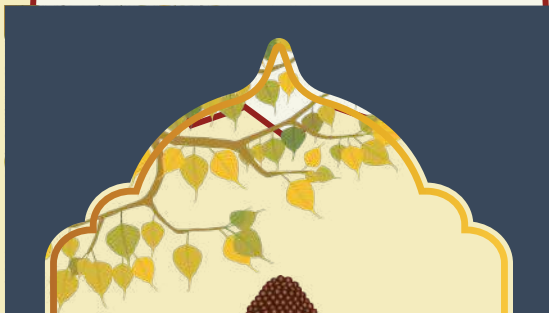


THE LAND OF BUDDHA



DID YOU KNOW?

The word "Bihar" refers to a state in eastern India. The name "Bihar" is derived from the Sanskrit and Pali word "Vihara," which means "abode" or "monastery."



THE RICH HISTORY

Two of India's most glorious dynasties, Mauryas(321 -185 BCE) and Guptas (320 to 550 CE) flourished in ancient Bihar region, which was then known as Magadh. The Great King Ashoka (born 304 BCE, died 232 BCE) of Mauryan dynasty whose empire spread across South Asia. He had his capital in Pataliputra that is present Patna. The Gupta period termed as India's golden age was also based in Magadh and Pataliputra as its capital. Nalanda and Vikramshila were centres of learning established in the 5th and 8th century respectively in Bihar, and are regarded amongst the oldest and international universities, where students from across the world came to study. It is in Bihar that the world's first democracy was in governance by the Lichchavi(the present Vaishali).

A GLIMPSE INTO ARCHITECTURE

Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya was originally built in the 3rd century BCE by Emperor Ashoka, rebuilt in the 5th–6th century CE. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it features a towering pyramid-like structure and with intricate carving.

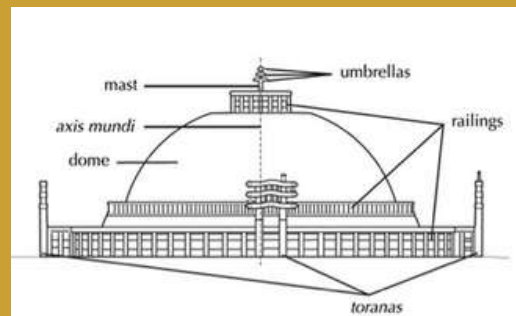


KESARIYA STUPA



The Kesariya Stupa, located in Kesariya in the East Champaran district of Bihar, India, is one of the most significant and imposing Buddhist stupas in the world. Kesariya Stupa Originally built during the time of Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE, with later additions during the Gupta period.

FUN FACT!



The dome (also called "anda") is typically hemispherical or semi-elliptical in shape, forming the most prominent part of the stupa.



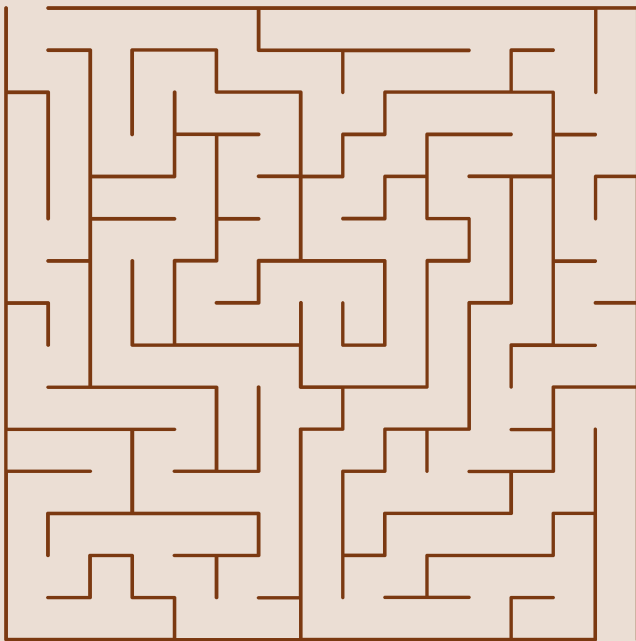
Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites in Bihar



ACTIVITY 1

SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Chanakya, a scholar, philosopher, and statesman, is said to have recognized Ashoka's potential from a young age. He played a pivotal role in grooming Ashoka for leadership, providing him with education and guidance in matters of statecraft, diplomacy, and warfare. Help Ashoka meet Chaanakya.



DID YOU KNOW?
Ashoka himself adopted Buddhism after he fought war of Kalingah



EMPEROR ASHOKA



King Ashoka, also known as Ashoka the Great, was one of India's most illustrious and influential rulers. He reigned over the Maurya Dynasty from approximately 268 to 232 BCE and played a crucial role in the spread of Buddhism across Asia.

FUN FACT!

Ashoka was also known as "Devanampriya" (Beloved of the Gods) and "Priyadarshi" (He who looks on with affection).

RELIGION AND CULTURE OF BIHAR



- Bihar takes pride in being the land where Buddhism got one of its significant historical moments. Gautam Buddha attained his enlightenment in Bodh Gaya.
- The Mahabodhi Tree stands tall in the middle of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Bodh Gaya, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hinduism and Buddhism seem to have a stronghold in the state. But Bihar also has influence of Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, and Christian traditions.



