi silsila in Bihar?
→ **Firdausi** — Its greatest saint: Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri

455. Where was Shaikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri born?
→ **Maner (Patna district)** — 1263; title 'Makhdoom-ul-Mulk'

456. Where is the mazar (Badi Dargah) of Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri?
→ **Bihar Sharif** — Died in 1381

457. Whose disciple did Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri become in Delhi?
→ **Shaikh Najibuddin Firdausi**

458. Rajgir's 'Makhdoom Kund' is named after which Sufi saint?
→ **Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri** — He meditated in the forests of Bihiya and Rajgir

459. Who wrote 'Maktubat-e-Sadi' (Hundred Letters) in Persian?
→ **Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri** — Letters of Sufi guidance

460. Who brought the Shattari silsila to India?
→ **Shah Abdullah Shattari** — 15th century; settled at Mandu (Malwa)

461. Where in Bihar was the khanqah of the Shattari saint Shaikh Muhammad Qazin?
→ **Basarh (ancient Vaishali)**

462. Which European company opened a factory at Patna in 1632?
→ **Dutch East India Company** — The Dutch also operated from Chhapra

463. When was the first (short-lived) English factory opened at Patna?
→ **1620** — To buy silk and cotton cloth; closed within about a year

464. Which was the traditional saltpetre-making community of Bihar?
→ **Nonia** — Saltpetre used for gunpowder; main export to Europe

465. To where did Mir Qasim shift his capital from Murshidabad in 1762?
→ **Munger** — Built an arsenal there

466. When did Mir Qasim have the English prisoners killed (the Patna Massacre)?
→ **October 1763** — After this he fled to Awadh

467. What is the field where the Battle of Buxar (1764) was fought called?
→ **Katkauli field**

468. Which title did Vidyapati earn for his Maithili songs?
→ **Maithil Kokil** — Also called 'Abhinava Jayadeva'

469. In which language is Vidyapati's 'Kirtilata'?
→ **Avahatta** — Not in Maithili

470. In which language is Vidyapati's 'Padavali'?
→ **Maithili** — Radha–Krishna love songs and Shiva (Nachari) songs

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- Bakhtiyar Khilji (died 1206) was not a Sultan of Delhi; he is a different person from Alauddin Khilji (Delhi Sultan, 1296–1316).
- Chausa (26 June 1539) is in Buxar district of Bihar, whereas Kannauj/Bilgram (17 May 1540) is in Uttar Pradesh; Babur won at Ghaghra (1529), Sher Khan at Chausa.
- Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri's mazar is at Bihar Sharif; Maner has his father's Badi Dargah and Shah Daulat's Chhoti Dargah.

💡 Memory trick

Sher Shah's ladder: Surajgarha 1534 → Chausa 1539 → Kannauj 1540 → Kalinjar 1545 (death). The 7 sarkars of Mughal Bihar: Bihar–Munger–Champaran–Hajipur–Saran–Tirhut–Rohtas.

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06 Modern Bihar

KEY IDEA

With the Battle of Buxar (1764) and the Treaty of Allahabad (1765), the East India Company got the Diwani of Bihar and British rule over Bihar began.

The Permanent Settlement, indigo and opium exploited the peasant; the Wahabi movement, tribal revolts and Veer Kunwar Singh in 1857 resisted.

Through education, the press and the Bihari identity movement, the province of Bihar and Orissa was formed on 22 March 1912; Orissa separated on 1 April 1936.

471. In which month and year was the Battle of Buxar fought?
→ **October 1764** — 22–23 October; site near the Ganga, in present Buxar district

472. Who commanded the East India Company's army at the Battle of Buxar?
→ **Major Hector Munro** — Plassey (1757) was won by Robert Clive

473. The combined army of which three rulers was defeated at Buxar?
→ **Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daula, Shah Alam II** — Shuja-ud-Daula: Nawab of Awadh; Shah Alam II: Mughal emperor

474. On which date was the Treaty of Allahabad signed?
→ **12 August 1765** — Between Robert Clive and Mughal emperor Shah Alam II

475. Which right over Bengal, Bihar and Orissa did the Company get by the Treaty of Allahabad?
→ **Diwani (right to collect land revenue)** — Nizamat (police and justice) stayed nominally with the Nawab

476. During which period did the Dual Government operate in Bengal?
→ **1765–1772** — The Company had power without responsibility

477. Who was appointed Naib Diwan of Bihar during the Dual Government?
→ **Raja Shitab Rai** — Muhammad Reza Khan was Naib Diwan of Bengal

478. Which British engineer built the Golghar granary at Patna?
→ **Captain John Garstin** — Completed in 1786; grain store against famine

479. Misuse of which trade pass was the main root of the conflict between Mir Qasim and the Company?
→ **Dastak** — Duty-free trade pass misused by Company servants

480. By what name is the killing of English prisoners at Patna during the 1763 war known?
→ **Patna Massacre**

481. Which Governor-General introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa?
→ **Lord Cornwallis** — Date: 22 March 1793

482. Under the Permanent Settlement, what share of the assessed rent went to the Company?
→ **10/11** — The zamindar kept only 1/11

483. What was the rule called under which a zamindari was auctioned if revenue was not paid by sunset on the due date?
→ **Sunset Law**

484. Which was the largest zamindari of Bihar after the Permanent Settlement?
→ **Darbhanga Raj** — Other big Rajs: Bettiah, Hathwa, Dumraon, Tekari, Banaili

485. Which Act gave 'occupancy rights' to settled raiyats?
→ **Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885**

486. Which dynasty ruled Darbhanga Raj?
→ **Khandavala (Khandwal) dynasty** — A dynasty of Maithil Brahmins

487. Who bought Lowther Castle at Allahabad in 1892 for the Congress session?
→ **Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh (Darbhanga)** — Reigned 1880–1898; patron of the early Congress

488. Which was the main centre of indigo cultivation in Bihar?
→ **Champaran (Bettiah and Motihari)** — Tirhut and Saran also had indigo factories (kothis)

489. Under the tinkathia system, in how many kathas per bigha did the raiyat have to grow indigo?
→ **3 kathas (out of 20)** — 1 bigha = 20 kathas, i.e. 3/20 (15%) of the holding

490. In which year did prices of natural indigo fall due to Germany's synthetic indigo?
→ **1897** — Planters passed this loss on to the raiyats

491. What was the permanent rent increase imposed by planters in return for release from indigo called?
→ **Sharahbeshi**

492. What was the lump-sum payment taken from raiyats in return for release from indigo called?
→ **Tawan**

493. When did the Company make opium a state monopoly?
→ **1773** — Under Warren Hastings; agency system from 1797

494. Where in Patna was the factory of the Bihar Opium Agency?
→ **Gulzarbagh** — The Benares Agency's factory was at Ghazipur

495. What was the cash advance given to farmers for growing poppy called?
→ **Dadni** — In return the entire crop was sold to the agency at a fixed price

496. On which date was the Patna opium factory closed?
→ **31 December 1911** — In 1910 both agencies were merged under the Ghazipur headquarters

497. What runs today in the building of the Gulzarbagh opium factory?
→ **Government Printing Press** — Since 1912; the Bihar Gazette is printed here

498. Who founded the Wahabi movement (Tariqa-i-Muhammadiya)?
→ **Syed Ahmad Barelvi** — Resident of Rae Bareli (1786–1831)

499. In which year did Syed Ahmad Barelvi come to Patna?
→ **1821** — After this Patna became the movement's main centre

500. In which locality of Patna was the centre of the Wahabi movement?
→ **Sadiqpur** — Sadiqpur properties were confiscated after the trials

501. Which two brothers were the main disciples of Syed Ahmad Barelvi at Patna?
→ **Wilayat Ali and Inayat Ali** — Later leaders: Yahya Ali, Ahmadullah

502. In which battle was Syed Ahmad Barelvi killed?
→ **Battle of Balakot (1831)** — Balakot is in the North-West Frontier, not in Bihar

503. In which year was the Patna Conspiracy Case against the Wahabis first held?
→ **1865** — Ambala trial 1864; second Patna trial 1871

504. Who was the main leader of the Kol rebellion of 1831–32?
→ **Buddhu Bhagat** — Other leaders: Sindrai Manki and Bindrai Manki

505. Which special administrative unit did the British create after the Kol rebellion?
→ **South-West Frontier Agency** — By Regulation XIII of 1833

506. What were the outsiders who grabbed tribal land in Chhotanagpur called?
→ **Diku** — Moneylenders, traders and zamindars

507. On which date did the Santhal Hul begin?
→ **30 June 1855** — 30 June is observed as Hul Diwas; before 1857

508. From which place did the Santhal Hul begin?
→ **Bhognadih** — Now in Sahibganj district, Jharkhand

509. Which two brothers were the main leaders of the Santhal Hul?
→ **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu** — Along with brothers Chand–Bhairav and sisters Phulo–Jhano

510. Which separate district was created after the Santhal Hul?
→ **Santhal Parganas** — By Act XXXVII of 1855

511. When and where was Birsa Munda born?
→ **15 November 1875, Ulihatu** — Ulihatu is now in Khunti district, Jharkhand

512. By which title is Birsa Munda known?
→ **Dharti Aba** — Meaning: Father of the Earth

513. What was the Munda practice of joint clan ownership of land called?
→ **Khuntkatti**

514. What is Birsa Munda's movement of 1899–1900 called?
→ **Ulgulan** — Meaning: the Great Tumult; the Santhal revolt is called 'Hul'

515. When and where did Birsa Munda die?
→ **9 June 1900, Ranchi Jail**

516. Which land law was enacted as a result of the Birsa movement?
→ **Chhotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908** — Bars transfer of tribal land to non-tribals

517. Since 2021, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, 15 November, is celebrated as what?
→ **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** — 15 November is also Jharkhand's Foundation Day

518. Who was the Commissioner of Patna in 1857 who harshly suppressed the rebels?
→ **William Tayler**

519. Where did the first revolt of 1857 in the then Bihar region break out on 12 June?
→ **Rohini (near Deoghar)** — Now in Jharkhand

