



# Democracy in Action: Empowering Bihar Through Questions

Sushant K. Singh

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## Summary

Bihar, one of India's oldest and most historically significant regions, has a legacy that spans millennia. It was the cradle of ancient civilizations, the birthplace of two major religions—Buddhism and Jainism—and a center of learning that attracted scholars worldwide. Yet, in modern times, Bihar has struggled with challenges that have held back its development and dimmed its once-bright shine on the national stage. The state is often associated with poverty, corruption, poor infrastructure, and inadequate public services, overshadowing its rich history and potential. The author has witnessed the depreciation of Bihar's glory in the last three decades, where corruption and a rotten system played a critical role.

This book aims to empower the citizens of Bihar to reclaim their state's legacy by actively participating in the democratic process. The upcoming elections present a crucial opportunity to address the issues that have plagued Bihar for too long. However, for democracy to function effectively, it requires an informed and engaged electorate—citizens who are aware of the issues, prepared to ask the right questions, and demand accountability from those who seek to represent them.

This book is designed as a tool for such engagement. It provides a comprehensive set of questions across various sectors critical to Bihar's future, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, law and order, and cultural preservation. The questions are structured around three essential dimensions—**What**, **Why**, and **How**. By exploring these dimensions, the questions go beyond surface-level inquiries to probe deeply into political candidates' policies, plans, and promises. The goal is to encourage detailed, thoughtful responses that provide clear insights into how candidates intend to address Bihar's challenges.

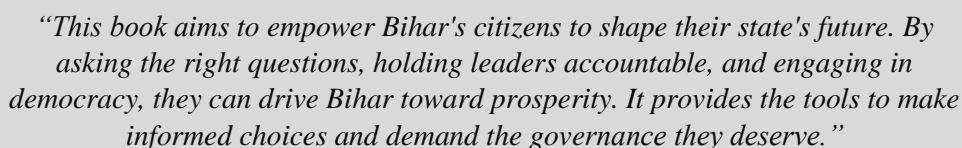
The "**What**" questions focus on the specific actions or policies candidates propose. These questions are intended to clarify the candidates' agendas and ensure they have concrete plans rather than vague promises. For example, what specific measures will they take to improve the quality of education in government schools? What steps will they implement to tackle corruption effectively?

The "**Why**" questions explore the rationale behind these proposals. Why have previous efforts failed, and why are the proposed solutions expected to succeed? These questions

encourage candidates to reflect on the underlying causes of the issues and demonstrate a deep understanding of the problems at hand. For instance, why has Bihar's healthcare system remained underdeveloped despite numerous government initiatives?

The "**How**" questions delve into the implementation strategies. How will these plans be executed, financed, and monitored? How will candidates ensure that their promises translate into tangible outcomes for the people of Bihar? This dimension is crucial because even the best plans can fail without a clear and feasible strategy for implementation.

The structure of this book is designed to be user-friendly, allowing readers to navigate easily through different sectors and identify the questions most relevant to their concerns. Each section begins with a brief overview of the issues within a particular sector, followed by a list of questions that can be posed to political candidates.



*“This book aims to empower Bihar's citizens to shape their state's future. By asking the right questions, holding leaders accountable, and engaging in democracy, they can drive Bihar toward prosperity. It provides the tools to make informed choices and demand the governance they deserve.”*



## Preface

Bihar, a state with a rich cultural heritage and a history of intellectual and spiritual greatness, stands today at a crossroads. Despite its significant contributions to the nation's history and culture, Bihar faces numerous challenges—corruption, poor infrastructure, inadequate education and healthcare systems, and a struggling economy, to name a few. These challenges have muffled the potential of Bihar and its people, preventing them from achieving the prosperity and progress that the state rightly deserves.

This book was born out of a deep concern for Bihar's future and a strong belief in the power of informed and engaged citizens to bring about meaningful change. It is intended as a tool for the people of Bihar to empower them with the knowledge and questions they need to hold their leaders accountable. The idea is simple: by asking the right questions, we can demand the correct answers and, ultimately, the right actions.

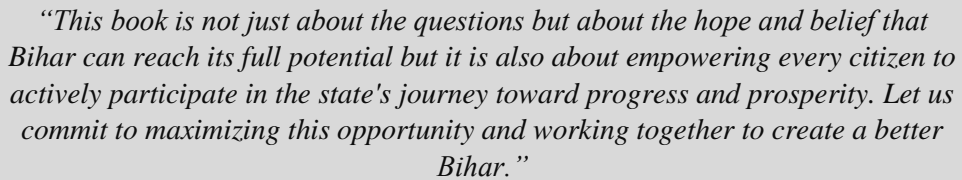
The upcoming elections in Bihar present a critical opportunity for citizens to influence the direction of the state. Elections are not just about casting a vote; they are about making informed choices based on a clear understanding of the issues and proposed solutions. However, in the noise and confusion that often accompany election campaigns, the real issues can sometimes get lost, and politicians may offer promises without being held accountable for their delivery.

This book seeks to cut through that noise by providing comprehensive questions across various sectors crucial to Bihar's development, prosperity, and glory. These questions are designed to probe deeply into the policies and plans of those seeking to lead the state, ensuring they are prepared to address Bihar's challenges. The questions encourage a detailed and thoughtful response rather than vague promises or political rhetoric by focusing on the dimensions of **What**, **Why**, and **How**.

As the author, I aim not to prescribe specific solutions but to encourage critical thinking and informed dialogues. The questions presented in this book are intended to be a starting point for conversations between citizens and their leaders. They are meant to spark debate, inspire action, and, most importantly, ensure that the voices of the people of Bihar are heard loud and clear.

This book is for everyone who believes in the power of democracy and the importance of civic engagement. Whether you are a student, a farmer, a professional, or a homemaker, your voice matters. Your questions matter. Together, we can demand better governance, greater transparency, and a brighter future for Bihar.

As you read through these pages, I encourage you to consider the issues that matter most to you and your community. Use the questions as a guide to engage with political candidates, to challenge them, and to hold them accountable. Bihar's future is in your hands, and by asking the right questions, you can help shape it for the better.



*“This book is not just about the questions but about the hope and belief that Bihar can reach its full potential but it is also about empowering every citizen to actively participate in the state's journey toward progress and prosperity. Let us commit to maximizing this opportunity and working together to create a better Bihar.”*

## Motivation

The author embarked on this unconventional journey of writing a book full of questions, deeply inspired by the Sanatan culture (Hindu culture) of Bharat (India), where inquiry and the quest for knowledge have always been central to spiritual and intellectual growth. In Hindu tradition, the path to Moksha, or liberation, is seen as a journey of seeking—where every individual is encouraged to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and seek answers that resonate with their inner self.

The Sanatan Dharm, which forms the bedrock of Hindu culture, is a way of life that embraces the diversity of thoughts and beliefs. Within this tradition, India's great sages and seekers found their paths to enlightenment by engaging in deep, philosophical inquiries. For instance, when Bhagwan Shiv met Maa Parvati, she posed several profound questions to him, seeking understanding and clarity on the mysteries of life and the universe (Chandrakrit, 1994). This dialogue between Bhagwan Shiv and Maa Parvati, often depicted in scriptures, symbolizes the importance of inquiry in pursuing spiritual wisdom (Figure 1).

Similarly, in the Bhagavad Gita, one of the most revered texts in the Sanatan civilization, Arjun, the warrior prince, finds himself engulfed in doubt and confusion on the battlefield of Kurukshetra (Kaushik, 1993). In his moment of darkness, Arjun turns to Bhagwan Krishna, asking questions reflecting his inner turmoil and ethical dilemmas. Through these questions, Krishna imparts the timeless wisdom of the Gita, guiding Arjun—and, by extension, all seekers—toward the path of righteousness and self-realization (Figure 2) (Newspuran, 2019).



**Figure 1.** Bhagwan Shiv and Maa Parvati in a serene conversation (picture created by GPT4o).





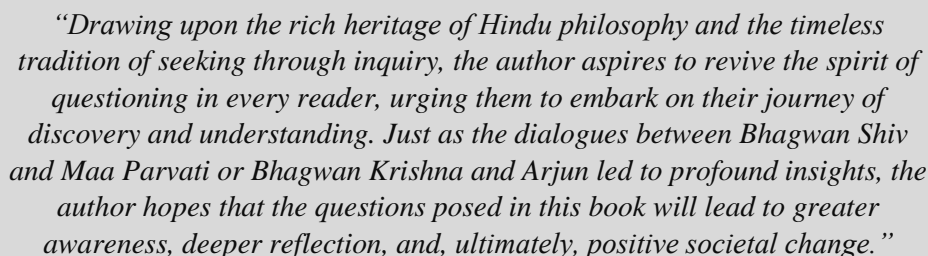
**Figure 2.** Bhagwan Krishna and Arjun have a conversation on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

The author of this book believes that just as these divine dialogues have shaped the spiritual journeys of countless individuals, asking the right questions can illuminate the path to understanding the complex socio-political landscape of modern India. In a world where information is abundant but clarity is scarce, questioning becomes a powerful tool for uncovering truths, challenging the status quo, and fostering informed citizenship.

Therefore, this book is an homage to the ancient inquiry tradition deeply embedded in Sanatan culture. The author has posed these questions to seek answers and encourage readers to engage in introspection and exploration. Each question is designed to provoke thoughts, inspire dialogues, and, ultimately, empower individuals to take responsibility for the future of their nation.

In the modern context, the role of journalists is crucial in holding politicians accountable and ensuring transparency in governance. Journalists should ask honest and direct questions to politicians in favor of the nation's development and prosperity. However, it is disheartening to see that, except for a few, most journalists appear unprepared, lack the necessary information and knowledge, and often seem aligned with specific lobbies, compromising the intellectual rigor to foster productive and honest discourse. This lack of critical inquiry creates a void in the public dialogue, where leaders are not adequately questioned about their actions and policies.

As a result, it becomes imperative to empower citizens to take on this role themselves, asking direct and insightful questions to their leaders and candidates. By doing so, citizens can ensure that the focus remains on the nation's growth, development, and the well-being of its people. Moreover, in a democratic society, where the power lies in the hands of the people, the ability to question leaders, policies, and historical narratives is crucial. This book aims to bridge that gap by providing individuals with the tools to engage in meaningful inquiry, holding their representatives accountable, and fostering a more transparent and responsive political system. Additionally, the book serves as a reminder that the journey toward truth and justice begins with the courage to ask difficult questions. Through this inquiry process, the author hopes to contribute to a more informed, enlightened, and empowered community—much like the seekers of old who walked their paths to Moksha by asking the questions that mattered most to them.



*“Drawing upon the rich heritage of Hindu philosophy and the timeless tradition of seeking through inquiry, the author aspires to revive the spirit of questioning in every reader, urging them to embark on their journey of discovery and understanding. Just as the dialogues between Bhagwan Shiv and Maa Parvati or Bhagwan Krishna and Arjun led to profound insights, the author hopes that the questions posed in this book will lead to greater awareness, deeper reflection, and, ultimately, positive societal change.”*

## Dedication

This book is dedicated to the resilient people of Bihar, who have endured countless challenges with unwavering spirit and determination. Their courage, fortitude, and unyielding hope for a better tomorrow have inspired this work's creation. Bihar's journey has been long and arduous, tainted by darkness and despair. Still, it has also been a story of resilience, rising against the odds, and an enduring quest for justice, equality, and prosperity.

This book is dedicated to the youth of Bihar, who are the torchbearers of the future; this book is especially dedicated to you. Your dreams, aspirations, and relentless pursuit of excellence in the face of adversity are a testament to the indomitable spirit of this land. You are the change-makers, the visionaries, and the leaders of tomorrow, and it is through your efforts that Bihar will reclaim its glory and stride confidently into the future. This book is a small step in empowering you with the knowledge and questions necessary to hold your leaders accountable and to demand the governance you deserve.

This book is also dedicated to the countless unsung heroes of Bihar—farmers, laborers, educators, social workers, and activists—who work tirelessly every day to make this state a better place. Your dedication and commitment to uplifting Bihar are this society's true pillars. You embody the values of hard work, integrity, and service to the community, and your efforts lay the foundation for a brighter future.

