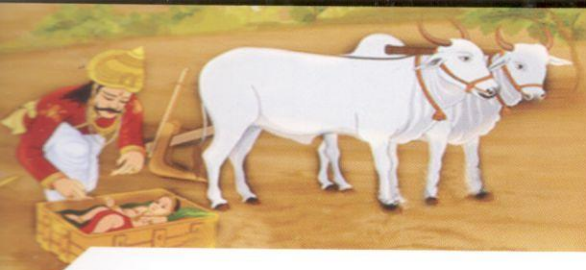






Bihar

Ramayan is not just an epic tale which happened long ago. It has a philosophical, spiritual significance with deep belief. A strong influence on life, mind, soul and a way of living, it is an indispensable part of the Hindu religious and social fabric. The legendary land of Bihar is of utmost importance to the history of Hinduism. It is here that the story of Ram & Sita as recorded by sage Valmiki in Ramayan unfolded. Several locations in Bihar are connected to incidents that occur in the great epic. Bihar is believed to be the ancient land of King Janak, where Goddess Sita was born and married to Lord Ram. It is also the land where ashram of Rishi Valmiki was once located.



Valmiki Nagar (West Champaran)

West Champaran Valmiki Nagar

Close to the Indo-Nepal border, 42 km North-West of Bagaha on the banks of Gandak River lies Valmiki Nagar, the sacred place where the creator of the epic, Ramayana, Saint Valmiki is said to have resided. It was at this Ashram of Valmiki, that Sita, after being abandoned by Lord Ram took shelter and gave birth to two sons, Luv and Kush. On the occasion of Makar Sankranti every year a fair is held on the bank of River Gandak to commemorate the significance of this place to Hindus.

Janaki Garh / Chanki Garh

About 9 km east of Ram Nagar Railway Station, is the village of Chanki Garh (also called Janaki Garh). In the eastern part of the village is a large mound of solid brickwork, 90 feet high. It is believed that this is the remains of what used to be a Fort of King Janak, Sita's father.

How to Reach

Air: Mahayogi Gorakhnath Airport (Gorakhpur) is the nearest airport (125 km).

Rail: This district has one major railway junction called Narkatiaganj Junction, along with several other smaller junctions.

Road: West Champaran is connected by the NH 28B to major destinations.

Madhubani Phulhar



Phulhar (Madhubani)

Situated about 6 km west of Harlakhi, Phulhar houses the temple of Goddess Girija. It is believed that Sita, the daughter of King Janak, used to visit the temple daily to worship the Goddess. According to legend, it is also where Lord Ram saw her for the first time.

How to Reach

Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport - 128 km

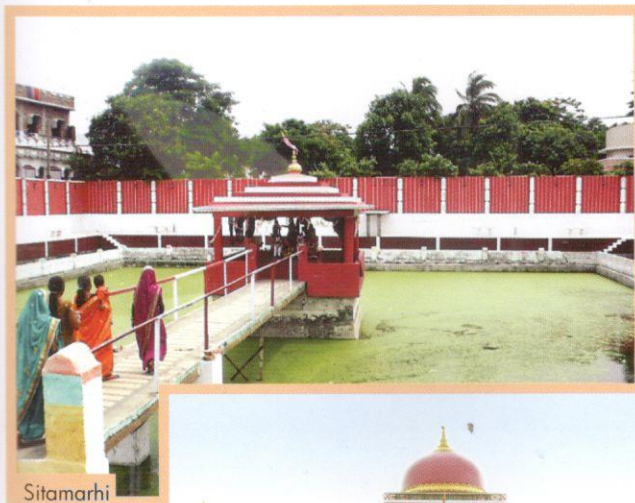
Rail: Madhubani Railway Station is the nearest railway station