520. Which police jamadar of Barauraj (Tirhut) is counted among Bihar's earliest martyrs of 1857?
→ **Waris Ali** — Arrested 23 June 1857, hanged in July 1857

521. What was the profession of Pir Ali, leader of the 1857 Patna revolt?
→ **Bookbinder (jildsaz)** — Shaheed Pir Ali Khan Park in Patna is named after him

522. On which date was Pir Ali hanged?
→ **7 July 1857** — On the orders of Commissioner William Tayler

523. On which date did the sepoys of Danapur cantonment revolt?
→ **25 July 1857** — 7th, 8th and 40th Native Infantry regiments

524. During which period did the siege of Arrah House last?
→ **27 July–3 August 1857**

525. Who relieved Arrah from the siege in 1857?
→ **Major Vincent Eyre** — Arrah House is today on the Maharaja College campus

526. Which town did Kunwar Singh capture in March 1858?
→ **Azamgarh**

527. Which British officer did Kunwar Singh defeat at Jagdishpur on 23 April 1858?
→ **Captain Le Grand**

528. On which day is Veer Kunwar Singh's 'Vijayotsav' (victory day) celebrated in Bihar?
→ **23 April**

529. When did Veer Kunwar Singh die?
→ **26 April 1858** — At Jagdishpur, just three days after his victory

530. Who continued the guerrilla struggle from the Kaimur hills after Kunwar Singh?
→ **Amar Singh (younger brother)** — Moved towards the Nepal Terai in 1859

531. Which brothers led the 1857 revolt in Palamu?
→ **Nilambar and Pitambar** — In Ranchi–Doranda: Vishwanath Shahdeo and Pandey Ganpat Rai

532. Veer Kunwar Singh was the zamindar of which place?
→ **Jagdishpur (Bhojpur)** — Arrah was the district headquarters, not his capital

533. Which is the oldest institution of higher education in Bihar?
→ **Patna College** — Established 9 January 1863

534. When was Patna's Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Library opened to the public?
→ **29 October 1891** — Declared an Institution of National Importance by Parliament in 1969

535. When and where was the Bihar Scientific Society founded?
→ **1868, Muzaffarpur** — Not in Patna

536. Who founded the Bihar Scientific Society?
→ **Syed Imdad Ali** — A subordinate judge; influenced by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

537. What was the Urdu journal of the Bihar Scientific Society?
→ **Akhbar-ul-Akhyar** — Published from 1868

538. Where is the earliest branch of the Arya Samaj in Bihar believed to be?
→ **Danapur** — Dayanand Saraswati toured Bihar in 1872–73

539. In which year did Hindi replace Urdu in the courts and offices of Bihar?
→ **1881** — First province to do so; script mainly Kaithi

540. Which was the first Hindi newspaper of Bihar?
→ **Bihar Bandhu** — Started from Calcutta in 1872; published from Patna from 1874

541. Who started the newspaper 'Bihar Bandhu'?
→ **Keshav Ram Bhatt** — A Maharashtrian settled in Bihar; strong champion of Hindi

542. Which was the first English newspaper of Bihar?
→ **The Bihar Herald (1875)** — Founder: Guru Prasad Sen

543. Who founded 'The Bihar Times' (1894), which raised the demand for a separate Bihar?
→ **Sachchidananda Sinha** — Editor: Mahesh Narayan

544. What was 'The Bihar Times' renamed in 1906?
→ **The Beharee**

545. Which editor, who died in 1907, is called the father of the Bihari renaissance?
→ **Mahesh Narayan** — Editor of 'The Bihar Times'

546. Who founded the Sinha Library in Patna?
→ **Sachchidananda Sinha** — Year 1924; Sinha was born at Arrah

547. Who was the first Indian to become Finance Member of a province (Bihar and Orissa)?
→ **Sachchidananda Sinha** — Also Vice-Chancellor of Patna University, 1936–44

548. When and where was the creation of the province of Bihar and Orissa announced?
→ **12 December 1911, Delhi Durbar** — Announced by King George V

549. On which date did the province of Bihar and Orissa come into existence?
→ **22 March 1912** — This day is celebrated as Bihar Diwas

550. Who was the first Lieutenant Governor of the province of Bihar and Orissa?
→ **Sir Charles Stuart Bayley**

551. Which was the summer capital of the province of Bihar and Orissa formed in 1912?
→ **Ranchi** — The capital was Patna

552. When and where was the first meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council held?
→ **20 January 1913, Patna College** — Total 43 members

553. Who laid the foundation stone of the Patna High Court?
→ **Viceroy Lord Hardinge** — On 1 December 1913

554. From which date did the Patna High Court start functioning?
→ **1 March 1916** — Building inaugurated on 3 February 1916

555. On which date was Bihar's first university, Patna University, established?
→ **1 October 1917** — First Vice-Chancellor: J.G. Jennings

556. Who became the first Governor of Bihar and Orissa in 1920, the first Indian Governor of any province?
→ **Lord S.P. Sinha** — Dyarchy under the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms

557. Who designed the present Bihar Vidhan Sabha building?
→ **A.M. Millwood** — The Council first sat here on 7 February 1921

558. When was the Jamalpur Locomotive Workshop in Munger district established?
→ **8 February 1862** — India's first full-fledged railway workshop

559. What were the Bihari labourers sent on contract to Mauritius, Fiji etc. called?
→ **Girmitiya** — From the 1830s; the Bhojpuri diaspora is its legacy

560. Where did the Tata Iron and Steel Company (1907) set up its plant?

→ **Sakchi (Jamshedpur)** — Then in the Bihar region, now in Jharkhand

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- Plassey (1757) is in West Bengal, Buxar (1764) in Bihar; the Diwani came after Buxar, through the Treaty of Allahabad (1765).
- The Bihar Scientific Society (1868) was founded at Muzaffarpur by Syed Imdad Ali; Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Scientific Society was at Ghazipur (1864).
- The first Lieutenant Governor (1912) was Sir Charles Bayley, whereas the first Governor (1920) was Lord S.P. Sinha — two different posts.

💡 Memory trick

'Indigo up north, opium in Patna' — indigo kothis lay north of the Ganga (Champaran, Tirhut, Saran); the opium factory was at Gulzarbagh (Patna). Kunwar Singh: '23 win, 26 death' — victory on 23 April 1858, death on 26 April 1858.

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07 Freedom Struggle and After

KEY IDEA

From the Partition of Bengal in 1905 to the creation of Jharkhand in 2000, Bihar played a leading role in the national movement and in nation-building.

Champaran (1917) was Gandhiji's first satyagraha in India; the Kisan Sabha, the Secretariat martyrs of 1942 and JP's Total Revolution are defining chapters of Bihar's history.

The provisional President of the Constituent Assembly, Sachchidananda Sinha, and its permanent President, Rajendra Prasad, were both from Bihar.

561. On which date did the Partition of Bengal take effect, after which the Swadeshi movement spread in Bihar?
→ **16 October 1905** — Partition by Lord Curzon; annulled in 1911

562. Who wrote the 1906 pamphlet 'The Partition of Bengal or the Separation of Bihar?'?
→ **Sachchidananda Sinha and Mahesh Narayan**

563. Who presided over the first Bihar Provincial Conference held at Patna in 1908?
→ **Syed Ali Imam** — The conference demanded a separate province

564. Which student played the leading role in forming the Bihari Students' Conference in 1906?
→ **Rajendra Prasad** — Held in Patna College hall; groomed a new generation of Bihari leaders

565. Who was the first person from Bihar to preside over the Congress?
→ **Syed Hasan Imam** — 1918, Bombay special session; brother of Ali Imam

566. Who was the real target of the Muzaffarpur bomb case (1908)?
→ **Douglas Kingsford** — District Judge of Muzaffarpur; he escaped

567. On which date did the Muzaffarpur bomb case take place?
→ **30 April 1908** — Bomb thrown at a carriage near the European Club

568. Which two young revolutionaries carried out the Muzaffarpur bombing?
→ **Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki**

569. Who were killed in the Muzaffarpur bomb case?
→ **Mrs and Miss Kennedy** — Wife and daughter of barrister Pringle Kennedy

570. At which railway station was Khudiram Bose arrested?
→ **Waini (now Khudiram Bose Pusa)** — In Samastipur district

571. At which station did Prafulla Chaki shoot himself when surrounded by police?
→ **Mokama Ghat**

572. When and where was Khudiram Bose hanged?
→ **11 August 1908, Muzaffarpur Jail** — Aged about 18

573. When and where was the first Congress session held on Bihar's soil?
→ **1912, Bankipur (Patna)** — 27th session

574. Who presided over the 1912 Bankipur Congress session?
→ **R.N. Mudholkar**

575. Who presided over the 1922 Gaya Congress session?
→ **C.R. Das (Chittaranjan Das)** — 37th session

576. Under whose presidency was the 1940 Ramgarh Congress session held?
→ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** — 53rd session; Ramgarh then in Hazaribagh district, now Jharkhand

577. Who presided over the Muslim League session held at Patna in December 1938?
→ **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

578. Who was the president of the Bihar Home Rule League formed at Patna in 1916?
→ **Mazharul Haque**

579. Which parallel conference did Subhas Chandra Bose hold at Ramgarh in 1940?
→ **Anti-Compromise Conference**

580. Which was Gandhiji's first satyagraha in India?
→ **Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**

581. From which zamindari did the indigo planters of Champaran mainly take village leases?
→ **Bettiah Raj**

582. Who persuaded Gandhiji to come to Champaran?
→ **Rajkumar Shukla** — A farmer of Champaran

583. Where did Rajkumar Shukla first meet Gandhiji?
→ **Lucknow Congress session (December 1916)**

584. On which date did Gandhiji reach Motihari during his Champaran visit?
→ **15 April 1917** — Via Patna and Muzaffarpur

585. Under which section was Gandhiji ordered to leave Champaran district?
→ **Section 144 (CrPC)**

586. In which court did Gandhiji appear on 18 April 1917 for defying the order to leave the district?
→ **Motihari** — Not Bettiah

587. Which Lieutenant Governor had the case against Gandhiji in Champaran withdrawn?
→ **Sir Edward Gait**

588. Where did Gandhiji open his first village school in Champaran?
→ **Barharwa Lakhansen** — November 1917; later also at Bhitiharwa and Madhuban

