

Ancient History of Bihar

Stone age sites

- Paleolithic sites have been discovered in Munger and Nalanda.
- Mesolithic sites have been discovered from Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Singhbhum and Santhal Pargana (all in Jharkhand)
- Neolithic(2500 - 1500 B.C.) artefacts have been discovered from Chirand (Saran) and Chechar(Vaishali)
- Chalcolithic Age items have been discovered from Chirand (Saran), Chechar (Vaishali), Champa(Bhagalpur) and Taradih(Gaya)

Mahajanapadas

- In the Later Vedic Age a number of small kingdoms emerged. 16 monarchies and republics known as Mahajanapadas stretched across Indo-Gangetic plains. They are:

1. Kasi	2. Kamboja
3. Kosala	4. Gandhara
5. Anga	6. Avanti
7. Magadha	8. Assaka
9. Vajji (Vriji)	10. Surasena
11. Malla	12. Matsya
13. Chedi	14. Panchala
15. Vatsa (Vamsa)	16. Kuru

- Three Mahajanapadas were in Bihar namely Magadha, Anga and Vajji.

ANGA Kingdom

- It is mentioned for the first time in Atharvaveda.
- It comprised of present day Khagaria, Bhagalpur and Munger.
- It was situated to the north-east of Magadha Empire.
- Champa (in present day Bhagalpur) was the capital.
 - It was established by king Mahagovind.
 - It was also called Chenanpo (by Hiuen Tsang) and Malini.

VAJJI Kingdom

- It consisted of eight clans.
- Most important clans were - Licchavi, Videha and Jnatrika.
- It was located in Northern India.
- Capital of Vajji was located at Vaishali.
- It was considered world's first republic.

Licchavi Clan

- It was the most powerful clan among the Vajji confederacy.
- It was situated on the Northern Banks of Ganga and Nepal
- Its capital was located at Vaishali.
- Lord Mahavira was born at Kundagram in Vaishali. His mother was a Licchavi princess (sister of King Chetaka).
- They were later absorbed into the Magadh Empire by Ajatshatru of Haryanka dynasty.
- Later Gupta emperor Chandragupta married Licchavi princess Kumaradevi.

Jnatrika Clan

- Lord Mahavira belonged to this clan. His father was the head of this clan.

Videha Clan

- It is mentioned for the first time in Yajurveda.
- The kingdom was started by Ishkavaku's son Nimi Videh.
- Mithijanak Videh established Mithila.
- Goddess Sita, daughter of King Janak, belonged to this clan.
- Janakpur (now in Nepal) was the capital of this kingdom.

MAGADHA Kingdom

- It is mentioned for the first time in Atharvaveda.
- It extended from the Ganga in north to Vindhya in south, Champa in the east to river Sone on the west.
- Its capital was Girivraja or Rajgir which was surrounded by hills on all sides by five hills.
- Later the capital was shifted to Patliputra.
- The Magadh Kingdom included Koshal, Vatsa and Avanti.
- It played an important role in the development of Buddhism and Jainism.
- Two of India's greatest empires, Maurya and Gupta, emerged in Magadha.

Pre-Mauryan Dynasties under Magadha Empire

Brihadrath Dynasty

- Brihadrath was the earliest known king Magadha. He was eldest son of Vasu, Kuru king of Chedi.
- His name has been mentioned Rigveda.
- Jarasandha, son of Brihadrath was the most famous king.
- Girivraja (Rajgir) was the capital under Jarasandh.
- Prodyota dynasty succeeded the Brihadrath dynasty in Magadha.

Haryanka Dynasty - 544 B.C. to 492 B.C.

Bimbisara

- He founded the dynasty. He was a contemporary of Buddha.
- He established his capital at Rajgir.
- He expanded his empire through matrimonial alliances e.g. Kosala
- He was also the first ruler in history to form permanent forces/army.
- He also sent royal physician Jivaka to Ujjain for treating Chanda Pradyota, King of Avanti, and his longtime rival who later became friend.

Ajatshatru

- He killed his father Bimbisara to become the next ruler.
- Lord Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana and Lord Mahavira also attained Moksha during his reign.
- First Buddhist Council (483 B.C.) was conducted under his patronage at Rajgir.

