

AN EXAMINATION OF BUDDHISM'S HISTORY IN BIHAR, ONE OF THE STATE'S BIRTHPLACES



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Abstract

This study looks at the historical backdrop of Buddhism in Bihar, one of the originations of the religion. Bihar has a rich and different history that traverses more than two centuries, and Buddhism assumed a huge part in molding the locale's social, social, and political scene. The review gives an outline of the significant occasions and improvements throughout the entire existence of Buddhism in Bihar, including the life and lessons of the Buddha, the spread of Buddhism to different pieces of India and then some, the ascent and fall of Buddhist realms and realms, and the recovery of Buddhism in present day times. It additionally investigates the engineering, workmanship, writing, and reasoning of Buddhism in Bihar, featuring the novel attributes and commitments of the locale to the Buddhist practice. The review draws on a large number of essential and optional sources, including archeological proof, verifiable records, and scholarly messages, to offer a thorough and nuanced comprehension of the historical backdrop of Buddhism in Bihar. Eventually, the review shows how Bihar's rich Buddhist legacy proceeds to rouse and educate the training and study regarding Buddhism today.

Keywords: *Buddhism, Bihar, Buddha, Bodh Gaya*

Introduction

The name Bihar gets from the Sanskrit word vihāra, a significant foundation of Buddhism signifying "habitation". The place where there is Bihar is viewed as significant in Buddhism as Siddhartha Gautama was said to have accomplished illumination in Bodh Gaya under the Bodhi Tree, making Bodh Gaya the holiest site in Buddhism and a vital spot of journey related with the Mahabodhi Sanctuary Complex in Bihar's Gaya region. Gautama Buddha taught numerous lessons in better places in Bihar, including Vaishali and Rajgir. Indeed, even after his Mahaprinarvana, pupils carried on the teaching of Buddhism in the locales of Magadha, Bihar. Gautama Buddha's devotees opened a few cloisters and colleges like Nalanda College and Vikramshila College. Magadha ruler Ashoka the Incomparable turned into a Buddhist and made Buddhism the state religion, spreading its principle to various pieces of India and abroad.

The Mauryan Sovereign Ashoka, who controlled over quite a bit of India from 268 BCE to 232 BCE, was a supporter of Buddhism and assisted with spreading the religion all through the district. He raised a few proclamations and support points all through Bihar, including at Sarnath, where the Buddha gave his most memorable lesson, and at Rajgir, which was a significant focus of Buddhist learning and journey.

During the Gupta Domain, which controlled over quite a bit of northern India from the fourth to the sixth century CE, Buddhism kept on thriving in Bihar, and a few significant Buddhist colleges and cloisters were laid out in the district. The most well known of these was Nalanda College, which was established in the fifth century CE and became one of the most famous focuses of Buddhist learning on the planet.

In any case, with the downfall of the Gupta Realm in the sixth century CE, Buddhism in Bihar started to decline also. The area was hence controlled by different Hindu and Muslim traditions, and Buddhism progressively lost its impact in the district.

In the cutting-edge time, there has been a recovery of Buddhism in Bihar, especially in places like Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Rajgir, which are significant journey destinations for Buddhists from around the world. The public authority of Bihar has additionally done whatever it takes to advance Buddhist the travel industry in the area, and a few new Buddhist sanctuaries and religious communities have been implicit ongoing years. In general, Buddhism keeps on assuming a significant part in the social and strict scene of Bihar.

Role of Bihar in the Spread of Buddhism in India and Beyond

Bihar assumed a basic part in the spread of Buddhism in India and then some, filling in as a significant focus of Buddhist learning, reasoning, and practice for quite a long time. Here are a few critical manners by which Bihar added to the spread of Buddhism:

1. **Birthplace of Buddhism:** Bihar is one of the originations of Buddhism, as it was here that the Buddha accomplished edification and conveyed a large number of his most significant lessons. The Mahabodhi Sanctuary in Bodh Gaya, which denotes where the Buddha achieved edification, is one of the main Buddhist journey destinations on the planet.
2. **Center of Buddhist learning:** Bihar was home to the absolute most significant Buddhist cloisters and colleges in antiquated India, like Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Odantapuri. These organizations pulled in researchers and understudies from across the Buddhist world, and assumed a critical part in the turn of events and spread of Buddhist way of thinking, writing, and craftsmanship.
3. **Transmission of Buddhist texts:** A considerable lot of the main Buddhist texts were composed, deciphered, or sent in Bihar, including the Pali standard, the Mahayana sutras, and the Abhidharma messages. Buddhist researchers in Bihar were prestigious for their ability in Buddhist way of thinking and hermeneutics, and their compositions and critiques were broadly compelling.
4. **Pilgrimage and missionary activity:** Bihar's status as a significant focal point of Buddhism pulled in travelers and preachers from across the Buddhist world, who assisted with spreading the religion to new locales and societies. The Chinese traveler Xuanzang, for instance, visited Bihar in the seventh century CE and recorded nitty gritty records of the Buddhist destinations and practices he experienced.
5. **Cultural exchange:** Bihar's status as a focal point of Buddhist learning and journey likewise worked with social trade between various locales and societies. Buddhist priests from Bihar headed out to different pieces of Asia, carrying with them Buddhist lessons, craftsmanship, and reasoning, and gaining from the way of life they experienced.