VISIT PATNA MUSEUM

Visit Patna Museum for an
immense historical experience

book your tickets at
www.biharmuseum.org.in



Patna Museum is the state museum of the Indian state of Bihar. Started on 3 April 1917 during the British Raj to house the historical artefacts found in the vicinity of Patna, it is in the style of Mughal and Rajput architecture and is known locally as the *Jadu Ghar*. Most of the early collections have now been transferred to Bihar Museum. The Museum was constructed by the British to conserve and display the historical artifacts.

PAINTINGS OF BIHAR



Madhubani paintings, also known as Mithila paintings, are a traditional art form that originates from the Mithila region in Bihar, India, and parts of Nepal. These paintings are renowned for their intricate patterns, vibrant colors, and cultural significance.



BIMBA
REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

"Buy authentic Madhubhani paintings @bimba.com."

BIMBA is a Bihar based company that sells the authentic Madhubhani paintings. The company directly buys the paintings from the artists and sell it on their website called www.bimba.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Madhubani artists use different types of materials for paintings. Traditional artists use a paste of rice for the white color and charcoal for the black.

DANCE FORMS OF BIHAR

BIDESIA

In the Bhojpuri-speaking region of Bihar, Bidesia Dance is a well-liked genre of dance drama that has its roots in 20th-century folk theatre. This dance style was created by Bhikhari Thakur. Bidesia is a genre of theatre that explores opposing themes like tradition and rituals.

JAT-JATIN

Jat-Jatin, is performed as a couple dance, namely in the Mithila and Koshi districts. This dance addresses a variety of socially relevant issues, including poverty, love, grief, conflicts, etc. The romance between Jat and Jatin served as the inspiration for this dance's original theme.

JHIJHIAN

Jhijhian dance is a well-known folk dance. This dance has a ritualistic element and is performed as part of a ceremony to please Lord Indra, the rain deity, to obtain a fair harvest and a year of rain.

SOHAR

The Sohar Khilona dance is performed to celebrate the birth of a child, especially a male child, which is considered an auspicious event in many Indian communities.



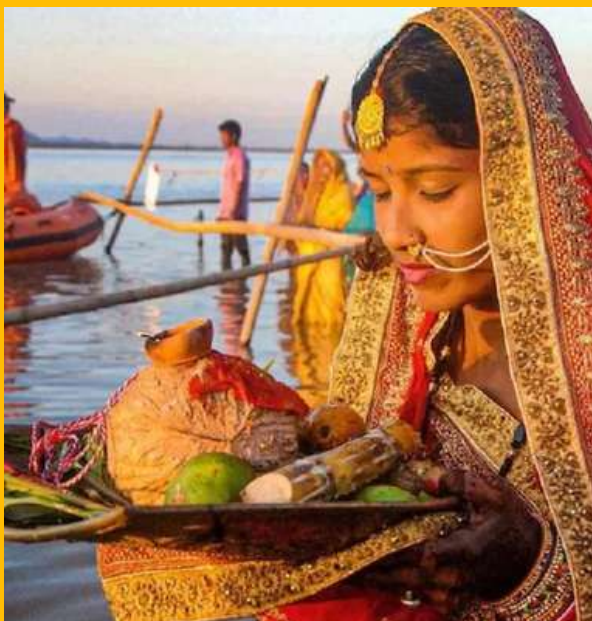
FESTIVALS OF BIHAR

CHHATH PUJA

Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu festival dedicated to the worship of the Sun God (Surya) and his consort, Chhathi Maiya. It is a significant and elaborate festival celebrated mainly in the Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and in the Terai region of Nepal.

RAM NAVMI

Ram Navami is a major Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, one of the most revered deities in Hinduism. It is observed on the ninth day of the Chaitra month (March-April) in the Hindu lunar calendar, marking the culmination of the nine-day Chaitra Navratri festival.



SONEPUR MELA 2024



Sonepur Mela, held in Bihar on the junction of River Ganga and River Gandak, is the biggest cattle fair that is organized in the whole of Asia. The fair is popular since ancient eras for trading animals, especially elephants and horses. With a few amendments made in the fair, it is now visited by millions of people from all over the world. If you wish to head to this mela this year, then you have come to the right place. Sonepur Mela will start from 20th of November to the 5th of December.

ACTIVITY

MAKE SATTU SHARBAT



INGREDIENTS REQUIRED

- 4 tablespoons sattu (roasted gram flour)
- 2 tablespoons sugar or jaggery (adjust to taste)
- 1 glass of cold water.

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a mixing bowl, add 4 tablespoons of sattu.
- Add 2 tablespoons of sugar or grated jaggery. Mix well with a spoon.
- Gradually add 2 cups of cold water while stirring continuously to avoid lumps.
- Add a pinch of cardamom powder if you like.
- Stir until everything is well combined and jaggery/ sugar is dissolved.
- Pour into glass and serve chilled.

CUISINE

LITTI CHOKHA



These are round, baked or roasted wheat flour dough balls stuffed with a mixture of roasted gram flour (sattu), spices, and sometimes herbs.

MALPUA



It is a type of pancake made from flour, often mixed with milk, yogurt, or coconut milk, and sometimes flavored with cardamom or fennel seeds.

REFERENCES

- state.bihar.gov.in
- www.pmc.bihar.gov.in
- indiaculture.gov.in
- www.unesco.org
- tourism.bihar.gov.in