589. Who was the chairman of the Champaran Agrarian Enquiry Committee formed in 1917?
→ **F.G. Sly** — Gandhiji was only a member

590. Which Act abolished the tinkathia system in Champaran?
→ **Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918** — Bihar and Orissa Act I of 1918

591. Under the Champaran settlement, what share of sharahbeshi (enhanced rent) did the planters agree to refund?
→ **25%**

592. In which month and year was the Champaran Agrarian Enquiry Committee formed?
→ **June 1917** — Report in October 1917; recommended ending tinkathia

593. In which present-day district is the Bhitiharwa Ashram-school founded by Gandhiji in 1917?
→ **West Champaran**

594. Who wrote the book 'Satyagraha in Champaran'?
→ **Rajendra Prasad**

595. Who founded Sadaqat Ashram in Patna?
→ **Maulana Mazharul Haque** — In 1921; Kurji–Digha area, near the Ganga

596. Who donated the land for Sadaqat Ashram?
→ **Khairu Mian** — A friend of Mazharul Haque

597. Sadaqat Ashram is today the headquarters of which organisation?
→ **Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee**

598. When and where did Dr Rajendra Prasad die?
→ **28 February 1963, Sadaqat Ashram**

599. On which date did Gandhiji inaugurate Bihar Vidyapith?
→ **6 February 1921** — National education institution of the Non-Cooperation period

600. Who was the first principal of Bihar Vidyapith?
→ **Rajendra Prasad**

601. When was the Swaraj Party formed after the differences at the Gaya session (1922)?
→ **1 January 1923** — Formed by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru

602. Which Bihari leader was a 'No-Changer' opposing council entry at the Gaya session?
→ **Rajendra Prasad** — Along with Rajagopalachari and Vallabhbhai Patel

603. Which weekly did Mazharul Haque bring out from Sadaqat Ashram?
→ **The Motherland** — Its articles led to his imprisonment

604. On which date did the Simon Commission reach Patna?
→ **12 December 1928** — Protest led by Rajendra Prasad and Braj Kishore Prasad

605. In which districts did the Salt Satyagraha first begin in Bihar?
→ **Saran and Champaran** — April 1930

606. At which place in Patna was salt made on 16 April 1930?
→ **Nakhas Pond (Nakhas Pind)** — With no sea coast, salt was made from saline soil

607. During Civil Disobedience, the boycott of which tax was campaigned for in Bihar's villages?
→ **Chaukidari tax** — Strongest in Saran, Munger, Bhagalpur and Champaran

608. Who was injured along with Rajendra Prasad in the 1930 Bihpur lathi charge?
→ **Professor Abdul Bari** — Bihpur is in Bhagalpur district

609. On which date did the Tarapur firing in Munger district take place?
→ **15 February 1932** — 34 martyred hoisting the flag at the police station; not 1942

610. Who criticised Gandhiji for calling the 1934 earthquake a punishment for the sin of untouchability?
→ **Rabindranath Tagore**

611. When and where was the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha founded?
→ **1929, Sonepur**

612. Who was the founder president of the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha?
→ **Swami Sahajanand Saraswati** — Ashram: Sitaram Ashram, Bihta (Patna)

613. Who was the secretary of the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha (1929)?
→ **Shri Krishna Sinha**

614. When and where was the All India Kisan Sabha formed?
→ **11 April 1936, Lucknow** — President: Swami Sahajanand Saraswati

615. Who was the general secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha (1936)?
→ **N.G. Ranga**

616. What is the title of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati's autobiography?
→ **'Mera Jeevan Sangharsh'**

617. What was land called that a zamindar claimed as his 'own cultivation' after evicting the tenant?
→ **Bakasht** — The Bakasht struggle ran in 1937–39

618. Who led the Bakasht struggle of Barahiya Tal?
→ **Karyanand Sharma** — Then in Munger, now in Lakhisarai district

619. Who led the Reora Bakasht struggle in Gaya district?
→ **Yadunandan Sharma**

620. Which scholar was beaten and jailed while supporting farmers at Amwari (Saran, now Siwan)?
→ **Rahul Sankrityayan** — In 1939

621. The Triveni Sangh was an organisation of which three castes?
→ **Yadav, Kurmi and Koeri** — Kisan Sabha was class-based, Triveni Sangh caste-based

622. In which district was the Triveni Sangh founded?
→ **Shahabad** — In the early 1930s (about 1933–34)

623. Who became Bihar's first Premier under the Government of India Act, 1935?
→ **Mohammad Yunus** — 1 April 1937; Muslim Independent Party

624. Who became Premier of the first Congress government in Bihar?
→ **Shri Krishna Sinha** — 20 July 1937; ministry resigned on 31 October 1939

625. Who is known as 'Bihar Kesari' (Lion of Bihar)?
→ **Shri Krishna Sinha (Shri Babu)**

626. Who is known as 'Bihar Vibhuti' (Jewel of Bihar)?
→ **Anugrah Narayan Sinha** — In charge of finance in the 1937 ministry

627. On which date did the Patna Secretariat firing take place?
→ **11 August 1942** — Leaders had been arrested on 9 August

628. How many students were martyred hoisting the tricolour on the Patna Secretariat?
→ **7**

629. Who ordered the firing at the Patna Secretariat?
→ **District Magistrate W.G. Archer**

630. On which date was the foundation stone of the Martyrs' Memorial in Patna laid?
→ **15 August 1947** — By Governor Jairamdas Daulatram; sculptor Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury

631. On which date did Jayaprakash Narayan escape from Hazaribagh Central Jail?
→ **9 November 1942** — Diwali night; scaled the wall using knotted dhotis

632. Which comrade carried the ailing JP on his shoulders after the jailbreak?
→ **Yogendra Shukla**

633. What was the name of the guerrilla band formed by JP and Lohia in the Nepal Terai?
→ **Azad Dasta**

634. From which Nepal jail did the Azad Dasta free JP and Lohia in May 1943?
→ **Hanuman Nagar Jail**

635. After whom is Hazaribagh Central Jail named today?
→ **Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan** — Now in Jharkhand

636. Which wife of JP organised women in the freedom struggle?
→ **Prabhavati Devi** — A disciple of Gandhiji

637. How many seats did Bihar get in the Constituent Assembly under the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)?
→ **36**

638. On which date was Dr Rajendra Prasad elected permanent President of the Constituent Assembly?
→ **11 December 1946** — Became India's first President on 26 January 1950

639. Who took part in the 1942 movement as a student and later became a famous MP?
→ **Tarkeshwari Sinha**

640. On which date did the tenure of Bihar's first Chief Minister, Shri Krishna Sinha, end with his death?
→ **31 January 1961** — Then Deep Narayan Singh (briefly), followed by Binodanand Jha

641. In 1951, for violating which Article did the Patna High Court strike down the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950?
→ **Article 14 (Equality)** — Kameshwar Singh vs State of Bihar (1951)

642. Which tribal leader from Bihar was a member of the Constituent Assembly?
→ **Jaipal Singh Munda**

643. Which constitutional amendment did Parliament pass to save Bihar's zamindari abolition law?
→ **First Constitutional Amendment, 1951** — Added Articles 31A, 31B and the Ninth Schedule

644. Which law is the first entry in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution?
→ **Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950**

645. In which year did the Supreme Court largely uphold the Bihar Land Reforms Act?
→ **1952** — Struck down only a few provisions

646. In which year was the land ceiling Act enacted in Bihar?
→ **1961**

647. From which state was the most land received in the Bhoodan movement?
→ **Bihar** — About 21 lakh (2.1 million) acres; only about 7 lakh acres distributed

648. Which Act gave legal backing to Bhoodan in Bihar?
→ **Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954**

649. Who chaired the Bihar Land Reforms Commission (report 2008)?
→ **D. Bandyopadhyay** — Recommended protection for sharecroppers; not implemented

650. On which date was the Bihar Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti formed at Patna University?
→ **18 February 1974** — President: Lalu Prasad

651. On which date did students gherao the Bihar Vidhan Sabha?
→ **18 March 1974**

652. The JP movement demanded the removal of which Chief Minister's ministry?
→ **Abdul Ghafoor** — Also demanded dissolution of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha

653. How many dimensions did JP's Total Revolution have?
→ **7** — Social, economic, political, cultural, ideological, educational, spiritual

654. On which date was the National Emergency proclaimed under Article 352?
→ **25 June 1975** — Ground: internal disturbance

655. Who became Bihar's Chief Minister in 1977 and implemented backward-class reservation in 1978?
→ **Karpoori Thakur**

656. In which year was Karpoori Thakur awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously?
→ **2024**

657. In which year was Jayaprakash Narayan awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously?
→ **1999** — Died 8 October 1979

658. Who founded the Jharkhand Party in 1950?
→ **Jaipal Singh Munda**

659. Who became the first Chief Minister of Jharkhand?
→ **Babulal Marandi**

660. Who were the main founding leaders of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha?
→ **Shibu Soren, Binod Bihari Mahato** — Also A.K. Roy; formed in the early 1970s

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- The target of the Muzaffarpur bomb case (1908) was Kingsford, but Mrs and Miss Kennedy (mother and daughter) were killed; Prafulla Chaki died at Mokama Ghat, not Pusa.
- The Tarapur firing is of 15 February 1932 (Civil Disobedience), whereas the Patna Secretariat firing is of 11 August 1942 (Quit India).
- Bihar's first Premier was Mohammad Yunus (1937), whereas the first Chief Minister of independent Bihar was Shri Krishna Sinha.

💡 Memory trick

'21, 29, 36, 42' — Bihar Vidyapith 1921, Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha 1929, All India Kisan Sabha 1936, Secretariat firing 1942. Bakasht pairs: Barahiya–Karyanand, Reora–Yadunandan, Amwari–Rahul.

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08 Art, Culture, Languages, Literature and Heritage

Art, Culture, Languages, Literature & Heritage

KEY IDEA

Bihar is a living museum of folk culture — from the Madhubani painting of Mithila to the Manjusha art of Bhagalpur and the Bidesiya folk theatre of the Bhojpuri belt.

