

Mines and Minerals

After bifurcation Bihar was left only with soil and sand. However, pyrite, limestone and mica are available in good quantity in present Bihar. But the mining of these items is not always possible, as these are largely covered under forestland. Iron ore and silica sand are available only in limited quantity, and their quality is also inferior.

The revenue return from these minerals, which was only US \$ 21.54 million (INR 97 crore) in 2005-06 increased to US \$ 47.09 million (INR 212 crore) in 2009-10 (upto February 2010), showing more than two fold increase within a span of only four years. It is also noteworthy that in all the years from 2005-06 to 2009-10, the revenue exceeded the target. It is worth mentioning that the revenue from minor minerals (brick, sand, stone etc.) is many times more than the same from major minerals like limestone, mica, silica sand, etc.

Mineral Resources in Bihar

Mineral	Production in India (Tonnes)	Production in Bihar (Tonnes)
Limestone	75678	210.85
Pyrite	98.79	53.41
Quartz	2402.18	10.83
Feldspar	31.28	4.84
Quartzite	305.07	3.02
Bauxite	2462.43	1.50
China Clay	1042.46	1.20
Manganese Rock	3407.82	0.59
Gold Ore	1778.79	128.88

Source: Department of Mines and Minerals, GOB

Revenue Returns from Mining

(Rs. crore)

Year	Target	Revenue Return
2005-06	89	97.01
2006-07	105	117.42
2007-08	125	146.34
2008-09	160	182.22
2009-10 (upto Feb. 2010)	200	212

Source: Department of Mines and Minerals, GOB

Investment in the Metals Sector (2008 – 10)

Name of Investor	Details	Approximate Investment (US \$ Million)
Adhunik Metaliks Limited	Integrated Steel Plant	1269
Terai Ispat Limited	Steel Melting Shop	34.41
Steel Authority of India Limited	Steel Processing Unit of TMT Bars	20.07
Balaji Mini Steel and Re rolling Pvt Ltd.	Steel Re rolling Mill	3.94
Gokul Steels Pvt. Ltd.	Steel Re rolling Mill	2.08
MD International	Mineral Powder Production Plant	0.44

Source: State Investment Proposal Board

Tourism

Understanding the immense potential of tourism, the State has taken initiative to develop world class tourism infrastructure through central financial assistance for identified destinations. In the Department of Tourism, there are two types of activities going on, i.e. developmental and commercial. While commercial activities are being undertaken by the Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation, the developmental activities are executed by different agencies like Central Public Works Department, Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation, Building Construction Department, Water Resources Department and the concerned District Magistrates.

The Department of Tourism has undertaken various schemes to develop tourism in the State and the approved plan budget of the Department has increased from US \$ 1.65 million (INR 7.43 crore) in 2005-06 to US \$ 4.06 million (INR 18.30 crore) in 2006-07 and US \$ 6.76 million (INR 30.44 crore) in 2010-11. The quantum jump in the plan outlay over the years is indicative of the State government's concern for improving the tourism in the State. It may also be seen from the table given below that while only around 34 percent of the approved budget could be spent in 2000-01, almost the entire budgeted amount was utilised in the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

(INR lakhs)

Year	Approved Budget	Expenditure	% share
2000-01	1040.38	348.42	33.49
2001-02	210.00	48.60	23.14
2002-03	500.00	75.10	15.02
2003-04	350.94	350.64	99.91
2004-05	957.73	957.73	100.00
2005-06	743.00	737.59	99.27
2006-07	1830.00	1823.34	99.64
2007-08	2679.42	2673.54	99.78
2008-09	2513.02	2512.78	99.99
2009-10	2978.00	2978.00	100.00
2010-11 (upto Jan 2011)	3043.89	2555.43	83.95

Source: Department of Tourism, GOB

The important development works have been taken up with State government funds, which include acquisition of land measuring 11.94 acres for construction of Nav Nalanda Mahavihar cultural village and 10.50 acres of land in Vaishali for facilitating tourism. A 48-seater Floating Restaurant in the river Ganga has been completed and, for this, a cafeteria at Gandhi Ghat is ready. In the premises of Mangal Talaab in Patna City, one stadium, open-air theatre, café plaza, parking space, etc. have been completed. Besides, various other works including renovation of places like Chamundeshwari Temple (Kaimur), Janaki Sthan, Punaura, and beautification of Ganga Ghats in Patna, etc. have also been taken up.

