

**Bettiah – where history
still breathes**



Bettiah

Culture

Bettiah, the administrative headquarters of West Champaran in Bihar, is a culturally rich city defined by its deep roots in the Indian freedom struggle, the historic Bettiah Raj estate, and vibrant festivals like Chhath Puja and the historic Hazari cattle fair. It serves as a gateway to Valmiki Tiger Reserve and is known for Bhojpuri culture, heritage sites like the Ashokan Pillar, and its pivotal role in the 1917 Champaran Satyagraha.

Key Highlights, Heritage

- **Freedom Movement Hub:** Known for the 1917 Champaran Satyagraha, initiated after Raj Kumar Shukla met Mahatma Gandhi, marking a turning point in the Indian freedom struggle.
- **Bettiah Raj:** A historic estate that received the title of Raja from Emperor Shah Jahan in 1628, with its palace forming a central landmark of the town.
- **Heritage Sites:** Nearby sites include the ancient Ashokan Pillar at Lauriya Areraj and Baudh Stupas at Lauriya Nandangarh, reflecting rich ancient history.
- **Bhitiharwa Ashram:** The Ashram associated with Mahatma Gandhi, located in the eastern end of the region.
- **Languages:** Bhojpuri is the primary language spoken in the district.

Festivals and Celebrations

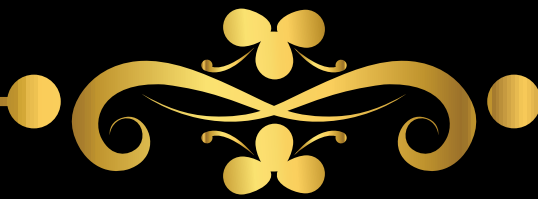


- **Hazari Cattle Fair**: A major historic fair held during Dussehara in Bettiah town, traditionally one of the largest in Asia.
- **Chhath Puja**: The most prominent festival, celebrated with immense fervor, involving the worship of the Sun God.
- **Major Festivals**: Other major Hindu festivals like Diwali, Holi, and Dussehra are celebrated with great enthusiasm.

Festivals culture



Key Local Highlights



- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**: Located within the district, this is Bihar's only national park, situated in the northernmost part of West Champaran.
- **Political Structure**: The city is a key constituency within the Paschim Champaran Lok Sabha constituency

Background

Current Position (As of 2026): MLA from Bettiah Constituency.

Political Journey: Started in the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (Durga Vahini), later joining the BJP.

Electoral Record: Multiple-term MLA from Bettiah (2000–2015, 2020–present).

Background: Represents the Noniya caste, categorized as an Extremely Backward Caste (EBC) in Bihar.

Age/Education: Born in 1959, 12th pass.

Key Role: Served as Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture (2005–2009) and BJP National Vice-President (2014–2020).

Key Attractions



- **Bhitiharwa Ashram:** Associated with Mahatma Gandhi's early Satyagraha movement.
- **Lauriya Nandangarh:** Famous for its Mauryan-era Ashokan Pillar and ancient Buddhist stupas.
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve:** Located nearby in the district, this is Bihar's only national park, offering diverse nature, flora, and fauna.

Key Aspects of Bettiah



- **Location:** Situated in northwest Bihar, the region is bordered by Nepal to the north, offering a mix of plains and proximity to sub-Himalayan scenery.
- **Cultural Significance:** Historically, the city is known for the Bettiah Raj estate, which was once a vast estate recognized during the Mughal era.
- **Bettiah,** the headquarters of West Champaran district in Bihar, is a culturally significant city near the Indo-Nepal border, roughly (225 km) from Patna

**Stories of the past, strength of
the present**



**A city rooted in legacy and
culture**