GI tags, folk dances, festivals like Chhath, the Sonepur Mela, languages and scripts, writers, and Bihar's two World Heritage Sites — Mahabodhi and Nalanda — are covered in this chapter.

For the exam, always remember each art form with its district, and each writer with one work and one award.

661. By what other name is Madhubani painting also known?
→ **Mithila painting** — Main area: Madhubani and Darbhanga districts

662. In which district are Jitwarpur and Ranti, the famous Madhubani painting villages?
→ **Madhubani**

663. What is considered the most distinctive feature of Madhubani painting?
→ **No space is left empty** — Empty spaces filled with flowers, leaves, birds and geometric patterns

664. According to tradition, Mithila painting is linked to whose wedding?
→ **Sita (daughter of King Janak)** — The palace walls were then painted

665. What is the line-work-only style of Madhubani painting called?
→ **Kachni** — Ganga Devi was a leading artist of this style

666. What is the Madhubani style that fills figures with bright colours called?
→ **Bharni** — Popularised by Sita Devi

667. The saga of which folk hero is usually depicted in the Godna style of Mithila painting?
→ **Raja Salhesh** — Chano Devi is regarded as the pioneer of the Godna style

668. What is the Mithila painting on the walls of a newly-wed couple's room called?
→ **Kohbar** — Fertility symbols like lotus, bamboo, fish, parrot

669. Which British officer saw Madhubani paintings on walls broken by the 1934 earthquake and wrote about them?
→ **W.G. Archer** — Article in the art journal 'Marg' in 1949

670. Which artist was sent during the 1966–68 drought to get Mithila women to paint on paper?
→ **Bhaskar Kulkarni** — At Pupul Jayakar's initiative (All India Handicrafts Board)

671. Which was Bihar's first GI-tagged product?
→ **Madhubani painting** — GI registry year 2006–07

672. Who was the first Madhubani painter to receive the Padma Shri?
→ **Jagdamba Devi** — In 1975; Sita Devi received it in 1981

673. Which husband-wife pair of Godna painting received the Padma Shri in 2024?
→ **Shanti Devi Paswan and Shivan Paswan** — Paint Dusadh folk sagas such as Raja Salhesh

674. Which folk painting of Bhagalpur (Anga) tells the Bihula–Bishahari story in sequential panels?
→ **Manjusha art** — Manjusha = box; carried in Bishahari Puja in August

675. Which painter from a Mallah family of Ranti village received the Padma Shri in 2021?
→ **Dulari Devi** — Learned from Karpuri Devi and Mahasundari Devi

676. Which three colours are mainly used in Manjusha art?
→ **Pink, green and yellow** — Kept alive in the 20th century by Chakravarti Devi

677. What is the painting style that developed in Patna after the decline of the Mughal court called?
→ **Patna Kalam (Patna School)** — A regional branch of 'Company painting'

678. What was the main theme of Patna Kalam that set it apart from Mughal painting?
→ **Daily life of common people** — Hawkers, artisans, carpenters, fish-sellers, markets

679. Who is regarded as the last great painter of Patna Kalam?
→ **Ishwari Prasad Verma**

680. Who revived Patna's Tikuli art in the 20th century?
→ **Upendra Maharathi** — Tikuli = decorative bindi; Patna's crafts research institute is named after him

681. Pidiya painting, made by women at festivals, belongs to which district of Bihar?
→ **Bhojpur** — Folk wall and ritual art made with natural colours

682. The craft of making boxes, baskets and dolls from sikki grass belongs mainly to which region?
→ **Mithila** — Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi; GI 2007–08

683. What is the sikki box traditionally given to a daughter at her wedding called?
→ **Pauti**

684. Which village is the centre of the modern revival of Sujni embroidery?
→ **Bhusura (Muzaffarpur)** — GI 2007–08; Sujni artist Nirmala Devi received Padma Shri in 2025

685. What is Bihar's appliqué craft of cutting coloured cloth pieces and stitching them on another cloth called?
→ **Khatwa** — Main centre Patna; GI 2007–08

686. The 'Bawan Buti' weave with 52 small motifs is the tradition of which village?
→ **Basawan Bigha (Nalanda)** — Weaver Kapil Dev Prasad received Padma Shri in 2023

687. Which city of Bihar is called the 'Silk City' because of tussar silk?
→ **Bhagalpur** — 'Bhagalpur Silk' GI 2012–13

688. In which district is Patharkatti village, famous for carving idols from black stone?
→ **Gaya**

689. Under which Act is GI registration done in India?
→ **Geographical Indications (GI) Act, 1999** — In force since 2003

690. Where is India's GI Registry located?
→ **Chennai**

691. Which fragrant, light-yellow mango of Bhagalpur has a GI tag?
→ **Zardalu** — GI 2017–18

692. For how many years is a GI registration valid in India?
→ **10 years** — Can be renewed thereafter

693. Katarni rice, GI-tagged and famous for chura (flattened rice), belongs to which area?
→ **Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger** — GI 2017–18

694. To which region does the GI of Magahi Paan relate?
→ **Magadh (Nawada, Gaya, Aurangabad, Nalanda)** — GI 2017–18

695. Which district of Bihar is the main producing area of the GI-tagged Shahi Litchi?
→ **Muzaffarpur** — Registered name 'Shahi Litchi of Bihar'; GI October 2018

696. To which district does the GI-tagged Silao Khaja belong?
→ **Nalanda** — GI December 2018

697. In which year did Bhagalpur's Manjusha art get its GI tag?
→ **2021–22**

698. In which year did Mithila Makhana get its GI tag?
→ **2022**

699. Marcha rice, GI-tagged with black-pepper-like grains, belongs to which district?
→ **West Champaran** — GI 31 July 2023

700. Which dance do Mithila women perform during Navratri carrying a perforated pot with a lamp on the head?
→ **Jhijhiya** — A prayer for protection from the evil eye

701. Which folk dance is performed by the women of the groom's house on the night the baraat leaves?
→ **Domkach** — Banter and mimicry; not by the bride's side

702. Which folk dance of the Mithila–Kosi region is based on the love and quarrels of husband and wife?
→ **Jat-Jatin** — Also linked to praying for rain

703. Which war dance of Bihar is performed with sword and shield?
→ **Paika** — Linked to the drills of foot soldiers (paik)

704. Which dance of Saran–Bhojpur is performed at weddings by men dressed as women?
→ **Launda Naach**

705. Which artist from Saran received the Padma Shri in 2021 for Launda Naach?
→ **Ramchandra Manjhi** — Danced in Bhikhari Thakur's troupe

706. In which district was folk playwright Bhikhari Thakur born?
→ **Saran (Kutubpur Diyara)** — Lifespan 1887–1971

707. Who is called the 'Shakespeare of Bhojpuri'?
→ **Bhikhari Thakur** — The title is attributed to Rahul Sankrityayan

708. Which famous play of Bhikhari Thakur is about the pain of a wife waiting for her husband gone to Kolkata to earn?
→ **Bidesiya** — The whole folk-theatre genre came to be known by this name

709. Which folk singer was famous as 'Bihar Kokila' (Nightingale of Bihar)?
→ **Sharda Sinha** — Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 2025

710. Which play did Bhikhari Thakur write against the evil practice of selling daughters?
→ **'Beti Bechwa' ('Beti Viyog')**

711. Which poet of Saran was famous for 'Purbi' songs of separation?
→ **Mahendra Misir**

712. Which are the two main gharanas of Dhrupad singing in Bihar?
→ **Darbhanga and Bettiah** — Both enjoyed royal court patronage

713. To which family does the Darbhanga gharana of Dhrupad belong?
→ **Mallick family (Amta village)** — Ram Chatur Mallick belonged to this gharana

714. Where was shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan born?
→ **Dumraon (Buxar)** — 21 March 1916; worked in Varanasi

715. In which year did Ustad Bismillah Khan receive the Bharat Ratna?
→ **2001** — Played shehnai at the Red Fort on 15 August 1947

716. Which singer of the Darbhanga gharana of Dhrupad received the Padma Shri in 2024?
→ **Ram Kumar Mallick** — Ram Chatur Mallick received Padma Shri in 1970

717. On which tithi is the main Chhath festival celebrated?
→ **Kartik Shukla Shashthi** — 6 days after Deepawali; smaller Chhath in Chaitra (Chaiti Chhath)

718. What is the first day of the four-day Chhath festival called?
→ **Nahay-Khay** — Kartik Shukla Chaturthi

719. What is the second-day ritual of Chhath, when jaggery kheer and roti are made at night, called?
→ **Kharna** — Followed by a roughly 36-hour waterless fast

720. On which day is arghya offered to the setting sun in Chhath?
→ **Third day (Shashthi)** — Fourth day (Saptami): Usha arghya to the rising sun

721. Which festival of Mithila is linked to the affection between brother and sister?
→ **Sama-Chakeva** — An effigy of the tale-bearer 'Chugla' is burnt

722. In which festival do mothers keep a waterless fast for their children's long life?
→ **Jitiya (Jivitputrika)** — Ashwin Krishna Ashtami

723. Which festival do newly-wed women of Mithila celebrate in the first Shravan after marriage?
→ **Madhushravani** — Worship of Gauri and serpent deities

724. Which Mithila festival involves worship of the moon on the evening of Bhadra Shukla Chaturthi?
→ **Chaurchan**

725. By what other name is the Sonepur Mela known?
→ **Harihar Kshetra Mela** — Begins on Kartik Purnima; around the Harihar Nath temple

726. At the confluence of which rivers is the Sonepur Mela of Saran district held?
→ **Gandak and Ganga** — Historically called Asia's largest cattle fair

727. On the bank of which river is pind-daan performed at Gaya during Pitripaksha?
→ **Falgu** — Vishnupad Temple (rebuilt by Ahilyabai Holkar, 1787) and Akshayavat

728. From where do kanwariyas collect Ganga water in the Shravani Mela?
→ **Sultanganj (Bhagalpur)** — On foot to Baba Baidyanath Dham, Deoghar (Jharkhand)

