

# IAS Learning

## Bihar Special

### BIHAR HISTORY — MEDIEVAL & MODERN

#### TOPICS COVERED

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# PART A — MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF BIHAR


## SECTION 1 — EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD & LOCAL DYNASTIES

### 1. EARLY MEDIEVAL BIHAR (c. 750–1200 CE)

*After the decline of the Pala Dynasty (c. 750–1174 CE), Bihar entered a period of political fragmentation with multiple local and regional powers sharing control before the Turkish invasions.*


#### ► A. Sena Dynasty (c. 1070–1230 CE)

- **Founder:** Hemanta Sen (c. 1070 CE); the dynasty rose to prominence under Vijay Sen.
- **Origin:** Brahmanic dynasty of Karnatic origin from South India.
- **Notable ruler:** Lakshmana Sen — last major Sena king; a patron of Sanskrit literature; poet Jayadeva ('Gita Govinda') flourished in his court.
- **Religion:** Strong proponents of Brahmanical (Hindu) revival; opposed Buddhism; implemented varnashrama dharma strictly.
- **Decline:** Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion in 1203 CE ended Sena power in Bengal-Bihar; Lakshmana Sen fled to Vikrampur (East Bengal).

 **VALUE ADDITION:** Jayadeva, the author of 'Gita Govinda' (a famous Sanskrit lyric poem on Krishna-Radha love), was a court poet of Lakshmana Sen. 'Gita Govinda' had a profound influence on Vaishnavism across India — especially in Odisha and Bengal. It is still recited in Jagannath Temple, Puri.

#### ► B. Karnata / Karnat Dynasty (North Bihar — Mithila, c. 1097–1324 CE)

- **Region:** Ruled Mithila (Tirhut) in North Bihar — the area of present-day Darbhanga, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur.
- **Founder:** Nanya Deva (c. 1097–1147 CE); established the Karnat kingdom from Simroungarh (Nepal border).
- **Most famous ruler:** Hari Singh Deva — 14th century; last significant Karnat king; defeated by the Delhi Sultanate under Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1324 CE). He fled to Nepal.
- **Cultural significance:** Strong patrons of Maithili language, Sanskrit, and the Mithila Shaivite tradition. Mithila painting (Madhubani art) flourished during this period.
- **Successor dynasty:** Oiniwar dynasty succeeded the Karnats in Mithila (c. 14th–15th century).

 **KEY FACT:** Vidyapati (c. 1352–1448 CE) — the great Maithili poet — flourished during the Oiniwar period under King Shiv Singh of the Oiniwar dynasty. His songs on Radha-Krishna in Maithili became the foundation of Maithili literature. He is revered as 'Maithil Kavi Kokil' (the Nightingale of Maithili).

### ► C. Other Local Powers in Medieval Bihar

Dynasty / Power	Region	Period	Key Facts
Chero Tribe / Chiefs	South-central Bihar; Rohtasgarh, Palamu	12th–16th century	Tribal polity; controlled forest regions; Rohtasgarh Fort associated with Chero power; subdued later by Sher Shah Suri and subsequently by Mughals
Khayaravala Dynasty	Son River valley, South Bihar & Jharkhand	11th–13th century	Ruled Son valley; built parts of Rohtasgarh Fort; notable kings: Pratapdhavala, Shri Pratapa
Ujjainiya (Bhojpur)	Bhojpur region (Arrah, Buxar, Jagdishpur)	Medieval period	Rajput clan; traced to Parmar Rajputs of Ujjain; powerful in Bhojpur; ancestor of Kunwar Singh's family; allied with Sher Shah
Buddhist Pithipatis of Magadha	Magadha / Gaya region	Until 13th century	Buddhist kings titled 'Pithipati'; patrons of Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya; maintained Buddhist tradition in the region
Jaunpur Sultanate influence	Parts of Western Bihar	15th century	Western Bihar temporarily under Jaunpur Sultanate influence during its expansion


★ **EXAM TIP:** Karnat dynasty = Mithila (North Bihar). Chero = Rohtasgarh area. Ujjainiya = Bhojpur. Buddhist Pithipati = Gaya/Mahabodhi. These are regularly asked in BPSC as tricky identity questions – which dynasty ruled which region of Bihar in medieval period.

## SECTION 2 — BIHAR UNDER DELHI SULTANATE (1200–1526)

### 2. TURKISH INVASIONS & DELHI SULTANATE PERIOD

#### ► A. Bakhtiyar Khilji's Invasion (1193–1203 CE)

- **Who:** Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji — General under Qutbuddin Aibak of the Slave Dynasty.
- **First invasion c. 1193 CE:** Raided Bihar; looted the Buddhist monastery at Odantapuri (near Bihar Sharif, Nalanda). Monks mistaken for soldiers due to their shaved heads. Nalanda University was also sacked.
- **Second campaign 1203 CE:** Destroyed remaining major Buddhist centres; effectively ended Buddhism as a living institutional religion in its birthplace. This was a catastrophic blow to Bihar's intellectual heritage.
- **Consequence:** Buddhist monks fled to Nepal, Tibet, and Bengal. Nalanda never recovered. The destruction of these centres is one of the most significant events in Indian religious history.

 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Why did Bakhtiyar Khilji destroy Nalanda? Historians debate this. Most scholars suggest it was looting of wealth (Buddhist monasteries were wealthy), not primarily anti-Buddhist religious zeal. The monks' shaved heads made them look like soldiers. However, the destruction was complete — the 'Dharmaganja' library burned for months. This is why Buddhism virtually disappeared from India while thriving in Tibet, China, Korea, and Southeast Asia — the Indian institutional base was annihilated.*

#### ► B. Bihar under Various Sultanate Dynasties

Sultanate Dynasty	Period	Key Events in Bihar
Slave Dynasty	1206–1290 CE	Bihar incorporated into the Sultanate; limited evidence of direct administration; governed loosely from Delhi; Ali Mardan and later Hasmuddin Iwaz Khilji established independent rule in Lakhnauti (Bengal) and collected taxes from Tirhut
Khilji Dynasty	1290–1320 CE	Alauddin Khilji's coins found in Jayanagar (Lakhisarai) indicate presence; Bihar administered as part of the empire; raids into Mithila region
Tughlaq Dynasty	1320–1414 CE	Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq defeated Hari Singh Deva of Mithila (1324 CE); Bihar more firmly integrated; Firoz Shah Tughlaq's campaigns in Bengal/Bihar
Sayyid Dynasty	1414–1451 CE	Weak control; Bihar semi-autonomous
Lodi Dynasty	1451–1526 CE	Sikandar Lodi strengthened Sultanate control; Bihar under the Lodis; Noohani Dynasty (Afghan chiefs) rose in Bihar during Lodi decline; Bihar became base for Afghan chiefs

#### ► C. Noohani Dynasty (Bihar-Based Afghan Power)

- **Period:** Rose during the Lodi dynasty period; controlled significant parts of Bihar.

- **Role:** Sikandar Khan Noohani and his successors — Afghan chiefs who leveraged Bihar as their power base against the Lodi and later the Mughal threat.
- **End:** Noohani Dynasty ended in 1532 CE when Mughal Emperor Humayun defeated the Afghans at Doha Sarai. Humayun had earlier attacked Chunar Fort in 1531 CE.