Udayin

- He also killed his father Ajatshatru to become the next ruler.
- He founded the city Patliputra at the confluence of rivers Ganga and Sone and made it his capital.

Shishunaga Dynasty - 412 B.C. to 344 B.C.

Shishunaga

- He was the founder of the dynasty. He was a viceroy of Banaras.
- During this time Magadha had two capitals - Rajgir and Vaishali
- He finally destroyed the resistance Avanti and brought to end to 100 year rivalry.

Kalasoka

- He shifted his capital to Patliputra and it continued as the capital of Magadha Empire onwards.
- Second Buddhist Council (383 B.C.) was conducted under his patronage at Vaishali.

Nanda Dynasty - 344 B.C. to 321 B.C.

- Mahapadmananda established the dynasty after killing last Shishunaga ruler Nandivardhana.
- He was also described Mahapadmapati - sovereign of an infinite host or of the immense wealth
- In Mahabodhivamsa, he was called Ugrasen.
- Dhana Nanda was the last ruler of this dynasty and was the contemporary Alexander.

Mauryan Dynasty - 321 B.C. to 184 B.C.

Chandragupta Maurya

- He founded the dynasty with the help of his mentor Chanakya or Kautilya or
- He was born as Mura to a Shudra woman in court of Nanda.
- In Mudra Rakshasa, he is also referred as
- As per Buddhist tradition, he belonged to Moriya Kshatriya clan.
- He fought Seleucus Nikator, a general of Alexander in 305 B.C. He later sent Megasthenese to Mauryan court.
- Megasthenes wrote Indica describing Mauryan administration. The empire was divided into four provinces, each under one governor. According to him, Mauryan administration in Patliputra was under a council of 30 members divided into 6 committees of 5 members each.
- Patliputra has been referred to as Palibothra in Megasthenes' Indica.
- Chanakya wrote It is considered treatise on economics, politics, foreign affairs, administration, military, warfare and religion ever produced.

Bindusara

- He was also called by the Amittokates by Greek writers, Mudrasara in Vayu Purana and Seemseri in Jaina text Rajvalli Katha
- Deimachus - Syrian ambassador sent by king Antiochus
- Dionysius - sent by Ptolemy II of Egypt

Ashoka

- He came to power after killing 99 of his brothers sparing only one,
- Kalinga War - 260 B.C. - it is mentioned in Major Edict XIII.
- After Kalinga war, Ashoka embraced Buddhism under influence of monk Upagupta. He came to be known as
- Bhabru inscription - Ashoka is revealed as king of Magadha
- Third Buddhist Council - 250 B.C. - was convened by Ashoka under presidentship of Tissa in Patliputra.

SUNGA Dynasty

- Pushyamitra Sunga was the Commander-in-Chief of Mauryan armed forces.
- He overthrew the last Mauryan ruler. It led to persecution of Buddhists and resurgence of Hinduism.
- Two Ashwamedha Yagyas were held under his reign with Patanjali as main priest - Ayodhya Inscription of Dhandev
- Agnimitra, son of Pushyamitra was the hero of Kalidasa's drama,

Gupta Empire

- The most striking difference in administration of Guptas from Mauryas was that in Mauryas power was centralized while in Guptas power was decentralized.
- Empire was divided into provinces and each province was further divided into districts. Villages were the smallest units.
- Sri Gupta was the founder of the Gupta dynasty.
- Rule of the Guptas is known as Indian Golden Age as rapid strides were made in various fields.
- Aryabhatta stated that earth moved around the sun and rotates on its own axis. His most famous work is
- Varahamihira composed Pancha Siddhanta and Brihat Samhita.
- Kalidasa wrote famous dramas like Malvikagnimitram, Abhigyanashakuntalam and Kumarasambhava
- Mrichakatika by Sudraka, Panchatantra by Vishnu Sharma and Kamasutra by Vatsyayana were also written in this period.

Chandragupta I

- He was the son of Ghatotkacha (son of Sri Gupta).
- He was the first king to use the title
- His empire included Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- He married Licchavi princess, Kumaradevi. Gold coins were issued to commemorate this event.

