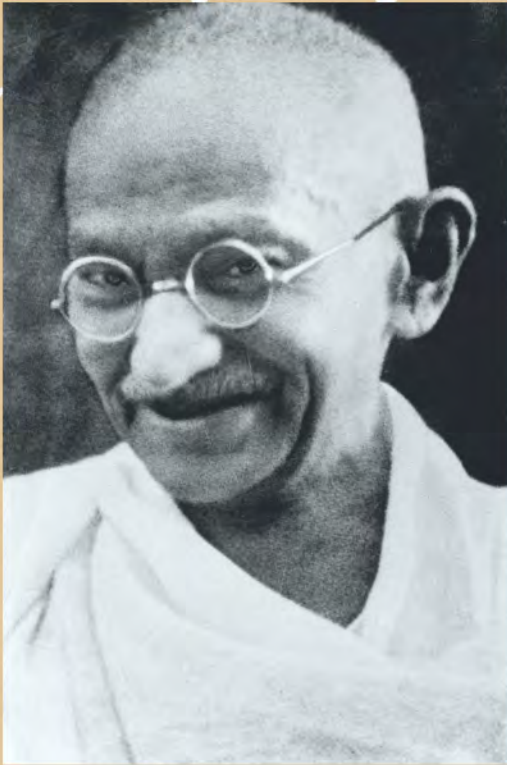



Gandhi Circuit

Gandhi



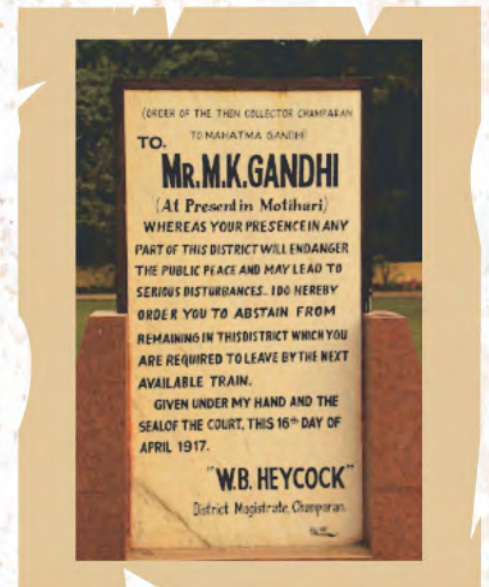
Mahatma Gandhi's association with Bihar and the movement he launched in Champaran against the exploitation of the Indigo farmers by the British will always be remembered in the history of India's freedom struggle. Champaran Satyagrah was the first step towards the attainment of independence and self rule of the people of this great country, which was left looted and drained of all its natural and human resources at the hands of the mighty British Empire since the last two centuries. It was truly an experiment with Truth, Non violence, Self respect and Self determination in the daily lives of the general people.

During his visits in 1917-18 and the earlier phases of the national freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi visited places in and around Champaran. These rustic villages and the uneducated and poor people of this land moulded and shaped Gandhi's perception in a very profound way. He overstayed at some places to work and reform the social lives of the people by focusing on education and hygiene through self help groups and mutual cooperation. These places and villages alongwith Motihari have earned a privileged position on the Gandhi Circuit.

The Centres of Champaran Satyagrah

Motihari, East Champaran

Motihari was the first laboratory of Gandhian experiment in Satyagraha against the forced farming of indigo and it will not be inappropriate to say that it has been the spring board for India's independence movement. Champaran Satyagrah under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi generated a wave of enthusiasm and the whole nation got a much awaited selfless and saintly leader.



Hazarimal Dharamshala, Bettiah West Champaran

Bettiah, now the headquarters of West Champaran, a new district formed by the bifurcation of the old Champaran district, earlier was the seat of Bettiah Raj in the British days. Hazarimal Dharamshala located in the centre of the town was the only suitable place for the outsiders to stay. During the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917-1918, it was the natural choice of stay for the persons associated with the Satyagraha. Whenever Gandhiji and his associates visited Bettiah, they even stayed here. The Champaran Agrarian Enquiry Commission held its several sittings in its premises. It was the centre where the raiyats of the area used to gather to facilitate the associates of Gandhiji in collecting facts regarding the indigo cultivation and atrocities committed by the planters in this regard. Statement of hundreds of local raiyats was recorded here by Shri Rajendra Prasad, Shri Brijkishore Prasad, Shri Ram Navmi Prasad, Shri Gorakh Prasad, and others.

Brindaban West Champaran

Brindaban is situated near Kumar Bagh in Bettiah, headquarters of West Champaran District. During the Gandhi Seva Sangh conference in 1939, Gandhiji along with his associates camped here from 2 to 8 May. Presently, a basic school stands in this complex and a Kendriya Vidyalaya is also running in its neighbourhood.