★ **EXAM TIP:** *Important for BPSC: Bakhtiyar Khilji destroyed Nalanda. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq defeated Hari Singh Deva of Mithila (1324 CE). Noohani Dynasty ended 1532 CE when Humayun defeated them. Battle of Ghaghar (1527) = Babur vs Sultan Muhammad (Afghan) — first Mughal-Afghan confrontation in Bihar.*

# SECTION 3 — SHER SHAH SURI: BIHAR'S GREATEST MEDIEVAL KING


## 3. SHER SHAH SURI (1540–1545) — THE GREAT REFORMER

### ► Early Life & Rise to Power

Aspect	Detail
Birth Name	Farid Khan
Birth Place	Sasaram, Rohtas district, Bihar
Father	Hasan Khan Sur — Jagirdar of Sasaram under the Lodis
Title 'Sher Shah'	Earned by killing a tiger single-handedly; was given this title by Sultan Muhammad, the last Noohani Afghan ruler of Bihar
Religion	Sunni Muslim; but highly secular in administration
Capital of Bihar province	Patna (Sher Shah made Patna the capital of Bihar province in 1541 CE)
Reign	1540–1545 CE (only 5 years but revolutionary reforms)
Death	13 May 1545 CE — during the siege of Kalinjar Fort (accidentally by own cannon); buried at Sasaram, Rohtas
Tomb	Located in Sasaram, Rohtas district, Bihar — a masterpiece of Indo-Afghan architecture (stands in the middle of a lake)

### ► Military Achievements

- **Battle of Chausa (1539):** Sher Shah defeated Mughal Emperor Humayun on the banks of the Ganga (near Buxar). Humayun escaped by swimming across the Ganga on an inflated water-skin. This was Sher Shah's first major victory against the Mughals.
- **Battle of Kannauj / Bilgram (1540):** Second and decisive defeat of Humayun. Sher Shah captured the Mughal throne. Humayun fled to Persia. Sher Shah became Sultan of India.
- **Title:** After these victories, Sher Shah took the title 'Sultan-e-Adil' (the Just Sultan).
- Empire at its peak: Punjab, Malwa, Sindh, Multan, Bundelkhand, most of North India (except Assam, Nepal, Kashmir, Gujarat).

 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Battle of Chausa (1539) site: Located near Buxar, Bihar — the same area as the later Battle of Buxar (1764). So Buxar has hosted two historically decisive battles separated by 225 years! Humayun's escape by swimming across the Ganga on a water-skin float (helped by a water-carrier named Nizam) is a famous anecdote of Mughal history. Nizam's family was allegedly rewarded by later Mughal emperors in gratitude.*

### ► Administrative Reforms of Sher Shah Suri

Reform Area	Key Details
Revenue System	Introduced 'Rai' (measurement of land) system; land measured by rope called 'Sikandari Gaz'; peasants paid 1/3rd of produce as tax (later adopted by Akbar via Todar Mal)

Currency	Introduced the silver 'Rupia' (Rupee) — the standardized silver coin system adopted by all later rulers including the British; gold coin = Mohur; copper coin = Dam
Grand Trunk Road	Extended/renovated the GT Road from Chittagong (Bengal) to Kabul (Afghanistan) — ~1500 miles; planted trees every 2 kos (4 miles), built sarais (rest houses) every 2 kos along the road; about 1700 sarais built
Sarais / Rest Houses	~1700 sarais built across the empire; each sarai had a mosque, a well, a stable, a grain store; also served as postal relay stations and intelligence-gathering points
Postal System	Horses stationed at each sarai for rapid message relay; rudimentary postal system; messages could travel from Bengal to Sindh in 7 days
Legal System	Uniform justice; Qazis appointed for administration of justice; personal supervision by Sher Shah of judicial matters
Provincial Administration	Empire divided into 47 Sarkars (provinces); each Sarkar divided into Parganas; Shiqdar (military-cum-revenue officer) at Sarkar level
Market Regulation	Controlled weights and measures; regulated prices in markets; traders licensed
Army Reform	Maintained proper muster rolls (Dagh — branding of horses; Huliya — description of soldiers) to prevent fraud; paid soldiers in cash directly

★ **EXAM TIP:** *Sher Shah's reforms — most important for BPSC: Rupiya (Rupee) introduced by Sher Shah. GT Road from Chittagong to Kabul. 1700 sarais. Land measurement by 'Sikandari Gaz'. His revenue system was the basis for Akbar's Todar Mal's reforms. He is called 'Precursor to Akbar's reforms'.*

💡 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Sher Shah Suri's tomb in Sasaram (Rohtas) is considered one of the finest examples of Indo-Afghan architecture. It was built during his own lifetime. The tomb stands on an octagonal platform surrounded by an artificial lake. British architect James Fergusson called it 'the most imposing of all Indian tombs.' It is a protected monument under ASI. It is less famous than the Taj Mahal but architecturally more pioneering in some aspects.*

🔗 **CONNECT:** *Sher Shah's Rupiya → adopted by Akbar → continued by all Mughals → continued by British (anna-pie system) → after independence became India's Rupee. This is 500 years of monetary continuity originating from Bihar!*

## ► Post-Sher Shah Sur Dynasty

Ruler	Period	Key Events
Islam Shah (Jalal Khan)	1545–1553	Son of Sher Shah; able ruler but internal conflict began
Muhammad Adil Shah	1553–1556	Weak ruler; empire fragmented; Hemu (Hemachandra Vikramaditya) rose as his powerful general; Mughals began recapturing territory
After Sur dynasty fell	1556 onwards	Akbar defeated Hemu at Second Battle of Panipat (1556); Mughal rule restored. Taj Khan Karrani established rule in Bihar making Bihar Sharif capital after Sur decline

★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

Q1. What was the birth name of Sher Shah Suri? Where was he born? [BPSC]

Q2. Which two battles did Sher Shah fight against Humayun? What were the outcomes? [BPSC]

Q3. What currency coin did Sher Shah introduce? What was it called? [BPSC]

Q4. Sher Shah's tomb is located in which district of Bihar? [BPSC]

Q5. What is the 'Grand Trunk Road'? Who originally built/extended it? [BPSC]

Q6. What title did Sher Shah take after defeating Humayun? [BPSC]

Q7. How many sarais did Sher Shah build along the Grand Trunk Road? [BPSC]

Q8. What was Sher Shah's land measurement system called? [BPSC]

Q9. Who succeeded Sher Shah as the Sur Sultan? [BPSC]

# SECTION 4 — BIHAR UNDER THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (1556–1764)

## 4. BIHAR UNDER MUGHAL RULE

### ► Akbar's Administration of Bihar

- **1576:** Akbar made Bihar a separate Subah (province) of his empire after the Battle of Tukaroi (1575) in which Daud Khan Karrani was defeated. Bihar Subah headquarters: Patna.
- **Karrani Dynasty:** After Sur decline, Taj Khan Karrani established rule in Bihar, making Bihar Sharif the capital. His successors Sulaiman Karrani (1565–1572) recognized Akbar's authority. Sulaiman's son Dawood Karrani rebelled → defeated at Battle of Tukaroi (1575); captured and executed at Battle of Rajmahal (1576).
- **Raja Man Singh:** Appointed Subedar (Governor) of Bihar on 17 March 1587 by Akbar. Established Rohtas as his capital; renovated Rohtasgarh Fort in Sasaram. Abul Fazl praised his excellent administration.
- **Ain-i-Akbari:** Abul Fazl's detailed account of Akbar's administration includes description of Bihar Subah — its geography, revenues, population.

### ► Key Mughal Events in Bihar

Year	Event	Significance
1527 CE	Battle of Ghaghar	Babur vs Sultan Mohammad (Afghan/Noohani) — Mughals' first major Bihar conflict
1531 CE	Humayun attacks Chunar Fort	Humayun's campaign in Bihar against Sur power
1532 CE	Battle of Doha Sarai	Humayun defeated Afghans (Noohanis) — consolidated Bihar briefly
1539 CE	Battle of Chausa	Sher Shah defeats Humayun on banks of Ganga near Buxar; first Afghan victory over Mughals
1540 CE	Battle of Kannauj (Bilgram)	Sher Shah decisively defeats Humayun; Mughals out of India until 1555
1555 CE	Humayun returns	Humayun recaptures Delhi; Bihar reverts to Mughal orbit
1575 CE	Battle of Tukaroi	Akbar's general Munim Khan defeats Daud Khan Karrani of Bihar
1576 CE	Bihar made Mughal Subah	Akbar formally constituted Bihar as a separate subah; capital Patna
1587 CE	Raja Man Singh becomes Subedar	Akbar's famous general becomes Governor of Bihar; Rohtas capital
1703 CE	Azim-us-Shan appointed Governor	Grandson of Aurangzeb; renamed Patna as 'Azimabad' in 1704
1712 CE	Farrukhsiyar sworn in at Patna	First and only Mughal emperor to be sworn in at Patna (before Delhi)
1757 CE	Battle of Plassey	After Plassey, Bihar comes under Nawabs of Bengal under British suzerainty

★ **EXAM TIP:** Two very commonly asked facts: (1) Patna was renamed 'Azimabad' by Azim-us-Shan (grandson of Aurangzeb) in 1704. (2) Farrukhsiyar was the first Mughal emperor sworn in at Patna. These are direct BPSC trap questions.