Similarly, from the central fund, tourism complex at Deo in Aurangabad, Bodh Gaya Traffic Interchange Node- 1 and 2, Yatri Niwas for Kanwariya tourists, renovation of roads in Bodh Gaya, installation of CCTV, etc. have been completed. For development of rural tourism, two small schemes of software and hardware are being executed in Nepura village of Nalanda district. Likewise, Tehta village of Jehanabad, Obra of Aurangabad and Puraini and Nathnagar of Bhagalpur have been selected under rural tourism and the project proposals are being prepared.

As a result of various endeavors made to develop tourism in Bihar, the State is becoming a favourable destination for tourists both domestic & foreign.

Year wise Tourist Arrival (in thousands)

Year	Domestic Tourist	Foreign Tourist	Total
2000	5520	73	5593
2001	6861	86	6947
2002	6860	113	6973
2003	6045	61	6106
2004	8097	38	8135
2005	8687	63	8750
2006	10670	94	10764
2007	10353	177	10530
2008	11890	346	12236
2009	15518	423	15941
2010 (Upto Nov)	13344	521	13865

Source: Department of Tourism, GOB

Among the districts, the highest inflow of domestic as well as foreign tourists was reported to be in Gaya, followed by Patna. Other attractions for domestic tourists were Sonepur Mela (fair) and Shrawan Mela (fair) at Sultanpur in Bhagalpur district.

The State government is very keen to develop tourism and take it to the new heights. In view of this, it has taken the following measures.

- As formulator of plans and policies.
- Maintenance of law and order in tourist destinations.
- Deploying the tourist police force.
- Disposing grievances.
- Enacting suitable laws for the development of tourism.
- Enabling private sector participation to develop important places whose tourism potential has not yet been tapped. The State Government would lay down rules and regulations for such as Joint ventures

Development of the Basic Infrastructure for Tourism

Keeping in view the potential of tourism in Bihar, the creation of basic infrastructure for tourism development is imperative; important components for infrastructural development are arranging for accommodation for increased number of tourists, building of highways on tourist circuits and international level airports, local transport, rail routes linking tourist spots with full amenities and facilities, vital telecommunication links, continuous quality electricity supply and other essential amenities .

The State Government will prepare a Master Plan for developing infrastructure for the respective areas and regions. On the basis of demand creation, the State Government would link important tourist places by air taxi and helicopter services The State Government would integrate cultural and religious fairs and festivals into tourism; the Department of Tourism would identify potential tourist spots where fairs and festivals form a part of the cultural life of the region and develop them as a part of a scheduled package for tourists Tourist Information Centres would be modernized and would be well equipped to provide information to tourists

Areas of Investment in Tourism

The Government is trying to promote various forms of tourism, which are both diverse and enriching; these include:

Weekend Tourism: Developing tourist spots with an aim to attract tourists from the neighboring States into places associated with leisure and entertainment like shopping malls, eating outlets, theme parks, multiplexes etc.

Wildlife Tourism: Tourism linked with wildlife has a lot of potential for attracting domestic and foreign tourists. In order to promote wildlife tourism the State would develop wildlife sanctuaries, crocodile parks, snake parks, theme parks, children parks and monument parks.

Aqua Tourism: With a vast expanse of natural water originating in form of rivers, Bihar has a wide scope for developing aqua tourism and river sports, floating restaurants and river cruises through motor launches and motor boats are the highlights of this form of tourism.

Rural Tourism: As a majority of the population lives in rural areas in Bihar, the linking of villages to tourism development will encourage the tourists to witness the countryside and enjoy its unique diversity and cultural heritage.

Heritage Tourism: The State has an abundance of historical places, religious places, archeological sites and forts that can be suitably renovated and opened up for tourism

Investment in the Tourism Sector (2008 – 10)

Name of Investor	Details	Approximate Investment (US \$ Million)
Kanika Buildcon (P) Ltd	Mall – cum – Multiplex	81.73
Bajaj Buildcon (P) Ltd	Resort & Water Park	64.53
Amit Metaliks Ltd.	Five Star Hotel	38
Bihar Hotels Ltd.	New Maurya Hotel Tower	8.17
P & M Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd	Resort at Bodh Gaya	4.13

Source: State Investment Proposal Board