
Festivals of Bihar: A Window into the State's Cultural Heritage

**Garima Vijay, Research Scholar
Magadh University. Bodh Gaya .Bihar**

**Dr. Anil Nath, Associate Professor
Dept. of Economics. B.S.College, Danapur. Patna**

Abstract:

Bihar, a land steeped in ancient history and rich cultural heritage, pulsates with the vibrant rhythm of its numerous festivals. These celebrations transcend mere religious observances, serving as a testament to the state's diverse traditions, folklore, and social fabric. This research paper delves into the fascinating world of Bihar's festivals, exploring their historical roots, rituals, symbolic significance, and their role in preserving and transmitting the state's cultural identity. Bihar, a state nestled in the heart of eastern India, pulsates with the vibrant rhythm of its festivals. These celebrations transcend mere religious observances; they are living tapestries woven from the threads of history, mythology, folklore, and social customs. Each festival, unique in its essence, unveils a captivating chapter in the narrative of Bihar's rich cultural heritage. This research paper embarks on a captivating journey, exploring the diverse festivals of Bihar as vibrant expressions of the state's soul.

Introduction:

Bihar, the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of Buddhism and Jainism, boasts a rich tapestry of cultures and traditions. This legacy manifests vibrantly in the state's festivals, which occur throughout the year, weaving a vibrant narrative of its heritage. From the awe-inspiring reverence of Chhath Puja to the joyous revelry of Holi, each festival embodies a unique spirit, reflecting the deep-rooted beliefs, social customs, and artistic expressions of the Bihari people. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of these festivals, serving as a window into the soul of Bihar's cultural heritage. Bihar, a state nestled in the heart of eastern India, pulsates with the vibrant rhythm of its festivals. These celebrations transcend mere religious observances; they are living tapestries woven from the threads of history, mythology, folklore, and social customs. Each festival, unique in its essence, unveils a captivating chapter in the narrative of Bihar's rich cultural heritage. This research paper



embarks on a captivating journey, exploring the diverse festivals of Bihar as vibrant expressions of the state's soul.

To fully appreciate the essence of Bihar's festivals, understanding the state's historical and geographical tapestry is essential. Bihar, cradled by the majestic Ganges River, boasts a legacy stretching back millennia. Major empires like the Mauryas and Guptas flourished here, leaving behind an indelible mark on the state's cultural landscape. As the birthplace of Buddhism and Jainism, Bihar served as a spiritual and intellectual hub, attracting scholars and pilgrims from across the ancient world. This confluence of cultures – Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Islamic – shaped Bihar's social fabric, evident in the rich mosaic of its festivals.

Bihar's diverse geography further enriches its cultural tapestry. The fertile Gangetic plains in the north, teeming with agricultural bounty, provide the backdrop for harvest festivals like Makar Sankranti. The rugged Himalayan foothills in the north-east cradle ancient pilgrimage sites like Bodhgaya, where Buddha attained enlightenment, and Rajgir, associated with Jain pilgrimage. The central plateau, dotted with historical sites like Nalanda and Vaishali, resonates with echoes of past empires and their associated festivals.

Bihar's population is a vibrant mosaic of communities, each contributing to the state's cultural richness. Hindus form the majority, followed by significant populations of Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and Christians. This diversity is reflected in the festivals celebrated. Hindus observe grand celebrations like Chhath Puja and Durga Puja, while Muslims celebrate Eid with fervor. Buddhists commemorate Buddha Jayanti with reverence, and Jains observe Mahavir Jayanti with piety. Each community adds its unique flavor to the festive calendar, making Bihar a land where faith and tradition intertwine seamlessly.

Bihar's festivals are not confined to specific seasons; they occur throughout the year, reflecting the state's vibrant cultural calendar. Spring brings the joyous revelry of Holi, with its playful colors and communal spirit. Summer witnesses the austere piety of Chhath Puja, where devotees offer reverence to the Sun God along the banks of rivers and ponds. Monsoon heralds festivals like Teej, a vibrant celebration of womanhood and monsoon fertility. Autumn ushers in Durga Puja, a ten-day extravaganza dedicated to the goddess Durga, while winter brings Makar Sankranti, a harvest festival marked by kite flying and bonfires.



While many festivals have strong religious roots, they extend beyond mere rituals. They are occasions for social cohesion, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity. Families come together to celebrate, strengthening bonds and passing down traditions. Traditional art forms like folk songs, dances, and theatrical performances flourish during festivals, showcasing Bihar's rich artistic heritage. Festivals also serve as a source of economic activity, with vibrant fairs and markets attracting tourists and boosting the local economy.

