



Two Day National Seminar (Hybrid) on  
**Buddhist Circuit in Bihar: A Holistic Development**  
June 27-28, 2025 (Revised and Rescheduled)



Organised by  
**University Department of Geography, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya**  
Sponsored by  
**Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.**  
Under the aegis of  
**Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya**

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## About Magadh University, Bodh Gaya

Magadh University enjoys the honour of being one of the largest universities in Bihar, with its 19 constituent colleges and about 39 affiliated colleges and 2 law colleges spread over the districts of Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad, Arwal, and Aurangabad. This serene centre of learning nestles in a vast area of land in the vicinity of Bodh Gaya, the holy seat of Lord Buddha's enlightenment. It beams with the natural beauty of trees and plants of fruits and flowers, parks, and gardens studding the silver sheet of land of the university campus. Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya, a brainchild of eminent educationist and then Education Minister of unified Bihar Shri Satyendra Narayan Singh (later Bihar CM) was established on March 1st, 1962 and initially started functioning in Gaya town. The present campus at Bodh Gaya was founded near Central Library site on 20th August, 1964 by His Excellency, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan the then President of India. Dr. K.K. Dutta was the founder Vice-Chancellor's Magadh University. After him it made steady and admirable progress under about three dozen academicians and administrators as its Vice-Chancellors. Our present dynamic Vice Chancellor, **Prof. (Dr.) Shashi Pratap Shahi** has taken many innovative steps to preserve its glorious past, qualitative improvement and academic excellence of the Magadh University.

### **About the Department of Geography**

With the inception of the Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, the Post Graduate Department of Geography also came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1962, it imparts M.A./M.Sc. Degree & Ph.D., D. Litt. Degrees in Geography. The Department is academically conscious and vibrant since its beginning and had/has teachers of national and international repute. The Department is situated in a separate big building on the large campus of the University having a good seminar library & laboratories with good and modern instruments. The teachers of this Department are dedicated to teaching with excellence, and they are participating in national and international seminars and conferences, contributing illuminating research papers to prestigious journals into the different sub-disciplines of the subject. The department follows CBCS syllabus for post-graduate students and is also initiated Post Graduate diploma in Remote Sensing and GIS. The Department is also nodal centre for the e-learning certificate courses of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO (Dehradun) courses. The Department is very serious for the promoting of qualitative research which is carried out in the important and modern branches of Geography in the various sub disciplines. More than 500 research scholars have obtained their Ph.D. Degree from this Department.

### **About the Seminar**

Bihar is the sacred land of the most revered Buddhist sites in the world, each steeped in over 2,000 years of spiritual, historical, and cultural significance. These sacred locations—such as Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Vaishali, and East Champaran—form a crucial segment of the Buddhist Circuit, a spiritual route that traces the life, spiritual awakening and journey of Buddha from his birth in Lumbini (Nepal) to his enlightenment and teachings in Bihar. The Buddhist Circuit in Bihar is not only a vital pilgrimage destination for over 500 million Buddhist followers worldwide, but also a hub of heritage tourism, cultural exchange, and economic opportunity. These sites attract devotees, scholars, and tourists from across the globe, fostering international connectivity and socio-cultural changes. They are treasures for the local people, SC communities, offering potential for socio-economic growth, yet many of them face challenges such as neglect, displacement, encroachment, and inadequate preservation. The Two-Day National Seminar on ‘Buddhist Circuit in Bihar: A Holistic Development’ seeks to address these issues by creating a platform for dialogue among academics, policymakers, conservationists, tourism experts, and community leaders. The seminar will explore strategies for sustainable development, inclusive planning, heritage conservation, infrastructure enhancement, and the socio-economic upliftment of communities around the circuit. By revisiting history, evaluating current policies, and envisioning future possibilities, the seminar aims to generate concrete recommendations for the holistic and sustainable development of the Buddhist Circuit in Bihar—preserving its sanctity while ensuring long-term benefits for the region and its people.