💡 **VALUE ADDITION:** Patna/Azimabad under Mughals: Patna became one of the most important commercial cities of eastern India under Mughal rule. It was a major centre for saltpetre (used in gunpowder), cotton textiles, and indigo. European traders – Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, British, and French – all established factories (trading posts) in Patna. Patna's position on the Ganga made it an ideal inland trade hub. The Golghar (granary) built in 1786 under Warren Hastings reflects the city's strategic importance.

## ► European Trading Companies in Bihar (Pre-British Colonial Period)

Company	Factory in Bihar	Products / Notes
Portuguese	Factories in Patna and nearby (early 17th century)	Earliest European presence in Bihar; traded in cotton, textiles, indigo; built a church in Bandel (1599)
Dutch (VOC)	Factory in Patna (Nepali Kothi area)	Interested in saltpetre (used in gunpowder), cereal grains, cotton fabrics; major purchasers of Bihar saltpetre
Danish (Danes East India Company)	Factory in Patna's Nepali Kothi	Limited presence; trade in saltpetre and cotton
British (East India Company)	Factory in Patna (established early; Patna Factory became important after Plassey 1757)	Initially traded in saltpetre, cotton, opium; after Plassey, became dominant power
French (French East India Company)	Limited presence in Bihar	Competed with British; French influence eliminated after mid-18th century Anglo-French wars

🔑 **KEY FACT:** Bihar's saltpetre was strategically crucial – it was the key ingredient in gunpowder manufacture. This is why all European powers were intensely interested in Bihar. The British, Dutch, and French literally competed for Bihar's saltpetre to fuel their wars in Europe and across the world.

## ► Battle of Buxar (1764) — The Real Foundation of British Empire in India

Aspect	Detail
Date	22–23 October 1764
Location	Buxar, Bihar (on banks of Ganga)
British Commander	Major Hector Munro
Alliance against British	Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal) + Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh) + Shah Alam II (Mughal Emperor)
Outcome	British won decisively
Treaty of Allahabad (1765)	Two treaties signed: (1) With Shah Alam II — British got Diwani rights (revenue collection) of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa; (2) With Shuja-ud-Daula — territorial settlement of Awadh

Significance	More significant than Battle of Plassey (1757) — at Buxar, British defeated the combined forces of three major powers; truly established British paramountcy in India
Bihar consequence	Bihar came under British Diwani (revenue) control; Deputy Diwan for Bihar = Raja Sitab Roy (appointed by Company)
Revenue Council of Patna	Constituted in 1770; replaced by 'Revenue Chief of Bihar' in 1781

★ **EXAM TIP:** *Battle of Buxar (1764) = Buxar, Bihar. British commander = Hector Munro. Alliance = Mir Qasim + Shuja-ud-Daula + Shah Alam II. Result: Treaty of Allahabad (1765) — Bihar's Diwani to British. Bihar's Deputy Diwan = Raja Sitab Roy. BPSC asks this every few years.*

💡 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Why is Battle of Buxar MORE important than Plassey? At Plassey (1757), British defeated only Siraj-ud-Daula (Nawab of Bengal) through treachery. At Buxar (1764), British defeated three genuine military powers simultaneously in a real battle. The Treaty of Allahabad (1765) that followed gave the British the crucial Diwani (revenue rights) over Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa — making them the de facto rulers of eastern India. This is why historians like P.E. Roberts called Buxar 'more decisive than Plassey'.*

### ★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

Q1. Who renamed Patna as 'Azimabad' and when? [BPSC]

Q2. Which Mughal Emperor was first sworn in at Patna? [BPSC]

Q3. When and where was the Battle of Buxar fought? Who was the British commander? [BPSC]

Q4. What was the outcome of the Treaty of Allahabad (1765) for Bihar? [BPSC]

Q5. Who was appointed as Deputy Diwan of Bihar after the Battle of Buxar? [BPSC]

Q6. Sher Shah defeated Humayun in which battle fought in Bihar? [BPSC]

Q7. Akbar made Bihar a separate Subah in which year? [BPSC]

Q8. Who was appointed Subedar of Bihar by Akbar in 1587? [BPSC]

Q9. Which European powers had trading factories in Patna? [BPSC]

Q10. What was Bihar's main export product to European traders? [BPSC]


# PART B — MODERN HISTORY OF BIHAR


## SECTION 5 — BIHAR UNDER BRITISH RULE: ADMINISTRATION & REVENUE

### 5. BIHAR UNDER BRITISH RULE

#### ► Administrative Framework

- Bihar was part of the Bengal Presidency from the Battle of Buxar (1764) until 22 March 1912 when a separate Bihar and Orissa province was created.
- **Deputy Diwan of Bihar:** Raja Sitab Roy — appointed by the East India Company after Treaty of Allahabad (1765) to collect revenues.
- **Revenue Council of Patna:** Constituted in 1770; replaced by 'Revenue Chief of Bihar' in 1781.
- **Golghar (Patna):** Ordered by Governor-General Warren Hastings in 1783 to fight against famine; dome-shaped granary built by Captain John Garstin in 1786. Can store 140,000 tonnes of grain.
- **Permanent Settlement (1793):** Lord Cornwallis introduced Permanent Settlement in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa — fixed land revenue permanently (10/11th for British, 1/11th for zamindars). This created a new class of permanent zamindars but harmed peasants.
- **Opium in Bihar:** Bihar became a major opium producing region under British rule. The East India Company monopolized opium production in the Ganga plains of Bihar. Opium was exported to China, leading to the Opium Wars.

 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Golghar, Patna — Built in 1786 as a beehive-shaped granary to prevent famines. The construction has a flaw — the stairs spiral upward on opposite sides so workers could go up one side loaded with grain and come down the other side empty. The door opens inward — so when full, the door cannot be opened! A famous architectural blunder. Despite this, it has survived 238+ years and remains a Patna landmark.*

 **KEY FACT:** *Bihar's opium production was crucial to British India's economy. The Company held a monopoly — farmers were forced to grow opium at fixed low prices. The opium was processed in Patna, then shipped to Calcutta and exported to China. Revenue from opium trade funded British India's administration significantly. This system created enormous peasant distress in Bihar.*

#### ► Golghar & Other British-Era Landmarks in Bihar

Landmark	Year	Built By / For	Significance
Golghar	1786	Captain John Garstin / Warren Hastings	Dome-shaped grain store; can hold 140,000 tonnes; famous Patna landmark
Patna College	1863	British colonial government	One of the oldest colleges in Asia; established as Patna College
Bankipore (Patna) Courts	1906	British administration	Major administrative centre; Bihar High Court established here

Bihar School of Engineering	1900	British govt	First engineering college in Bihar
Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park (Patna Zoo)	—	Colonial period	Established as botanical garden during British era
Bihar Museum (New)	2015	Bihar Government	New modern museum in Patna — showcases Bihar's history including British era