This book is also dedicated to the women of Bihar, who have often borne the brunt of social and economic inequalities. It is dedicated to your strength and perseverance. Your struggles and triumphs inspire me, and I hope this book will contribute to creating a society where your voices are heard, your rights are respected, and your contributions are celebrated. The questions posed within these pages are a call to action for all of us to work towards a more just and equitable society where gender does not determine one's opportunities or safety.

Finally, this book is dedicated to remembering Bihar's great leaders, thinkers, and reformers who have shaped the state's rich history and culture. Their legacy reminds us that Bihar has always been a land of knowledge, wisdom, and progress. It is in their honor that we continue the fight for a Bihar that lives up to its potential, a Bihar that is once again a bonfire of learning, culture, and good governance.

*“May this book serve as a tool for every citizen of Bihar to rise, question, and demand the best from those in power. Let us all come together to build a Bihar that reflects the greatness of its past and shines with the promise of a brighter,*



## Acknowledgments

Writing this book has been both challenging and rewarding, and it would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of many individuals. First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the people of Bihar, whose resilience and determination inspired every word on these pages. Your unwavering hope for a better future and relentless pursuit of justice and equality has driven this work.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my family, colleagues, and friends, whose constant support, love, and understanding have been invaluable throughout this endeavor. I am particularly grateful to those who took the time to review drafts, suggest improvements, and provide feedback that enriched the final product.

Although there is a severe lack of literature on Bihar, I still express my gratitude to the researchers, historians, and writers whose works provided the foundational knowledge necessary for this book. This book stands on the shoulders of their scholarship, and I am indebted to them for their contributions to our understanding of Bihar's past and present.

I am also grateful to the publishing team, whose dedication and professionalism ensured this book reached its readers in the best possible form. Their editing, design, and production expertise has brought this project to life. I appreciate their patience and meticulous attention to detail, which have greatly enhanced the quality of this work. I acknowledge that ChatGPT4o is used for ideation, organizing and creating content, such as images, and structuring the contents in the **What**, **Why**, and **How** format.

Lastly, I would like to thank the countless individuals who contributed to the ideas and questions presented in this book through their conversations, debates, and discussions on social media and other platforms. Whether friends, colleagues, or strangers, your perspectives have been instrumental in shaping the content and focus of this work. Your passion for Bihar and desire to see it thrive have been a constant source of motivation.

*"This book is the result of collective effort. While my name appears on the cover, it is a product of many's wisdom, support, and contributions. I offer my deepest thanks to all who have participated in this journey. I hope this book catalyzes positive change in Bihar and serves as a tool for its citizens to demand the governance they deserve."*

## How to use this book

This book is more than just a collection of questions; it is a tool designed to empower the citizens of Bihar to take an active role in shaping the future of their state. The upcoming elections offer a critical opportunity for us to engage with the democratic process meaningfully. By using this book, you can ensure that the voices of the people are heard and that the leaders who emerge from these elections are held accountable for their promises and actions.

### Step 1: Understand the issues

Before engaging with political candidates, it is essential to clearly understand the issues that matter most to you, your family, your community, and your country. The book is organized into thematic sections covering various sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, law and order, and cultural preservation. Take the time to read through these sections and reflect on how the issues discussed impact your daily life. By grounding yourself in the specifics of each issue, you will be better equipped to ask informed and relevant questions beyond superficial inquiries.

### Step 2: Formulate your questions

The heart of this book lies in its questions—questions designed to elicit detailed and thoughtful responses from political candidates. The questions are structured around three key dimensions: what, why, and how.

- **What:** Focuses on the specific actions or policies candidates propose. This helps clarify what exactly the candidate plans to do.
- **Why:** Explores the rationale behind these proposals, encouraging candidates to explain the reasoning and motivations behind their plans.
- **How:** Delves into the implementation strategies, seeking clarity on how the candidate intends to execute their plans effectively.

*“While the book offers a comprehensive set of questions, you should feel free to adapt or expand them based on your priorities and concerns. Consider how the issues impact you personally or resonate within your community, and tailor the questions accordingly.”*

### Step 3: Engage with candidates

Once your questions are prepared, engaging with political candidates is next. This can be done in a variety of ways:

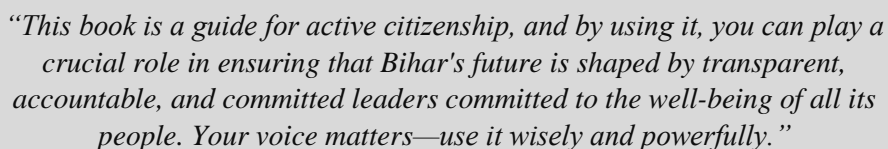
- **Public forums:** Attend town hall meetings, rallies, or debates where candidates speak. Use the opportunity to ask your questions directly.
- **Social media:** Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are increasingly used by political candidates to engage with voters. Post your questions publicly and ask for responses.
- **Letters and emails:** Write to candidates' offices with your questions and ask for detailed responses. This method also allows you to keep a record of their answers.
- **Community discussions:** Organize or participate in community discussions where you and others can collectively ask candidates questions in person or through virtual platforms.
- **Invite candidates to your institutions:** Involve the head of your institutions in inviting candidates to your institutions for a focused discussion and asking questions.

### Step 4: Analyze responses

After engaging with candidates, it is crucial to analyze their responses critically. Are their answers specific and actionable, or are they vague and filled with empty promises? Do they demonstrate a deep understanding of the issues, or are they avoiding difficult questions? Use the answers to assess which candidates will most likely deliver on their promises and contribute positively to Bihar's future.

### Step 5: Share and mobilize

Finally, share what you learn with others. Please encourage your family, friends, and community members to use this book to ask their questions and hold candidates accountable. The more people are engaged and informed, the stronger the democratic process becomes.



*“This book is a guide for active citizenship, and by using it, you can play a crucial role in ensuring that Bihar's future is shaped by transparent, accountable, and committed leaders committed to the well-being of all its people. Your voice matters—use it wisely and powerfully.”*

# Chapter 1

## 1.1. Common Fundamental Questions: The Rationale

The rationale behind posing common fundamental questions is rooted in the belief that a strong democracy thrives on informed and engaged voters. The questions are not just inquiries into specific historical events or political decisions; they foster critical thinking, challenge established narratives, and encourage a deeper understanding of the forces that have shaped India's past and present. Although India has centuries of civilization history, the last thousand years significantly impacted today's India. Most Indians are unaware of the critical incidents in the previous century. Therefore, there are fundamental questions all Indians should ask.

### 1.1.1. Encouraging critical examination of historical events

India's history is rich and complex, marked by moments of triumph, struggle, and profound changes. However, many historical events have often been presented through a single, dominant narrative, leaving little room for alternative perspectives or deeper scrutiny. By asking fundamental questions about critical events, such as the partition of India or the appointment of certain political leaders to a specific ministry or department, the book invites readers to examine these moments critically, understand the multiple factors at play, and appreciate the often-overlooked nuances. This approach helps to reveal history, making it more accessible and relevant to contemporary issues.

### 1.1.2. Promoting accountability in leadership

Democracy is built on transparency and accountability, where leaders are answerable to the people they serve. Fundamental questions about the decisions made by historical and current political leaders—such as the reasons behind the selection of Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister or the continued participation of convicted politicians in active politics—serve as a tool to promote accountability. These questions challenge readers to consider whether the actions and decisions of leaders were or are in the nation's best interest and encourage a culture of holding leaders accountable for their past and present actions.

### 1.1.3. Reclaiming forgotten or underrepresented narratives

India's freedom struggle and its aftermath are often told through the contributions of a few prominent figures, while the efforts of many others, particularly from different regions like Bihar, remain underrepresented. By asking questions about the roles of Bihari freedom fighters and the contributions of lesser-known leaders, the book seeks to reclaim these narratives and give them the recognition they deserve. This is crucial for fostering a more inclusive understanding of history, where the efforts of all who contributed to the nation's independence and development are acknowledged and celebrated.

### 1.1.4. Addressing contemporary social and political issues

Many of the questions posed in the book are directly relevant to ongoing social and political debates in India, such as corruption, active participation of convicted criminals in politics, the genocide of Kashmiri Hindus, the existence of religious decrees like fatwas, and the safety and dignity of women and children. By framing these issues as questions, the book encourages readers to engage with these topics actively, consider their implications, and reflect on the steps to address these challenges in today's context. This approach is designed to make readers more aware of current issues and motivate them to seek solutions through informed discourse and civic participation.

### 1.1.5. Upholding the traditions of inquiry in Sanatan culture

The act of questioning has been a central principle of Sanatan culture, where seeking knowledge and understanding through inquiry is considered a path to enlightenment and self-realization. By asking fundamental questions, the book honors this tradition, encouraging readers to adopt a mindset of curiosity and introspection. Whether it is questioning the reasons behind India's partition or the legacy of historical figures like Mr. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the book encourages readers to explore these topics with the same spirit of inquiry that has been a hallmark of Sanatan philosophy and thought.

### 1.1.6. Fostering informed and active Citizenship

In a democracy, informed citizens are the backbone of good governance. The fundamental questions posed in the book aim to equip readers with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to engage actively in civic life. By encouraging readers to question, seek answers, and form their own opinions, the book empowers them to participate more fully

in the democratic process through voting, advocacy, or public discourse. This helps create a community of active, aware, and responsible citizens.

#### 1.1.7. Stimulating dialogue and debate

Finally, the fundamental questions are intended to stimulate dialogue and discussion among readers. In a diverse society like India, where multiple viewpoints and experiences coexist, open and respectful discussions are essential for understanding different perspectives and building consensus on important issues. By raising these questions, the book catalyzes conversations that can bridge divides, promote mutual understanding, and foster a sense of shared purpose among India's citizens.

#### 1.1.8. An incomplete list, open to expansion

The author acknowledges that this book presents an incomplete list of common fundamental questions that are essential. India's history, culture, and politics are vast and complex, and no single list can capture all the critical questions that must be asked. The act of questioning is dynamic and ongoing, and as India continues to evolve, so will the questions that need to be asked. By continuing this tradition of inquiry, readers can contribute to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the issues that shape their country and its future.

*"Readers are encouraged to view this book as a starting point and are invited to add more questions to their lists."*

This book's rationale for posing common fundamental questions is to encourage a deeper engagement with India's history, politics, and society. It seeks to empower readers to think critically, hold leaders accountable, reclaim overlooked narratives, and participate more actively in the democratic process, all while upholding the tradition of inquiry central to Sanatan culture. Through this approach, the author hopes to contribute to developing a more informed, thoughtful, and engaged inhabitants in India.

## Chapter 2

### 2.1. Common Fundamental Questions: The Questions

Indian civilization is thousands of years old, and there are several things each Indian should be curious to know, such as its history, the knowledge stored in Vedas and Upanishads, and other ancient Vedic literature. It will become another thickest book if we document all possible questions since Indian civilization started, beginning with the existence of Bhagwan Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (Shiv). Therefore, this book only covers key questions any Indian should be curious about after the Independence of India from British rule in 1947.

#### 2.1.1. Why did India get divided on religious grounds while fighting for freedom from the British?

The partition of India in 1947, which led to the creation of Pakistan, was a defining moment in the subcontinent's history. It resulted in massive displacement, Hindu genocides, rapes of thousands of Hindu women, communal violence, and long-lasting tensions between India and Pakistan (Pocketfm, 2024). Understanding why India was ultimately divided on religious grounds, despite its united fight against British colonialism, is crucial for examining the socio-political dynamics that influenced the independence movement and its leaders' decisions. It also sheds light on the factors that continue to shape religious and communal relations in India today.

#### 2.1.2. Why did Jawahar Lal Nehru become the first prime minister when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel got the majority votes?

The selection of Mr. Jawahar Lal Nehru as India's first Prime Minister, despite receiving a majority vote against his candidacy, raises questions about the decision-making processes within the Indian National Congress and the influence of key leaders like Mr. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) (Lal, 2018). Understanding this decision is essential for analyzing the power dynamics, leadership choices, and internal politics that shaped the early years of independent India.

