

यायावर

An initiative of Department of Tourism

February 2023



Govt. of Bihar



BIHAR
TOURISM
Blissful Bihar

Department of Tourism, Govt. of Bihar

www.tourism.bihar.gov.in



From the Secretary's Desk



With the advent of spring, we arrive at best season for tourism. There is a new spark of life in every living form. Gaya town is full of Buddhist pilgrims from all across the world. You can witness them meditating all around Mahabodhi Temple. These vibes are altogether on different plane. It reached its pinnacle with the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for around a month at Bodhgaya.

During the month, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar paid a visit to Brahmeshwar Sthan, Buxar where he not only reviewed progress of running schemes but also suggested another round of up gradation of tourist facilities. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated one of our most revered cultural festivals at Bodhgaya. It was a 3-day cultural extravaganza with truly international participation. He also inaugurated Deo Mahotsava at Aurangabad and unveiled Calendar and Diary of Tourism Department which have been received very well from every quarter.

In continuation of our efforts to reorient our department from tourist perspective, we have created more than a dozen tourist packages. This is going to help our tourists and potential travelers. Also to improve tourist experience at Tourist Information Centre, we are upgrading its infrastructure and more importantly travelling related brochures and information booklets.

I want to close on a happy note that Department of Tourism has bagged Tableau Award on 26th January Republic Day Parade after a long wait of many years.

“बारम्बार बिहार”

Abhay Kumar Singh, I.A.S.
Secretary,
Department of Tourism,
Government of Bihar

From the Director's Desk



Fresh flowers blooming all around, winter cold giving way to spring, there is pleasantness all around. It is almost the perfect holiday weather. Buddhist Pilgrims are coming from across the world for Kalchakra Puja and Bodhi Mahotsava. Basant Panchami and Makar Sankranti was also celebrated with great fervour.

26th January 2023, Republic Day celebrations brought a pleasant surprise; department's tableau was given the third prize for depicting Odhni Dam. The renewed efforts of the department to add a new flavour to the tourist department is bearing results.

People have shown interest in the newsletter being brought out every month. This gives a good insight into upcoming events and the major activities taking place in tourism sector.

Everyone is eagerly awaiting the festivals falling in March; Holi and Bihar Diwas are two very important dates in Bihar's calendar. Holi brings a large population to their homes. It is also a very good opportunity to showcase the development taking place in the state to the diaspora.

Enjoy the weather! There is a pleasant spring, this would hopefully spur the department into activity.

Yashaspati Mishra, I.A.S.
Director,
Department of Tourism,
Government of Bihar

Hon'ble Chief Minister visit Brahmeshwar Sthan, Buxar



Brahmeshwar Sthan review visit by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, performed Puja at the temple and reviewed the development activities of the temple complex.

Launch of Diary, Calendar and Table Calendar



Launch program of Department's calendar and table calendar by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Secretary Tourism, Additional Secretary-cum-Managing Director, Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation.

Surya Mahotsav Deo, Aurangabad



Surya Mahotsava, 2023 was inaugurated by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister-cum-Tourism Minister, Shri Tejashwi Prasad Yadav. Abhijeet Bhattacharya the famous Bollywood singer performed on the occasion. This has given fillip to the tourists coming to worship at Deo Surya Mandir.

Bodh Mahotsav Inauguration

Bodh Mahotsav is an important event in the tourism calendar. This event is attended by a large number of tourists from across the globe. His Holiness the Dalai Lama was also present during this period.

"Bodh Mahotsav 2023" was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister - cum - Tourism Minister, Shri Tejashwi Prasad Yadav. On this occasion a large number of Buddhist disciples from different countries attended this festival and offered prayers for world peace. Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, former Chief Minister of Bihar and several other local dignitaries also graced the occasion.

Kailash Kher the famous Bollywood singer performed on the occasion. Local artist also enthralled audience with their performances.



TIC Meeting



TIC Meeting was presided by Shri Yashaspati Mishra, Director, Department of Tourism, Bihar.

Announcers Meeting



Announcers Meeting was presided by Shri Yashaspati Mishra, Director, Department of Tourism, Bihar.

Bihar Tourism - Republic Day Tableau



Bihar Tourism participated in Republic Day parade by way of a tableau. The theme of the tableau was Odhni Dam. Further various other places of tourist importance were also showcased. Department of Tourism tableau got 3rd prize among almost 9 tableau showcased by other departments.