## SECTION 6 — PEASANT & TRIBAL REVOLTS IN BIHAR (PRE-1857)

### 6. PEASANT & TRIBAL REVOLTS IN BIHAR BEFORE 1857

Revolt / Movement	Year	Leader(s)	Key Facts
Huseypur Revolt	1767–1781	Maharaja Fateh Bahadur Sahi (Huseypur, Saran district)	First seeds of resentment against British in Bihar; revolt against East India Company; escalated in 1781 when other zamindars and chiefs of South Bihar joined (Raja Narain Singh, Akbar Ali); suppressed by British
Kol Rebellion	1831–1832	Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat, Jhindra Manki	Tribal uprising in Chotanagpur (Bihar/Jharkhand region) against land alienation, moneylenders (dikhus), and British administrators; about 1,000 Kols were killed; marked beginning of tribal resistance
Santhal Rebellion (Hul)	1855–1856	Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu (brothers) — Bhagnadihi village, Rajmahal Hills	'Hul' = Revolt in Santhal language; Santhals rose against zamindars, moneylenders (mahajans), British administrators; Sidhu killed in Jan 1856, Kanhu in Feb 1856; ~10,000 Santhals killed; British declared martial law; resulted in creation of Santhal Parganas district
Wahabi / Faraizi Movement	1820s onwards	Syed Ahmad Barelvi (national); in Bihar: Shah Muhammad Hasan, Pir Ali (Patna)	Islamic reform movement; Wahabi network centred in Patna; promoted return to pure Islam; had anti-British political edge; active 'Darul Harb' movement against British colonialism; Pir Ali (bookseller in Patna) later played role in 1857 revolt
Indigo Rebellion (Bengal/Bihar)	1859–1861	Peasants in Champaran and Bengal districts	Peasants revolted against forced indigo cultivation; culminated in landmark play 'Nil Darpan' by Dinabandhu Mitra; the rebellion gave Bihar peasants experience of organized resistance — precursor to Champaran Satyagraha 1917

★ **EXAM TIP:** *BPSC asks about these revolts regularly. Key facts: Santhal Rebellion 1855-56 = Sidhu and Kanhu. Kol Rebellion 1831-32 = Buddhu Bhagat. Huseypur Revolt 1767 = first anti-British revolt in Bihar. Wahabi network centred in Patna city. Santhal Parganas created as result of Santhal Rebellion.*

💡 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Santhal Rebellion (1855–56): The Santhals were the largest tribal community in the Rajmahal hills area (present-day Jharkhand/Bihar border). They revolted against the triple exploitation by zamindars, mahajans (moneylenders charging 50–500% interest), and the British revenue system. The rebels attacked British establishments and killed many. The British response was brutal — machine guns against bows and arrows. Sidhu said defiantly: 'We will not pay revenue. The Santhals will rule.' This rebellion influenced later tribal rights movements and is celebrated on Hul Diwas (30 June) in Jharkhand today. Dinabandhu Mitra's play 'Nil Darpan' (1860) about indigo peasants' plight was similarly important.*

Q1. Who led the Santhal Rebellion of 1855-56? [BPSC]
Q2. What is 'Hul' in the context of the Santhal Rebellion? [BPSC]
Q3. Who led the Kol Rebellion of 1831-32? [BPSC]
Q4. The Wahabi Movement in Bihar was centred in which city? [BPSC]
Q5. What was the first anti-British revolt in Bihar (1767)? Who led it? [BPSC]
Q6. What was 'Nil Darpan'? Who wrote it? [BPSC]
Q7. Which tribal revolt led to the creation of a separate Santhal Parganas district? [BPSC]

## SECTION 7 — REVOLT OF 1857 IN BIHAR

### 7. THE REVOLT OF 1857 IN BIHAR

*The Revolt of 1857 — called 'First War of Independence' by V.D. Savarkar and 'Sepoy Mutiny' by British historians — had a significant Bihar chapter. Bihar's role was particularly notable under the leadership of Babu Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur.*

#### ► Chronology of the 1857 Revolt in Bihar

Date	Event	Place
12 June 1857	Bihar revolt STARTED — 32nd Infantry Regiment uprising	Deoghar (now in Jharkhand) — HQ of 32nd Infantry; British officers Dr Grant & Lt Norman Leslie involved; suppressed by McDonald
3 July 1857	Patna Mutiny — Pir Ali's uprising	Patna city; bookseller Pir Ali (Mohammad Pir Ali) led sepoys and civilians; British opium trader Dr Lyell was killed; Pir Ali arrested, tried, and executed
1 July 1857	Kunwar Singh captured Arrah	Arrah (Bhojpur); Kunwar Singh and his forces occupied Arrah city; British garrison besieged in Arrah House (Taylor's bungalow)
25 July 1857	Danapur Cantonment uprising	Danapur (near Patna); Danapur Cantt soldiers mutinied; marked the widespread general revolt in Bihar
Mid-1857	Kunwar Singh with Nana Saheb at Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh; Kunwar Singh joined Nana Saheb and defeated British forces at Azamgarh
22-23 April 1858	Battle of Jagdishpur — final battle in Bihar	Jagdishpur; though wounded severely (shot in arm — he himself cut it off and offered it to Ganga), Kunwar Singh defeated British at Jagdishpur
26 April 1858	Death of Kunwar Singh	Jagdishpur; died of battle wounds 3 days after his final victory at age ~80

#### ► Babu Kunwar Singh — The Lion of 1857

Aspect	Detail
Full Name	Babu Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur
Family	Ujjainiya Rajput clan; belonged to the Parmar Rajput lineage; from Jagdishpur (Bhojpur district)
Age during 1857	Approximately 77–80 years old — fought the revolt at an advanced age
Army	Led approximately 4,000 armed soldiers
Military genius	Conducted guerrilla warfare; crossed rivers to confuse British; maintained mobility; drew British forces into Bihar, UP, MP operations

Arm incident	Shot in the arm during the Battle at Shivpur Ghat crossing; he himself severed the arm with his sword and offered it to the Ganga before dying — legendary act of defiance
Final victory	Despite mortal wounds, defeated British at Jagdishpur on 22-23 April 1858
Death	26 April 1858 — 3 days after his final victory
Legacy	Remembered as 'Veer Kunwar Singh'; statues across Bihar; Veer Kunwar Singh University at Ara named after him; celebrated on Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav (23 April)

**💡 VALUE ADDITION:** *The Arm Incident: When Kunwar Singh was shot while crossing the Shivpur Ghat (Ganga) near Varanasi, the bullet lodged in his left arm. Medical treatment was unavailable. Kunwar Singh, in a legendary act, drew his sword and cut off his own gangrenous arm, then threw it into the sacred Ganga as an offering — before proceeding to fight his final battle at Jagdishpur and WIN. This story of extraordinary bravery at age ~80 has made him one of Bihar's greatest heroes.*

**★ EXAM TIP:** *Kunwar Singh key facts: Age ~80. Led 4000 troops. Occupied Arrah (1 July 1857). Fought with Nana Saheb. Died 26 April 1858. Veer Kunwar Singh University = Ara (Bhojpur). TRAP: Kunwar Singh did NOT die in 1857 — he died in 1858. He won his last battle and THEN died 3 days later.*

## ► Other Key Figures of 1857 Revolt in Bihar

Person	Role	Outcome
Pir Ali (Mohammad Pir Ali)	Bookseller in Patna; led Patna mutiny on 3 July 1857; killed British opium trader Dr Lyell	Arrested, tried, and hanged by British
Amar Singh	Nephew and close associate of Kunwar Singh; continued resistance after Kunwar Singh's death	Continued guerrilla warfare
Hare Krishna Singh	Local zamindar who supported Kunwar Singh in Bhojpur	Local rebel leader
Nizam Ali Khan (Nawab of Patna)	Some local support for the revolt from Patna Nawab's circle	Limited political support
Maharajas who aided British	Maharajas of Darbhanga, Dumrao, and Hatwa	PROVIDED manpower and money to British — helped suppress the revolt; rewarded by British

**⚠️ TRAP QUESTION:** *BPSC trap: The Maharajas of Darbhanga, Dumrao, and Hatwa HELPED the British — they did NOT support the 1857 revolt. This is often confused. British rewarded loyal zamindars with land and titles. Only a small section of Bihar's elites actively rebelled.*

**💡 VALUE ADDITION:** *Pir Ali's significance: He was not a soldier — he was a bookseller, a commoner, who led the first urban uprising in Bihar during 1857. This shows that the revolt in Bihar was not just a 'sepoy mutiny' but had civilian participation. Pir Ali's rising on 3 July 1857 in Patna city (killing British opium official Dr Lyell) showed the common people's resentment against British economic exploitation — particularly the opium trade.*

★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

Q1. When did the 1857 revolt begin in Bihar? Where? [BPSC]

Q2. Who was the most famous leader of the 1857 revolt in Bihar? [BPSC]

