

Bihar's Rich Heritage

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Bihar one the rich knowledge capital of the world with the Nalanda and Takshila Universities offering knowledge to students from other countries, with Budha emerging and spreading spiritual knowledge, has also given the emblem from **Ashoka Shatambh** for the Sovereign Government of India, unfortunately, declined today to the status of a "BIMARU" state, with low development indicators.



Bihar is located in the eastern part of India. It is bounded by Nepal in the north, and is surrounded by the states of [Uttar Pradesh](#) to the west, [Jharkhand](#) to the south and [West Bengal](#) to the east. Bihar is watered mainly by the River Ganga but also the Saryu, Gandak

and Sone. Part of the flat Ganges riverine plain, it is mainly an agricultural state. There's little by way of industry, service sector or infrastructure.

The name Bihar is derived from Vihara meaning monastery and for visitors today Bihar is important as the land where Lord Buddha (6-5th century BC), the founder of Buddhism,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaishali_%28ancient_city%29

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Bihar

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bihar>

Bihar today is one of the "BIMARU " states with low GDP, and low development indicators.¹ However, ancient Bihar, known as [Magadha](#), was the center of power, learning, and culture in India for 1000 years. India's "first empire", the [Maurya empire](#) as well as one of the world's greatest [pacifist](#) religion, [Buddhism](#) arose from the region that now makes modern Bihar.^[1] [Magadha](#) empires, notably under the [Maurya](#) and [Gupta](#) dynasties, unified large parts of [South Asia](#) under a central rule.^[2] Its capital [Patna](#), earlier known as [Pataliputra](#), was an important political, military, and economic centre of Indian [civilisation](#) during the ancient and classical periods of history.



Bihar consisted of several beautiful Temples from ancient kingdoms and republics which are, the [Magadha](#) province, the [Anga](#) province and the [Vajji confederation](#) . One of the first known republics in the world, [Licchavi](#), existed in the region since before the birth of [Mahavira](#) (c. 599 BCE).^{[3][4]} The classical Gupta dynasty of Bihar, was known to have been a period of great culture and learning inside India. The Gupta period is known today as the [Golden Age of India](#).



¹ BIMARU includes : Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa (now Odisha).

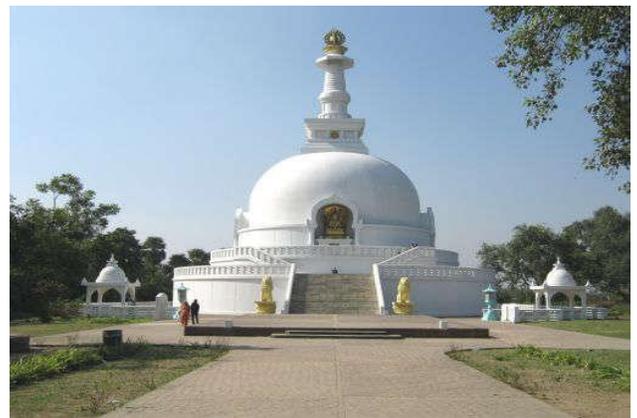
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BIMARU_states

Development Indicators include data on Health, Maternal and infant mortality, food and income security, drinking water availability and shelter among other development factors like approachable roads, markets, schools, colleges, hospitals etc

The [Pala Empire](#) also made their capital at [Pataliputra](#). After, Bihar played a very small role in Indian affairs, until the emergence of the [Suri dynasty](#) during the Islamic period in the 1540s. After the fall of the Suri dynasty in 1556, Bihar again became a marginal player in India and was the staging post for the [Bengal Presidency](#) from the 1750s and up to the war of 1857–58. On 22 March 1912, Bihar was carved out as a separate province in the [British Indian Empire](#). Since 1947.



The remains of Takshila University



Vaishali had been the first World Capital and was ruled by the Licchavi, which was a republican form of government where the king was elected from the number of rajas. It was established as a republic by the 6th century BCE, before the birth of Gautama Buddha in 563 BCE, making it the world's first republic.



Bodh Gaya



Rajgir Temple

2. Non-Violence, The Most Enchanting Thought In Human History, Originated From The Land Of Bihar



source: flickr - Man Bartlett

The most enchanting thought in history of mankind that also changed the course of Indian revolution and subsequently freedom originated in the Bihar. Buddha and Mahavira had propagated this idea since the last 2600 years back and it still resonates with us.

3. Out Of The Five Greatest Emperors In India four Belonged To This Part Of India



source: wikimedia.org

Bihar was a centre of power, learning and culture in ancient and classical India. These emperors were Samudragupta, Ashoka, Vikramaditya and Chandragupta Maurya.

4. One Of The Oldest Temples In India is in Mundeshwari, Bihar



source: [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

The Mundkeshwari temple, constructed around 180 A.D, is an ancient temple dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva and Shakti and is considered as the 'oldest functioning' temple of world.

5. Nalanda And Vikramshila - The Oldest Universities In The World Were Established In Bihar



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source: wikimedia.org

Bihar has been a major centre of learning, home to the ancient universities of Nalanda, established in 450 CE, Odantapur, established in 550 CE, and Vikramashila, established in 783 CE.

Best Regards.

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