729. By which Act did Hindi become the official language of Bihar?
→ **Bihar Official Language Act, 1950**

730. Who classified Bhojpuri, Maithili and Magahi under the name 'Bihari languages'?
→ **George Grierson** — All three derive from Magadhi Prakrit/Apabhramsha

731. In 1881, Hindi replaced which language as the language of courts and offices in Bihar?
→ **Urdu** — Bihar was then part of the Bengal Presidency

732. By which amendment was Maithili added to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?
→ **92nd Amendment, 2003** — Along with Bodo, Dogri and Santhali

733. Which language of Bihar reached Mauritius, Fiji and Suriname with girmitiya (indentured) labourers?
→ **Bhojpuri** — Named after Bhojpur (Arrah); not in the Eighth Schedule

734. After which ancient Mahajanapada is the Angika language named?
→ **Anga** — Capital of Anga: Champa; area Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger

735. Which language is spoken in Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Sheohar?
→ **Bajjika** — Named after the Vajji sangha of Vaishali

736. What is the traditional script of Maithili?
→ **Tirhuta (Mithilakshar)** — Included in Unicode in 2014

737. Which script was used in Bihar's land records and court papers in the 19th century?
→ **Kaithi** — Included in Unicode in 2009

738. In which village was the Maithili poet Vidyapati born?
→ **Bisfi (Madhubani)**

739. Who is called 'Maithil Kokil' (Nightingale of Mithila)?
→ **Vidyapati** — Also called 'Abhinav Jayadev'

740. Vidyapati was the court poet of which king?
→ **Raja Shivasingh (Oiniwar dynasty)**

741. Which Maithili work of Vidyapati contains Radha-Krishna love songs and Shiva songs?
→ **'Padavali'** — 'Kirtilata' and 'Kirtipataka' written in Avahatta

742. Who wrote 'Dehati Duniya' (1926), a novel based on village life?
→ **Acharya Shivpujan Sahay** — Born Unwans (Buxar); edited 'Matwala'

743. Where was Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' born?
→ **Simaria (Begusarai)**

744. For which work did Dinkar receive the 1972 Jnanpith Award?
→ **'Urvashi'**

745. For which work did Dinkar receive the 1959 Sahitya Akademi Award?
→ **'Sanskriti Ke Char Adhyay'** — His line 'Singhasan khali karo ki janta aati hai' became a JP movement slogan

746. What was the real name of the people's poet Nagarjun?
→ **Vaidyanath Mishra** — Pen name 'Yatri' in Maithili

747. Which poet born in Bettiah was called the 'Prince of Songs' ('Geeton ka Rajkumar')?
→ **Gopal Singh Nepali**

748. Who is regarded as the father of the Hindi regional (anchalik) novel?
→ **Phanishwar Nath 'Renu'** — Born Aurahi Hingna, Purnia (now Araria)

749. Against the backdrop of which village is Renu's novel 'Maila Anchal' (1954) set?
→ **Maryganj (Purnia)**

750. Which Barabar cave has an entrance shaped like a wooden hut with a frieze of elephants?
→ **Lomas Rishi Cave**

751. Which is regarded as the tallest excavated Buddhist stupa in the world?
→ **Kesaria Stupa (East Champaran)** — Excavated by ASI in 1998; about 104 feet

752. On which hill is the Vishwa Shanti Stupa of Rajgir located?
→ **Ratnagiri** — Built in 1969 by the Japanese order Nipponzan Myohoji

753. In which village is Vikramshila Mahavihara located?
→ **Antichak (Bhagalpur)** — Founded by Pala king Dharmapala

754. Where is Sher Shah Suri's octagonal tomb, built in the middle of an artificial lake?
→ **Sasaram (Rohtas)** — Completed 1545; architect Aliwal Khan

755. The 'Chhoti Dargah' of Maner Sharif (Patna) belongs to which Sufi saint?
→ **Shah Daulat** — Built in 1616 by Ibrahim Khan, subahdar of Bihar

756. Which museum of Bihar do people call 'Jadu Ghar' (House of Magic)?
→ **Patna Museum** — Founded 1917; famous fossil tree trunk

757. Which Japanese firm designed the Bihar Museum in Patna?
→ **Maki and Associates** — Partly opened 2015, fully 2017; key exhibit Didarganj Yakshi

758. Where is the Buddha Samyak Darshan Museum and Memorial Stupa located?
→ **Vaishali** — Inaugurated 29 July 2025; Buddha's relic casket enshrined

759. Which delicacy made on Makar Sankranti is a speciality of Gaya?
→ **Tilkut** — Made by pounding sesame with jaggery or sugar

760. Which sweet is the main prasad of Chhath?
→ **Thekua** — Wheat flour, jaggery and ghee

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- The first Padma Shri for Madhubani painting went to Jagdamba Devi (1975), not Sita Devi (1981).
- 'Shakespeare of Bhojpuri' = Bhikhari Thakur; 'Bihar Kokila' = Sharda Sinha; 'Maithil Kokil' = Vidyapati — do not mix up these three titles.
- Dinkar got the Jnanpith (1972) for 'Urvashi' and the Sahitya Akademi (1959) for 'Sanskriti Ke Char Adhyay'; 'Rashmirathi' won neither.

💡 Memory trick

Relationship formula: Sama-Chakeva = brother-sister, Jitiya = mother-child, Madhushravani = new bride. Language name = old region: Angika–Anga (Bhagalpur), Bajjika–Vajji (Vaishali), Magahi–Magadh (Gaya–Patna).

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09 Population & Society

KEY IDEA

In Census 2011, Bihar ranked 3rd in population, 1st among states in population density and last among states in literacy.

In 2023, Bihar conducted a caste-based count with its own resources — the first comprehensive caste count since 1931.

This chapter uses the final figures of Census 2011, not the provisional ones.

761. What is the total population of Bihar as per Census 2011?
→ **104,099,452** — Census 2011 (final figures)

762. What is Bihar's rank among Indian states in population?
→ **Third** — After Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra; Census 2011

763. Census 2011 was India's which census?
→ **15th** — 7th after Independence

764. What is Bihar's share in India's total population?
→ **8.60%** — On only about 2.86% of India's area

765. What was Bihar's decadal population growth rate in 2001–2011?
→ **25.42%** — India: 17.7%

766. What is Bihar's population density as per Census 2011?
→ **1,106 persons per sq km** — Highest among states; India 382

767. What is Bihar's sex ratio as per Census 2011?
→ **918** — Females per 1,000 males; India 943

768. What is Bihar's child sex ratio (0–6 years) in Census 2011?
→ **935** — Better than India (918); 942 in 2001

769. What is Bihar's literacy rate as per Census 2011?
→ **61.80%** — Lowest among states; India 72.98%

770. What was Bihar's female literacy rate in Census 2011?
→ **51.50%** — Male literacy 71.20%

771. What was the share of urban population in Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **11.29%** — Second lowest, after Himachal Pradesh (10.03%)

772. Which is the most populous district of Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **Patna (5,838,465)**

773. Which is the least populous district of Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **Sheikhpura (636,342)**

774. Which district had the highest decadal growth rate in 2001–11?
→ **Madhepura (31.12%)**

775. Which state ranks second after Bihar in population density as per Census 2011?
→ **West Bengal (1,028)** — Union Territory Delhi (11,320) is not a state.

776. Which district has the highest population density in Census 2011?
→ **Sheohar (about 1,880)** — Patna (1,823) is second

777. Which district has the lowest population density in Census 2011?
→ **Kaimur (488)** — Kaimur hills and forests

778. Which district has the highest sex ratio in Census 2011?
→ **Gopalganj (1,021)** — Effect of out-migration of men

779. Which district has the lowest sex ratio in Census 2011?
→ **Munger (876)** — Followed by Bhagalpur (880) and Khagaria (886)

780. What is the main reason for the high sex ratio in Gopalganj, Siwan and Saran?
→ **Out-migration of men** — Especially to the Gulf countries

781. What was Bihar's literacy rate in Census 2001?
→ **47.00%** — A rise of about 14.8 points in one decade

782. Which district has the highest literacy rate in Census 2011?
→ **Rohtas (73.37%)** — Patna (70.68%) is second

783. Which district has the lowest literacy rate in Census 2011?
→ **Purnia (51.08%)** — Followed by Sitamarhi and Katihar

784. Which is the only million-plus urban agglomeration of Bihar?
→ **Patna** — Census 2011

785. Which district had the lowest decadal growth rate in 2001–11?
→ **Arwal (18.89%)** — Gopalganj (19.02%) is very close.

786. Which district has the highest percentage of Scheduled Caste population?
→ **Gaya (30.38%)** — Census 2011

787. Which district has the lowest percentage of Scheduled Caste population?
→ **Kishanganj (6.69%)** — Census 2011

788. Which district has the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribe population?
→ **West Champaran (about 6.35%)** — Tharu region; Census 2011

789. Which is the only Muslim-majority district of Bihar?
→ **Kishanganj (about 68%)** — Census 2011

790. What was the percentage of Hindu population in Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **82.69%** — 81.99% in the 2023 caste survey

791. What was the percentage of Muslim population in Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **16.87%** — 17.70% in the 2023 caste survey

792. In which region is Bihar's Muslim population mainly concentrated?
→ **Seemanchal** — Kishanganj, Katihar, Araria, Purnia

793. What was the share of Scheduled Castes in Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **15.91%** — 16,567,325 persons; India 16.6%

794. Which is the largest Scheduled Caste group of Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **Dusadh/Paswan** — Followed by Chamar/Ravidas and Musahar

795. In which year was the State Mahadalit Commission constituted in Bihar?
→ **2007** — For the most deprived Scheduled Caste groups

796. What kind of category is 'Mahadalit'?
→ **An administrative category of the state** — It is not a constitutional term.