## THEME AND SUB-THEME

### Main Theme: Buddhist Circuit in Bihar: A Holistic Development

#### Sub-themes of the seminar

- Socio-Economic changes around the Buddhist Circuit.
- Occupational Changes around the Buddhist Sites.
- Impact of the Development of the running Plans and Schemes.
- Impact on the livelihoods of the Scheduled Castes.
- Conservation of Buddhist Heritage Sites.
- Social Protection and Livelihood Security.
- Economic diversification and Livelihood.
- Urban Planning and Preserving Traditional Architecture.
- Digital Mapping of Buddhist Heritage Sites.
- Eco-Spiritualism and Ecological Movement in Buddhist Circuit.
- Geo-spatial Technologies for Documenting and Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Impact of Urban Green Space and UHI on Tourism in Buddhist Circuit.
- Participatory Planning: Involving Communities for Development.
- Architectural Design and Geo-significance of the Buddhist Sites.

#### Call for Research Papers and its guidelines

- **Title:** Include theme and sub-theme of the research paper
- **Author Details:** Include Name, Address, Contact and Email ID.
- **Abstract:** Not more than 300 words with maximum 5 keywords.
- **Font, Language and Formatting:** 12-point font with 1.5 line spacing in MS Word: Times New Roman (for English) and Mangal, Nirmala or Unicode (for Hindi).
- **Eligibility:** P.G. Student, Research Scholar and Faculty Member.
- **Submission:** Registration Google Link (Provided Below)

#### Registration and Payment:

- Last Date for Submission of Abstract: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- Intimation of the Acceptance of Abstract: 21<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- Deadline of the Submission of Research Paper: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

#### Payment



12422730@cbn

ACCOUNT: BUDDHIST CIRCUIT  
A/C No. 5607077424 (CBI MU, BODH GAYA)  
IFSC CODE: CBIN0280045

#### Registration



**Registration Link (Touch & Open)**  
<https://forms.gle/wyMYyixn5S5d9ZDXA>

Important Deadlines Category of Participants	Registration Fee	
	Upto 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Spot Registration
Faculty/Delegates	Rs. 1200	Rs. 1500
Research Scholars	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1200
P.G. Students (No Kits)	Rs. 500	Rs. 600
Accommodation (On Extra Charge)	Rs. 1000	Not Sure

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**-:Contact Detail:-**

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## THE SACRED LANDSCAPES AND SITES

### ABOUT THE GAYA CITY, IMPORTANT SITES AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT ATTRACTION AND RECOGNITION

Gaya and Bodhgaya in Bihar are deeply significant both historically and spiritually, drawing pilgrims from Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. Bodhgaya is especially renowned as the site where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment beneath the sacred Bodhi Tree. It is home to the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is a testament to rich architectural and cultural traditions. Nearby Gaya is steeped in mythological importance and is especially revered for the Pind Daan rituals performed for ancestral salvation, with connections to epic texts like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

#### **MAHABODHI TEMPLE (2.6 kilometres)**

The Mahabodhi Temple, also known as the “Great Awakening Temple,” is one of the most significant landmarks in Bodhgaya and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It marks the sacred location where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree, making it a revered pilgrimage site for Buddhists from around the world. The temple complex features intricate carvings, serene gardens, and ancient structures that reflect a rich blend of architectural styles and spiritual symbolism. Serving as a centre of devotion, meditation, and learning, the Mahabodhi Temple continues to inspire millions with its profound historical and spiritual legacy.



#### **VISHNUPAD TEMPLE (13.2 kilometres)**

The Vishnupad Temple in Gaya stands as a powerful symbol of religious devotion and architectural heritage. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the temple is believed to enshrine the footprint of the deity, etched in a basalt rock. It was reconstructed in 1787 by the revered Maratha queen, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, known for her patronage of sacred sites across India. Nestled along the banks of the Falgu River, the temple is uniquely surrounded by rugged rocks on three sides and water on the fourth, creating a serene and spiritually charged atmosphere. The temple’s intricate carvings, towering shikhara, and sanctified presence make it a vital destination for pilgrims, especially those performing the ancestral Pind Daan rituals believed to bring peace to departed souls.