Samudragupta

- Prayag inscription by Harisen was dedicated to him. It was discovered by A Tryer. It is written in Sanskrit language.
- He was called Napoleon of India for his conquests by Vincent Smith.
- He gave permission to Sri Lankan ruler Meghavarnan to construct a monastery at Bodh Gaya.
- He was also known as Kaviraj for his patronizing of art.

Chandragupta II - Vikramaditya

- He killed his brother and married his widow
- He used friendly relations and matrimonial alliances to extend his empire.
- Navaratna present in his court were:

1. Kalidas	2. Shanku	3. Amarasimha
4. Vetalbhatta	5. Vararuchi	6. Panaka
7. Varahamira	8. Dhanwantari	9. Ghatakarpara

- Fa-Hien, a Chinese traveler visited during his reign.

Kumaragupta

- He established the Nalanda University which became a centre of learning.
- He was also known as

Skandagupta

- Junagarh Inscription - his governor got restoration of Sudarshana Lake It was originally constructed by the Mauryas.
- He was the last of the great rulers and after him the empire began to disintegrate.
- Vishnugupta was the last ruler of the dynasty.

Pala Empire

- They were the followers of Mahayana and tantric school of Buddhism.
- Gopala was the first ruler of the dynasty. He was elected democratically.
- Odantipur (now in Bihar Sharif), a Buddhist Mahavihara was established by Gopala.
- Dharampala captured Kannauj and took the title of
- Vikramashila University (in Bhagalpur) was established by Dharampala.
- They also constructed many temples, most important being Sun Temple at Konark.

Medieval History of Bihar

- Medieval Indian history is beset with foreign invasions and change of ruling dynasties.
- Importance of Bihar as the cultural and political centre of India was also lost.

Bakhtiyar Khilji

- He was one of the generals of Qutubuddin Aibak.
- He destroyed many monasteries and viharas, most importantly Nalanda, Vikramshila and Odantipur.
- He also established the town Bakhtiyarpur.
- He died in Bihar only. His mausoleum is also built in Bihar Sharif.
- During the rule of Slave dynasty, most parts of Bihar were under the control of Turks. So there was continuous fighting to gain control.
- Lakhnauti and Tirhut rulers provided major resistance.
- Noohani Dynasty emerged as an important dynasty in Bihar during the rule of Tughlaqs.
- Fulchand, a ruler of Cher Dynasty started the Jagdishpur fair.

Sur dynasty

- It was the most important dynasty of Bihar in the medieval period.
- Bihar saw a period of glory during rule of Sher Shah Suri.
- The tomb of Sher Shah is built in Sasaram.
- Battle of Chausa, 1539 A.D. - Sher Shah defeated Humayun and took the title of Sultan-e-Adil.
- He had a very efficient administration.
- His revenue model was later adopted by Akbar.
- He also constructed the present Grand Trunk road.
- Later Akbar annexed Bihar and Bengal and added to his empire.
- Munim Khan was made Governor of Bihar.
- Aurangzeb rebuilt Patna and gave it the name Azimabad.
- Farrukhsiyar was the first Mughal ruler to be sworn in Patna.
- With the decline of Mughals, Bihar passed into the control of Nawabs of Bengal.
- After the Battle of Buxar, Bihar passed into the effective control of the British.

Modern History Of Bihar

Arrival of Europeans

- i. Portuguese - traded in spices for textiles especially cotton
- ii. British - factory at Alamganj in Patna in 1620 for saltpeter, presently the East India Company factory at Gulzar Bagh is turned into govt. printing press.
- iii. Dutch - interested in cotton textiles, saltpeter and food grains.
- iv. Danes - established factory at Nepali Kothi in Patna.

Battle of Buxar - 22nd October 1764

- British won the Battle led by Hector Munro against the combined army of Mughals under Shah Alam II; Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal and Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Awadh.
- Two separate Treaties were signed at Allahabad
 - With the Mughals on 12th August 1765
 - With the Nawab of Awadh on 16th August 1765.
- Mughals and the Nawab of Bengal lost the effective control of the province of Bengal constituting present day West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and Bangladesh.
- The Company got Diwani Rights of these provinces i.e. collection of revenues.
- Nawab of Awadh paid huge reparations and also ceded some of his territories.