Brindaban (West Champaran)



Bhitiharwa Gandhi Ashram

Bhitiharwa Gandhi Ashram West Champaran

Bhitiharwa Ashram got prominence with the establishment of a school by Gandhiji on a piece of land received as a gift from a nearby mandir. It was the second school of his thinking in Champaran, located in the area which was notoriously known for the atrocities of the Amolwa indigo factory owner of those days. During the Champaran Satyagraha (1917-18), Gandhiji visited Bhitiharwa twice, on 20th November 1917 and 22nd May, 1918. Smt. Kasturba Gandhi and Devdas Gandhi stayed here for months together and devoted their time in managing the school affairs as well as other social upliftment programmes initiated by Gandhiji himself. Shri Mahadeo Desai, Dr. Gokhle, Smt. Awantika Bai Gokhle, Dr. Sadaseo Soman and other volunteers from outside Bihar, were other important members of that team. The original room still exists with some renovation done from time to time. During the 50th year of Independence of India and 125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji the entire complex had been befittingly developed by Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Patna with the financial support of Department of Culture, Govt. of India. It is now being managed by the Directorate of Museums, Govt. of Bihar.

Shri Rampur

West Champaran

This place is situated in the Bhitiharwa Panchayat under Gaunaha Block. Gandhi Ji stayed here on 16th November, 1917.

Koeldih

West Champaran

This is a place also under Gaunaha Block in the Belwa Panchayat and Gandhi ji visited this place on 16th November, 1917.

Amolwa

West Champaran

This is a place in the Majharia Panchayat under Gaunaha Block where Gandhi Ji spent a night on 27th April, 1917 with his other companions.

Gandhi Museum

Motihari, East Champaran

Gandhiji threw up his first ever challenge to the British government in India at Motihari in the year 1917. When the then district magistrate of Champaran, W.B. Heycock ordered him to leave the district, Gandhiji listened to the voice of his conscience and, in silent protest, disobeyed the order. That was for the first time he used the instrument of Satyagraha or truth force in India. At this site existed the subdivisional magistrate's court of Champaran in 1917, where Gandhiji faced the trial on 18th April 1917. During the 50th Year of Independence and 125th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, it took its shape under the guidance of Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Patna.



Gandhi Museum, Motihari, East Champaran

Murli Bharhawa

West Champaran

It was the native place of Pandit Raj Kumar Shukla who had been a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi during the Champaran Satyagrah. Pandit Shukla took a lead role in bringing Mahatma Gandhi to Champaran.

Sariswa

West Champaran

This place is in Ratanmala Panchayat under Majhaulia Block, Gandhi Ji and his companions had taken statement of Raiyats in an open yard in front of the temple on 16th May 1917.

Hardiya Kothi

West Champaran

It is under Bishunpur Panchayat of the Nautan Block. It was the residence of Mr G.P. Edward, a British Indigo Planter. Remains of this building are in somewhat better condition in comparison to other such old buildings.

Sadaquat Ashram Patna

During the first non-cooperation movement (1920-22), it was founded by Maulana Mazharul Haque. In its complex on 6th Feb. 1921, Mahatma Gandhi laid the foundation of Bihar Vidyapeeth, an affiliating institution of University status, the National Schools established for the students who had left their schools and colleges at the call of Mahatma Gandhi. Very soon it became the centre of political activities and from here the freedom fighters received guidance for their various successful Satyagrahas on Gandhian line. This ashram is associated with the memories of Mazharul Haque, Braj Kishore Prasad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and other freedom fighters.



Sadaquat Ashram, Patna



Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Patna

Gandhi Sangrahalaya

Patna

Patna holds a distinctive place in the life of Mahatma Gandhi as well as in history of our freedom struggle. The first sentence of Satyagrahi chapter of history under Gandhiji's leadership was written here on 10th April 1917. It was the beginning of a new era, therefore to keep the memory alive, the national leaders under the guidance of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Jawaharlal Nehru decided to build and develop a Gandhi Sangrahalaya at Patna. A committee under the Chairmanship of the then Chief Minister of Bihar Dr. Shri Krishna Singh was constituted in 1959 for the same purpose. And now Gandhi Sangrahalaya is very much functional today. Close to north-western end of Gandhi Maidan, Patna Gandhi Sangrahalaya houses not only replicas of objects/materials associated with Mahatma Gandhi, pictorial exhibits, paintings, statues and murals on the life of Mahatma and story of freedom struggle, but it also houses the most fascinating facts about the glorious history of Bihar. Its library has the honour of being a depository of large number of original and printed Gandhian literature as well as books on freedom struggle of India. In its complex the visitor can get a glimpse of India of Mahatma Gandhi's dream.