### 2.1.3. What were Mr. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru's contributions to India's freedom?

All well-known freedom fighters, such as Sardar Bhagat Singh, Khudiram Bose, Chandrashekhar Azad, and many more, either were hanged by the British or were killed and did not breathe in independent India. One of the prominent freedom fighters and founder of the Indian National Army (INA), Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose, disappeared, and his death is still a mystery (Ghose & Dhar, 2024; Mukherjee, 1999). After the independence, Mr. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi led Indian politics and the country without being in a political post. On the other hand, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, whom Mr. Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel defeated in the prime minister candidacy vote, still became the PM of independent India (Maheshwari, 2018). Therefore, their roles and contributions have been subject to varying interpretations. Understanding their contributions, both individually and with each other, is essential for appreciating the complexity of the freedom movement and the different strategies and ideologies that shaped it. Each Indian should be clear about the recent 100 years of history and struggle. Hence, this question becomes critical.

### 2.1.4. Who were the constitutional framers of independent India?

Almost all Indians know that Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar wrote the Constitution of India; however, only a few would know it was a joint effort by several other intellectuals, including people from Bihar. The Constituent Assembly of India convened for the first time on December 9, 1946, what is now commonly known as the Central Hall of Parliament House (ConstitutionofIndia.net, 2024; Sansad, 2024). At this initial meeting, 207 members attended, signed the register, and submitted their credentials. By December 1947, the Assembly had grown to 299 members, with 229 elected from 12 Indian provinces and 70 nominated from 29 princely states. Fifteen women also contributed to the Constitution (Puri, 2022). Surprisingly, 23 Muslim leaders were also part of the Constitution's formation, which triggers a critical question that is consistent from the very beginning of this book: if India was divided on religious grounds, why did Muslims have a significant presence in leadership, decision-making, and high positions immediately after the independence? More surprisingly, most Biharis may not know that 36 representatives in the Constitution framing were from Bihar, including four Muslim leaders. There was also representation from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST).

The more you read and dig, the more questions will take birth, so I am restricting the further formation of questions related to this issue.



#### 2.1.5. Why a Muslim, who had no formal education, was appointed as the first education minister of independent India when the country was divided on religious grounds?

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, originally named Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin, was born on November 11, 1888, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia (ConstitutionofIndia.net, 2022; GoI-MoC, 2022). Maulana Khairuddin, father of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, was an Islamic scholar who guided and mentored him during his early years. The appointment of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a Muslim leader without formal education, as India's first Minister of Education immediately after independence is a significant event in the country's history. This decision was made in the context of a newly independent India that had just experienced the trauma of partition along religious lines.

This question explores the reasons behind his appointment and its broader implications for the nascent nation. It is essential to understand the rationale for appointing a leader with a religious background and without any formal education to a position of such national importance, especially in a ministry that would shape the educational future of a diverse and newly divided nation.

#### 2.1.6. What was the role of Bihari freedom fighters in India's freedom from British rule?

Bihar played a significant role in India's struggle for independence, with many freedom fighters from the state making substantial contributions to the movement (Datta, 1957). For example, many Biharis would not know about Mr. Jangi Lal, Rampreet Singh, and Mrs. Prabhvati Devi, the wife of famous freedom fighter, Jay Prakash Narayan, among many other freedom fighters. Once, Mr. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi said about Mrs. Prabhavati Devi, "If I am to give any medal for true bravery, that medal I would not award to J.P. but to his brave wife (Prabhavati)" (GoI-MoC, 2024). However, their contributions are often underrepresented in mainstream historical narratives. Understanding the role of Bihari freedom fighters is essential for recognizing the diverse and widespread participation in the independence movement across India.

#### 2.1.7. What was the role of Bihari Muslims in India's division?

While fighting for independence from the British Rulers, India ended up divided into India and Pakistan based on religion, as Indian Muslims did not want to live with Hindus (Dubey, 2020). Although many Muslim leaders contributed to the freedom movement, a majority of Muslims supported the division of India. Bihar had a considerable population of Muslims, so it is essential to understand the role of Bihari Muslims in the events leading

up to the partition of India. Understanding their role is crucial for exploring the socio-political dynamics of the time and the factors that influenced the country's division on religious lines.

#### 2.1.8. Why are Kashmiri Hindus refugees in their own country?

The genocide and forced displacement of Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits) from the Kashmir Valley in the late 1980s and early 1990s remains a tragic and unresolved issue in Indian history (Agnihotri, 2022). Understanding why the Kashmiri Hindu genocide happened and why they became refugees in their own country is essential for addressing questions of communal violence, state responsibility, and the protection of the native citizens of India.

#### 2.1.9. Why did it take 500 years to get justice for Shri Ram in his own land?

Ramayan is part of Indian history, and Shri Ram is an ideal of all Indians as he attained and demonstrated the highest capabilities of a human being and became the “Maryada Purushottam.” There are ample shreds of evidence of his birth and life journey; however, he had to fight for his birthplace for 500 years in his Kingdom.

The Ayodhya dispute, culminating in the 2019 Supreme Court verdict allowing the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site, was one of India's most contentious and long-standing legal issues (SCI, 2019). Understanding why it took 500 years to resolve this issue raises questions about the role of religion, law, and politics in India.

#### 2.1.10. Why are politicians free to participate in active politics even after a crime is proven and they are in jail?

The participation of convicted politicians in active politics, even while serving jail sentences, raises serious concerns about the integrity of the political system and the rule of law in India. Understanding why this is allowed is crucial for addressing political accountability, corruption, and public trust in governance.

#### 2.1.11. Why are politicians not accountable and punished for defaming India in foreign lands?

Politicians representing India on international platforms are responsible for upholding the nation's image and interests. Instances, where politicians defame or criticize India abroad, can harm the country's reputation and diplomatic relations. Understanding why

politicians are not held accountable for such actions is essential for ensuring that elected representatives always act in the nation's best interest.

#### 2.1.12. Why are politicians not accountable and punished for hailing other country's names in the Parliament House?

During the oath ceremony of a newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) of India, Mr. Asaduddin Salahuddin Owaisi, the president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) political party, chanted “Jai Palestine” (ANI, 2024). It is disturbing to see that an elected MP openly supports other countries in the Parliament, and no actions have been taken against him. Such actions will promote this antinational ideology across the country. In multiple cases, elected MPs refused to recite the national anthem or song, but no actions were taken. Citizens should consistently ask this question to their leaders and society.

## Chapter 3

### 3.1. Vision, Goals, and Priorities of a Leader

#### 3.1.1. Knowledge about India's Constitution

India's Constitution forms the foundation of its legal and political framework. Understanding its principles is crucial for citizens and leaders alike (GoI-MoLJ, 2024). A more profound knowledge of the Constitution in Bihar ensures better governance and civic participation.

**What** initiatives will you take to promote knowledge and awareness about India's Constitution among the citizens of Bihar?

**Why** is it important for citizens and leaders to understand the Constitution strongly, and how will this improve governance in Bihar?

**How** will you ensure that Constitutional education is integrated into Bihar's school curriculum and public awareness programs?

#### 3.1.2. Knowledge about how much India's Constitution is implemented in Bihar

The Constitution is meant to be fully implemented across all states, but gaps often exist in its enforcement. Assessing how effectively Constitutional provisions are implemented in Bihar is crucial for addressing governance issues.

**What** is your assessment of how effectively India's Constitution is being implemented in Bihar, and where do you see gaps?

**Why** is it essential to ensure that Constitutional provisions are fully implemented, and what benefits do you expect this to bring to Bihar?

**How** will you address areas where the Constitution is not fully implemented, and what measures will you implement to ensure compliance?

#### 3.1.3. Knowledge about Bihar's history

Bihar has a rich and storied history, including its role in ancient civilizations and as the birthplace of fundamental cultural and religious movements. Preserving and promoting this history is vital for fostering pride and identity.

**What** initiatives will you take to educate the people of Bihar, especially the younger generation, about the state's historical significance?

**Why** is it essential to promote knowledge about Bihar's history, and how will it contribute to a sense of pride and identity?

**How** will you ensure that Bihar's history is integrated into the education system and accessible through cultural programs, museums, and other platforms?

#### 3.1.4. Knowledge about Bihar's civilization

Bihar's contribution to ancient Indian civilization, including its role in Buddhism, Jainism, and early education centers, is unparalleled. Preserving and teaching this legacy is critical to honoring Bihar's contribution to global culture.

**What** steps will you take to promote knowledge of Bihar's ancient civilizations, such as Magadha and Vaishali, and their global impact?

**Why** is it essential to spread awareness about Bihar's civilizational legacy, and how will it influence contemporary cultural pride?

**How** will you integrate knowledge of Bihar's civilization into education, tourism, and cultural promotion programs?

#### 3.1.5. Knowledge about Bihar's culture

Bihar has a unique and vibrant culture, including folk traditions, art forms, and festivals. Ensuring future generations understand and celebrate this culture is vital for preserving the state's identity.

**What** initiatives will you promote to preserve and propagate Bihar's cultural traditions, art, music, and festivals?

**Why** is preserving Bihar's cultural identity important, and how will it contribute to social cohesion and pride?

**How** will you promote cultural education and tourism to ensure that Bihar's rich cultural heritage is preserved and celebrated?

#### 3.1.6. Knowledge about Bihar's Dharm and spiritual legacy

Bihar has a profound spiritual heritage, being the birthplace of Buddhism and a critical region for Jainism and Hinduism. Promoting this legacy can contribute to cultural and spiritual revival.

**What** steps will you take to promote knowledge of Bihar's spiritual and dharma legacy, including its role in Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism?

**Why** is it essential to promote Bihar's spiritual legacy, and how will it foster cultural pride and spiritual awareness?

**How** will Bihar's Dharm and spiritual legacy be preserved and integrated into education, tourism, and spiritual practices?

### 3.1.7. Knowledge about Bihar's education legacy

Once upon a time, Bihar was home to ancient learning centers like Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri, and Mithila Universities, making it a global leader in education. Nalanda University was the world's first largest University, established in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD in Bihar, India, and was founded in 427 by Kumaragupta I of the Gupta Empire (Cheggindia.com, 2024; Rudrawar, Gore, & Popatwar, 2023). It prospered until 1197 and was primarily dedicated to Buddhist studies. However, it also offered education in diverse disciplines, including fine arts, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, politics, and military science. Vikramshila University was founded by Dharmapala (Pala dynasty), and it was founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE and blossomed till the 12<sup>th</sup> century CE. The University had a huge square campus with 108 temples. Odantapuri University was founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE by Gopala I (Pala dynasty), and it survived till the 12<sup>th</sup> century CE. Mithila University was established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century CE and has survived till today. Reviving and promoting this legacy can inspire educational reform in the modern context.

**What** efforts will you make to educate the public about Bihar's ancient educational legacy and restore its place as an academic leader?

**Why** is it essential to highlight Bihar's historical contributions to education, and how will it inspire future generations?

**How** will you integrate knowledge of Bihar's educational legacy into schools, universities, and global awareness campaigns?

### 3.1.8. Knowledge about Bihar's research legacy

Bihar's contribution to ancient knowledge and research in astronomy, mathematics, and philosophy is globally significant. Reviving this legacy is vital for educational and scientific progress.

**What** initiatives will you promote to revive and celebrate Bihar's legacy in research and ancient knowledge systems?

**Why** is it essential to acknowledge Bihar's contributions to research, and how will it impact modern education and innovation?

**How** will you integrate Bihar's research legacy into education and promote it globally to inspire future scientific inquiry?

#### 3.1.9. Vision and goals

A clear vision and set of goals guide a state's development. In Bihar, where multiple challenges exist, a well-articulated vision is necessary to inspire progress and unity. This question explains how candidates plan to steer the state toward prosperity and social well-being.

**What** is your long-term vision for Bihar, and what are the key goals you aim to achieve during your tenure?

**Why** is this vision critical for Bihar's development, and how does it align with the needs and aspirations of its people?

**How** do you plan to translate this vision into actionable policies and programs, and what steps will you take to ensure progress toward these goals?

#### 3.1.10. Five-year plan of action

A five-year plan provides a roadmap for achieving a state's development goals. In Bihar, where planning and execution often fall short, evaluating the feasibility and comprehensiveness of such plans is essential. This question helps gauge whether candidates have a detailed and realistic plan.

**What** is your five-year plan for Bihar, covering key sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development?

**Why** have you chosen these specific areas for your five-year plan, and what are the expected outcomes?

**How** will you implement this plan, allocate resources, and measure success to meet the objectives within five years?

#### 3.1.11. Top five priorities

Identifying the top priorities helps voters understand a candidate's focus if elected. In Bihar, prioritizing the most pressing issues is critical for immediate and effective governance. This question assesses how well candidates understand and prioritize the state's needs.