Destination of the MONTH *Gaya*



Rubber Dam



Gaya is located 100 kilometers away from the capital city of Patna. Historically, Gaya was the part of the ancient Magadh Empire located on the bank of Falgu River and is considered among one of the most sacred cities for Hindus. Three hills Mangala-Gauri, Ram-Shila and Brahmayoni surround it from three sides and make it a beautiful site. The old temple of Vishnupad has holy footprints of Lord Vishnu.

Bodhgaya is one of the most important and sacred Buddhist pilgrimage center in the world. It was here under a Peepal Tree, the Bodhi Tree, Gautama attained supreme knowledge to become Buddha, the Enlightened One. Significantly, the state's name of 'Bihar' originated from 'Vihara' meaning monasteries which abounded in Bihar.

There are several places of tourist importance like Mahabodhi Temple, Animesh Lochan Chaitya, Bodhi Tree, Chankramana, Ratnagarh, Buddha, Lotus Tank, Buddha Kund, Rajayatana, Brahm Yoni, Chinese Temple & Monastery, Burmese Temple, Buddhist Monastery of Bhutan, International Buddhist House & Japanese Temple, Thai Temple & Monastery, Tibetan Monastery, Archaeological Museum. Sujata village (2 kms), Dungeshwari Temple (Pragbodhi Hill) (22 kms by road), Maitraya Project (3 kms), 80 ft Statue of the Buddha, Baba Koteshwarnath Temple and Gurupa Hills.

Gaya and Bodhgaya are well connected with all modes of transport and forms an important tourist destination.

Vishnupad Temple



Meditation



Kalchakra Puja



Festival of Colours

Holi

Holi is an ancient Hindu tradition and also one of the most popular festivals in Hinduism also celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna. The day also signifies the triumph of good over evil, as it commemorates the victory of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu.

Holi celebrates the arrival of spring, the end of winter, the blossoming of love and for many, it is a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships. The festival is also an invocation for a good spring harvest season.

Holi celebrations start on the night before Holi with a Holika Dahan where people gather, perform religious rituals. The next morning is celebrated as Rangwali Holi (Dhuleti) where people smear and drench each other with colours. Groups often carry drums and other musical instruments going from place to place singing and dancing. Throughout the day people visit family, and friends come together to chat, enjoy food and drink, and partake in Holi delicacies.

The festival has many purposes; most prominently, it celebrates the beginning of Spring. It is identified as a festival that celebrates agriculture, commemorates good spring harvests and the fertile land.

Traditionally, washable natural plant-derived colours such as turmeric, neem, dhak, and kumkum were used, but water-based commercial pigments are increasingly used nowadays. This is why Holi is given the name "Festival of Colours". Later in the day, after a day of play with colours, people clean up, wash and bathe, sober up and dress up in the evening and greet friends and relatives by visiting them and exchanging sweets. Groups sing and dance, some playing drums and dholak. After each stop of fun and play with colours, people offer gujiya, mathri, malpuas and other traditional delicacies.

Holi is known as Phaguwa in the local Bhojpuri dialect. On the eve of Phalgun Poornima, people light bonfires. They put dried cow dung cakes, wood of the Araad or Redi tree and Holika tree, grains from the fresh harvest and unwanted wood leaves in the bonfire. The eldest member of the gathering or a purohit initiates the lighting. He then smears others with colour as a mark of greeting. Next day the festival is celebrated with colours and a lot of frolic. Holi Milan is also observed in Bihar, where family members and well-wishers visit each other's family, apply colours (abeer) on each other's faces, and on feet, if elderly. Though the festival is usually celebrated with colours, in some places, people also enjoy celebrating Holi with water solutions of mud or clay. Folk songs are sung at high pitch and people dance to the sound, intoxicating bhang, made from cannabis, milk and spices, is consumed with a variety of mouth-watering delicacies, such as pakoras and thandai, to enhance the mood of the festival. The fun and frolic of Holi is unmatched. Holi celebrates love, forgiveness, and triumph of good over evil.



Republic Day, in India, celebrated annually is a commemoration of the adoption of the constitution of India on January 26, 1950. A draft of Constitution was submitted in November to the Constituent Assembly, which debated and adjusted the text over the following two years. January 26 was selected as the date of the constitution's promulgation in recognition of the Purna Swaraj resolution, a call for India's complete independence adopted by the Indian National Congress on January 26, 1930. India achieved independence from the British Raj on 15 August 1947 through the Indian Independence Act 1947, an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that partitioned British India into the two new independent Dominions of the British Commonwealth

The main Republic Day is a National holiday and ceremonial parades take place on the Rajpath, which is performed as a tribute to India; its unity in diversity and rich cultural heritage. The President of India; who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, takes the salute.