Important dates relating the Champaran Satyagrah

Date	Sequence of events
10.04.1917	Reached the residence of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and due to his absence stayed with Mazharul Haque for the day and in the evening proceeded to Muzaffarpur. Here, he was welcomed by Prof. J.B. Kriplani. Gandhiji stayed with Prof. Kriplani for the night at Chatravas Langat Singh College, then known as G.B.B. College.
11.04.1917	At Muzaffarpur Gandhiji met Mr. J.M. Wilson, Secretary of Indigo Planters Association. In the evening he met local advocates.
12.04.1917	Intimated Mr. L.R. Morshead, Commissioner, 'Tirhut Pramandal' and requested for appointment for a meeting with him.
13.04.1917	Met Mr. L.R. Morshead, the Commissioner of Tirhut Pramandal and Mr. D. Weston, District Administrator of Muzaffarpur. They suggested Gandhiji not to visit Champaran and informed that the Government itself will make the enquiry.
15.04.1917	In the morning proceeded by train to Motihari along with Babu Dharnidhar and Babu Ramnavmi Prasad and reached Motihari at 3 p.m. Gandhiji took rest at the residence of Babu Gorakh Prasad.
16.04.1917	Proceeded to visit Jasolipatti at 9.00 a.m. on an elephant and reached Jasolipatti at 12 noon and had a discussion with the farmers.
16.04.1917	At Jasolipatti, notice was served on Gandhiji by W.B. Heycock, District Magistrate, ordering him to leave Motihari by the next train. The same day Gandhiji replied to the notice to the District Magistrate.
17.04.1917	Gandhiji received notice under Section 188. He was asked to be present at the court of Subdivisional Magistrate on 18.04.1917 at 12.30 noon.
18.04.1917	This day is not only unforgettable in the history of Champaran, but also in the history of India. This day, Gandhiji decided to go ahead on the path of Satyagrah and go to jail if needed to fight against the oppression meted out to the poor people of Bihar, From 11 a.m. onwards thousands of people started gathering near the court of Subdivisional Magistrate. At about 12.15 p.m. Gandhiji reached the court along with 2000 people. Seeing the huge crowd, the Subdivisional Magistrate requested Gandhiji to control the gathering. At 3 p.m. Gandhiji gave his statement and showed his readiness to face any consequence for violating the government order.
21.04.1917	The case of violating Section 144 Imposed on Gandhiji was revoked by the government. The notice to this effect was issued at 7 p.m.
22.04.1917	Gandhiji proceeded for Bettiah by train and reached there by 5 p.m. More than 10000 people greeted him there. Gandhiji stayed at the 'Hazarimal Dharmashala' near Bettiah Railway Station.
23.04.1917	Met the Subdivisional Magistrate, Bettiah.
24.04.1917	Visited Lokriya village of Bettiah and had discussion with the farmers.
25.04.1917	Returned from Lokriya to Bettiah

Important dates relating the Champaran Satyagrah

Date	Sequence of events
26.04.1917	Visited Sindhchakra village and the Kodia factory.
27.04.1917	Left by train from Bettiah to Narkatiaganj to visit the villages in and around Belva factory. From Narkatiaganj went to Murli Bharhawa village. Also met Mr. A.C. Ammon, Manager of Belva factory.
30.04.1917	Visited Sathi Factory and met Mr. C.Still, Manager of the factory.
01.05.1917	Went from Bettiah to Motihari.
03.05.1917	Met the collector of Motihari and returned to Bettiah.
09.05.1917	Went to Patna to meet Mr. W. Mauder, the Chief Secretary in response to an invitation from him.
10.05.1917	Meeting with Chief Secretary at Patna.
11.05.1917	Returned from Patna to Bettiah.
16.05.1917	Visited Dhokraha Factory and on the way met about 300 farmers at Sariswa Village.
17.05.1917	Visited Dhokraha and Lohariya Factory.
01.06.1917	Reached Patna
03.06.1917	On way to Ranchi
04.06.1917	Saw the Governor at Ranchi
10.06.1917	Government announced to constitute an Enquiry Committee
18.06.1917	Left for Ahmedabad
04.10.1917	Enquiry Committee submitted its report to the Government
18.10.1917	Government accepted almost all recommendations of the Committee
08.11.1917	Gandhiji along with volunteers came back to Champaran
14.11.1917	Establishment of an Ashram and a School at Barharwa Lakhansen
20.11.1917	Reached Bhitiharwa near Belva factory
20.11.1917	Establishment of a School at Bhitiharwa (Land given by temple/matth). Kasturba Gandhi also stayed here till February, 1918.
17.01.1918	Establishment of a School at Madhuban.



Important Places associated with the Champaran Satyagrah

S.No.	Place	Importance
1.	L.S.College	On his first visit to Bihar, Mahatma Gandhi took the first night rest at Muzaffarpur the hostel of L.S. College along with Prof B.Kripalani.
2.	Motihari	The seat of first ever Satyagrah on Indian soil.
3.	Jasolipatti	After reaching Motihari the first step of Gandhiji was to visit Jasolipatti village where notice to leave Motihari was served on him.
4.	Bettiah	After Motihari, the second place of stay and activity was Bettiah. 'Hazarimal Dharamshala' was the place to camp.
5.	Lokriya	After reaching Bettiah the first step was to visit Lokriya.
6.	Barharwa	Establishment of the first school on Gandhian lines of thought at Barharwa Lakhansen.
7.	Bhitiharwa	Establishment of the second school and Ashram. Kasturba Gandhi and Dev Das Gandhi stayed here.
8.	Madhuban	Establishment of a school.
9.	Turkolia	Establishment of an Ashram.
10.	Patna	The first sentence of the Satyagrahi chapter of freedom struggle of India was written here on 10th April 1917. Foundation of Bihar Vidyapeeth in 1921, in the complex of Sadaquat Ashram, established during the first non-cooperation movement of Mahatama Gandhi.



Gandhi Statue, Gandhi Maidan Patna



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