

Bird Sanctuary's Role In North Bihar's Tourism

Dr.Bablu Kumar

Geography (CBSE NET)

**B.R. Ambedkar Bihar
University, Muzaffarpur,
Bihar (India), 842001**

Abstract

Natural sites provide ample space for the development of places of tourist interest. North Bihar plain and the foothills area in the northern part have so many natural sites which are places of attraction for the tourists. The study area has rivers, ponds, chaur, hills and forest cover which are becoming tourist centres attracting large number of tourists who come to visit particularly the theological, historical and cultural sites. They are attracted to visit the natural site and enjoy the beauty of natural sites in the study area.

Introduction

It is a fact that travellers or tourists from abroad come to visit the tourist centres in India. Almost all foreign tourists come to Bihar to visit the Buddha Circuit, Mahatma Gandhi Circuit and they also visit the natural sites of the region where the historical and cultural sites are located. So the figures of foreign travellers and tourists are also applicable to some of the important centres of the study area.

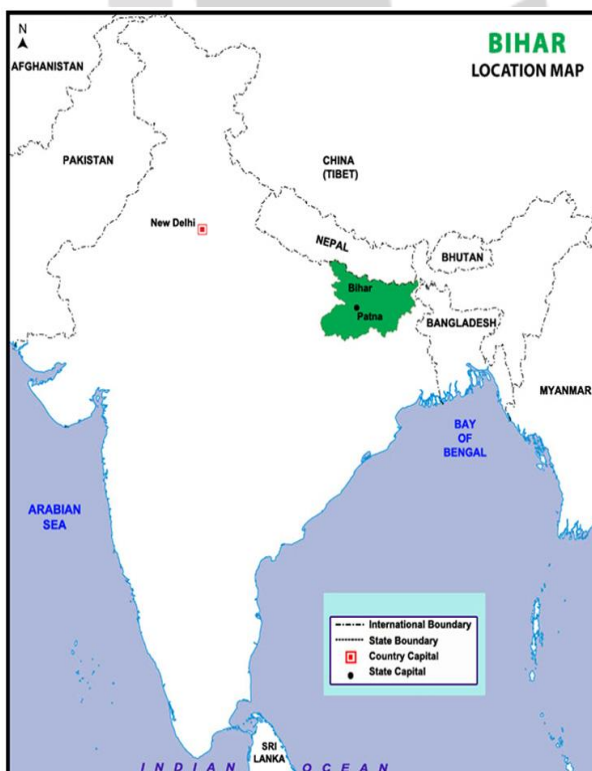


Fig. – 1.1

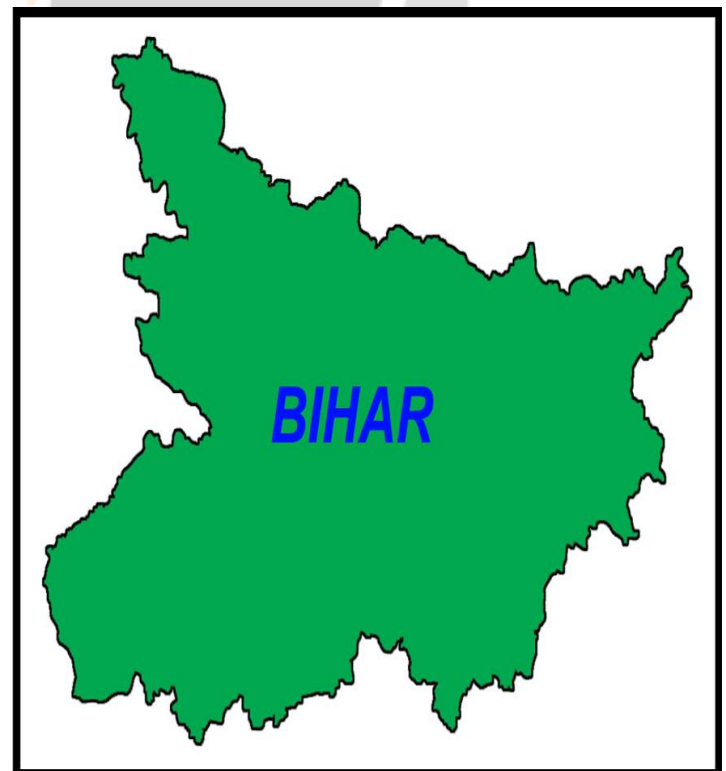


Fig. – 1.2

Natural Sites

This is the only region of about 900 sq. km. area in the northern section of Bihar near the Nepal boundary which possesses unique characteristics:

- ❖ The foothills of shiwalik and the rivulets in infants and young stage are found in this region.
- ❖ Natural forest and vanishing wild life are worth seeing in the region.
- ❖ The Bhabar belt of this region exhibit the special type of soil structure and underground water which are worth seeing for the tourists.
- ❖ The rivers of Gandak and Budhi Gandak which influence the soil structure base originate from this forest and hilly area. These rivers are the main sources of water resource in the region have good looking scenes near Triveni and in course of their flow.
- ❖ The flow of very shallow streams with crisped transparent water is attraction of tourist near the streams.
- ❖ The sharp standing side of hills , disrupted boulders, deposited round shaped boulders, pebbles and gravels with vales and dales attract the tourists. These present very scenic beauty in the region.
- ❖ Narrow and deep rivulets, Cane Shrubs, open mixed Forest , shrubs are full of natural beauty in the region.
- ❖ Bio-diversities are worth mentioning for tourist interests. There are 86 species of trees , 51 plants and shrubs species, 17 creepers species, 22 grass species and bamboo species are found in this reason. A special species of cane is found along the Gandak river course in a large belt.
- ❖ The chauras provide the lake view in the region which are also birds sanctuary in the study area and in Bihar.
- ❖

North Bihar has a rich inventory of the world class tourism resources, with rich heritage of enormous history and natural resources which include:

- I. Buddhist Religious places spread throughout the state with Bodhgaya being the place where Buddha attained supreme enlightenment . Other Places include Kesariya, Lauriya, Areraj, Nandangarh and Vaishali.
- II. Jain Religious places of both sects with Jain Temples at vaishali and other places with the potential to attract Jains from all over the world.
- III. Muslim Religious places comprising of Tombs and Mosques at various places including Vaishali, Munger etc.
- IV. Legendary places associated with Ramayan including Sitamarhi, Valmikinagar, Ahalya Asthan , Vaishali etc.
- V. Places associated with the Mahatma Gandhi and the Independence struggle such as Motihari ,Bettiah, Bhitharwa , Brindaban, Sadaqat, Asharam and others.
- VI. Picturesque landscape along rivers of Ganges, Gandak, Ghaghara and Son.
- VII. Luxuriant greenery dotted with beautiful villages.
- VIII. Bird sanctuaries, wildlife & National Parks including Kanwar Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Bhimbandh sanctuary, Goga Bill Bird Sanctuary etc.
- IX. Rich cultural heritage- celebration of various fairs and festivals of tribes, and the local dances including chhahu and other dances.
- X. A wide variety of flora and fauna.
- XI. Rich in Arts and crafts with exclusive Mithila Paintings of unmatched art and unique crafts manship. The folk painting are the works of women artists and are famous all over the world for their intricate designs and motifs.