Q3. On which date did Kunwar Singh capture Arrah? [BPSC]

Q4. When did Kunwar Singh die? What was his age? [BPSC]

Q5. Who led the Patna uprising of 3 July 1857? What was his profession? [BPSC]

Q6. Which Maharajas of Bihar helped the British suppress the 1857 revolt? [BPSC]

Q7. Veer Kunwar Singh University is located in which city of Bihar? [BPSC]

Q8. What is the significance of 23 April in Bihar's history? [BPSC]

Q9. Kunwar Singh belonged to which Rajput clan? [BPSC]

# SECTION 8 — BIHAR SEPARATION MOVEMENT & FORMATION OF BIHAR (1912)

## 8. BIHAR SEPARATION MOVEMENT & FORMATION OF BIHAR

### ► Background — Bengal Partition and its Impact

- Bihar was part of the Bengal Presidency — Bengali language and culture dominated; Bihari identity was suppressed in administration and education.
- **Partition of Bengal (1905):** Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal into East Bengal (with Assam) and West Bengal on 16 October 1905. Though revoked in 1911, this event galvanized identity-based politics across India — including Bihar.
- The partition triggered debate on linguistic/regional identities. Bihari leaders began demanding a separate province.

### ► Bihar Separation Movement — Key Players

Person	Contribution to Bihar Separation
Mahesh Narayan (Kayastha Gazette)	Provided solid base to the Bihar Separate Movement through the 'Kayastha Gazette' newspaper; exposed the backwardness of Biharis; promoted Bihar identity
Deepnarayan Singh	Organized the second session of the Provincial Congress Committee in Bihar; promoted Bihar's cause
Sachidanand Sinha	Most important leader; lawyer, editor, politician; founded the Bihar Times newspaper (1894); President of Bihar Provincial Conference (1908); lobbied actively in London for Bihar's separation; called 'Father of Bihar'
Bihar Provincial Conference (1908)	Important platform that resolved to demand separation of Bihar from Bengal
Mazharul Haque	Muslim leader who supported Bihar separation; became important in Congress and later Champaran Satyagraha

**💡 VALUE ADDITION:** *Sachidanand Sinha (1871–1950) — called 'Father of Bihar' or 'Bihar Vibhuti'. He was a lawyer, journalist, and politician. He founded the Bihar Times (1894) and the Bihar Herald (1875 was not his; he worked post-1890). He campaigned both in India and in Britain for Bihar's separation. After Bihar was formed, he became the first Indian to preside over a joint session of the Central Legislative Assembly. He later became the first President of the Constituent Assembly of India (before Dr Rajendra Prasad took over). Not to be confused with Sri Krishna Sinha (first CM of Bihar).*

### ► Formation of Bihar — Key Events

Event	Date	Details
Bihar Province created	22 March 1912	Bihar and Orissa Province carved out from Bengal Presidency by the British; capital: Patna; Bihar Day celebrated on 22 March every year

First Lieutenant Governor of Bihar	Charles Stuart Bayley (1912–1915)	First head of the new Bihar and Orissa Province
Bihar and Orissa separated	1936	Bihar and Orissa became separate provinces; Orissa (now Odisha) carved out from Bihar and Orissa province
Full Province of Bihar	From 1936	Bihar as a separate, independent province — only Bihar, no Orissa
Jharkhand carved out	15 November 2000	Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas regions carved out to form Jharkhand; current Bihar formed

★ **EXAM TIP:** Bihar formed on 22 March 1912 = Bihar Diwas. Bihar and Orissa Province. First Lt. Governor = Charles Stuart Bayley. Bihar and Orissa separated in 1936. These dates are directly asked in BPSC every few exams.


🔑 **KEY FACT:** The Delhi Darbar of 1911 (attended by King George V) also resulted in the shifting of India's capital from Calcutta to Delhi. This administrative change contributed to the reorganization of Bengal Presidency and made Bihar's separation administratively feasible.

## SECTION 9 — CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA (1917): GANDHI'S FIRST SATYAGRAHA IN INDIA

### 9. CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA (1917) — LANDMARK IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

#### ► Background — The Tinkathia System

- **Tinkathia System:** European/British indigo planters in Champaran forced peasants to grow indigo on 3/20 katha (15%) of their land (3 katha out of every 20 katha = Tin-katha = Tinkathia). 'Tin' = three, 'Katha' = unit of land.
- Farmers were compelled to sell indigo at extremely low fixed prices set by planters — severe economic distress.
- **Tawan:** Additional illegal levies collected by planters from peasants; another form of extortion.
- By the time of the Satyagraha, synthetic indigo had largely replaced natural indigo commercially — but planters still demanded compensation (tawan) from farmers.
- Bihar, Bengal: Similar indigo exploitation. Bengalis won relief in 1859–61 rebellion. Bihar farmers still suffered.

 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Why Champaran specifically? Champaran (North Bihar) had large indigo plantations under the Bettiah Raj and Ramnagar estates. The entire Champaran district was under the grip of about 3,500 European and Indian planters who held the zamindari. Peasants were bound by 'Asami' agreements to grow indigo. When synthetic indigo (from Germany) made natural indigo less profitable, planters stopped growing it — but still extracted tawan (compensation) from peasants. This was pure economic extortion.*

#### ► Chronology of Champaran Satyagraha

Date / Period	Event
1914–1916	Champaran farmers' initial protests; petitions to authorities ignored
Lucknow Session, 1916	Rajkumar Shukla (farmer from Murli Bhitiharwa village, Champaran) and Sant Raut met Gandhi at the Congress session; persistently invited Gandhi to Champaran
10 April 1917	Gandhi arrived in Champaran; first stayed at Sant Raut's home in Amolwa village
11 April 1917	Gandhi met Minister of Bihar Planters Association in Muzaffarpur; sought support
British ordered Gandhi to leave Bettiah	Gandhi refused; preferred to face punishment; first act of civil disobedience on Indian soil
Government relented	Bihar Governor dropped charges against Gandhi under pressure from peasant crowd organized by Mazharul Haque and others
10 June 1917	Lt. Governor Adbert Gate established Champaran Agrarian Committee to investigate peasant grievances; Gandhi was a member
13 November 1917	Gandhi established first basic school in Barharwain Lakhansen village — constructive programme alongside satyagraha

4 March 1918	Committee recommendations implemented; tinkathia system abolished; rents reduced; peasants compensated
1 May 1918	Champaran Agrarian Act enacted – formally ended tinkathia system

## ► Key Participants in Champaran Satyagraha

Person	Role
Rajkumar Shukla	Farmer who persuaded Gandhi to come to Champaran; resident of Murlī Bhitiharwa, Champaran; the unsung hero
Mahatma Gandhi	Led the satyagraha; conducted inquiry; refused to leave when British ordered; became mass leader
Dr Rajendra Prasad	Bihar Congress leader; managed documentation, investigations, logistics; later became 1st President of India
Braj Kishore Prasad	Bihar lawyer; organized legal support; important organizer
Anugrah Narayan Sinha	Close associate of Gandhi; participated in inquiry; later 1st Finance Minister of Bihar
Mazharul Haque	Senior Congress leader in Bihar; organized mass demonstrations outside court when Gandhi was summoned
J.B. Kripalani (Acharya Kripalani)	Worked with Gandhi in Champaran; later became Congress President (1947)
Mahadev Desai	Gandhi's personal secretary; present throughout; recorded everything
Narhari Parekh	Gujarat associate of Gandhi; accompanied him
Dharnidhar Prasad, Ramnavami Prasad, Shambhusharan Varma	Local Bihar leaders who joined the movement

★ **EXAM TIP:** *Champaran Satyagraha key dates: 1916 = Rajkumar Shukla meets Gandhi at Lucknow Congress. 10 April 1917 = Gandhi arrives. 10 June 1917 = Committee formed. 4 March 1918 = tinkathia abolished. 1 May 1918 = Champaran Agrarian Act. This is the most important BPSC topic – asked in BOTH prelims and mains!*