Bihar and Bengal Famine 1770 and 1783

- In 1783 when famine struck again, the then Governor General Warren Hastings ordered for the massive dome shaped granary of Golghar.
- Golghar was built by Captain John Garstin in 1786.

Permanent Settlement or Zamindari System

- It was introduced in Bengal, Orissa and districts of Benaras and northern districts of Madras by Lord Cornwallis.
- Its architect was John Shore.
- It declared Zamindars as owners of land.
- Zamindars could keep 1/11th of the revenue collected and give 10/11th to the British. They were free to fix the rents and exploited the tenants.
- Rise of absentee landlords and moneylenders.
- Later the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed in 1885 to define rights of the tenants.

Revolt of 1857 in Bihar

- Governor General - Lord Canning
- Started on 12th June 1857 in Deoghar district (now in Jharkhand) at the headquarters of 32nd Infantry Regiment.
- On 3rd July 1857, revolt started in Patna under book seller Pir Ali.
- On 25th July 1857, revolt started in Darbhanga which marked beginning of widespread revolt in Bihar.
- Notable figure: Babu Kuwar Singh of Jagdishpur (currently in Bhojpur district) occupied Arrah and he also defeated the British with Nana Saheb at Azamgarh (UP).

Administration of Bihar by the Company

- East India Company created a post of Deputy Governor to administer Bihar. Raja Ram Narayan and Shitab Roy were important Deputy Governors after Battle of Buxar.
- Revenue Council of Patna was constituted in 1770 later replaced by Revenue Chief of Bihar in 1781.
- When Delhi became the capital in 1911, province of Bihar and Orissa were carved out from Bengal making Patna its capital.
 - 22nd March 1912 Bihar was constituted.

- Educational institutions by British:
 - Patna College
 - Patna Science College
 - Biahrr College of Engineering
 - Prince of Wales Medical College
 - Patna Veterinary College
- Govt. of India Act 1935 divided Bihar into two separate provinces of Bihar and Orissa

Home Rule League in Bihar

- Established in Bankipore (Patna) on 16th December 1916
- President - Mazhar-ul-Haque
- Vice-Presidents - Sarfaraz Hussain Khan and Purnendu Narain Sinha
- Secretaries - Chandravanshi Sahay and Baijnath Narain Singh

Revolutionary Activities

- Sachindranath Sanyal - established branch of Anushilan Samiti in Patna in 1913
- Bankimchandra Mitra of B.N. College - managed Anushilan Samiti, formed Hindu Boys Association for teaching Vivekananda's ideas.
- Benaras Conspiracy Case 1915 - Sachindranath Sanyal and Bankimchandra Mitra
- Patna Yuvak Sangh formed in 1927
- Bihar Yuvak Sangh 1928 in Motihari - Gyan Shah
- Patliputta Yuvak Sangh 1929 - formed in Patna by Rambriksha Benipuri and Ambika Kant Singh
- Monthly Magazine YUVAK was started in Patna.
- Female revolutionaries - Kusum Kumari Devi and Gauri Das
- Limitations - religious overemphasis kept Muslims aloof, limited upper caste involvement and lack of mass involvement made it a subject of govt. suppression

Champaran Satyagraha

- Raj Kumar Shukla invited Mahatma Gandhi to look into Indigo Planters problem.
- Gandhi's his first Satyagraha in 1917. Other leaders Rajendra Prasad, Anugrah Narayan Singh, Mazhar-ul-Haque, Mahadeo Desai, Narhari Parikh and J B Kriplani.
- European planters were forcing farmers to plant indigo on 3/20th of their lands called Tinkathiya system.
- It forced the British to appoint a committee to make enquiry. Gandhi was also a member. He convinced the committee to abolish Tinkathiya system and pay the peasants 25% compensation.