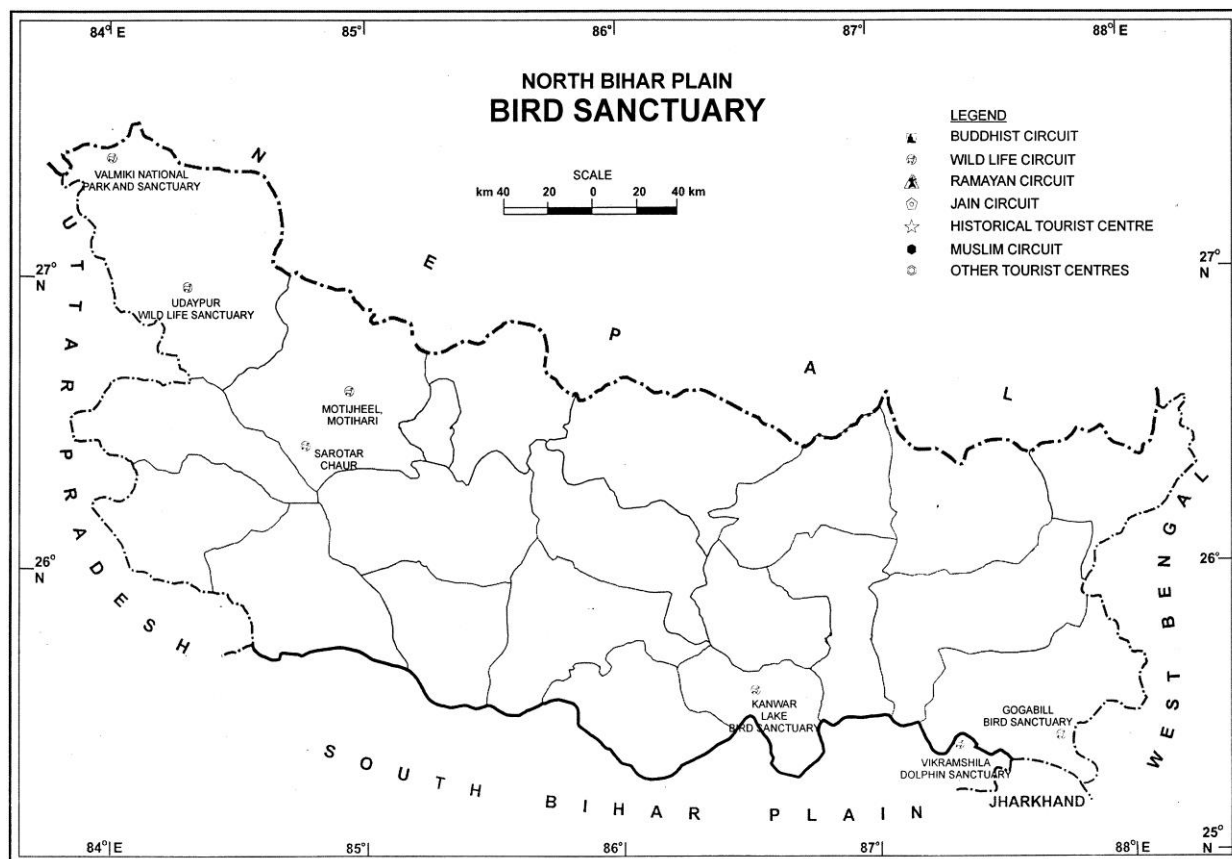


Fig – 1.3

There is no systematic account of wildlife available for the Northern Bihar by itself, but from different references, it is confirmed that the area was rich in its wildlife as the neighboring states or Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. But the changes relating to destruction of habitat and poaching are the most serious factors leading to the depletion of wildlife.

The Wild life sanctuaries are

- a) Valmiki Sanctuary (544.4 sq km), west Champaran
- b) Udayapur sanctuary (8.87 sq km), west Champaran
- c) Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary Bhagalpur district (50 km approx.)
- d) KanwarJheel Bird Sanctuary (63.11 sq km) Begusarai
- e) Gogabil Bird Sanctuary (217.99 acres) Katihar district
- f) Valmiki National Park (335.6 sq km) west Champaran
- g) Tourism Department of Government of Bihar has developed the cemetery ghat along the Matsgandha Pond as tourism Complex. A large number of tourists come for boating in the pond. It is known as Matsgandha Tourism Complex (Saharsa).

Chaur

In North Bihar Plain there are so many chaur which have been declared by the Government for bird sanctuary "Pakshi Abhyaranya" and some of the chaur have become tourist centres. The chaur are also called Mann in Local words.

Saraiya Mann (The Dull Lake of Bihar)

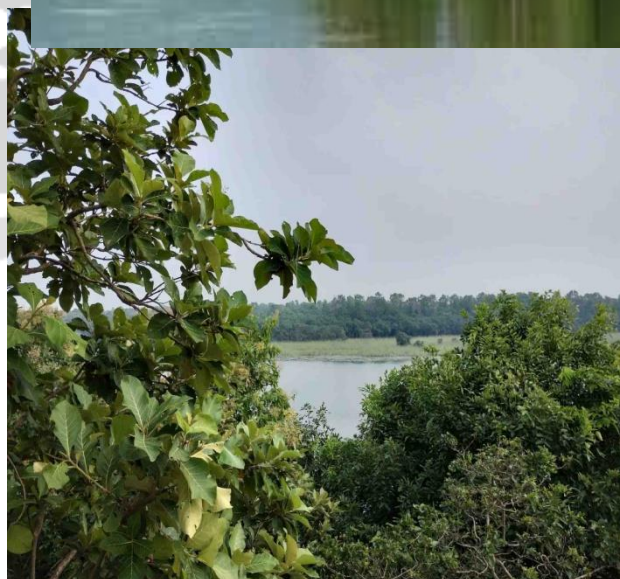
The sublime serenity Saraiya Mann is called “Dull Lake of Bihar”. Under Bettiah sub - division in the middle of Bariya and Yogapatti Block Udaypur wildlife sanctuary is in 8.78 sq km area. In this Udaypur wildlife sanctuary Saraiya Mann is included. The beauty spot of Champaran, Saraiya Mann lake is situated about 6 km from Bettiah town. So near to the town, yet it takes one so far away from the hustle and bustle of the tumultuous town with its sublime serenity . Locals consider its water salubrious as the blackberries (Jamun) from the trees planted on its bank keep falling into it.