**What** are your top five priorities if elected, and how do they address Bihar's most pressing challenges?

**Why** have you selected these priorities, and how do you expect them to affect the state's development?

**How** will you ensure that these priorities are addressed effectively and that they produce tangible results for the people of Bihar?

#### 3.1.12. Top two priorities in the first 100 days after forming a government

The first 100 days of a new government are crucial for setting the tone and direction of governance. In Bihar, immediate action is needed in critical areas. These questions evaluate how candidates plan to address urgent issues and deliver quick wins in their early days of office.

**What** top two priorities will you focus on in the first 100 days after forming the government?

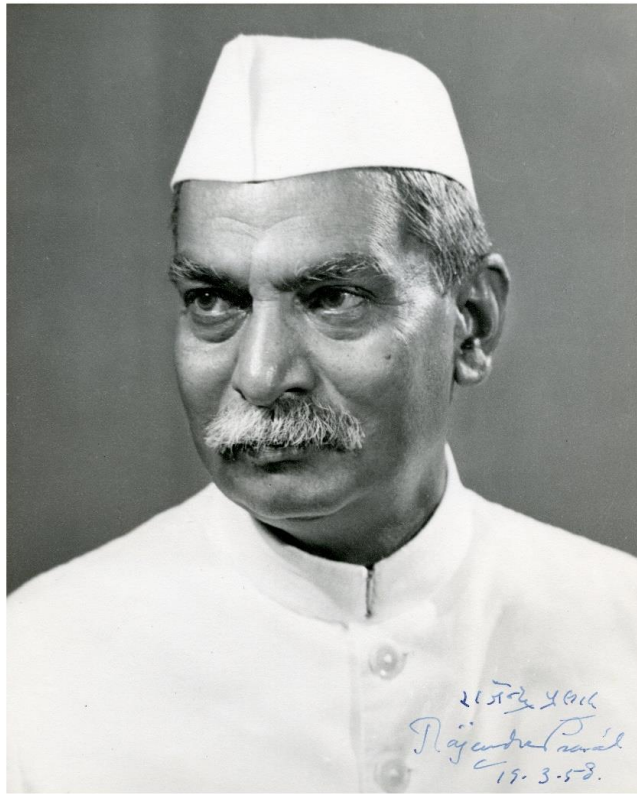
**Why** have you chosen these two priorities, and what immediate challenges do they aim to address?

**How** will you implement these initiatives quickly and efficiently to deliver early successes and build momentum for your government's agenda?

#### 3.1.13. Qualification for politicians

Although several people from Bihar significantly contributed to India's freedom movement, Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of India (Figure 3) (Arikara, 2018). A majority of leaders or freedom fighters at that time were highly educated. However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it seems education is not a norm for electing a representative in Bihar.





**Figure 3.** Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first president of Independent India.

However, politicians' qualifications are vital for effective governance and public trust. Setting clear standards for politicians' qualifications in Bihar can help improve leadership quality.

**What** criteria should be established to ensure only qualified individuals can stand for political office in Bihar?

**Why** is it essential to set educational and ethical standards for politicians, and what impact would this have on governance?

**How** will you enforce these qualifications to ensure that capable and responsible leaders are elected?

#### 3.1.14. Prohibiting politicians with criminal backgrounds

Politicians with criminal backgrounds undermine the integrity of public office. In Bihar, preventing such individuals from holding office is essential for restoring public trust. This question focuses on how candidates will implement and enforce laws to prohibit criminals

from entering politics. The table below provides an overview of political candidates with criminal backgrounds (Table 1) (myneta.info, 2024).

**Table 1.** A summary of candidates with declared severe criminal cases in Bihar 2020

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINNERS	Number (%)
Total winners analyzed by	242
Winners with declared criminal cases	164 (68%)
Winners with declared serious criminal cases	124 (51%)
Crorepati winners	195 (81%)
Winners who are graduate or above	150 (62%)
Winners who have not declared PAN	5 (2%)
Total women winners	26 (11%)

**What** measures will you introduce to prohibit individuals with criminal backgrounds from running for political office?

**Why** is it crucial to prevent those with criminal records from holding public office, and how does this impact public trust?

**How** will you ensure the law is enforced to prevent candidates with criminal backgrounds from contesting elections, and what steps will be taken to address legal challenges?

3.1.15. Transparency in government's promises and deliverables

Transparency in government actions is crucial for accountability and public trust. In Bihar, ensuring that promises made during campaigns are fulfilled is critical to good governance (IPP, 2024). This question assesses how candidates will track and report on their deliverables.

**What** mechanisms will you establish to ensure transparency in the government's promises and deliverables?

**Why** is transparency in government promises and outcomes essential for public trust and accountability?

**How** will you track, report, and publicize the progress of government initiatives to ensure that promises made during elections are fulfilled?

### 3.1.16. Transparency in politicians' allocation and their deliverables

How politicians allocate resources and fulfill their promises should be transparent to the public. In Bihar, ensuring transparency in these areas can reduce corruption and improve governance. This question focuses on how candidates will ensure their actions are visible and accountable to the public.

**What** steps will you take to ensure transparency in how politicians allocate resources and fulfill their deliverables?

**Why** is it important to hold politicians accountable for using public funds and their commitments to their constituencies?

**How** will you make information on resource allocation and deliverables publicly accessible, and what systems will you implement to monitor this?

### 3.1.17. Ensuring accountability of all ministers

Ministerial accountability is crucial for maintaining public trust and implementing government policies effectively. In Bihar, where governance challenges are significant, it is essential to hold ministers accountable for their actions and performance (MPLADS, 2024). This question explores how candidates will ensure that ministers are answerable to the public and transparent in their duties.

**What** mechanisms will you put in place to ensure the accountability of all ministers in your government?

**Why** is ministerial accountability crucial for good governance, and what are the current gaps in holding ministers accountable?

**How** will you implement monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that ministers fulfill their duties and are held responsible for their actions?

### 3.1.18. Ensuring high punishments for misconduct by politicians

High penalties for political misconduct are necessary to deter unethical behavior and corruption. In Bihar, where political corruption has been a persistent issue, ensuring that politicians who engage in misconduct face serious consequences is crucial for restoring public trust. This question assesses how candidates plan to implement and enforce strict punishments for political misconduct.

**What** steps will you take to ensure that politicians who engage in misconduct face strict and appropriate punishments?

**Why** is it necessary to impose high punishments for misconduct among politicians, and what impact would this have on public trust in governance?

**How** will you enforce these punishments and ensure that legal and ethical standards are upheld within the political system?

## Chapter 4

### 4.1. Pressing Challenges

#### 4.1.1. Corruption

Corruption is a significant barrier to development, undermining the rule of law, distorting economic systems, and eroding public trust in government institutions. In Bihar, where corruption has been a persistent issue, addressing this problem is crucial for ensuring fair governance, effective public services, and equitable development (Statista, 2023). By asking questions about corruption, voters can assess how committed candidates are to tackling this issue and what concrete steps they plan to take to reduce and prevent corruption across all government and public service levels. Ensuring transparency, accountability, and stringent enforcement of anti-corruption measures is essential for building a just and prosperous society.

**What** concrete steps will you take to eradicate corruption at all levels of governance in Bihar?

**Why** has corruption remained pervasive despite previous promises, and what has prevented past efforts from succeeding?

**How** will you ensure transparency and accountability when implementing anti-corruption measures?

#### 4.1.2. Population control

Population growth can strain a state's resources, including healthcare, education, infrastructure, and employment opportunities. India is the second most populated country in the world, and several states, including Bihar, may be equivalent to one country's total population (Figure 4) (Visual-Capitalist, 2023).



**Figure 4.** The population of India's states is higher than that of other countries.

According to Census 2011, Bihar's population is 10.41 crores (104,099,452), up from 8.30 crores (82,998,509) in 2001, reflecting a growth rate of 25.42% compared to 28.43% in the previous decade. Bihar accounted for 8.60% of India's population in 2011, up from 8.07% in 2001 (census2011.co.in, 2024). In Bihar, one of India's highest population growth rates, effective population control is essential to ensure sustainable development, improve living standards, and efficiently manage the state's limited resources. Addressing

this issue is crucial for long-term planning and development. By asking questions about population control, voters can understand how candidates plan to implement policies that encourage responsible family planning, raise awareness, and ensure that population growth aligns with the state's capacity to provide essential services and opportunities to all its citizens.

**What** is your strategy to address the growing population in Bihar, which strains resources and infrastructure?

**Why** has population control not been effectively implemented in the past, and what are the cultural and socio-economic barriers?

**How** will you implement family planning programs, education, and incentives to promote population control while respecting individual rights?

#### 4.1.3. Eradication of the WAQF Board

WAQF refers to properties designated solely for religious purposes under Islamic law, with any other use or sale strictly prohibited (GoI-PIB, 2024). The WAQF Board is reportedly the third-largest landowner in India, after the Railways and the Defense Department. It oversees 8.7 lakh properties covering 9.4 lakh acres nationwide, with an estimated value of ₹1.2 lakh crore (TET, 2024). The WAQF Board manages significant properties and resources, but how they claim the properties, transparency in acquiring them, and management have posed serious concerns among the natives of Bihar (BSSWB, 2024). It is incredibly concerning that the board keeps claiming any lands or properties as their property, and the property-holders cannot seek help from the Indian judiciary system. Addressing these concerns is essential for public trust, state and national security, and resource management in Bihar (Figure 5) (Chaudhary, 2024; OpIndia, 2024a). These questions assess candidates' plans to reform or eradicate the WAQF Board to ensure transparency, fairness, and security.

**What** is your stance on the role of the WAQF Board in Bihar, and do you propose any changes or eradication?

**Why** is there a debate around the existence and functioning of the WAQF Board, and what impact does it have on land and resource management in the state?

**How** will you address the concerns related to the WAQF Board, and what measures will you take to ensure transparency and fairness in its operations?





Figure 5. WAQF Board claiming Hindu properties in Bihar.

#### 4.1.4. Ban halal certification

Halal certification is solely based on Islamic Sharia law, a religious law and one of the most significant contributors to the halal economy (FAO-UN, 1997). The revenue collected through this system is only spent on Islamic activities and purposes. Banning halal certification in India would be immediately enforced as it may eventually force India to be inclined to Sharia Law and will put Indian civilization and culture at risk. However, the majority of Indians are not aware of the philosophy, process, intent, and consequences of imposing halal certification in India.

**What** is your stance on the call for banning halal certification in Bihar, and what impact do you believe such a decision would have on the state's economy and civilizational protection?

**Why** do you believe addressing the issue of halal certification is essential, and how do you think it affects Bihar's economy and culture?

**How** will you ensure that policies are implemented with economic and legal considerations?



## Chapter 5

### 5.1. Law and Order and National Security

Maintaining law and order and ensuring national security are foundational responsibilities of any government. In Bihar, the challenges of crime, political violence, and the influence of criminal elements have historically undermined public confidence and hindered development. It is also imperative to remember that Bihar had a significant role in India's partition in 1947, the genocide of Kashmiri Hindus, and several other conspiracies against the state and the nation. Additionally, Bihar's strategic position with international borders brings unique security challenges, including illegal immigration, cross-border smuggling, and potential terrorist activities (HinduPost, 2022). A robust framework for law enforcement and security is essential not only for the safety and well-being of citizens but also for fostering a stable environment where economic activities can flourish and justice can be served.

Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that strengthens policing, improves crime prevention, and ensures effective legal mechanisms while securing the state's borders and addressing internal security threats. By asking questions about law and order and national security, voters can assess how candidates plan to create a safe, secure, and prosperous Bihar, where the rule of law is upheld and national sovereignty is protected. This combined focus is crucial for ensuring that Bihar remains a safe place to live and contributes to the country's broader security objectives.

**What** policies will you implement to strengthen law and order in Bihar and reduce crime rates?

**Why** has Bihar struggled with high crime rates, and what factors contribute?

**How** will you reform the police force, improve judicial efficiency, and ensure justice is delivered promptly and fairly?

#### 5.1.1. Securing borders

Bihar shares borders with two neighboring countries: Nepal in the North and Bangladesh in the East, which can pose security challenges, including illegal migration and

smuggling. Securing these borders is essential for national security and local stability. These questions probe how candidates will address these security concerns effectively.