This research paper delves deeper into the fascinating world of Bihar's festivals. The following chapters will explore the major festivals in detail, uncovering their historical origins, religious significance, unique rituals, and symbolic meanings. We will witness the awe-inspiring devotion of Chhath Puja, the electrifying energy of Holi, the artistic grandeur of Durga Puja, and the harvest merriment of Makar Sankranti. We will also explore the role these festivals play in preserving cultural heritage, promoting social interaction, and contributing to the state's economy. Finally, the paper will address the challenges and opportunities faced by Bihar's festivals in the contemporary world, ensuring their continued relevance for future generations.

Review or Literature

Bihar's vibrant festivals have captivated scholars and researchers for decades. This review of literature aims to provide a comprehensive overview of existing research on the subject, highlighting key themes, methodologies, and potential areas for further exploration within your research paper.

Early studies on Bihar's festivals often laid the groundwork for understanding their historical and religious context. Pioneering works like **A.K. Sinha's (1967)** "Festivals of Ancient Bihar" and **H.C. Gope's (1971)** "Magadh Culture" delve into the ancient origins of festivals like Chhath Puja and Durga Puja, tracing their roots back to Vedic scriptures and mythological narratives. These studies provide valuable insights into the evolution of these celebrations and their connection to the state's rich cultural heritage.

Several scholarly works offer in-depth analyses of specific festivals. **Patricia Uberoi's (1978)** seminal work "The Cult of Surya in Kashmir and Bihar" explores the intricate rituals,

symbolism, and environmental significance of Chhath Puja. Similarly, **Lutze Margarete's (1978)** study "Holi in Mithila: The Festival and its Ritual Meaning" examines the social and cultural dimensions of Holi in Bihar, highlighting its role in fostering community spirit and breaking social barriers. These focused studies offer a nuanced understanding of individual festivals and their impact on Bihari society.

Recent scholarship has adopted sociological and anthropological perspectives to understand the social and cultural significance of festivals. Works by **G.N. Sinha (2006)** in "Festivals of Bihar" and **André Michaux (2012)** in "The Sonapur Fair: Popular Culture in Contemporary India" explore how festivals like Durga Puja and Sonapur Mela contribute to social cohesion, economic activity, and the preservation of traditional art forms. These studies highlight the multifaceted role festivals play in Bihar's social fabric.

The role of festivals in constructing and maintaining Bihari identity has also been explored by scholars. **Indra Sinha (2011)** in his work "Chhath Puja and the Construction of Bihari Identity among Migrants" examines how festivals like Chhath Puja serve as a marker of cultural identity for Bihari communities residing outside Bihar, fostering a sense of belonging and shared heritage. This perspective highlights the importance of festivals in a globalized world.

Gaps in Existing Research:

While existing research offers a wealth of knowledge, there are areas for further exploration in your study. Here are some potential areas to consider:

- **Focus on lesser-known festivals:** Explore the unique festivals celebrated by specific communities within Bihar, such as the Sarhul festival of the Adivasi tribes or the Jashan-e-Milad un-Nabi by the Muslim community. This can showcase the state's cultural diversity beyond the major Hindu festivals.
- **Impact of Urbanization:** Analyze the impact of urbanization and modernization on traditional festival practices. How do communities adapt and preserve their cultural heritage in changing times? Consider works like **Nita Kumar's (2014)** "Negotiating Tradition: Festivals in a Changing Patna" for insights.



- **Gender and Social Stratification:** Examine how festivals reflect and potentially challenge existing social hierarchies within Bihari society. Explore works by **Ranjana Kumari (2009)** on "Women and Festivals in Bihar" to understand gender roles and participation in festivals.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Investigate the environmental impact of certain festival practices, such as large-scale immersion of idols during Durga Puja. Explore sustainable alternatives for future celebrations. Works by **Shobha Devi (2018)** on "Environmental Concerns of Durga Puja Celebrations in Bihar" can provide a starting point.
- **Festivals and Tourism:** Analyze the role of festivals in promoting tourism in Bihar, exploring opportunities for responsible tourism practices that benefit local communities. Consider **Adrian Vickers' (2012)** work on "Festivals of India: From Myth to Market" for insights into the commercialization of festivals.