The ox-bow lake enchants beauty and peace seekers with its water reflecting myriad hues from sunrise to sunset during all seasons. It always looks ravishing - whether reflected bright and vivid in sunlight or shrouded in mist. Moonlight nights on this lake take one to a different world altogether . It is a big draw for migratory birds and birders alike . During the winter the mist on and near Saraiya Mann encapture the heed of the tourists and the natural scenes enchants then. The boating in the lake attract tourists which given good returns to the boatman. This Saraiya Mann is surrounded three sides with Udaypur forest and wildlife sanctuary . On the hard rock and sandstone rock Udaypur forest flourished which add to the beauty of Saraiya Mann .One ghat has been made with metalled steps and adjoining this a beautiful bungalow is made which provide residential facility. It has been made in the British period . From the ghat one can enjoy the natural scene of the Mann, Birds sanctuary and the Forest on sides.

Lal Saraiya Mann

On Bettiah - Motihari state Highway 10 km east of Bettiah and 2 km from Bakharia village Lal Saraiya Mann is located. Here during the British period there was bungalow of Indigo planters where there was large agricultural farm. Lal Saraiya Mann was named after Red Bungalow . It is long elongated lake which is spread over 10 km long and ¼ km wide area. In the middle of the Mann there is land like small village on plain land. A wooden and bamboo bridge is made to reach the village. It is also Bird’s sanctuary. But this lake is not maintained. This area is a zone of kidnappers .This Mann has not been developed. Proper infrastructure may accelerate the number of tourist and it will be a more beautiful site for tourist.

The Birders' Bliss



With the start winter, Champaran becomes a home to migratory birds from across and outside India. Blessed with rich Bio-diversity and numerous eco - systems, it offers resident, resident - migratory, and migratory birds an abundance of suitable natural habitats in the form of lakes, sprawling wetlands and riverine abodes such as those of the Gandak river.

The sight of playful flocks of ruddy shelduck in the Gandak wetlands or the whistling teals at Kehunia, situated about 5 km away from Lauria is pure bliss to a birder. prepare resident birds such as the indian tree pie , grey partridge, Quail, hornbill, black headed myna, grey heron and open billed stork, or with migratory visitors such as the coot , white - eyed Pochard, cotton teal, red - crested Pochard and pintail duck.



Sarotar Chaur

It is located in the northern part of Kesariya block of East Champaran district. Sarotar Chaur has water throughout the year .It has been declared by the Government as Bird sanctuary “Pakshi Abhayaranya”.

This has become new tourist centres where tourists come to enjoy the birds of different types. Their chirping , twittering and other activities encapture the attention of the tourist .They are attracted for boating also. The birds from abroad also come in the winter season.



Moti Jheel of Motihari

An elongated water body is found in the middle of the town of Motihari. On both the sides of the water body the town has grown .Moti Jheel from which the town name Motihari has been derived is an important natural waterbody which is an ox-bow lake .Moti jheel is the physical and symbolic focus of the town. The present project for development aims at holistic development of the Moti jheel and its precincts, leading to an improvement in the quality of life in the town of Motihari and the surrounding areas.