💡 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Why was Champaran Satyagraha a 'watershed'? (1) It was Gandhi's first major civil disobedience movement in India – his first battle on Indian soil. (2) It proved that Satyagraha (non-violent truth force) could work against even colonial power. (3) It mobilized Bihar's peasants – farmers realized their collective power. (4) It gave Bihar leaders like Rajendra Prasad, Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Braj Kishore Prasad national stature. (5) It established Gandhi as a mass leader – common people called him 'Bapu' for the first time. (6) It inspired the subsequent Kheda Satyagraha (1918, Gujarat) and the national Non-Cooperation Movement.*

⚠️ **TRAP QUESTION:** *TRAP: Champaran Satyagraha (1917) was Gandhi's FIRST major Satyagraha IN INDIA – NOT his first Satyagraha ever. He had earlier conducted Satyagrahas in South Africa (Phoenix Settlement Satyagraha 1906, Transvaal March 1913). BPSC sometimes frames this as a trick question.*

## ★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

Q1. What is the 'Tinkathia System'? Why was it oppressive? [BPSC Mains]

Q2. Who invited Gandhi to Champaran and from which village? [BPSC]


Q3. When did Gandhi arrive in Champaran? [BPSC]
Q4. On which date was the tinkathia system formally abolished? [BPSC]
Q5. Who was the first person Gandhi met in Muzaffarpur during Champaran Satyagraha? [BPSC]
Q6. Who was the first President of India who participated in Champaran Satyagraha? [BPSC]
Q7. Champaran Satyagraha is called 'Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India'. Is this correct? Explain. [BPSC Mains]
Q8. What was the 'Champaran Agrarian Act' (1918)? [BPSC]
Q9. Which school did Gandhi establish during Champaran Satyagraha and where? [BPSC]
Q10. What was 'tawan' in the context of Champaran? [BPSC]

# SECTION 10 — NATIONAL MOVEMENTS IN BIHAR (1920–1942)

## 10. MAJOR NATIONAL MOVEMENTS AND BIHAR'S PARTICIPATION


### ► A. Non-Cooperation Movement in Bihar (1920–22)

- **Launch:** August 1920 by Gandhi; aim — to make British rule impossible by withdrawal of cooperation.
- **Bihar's response:** Massive participation; boycott of courts, schools, foreign goods; hartals across cities.
- **Key leaders in Bihar:** Sri Krishna Sinha, Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Mazharul Haque, Swami Vidhyanand Saraswati.
- **Bihar's unique feature:** Kisan (peasant) movements merged with the Non-Cooperation Movement in Bihar under Swami Sahajanand Saraswati — giving it a distinct agrarian character.
- **Charkha / Swadeshi:** Large-scale adoption of khadi and charkha in Bihar; boycott of Manchester cloth.
- **End:** Gandhi withdrew the movement after Chauri Chaura incident (February 1922). Bihar leaders were disappointed but followed Gandhi's decision.

 **VALUE ADDITION:** *Sri Krishna Sinha (1887–1961) — called 'Sri Babu' — was a leading Bihar Congress leader during Non-Cooperation Movement. He was jailed multiple times. He later became Bihar's first Chief Minister (1946) and served until his death in 1961. He is called the 'Architect of modern Bihar'. Patna's Sri Krishna Sinha Road and Muzaffarpur's Sri Krishna Medical College (SKMCH) are named after him.*

### ► B. Civil Disobedience Movement in Bihar (1930–34)

- **Launch:** 12 March 1930 by Gandhi with Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha).
- **Bihar's salt satyagraha:** Salt law violated at multiple points across Bihar; Bihar students, women, and peasants participated actively.
- **Purnea — Motihari satyagrahas:** Salt satyagrahas held at many Bihar towns.
- **Women's participation:** Women in Bihar participated in large numbers for the first time in organized political resistance.
- **Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931):** Led to suspension of CDM; released political prisoners; Bihar leaders released.
- **1934 Bihar Earthquake:** A devastating earthquake hit Bihar on 15 January 1934 (magnitude 8.0+); killed ~30,000 people; Gandhi visited Bihar for relief work; briefly halted political movement; Gandhi linked earthquake to untouchability (controversial statement).

 **KEY FACT:** *Bihar Earthquake, 15 January 1934: One of the most devastating earthquakes in Indian history — magnitude 8.0; epicentre in Nepal; worst affected districts = Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Bhagalpur. Nearly 30,000 deaths. Gandhi came to Bihar for relief work and made his controversial statement linking the earthquake to the sin of untouchability — which Tagore strongly criticized.*

### ► C. Individual Satyagraha in Bihar (1940–41)


- **Launch:** October 1940 by Gandhi; symbolic individual satyagraha by selected Congress leaders against British war policy (WWII).
- **First satyagrahi in Bihar:** Vinoba Bhave was the national first satyagrahi; Bihar sent its own leaders including Sri Krishna Sinha and others.
- **Purpose:** Protest against India being dragged into WWII without consent; demand for freedom of speech.

### ► D. Quit India Movement in Bihar (1942) — Bihar's Finest Hour

- **Launch:** 8 August 1942 by Gandhi — 'Do or Die'; Quit India Movement (Bharat Chhodo Andolan).
- **Bihar's participation:** Bihar had one of the most intense anti-colonial mobilizations in the entire country; widespread destruction of British communication infrastructure.
- Railway stations, telegraph offices, courts, and government offices attacked. Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Champaran, Darbhanga — all major centres of revolt.
- **Underground resistance:** After mass arrest of leaders (Gandhi, Nehru, Patel all arrested), underground networks maintained the struggle. Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) operated underground network from Bihar.
- **Ezra Pound Parallel Government:** At Tamluk (Bengal adjacent) — Bihar also saw attempts at parallel government in some areas.
- **Satish Prasad Jha:** Young nationalist from Bihar; operated underground during Quit India; later became prominent Bihar politician.

### ► Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) — Bihar's Greatest Quit India Hero

Aspect	Detail
Birth	11 October 1902, Sitabdiara village, Saran district, Bihar
Education	United States (attended various universities including Wisconsin)
Political Ideology	Socialist; founded Congress Socialist Party (1934) with Ram Manohar Lohia
Quit India Role	After Gandhi's arrest (9 August 1942), JP escaped and operated underground; escaped from Hazaribagh Jail (November 1942) and organized underground resistance; became the most famous underground leader
Post-1942	Continued underground till 1943; rearrested; released 1946
Post-Independence	Left Congress; led Socialist Party; led Bihar famine relief (1966–67); championed Total Revolution (Sampurna Kranti) in 1974
Sampurna Kranti (1974)	Bihar Movement; JP led students against corruption in Bihar government; slogan 'Sampoorna Kranti ab Naara Hai, Bhavi Itihas Hamara Hai'; JP Andolan led to Emergency (1975) by Indira Gandhi
Death	8 October 1979; awarded Bharat Ratna (1999, posthumously)
Legacy	JP Nagar (Chapra), Patna Airport named Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport

 **VALUE ADDITION:** *JP's Hazaribagh Jail Escape (November 1942): Jayaprakash Narayan, along with Ram Manohar Lohia, Suraj Narayan Singh, and others, made a daring escape over the jail wall using ropes made from bedsheets. This escape made JP a legend — the symbol of resistance during the Quit India Movement. He then organized underground sabotage activities against British*

infrastructure, inspired by his reading of socialist and revolutionary literature. JP was so dangerous to British rule that they offered a ₹10,000 reward for his arrest.

★ **EXAM TIP:** JP key facts: Born Saran district Bihar. Founded Congress Socialist Party (1934). Escaped Hazaribagh Jail (1942) during Quit India. 1974 = Sampurna Kranti Movement. Patna Airport = JP International Airport. Bharat Ratna (1999, posthumous). BPSC asks about JP in almost every paper.

