

Geography of Bihar

Description

Geography of Bihar

Geography of Bihar: Bihar is in the eastern region of India. It is the third-largest state by population and twelfth largest by territory, with an area of 94,163 sq km.

It is a land-locked state having boundaries with three Indian states namely Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. Bihar shares its border with Nepal in the north, Uttar Pradesh in the west, Jharkhand in the south, and West Bengal in the south.

Bihar is also the world's fourth-most populous sub-national entity.

Soils of Bihar & Type of Soil Found in Bihar

- **Bal Sundari** - alkaline, Saharsa and Champaran, maize and tobacco
- **Balthar soil** - the presence of iron, red and yellow, less fertile, in the transitional zone between Chhotanagpur plateau and Ganga plain, Kaimur to Rajmahal hills
- **Bhangar** - older alluvial soil -loamy, sticky, rich in lime, good for paddy and sugarcane, Patna and Gaya
- **Karail** - heavy clay, alkaline, from Rohtas to Bhagalpur, brown to yellow
- **Khadar** - younger alluvial soil - rich in nitrogen, good for paddy and wheat, Purina, Saharsa, Darbhanga
- **Piedmont Swamp Soil** - West-Champaran, supports rice, rich in organic matter
- **Tal soil** - poor drainage, grey, high yield, from Buxar to Banka
- **Terai Soil** - found in the Northern belt bordering Nepal, Champaran to Kishanganj, sugarcane, jute

Geography of Bihar

Bihar plain is divided into two unequal halves (North Bihar and South Bihar) by the river Ganges which flows through the middle from west to east. Bihar's land has an average elevation above sea level of 173 feet.

Bihar lies between the humid West Bengal in the east and the sub humid Uttar Pradesh in the west, which provides it with a transitional position in respect of climate, economy, and culture.

Bihar is an entirely landlocked state, in a subtropical region of the temperate zone.

- Longitudinal extent - $83^{\circ}19'50''$ E to $88^{\circ}17'40''$ E
- Latitudinal extent - $24^{\circ}20'10''$ N to $27^{\circ}31'15''$ N
- 3 Districts that border WB in the north to south direction - Kishanganj, Purnia, and Katihar
- 7 Districts that border Nepal in the west to east direction - West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi,

- Madhubani, Supaul, Araria, and Kishanganj
- 7 Districts that border UP in north to south direction → West Champaran, Gopalganj, Siwan, Saran, Bhojpur, Buxar, and Kaimur
- 8 Districts that border Jharkhand in the west to east direction → Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Banka, Bhagalpur, and Katihar
- Bihar has boundaries with the states of UP, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. It also borders Nepal in the north.
- Distance from east to west → 483 km
- Distance from north to south → 345 km
- Length of Nepal border → 601 km
- Ganga, Ghaghara, and Gandak form boundaries with UP in some parts
- Sone river forms a boundary with Jharkhand in Rohtas district

Miscellaneous:

- Total area → **94,163 sq. km** (12th in India)
- Population Density → 1106
- Sex Ratio → 918
- Child Sex Ratio → 934
- Literacy Rate → 69.83%
- Most Populated -Patna
- Least populated → Sheikhpura
- Most Dense → Sheohar (1882)
- Least Dense → Kaimur (488)
- Largest district Area Wise → West Champaran
- Smallest district Area Wise- Sheohar
- Population → **10,38,04,630** (3rd in India)
- Decadal Growth Rate → 25.4%

Geological Structure of Bihar

- Bihar plain is the youngest to be formed
- **Dharwar** rocks → South-eastern Bihar → Jamui, Nawada, Munger districts
- North-west is Terai, Central is Gangetic plain and south is a plateau region
- **Plateau** region → extends as a narrow belt from Kaimur district to Banka district
- **Vindhyan** rocks → South-western Bihar → Kaimur, Rohtas districts
- Younger rocks to the north, older rocks to the south

Climate of Bihar

Bihar lies completely in the Subtropical region of the Temperate Zone, and its climatic type is humid subtropical.

Its temperature is subtropical with hot summers and cold winters.

Bihar has an average daily high temperature of only 26°C

The climate is very warm but has only a very few tropical and humid months.

Several months of the year it is warm to hot at temperatures continuously above 25°C, sometimes up to 29°C.

Due to less rain, the best time for traveling is from October to April. Most rain days occur from May to September.

- April month has the lowest humidity
- Continental Monsoon type climate
- Gaya is hottest in May while coldest in January.
- **Norwester** tropical cyclonic thunderstorm, extremely helpful for pre-Kharif crops
- The Eastern part receives 200 cm of rainfall while the western part receives 100 cm.
- The northern part is cooler compared to the southern part
- The temperature of the eastern part is reduced due to the impact of the Norwester showers.