The first Cabinet of Bihar was formed on 2 April 1946, consisting of two members, Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha as the first Chief Minister of Bihar and Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister of Bihar. The Cabinet served as the first Bihar Government after independence in 1947. Bihar became a constituent part, and in 1948 the small states with capitals at Saraikela and Kharsawan were merged with it. In 1956, the Indian states were reorganized on a linguistic basis and Bihar was transferred to West Bengal. On 22nd March 1912 promulgation Bihar was carved from Bengal and later Orissa was carved out of Bihar. The constitution, one of the longest and most detailed in the world, established India as a democratic republic and a union of states.



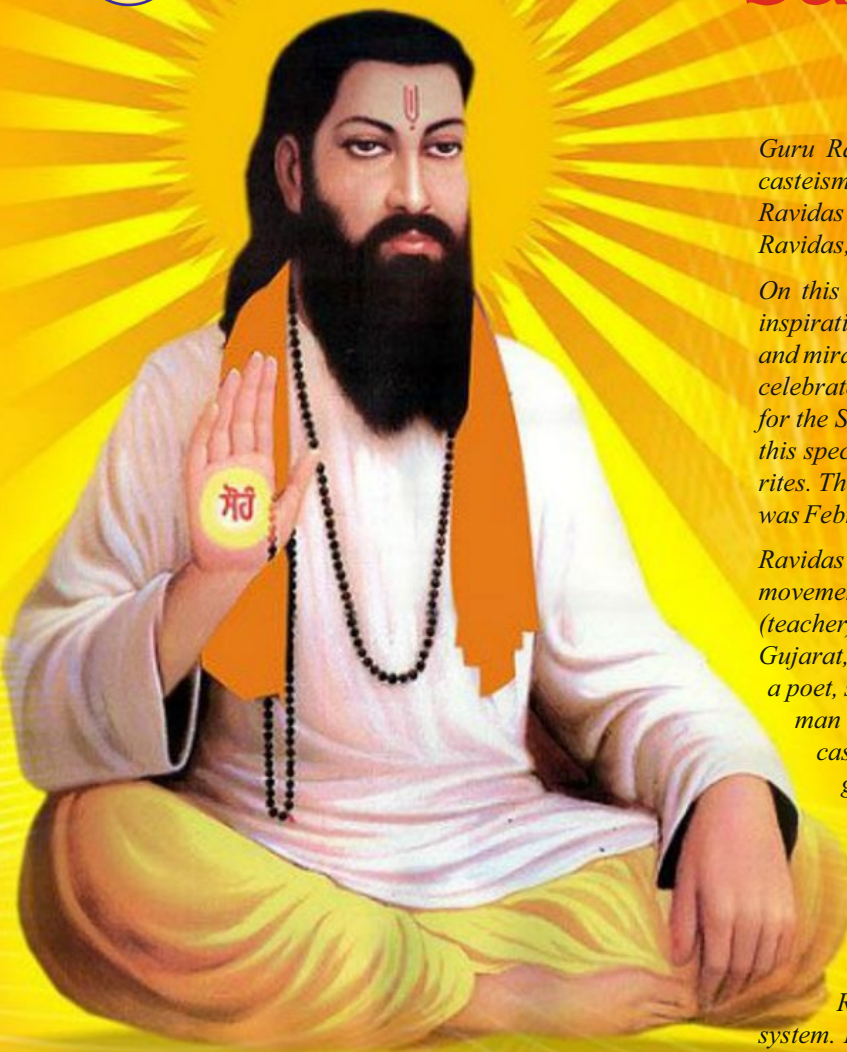


1. हौजखास कहाँ अवस्थित है?
(a) दिल्ली ☐ (b) आगरा ☐ (c) लखनऊ ☐ (d) इलाहाबाद ☐
2. चिल्का झील किस राज्य में है?
(a) केरल ☐ (b) उड़ीसा ☐ (c) काश्मीर ☐ (d) उत्तराखंड ☐
3. सियाचिन ग्लेशियर किस राज्य में स्थित है ?
(a) हिमाचल प्रदेश ☐ (b) उत्तराखंड ☐ (c) जम्मू-काश्मीर ☐ (d) सिक्किम ☐
4. कपिलवस्तु कहाँ स्थित है?
(a) उत्तर प्रदेश ☐ (b) पश्चिम बंगाल ☐ (c) बिहार ☐ (d) नेपाल ☐
5. राष्ट्रपति भवन अवस्थित है ?
(a) निलगिरी पहाड़ियों पर ☐ (b) रायसीना पहाड़ियों पर ☐ (c) अरावली पहाड़ियों पर ☐ (d) मैकाल पहाड़ियों पर ☐
6. भारत के दक्षिणी छोर को क्या कहा जाता है ?
(a) कन्याकुमारी ☐ (b) इन्दिरा प्वाइंट ☐ (c) रामेश्वरम ☐ (d) केप केमोरिन ☐
7. बुद्ध ने सर्वाधिक उपदेश दिए थे?
(a) वैशाली में ☐ (b) श्रावस्ती में ☐ (c) कोशाम्बी में ☐ (d) राजगृह में ☐
8. भारत में सबसे बड़ा गुम्बद 'गोल गुम्बज' किस राज्य में स्थित है?
(a) बिहार ☐ (b) कर्नाटक ☐ (c) महाराष्ट्र ☐ (d) मध्य प्रदेश ☐
9. फतेहपुर सिकरी किस राज्य में स्थित है?
(a) उत्तर प्रदेश ☐ (b) मध्य प्रदेश ☐ (c) गुजरात ☐ (d) राजस्थान ☐
10. शांति निकेतन की स्थापना किसने की?
(a) सुरेन्द्रनाथ बनर्जी ☐ (b) रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ☐ (c) दादाभाई नौरोजी ☐ (d) देवेन्द्र नाथ टैगोर ☐





Sant Ravidas Jayanti



Guru Ravidas is revered due to his spirituality and works against casteism. He was a spiritual man. Guru Ravidas' birth is celebrated as Ravidas Jayanti. "Guru Ravidass Jayanti" is the birthday of Guru Ravidas, celebrated on Magh Purnima, the full moon day.

