

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE DIVISION

Samastipur Division came into existence in the year 1969 and it is one of the five Divisions of East Central Railway. The Division is geographically spread out in flood & seismic affected areas of North Bihar and it mostly caters coaching and developmental needs of region with inward traffic of food-grains, construction materials & POL etc.

Division is presently going through a transition with a lot of on-going Gauge conversion, Doubling and Railway Electrification works.

A Meter Gauge (MG) branch line division converted into Broad Gauge is under transformation for improvement of passenger amenities & freight handling works to serve customers in better way.



Division touches international border with Nepal on the North side plays vital role for foreign trade with Nepal. Raxaul, Jaynagar and Laukaha Bazar are important Rail heads for Nepal bound traffic. New Rail link (69 km) to Nepal i.e, Jaynagar to Bardibas (Nepal) work is completed by IRCON & train operation is in process.

FOUNDING OF THE DIVISION: A BRIEF HISTORY

The Famine Line: Dalsingsarai to Darbhanga via Samastipur

In 1873-74, North Bihar suffered from one of the severest famines. The ravages of nature inflicted its most devastating wrath on the lives of people. With the destructive famine, that was to take thousands of lives, the food prices had soared two or three times, affecting millions of people. Relief and rescue operations were slow and hindered by lack of adequate infrastructure, of which transport was one.

The first railway line, aptly called "**Famine Line**" came into existence and temporarily began operation from Dalsinghsarai to Darbhanga via Samastipur, the most affected famine area covering a distance of 43 miles. It was opened on 1st November, 1875 under the aegis of the '**Tirhut Railway**', a state owned railway.

Construction work continued on these lines from 1874 to 1890 connecting Dalsinghsarai to Samastipur, Samastipur to Darbhanga and Samastipur to Muzaffarpur. Finally, in 1876, the Dalsinghsarai – Darbhanga line was made permanent.

I. The Tirhoot State Railway

The Tirhoot State Railway which was constituted to bring relief and rehabilitation to thousands of famine affected people, opened on November, 1875 and ran from Mokamah on the left bank of the Ganges through Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur districts north-west into Champaran district as far as Bettia. A ferry over the Ganges at Mokamah connected it with the East Indian Railway.

There were two branches, one extending from Muzaffarpur south-west to Hajipur (to be connected with **the Bengal and North-Western Railway** at Sonapur by a bridge over the Gandak), the other (226 miles open for traffic in March 1886) from Samastipur via Darbhanga to Jhanjharpur.

The famine line later culminated in Tirhoot State Railway, a state – owned railway. Most of these meter gauge lines got interconnected in subsequent years.

The Tirhoot State Railway being situated on the western bank of the Ganga had no railway bridge across the Ganga and was thus cut off, from the main broad gauge route. To facilitate communication across the Ganga ferry service between Barh and Sultanpur Ghat and later on between Mokamah and Semaria Ghat was maintained.

On July 1, 1890 the state owned '**Tirhut Railway**' was transferred to a private owned Railway, '**the Bengal and North Western Railway**'.

II. Bengal and North Western Railway:



Bengal and North Western Railway came into being on 23 October, 1882 with the objective of making a railway line from Sonapur to Bahraich in Audh.

By the contract of 1896 between the Government and the Bengal and North Western Railway, the latter undertook the working of Tirhoot State Railway in its hand.

III. Oudh & Tirhoot State Railway:

Subsequently, the railway system of this region (Samastipur via Darbhanga to Jhanjharpur) became part of '**Oudh & Tirhut State Railway**'.

On 1 January 1943, **the Bengal and North Western Railway** and the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway (R&K worked) were acquired by the Government of India and they were amalgamated with **the Tirhut Railway**, the Mashrak-Thawe Extension Railway (BNW worked) and the Lucknow-Bareilly Railway (R&K worked) to form **the Oudh and Tirhut Railway**. Its headquarters was at Gorakhpur.

The **Oudh and Tirhut Railway** was later renamed the **Oudh Tirhut Railway**.

IV. North Eastern Railway

On 14th April 1952, the Oudh Tirhut Railway was amalgamated with the Assam Railway and the Kanpur-Achnera section of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to form **North Eastern Railway**, one of the zones of the current Indian Railways. Its headquarters was at Gorakhpur.

The Samastipur Railway Division came into existence in year **1969**, as part of **North Eastern Railway**.

V. EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY:

Subsequently, **w.e.f. 1st October 2002**, when new zones were created in Indian Railways, it became part of **East Central Railway** with headquarter at Hajipur.