As Motihari is a historic place in India , town is attraction for the tourists. Moti jheel is an important site of tourism development . The Government has formulated a plan for the development of Motijheel. Since the formation of the state of jharkhand a sincere attempt is being made to augment the use of natural resources of Bihar for generation of revenues.In North Bihar, Moti jheel of Motihari is one such resources which can be developed to attract more tourists to this



district headquarters, Motihari. Motihari town is connected with rail , road and airways with major metropolitan centres in India. It is at a distance of 160 km from Patna , the State capital .The weather condition of Motihari is very much conducive. It is very much near to the Terai region of Nepal. As so many tourist places like Areraj ,Lauriya are close to Motihari, the scenic spots at Motihari has great importance . There is a rowing club which has boats and tourist may enjoy the boating .As this lake is very long , boating may be done for a longer period which may earn revenue. But the lake is not maintained and it is full of water weeds. At present the eco-system of the Motijheel has been unbalanced by the flagrant growth of the water hyacinth , which chokes all natural outlets, stagnated water flow and causes Eutrophication. This is biological problem resulting from the sewage flow of the entire town into the lake. A project has been proposed to tackle these problems.

Valmiki National Park

Valmiki Tiger reserve is located in the district of west Champaran ,105 km from Bettiah along the Indo - Nepal Border. Covers an area of 880 sq km and is declared as Valmiki National Park. Out of the total 880 sq km , 840.26 sq. km area brought under “Project Tiger” in the year 1990 and is the 18th Tiger reserve in the Country . The forest there sustains Tigers, Deer, Clouded Leopards, Spotted Deer, Hog Deer, sambhar, Mongoose etc.





Inhabitants of Valmiki National Park



Valmiki National Park - 335.6 sq km

Valmiki sanctuary - 544.4 sq km

Udayapur Sanctuary

Udayapur wildlife Sanctuary is located in the district of west Champaran covers an area of 8.87 sq. km in the district of the west Champaran. Bettiah, the district headquarter of west Champaran is about 15 km. Spotted deer , barking deer, wild boar, Nilgai, civet, wolf, jungle, cat. Porupine etc are found. Migratory birds are visible during winter months in the lake. The sanctuary has tremendous potentials of tourism and can be developed as one of the major tourist centre in the State.



Vikramashila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary



Sanctuary extends from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon hill (Approx. 50 km) in the middle of Ganga. Dolphin inhabits mostly the area of confluence of rivers. Due to the construction of Farakka Dam, the Dolphin population has become isolated and fragmented. In India for the first time, Bihar has taken the lead of declaring 50 kms of Ganga as Dolphin Sanctuary.

Kanwar Jheel Bird Sanctuary

The Kanwar jheel Bird sanctuary is located 22 km north - west of Begusarai. The area of the sanctuary is 63.11 sq. km . The kanwar lake is formed through the meander of river Burhi Gandak. The lake supports 59 types of migratory bird and 106 residential bird. Species as well as 31 species of fish, Rhesus, Jackal, Indian fox, Bats, langur and squirrel. The main migratory birds found are Great Created crab, Barheaded goose, Bramhiny duck, Common pochard, falcon, coots, Paintail, snips, green and sand piper , grey heron, Little green heron cattle egret water cock etc. represent the fauna of this region. The sanctuary now - a - days become a centre of research.





Gogabil Bird Sanctuary

The Gogabil has a great global , national and regional significance and this is why the Government of Bihar has declared it as a closed area. This wet land is so rich in aquatic flora and fauna and so fascinating wintering ground for the migratory birds. Gogabil, lies in the extreme south - east corner of Manihari Block of Katihar district bordering with Malda District of west Bengal. The sanctuary is situated at a distance of 26 km from Katihar town (the Railway Division of NEFR). The total area under the Gogabil is 217.99 acres. The Gogabil, an ox - bow lake is formed through the meander of river Kankar. As per the mid - winter Water fowl census of Gogabil Pakshi Vihar by Mandar Nature Club, Bhagalpur, more than 112 types of birds are found in the Bill. Pintail, Common Teal, grey Teal, Gadwall, Shoveller, red crested Pochard, whiteeyed Pochard, Tufted Duck, marsh hamier, coot, gulls, tems etc.



Conclusion

North Bihar is overwhelmingly an agrarian part of Bihar. But agriculture is unable to sustain zooming population its a result ghost of unemployment and restlessness is eclipsing the prospect of the state. To improvesocio – economic conditions of the mushrooming population tourism may play an important role. Likewise numerous historical sites , North Bihar has numerous sites famous as Bird sanctuary . Jhes, sanctuary are attracting thousands and thousands tourists throughout the year and in turn , economic conditions of the local people are going up slowly but steadily.

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