On this day, his followers bathe in the holy rivers. Then, they take inspiration from their Guru Ravidas Ji by remembering the great events and miracles related to his life. His devotees go to his place of birth and celebrate his birthday on Ravidas Jayanti. It is the annual focal point for the Sikhism Ravidassia religion. People across countries celebrate this special occasion. Devotees take a holy dip in the river to perform rites. The 2020 date for the Jayanti was February 9, and the 2021 date was February 16.

Ravidas or Raidas was an Indian mystic poet-saint of the Bhakti movement during the 15th to 16th century CE. Venerated as a guru (teacher) in the modern regions of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, he was a poet, social reformer and spiritual figure. He is known as a spiritual man and also as a social reformer because of his work against casteism. He taught removal of social divisions of caste and gender, and promoted unity in the pursuit of personal spiritual freedom.

He was contemporary to saint Kabir. Ravidas Ji was born in the village Seer Goverdhanpur. He was contemporary to Kabir Ji, and has a number of recorded interactions with Kabir Ji on spirituality.

Ravidas Ji is well-known for making efforts in eradicating caste system. He has also contributed to the Bhakti movement, and is well-recognized as a good friend and disciple of Kabir Ji. Mirabai was his

disciple. Ravidas Jayanti has a special significance among the people following Ravidassia religion, that follows Ravidas Ji only, and other people who in any way revere Ravidas Ji like some of the Kabirpanthis, Sikhs, and other gurus. Ravidas's devotional verses were included in the Sikh scriptures known as Guru Granth Sahib. The Panch Vani text of the Dadu Panthi tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Ravidas.

His ideas and fame grew over his lifetime, and texts suggest Brahmins used to bow before him. He travelled extensively, visiting Hindu pilgrimage sites in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and those in the Himalayas. He abandoned "saguna" forms of supreme beings, and focused on the "nirguna" form of supreme beings. As his poetic hymns in regional languages inspired others, people from various background sought his teachings and guidance.

Upcoming Events

(February 2023 to March 2023)

✧ Sant Ravidas Jayanti	: 05.02.2023
✧ Maha Shivratri	: 18.02.2023
✧ Holi	: 08.03.2023
✧ International Women's Day	: 08.03.2023
✧ Bihar Diwas - 2023	: 22.03.2023
✧ Ramnavmi	: 30.03.2023