### ★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

- Q1. Who led the Non-Cooperation Movement in Bihar? Name key Bihar leaders. [BPSC]
- Q2. When was the devastating Bihar earthquake and what was its magnitude? [BPSC]
- Q3. What was Gandhi's controversial statement about the Bihar earthquake? [BPSC]
- Q4. When was the Quit India Movement launched? What was Gandhi's call? [BPSC]
- Q5. Jayaprakash Narayan escaped from which jail during Quit India Movement? [BPSC]
- Q6. JP was born in which village and district of Bihar? [BPSC]
- Q7. What is 'Sampurna Kranti'? Who led it and when? [BPSC]
- Q8. Patna airport is named after which freedom fighter? [BPSC]
- Q9. Who founded the Congress Socialist Party? [BPSC]
- Q10. What happened in Bihar during the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930)? [BPSC Mains]

## SECTION 11 — MAJOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF BIHAR

### 11. MAJOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS FROM BIHAR — BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

Freedom Fighter	Birth / District	Key Contributions	Notable Fact
Dr Rajendra Prasad	3 December 1884, Ziradei village, Siwan district (then Saran)	Champaran Satyagraha (1917); Non-Cooperation Movement; Civil Disobedience; Quit India (1942); Chairman, Constituent Assembly Drafting Committee (1946–49)	1st President of India (1950–1962); President for two terms; only person to be President for 2 full terms; also served briefly as 1st Food Minister of India; wrote 'India Divided' and 'Autobiography'
Anugrah Narayan Sinha	18 June 1887, Maun village, Aurangabad district	Champaran Satyagraha; Quit India Movement; organized Bihar's freedom struggle	1st Finance Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar (1946); called 'Bihar Vibhuti'; Anugrah Narayan Magadh University (Gaya) named after him
Sri Krishna Sinha (Sri Babu)	21 October 1887, Barhiya, Lakhisarai district	Non-Cooperation Movement; Civil Disobedience; Quit India; organized Bihar Congress	1st Chief Minister of Bihar (1946–1961); served until death; called 'Architect of Modern Bihar'; Sri Krishna Medical College (SKMCH), Muzaffarpur named after him
Jayaprakash Narayan (JP)	11 October 1902, Sitabdiara, Saran district	Congress Socialist Party (1934); Underground leader in Quit India; escaped Hazaribagh Jail; Sampurna Kranti (1974)	Bharat Ratna 1999 (posthumous); Patna Airport named after him; Bihar's greatest 20th-century political figure
Babu Kunwar Singh	c. 1777, Jagdishpur, Bhojpur district	Led 1857 revolt in Bihar; occupied Arrah; fought with Nana Saheb; won final battle at Jagdishpur while fatally wounded	Died 26 April 1858 at ~80 years; cut off own arm and offered to Ganga; Veer Kunwar Singh University, Ara named after him

Mazharul Haque	22 December 1866, Patna	Champaran Satyagraha; Bihar separation movement; organized mass demonstrations for Gandhi	Muslim Congress leader who championed Hindu-Muslim unity; friend of Dr Rajendra Prasad; Bihar & Orissa Provincial Congress leader
Braj Kishore Prasad	1877, Bihar	Legal support in Champaran Satyagraha; organized documentation and inquiry assistance	Key organizer in Champaran; practiced in Patna High Court
Swami Sahajanand Saraswati	22 February 1889, Ghazipur (UP) — active in Bihar	Founded Bihar Pradesh Kisan Sabha (1929); All India Kisan Sabha (1936 — first president); linked peasant movement with national freedom struggle	TRAP: All India Kisan Sabha founded in Lucknow 1936 (not Bihar) — but Sahajanand as first president was from Bihar
Ram Manohar Lohia	23 March 1910, Akbarpur, UP — significant Bihar connection	Congress Socialist Party co-founder (1934); Underground leader during Quit India; escaped with JP	Operated partly from Bihar during Quit India; Bihar socialist movement shaped by Lohia
Prafulla Chaki	10 December 1888, Bengal — operated in Bihar	Revolutionary; involved in Muzaffarpur Bomb Case (1908) with Khudiram Bose	Shot himself rather than surrender to British after the Muzaffarpur bomb plot failed
Khudiram Bose	3 December 1889, Bengal — bomb thrown in Bihar	Threw bomb at carriage of Muzaffarpur sessions judge Kingsford (1908); unintentionally killed two British women	Hanged at age 18 — one of India's youngest martyrs; TRAP: Khudiram was from Bengal NOT Bihar, but the Muzaffarpur bomb case happened in Bihar
Yogendra Shukla	Bihar revolutionary	Connected with HSRA (Hindustan Socialist Republican Association); participated in Kakori Conspiracy (1925)	One of Bihar's revolutionary freedom fighters; not as famous as Bhagat Singh but equally committed

**⚠ TRAP QUESTION:** TRAP QUESTIONS: (1) Khudiram Bose was NOT from Bihar — he was from Bengal. But the bomb was thrown in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. (2) All India Kisan Sabha was founded in Lucknow (1936), NOT in Bihar — but Swami Sahajanand Saraswati (Bihar leader) was its 1st President. (3) Rajendra Prasad was from Siwan district (then Saran) — not Patna. (4) JP was from Saran district (Sitabdiara) — not Patna city.

**💡 VALUE ADDITION:** Dr Rajendra Prasad — the only Indian President to serve two full terms — came from a village background in Bihar. He was deeply influenced by Gandhi and participated in

*every major movement from Champaran to Quit India. His autobiography 'Atmakatha' is a rich source on Bihar's freedom struggle. He wrote 'India Divided' (1946) analyzing the partition question. His simplicity was legendary – he wore khadi throughout his presidency and insisted on living modestly. Bharat Ratna was awarded to him in 1962.*

### ★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

Q1. Who was the 1st President of India? From which district of Bihar? [BPSC]

Q2. Who was Bihar's 1st Chief Minister? [BPSC]

Q3. Who was Bihar's 1st Finance Minister? [BPSC]

Q4. Khudiram Bose threw a bomb in which Bihar city? Was he from Bihar? [BPSC]

Q5. Who founded the Bihar Pradesh Kisan Sabha (1929)? [BPSC]

Q6. Dr Rajendra Prasad wrote which famous book on partition? [BPSC]

Q7. Anugrah Narayan Magadh University is in which city? Named after whom? [BPSC]

Q8. Who was the first President of All India Kisan Sabha? Was he from Bihar? [BPSC]

## SECTION 12 — TRIBAL & PEASANT MOVEMENTS IN BIHAR (19th–20th Century)

### 12. TRIBAL MOVEMENTS IN BIHAR

Movement	Year	Tribe / Leader	Cause	Result
Kol Rebellion	1831–1832	Kol tribe; Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat	Land alienation; exploitation by outsiders (dikhus) and British	Brutally suppressed; ~1000 Kols killed
Santhal Rebellion (Hul)	1855–1856	Santhal tribe; Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu	Exploitation by zamindars, mahajans, British revenue; land alienation	Suppressed; ~10,000 Santhals killed; separate Santhal Parganas district created
Birsa Munda Movement (Ulgulan)	1895–1900	Munda tribe; Birsa Munda (from Ulihatu, Ranchi — now Jharkhand)	Land alienation (bhuinhari land rights); exploitation; call for tribal religious revival; 'Dharti Abba' (Father of Earth) — Birsa seen as deity	Birsa Munda captured; died in jail (Ranchi, June 1900); Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908) passed as result — protected tribal land rights
Tana Bhagat Movement	1914	Oraon tribe; Jatra Oraon	Religious reform; opposition to British rule; non-violent; influenced by Birsa Munda; demanded return of lands	Partially successful; Tana Bhagats later became ardent Gandhians
Sanyasi Revolt	1763–1800	Peasants, sanyasis, faqirs in Bengal-Bihar border	Displacement of peasants due to East India Company revenue policy; famine	Suppressed; inspired Bankim Chandra's 'Anandamath' (1882) and 'Vande Mataram'

**💡 VALUE ADDITION:** *Birsa Munda (1875–1900) — though his base was in Ranchi area (now Jharkhand), Birsa's 'Ulgulan' (Great Tumult) had massive influence on Bihar's tribal belt. Birsa declared himself a prophet and messiah ('Dharti Abba') — tribes believed he had supernatural powers. His movement combined religious revival with political assertion and demand for bhuinhari (original land ownership) rights. The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908), which protected tribal lands from transfer to non-tribals, was a direct outcome of Birsa's movement. His birth anniversary (15 November) is now Jharkhand Formation Day. He is called 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda'.*

**★ EXAM TIP:** *Tribal movements for BPSC: Kol Rebellion = 1831, Buddhu Bhagat. Santhal Hul = 1855, Sidhu-Kanhu. Birsa Munda = 1895-1900, Ulgulan, Chotanagpur Tenancy Act 1908 result. Tana Bhagat = 1914, Jatra Oraon. Sanyasi Revolt = 1763-1800, inspired Anandamath.*

## SECTION 13 — POST-INDEPENDENCE BIHAR & FORMATION OF JHARKHAND

### 13. POST-INDEPENDENCE BIHAR

#### ► Bihar at Independence (1947)

- **First Governor of Bihar:** Jairamdas Daulatram (1947–1948).
- **First Chief Minister of Bihar:** Sri Krishna Sinha (1946–1961) — served until his death in 1961.
- **Bihar Bihar Reorganization:** At independence, Bihar included present-day Jharkhand. Total area was much larger.
- **Language issue:** Urdu was given official status alongside Hindi in Bihar — a major political issue in 1989 and after.