Road: Madhubani is well connected to nearby cities via road

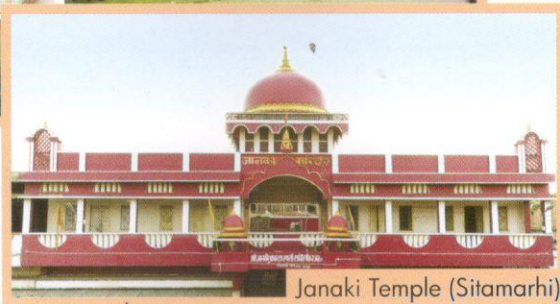


Sitamarhi

Present-day Sitamarhi was previously known as "Sitamahi" or the "Land of Sita". There are several legends surrounding the birth of Goddess Sita, the daughter of King Janak of Mithila and the wife of Lord Rama. According to some legends, it was in Sitamarhi that Sita emerged from an earthen pot while King Janak was ploughing the land here to get rid of a devastating drought.



Sitamarhi

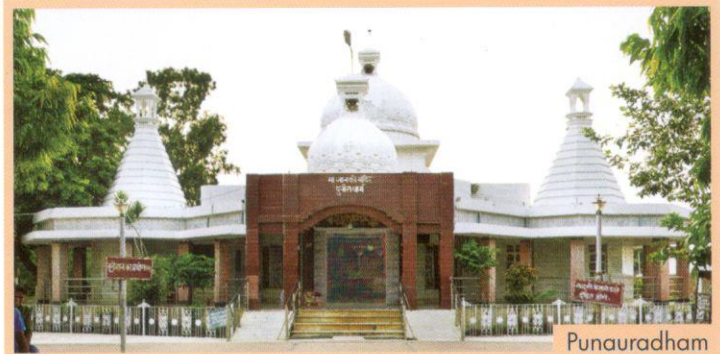


Janaki Temple (Sitamarhi)

Janaki Temple (Sitamarhi)

Currently, about 1.5 km from Sitamarhi Railway Station, is a fairly big temple with a modern structure to honour the site where King Janak nursed baby Sita. The residing deities of the temple are Lord Ram, Sita and Hanuman. There is a tank, popularly called Sita Kund, where, according to legend, King Janak bathed the baby Sita.

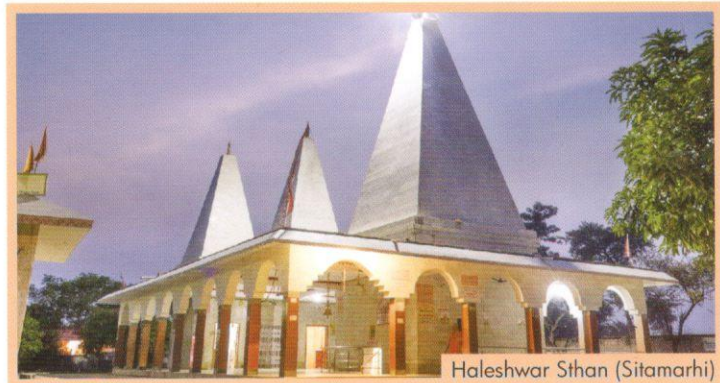
Punauradham



Punauradham

Located 5 km south-west of Sitamarhi town, Punauradham is one of the temples built to commemorate the birth of Sita and is a popular pilgrimage. A Sita-Kund in the honour of being the birthplace of Sita is a major attraction of this temple, which is one of the holiest Hindu temples dedicated to Goddess Sita. At this temple Janaki Navami is celebrated to commemorate this event which comes after a month of Ram Navami.

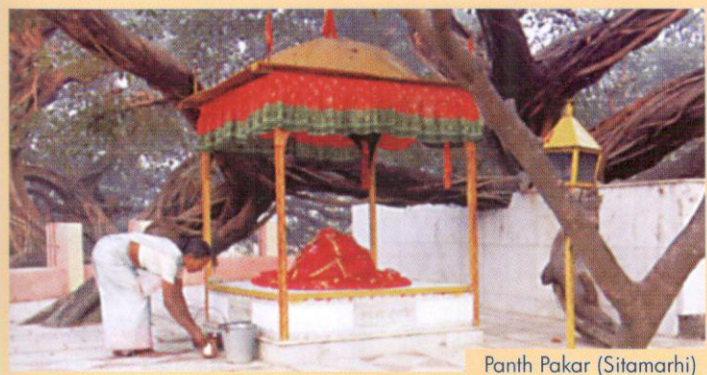
Haleshwar Sthan



Haleshwar Sthan (Sitamarhi)