**What** measures will you take to ensure the security of Bihar's borders, particularly in areas prone to cross-border activities and illegal migration?

**Why** is border security a critical issue for Bihar, and what potential threats must be addressed?

**How** will you coordinate with central agencies, improve surveillance, and involve local communities in securing the borders?

### 5.1.2. Illegal immigrants

Illegal migration can disrupt social harmony, burden public resources, and pose security risks. Managing illegal migration is crucial in Bihar, where resources are already scarce. Bihar faces vulnerability to illegal immigration from Bangladesh, especially in its densely populated border districts. In August 2024, an alert was issued in these areas and regions near Bangladesh due to unrest in the neighboring country (Figure 6) (OpIndia, 2024b).



**Figure 6.** Bangladeshi illegal immigrant living for three years in Bihar.

**What** is your plan to address the issue of illegal migrants in Bihar and ensure the upholding of the rule of law?

**Why** is it important to take decisive action against illegal migration, and what impact does it have on the social, economic, and security landscape of Bihar?

**How** will you identify, monitor, and manage illegal migrants while ensuring that human rights are respected and legal migration processes are strengthened?

### 5.1.3. Anti-national elements

The presence and activities of anti-national elements severely threaten any state's security, sovereignty, and stability. In Bihar, like in other parts of India, there are concerns about individuals or groups that may seek to undermine the country's unity, engage in subversive activities, or incite violence and discord (HinduPost, 2022). Combating these elements is crucial to maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and protecting the state from internal and external threats.

Addressing the issue of anti-national elements requires a coordinated approach that includes intelligence gathering, law enforcement, and community engagement. By asking questions about how candidates plan to deal with anti-national elements, voters can evaluate their commitment to safeguarding Bihar from threats that could disrupt peace and security. This includes understanding the strategies they will employ to detect, prevent, and neutralize such threats while upholding the rights of law-abiding citizens.

**What** measures will you take to curb the activities of anti-national elements in Bihar?

**Why** has there been a rise in anti-national activities, and what socio-political factors contribute to this?

**How** will you ensure that the rule of law is upheld and those involved in anti-national activities are brought to justice?

### 5.1.4. Conversion of religion

Conversion of religion is a sensitive and complex issue impacting social harmony and community relations. In Bihar, where diverse religious communities coexist, concerns around forced or incentivized conversions have sparked debates about religious freedom and the potential for social unrest (OpIndia, 2023b). Ensuring that religious conversions are carried out voluntarily and without coercion is essential for maintaining peace and mutual respect among communities.

By asking questions about the conversion of religion, voters can gauge how candidates plan to address this issue in a way that protects individual rights while safeguarding the state's social fabric. This includes understanding how they intend to balance religious freedom with measures to prevent coercive practices, ensuring that all communities can practice their faith without fear or pressure. Addressing this issue thoughtfully is crucial for fostering a culture of respect, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence in Bihar.

**What** is your policy on religious conversions, and how do you plan to address this sensitive issue in Bihar?

**Why** has religious conversion become a significant issue in certain areas, and what are the underlying causes?

**How** will you protect religious freedom while ensuring that conversions are voluntary and not due to coercion or exploitation?

#### 5.1.5. Politics of appeasement of Muslims

The concept of "appeasement" in politics refers to policies or actions that may be perceived as favoring one community at the expense of others, often leading to feelings of division and resentment among different groups. In Bihar, where the Muslim community forms a significant part of the population, discussions around appeasement have raised concerns about the fairness and inclusivity of government policies. The very famous "MY (Muslim-Yadav) alliance" by the former Chief Minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh, the late Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, and the former CM of Bihar, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, is well known by every Bihari. This has continued and has played a significant role in shaping Bihar's political alliances. There is a very controversial statement by the former PM of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who said, "We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslim minorities, are empowered to share equitably in the course of development. They must have the first grain in our resources" (Mojo-Story, 2024).

Ensuring that all communities are treated equitably and that government actions are based on principles of justice rather than favoritism is crucial for maintaining social harmony and fostering trust among all citizens. Therefore, by asking questions about the appeasement of Muslims, voters can explore how candidates plan to ensure that their policies are inclusive, transparent, and beneficial to all communities without alienating or disproportionately favoring any group.

**What** is your stance on the appeasement of Muslims, and how do you plan to address the concerns of all communities in Bihar?

**Why** has this issue become so polarized, and what are the consequences of perceived appeasement policies on social harmony?

**How** will you ensure that all communities, including Muslims, receive fair treatment without favoritism or discrimination?

### 5.1.6. Violent protests

Violent protests pose a significant challenge to law and order, disrupt public life, and often lead to the loss of lives, properties, and trust in the state's ability to maintain peace. In Bihar, as in other parts of India, violent protests can undermine the democratic process, where peaceful assembly and expression are fundamental rights (Figure 7) (Scroll.in, 2022; Tripathi, 2022). Addressing the causes of such unrest, ensuring effective crowd management, and preventing violence are essential for safeguarding democracy and protecting citizens.



**Figure 7.** Violent protests in Bihar.

By asking questions about violent protests, voters can assess how candidates plan to address the underlying issues that lead to unrest and their strategies for managing protests in a way that respects the right to peaceful assembly while preventing violence. This includes understanding how candidates will engage with communities to address grievances, implement early warning systems to detect potential unrest, and train law enforcement to handle protests without excessive force.

**What** is your plan to address the root causes of violent protests in Bihar and prevent them in the future?

**Why** have specific protests turned violent, and how has the government responded?

**How** will you address the grievances that lead to protests, ensure peaceful demonstrations, and manage law and order during such events?

#### 5.1.7. Drug menace

The rising issue of drug abuse poses a serious threat to public health, social stability, and the future of youth in any society. In Bihar, the increasing prevalence of drug use and trafficking has devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities, leading to crime, health catastrophes, and a breakdown of social order (Kumar, 2023; TOI, 2024). Addressing the drug menace is critical for protecting the health and well-being of citizens, especially the younger generation, and for ensuring that communities remain safe and resilient.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to combat the drug menace, voters can evaluate their commitment to implementing comprehensive strategies, including law enforcement, public health initiatives, and community education. This includes understanding how candidates will enhance drug enforcement efforts, support rehabilitation programs for people with a substance use disorder, and prevent the spread of drug abuse through awareness campaigns and education.

**What** are your plans to tackle the growing drug problem in Bihar, especially among the youth?

**Why** has drug abuse become a significant issue in Bihar, and what are the social and economic factors contributing to this rise?

**How** will you implement prevention, rehabilitation, and law enforcement measures to combat the drug menace effectively?

#### 5.1.8. Human trafficking

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, with vulnerable populations, especially women and children, often being the most affected. Bihar is one of the states in India where human trafficking is a significant concern due to poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement (Hasan, 2022). Addressing this issue is crucial to safeguarding the rights and dignity of citizens and ensuring their safety and freedom.

**What** specific measures will you implement to combat human trafficking in Bihar, mainly focusing on prevention, rescue operations, and rehabilitation of victims?

**Why** is it critical to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in Bihar, and how will addressing this issue contribute to the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations?

**How** will you ensure effective implementation of anti-trafficking laws, strengthen law enforcement agencies, and provide support and rehabilitation for trafficking survivors?



#### 5.1.9. Illegal occupants

Illegal occupation of land and property undermines the rule of law and property rights, leading to social unrest and legal disputes. This is a significant issue in Bihar, where land ownership conflicts are common. By addressing this, voters can assess candidates' commitment to enforcing property rights and ensuring fair legal processes.

**What** measures will you implement to remove illegal occupants from public and private properties in Bihar?

**Why** is it crucial to address the problem of illegal occupation, and what consequences does it have for property rights and social order?

**How** will you enforce laws against illegal occupation, ensure fair legal proceedings, and support property owners reclaiming their rights?

#### 5.1.10. Control of black money

Black money weakens the economy and fosters corruption. Controlling its flow is essential for economic stability and integrity. In Bihar, addressing black money is vital for fair governance. These questions probe how candidates will tackle this issue through effective policies.

**What** strategies will you employ to curb the generation and circulation of black money in Bihar?

**Why** has black money continued to be a significant issue, and what impact does it have on the economy and governance?

**How** will you enhance financial transparency, enforce strict penalties, and collaborate with central agencies to control black money?

#### 5.1.11. Control of money laundering

Money laundering facilitates illegal activities and distorts the economy. Controlling money laundering is crucial in Bihar, where financial crimes can have widespread effects (THBL, 2024). These questions focus on how candidates will strengthen financial oversight and enforcement against money laundering.

**What** measures will you take to combat money laundering activities in Bihar?

**Why** is money laundering a critical concern, and what risks does it pose to the financial system and overall security?

**How** will you strengthen financial oversight, enhance inter-agency coordination, and strictly enforce money laundering laws?

#### 5.1.12. Mafia control

The influence of mafia networks undermines law and order and stifles economic development. In Bihar, addressing mafia control is crucial for ensuring safety and promoting a lawful business environment. These questions probe how candidates will dismantle mafia networks and restore public trust in law enforcement.

**What** measures will you implement to eliminate the influence of mafia networks in Bihar?

**Why** has the mafia maintained a stronghold in certain areas, and what socio-political factors contribute to their power?

**How** will you strengthen law enforcement, dismantle mafia networks, and ensure the safety of witnesses and whistleblowers?

#### 5.1.13. Rangbaz control (local goons)

Rangbaz (local goons) often intimidate communities and disrupt peace and order. Controlling their influence is essential for maintaining law and order. These questions focus on how candidates will address this issue and protect citizens from such threats.

**What** actions will you take to control the activities of Rangbaz (local goons) and ensure law and order in communities affected by their influence?

**Why** has Rangbaz continued to thrive, and how does it impact local governance, business, and public safety?

**How** will you address the root causes of Rangbaz activity, enhance police presence, and protect citizens from intimidation and violence?

#### 5.1.14. Love Jihad

The issue of Love Jihad (forced religious conversions through marriage) remains a critical topic in India. Bihar suffers from all kinds of socio-political challenges. Love Jihad has been adopted as a tool for the conversion of Hindus into Muslims and Christians (Mishra & Tiwari, 2023; OpIndia, 2023b; TV9-Bharatvarsh, 2024). Addressing it requires a balanced approach that respects individual freedoms and community concerns.

**What** is your stance on addressing Love Jihad in Bihar, and how will you ensure that the rights of all citizens are respected?

**Why** is it important to address concerns surrounding Love Jihad, and what steps will you take to ensure communal harmony?



**How** will you implement measures to investigate these claims while protecting individual rights, interfaith marriages, and religious freedoms?

#### 5.1.15. Public display of criminals' photos and records for social awareness

Publicly displaying the records of convicted criminals can serve as a deterrent and raise social awareness. This measure could promote safety in Bihar, where crime can be a significant issue. These questions focus on how candidates will implement this while respecting legal and ethical considerations.

**What** is your stance on publicly displaying the photos and records of convicted criminals for social awareness?

**Why** might public awareness of criminal records be important for community safety, and what ethical considerations must be addressed?

**How** will you implement this policy, ensuring it promotes social awareness without infringing on legal rights?

#### 5.1.16. Data and privacy security

Data privacy and security have become critical concerns for individuals, businesses, and governments in today's digital age. With the increasing digitization of services and the widespread use of personal data across various platforms, ensuring that this data is protected from unauthorized access, breaches, and misuse is essential. In Bihar, as in the rest of India, protecting citizens' data is crucial for maintaining trust in digital services, safeguarding individual privacy, and preventing cybercrimes (NCRB, 2024). Data privacy and security are also vital to ensuring that sensitive information, whether personal, financial, or governmental, is not exploited for malicious purposes.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to address data privacy and security, voters can assess their commitment to protecting citizens' digital rights and ensuring the safety of their personal information. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for implementing robust data protection laws, enhancing cybersecurity measures, and ensuring that public and private entities adhere to strict data privacy standards. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to educate the public on data privacy issues, prevent cybercrimes, and ensure that government and business practices are transparent and secure in their data handling.

**What** measures will you implement to protect citizens' data and privacy in Bihar, especially with the increasing digitization of services?

**Why** are data and privacy security critical in today's digital age, and what risks do citizens face without adequate protections?