797. What was the share of Scheduled Tribes in Bihar in Census 2011?
→ **1.28%** — About 13.37 lakh; India 8.6%

798. Which is the largest Scheduled Tribe of Bihar?
→ **Santhal** — In Banka, Jamui, Katihar, Purnia, Bhagalpur

799. In which script is the Santhali language written?
→ **Ol Chiki** — In the Eighth Schedule since 2003

800. In which district of Bihar does the Tharu tribe mainly live?
→ **West Champaran** — In the Terai along the Nepal border (Bagaha–Valmikinagar)

801. What is the language of the Oraon tribe of Bihar?
→ **Kurukh** — Dravidian language family

802. When did the Bihar Cabinet approve the caste-based count?
→ **2 June 2022** — After the all-party meeting of 1 June 2022

803. When did the Patna High Court uphold the caste-based survey?
→ **1 August 2023** — An interim stay had been imposed on 4 May 2023.

804. Which entry of the Union List is the reason a state cannot conduct a census?
→ **Entry 69 (Census)** — Along with the Census Act, 1948; hence it was called a 'survey'

805. What total population was counted in the Bihar Caste-based Survey 2023?
→ **130,725,310** — About 13.07 crore

806. Which is the largest social category of Bihar in the Caste Survey 2023?
→ **Extremely Backward Classes (36.01%)** — Classes listed in Annexure-I

807. What is the share of Backward Classes (Annexure-II) in the Caste Survey 2023?
→ **27.12%** — EBC and BC together about 63%

808. What share of Scheduled Castes was found in the Caste Survey 2023?
→ **19.65%** — It was 15.91% in Census 2011.

809. What is the share of the unreserved (general) category in the Caste Survey 2023?
→ **15.52%**

810. Which is the largest single caste of Bihar as per the Caste Survey 2023?
→ **Yadav (about 14.27%)** — Followed by Dusadh/Paswan (5.31%)

811. As per the caste survey, what percentage of families have a monthly income of ₹6,000 or less?
→ **About 34.13%** — 42.93% among SC, 42.70% among ST

812. What is the share of Scheduled Tribes in the Caste Survey 2023?
→ **1.68%** — It was 1.28% in Census 2011.

813. When did the Bihar Legislative Assembly pass the two bills raising reservation to 65%?
→ **9 November 2023** — The Legislative Council passed them the next day, 10 November 2023.

814. What was the quota for Extremely Backward Classes in the 2023 reservation amendment Acts?
→ **25%** — BC 18%, SC 20%, ST 2%

815. What did total reservation in Bihar, including EWS, become under the 2023 Acts?
→ **75%** — Caste-based 65% + EWS 10%

816. What was the reservation for Extremely Backward Classes in Bihar before November 2023?
→ **18%** — BC 12%, SC 16%, ST 1%, backward-class women 3%

817. When did the Supreme Court refuse to stay the Patna High Court's reservation verdict?
→ **29 July 2024** — Appeal pending; 50% + 10% EWS system continues

818. On which commission's report did Karpoori Thakur implement backward-class reservation in 1978?
→ **Mungeri Lal Commission** — Total 26% reservation

819. From which region of Bihar does international migration to the Gulf countries mainly take place?
→ **Saran region** — Siwan, Gopalganj, Saran

820. When did the state Cabinet approve the Bihar Youth Commission?
→ **8 July 2025** — Migration and skill development are also among its duties

821. What is Bihar's total fertility rate as per NFHS-5 (2019–21)?
→ **3.0** — Highest in India; 3.4 in NFHS-4

822. What is Bihar's infant mortality rate as per NFHS-5?
→ **46.8 per 1,000 live births** — 48.1 in NFHS-4

823. As per NFHS-5, what share of children under 5 in Bihar are stunted?
→ **42.9%** — 48.3% in NFHS-4

824. As per NFHS-5, what is the level of anaemia among children aged 6–59 months in Bihar?
→ **69.4%** — Up from NFHS-4 (63.5%)

825. As per NFHS-5, what share of women aged 20–24 in Bihar were married before 18?
→ **40.8%**

826. In which district did the 2019 outbreak of 'Chamki Bukhar' (AES) among children mainly occur?
→ **Muzaffarpur**

827. In which year did AIIMS Patna start?
→ **2012** — Second AIIMS at Darbhanga (foundation stone November 2024)

828. Which insect spreads kala-azar in North Bihar?
→ **Sandfly**

829. When did classes begin at the international Nalanda University?
→ **1 September 2014** — Nalanda University Act 2010

830. Where is the Central University of South Bihar located?
→ **Gaya** — Established 2009

831. Where is Mahatma Gandhi Central University located?
→ **Motihari (East Champaran)** — Established 2016

832. What was the earlier name of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Patna?
→ **Bihar College of Engineering** — Got NIT status in 2004

833. In NITI Aayog's baseline MPI (November 2021), what share of Bihar's population was multidimensionally poor?
→ **51.91%** — Highest among all states; based on NFHS-4

834. About how many people in Bihar escaped multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23?
→ **About 3.77 crore** — Second after Uttar Pradesh (5.94 crore)

835. Under which Act did Bihar give 50% reservation to women in panchayats?
→ **Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006** — First state to do so

836. Since when have women got 35% reservation in Bihar state government jobs?
→ **2016** — From 8 July 2025, only for women domiciled in Bihar

837. With the support of which institution is Bihar's JEEViKA project run?
→ **World Bank** — State unit of NRLM; since 2006–07

838. Census 2027 will be India's which census?
→ **16th** — 8th after Independence; first since 2011

839. What is the reference date of Census 2027 (excluding snow-bound areas)?
→ **1 March 2027 (00:00 hours)** — 1 October 2026 for snow-bound areas

840. In which year was a full caste count last conducted in an Indian census?
→ **1931** — Census 2027 will count caste again.

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- The highest sex ratio is of Gopalganj (1,021), not Siwan (988); the lowest is of Munger (876), not Bhagalpur (880).
- Bihar's overall sex ratio (918) is lower than India's (943), but its child sex ratio (935) is higher than India's (918) — 918 is also India's child sex ratio.
- Patna is the most populous district, but the highest density is of Sheohar and the highest literacy is of Rohtas.

💡 Memory trick

Sheohar and Sheikhpura both begin with 'Sh': Sheohar is the densest, Sheikhpura the least populous. Caste survey in descending order 36-27-19-15-1 (EBC-BC-SC-Unreserved-ST); 2023 quota 25-18-20-2 (EBC-BC-SC-ST).

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10 Economy

Economy of Bihar

KEY IDEA

Bihar is among the fastest-growing large economies of the country, yet it ranks at the bottom in per capita income.

The figures are based on the Bihar Economic Survey 2025-26 (for the year 2024-25) and the Budgets of 2025-26 and 2026-27.

In the exam, remember every figure along with its survey and year, because the figures change every year.

841. What is the base year for measuring Bihar's GSDP at constant prices?
→ **2011-12** — Growth at constant prices is called real growth

842. The Bihar Economic Survey 2025-26 was the state's which economic survey?
→ **20th** — Tabled in the Assembly on 2 February 2026

843. As per the Economic Survey 2025-26, what was Bihar's GSDP (at current prices) in 2024-25?
→ **₹991,997 crore** — About ₹9.92 lakh crore

844. What was Bihar's real growth rate at constant (2011-12) prices in 2024-25?
→ **8.6%** — India's real growth in the same year: 6.5%

845. What was the nominal growth rate of Bihar's GSDP at current prices in 2024-25?
→ **13.1%** — India's nominal growth 9.8%

846. As per the Economic Survey 2025-26, what was Bihar's per capita GSDP (current prices) in 2024-25?
→ **₹76,490** — ₹66,828 in 2023-24; India ₹234,859

847. What was Bihar's outstanding debt as a percentage of GSDP in 2024-25?
→ **37.7%** — Economic Survey 2025-26

848. Where does Bihar stand among Indian states in per capita income?
→ **Lowest** — About one-third of the all-India figure

849. With about 8.6% of the country's population, what is Bihar's approximate share in India's GDP?
→ **About 3%** — Hence low per capita income despite fast growth

850. Which sector had the largest share in Bihar's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2024-25?
→ **Tertiary (services) sector — 54.8%** — Trade, transport, real estate, public administration lead

851. What was the share of the secondary sector in Bihar's GSVA in 2024-25?
→ **26.8%** — It was 21.1% in 2020-21

852. What was the share of the primary sector in Bihar's GSVA in 2024-25?
→ **18.3%** — Yet most workers are engaged in agriculture

853. Which sector of Bihar grew fastest in real terms in 2024-25?
→ **Secondary sector (11.1%)** — Services 8.9%; primary slowest at 4.1%

854. Which is the top district by per capita GDDP in the Economic Survey 2025-26?
→ **Patna** — Followed by Begusarai and Munger

855. Which is the lowest district by per capita GDDP in the Economic Survey 2025-26?
→ **Sheohar** — Bottom three: Sheohar, Araria, Sitamarhi

856. Which district ranks second after Patna in per capita GDDP?
→ **Begusarai** — Due to Barauni refinery and industries

857. Who presented the Bihar Budget 2026-27 in the Assembly?
→ **Finance Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav** — On 3 February 2026

858. What is the total size of the Bihar Budget 2026-27?
→ **₹347,589.76 crore** — The state's largest budget so far

859. Which Finance Minister presented the Bihar Budget 2025-26?
→ **Samrat Choudhary** — 3 March 2025; size ₹316,895 crore

860. Which sector got the highest allocation in both Bihar Budgets 2025-26 and 2026-27?
→ **Education** — About ₹68,000–70,000 crore in 2026-27

861. Under the Jannayak Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Nidhi, how much do farmers get in addition to PM-KISAN?
→ **₹3,000 per year** — Announced in Budget 2026-27

862. What is Bihar's estimated fiscal deficit as a share of GSDP in Budget 2026-27?
→ **About 3% (2.99%)** — ₹39,112 crore

863. What did Bihar's fiscal deficit reach as a share of GSDP in the 2025-26 Revised Estimates (RE)?
→ **11.8%** — Target was 3%; large cash transfers in election year

864. As per Budget 2026-27, about what share of Bihar's total receipts (excluding borrowings) comes from the Centre?
→ **About 74%** — Share in central taxes (~55%) plus central grants (~18%)

865. What was Bihar's share in the divisible pool of central taxes under the 14th Finance Commission (2015–20)?
→ **9.665%** — Chairman: Y.V. Reddy