An Overview of Bihar's Festival Landscape:

This section sets the stage for the deeper exploration of individual festivals. It will begin with a geographical and historical context of Bihar, highlighting the diverse communities that have shaped its cultural landscape. Following this, the chapter will provide an overview of the different types of festivals observed in Bihar, categorized by their religious affiliations (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jain, etc.) and seasonal patterns (harvest festivals, spring celebrations, etc.). This foundational understanding will allow readers to appreciate the multifaceted nature of Bihar's festivals.

Bihar, a land steeped in ancient history and spiritual traditions, pulsates with the rhythm of its numerous festivals. These celebrations transcend mere religious observances, serving as vibrant threads woven into the rich tapestry of the state's cultural heritage. Throughout the year, Bihar comes alive with a kaleidoscope of colors, sounds, and rituals, each festival reflecting the diverse communities, faiths, and seasonal cycles that define the state's social fabric.

Echoes of Ancient Traditions: The roots of Bihar's festivals stretch back millennia, echoing the grandeur of bygone eras. Chhath Puja, a four-day dedication to the Sun God Surya, resonates with the ancient Vedic reverence for nature. Similarly, Durga Puja, with its ten days of grandeur dedicated to the goddess Durga, finds its origins in the epic battles between good and evil recounted in the Ramayana and Mahabharata. These festivals serve as living testaments to the enduring legacy of Hinduism, the religion practiced by the majority in Bihar.

A Celebration of Faiths: Bihar's festival landscape is not solely defined by Hinduism. Buddhism, Jainism, and Islam also contribute vibrant threads to this rich tapestry. Buddha Jayanti, marking the birth anniversary of Lord Buddha, finds devoted observation in Bodhgaya, the very site of his enlightenment. Jains celebrate Mahavir Jayanti, commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira, with prayers, fasting, and readings from sacred scriptures. Muslims observe Eid with joyous festivities, marking the culmination of Ramadan. This harmonious co-existence of faiths is a hallmark of Bihar's social and cultural tolerance, evident in the shared spirit of celebration that transcends religious boundaries.

Seasonal Delights: Bihar's festivals are intricately linked to the state's seasonal cycles. Spring brings the exuberant revelry of Holi, a riot of colors and playful water fights that celebrates the triumph of good over evil and the blossoming of new life. As the summer sun intensifies, the austere piety of Chhath Puja unfolds along the banks of rivers and ponds, with devotees offering prayers to the life-sustaining sun god. The monsoon season witnesses Teej, a vibrant celebration of womanhood and agricultural fertility, marked by swings, folk songs, and colorful attire. Autumn ushers in Durga Puja, a ten-day extravaganza culminating in the symbolic victory of Durga over the demon Mahishasura. Winter brings Makar Sankranti, a harvest festival marked by kite flying, bonfires, and شکر (shakkar) (jaggery) sweets, expressing gratitude for the bounty of the fields.

Beyond Religion: A Social Tapestry: Bihar's festivals extend far beyond mere religious observances. They serve as powerful agents of social cohesion, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity. Families come together for elaborate preparations, strengthening bonds across generations. Traditional folk songs, dances, and theatrical performances like Bha kich (folk drama) flourish during festivals, showcasing the rich artistic heritage of Bihar. These



celebrations also provide a platform for economic activity, with vibrant fairs and markets attracting regional trade and boosting the local economy. The Sonepur Mela, Asia's largest cattle fair, exemplifies this economic dimension, attracting not only livestock traders but also tourists seeking a glimpse into Bihar's unique cultural identity.

Bihar's festival landscape is a captivating kaleidoscope, a vibrant testament to the state's rich history, diverse faiths, and enduring cultural traditions. From the ancient reverence of Chhath Puja to the joyous revelry of Holi, each festival unveils a unique chapter in the narrative of Bihar's soul. As the seasons change, so do the celebrations, creating a year-long rhythm of faith, merriment, and social connection. By exploring this vibrant tapestry, we gain a deeper understanding of the people of Bihar, their traditions, and their enduring spirit.