**How** will you enforce data protection laws, raise public awareness, and ensure that government and private entities handle data responsibly?

#### 5.1.17. Fraud and scams

Fraud and scams pose severe threats to individuals, businesses, and the economy, undermining trust in institutions and causing significant financial and emotional harm to victims. In Bihar, as in many regions, fraud and scams, including financial fraud, identity theft, and corruption-related scams, can erode public confidence in both private and public sectors. Tackling these issues is essential for ensuring that citizens feel secure in their financial transactions, government interactions, and daily lives and maintaining the integrity of the state's economic and social systems.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to combat fraud and scams, voters can assess their commitment to protecting the public from such criminal activities. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for enhancing legal frameworks, improving law enforcement capabilities, and implementing robust regulatory measures to detect, prevent, and prosecute fraud. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to increase public awareness and education about common scams, support victims of fraud, and ensure that government and business operations are conducted with the highest levels of transparency and accountability.

**What** actions will you take to prevent and punish fraud and scams in Bihar, especially those affecting the vulnerable population?

**Why** have fraud and scams proliferated, and what has been missing in previous efforts to combat them?

**How** will you strengthen legal frameworks, improve public awareness, and ensure that law enforcement agencies are equipped to tackle fraud and scams effectively?

## Chapter 6

### 6.1. Socio-Economic

#### 6.1.1. Social empowerment

Social empowerment is critical for creating a more equitable society where all individuals can access fundamental rights, opportunities, and resources regardless of their background. In Bihar, social disparities are a barrier to inclusive growth. Focusing on education, healthcare, and access to services can help uplift marginalized groups, promote social justice, and create a more balanced society.

**What** is your comprehensive plan for promoting social empowerment across all communities in Bihar, focusing on education, health, and access to opportunities?

**Why** is social empowerment essential for achieving equality and reducing social disparities in Bihar, and what specific outcomes do you aim to achieve?

**How** will you implement and fund programs that promote social empowerment, and how will you measure their impact over time?

#### 6.1.2. Economic empowerment

Economic empowerment is a cornerstone of sustainable development. In Bihar, where poverty and unemployment are significant challenges, economic empowerment programs are essential to improving individuals' financial situation and contributing to the economy. Empowering marginalized communities, women, and youth can help address the gaps in economic participation and ensure a more inclusive development process.

**What** programs and policies will you implement to ensure economic empowerment for marginalized communities, women, and youth in Bihar?

**Why** do you believe economic empowerment is crucial for the overall development of Bihar, and how will it address issues like poverty and unemployment?

**How** will you ensure these economic empowerment initiatives are effectively implemented, monitored, and sustained to create lasting change?

### 6.1.3. Women's safety and empowerment

Women's safety and empowerment are fundamental to achieving gender equality, social justice, and societal progress. In Bihar, like in many other regions, women face significant challenges, including gender-based violence, limited access to education and healthcare, economic disparity, and underrepresentation in decision-making processes. Ensuring women's safety and empowering them to participate fully in all aspects of society is crucial for the state's development, leading to more inclusive and sustainable growth.

By asking candidates how they plan to address women's safety and empowerment, voters can assess their commitment to creating a safer and more equitable environment for women. These questions should explore candidates' strategies for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, including stricter law enforcement, better support services for survivors, and public awareness campaigns. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to promote women's empowerment through education, economic opportunities, political participation, and leadership roles.

**What** specific policies will you introduce to ensure the safety and empowerment of women in Bihar?

**Why** have previous efforts to protect and empower women been inadequate, and what challenges remain unaddressed?

**How** will you create a safer environment, promote gender equality, and support women in education, employment, and leadership?

### 6.1.4. Non-functional system

A non-functional system severely hampers a state's development, whether in public administration, infrastructure, or service delivery. In Bihar, systemic inefficiencies contribute to corruption, poor governance, and a lack of progress in critical areas such as healthcare, education, and economic growth. Reforming these non-functional systems is crucial for achieving sustainable development and improving the lives of citizens.

**What** steps will you take to reform and address non-functional or inefficient systems in Bihar, such as government administration, public services, and infrastructure?

**Why** is it important to address these non-functional systems, and how do they hinder the development and progress of the state?

**How** will you overhaul these systems, ensuring they function efficiently and serve the people effectively while preventing corruption and mismanagement?

6.1.5. Reservation system

The reservation system in India, including Bihar, is designed to provide opportunities for historically marginalized communities and ensure their representation in education, employment, and political institutions. While it has significantly promoted social justice and reduced inequalities, the reservation system also sparks debate regarding its implementation, scope, and impact on meritocracy. Issues such as the criteria for inclusion, the balance between reserved and unreserved categories, and the potential need for reforms, or alternatives to address emerging challenges make it a crucial topic for public discourse.

By asking questions about how candidates view the reservation system and what reforms they propose, voters can gain insight into their stance on social justice, equality, and balancing affirmative action and meritocracy. These questions should explore candidates’ perspectives on the effectiveness of the current reservation policies, how they plan to address the concerns of both beneficiaries and those who feel disadvantaged by the system, and what measures they propose to ensure that the reservation system meets its intended goals without causing social division (Figure 8) (GoB, 2023a, 2023b).

बिहार गजट (असाधारण), 21 नवम्बर 2023		5
<b>2. Amendment of the Bihar (In admission in Educational Institutions) Reservation Act, 2003:-</b>		
(a) Section-2(1), 2(2) and 2(3) of the aforesaid Act will be substituted as follows:		
<b>Regulation of Reservation of admission-</b>		
(1) In any educational Institutions fully or partially aided by the State Government shall be regulated in the following manner, namely:-		
(a)	From open merit category	- 35 %
(b)	From reserved category	- 65 %
(2) The vacancies for different categories of reserved candidates from amongst the 65% reserved category subject to other provisions of this Act shall be as follows :-		
(a)	Scheduled Castes	- 20 %
(b)	Scheduled Tribes	- 02 %
(c)	Extremely Backward Classes	- 25 %
(d)	Backward Classes	- 18 %
	<b>Total</b>	- 65 %

<b>2. Amendment of the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (For Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Act, 1991 (Bihar Act 03, 1992):-</b>		
(a) Section-4(1), 4(2) and 4(3) of the aforesaid Act will be substituted as follows:		
<b>4. Reservation for direct recruitment .—</b> All appointments to services and posts in an establishment which are to be filled by direct recruitment shall be regulated in the following manner, namely:-		
(1) The available vacancies shall be filled up-		
(a)	From open merit category	- 35%
(b)	From reserved category	- 65%
(2) The vacancies from different categories of reserved candidates from amongst the 65% reserved category shall, subject to other provisions of this Act, be as follows –		
(a)	Scheduled Castes	- 20 %
(b)	Scheduled Tribes	- 02 %
(c)	Extremely Backward Class	- 25 %
(d)	Backward Class	- 18 %
	<b>Total</b>	- 65 %

Figure 8. Snippets of reservation system in Bihar.

**What** is your stance on the reservation system, and how do you plan to address the concerns of different communities in Bihar?

**Why** has the reservation system become such a contentious issue, and what are the benefits and drawbacks as you see them?

**How** will you ensure that reservation policies are fair and inclusive and contribute to the state's development?

#### 6.1.6. Caste discrimination

Caste discrimination remains a deeply entrenched issue in Bihar, affecting access to education, employment, and social justice. Eradicating caste-based discrimination is critical for creating an inclusive society where individuals are treated equally and have equal opportunities. Addressing this issue is necessary for achieving social harmony, reducing inequality, and ensuring that marginalized communities can participate fully in the state's development.

**What** concrete actions will you take to eradicate caste discrimination in Bihar and ensure equal rights and opportunities for all communities?

**Why** do you believe addressing caste discrimination is vital for Bihar's social harmony and progress, and how do you plan to address systemic inequalities?

**How** will you ensure that anti-caste discrimination policies are enforced and monitored, and what measures will be in place to support victims and promote inclusivity?

#### 6.1.7. Behavioral change

Behavioral change is essential for addressing long-term social issues such as public health, environmental conservation, and social attitudes toward marginalized communities. In Bihar, encouraging behavior change can significantly improve sanitation, healthcare access, and environmental sustainability. Shaping positive social behavior is crucial for building a responsible, sustainable, and inclusive society.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to promote positive behavior change in public health, sanitation, environmental protection, and civic responsibility?

**Why** is behavior change crucial for the long-term development of Bihar, and how will it improve citizens' quality of life?

**How** will you encourage behavior change on a large scale, and what mechanisms will be in place to support and sustain these changes over time?

#### 6.1.8. Poverty

Bihar has long struggled with poverty, and addressing this issue is critical to improving the state's overall socio-economic indicators. Despite a decline in the percentage of the total population who are multidimensionally poor, Bihar still has the highest (33.73%) percentage of those who are multidimensionally poor (NITI-Aayog, 2023). A comprehensive strategy is needed to reduce poverty levels and improve access to essential resources.

**What** is your plan to address the high poverty levels in Bihar, particularly in rural areas?

**Why** do you believe specific poverty-alleviation programs have failed in the past, and how will your approach differ?

**How** will you ensure that poverty-reduction programs are sustainable and effectively reach the most vulnerable populations?

#### 6.1.9. Worldview

Bihar must expand its worldview and integrate with global markets, ideas, and innovations in a globalized world. A broader worldview enhances competitiveness in education, industry, and culture, which can drive the state's growth. Connecting Bihar to global trends will foster a modern, progressive state that leverages international collaborations and advances in technology and culture.

**What** steps will you take to expand Bihar's worldview and global connectivity, promoting awareness, innovation, and global competitiveness in education, industry, and culture?

**Why** must Bihar adopt a more global perspective, and how will this shift contribute to the state's economic and social growth?

**How** will you implement strategies that broaden Bihar's global connections, foster international collaboration, and improve the state's standing on the world stage?

## Chapter 7

### 7.1. Education

Education is the cornerstone of any society's development, serving as the foundation for economic growth, social mobility, and individual empowerment. In Bihar, the education system faces significant challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, poor quality of teaching, high dropout rates, and a lack of access to higher education, particularly in rural areas. Reforming and strengthening the education system is essential to ensure that all children and young adults in Bihar receive a quality education that prepares them for their future.

By asking questions about education, voters can assess how candidates plan to address these critical issues, improve the quality of education, and ensure equal access for all. This includes understanding their strategies for enhancing teacher training, upgrading school facilities, integrating technology into the classroom, and supporting underprivileged students. Additionally, questions should explore how candidates will promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, vocational training, and higher education opportunities to equip students with the skills needed for the modern workforce.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to improve the quality of education in Bihar, from primary schools to higher education?

**Why** has the education system in Bihar lagged behind other states, and what barriers have hindered its progress?

**How** will you address teacher absenteeism, outdated curriculum, and inadequate school infrastructure?

#### 7.1.1. Regular classes in government schools and colleges

Regular and consistent classes in government schools and colleges are fundamental to providing students with a stable and effective learning environment. In Bihar, irregularity in classes due to teacher absenteeism, administrative issues, or infrastructural challenges can severely impact the quality of education, leading to poor academic outcomes and widening the gap between government and private institutions. Ensuring that government



educational institutions maintain regular class schedules is essential for upholding educational standards and ensuring all students receive the guidance they need to succeed.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure regular classes in government schools and colleges, voters can evaluate their commitment to improving the state's public education system. This includes understanding how candidates will address issues such as teacher absenteeism, inadequate staffing, and the need for better management and oversight in educational institutions. Additionally, these questions can explore candidates' plans to improve infrastructure, provide necessary resources, and create accountability mechanisms that ensure schools and colleges operate efficiently.

**What** steps will you take to ensure regular classes are held in government schools and colleges across Bihar?

**Why** have irregular classes become a common issue in these institutions, and how does this impact students' education?

**How** will you ensure teacher accountability, improve infrastructure, and involve parents and communities in maintaining regular classes?

#### 7.1.2. Regularization of academic sessions in government colleges and universities

Regular academic sessions in government colleges and universities ensure that students receive a consistent and uninterrupted education. In Bihar, delays in academic sessions due to administrative inefficiencies, strikes, or other disruptions can lead to extended graduation timelines, loss of valuable learning time, and diminished academic outcomes. Such irregularities also hinder students' ability to plan their future careers or further studies, contributing to the loss of motivation and trust in the public education system.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to regularize academic sessions, voters can assess their commitment to improving the efficiency and reliability of higher education in Bihar. These questions should explore how candidates intend to address administrative delays, enhance coordination between educational bodies, and ensure that academic calendars are strictly followed. Additionally, candidates should be asked about their plans to improve infrastructure, manage faculty workloads, and implement accountability measures that prevent disruptions in the academic cycle.