Located 3 km north-west of Sitamarhi town, Haleshwar Sthan is devoted to Lord Shiva. It is popularly believed that during his 'Putrayesthi Yajna' King Janak founded the original temple here and named it Haleshwarnath Temple. This is believed to be the first shivling setup in the state of Mithila. However, the current structure is very recent, the shivling though is believed to be the one established by the king.

Panth Pakar



Panth Pakar (Sitamarhi)

An age old Pakar tree still stands here about 8 kms north-east of Sitamarhi spread around a vast area. This little known place is a site of amazing legendary significance. It is believed that when Sita left Janakpur in a palanquin for Ayodhya after marriage to Shri Ram, she rested under the thick green shade of the foliage.

How to Reach

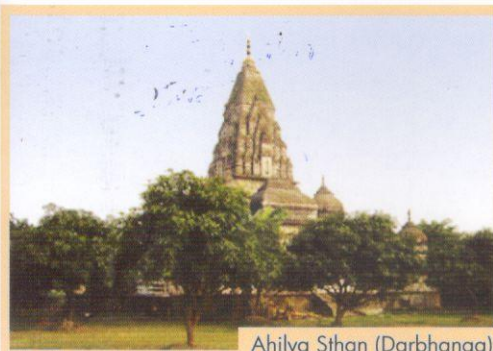
Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport (150 km)

Rail: Sitamarhi Railway Junction is the nearest railway station

Road: Sitamarhi is well connected by road via BSTDC buses

Stay: Hotel Janki Vihar at Dumra by BSTDC

Darbhanga Ahilya Sthan



Ahilya Sthan (Darbhanga)

Of the many miracles related to the Ram avatar of Vishnu is the legend of Ahilya, the wife of Sage Gautam. Created by Brahma as the most beautiful woman, Ahilya had been cursed

by the Rishi to become a stone. When Lord Ram, on his journeys with Rishi Vishwamitra and his brother Laxman, touched the stone with his feet, Ahilya was freed of her curse. This village is known as Ahilya Gram and located about 24 km north-west of Darbhanga and about 4 km from Kamtaul.

How to Reach

Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport (148 km)

Rail: Debrabandhauri Halt Railway Station, Muraiha Railway Station are the nearby railway stations

Road: Darbhanga is the nearby town to Ahilya Sthan having road connectivity

Madhepura Singheshwar Sthan



Singheshwar Sthan

The ancient temple of Singheshwar Sthan has great relevance to the epic Ramayana. It is popularly believed to be the abode of the mighty Sringhi Rishi who prayed to Lord Shiva during King Dashratha's "Putrayesthi Yajna". Out of this mahayajna, Dashratha was blessed with four sons from the Prasad "Charu". Seven "Havana Kunds" were created during that time, which have been converted into a tank now.

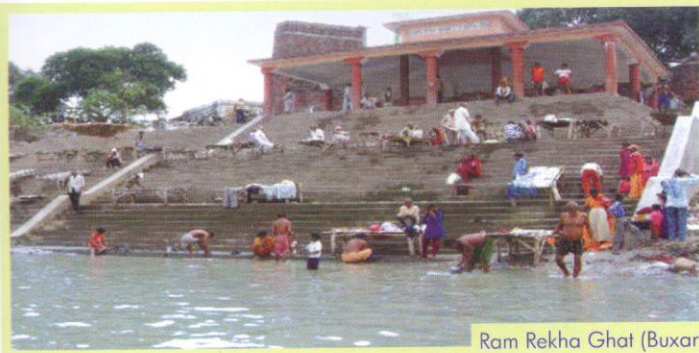
How to Reach

Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport (281 km)