#### **80- FEET GREAT BUDDHA STATUE (2.3 kilometres)**

The 80-foot Buddha Statue in Bodhgaya stands as a majestic symbol of spiritual peace, serenity, and enlightenment. Constructed using sandstone and red granite, this towering figure of Lord Buddha in a meditative posture was unveiled in 1989 and has since become one of the most iconic landmarks in the region. It was built with the help of artisans from India, Nepal, and Japan, reflecting a harmonious blend of cultural influences. Surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens and smaller statues representing Buddha’s disciples, the statue exudes a tranquil atmosphere, inviting reflection and reverence. As a prominent pilgrimage site, it draws visitors from around the world who seek inspiration from the teachings and presence of the Buddha.





### **GURPA HILLS/GURUPADA GIRI (46.3 Kilometer)**

Grupa Hills in Gaya, Bihar, is a serene and sacred destination revered by both Buddhists and Hindus. Rising amidst a breathtaking natural landscape, the hills offer a perfect blend of spiritual significance and scenic beauty. According to Buddhist tradition, it is believed that Mahakasyapa, one of Buddha's chief disciples, entered a state of deep meditation here and awaits the arrival of the future Buddha, Maitreya. For Hindus, the hills are also associated with ancient legends and are considered a place of divine energy. The tranquil environment, dotted with rocky paths, caves, and panoramic views, makes Grupa Hills not only a spiritual retreat but also an inviting spot for trekkers and nature lovers seeking peace and introspection.

### **SITA KUND (15 Kilometre)**

Sita Kund, located in Gaya, Bihar, is a revered pilgrimage site steeped in Hindu mythology and cultural heritage. Situated on the eastern bank of the Falgu River, directly opposite the Vishnupad Temple, it holds significant religious importance. According to legend, during her exile, Sita Mata bathed in the waters of this Kund, purifying herself. This act sanctified the waters, making it a sacred spot for devotees. Additionally, it's believed that Sita performed the *Pind daan* (ritual offerings for ancestors) for her father-in-law, King Dasharatha, at this location. The Sita Kund Mela, held during the Hindu month of Chaitra and Ashwini (March–April), is a vibrant festival attracting pilgrims who participate in traditional rituals, cultural performances, and enjoy local cuisine. This event showcases the rich cultural tapestry of Bihar and India.



### **MANGLA GAURI TEMPLE (12.2 kilometres)**

The Mangla Gauri Temple in Gaya is one of India's 18 Maha Shaktipeeths and holds immense spiritual and mythological importance. Believed to be the sacred site where a part of Goddess Sati's body fell, the temple is dedicated to Goddess Shakti in her form as Mangla Gauri. Established in the 15th century, this revered shrine is deeply rooted in ancient traditions and is mentioned in several important Hindu scriptures, including the 'Padma Purana', 'Vayu Purana', 'Agni Purana', 'Sri Devi Bhagavata Purana', and the 'Markandeya Purana'. Perched on a hill, the temple offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape and draws countless devotees, especially women, who pray for marital bliss and the well-being of their families. Its spiritual aura, combined with its historical significance, makes the Mangla Gauri Temple a vital part of Gaya's sacred geography.

### **SLEEPING BUDDHA (05 Kilometres)**

The Sleeping Buddha Statue in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, is a monumental representation of Lord Buddha in the reclining posture, symbolizing his entry into Parinirvana. This statue stands as the largest of its kind in India, measuring 110 feet in length and 30 feet in height, and is situated near the Riverside Road in Amva village, approximately 4 kilometres from the Mahabodhi Temple. The event featured Buddhist chants, floral tributes, and fireworks, marking the statue's significance as a symbol of peace and spiritual heritage. The Sleeping Buddha Statue is accessible to visitors and pilgrims traveling to Bodh Gaya. Its proximity to the Mahabodhi Temple allows for convenient visits, offering a serene environment for reflection and admiration of this architectural marvel. This statue not only serves as a spiritual landmark but also as a testament to the rich Buddhist heritage of Bodh Gaya, attracting visitors from around the world to experience its tranquillity and grandeur.