**What** is your strategy for regularizing academic sessions in government colleges and universities in Bihar?

**Why** have academic sessions been disrupted, leading to delays in students' academic progress and career plans?

**How** will you address the administrative, financial, and infrastructural challenges to ensure strict compliance with academic calendars?

#### 7.1.3. Ease of admission, study, exams, and obtaining certificates/degrees

Admission, studying, taking exams, and obtaining certificates or degrees are fundamental aspects of the educational journey. In Bihar, students often face significant challenges navigating these processes due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of transparency, and procedural delays. These issues can hinder access to education, disrupt academic progress, and create barriers to entering the workforce or pursuing further studies. Ensuring these processes are streamlined and accessible is essential for providing students with a fair and supportive educational environment.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to improve the ease of admission, study, exams, and obtaining certificates or degrees, voters can assess their commitment to creating an efficient and student-friendly educational system. These questions should focus on how candidates will reduce bureaucratic red tape, implement digital solutions to streamline administrative processes, and ensure that all students have equal educational opportunities regardless of their background. Additionally, candidates should be asked about their plans to improve exam administration, prevent delays in issuing certificates, and provide clear and accessible guidance throughout the educational journey.

**What** steps will you take to streamline the processes of admissions, studies, exams, and obtaining certificates/degrees in Bihar's educational institutions?

**Why** have students faced difficulties in these processes, and what are the inefficiencies or bureaucratic hurdles that must be addressed?

**How** will you reform the education administration, introduce technology, and ensure transparency to make these processes more accessible and student-friendly?

#### 7.1.4. Governance of private schools and colleges

The governance of private schools and colleges plays a crucial role in maintaining educational standards, ensuring equitable access, and protecting students' rights. In Bihar, while private educational institutions often fill gaps left by the public system, they can sometimes operate with insufficient oversight, leading to high fees, inconsistent quality of education, and discriminatory practices. Effective governance ensures that private institutions contribute positively to the state's educational landscape while adhering to fair and transparent practices.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to improve the governance of private schools and colleges, voters can evaluate their commitment to ensuring that these institutions operate within a framework that promotes educational excellence, fairness, and accountability. These questions should focus on how candidates will enforce regulations related to fee structures, admissions processes, curriculum standards, and teacher qualifications. Additionally, candidates should be asked about their plans to protect students' rights, ensure transparency in school operations, and promote collaboration between private and public educational sectors.

**What** regulations will you introduce to improve the governance of private schools and colleges in Bihar?

**Why** have private educational institutions in Bihar been criticized for lack of transparency, high fees, and uneven quality?

**How** will you enforce standards, regulate fees, and ensure that private institutions provide quality education accessible to all?

#### 7.1.5. Controlling and regulating coaching institutions

Coaching institutions play a significant role in Bihar's education landscape but often operate without sufficient oversight. Regulating these institutions is necessary to ensure quality education and protect students from exploitation. These questions assess how candidates will enforce regulations in this sector.

**What** policies will you introduce to regulate coaching institutions in Bihar and ensure quality education and fair practices?

**Why** is it necessary to regulate coaching institutions, and what issues have arisen due to the lack of regulation?

**How** will you enforce these regulations, monitor compliance, and ensure that coaching centers operate in the best interests of students and their families?

#### 7.1.6. Encouraging and protecting the Gurukul system of education

Gurukul represents a traditional form of education that emphasizes holistic learning and cultural values. In Bihar, protecting and encouraging Gurukuls can help preserve cultural heritage and provide alternative education options. These questions focus on how candidates will support Gurukuls within the broader educational framework.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to encourage and protect Bihar's traditional Gurukul education system?

**Why** is preserving the Gurukul system important for cultural and educational heritage, and what challenges does this system currently face?

**How** will you provide support, recognition, and resources to Gurukuls, ensuring that they continue to thrive and contribute to the education of future generations?

## Chapter 8

### 8.1. Healthcare

Healthcare is a critical pillar of public welfare, impacting a population's quality of life, economic productivity, and overall well-being. In Bihar, the healthcare system faces significant challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of healthcare professionals, poor access to medical facilities in rural areas, and insufficient funding. These issues result in high mortality rates, widespread preventable diseases, and limited access to essential health services, particularly for vulnerable populations.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to reform and improve the healthcare system, voters can evaluate their commitment to ensuring that all citizens have access to quality medical care. These questions should explore candidates' strategies for improving healthcare infrastructure, expanding the workforce, enhancing access to services in remote and underserved areas, and increasing investment in public health programs. Additionally, candidates should be questioned on how they plan to address specific health challenges in Bihar, such as maternal and child health, infectious diseases, and non-communicable diseases.

**What** measures will you take to revamp the healthcare system in Bihar to ensure accessible and quality healthcare for all?

**Why** are healthcare facilities in Bihar among the worst in the country, and what are the challenges that have caused this?

**How** will you improve healthcare infrastructure, recruit and retain medical professionals, and ensure affordability for the poor?

#### 8.1.1. Preparedness for pandemics

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in Bihar's healthcare and emergency preparedness systems. Preparing for future pandemics requires strengthening healthcare infrastructure, early detection systems, and rapid response mechanisms.

**What** steps will you take to ensure Bihar is better prepared for future pandemics, including improving healthcare infrastructure and early detection systems?

**Why** is it essential to prioritize pandemic preparedness, and how will this help protect Bihar's population and economy in future outbreaks?

**How** will you implement policies to enhance healthcare capacity, ensure supply chains for medical resources, and coordinate with national authorities for pandemic preparedness?

### 8.1.2. Preparedness for disease outbreaks

Beyond pandemics, Bihar is vulnerable to various disease outbreaks, particularly water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Strengthening public health systems and improving sanitation are essential for controlling and preventing such outbreaks.

**What** measures will you implement to enhance Bihar's preparedness for disease outbreaks and prevent the spreading of infectious diseases?

**Why** is it essential to prioritize disease outbreak preparedness in Bihar, and how will it contribute to overall public health improvement?

**How** will you strengthen public health infrastructure, improve sanitation, and implement disease prevention programs in Bihar?

### 8.1.3. Governance of government hospitals

Government hospitals are essential for providing affordable and accessible healthcare, especially for low-income populations in Bihar. However, issues like overcrowding, poor infrastructure, inadequate staffing, and inefficient management hinder their effectiveness. Strengthening governance is critical to improving healthcare quality and public trust in these institutions.

**What** specific measures will you implement to improve the governance of government hospitals in Bihar, focusing on infrastructure, staffing, and patient care?

**Why** is it essential to enhance the governance of government hospitals, and how will it improve healthcare access and quality for the citizens of Bihar?

**How** will you ensure accountability in hospital administration, allocate resources effectively, and address challenges like corruption and inefficiency in government healthcare facilities?

### 8.1.4. Governance of private hospitals

Private hospitals often fill gaps left by public healthcare systems but are frequently criticized for high costs, unethical practices, and lack of transparency. Effective

governance is necessary to regulate private healthcare providers and ensure patients receive quality care at fair prices.

**What** policies will you introduce to regulate private hospitals in Bihar, ensuring transparency in billing, ethical medical practices, and quality care?

**Why** is it essential to improve the governance of private hospitals, and how will it benefit patients and enhance overall healthcare standards in Bihar?

**How** will you ensure compliance with regulations, address grievances against private hospitals, and create a fair balance between private healthcare providers and public welfare?

#### 8.1.5. Governance of pharmacy

The pharmacy sector is critical in healthcare delivery, ensuring that essential medicines are available to the population. However, challenges such as counterfeit drugs, overpricing, and unethical practices need to be addressed through strong governance to protect public health and ensure affordability.

**What** steps will you take to improve the governance of pharmacies in Bihar, focusing on drug pricing, availability of essential medicines, and prevention of counterfeit drugs?

**Why** is pharmacy governance important for Bihar's healthcare system, and how will it contribute to ensuring access to safe and affordable medicines?

**How** will you regulate the pharmacy sector, enforce compliance with laws, and create awareness among citizens about safe pharmaceutical practices?

#### 8.1.6. Governing the opening of new hospitals

Opening new hospitals is essential to meet the growing healthcare demands in Bihar, especially in underserved and rural areas. However, without proper governance and regulation, there is a risk of unplanned expansion, resulting in inadequate service delivery and wasteful use of resources. Proper governance ensures that new hospitals are strategically located, well-equipped, and can provide high-quality care. Several hospitals may not meet the requirements detailed in the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 (GoI-MoHFW, 2010).

**What** steps will you take to govern and regulate the opening of new hospitals in Bihar, ensuring that they are strategically located, adequately staffed, and provide quality services?

**Why** is it essential to regulate the opening of new hospitals, and how will this ensure that healthcare resources are utilized effectively and equitably across the state?

**How** will you streamline the approval process, ensure that new hospitals meet high standards of care, and prevent the over-concentration of healthcare facilities in certain areas while neglecting others?

#### 8.1.7. Prohibiting endorsement of private hospitals and clinics by politicians

Politicians' endorsement of private hospitals and clinics raises ethical concerns and potential conflicts of interest. Such practices can lead to favoritism, reduced trust in public healthcare, and neglect of government hospitals. Prohibiting endorsements ensures that public officials prioritize the welfare of citizens over private gains and maintain transparency in healthcare governance.

**What** measures will you take to prohibit politicians from endorsing private hospitals and clinics in Bihar?

**Why** is it important to ban the endorsement of private healthcare facilities by politicians, and how will this safeguard public trust and ensure a focus on strengthening public healthcare systems?

**How** will you enforce this prohibition, and what mechanisms will you introduce to hold politicians accountable for promoting ethical and transparent healthcare practices?

#### 8.1.8. Regularizing clinical tests and standardizing test reports

Patients in Bihar often face challenges when other hospitals, clinics, or practitioners do not accept clinical test reports from one facility. This leads to unnecessary duplication of tests, financial burdens, and treatment delays. Regularizing and standardizing clinical test practices and reports across all healthcare providers can ensure consistency, reduce costs, and improve patient care.

**What** steps will you take to regularize clinical tests and standardize test reports so that they are universally accepted by all hospitals, clinics, and practitioners in Bihar?

**Why** is it important to standardize clinical test reports, and how will this benefit patients by reducing costs, avoiding duplication, and improving treatment efficiency?

**How** will you implement a system to regulate clinical testing practices, ensure quality control, and establish a standard for test reports that all healthcare providers must follow?



#### 8.1.9. Regulating health insurance

Health insurance is vital for reducing the financial burden of medical expenses, but unregulated practices can lead to high premiums, exclusions, and a lack of transparency. Proper health insurance regulation ensures affordability, accessibility, and fair practices, protecting patients from exploitation and ensuring adequate coverage.

**What** measures will you implement to regulate health insurance in Bihar, ensuring that policies are affordable, transparent, and inclusive of essential healthcare needs?

**Why** is it essential to regulate health insurance, and how will this ensure that citizens, especially the underserved, access reliable and fair coverage?

**How** will you establish a regulatory framework to monitor insurance providers, prevent unfair practices, and ensure accountability and transparency in health insurance schemes?

## Chapter 9

### 9.1. Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is crucial for ensuring the long-term health and prosperity of the environment and society. In Bihar, environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution, climate change, and inadequate waste management threaten the state's natural resources and the well-being of its citizens. These issues impact public health and biodiversity, undermine economic development, and exacerbate poverty, particularly in rural areas that depend heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to promote environmental sustainability, voters can assess their commitment to protecting Bihar's natural resources and ensuring that development is balanced with ecological preservation. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for addressing critical environmental challenges, including air and water pollution, waste management, deforestation, and promoting renewable energy sources. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to integrate environmental sustainability into broader development policies, ensuring that economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment.