Important dates on the opening of the sections:

Dalsingsarai to Samastipur	01.11.1875	Dhang to Bairgania	01.03.1892
Samastipur to Muzaffarpur	22.02.1877	Hajipur to Bachwara	01.04.1990
Samastipur to Darbhanga	01.11.1875	Thana Bihpur to Katereah	01.02.1901
Muzaffarpur to Motihari	01.02.1883	Kursela to Katihar Jn	07.03.1901
Darbhanga to Jhanjharpur	01.02.1883	Katereah to Kursela	01.07.1902
Barauni to Semaria Ghat	01.05.1883	Sakri to Jaynagar	14.01.1905
Bachwara to Samastipur	01.05.1883	Bettiah to Narkatiaganj	17.01.1906
Bachwara to Barauni	01.05.1883	Bhaptiahi to Simri Bakhtiarpur	01.03.1907
Motihari to Bettiah	20.12.1883	Narkatiaganj to Bagaha	01.05.1907
Hajipur to Muzaffarpur	26.10.1884	Simri Bakhtiarpur to Mansi	15.12.1907
Jhanjharpur to Ghoghardiha	08.04.1886	Bairgania to Narkatiaganj	20.12.1907
Ghoghardiha to Nirmali	08.04.1886	Samastipur to Khagaria	21.12.1912 to 01.11.1915 Extension
Sonpur to Hajipur	01.08.1887		
Nirmali to Bhaptiyahi	15.11.1887	Sakri to Biraul	2008
Darbhanga to Sitamarhi	01.07.1890	Biraul to Harnagar	12.08.2018
Sitamarhi to Riga	01.01.1891	Runnisaidpur to Sitamarhi	12.04.2011
Riga to Dhang	01.07.1891	Muzaffarpur to Runnisaidpur	27.03.2013

Samastipur Division comprises of many sections of old '**Oudh & Tirhut Railway**' and serves Mithila region which was centre of rich cultural heritage and finds mention in Indian Mythology. This region has played a very important role in ancient & medieval history.

Samastipur became a district in **1972** when it was split from Darbhanga District. This district is under Darbhanga commissionaire.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Major Rivers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kosi ▪ Bagmati ▪ BudhiGandak ▪ KamlaBalan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adhwara Group ▪ Lakhandeyee ▪ Sikrana

Samastipur Division serves 15 densely populated districts of North Bihar :-		
Mithila Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Madhubani ▪ Darbhanga ▪ Samastipur ▪ Sitamarhi ▪ Supaul 	Kosi Belt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Khagaria ▪ Begusarai ▪ Saharsa ▪ Madhepura ▪ Araria ▪ Purnea. 	Champanan Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Champanan ▪ West Champanan ▪ Shivhar ▪ Muzaffarpur

Nepal Border Heads	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raxaul ▪ Jaynagar ▪ Laukha Bazar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forbesganj ▪ Bairgania ▪ Raghapur

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Samastipur division covers a number of tourist places of historical & mythological importance. Some of these are:

<p>Sitamarhi</p>  <p>Situated in DBG-NKE section. It is famous for being the birth place of Goddess Sita. Sitamarhi is also directly connected with Muzaffarpur</p>	<p>Madhubani:</p>  <p>It is a cultural center of Mithilanchal and is famous for its rich cultural heritage and Madhubani paintings. The famous "Shastrartha" with Mandan Mishra and "Adi Guru" Shankaracharya was held at a place nearby</p>	<p>Janakpurdham</p>  <p>It was the Capital of the kingdom of Raja Janak. "Sita Swayambar" was held here. It is situated in Nepal and is connected by rail from Jaynagar and by road from Sitamarhi and Janakpur Road stations. It is the birth place of Janaki, or Sita, daughter of King Janak. Janakpur, historically called Mithilanchal, is the centre of the ancient Maithili culture, which has its own language and script.</p>
<p>Darbhanga</p>	<p>It is Commissionaire town having two universities viz. Sanskrit University and Lalit Narayan Mithila University. Several palaces of ancient king</p>	



and temples are of tourist interest are available here.



Valmikinagar: "Valmiki Ashram" is near Valmiki Nagar station in the name of MaharshiValmiki. It is believed that "Luv" and "Kush" the mighty sons of Lord Rama were born and brought up in the above Ashram. Also famous for Project Tiger.



West Champaran



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With district headquarters at Motihari. "**Ashoka Stambha**" of King Ashok era is worth seeing at Louria and Bodhya Stup, Nandangarh near Narkatiaganj. This district is also famous for **Bhitiharva Ashram**. **Bhitiharva** is a village at about 17 Km from Narkatiaganj Station where Gandhiji stayed and launched '**Champaran Satyagraha**' in India for the first time. Bhitiharva Ashram was originally known as Kasturba Sewa Kendra, it was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi on 20th November 1917 as a basic school to share knowledge with tribal women and girls later it was hub for freedom fighter.

East Champaran



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With district headquarters at Motihari. "**Ashoka Stambha**" of King Ashok era is worth seeing at Areraj, Gandhi Memorial Statue and Museum at Motihari. Raxaul entry point of Nepal is also situated in this District.

Kosi Region



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It is a famous pilgrimage of lord Mahadeo in the country. It is situated at a distance of 8 km from Madhepura and about 30 Km from Saharsa Station and is renowned for its historical and religious importance.

Devotees not only from Bihar but also from other parts of the country including the neighbouring country Nepal come to Singheshwar Asthan for the worship of lord Shiva. Mahashivratri mela of Singheshwar Asthan is famous in Bihar and Nepal also.



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Dhamaraghat

It is situated on the bank of river Koshi, between the stations Badlaghat and Dhamaraghat on Mansi-Saharsa rail line. Temples of MaKatyayani, as well as of Ram, Lakshman and Ma Janaki is situated at this place.

Every Monday and Friday, large numbers of devotees come to this place for offering Puja. As per the local folk traditions, Ma Katyani is orshiped as Lok Devi- 'Devi of Milk Cattles'.