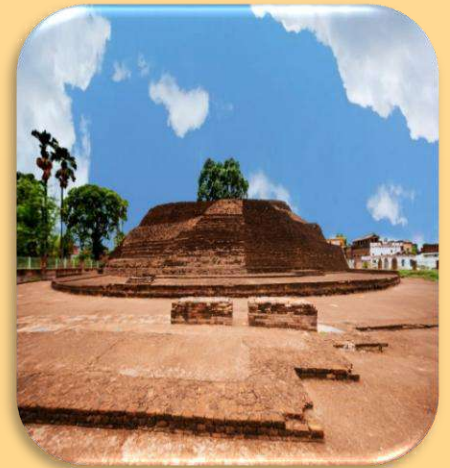


### **GAYA JI RUBBER DAM (15.4 kilometre)**

The Gaya Ji Rubber Dam is notable for being the longest rubber dam in India, measuring 411 meters in length. The primary objective of the Gaya Ji Rubber Dam is to ensure the availability of water year-round near the Vishnupad Mandir, a significant Hindu pilgrimage site. Traditionally, the Falgu River would dry up during the non-monsoon months, making it challenging for devotees to perform rituals such as Pind Daan. With the dam in place, at least 2–4 feet of water are maintained in the river, facilitating these religious practices throughout the year. In conjunction with the dam, a steel footbridge was constructed to connect Vishnupad Mandir to Sita Kund, another important site for devotees. This bridge enhances accessibility for pilgrims, especially during the Pitri Paksha Mela, a significant annual event in Gaya. The Gaya Ji Rubber Dam stands as a testament to modern engineering's role in preserving cultural and religious practices, ensuring that the sacred rituals of Gaya can continue uninterrupted throughout the year.

### **SUJATA GARH (4.5 kilometre)**

Sujata Garh, also known as Sujata Stupa or Sujata Kuti, is a significant Buddhist archaeological site located in the village of Bakraur. This site is deeply connected to the life of Gautama Buddha, particularly the episode where Sujata, a milkmaid from Bakraur, offered him a bowl of rice pudding (kheer), which revitalized him after his severe ascetic practices. This act is believed to have led him to adopt the Middle Way, culminating in his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. The stupa was originally constructed in the 2nd century BCE, as evidenced by archaeological findings, including dark grey polished wares and a punch-marked coin discovered nearby. An inscription from the 8th–9th century CE was found during excavations, reading "Devapala Rajasya Sujata Griha," indicating that the site was associated with King Devapala of the Pala dynasty. Sujata Garh holds profound spiritual significance in Buddhism. It is believed that after receiving nourishment from Sujata, Buddha regained his strength and proceeded to meditate under the Bodhi tree, leading to his enlightenment.



### **DUNGESHWARI CAVE (21.9 kilometre)**

The Dungeshwari Caves, also known as the Mahakala Caves, are a significant Buddhist site located approximately 12–15 kilometres northeast of Gaya, Bihar. These caves are historically renowned as the place where Gautama Buddha meditated for six years before attaining enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya. The caves are characterised by shrines, including a golden statue of an emaciated Buddha, symbolizing his rigorous penance, and a larger Buddha statue approximately 6 feet tall. The caves themselves are carved into the hillsides, offering a tranquil setting for meditation and reflection.

### **RUINS OF NALANDA UNIVERSITY (108.8 Kilometres)**

Nalanda University, founded by the Gupta emperor Kumaragupta I between 450–470 AD, stands as a testament to India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. Recognized as the world's first fully residential university, it spanned over 30 acres and thrived as a global centre of learning for centuries. At its peak, Nalanda accommodated around 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers, attracting scholars from across Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, and Central Asia. Its renowned nine-story library, known as Dharmaganja, housed over 300,000 manuscripts, covering subjects like philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, and Buddhist studies. Located in present-day Bihar and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Nalanda reflects the profound scholarly traditions of ancient India. It fostered an environment of academic freedom, dialogue, and spiritual pursuit. Prominent scholars such as Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) not only studied but also taught here, documenting the vibrant educational life of the university.