Rail: Dauram Madhepura Railway Station is the nearest railway station, however Bhagalpur Railway Station is a major railway station just 94 km away

Road: Madhepura is the nearby town to Singheshwar Sthan having road connectivity

Buxar Ram Rekha Ghat



Ram Rekha Ghat (Buxar)

On hearing of King Janak's announcement on Sita's swayamvar, Rishi Vishwamitra conducted the two Ayodhyan Princes, Ram and Laxman to Mithila. It is believed that it is at this Ghat that they crossed the river Ganga to reach Janakpur to take part in the Swayamvar ceremony.

How to Reach

Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport (121 km)

Rail: Buxar Railway Station is the nearest railway station

Road: There are regular buses from major cities to Buxar

Bhojpur Tar

Unable to cope with the mischief of the demoness Taraka any longer, Rishi Vishwamitra approached Dashratha, the King of Kosala, for help. The king sent his sons Ram and Laxman with the Rishi to end the terror of the demon. 10 km north-west of Piro is believed to be the spot where Lord Rama killed the Taraka demon. In return, the Rishi blessed Ram and Laxman with several astra and sastra - arms and knowledge.

How to Reach

Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport

Rail: Buxar Railway Station is just 45 km away.

Road: Piro is the nearby town having road connectivity to Tar

Jehanabad Kako

The name of this place is derived from the name of Kaikeyee, the second wife of Rama's father, King Dashratha. Located about 10 km away from Jehanabad railway station, it is believed that the Queen lived here for some time.

Munger Sita Kund



Sita Kund (Munger)

When Lord Ram returned to Ayodhya after completing his exile and rescuing his wife, Sita, there were undignified rumors regarding Sita's purity. To prove her chastity, Sita agreed to undergo an Agni Pariksha and entered a blazing fire. Sita emerged from the fiery ordeal unscathed. According to legend, she imparted to the pool in which she bathed, the heat she had absorbed from the fire. This is how the hot water spring at Sita Kund, 6 km east of Munger town came into existence. The hot spring is now enclosed in a masonry reservoir and is visited by large number of pilgrims especially on the full moon of Magh.

How to Reach

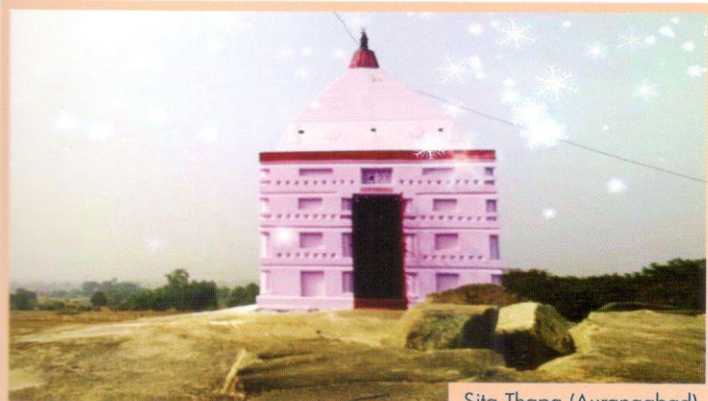
Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport (136 km)

Rail: The nearest station to Munger is Jamalpur Railway Station (6 km)

Road: Munger is the nearest town to Sita Kund having road connectivity to Sita Kund.

Aurangabad

Sita Thapa



Sita Thapa (Aurangabad)

A picturesque landscape became the backdrop of the incident narrated in Ramayana where Ram and Sita took rest while they were travelling towards Gaya to perform the ritual of Ram's father, King Dashratha's demise. There is a natural lake in which there are huge boulders that took sculptural shape with the water flow. An ancient rock-cut Shivaling, Hanuman and Rama-Sita temples with stone sculptures are situated on top of the hillock.

How to Reach

Air: Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) is the nearest airport (154 km).