866. What was Bihar's share in the divisible pool under the 15th Finance Commission?
→ **10.058% (≈10.06%)** — Second highest after Uttar Pradesh

867. Who is the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission (2026–31)?
→ **Arvind Panagariya** — Report tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026

868. What is Bihar's approximate share in the divisible pool under the 16th Finance Commission?
→ **About 9.95%** — Second after Uttar Pradesh (17.62%)

869. What total share of states in the divisible pool did the 16th Finance Commission keep?
→ **41%** — It was 41% under the 15th Finance Commission too

870. Which criterion has the highest weight in the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula?
→ **Income distance (42.5%)** — Population (2011) has a weight of 17.5%

871. In which year was the Bihar Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act enacted?
→ **2006**

872. Which economist with Bihar roots chaired the 15th Finance Commission?
→ **N.K. Singh** — Period 2020–21 and 2021–26

873. What was the amount of the Prime Minister's package announced for Bihar in August 2015?
→ **₹1.25 lakh crore** — A special package instead of special category status

874. In which category did the Raghuram Rajan Committee (2013) place Bihar in its composite index?
→ **'Least Developed' category** — It is a category; Bihar is one of several states in it

875. Which new criterion with 10% weight did the 16th Finance Commission add?
→ **Contribution to GDP** — Hence Bihar's share fell slightly

876. As per the Economic Survey 2025-26, what is Bihar's cropping intensity?
→ **1.52** — Net sown area about 54.1 lakh hectares

877. Bihar is a leading producer of maize of which season?
→ **Rabi maize** — Rice (kharif), wheat (rabi) and maize are the main crops

878. For what period was Bihar's first Agriculture Road Map?
→ **2008–12** — Second 2012–17, third 2017–22

879. For what period is Bihar's fourth Agriculture Road Map?
→ **2023–28**

880. Who launched Bihar's fourth Agriculture Road Map?
→ **President Droupadi Murmu** — 18 October 2023, at Patna

881. In which year did Bihar repeal its APMC (Agricultural Produce Market) Act?
→ **2006** — This ended the regulated mandi system

882. What is Bihar's share in India's total makhana production generally taken to be?
→ **About 85–90%** — Makhana is called Bihar's 'Kala Heera' (black diamond)

883. In which budget was the National Makhana Board announced?
→ **Union Budget 2025-26** — On 1 February 2025

884. From which city did the Prime Minister launch the National Makhana Board?
→ **Purnia** — On 15 September 2025

885. Where is ICAR's makhana research centre located in Bihar?
→ **Darbhanga**

886. What is the botanical name of makhana?
→ **Euryale ferox** — Grows in ponds and chaurs (wetlands) of North Bihar

887. Where is the ICAR–National Research Centre on Litchi located?
→ **Muzaffarpur** — Bihar is the country's leading litchi producer

888. In which year did Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi get the GI tag?
→ **2018**

889. The GI-tagged Jardalu mango is the identity of which district?
→ **Bhagalpur** — GI year 2018

890. Which rice of West Champaran got the GI tag in 2023?
→ **Marcha rice**

891. In which year was the Bihar State Milk Co-operative Federation (COMFED) established?
→ **1983** — On the Anand (Amul) pattern, three-tier structure

892. Under which brand name does COMFED sell its dairy products?
→ **Sudha**

893. As per the Economic Survey 2025-26, which is Bihar's top district in fish production?
→ **Madhubani**

894. In which year was the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) established?
→ **1974** — Develops and allots land in industrial areas

895. In which year was the Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy (BIIPP) introduced?
→ **2016** — Umbrella policy with single-window clearance

896. Which was the first state to bring its own ethanol production promotion policy after the National Biofuel Policy 2018?
→ **Bihar (2021)**

897. In which year did the Bihar Textile and Leather Policy come?
→ **2022** — Bihar Startup Policy also came in 2022

898. MoUs worth about how much were signed at Bihar Business Connect 2024 in Patna?
→ **About ₹1.8 lakh crore** — About ₹50,530 crore at Business Connect 2023

899. In which year was the IOCL refinery at Barauni (Begusarai) commissioned?
→ **1964** — With the help of the Soviet Union

900. What type of engines are made at the rail factory in Madhepura?
→ **Electric locomotives** — Alstom; 12,000 HP engines

901. What is made at the factory at Marhowra in Saran district?
→ **Diesel locomotives** — Both Madhepura and Marhowra factories since 2018

902. Where in Bihar is the eastern end of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (Eastern DFC)?
→ **Sonnagar (Aurangabad)** — Corridor: Ludhiana–Sonnagar

903. Where in Bihar was the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster of the Amritsar–Kolkata Industrial Corridor approved?
→ **Gaya** — Union Cabinet approval August 2024

904. What is the capacity of the thermal power plant being built at Pirpainti in Bhagalpur?
→ **2,400 MW (3×800 MW)** — Foundation stone 15 September 2025; about ₹25,000 crore

905. Under which project is the four-lane greenfield corridor from Amas (Gaya) to Darbhanga being built?
→ **Bharatmala** — Length about 189 km

906. Which is the first bridge built over the Ganga in Bihar?
→ **Rajendra Setu (1959)** — Mokama–Simaria; rail-cum-road bridge

907. Which two places does the Mahatma Gandhi Setu over the Ganga connect?
→ **Patna and Hajipur** — Opened in 1982; about 5.75 km

908. In which city is the Vikramshila Setu over the Ganga?
→ **Bhagalpur** — Opened in 2001; about 4.7 km

909. On which National Highway is India's widest extradosed bridge, the Aunta–Simaria six-lane bridge?
→ **NH-31** — Inaugurated 22 August 2025; Mokama–Begusarai

910. Which two districts does the Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur six-lane Ganga bridge connect?
→ **Patna and Vaishali** — ADB assistance; main bridge about 9.76 km

911. Which two places does the Kosi Rail Mahasetu connect?
→ **Nirmali and Saraigarh (Supaul)** — Dedicated to the nation on 18 September 2020

912. After which leader is Patna airport named?
→ **Jayaprakash Narayan** — New terminal building opened in 2025

913. When did commercial flights under the UDAN scheme start from Darbhanga airport?
→ **8 November 2020**

914. Where is the headquarters of the East Central Railway?
→ **Hajipur**

915. Of the first two Amrit Bharat Express trains flagged off on 30 December 2023, between which places did the Bihar train run?
→ **Darbhanga–Delhi (Anand Vihar)** — Via Ayodhya; the other was Malda Town–Bengaluru

916. As per the Economic Survey 2024-25, what is the approximate credit-deposit (CD) ratio of banks in Bihar?
→ **About 56% (56.3%)** — Among the lowest in the country

917. Where is Bihar's first glass skywalk bridge located?
→ **Rajgir Nature Safari**

918. For which two temples of Gaya were corridors on the Kashi Vishwanath model announced in Union Budget 2024-25?
→ **Vishnupad and Mahabodhi**

919. As per NITI Aayog's National MPI 2023, what was the proportion of multidimensionally poor in Bihar in 2019-21?
→ **33.76%** — 51.89% in 2015-16; still the highest in the country

920. What was Bihar's position in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24?
→ **Lowest-ranked state (score 57)**

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- Real (constant-price) growth is 8.6%; 13.1% is nominal growth at current prices — do not mix the two.
- The second district in per capita GDDP is Begusarai (due to Barauni refinery), not Muzaffarpur or Gaya.
- The litchi research centre is at Muzaffarpur and the makhana research centre at Darbhanga; makhana's GI is under the name 'Mithila Makhana' (2022).

💡 Memory trick

District incomes: 'P-B-M on top, S-A-S at the bottom' — Patna, Begusarai, Munger on top; Sheohar, Araria, Sitamarhi at the bottom.

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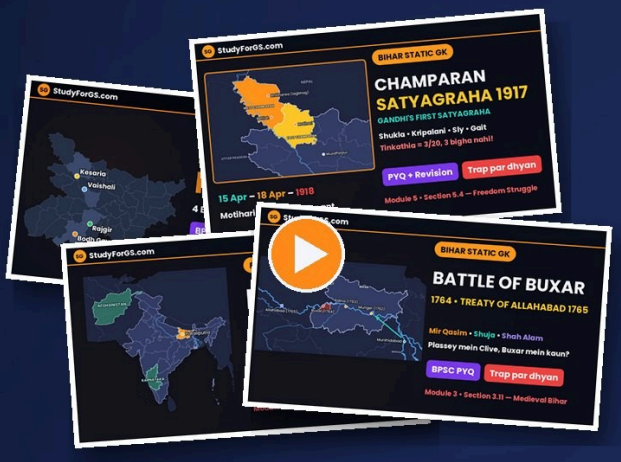

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11 Polity, Administration & Famous Personalities

Polity, Administration & Famous Personalities

KEY IDEA

Bihar has a parliamentary system: the Governor is the constitutional head, the Chief Minister is the real executive head, and the legislature is bicameral.

Facts about office-holders are as of September 2026; the 2025 Assembly election and the 2026 changes are included.

At the end are Bihar's famous personalities and some notable 'firsts'.