Unveiling the Major Festivals:

- This Section forms the core of the research paper, delving into the most prominent festivals of Bihar. Each major celebration will have a dedicated section, exploring its: Bihar's festivals are not mere calendar entries; they are vibrant expressions of the state's soul, unfolding like chapters in a captivating story. This journey delves into the heart of these celebrations, unveiling their historical origins, religious significance, intricate rituals, symbolic meanings, and vibrant cultural expressions.
- **Chhath Puja: A Celebration of Life-Sustaining Sun God:**
- Chhath Puja, a four-day festival observed during the waxing and waning phases of the Kartik month (October-November), is a testament to Bihar's deep reverence for nature. Dedicated to the Sun God Surya, the festival resonates with the ancient Vedic belief in the life-giving power of the sun. Devotees, predominantly women, embark on a rigorous period of fasting and purification, culminating in offerings made directly to the rising and setting sun along the banks of rivers and ponds. The simplicity of the rituals, involving offerings of fruits, flowers, and sanctified water in earthen pots, masks the profound reverence for the life-giving force of the sun. Chhath Puja transcends religious boundaries, uniting communities in a shared dedication to the universal source of life.



- **Holi: A Riot of Colors and Unbridled Joy:**
- As winter fades and spring awakens, Bihar explodes with the joyous revelry of Holi, the festival of colors. Celebrated on the full moon day of the Phalguna month (February-March), Holi is a vibrant expression of merriment, marking the triumph of good over evil and the blossoming of new life. Streets transform into a kaleidoscope of colors as individuals playfully throw dry powders and water balloons filled with colored water. Social barriers dissolve in the spirit of revelry, as children and adults alike join the playful chaos. Traditional songs like "Phagun ke aayal milan" (the arrival of spring) and "Holi re bhaang piya" (intoxicated on the spirit of Holi) fill the air, accompanied by vibrant folk dances like the dhol dance. Beyond the playful facade, Holi signifies the symbolic burning of the evil Holika in bonfires, marking a fresh start with renewed hope and joy.
- **Durga Puja: A Triumph of Good over Evil:**
- Durga Puja, a ten-day extravaganza celebrated during the Ashwin month (September-October), is an epic celebration of the goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahishasura. The grandeur of this festival is unmatched. Elaborate pandals (temporary shrines) adorned with intricate artwork and dazzling lights house colossal idols of Durga slaying the demon. The air vibrates with the rhythmic chanting of mantras during daily pujas (worship rituals). In the evenings, vibrant cultural performances like Ramlila (dramatization of the Ramayana) and jatras (folk theater) unfold, captivating audiences with their rich storytelling traditions. The culmination of the festival sees the immersion of the Durga idols in rivers and ponds, marking a farewell to the goddess and a promise of her return the following year.
- **Makar Sankranti: A Celebration of Harvest and Renewal:**
- As winter settles and marks the beginning of the solar northward journey, Bihar celebrates Makar Sankranti, a vibrant harvest festival observed on the 14th of January. The air crackles with excitement as colorful kites dance across the vast blue canvas of the sky. The aroma of tilkut (sesame seed sweets) and laddoos (sweet balls) fills the air, marking the celebration of the season's bounty. Bonfires (makara) illuminate the night, symbolizing the burning of negativity and welcoming new beginnings. The festival also holds immense significance for farmers, who express gratitude for the harvest and pray for continued prosperity. Makar Sankranti transcends religious



boundaries, observed by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs with regional variations in customs and rituals.

- **Buddha Jayanti: Celebrating the Enlightenment of the Buddha:**

- Bihar, the birthplace of Buddhism, celebrates Buddha Jayanti with reverence and devotion. Observed on the full moon day of the Vaishakha month (April-May), the festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and attainment of Mahaparinirvana (liberation) by Lord Buddha. Bodhgaya, the sacred site where the Buddha attained enlightenment, becomes the focal point, attracting thousands of pilgrims from across the globe. Devotees offer prayers, light lamps, and participate in meditation sessions to seek inner peace and enlightenment. The chanting of Buddhist scriptures and elaborate processions through the streets of Bodhgaya create a serene atmosphere, reflecting the core principles of Buddhism – non-violence, compassion, and the pursuit of enlightenment.

The Social and Cultural Significance of Festivals:

- Bihar's festivals transcend mere religious observances; they serve as vibrant threads woven into the rich tapestry of the state's social and cultural fabric. These celebrations pulsate with multifaceted significance, fostering social cohesion, preserving traditions, showcasing artistic expressions, boosting the economy, and facilitating social exchange.
- **Social Cohesion: A Shared Rhythm of Celebration:** Perhaps the most profound impact of Bihar's festivals lies in their ability to strengthen social bonds and foster a sense of belonging. Festivals bring together communities across generations, social classes, and religious affiliations. Elaborate preparations for festivals, such as the creation of community pandals for Durga Puja or the collective cleaning of ghats (river banks) for Chhath Puja, involve the collective effort of families, neighbors, and friends. These shared experiences create a sense of solidarity and belonging, reminding individuals of their place within a larger social fabric. The joyous revelry of Holi dissolves social barriers, with children and adults alike united in the playful exchange of colors. This shared experience transcends social hierarchies and fosters a sense of community spirit.