Important Rivers of Bihar

One of the prime rivers is the River Ganga that enters at Chausa. Other than this, other rivers found in the state are Ghaghra, Gandak, Kosi, etc.

Ganga:

- Enters at **Chausa** forming boundary of Bhojpur and Saran
- It has the largest catchment area in Bihar
- **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** connects Patna in the south to Hajipur in north
- Northern tributaries **Ghaghra** in Siwan, **Gandak** at Sonpur, **Bagmati** at Munger, **Kosi** at Kursela, **Kali-Kosi** at Manihari
- Southern tributaries Sone at Maner, Karmanasa at Chausa, Punpun at Fathua

Gandak:

- Originates at **Tibet**
- Enters India near **Triveni** in Nepal,
- Forms boundary of Bihar and UP
- Enters Bihar at **West Champaran**
- Joins Ganga at **Sonepur**
- **Triveni Canal** gets water from this river

Burhi Gandak:

- Originates at **Someshwar hills** in Chautarwa Chaur of **West Champaran**
- Flows parallel to river Gandak
- Joins Ganga at **Khagaria**

Kosi:

- Notoriously known as **Sorrow of Bihar** for its changing of course

- It is made up of seven channels from Nepal known as Sapt Kosi
- Enters Bihar through **Supaul**
- Joins Ganga at **Kursela in Katihar**

Ghaghra / Saryu:

- Originates at **Nampa** in Nepal
- Enters Bihar at **Gopalganj**
- Joins Ganga at **Chhapra**

Bagmati:

- Originates in **Shivpuri range** in Nepal
- Enters Bihar in **Sitamarhi**
- Joins Kosi at **Badlaghat**

Punpun:

- Originates in the Hazaribagh plateau
- Joins Ganga near Fatuha
- Causes heavy flood damage to the east of Patna city

Phalgu:

- It is also known as **Niranjana**
- It is considered a sacred river and flows past **Gaya**

Kamla:

- Originates in **Mahabharat Range** in Nepal near **Sindhuliagarhi**
- Enters Bihar in **Madhubani**
- **Kamla Barrage** has been constructed
- Joins river Bagmati at **Badlaghat**

Mahananda:

- Originates in **Sikkim**
- Enters Bihar in **Kishanganj**
- Joins Ganga at **Nawabganj in Bangladesh**
- In upper course forms an important linguistic boundary between Hindi and Bengali speaking area.

Sone:

- Originates in **Amarkantak range in MP**
- Joins Ganga near Maner
- Important tributaries are Rihand and North Koel

Waterfalls in Bihar:

- **Manjhar Kund and Dhua Kund** in Sasaram, utilized for power generation
- **Karkat waterfall** in the Kaimur hills near the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Kakolat waterfall** in Nawada near Jharkhand border, fall of 160 ft

Hot Springs in Bihar:

- **Rajgir** Saptdhara, Surya Kund, Makhdum Kund, Brahma Kund
- **Munger** Lakshman Kund, Rameshwar Kund, Gaumukh Kund, Sita Kund, Rishi Kund
- Most of the Hot Springs are concentrated in Rajgir and Munger.

Flora and Fauna in Bihar

- **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary** Bhagalpur stretching from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon, only protected area for Gangetic Dolphins, established on **28 August 1990**
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve** consists of Valmiki National Park and Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Valmiki National Park** located in West Champaran, established on **2nd August 1989**
- Total forest area 7299 sq. km, 7.75% of total area (1.04% of India's forest) (IFR2017)
- The total area under very dense forest is in West Champaran
- The moist deciduous forest is found in Kishanganj, West Champaran, Kaimur, Gaya etc.
- **Sanjay Gandhi Jaivik Udyan** located in **Patna**, biological park combining a botanical garden with the zoo, established on **8th March 1983**
- Minimum forest area Sheikhpura
- Maximum forest area Kaimur district
- **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary** Kaimur, Bengal Tigers are also found here, several waterfalls like Karkat and Telhar waterfall, the famous lake is **Anupam Lake**, established on **25 July 1979**
- **Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary** located in Gaya and Hazaribagh (Jharkhand), previously it was a private hunting reserve, established on **14 September 1971**
- Dry Deciduous most abundant in Bihar, Kaimur, Purnia, Raxaul etc.
- **Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary** Munger, south of Ganga, has several hot springs like Sita Kund and Rishi Kund, more famous for birds than land animals, established on **25 June 1976**

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Tags

1. Climate of Bihar
2. Flora and Fauna in Bihar
3. Geological Structure of Bihar
4. Hot Springs in Bihar:
5. Important Rivers of Bihar
6. Soils of Bihar Type of Soil Found in Bihar
7. Waterfalls in Bihar:

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