#### ► Sampurna Kranti Movement (1974–75) — JP's Total Revolution

- **Background:** Misrule in Bihar government (Chief Minister Abdul Ghafoor's government); massive student protests against corruption in Bihar; famine-like conditions; railway strike.
- **JP Andolan:** Jayaprakash Narayan led the Bihar movement from 1974; called for 'Sampurna Kranti' (Total Revolution) — not just political change but social, economic, cultural revolution.
- **Massive rally:** JP's Gandhi Maidan Patna rally (5 June 1974) drew lakhs of people; slogan 'Sampoorna Kranti ab Naara hai, Bhavi Itihas hamara hai'.
- **Emergency (1975):** Indira Gandhi declared National Emergency (25 June 1975) partly in response to JP's movement and the Allahabad High Court verdict against her. JP, Vajpayee, Advani, and many others were arrested.
- **Legacy:** JP movement gave rise to Janata Party (1977) which ended Congress's dominance; Morarji Desai became PM. The movement produced a generation of Bihar politicians including Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sushil Kumar Modi.

**💡 VALUE ADDITION:** *JP's Sampurna Kranti (Total Revolution) was unique in Indian political history — it was not just an anti-government movement but a call for transformation at all levels: political, social, educational, economic, and personal-moral. JP argued that changing laws alone was insufficient — the character of society had to change. Ironically, Indira Gandhi's Emergency (which was meant to stop JP) only made him a national hero and martyr, eventually leading to her electoral defeat in 1977 — Bihar voted overwhelmingly against Congress.*

#### ► Formation of Jharkhand (15 November 2000)

Aspect	Detail
Date	15 November 2000
From which state carved out	Bihar
Regions included	Chotanagpur Plateau and Santhal Parganas — 18 districts from Bihar
Capital of Jharkhand	Ranchi
Reason	Tribal identity and development demands; Jharkhand movement led by Shibu Soren and others for decades; tribal assertion for self-governance

Impact on Bihar	Bihar lost mineral-rich Chotanagpur Plateau; economy became even more agriculture-dependent; mineral production dropped sharply; population and area reduced
Significance	Bihar went from 94,163 sq km (current) + Jharkhand's 79,716 sq km to current size; now 38 districts

★ **EXAM TIP:** *Jharkhand formed on 15 November 2000 — same date as Birsa Munda's birth anniversary (hence chosen deliberately). Bihar lost 18 districts to Jharkhand. Bihar's mineral wealth (coal, iron ore, copper) mostly went to Jharkhand. Bihar now has 38 districts. Ranchi = capital of Jharkhand.*

### ★ PRACTICE QUESTIONS (BPSC) — Topic-wise

Q1. Who was the first Governor of Bihar after Independence? [BPSC]

Q2. Who was the first Chief Minister of Bihar? [BPSC]

Q3. What was 'Sampurna Kranti'? Who launched it and when? [BPSC]

Q4. When was Jharkhand carved out from Bihar? [BPSC]

Q5. What was the significance of choosing 15 November 2000 for Jharkhand's formation? [BPSC]

Q6. How many districts did Bihar lose to Jharkhand? [BPSC]

Q7. What was the impact of Jharkhand's formation on Bihar's economy? [BPSC Mains]

# SECTION 14 — RAPID REVISION: KEY DATES, EVENTS & FIRSTS

## 14. RAPID REVISION — BIHAR HISTORY KEY FACTS

Event / Fact	Answer
Bihar formed as separate province	22 March 1912 (Bihar Day)
Bihar and Orissa Province split	1936
Jharkhand carved out from Bihar	15 November 2000
Sher Shah Suri's birth place	Sasaram, Rohtas district, Bihar
Sher Shah Suri's tomb location	Sasaram, Rohtas, Bihar
Battle of Chausa — year & parties	1539 CE; Sher Shah vs Humayun; on Ganga near Buxar
Battle of Kannauj — year	1540 CE; Sher Shah defeats Humayun decisively
Sher Shah's currency	Rupiya (silver Rupee), Mohur (gold), Dam (copper)
Sher Shah's road	Grand Trunk Road — Chittagong to Kabul
Sher Shah's sarais	~1700 along GT Road
Patna renamed as Azimabad	1704 CE by Azim-us-Shan (grandson of Aurangzeb)
First Mughal Emperor sworn in at Patna	Farrukhsiyar
Battle of Buxar — year & place	22-23 October 1764; Buxar, Bihar
British commander at Buxar	Major Hector Munro
Alliance at Battle of Buxar	Mir Qasim + Shuja-ud-Daula + Shah Alam II
Treaty of Allahabad — year	1765
Deputy Diwan for Bihar (post-Buxar)	Raja Sitab Roy
Golghar built	1786; ordered by Warren Hastings; built by Captain John Garstin
Permanent Settlement — year	1793; Lord Cornwallis; Bihar included
1857 revolt starts in Bihar	12 June 1857; Deoghar (32nd Infantry Regt.)
Patna mutiny	3 July 1857; Pir Ali
Kunwar Singh captured Arrah	1 July 1857
Danapur Cantt revolt	25 July 1857
Kunwar Singh's death	26 April 1858
Santhal Rebellion	1855–56; Sidhu and Kanhu
Kol Rebellion	1831–32; Buddhu Bhagat
Champaran Satyagraha start	10 April 1917 (Gandhi arrives)
Who invited Gandhi to Champaran	Rajkumar Shukla (Murli Bhitiharwa village)
Tinkathia system abolished	4 March 1918
Champaran Agrarian Act	1 May 1918
Bihar Bihar earthquake	15 January 1934; magnitude 8.0

JP escaped from jail (Quit India)	November 1942; Hazaribagh Jail
Sampurna Kranti rally (Patna)	5 June 1974; Gandhi Maidan
Emergency declared	25 June 1975
1st Governor of Bihar (post-independence)	Jairamdas Daulatram (1947)
1st Chief Minister of Bihar	Sri Krishna Sinha (1946–1961)
1st Finance Minister of Bihar	Anugrah Narayan Sinha
1st President of India (from Bihar)	Dr Rajendra Prasad (Siwan district)
Rajendra Prasad's village	Ziradei, Siwan district
JP's birth place	Sitabdiara, Saran district
JP's Bharat Ratna	1999 (posthumous)
Birsa Munda's movement	Ulgulan; 1895–1900; Chotanagpur; result = CNT Act 1908
Father of Bihar	Sachidanand Sinha
Architect of Modern Bihar	Sri Krishna Sinha
Bihar Vibhuti	Anugrah Narayan Sinha (also used for Sachidanand Sinha)
Bakhtiyar Khilji destroyed Nalanda	c. 1203 CE
Sher Shah's land measurement	Sikandari Gaz (measuring rope)
Congress Socialist Party founded	1934; JP + Ram Manohar Lohia
Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha founded	1929; Swami Sahajanand Saraswati

**— END OF BIHAR MEDIEVAL & MODERN HISTORY NOTES —**