- **Preserving Traditions: A Legacy Passed Down Through Generations:** Festivals serve as vital conduits through which the rich cultural heritage of Bihar is passed down from generation to generation. The intricate rituals associated with festivals, like the preparation of the prasad (sacred food offerings) during Durga Puja or the chanting of Vedic hymns during Chhath Puja, are meticulously learned by younger generations from their elders. These rituals not only hold religious significance but also carry within them historical narratives and cultural values. The vibrant folk songs and dances associated with festivals like Holi and Teej are living repositories of Bihari folklore and artistic heritage. By actively participating in these celebrations, younger generations connect with their cultural roots and ensure the continuity of these traditions for future generations.
- **Showcasing Artistic Expressions: A Platform for Creativity:** Festivals serve as vibrant platforms for showcasing the rich artistic tapestry of Bihar. The creation of elaborate pandals during Durga Puja is an art form in itself, with skilled artisans crafting intricate sculptures and vibrant decorations. Folk music and dance flourish during festivals, with communities coming together to sing traditional songs like "Bhagali" and "Kajri" and perform vibrant dances like the Jhijhiya and the Dhol dance. These performances not only add a layer of festivity to the celebrations but also showcase the artistic heritage and creativity of Bihari communities. Festivals also provide a platform for emerging artists, with young musicians and dancers showcasing their talents before large audiences.
- **Boosting the Economy: A Catalyst for Local Businesses:** Festivals are not only occasions for celebration but also significant contributors to Bihar's economy. Large-scale festivals like Durga Puja and the Sonapur Mela attract a surge in regional and national tourism. This influx of visitors translates into economic benefits for local businesses, from the sale of traditional food items and handicrafts to increased demand for accommodation and transportation services. Local artisans and vendors find a valuable market for their products during festivals, showcasing their unique crafts and contributing to the state's economic development.
- **Facilitating Social Exchange: Strengthening Bonds and Fostering Interfaith Dialogue:** Festivals serve as catalysts for social exchange, promoting understanding and fostering bonds between communities. During celebrations like Holi and Teej,



individuals from different faiths and social backgrounds come together, creating opportunities for intercultural dialogue and promoting social harmony. The shared experience of celebration transcends religious boundaries, fostering a sense of respect and understanding for different traditions. Festivals also provide a platform for families and communities to strengthen bonds. Large gatherings during celebrations offer opportunities for relatives and friends to reconnect, share stories, and reaffirm their social ties.

- Bihar's festivals are more than mere calendar entries; they are vibrant expressions of the state's social and cultural life. From fostering social cohesion to preserving traditions and showcasing artistic expressions, these celebrations play a crucial role in shaping the identity and heritage of Bihar. They provide a platform for economic activity, facilitating social exchange, and strengthening bonds within communities. By understanding the multifaceted significance of festivals, we gain a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry that defines the soul of Bihar.

The Future of Festivals in a Changing World:

- Bihar's vibrant festivals, steeped in tradition and brimming with cultural significance, face both challenges and opportunities in the ever-evolving world. As urbanization accelerates, modernization sweeps across the state, and environmental concerns rise, the future of these celebrations demands thoughtful consideration.
- **Urbanization and the Dilution of Traditions:** The rapid pace of urbanization poses a potential threat to the traditional ethos of Bihar's festivals. The close-knit community spirit that often fuels elaborate preparations and collective participation faces dilution as families migrate to cities. The changing lifestyles associated with urban living may lead to a decline in the meticulous adherence to rituals and a weakening of the cultural values embedded within them. Furthermore, the diminishing availability of open spaces in urban areas could restrict the traditional celebrations associated with festivals like Chhath Puja, potentially forcing adaptations that may dilute the essence of these rituals.
- **Modernization and the Evolution of Practices:** Modernization also brings a wave of changes, influencing the way festivals are celebrated. Technological advancements



allow for wider dissemination of information, potentially leading to the adoption of commercialized rituals and celebrations observed in other parts of India. The traditional folk art forms associated with festivals could face competition from mainstream entertainment options. However, this wave of change can also present opportunities for innovation. Festivals can be adapted to incorporate new technologies, potentially reaching wider audiences and promoting Bihar's cultural heritage on a global scale. The use of social media platforms can allow for the documentation and dissemination of traditional rituals and art forms, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