Role of Bihar in the freedom movement:

- MOTHERLAND newspaper was started in September 1921 by Mazhar-ul-Haque to propagate Hindu-Muslim unity.
- Non-Cooperation Movement - Gandhiji led picketing of liquor shops in December 1920
 - J P Narayan left Patna College before his examination to participate in the movement.
- All India Congress Session December 1922, Gaya presided by Chittaranjan Das. It saw two factions of the Congress clash on entry to Legislative Council.
 - Pro-changers - C R Das, Motilal Nehru, Vitthalbhai Patel and Ajmal Khan
 - No-changers - Vallabhbai Patel, C Rajagopalachari and M A Ansari
 - Pro-changers formed Swaraj Dal with Narayan Prasad as Chairman and Abdul Bari as Secretary
 - A branch of Swaraj Dal was formed in Bihar in 1923 under Srikrishna Singh. However, it was not very effective in Bihar

- Boycott of the Simon Commission was led by Anugrah Narayan Sinha
- Chhapra Jail Strike - as a protest against lathi charge on Rajendra Prasad and Abdul Bari.
- Civil Disobedience movement - Peasants also refused to pay chaukidari tax.
 - Swadeshi Committee was set up in Patna for organizing events.
 - Sacchidanand Sinha, Hasan Imam, Chandravati Devi, Ramsunder Singh
 - Bihpur Satyagraha was carried out around the same time.
- Bihar Socialist Party formed by Ganga Sharan Sinha, Rambriksha Benipuri and Ramanand Mishra in 1931
- Bihar Congress Socialist Party formed in 1934 with J P Narayan as General Secretary and Acharya Narayan Dev as President
- General Elections, 1937 after the GoI act 1935 provided for some provincial autonomy, Congress got majority in both Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council but refused to form government.
 - Later Mohammad Yunus became first Prime Minister of Bihar of minority govt.
 - 3 months later on 20 July 1937, Sri Krishna Singh became the premier and formed the cabinet.
 - Ramdayalu Singh as first Speaker of Legislative Council
 - Abdul Bari as first deputy Speaker of Legislative Council.
 - Bihar Tenancy Amendment Act removed problems of Kashtkari Bandobast
- Sheel Bhadra Yajee joined Subhash Chandra Bose to found All India Forward Bloc and was also associated with the INA.
- Quit India Movement - National Flag was unfurled at the Legislative Assembly

Peasant Movement:

- Kisan Sabha organized by Mohammad Zubair and Srikrishna Singh in 1922
- Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha was formed by Swami Sahajanand Saraswati in 1929 against Zamindari attacks.
- Zamindars also formed United Political Party to suppress peasants
- Bihar Kisan Sabha was formed in 1933
- In 1936, when All India Kisan Sabha was formed at Lucknow, Swami Sahajanand Saraswati was its President.
- Peasant movement was an important side effect of independence movement aimed at overthrowing the feudal zamindari system. It was led by Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
- HUNKAR - Hindi weekly of peasant movement in Bihar by Pandit Yamuna Karjee and Rahul Sanskritayan in 1940

Tribal Movement:

REVOLT	LEADERS	PERIOD	REGION
Ho and Munda	Raja Parhat	1820s	Chhotanagpur
Kol	Budhu Bhagat	1831	Chhotanagpur
Bhumij	Ganga Narayan	1832	Singbhum and Birbhum
Santhal	Sidhu and Kanhu	1855	Rajmahal Hills
Munda	Birsa Munda	1899	Chhotanagpur
Tana Bhagat	Jatra Bhagat	1914	Chhotanagpur

- Revolts were mainly against British annexation of land or their revenue policy or occupation by outsiders or for forest rights. They were localized, unorganized and very violent.
- Santhal Pargana was created by the British to pacify the Santhal uprising. Kanhu was arrested in 1866.
- Munda Revolt - Forest Regulation Act 1865 empowered British govt. to declare any forest land as Government Forest and make rules for it. Under Birsa Munda, it was a socio-religious movement (Ulgulan) with agrarian and political content. Birsa was captured on 3rd March 1900.
- Tana Bhagat Movement - mainly a religious movement with adoption of Hindu practices.

Post-Independence history:

- First President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad was from Bihar
- First Governor of Bihar - Jairamdas Daulatram
- First Chief Minister of Bihar - Dr Krishna Singh
- In 15 November 2000, modern state of Jharkhand was carved out from southern Bihar.