921. Who has been the Governor of Bihar since 14 March 2026?
→ **Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain** — Position as of September 2026

922. Who became Bihar's first BJP Chief Minister?
→ **Samrat Choudhary** — Sworn in on 15 April 2026; MLA from Tarapur

923. Who is the Speaker of the 18th Bihar Legislative Assembly?
→ **Dr Prem Kumar** — Since 2 December 2025

924. Which Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council resigned in September 2026?
→ **Awadhesh Narain Singh** — 28 September 2026; Deputy Chairman Dr Ram Bachan Rai then became Acting Chairman

925. Who was the first Governor of Bihar after Independence?
→ **Jairamdas Daulatram** — 1947

926. How many members does the Governor nominate to the Bihar Legislative Council?
→ **12** — Article 171(5)

927. What is the new name of Bihar's Raj Bhavan?
→ **Lok Bhavan**

928. Which Governor administered the oath of Chief Minister to Nitish Kumar for the 10th time?
→ **Arif Mohammad Khan** — 20 November 2025

929. How many elected seats are there in the Bihar Legislative Assembly?
→ **243**

930. How many elected seats did the undivided Bihar Assembly have before Jharkhand was formed (2000)?
→ **324**

931. How many seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) in the Bihar Legislative Assembly?
→ **38** — Delimitation Order, 2008

932. Which are the two seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Bihar Legislative Assembly?
→ **Manihari (Katihar) and Katoria (Banka)**

933. What is the total strength of the Bihar Legislative Council?
→ **75** — Permanent House; one-third of members retire every 2 years

934. How many members of the Bihar Legislative Council are elected by MLAs?
→ **27** — 24 by local bodies

935. How many members of the Bihar Legislative Council are elected from graduates' constituencies?
→ **6** — Also 6 from teachers' constituencies

936. How many Lok Sabha seats does Bihar have?
→ **40** — 6 reserved for SC, none for ST

937. How many Rajya Sabha seats does Bihar have?
→ **16** — Elected by MLAs through proportional representation

938. Who was Bihar's first Chief Minister, known as 'Bihar Kesari' (Lion of Bihar)?
→ **Sri Krishna Singh** — 1946–61; also Premier in 1937–39

939. Who was Bihar's first Muslim Chief Minister after Independence?
→ **Abdul Ghafoor** — 1973–75

940. Who was Bihar's first non-Congress Chief Minister?
→ **Mahamaya Prasad Sinha** — 1967

941. Who was Bihar's first Dalit Chief Minister?
→ **Bhola Paswan Shastri** — 1968

942. Who was Bihar's first woman Chief Minister?
→ **Rabri Devi** — 1997

943. Who is the longest-serving Chief Minister of Bihar?
→ **Nitish Kumar** — Sworn in 10 times; 10th on 20 November 2025, Gandhi Maidan

944. Who was Bihar's first Deputy Chief Minister?
→ **Anugrah Narayan Sinha** — Also Finance Minister

945. By which Act did Bihar become the first state to abolish zamindari by law?
→ **Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950** — During Sri Krishna Singh's chief ministership

946. In which year was the 'Karpoori Formula' of backward-class reservation implemented?
→ **1978** — Karpoori Thakur got Bharat Ratna 2024 (posthumously)

947. Who was Bihar's Chief Minister for the shortest period (about five days)?
→ **Satish Prasad Singh**

948. What was the final voter turnout in the November 2025 Bihar Assembly election?
→ **67.13%** — Highest since 1951; zero re-polls

949. What was the turnout of women voters in the 2025 Bihar Assembly election?
→ **71.78%** — Men 62.98%

950. How many seats did the NDA win in the 2025 Bihar Assembly election?
→ **202** — BJP, with 89 seats, became the largest party for the first time

951. When did the Election Commission order the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar?
→ **24 June 2025** — First full revision since 2003

952. When did the Supreme Court uphold the Bihar SIR under Article 324?
→ **27 May 2026**

953. When was the Patna High Court building formally inaugurated?
→ **3 February 1916** — By Lord Hardinge; regular work from 1 March 1916

954. When was the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) established?
→ **1 April 1949** — Constitutional body (Article 315)

955. Who was the first Chairman of BPSC?
→ **Rajandhari Sinha** — 1949–53

956. Who was the first Chief Justice of the Patna High Court?
→ **Sir Edward Maynard Des Champs Chamier**

957. How many blocks are there in Bihar?
→ **534** — 9 divisions, 38 districts, 101 subdivisions

958. Which was the first state in the country to give 50% reservation to women in panchayats?
→ **Bihar (2006)** — Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006

959. Who heads the Gram Kachahari in Bihar?
→ **Sarpanch** — The Gram Panchayat is headed by the Mukhiya

960. What is the law graduate who assists with legal procedure in a Gram Kachahari called?
→ **Nyaya Mitra** — Records are kept by the Nyaya Sachiv

961. How many Municipal Corporations are there in Bihar?
→ **19** — Bihar Municipal Act, 2007

962. What new facility did the Bihar State Election Commission provide in municipal by-elections in June 2025?
→ **E-voting through a mobile app** — Described as a first in the country

963. How much reservation is there for women in Bihar Police recruitment?
→ **35%** — A women's police station in every district

964. As what day is 26 November observed in Bihar?
→ **Nasha Mukti Diwas (De-addiction Day)** — Prohibition was announced on 26 November 2015

965. From which date did total prohibition come into force in Bihar?
→ **5 April 2016** — Ban on country liquor from 1 April 2016

966. Which colonial law did the Bihar Police Act, 2007 replace?
→ **Police Act, 1861** — After the Prakash Singh (2006) directions

967. From which date did the Bihar Right to Public Services (RTPS) Act come into force?
→ **15 August 2011**

968. Under the Bihar Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act, 2015, within how many working days must a grievance be decided?
→ **60 working days** — In force from 5 June 2016

969. Under the Bihar Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, what is the maximum fine for organised paper leaks?
→ **₹1 crore** — Up to 10 years' jail; passed on 24 July 2024

970. On which date were the results of the Bihar caste-based survey released?
→ **2 October 2023** — First state to publish such data

971. Which was found to be the largest social category in the Bihar Caste Survey 2023?
→ **Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) — 36.01%** — Backward Classes 27.12%, SC 19.65%

972. To what level did the November 2023 amendment Acts raise caste-based reservation in Bihar from 50%?
→ **65%** — Total 75% including EWS

973. When did the Patna High Court strike down the laws providing 65% reservation?
→ **20 June 2024** — Based on the 50% ceiling of Indra Sawhney (1992)

974. By the decision of 8 July 2025, to whom was the 35% women's reservation in government jobs limited?
→ **Women who are permanent residents of Bihar** — Bihar Youth Commission approved the same day

975. Under the Bihar Laghu Udyami Yojana, what is the maximum amount given to one member of a poor family?
→ **₹2 lakh** — In three instalments; need not be repaid

976. 'Har Khet Tak Sinchai Ka Pani' (irrigation water to every field) is a component of which Saat Nishchay?
→ **Saat Nishchay-2 (2020)** — 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal' was in Saat Nishchay-1

977. What is the maximum education loan under the Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme?
→ **₹4 lakh** — Launched on 2 October 2016

978. What is the maximum assistance for a new enterprise under the Mukhyamantri Udyami Yojana, a key scheme of Saat Nishchay-2?
→ **₹10 lakh** — Up to ₹5 lakh grant, rest loan; scheme since 2018

979. In which year did the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana start?
→ **2006** — For Class 9 girls; now ₹3,000

980. Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana, how much incentive is given on passing graduation?
→ **₹50,000** — Scheme of 2018; ₹25,000 on passing Intermediate

981. When was the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), which runs JEEViKA, formed?
→ **2006** — The national DAY-NRLM (2011) was inspired by this model

982. Under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, how much was the first instalment given to one woman of each family?
→ **₹10,000** — Launched by the Prime Minister on 26 September 2025

983. How much free electricity per month do domestic consumers get under the Mukhyamantri Vidyut Upbhokta Sahayata Yojana?
→ **125 units** — From 1 August 2025

984. From July 2025, to how much was the old-age, widow and disability pension raised from ₹400?
→ **₹1,100 per month** — Paid by DBT on the 10th of every month

985. Which treatise did Aryabhata, the mathematician-astronomer of Kusumapura (Pataliputra), write in 499 CE?
→ **'Aryabhatiya'** — India's first satellite (1975) is named after him

986. Where and in which year was Guru Gobind Singh born?
→ **Patna, 1666** — Takht Sri Harmandir Sahib (Patna Sahib)

987. In memory of which freedom fighter is 23 April celebrated as Vijayotsav in Bihar?
→ **Babu Kunwar Singh** — Zamindar of Jagdishpur (Bhojpur); hero of 1857

988. Who was the interim (first) President of the Constituent Assembly?
→ **Dr Sachchidananda Sinha** — December 1946; leader of the separate Bihar movement

989. At which place was Dr Rajendra Prasad born?
→ **Ziradei (Siwan)** — First President of India; Bharat Ratna 1962

990. Where was Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan born?
→ **Sitab Diara** — Then Saran district; village on the Bihar–UP border; Bharat Ratna 1999

991. When and where did Jayaprakash Narayan give the call for 'Sampoorna Kranti' (Total Revolution)?
→ **5 June 1974, Gandhi Maidan, Patna**

992. At which place was Babu Jagjivan Ram born?
→ **Chandwa (Bhojpur)** — Deputy Prime Minister in 1979 (Janata government)

993. Which former Chief Minister is known by the title 'Jannayak' (People's Hero)?
→ **Karpoori Thakur** — Chief Minister 1970–71 and 1977–79

994. Who is the author of the regional novel 'Maila Anchal' (1954)?
→ **Phanishwar Nath 'Renu'** — From Aurahi Hingna (Araria)

995. Which film was based on Renu's story 'Mare Gaye Gulfam'?
→ **'Teesri Kasam'**

996. For which Maithili work did Nagarjun get the Sahitya Akademi Award?
→ **'Patrahin Nagna Gachh'**

997. Which mathematician from Basantpur (Bhojpur) did his PhD from Berkeley (California) in 1969?
→ **Vashishtha Narayan Singh** — Padma Shri 2020 (posthumously)

998. To which village did 'Mountain Man' Dashrath Manjhi belong?
→ **Gehlaur (Gaya)** — Single-handedly cut a path through a hill in about 22 years

999. Which is the first university of modern Bihar?
→ **Patna University (1917)**

1000. Which is Bihar's first AIIMS?
→ **AIIMS Patna (2012)** — Second at Darbhanga (foundation stone 2024)

⚠ Common mistakes (Traps)

- The Gram Panchayat is headed by the Mukhiya, while the Gram Kachahari is headed by the Sarpanch — do not mix the two.
- In the Assembly, 2 seats are reserved for ST, but in the Lok Sabha not a single seat from Bihar is reserved for ST.
- In the caste survey the EBC population is 36.01%, whereas the EBC quota in the 2023 laws was 25%.

💡 Memory trick

Remember the numbers in pairs: 243–75 (Assembly–Council), 40–16 (Lok Sabha–Rajya Sabha); Council = 27 + 24 + 6 + 6 + 12 = 75.

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