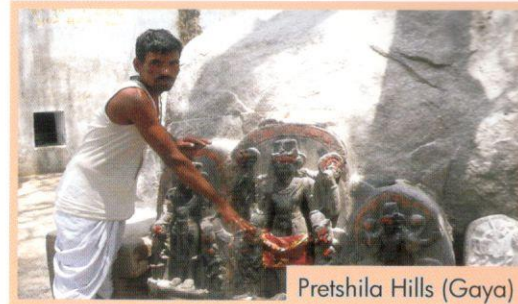
Rail: Rafiganj Railway Station is the nearest railway station (30 km).

Road: Distance between Patna to Aurangabad is 150 km.

Gaya

Pretshila Hills

About 8 kms north-west of Gaya, are the 873 feet high holy Pretshila Hills. This is a sacred place for Vaisnavas and Shaivites, who come on



Pretshila Hills (Gaya)

pilgrimage with offerings for their ancestors. On the summit of one of the hills is the temple of Pretaraja, or Yamaraja. Lord Yama is said to have built this temple in order to

pacify the preta (ghost) said to haunt it.

How to Reach

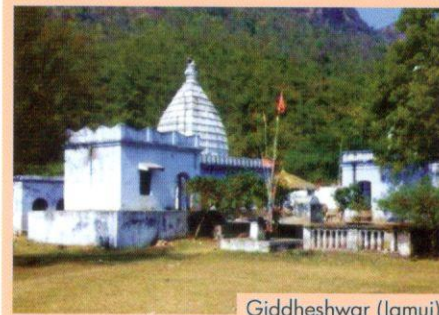
Air: Gaya Airport is the nearest airport

Rail: There are regular trains from other major cities of the country to Gaya.

Road: At Gaya, you can avail private as well as BSRTC services.

Jamui

Giddheshwar



Giddheshwar (Jamui)

The Ramayana narrates that Jatayu, the legendary gigantic bird, seeing Ravana kidnap Sita tries to rescue her. This hill, where Jatayu put up a valiant fight, is situated about 13 km south from Jamui. A Shiva temple is situated at the point now

and devotees celebrate Shivratri and Maghi Purnima here.

How to Reach

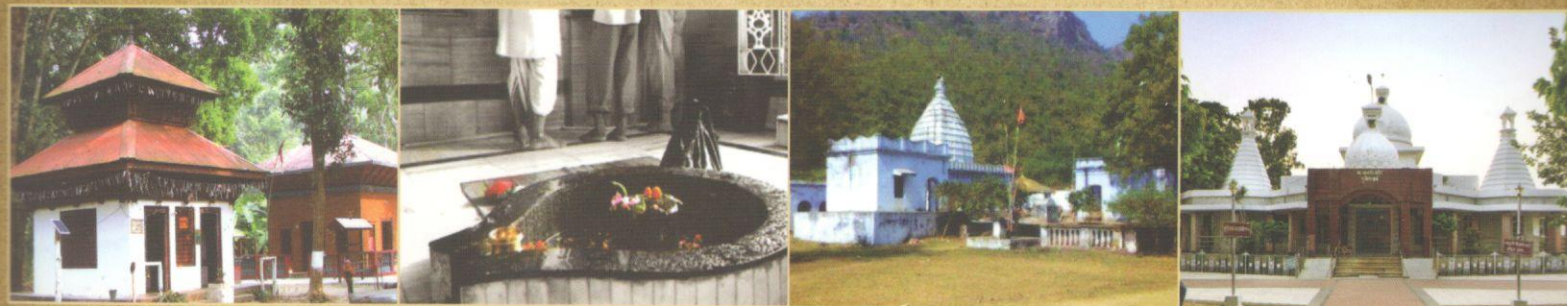
Air: Gaya Airport is the nearest airport from Jamui (143 km).

Rail: Jamui Railway Station is well connected to other major cities via regular trains.

Road: Buses to Nawada are frequently available. The distance between Jamui and Nawada bus stand is 76 Km.

For more information regarding transportation and hospitality services, contact Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC).

Tel: 0612-2222622, Visit: www.bstdc.bih.nic.in



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