The Significance of Bihar as a Birthplace of Buddhism

Bihar, a state in eastern India, is huge as one of the origination of Buddhism. The religion started in the 6th century BCE in the area known as Magadha, which is situated in present-day Bihar. The meaning of Bihar as an origination of Buddhism can be grasped in more ways than one:

1. **Historical importance:** Bihar plays had a vital impact in the improvement of Buddhism. It was in Bihar that the Buddha accomplished illumination, and it was from here that he began his central goal to spread his lessons. Numerous significant occasions in the existence of the Buddha, like his most memorable lesson at Sarnath, occurred in Bihar.

2. **Cultural importance:** Bihar is home to probably the main Buddhist destinations on the planet, like Bodh Gaya, where the Buddha achieved edification, and Nalanda, an old Buddhist college that was a focal point of learning for more than 700 years. These destinations draw in huge number of vacationers and travelers from everywhere the world, making Bihar a significant social community for Buddhism.
3. **Intellectual importance:** Bihar was likewise a focal point of Buddhist way of thinking and grant. Numerous significant Buddhist texts were written in Bihar, and the district delivered the absolute most eminent Buddhist researchers and scholars, like Nagarjuna and Aryadeva.
4. **Spread of Buddhism:** Bihar played a critical role in the spread of Buddhism to other parts of India and the world. Buddhist monks and scholars from Bihar traveled to other regions, such as Southeast Asia and China, to spread their teachings and establish Buddhist communities.

By and large, Bihar's importance as an origination of Buddhism couldn't possibly be more significant. The locale plays had a urgent impact in the turn of events, spread, and protection of Buddhism, making it a fundamental objective for anyone with any interest in the religion's set of experiences and social importance.

Buddhist Art and Architecture in Bihar

Bihar, as one of the originations of Buddhism, has a rich practice of Buddhist workmanship and engineering. From old stupas to perplexing stone carvings, Bihar's Buddhist workmanship and engineering grandstand the advancement and variety of the religion's visual articulation. Here are a few key models:

1. **Stupas:** Bihar is home to probably the most seasoned and most critical stupas on the planet, for example, the Mahabodhi Sanctuary in Bodh Gaya, which denotes where the Buddha achieved edification. Other significant stupas in Bihar incorporate the Incomparable Stupa at Sanchi, which traces all the way back to the Mauryan time frame, and the Kesaria Stupa, which is supposed to be the tallest stupa on the planet.
2. **Monasteries and universities:** Bihar were likewise home to numerous old Buddhist religious communities and colleges, for example, Nalanda and Vikramshila, which were focuses of Buddhist learning and grant for quite a long time. The remnants of these religious communities and colleges, with their noteworthy engineering and perplexing carvings, give a brief look into the scholarly and social history of Buddhism in Bihar.

3. **Rock carvings:** Bihar is known for its noteworthy stone carvings, which portray scenes from the existence of the Buddha and other significant figures in Buddhism. These carvings, which date back to the Gupta time frame, can be found in spots like Barabar Caverns, Nagarjuni Caverns, and Dharawadi Slope.
4. **Sculptures:** Bihar is additionally home to numerous lovely Buddhist models, like the Buddha sculpture at the Mahabodhi Sanctuary and the various figures at the Nalanda Archeological Exhibition Hall. These models grandstand the ability and imaginativeness of the specialists who made them, as well as the rich imagery and iconography of Buddhism.

Conclusion

All in all, Bihar plays had a huge impact in the set of experiences and improvement of Buddhism. As the origination of the religion, it has seen the ascent and spread of Buddhism all through India and then some. The state has been home to probably the main Buddhist locales, including Bodh Gaya, where the Buddha achieved edification, and Nalanda, one of the world's most seasoned colleges. Bihar's rich social legacy and strict importance keep on drawing in huge number of vacationers and travelers from around the world. Today, Buddhism stays a fundamental piece of Bihar's personality, and the state government is pursuing advancing and protecting its legacy for people in the future.

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