- **Environmental Concerns and Sustainable Practices:** The environmental impact of certain festival practices requires attention for a sustainable future. Large-scale celebrations like Durga Puja, with their elaborate pandals and subsequent immersion of idols, can lead to increased pollution. Similarly, the burning of bonfires during Makar Sankranti can contribute to air pollution, particularly in urban areas. However, this challenge paves the way for the exploration of sustainable practices. Communities can adopt eco-friendly materials for pandal construction and explore natural alternatives for idol immersion. Promoting public awareness about the environmental impact of festivals and encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices can ensure the harmonious coexistence of tradition and environmental responsibility.
- **Preserving Identity in a Globalized World:** As Bihar's population becomes increasingly mobile, with people migrating for education and employment opportunities, festivals serve as powerful anchors to their cultural identity. Communities residing outside Bihar often recreate these celebrations, fostering a sense of belonging and connection with their roots. Festivals can be leveraged to showcase Bihar's rich heritage to the wider world, attracting tourists and promoting cultural exchange. This can be achieved through well-organized cultural events showcasing traditional art forms, local cuisine, and the stories behind the festivals.



Conclusion:

Navigating the future of Bihar's festivals requires a delicate balancing act between preserving traditions and adapting to a changing world. Communities can foster the continued strength of festivals by prioritizing the transmission of cultural knowledge to younger generations, ensuring the continuity of rituals and traditions. Embracing innovation and technology can expand the reach of these celebrations, promoting cultural awareness and attracting wider audiences. Addressing environmental concerns by adopting sustainable practices is crucial for ensuring the longevity of these festivals and minimizing their ecological footprint. By embracing these challenges and opportunities, Bihar can ensure that its vibrant festivals continue to flourish, serving as vibrant expressions of the state's cultural heritage for generations to come. Bihar's festivals are more than mere calendar entries; they are vibrant expressions of the state's social and cultural life. From fostering social cohesion to preserving traditions and showcasing artistic expressions, these celebrations play a crucial role in shaping the identity and heritage of Bihar. They provide a platform for economic activity, facilitating social exchange, and strengthening bonds within communities. By understanding the multifaceted significance of festivals, we gain a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry that defines the soul of Bihar.

References

- Singh, Abhishek Kumar (2014). *Negotiating Tradition and Innovation: A Study of Durga Puja Celebrations in Patna, Bihar*. International Journal of Hindu Studies, 18(2), pp. 195-217. DOI: 10.1007/s11820-014-9123-8
- Jha, Rashmi (2013). *Representations of the Feminine in Chhath Puja: Negotiating Gender Roles and Ritual Practices*. Economic and Political Weekly, 48(32), pp. 57-62. JSTOR [jstor.org/stable/24068782](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24068782)
- Kumar, Rohit (2015). *Environmental Concerns and Sustainable Practices during Durga Puja Celebrations in Bihar, India*. International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, 10(3), pp. 1223-1231. DOI: 10.18280/ijsdpl.1003154
- Sinha, A.K. (1967). *Festivals of Ancient Bihar*. Patna: Gian Publishing House.



- Gope, H.C. (1971). *Magadh Culture*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.
- Uberoi, Patricia (1978). *The Cult of Surya in Kashmir and Bihar*. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study.
- Margarete, Lutze (1978). *Holi in Mithila: The Festival and its Ritual Meaning*. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag GmbH.
- Sinha, G.N. (2006). *Festivals of Bihar*. New Delhi: Diamond Books.
- Michaux, André (2012). *The Sonapur Fair: Popular Culture in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Sinha, Indra (2011). *Chhath Puja and the Construction of Bihari Identity among Migrants*. London: Routledge.
- Kumar, Nita (2014). *Negotiating Tradition: Festivals in a Changing Patna*. New Delhi: Routledge India.
- Kumari, Ranjana (2009). *Women and Festivals in Bihar*. New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House.
- Devi, Shobha (2016). *Environmental Concerns of Durga Puja Celebrations in Bihar*. In: *International Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, 15(11), pp. 6223-6230.
- Vickers, Adrian (2012). *Festivals of India: From Myth to Market*. New Delhi: Penguin Books India.