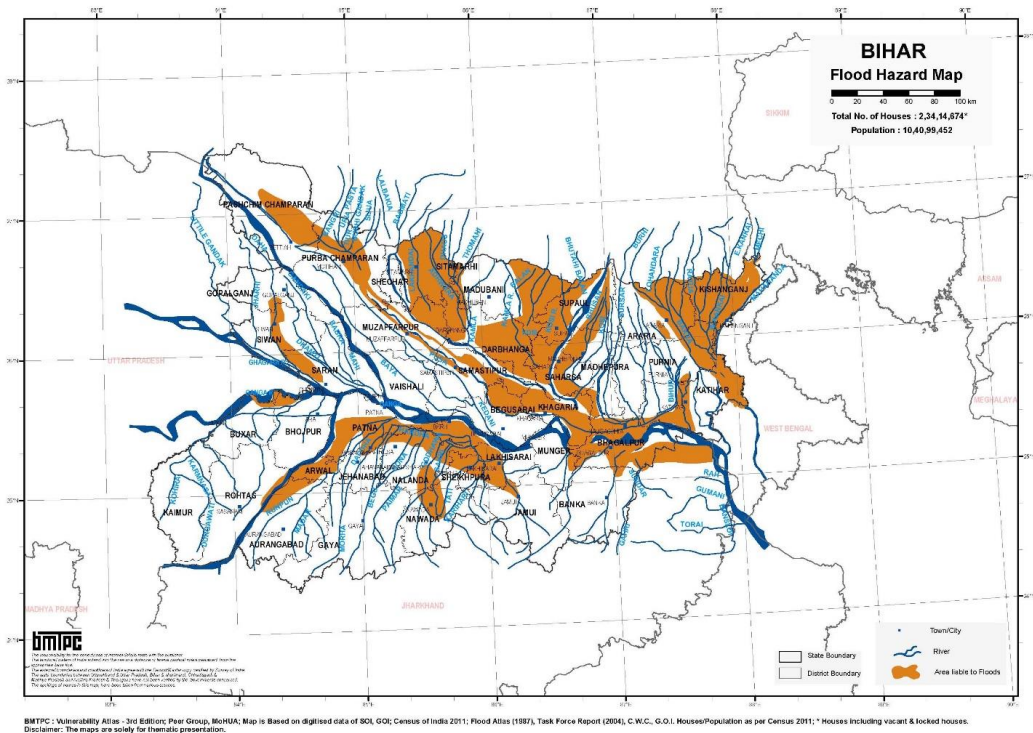
**What** actions will you take to address environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change in Bihar?

**Why** has environmental degradation been allowed to continue, and how has it impacted the state's long-term sustainability?

**How** will you integrate environmental concerns into development plans, and what role will communities play in this process?

#### 9.1.1. Flood preparedness

Bihar frequently faces severe flooding, which leads to loss of life, displacement, and damage to infrastructure (Figure 9) (BMTPC, 2019). Flood preparedness is essential for reducing the impact of these recurring disasters.



**Figure 9.** Flood hazard map of Bihar.

**What** is your strategy for improving flood preparedness in Bihar, particularly in flood-prone regions?

**Why** is flood preparedness a priority for Bihar, and how will better planning and management help protect lives and livelihoods?

**How** will you ensure that flood control measures, such as dams, drainage systems, and early warning systems, are effectively implemented and maintained?

### 9.1.2. Natural hazards preparedness and management

Bihar is prone to natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, and droughts (S. K. Singh & Vedwan, 2015). Preparedness and effective management of these hazards are essential to minimize loss of life, property, and infrastructure.

**What** steps will you take to improve Bihar's preparedness and management of natural hazards, including floods, earthquakes, and droughts?

**Why** must Bihar enhance its disaster preparedness and management systems, and how will it protect vulnerable populations?

**How** will you strengthen early warning systems, improve disaster response infrastructure, and ensure coordination between state and local authorities to mitigate the impact of natural hazards?

### 9.1.3. Drought preparedness and management

Bihar also faces droughts that can severely affect agriculture and water supply. Proper drought preparedness and management are necessary to ensure food security and protect farmers' livelihoods.

**What** initiatives will you take to improve drought preparedness and management, particularly in regions vulnerable to water shortages?

**Why** is drought management essential for Bihar's agricultural sector and overall water security, and how will it help mitigate the effects of climate change?

**How** will you implement water conservation techniques, improve irrigation infrastructure, and ensure drought relief programs are effective and accessible to those in need?

### 9.1.4. Water and sanitation

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation is essential for public health, environmental sustainability, and overall quality of life. In Bihar, many communities face significant challenges in accessing safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities, leading to water-borne diseases, poor health outcomes, and environmental degradation. The lack of adequate water and sanitation infrastructure disproportionately affects rural areas and marginalized populations, exacerbating social and economic inequalities. Improving water and sanitation services is crucial for ensuring the well-being of all citizens and achieving sustainable development goals.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to improve water and sanitation infrastructure, voters can assess their commitment to addressing these critical issues. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for expanding access to clean drinking water, improving sewage and waste management systems, and promoting hygiene practices. Additionally, voters should inquire about plans to invest in sustainable water management practices, address the challenges of water scarcity, and ensure that all communities, particularly those in rural and underserved areas, have access to essential water and sanitation services.

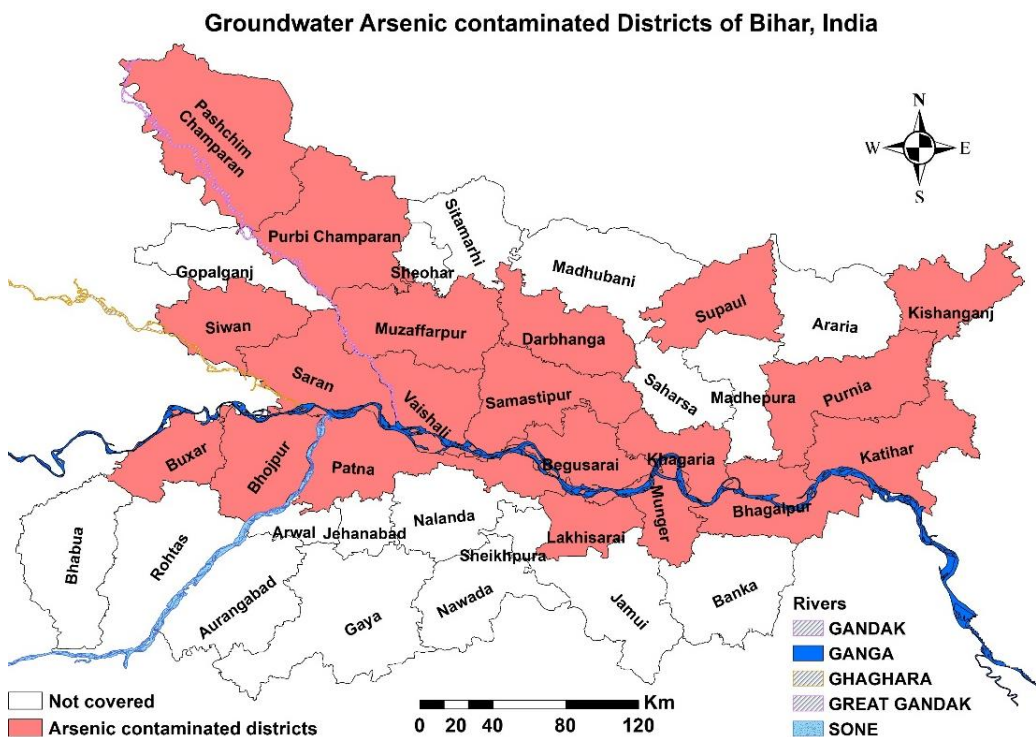
**What** is your plan to improve access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities across Bihar?

**Why** do so many people in Bihar still lack access to these necessities, and what has been done so far to address this?

**How** will you ensure these services reach every corner of the state, especially rural areas, and what monitoring mechanisms will be in place?

9.1.5. Water pollution control

Water pollution threatens public health, ecosystems, and the availability of clean drinking water. In Bihar, where many communities rely on rivers and groundwater, controlling water pollution is vital for ensuring safe water access. Bihar suffers from river water and groundwater pollution, including arsenic, fluoride, nitrate, oil, lead, mercury, and DDT (Figure 9) (BSPCB, 2024; S. Singh, Sanchez, & Panigrahi, 2014; S. K. Singh, Taylor, & Thadaboina, 2022). These questions explore how candidates will address industrial discharge, sewage treatment, and agricultural runoff to protect water resources.



**Figure 10.** Groundwater arsenic contamination in Bihar.

**How** will you control water pollution in Bihar's rivers, lakes, and other water bodies?

**Why** is it critical to address water pollution, and what are the consequences of failing to protect water resources?

**How** will you implement stricter regulations, enhance waste treatment infrastructure, and ensure that industries comply with pollution control norms?

9.1.6. Air pollution control

Air pollution poses serious health risks and degrades the environment. In Bihar, where industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, and other sources contribute to poor air quality, controlling air pollution is crucial for public health and environmental sustainability. Bihar’s air quality index is 1.2 times greater than the national value (Figure 11) (AQI, 2024). These questions focus on how candidates will implement strategies to reduce air pollution and monitor air quality.



**Figure 11.** Status of air pollution in Bihar on 16/11/2024.

**What** strategies will you implement to control air pollution in Bihar, particularly in urban areas?

**Why** is controlling air pollution essential for public health and environmental sustainability, and what are the current challenges?

**How** will you enforce regulations, promote clean technologies, and monitor air quality to reduce pollution?

9.1.7. Noise pollution control

Noise is a silent killer; excessive noise can lead to health problems and reduce quality of life. In Bihar, where urbanization and industrial activities contribute to rising noise levels, pollution control is vital for public well-being. According to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 of India, the Ambient Air Quality Standards in Respect of Noise is depicted in Table 2 (CPCB, 2000).

**Table 2.** Ambient Air Quality Standards in Respect of Noise in India

Area Code	Category of Area/Zone	Limits in dB(A) Leq*	
		Day Time	Night Time
		(6 AM to 10 PM)	(10 PM to 6 AM)
(A)	Industrial area	75	70
(B)	Commercial area	65	55
(C)	Residential area	55	45
(D)	Silence Zone	50	40

*\*dB(A) Leq denotes the time-weighted average of the sound level in decibels on scale A, which is relatable to human hearing.*

These questions assess how candidates will enforce noise control regulations and promote quieter, more peaceful environments.

**What** strategies will you implement to reduce noise pollution in Bihar's urban and rural areas?

**Why** is noise pollution a significant concern for public health, and what challenges exist in controlling it?

**How** will you enforce noise pollution regulations, raise public awareness, and ensure that noise levels are within safe limits?

9.1.8. [Enforcing a ban on pressure horns](#)

Pressure horns contribute to noise pollution, adversely affecting public health, especially in urban areas. Prolonged exposure to high-decibel noise can lead to hearing problems, stress, and reduced quality of life. Enforcing a ban on pressure horns is critical for creating a quieter, healthier environment in Bihar.

**What** steps will you take to enforce a strict ban on pressure horns across Bihar to reduce noise pollution and protect public health?

**Why** is it important to ban pressure horns, and how will this improve Bihar's quality of life and public health, particularly in urban and densely populated areas?

**How** will you ensure the effective implementation of the ban on pressure horns, including awareness campaigns, penalties for violations, and coordination with law enforcement agencies?

#### 9.1.9. Enforcing a ban on loudspeaker use in public places

Noise pollution from loudspeakers, particularly in public places, can be a significant public nuisance and health hazard. In Bihar, banning loudspeakers in public places is vital for maintaining public order and protecting citizens' well-being. These questions assess how candidates will implement and enforce such a ban effectively.

**What** measures will you introduce to enforce a ban on the use of loudspeakers in public places in Bihar?

**Why** is it necessary to control the use of loudspeakers, and what impact does noise pollution have on public health and quality of life?

**How** will you enforce this ban, ensure compliance, and handle violations?

#### 9.1.10. Solid waste pollution control

Improper disposal of solid waste contributes to environmental degradation and public health hazards. In Bihar, where waste management systems are often inadequate, controlling solid waste pollution is necessary for clean and livable communities. These questions assess how candidates will promote waste segregation, recycling, and sustainable disposal methods.

**What** measures will you introduce to manage and reduce solid waste pollution in Bihar?

**Why** is solid waste management a pressing issue, and how does it impact urban and rural environments?

**How** will you promote waste segregation, recycling, and sustainable disposal methods to reduce the environmental impact of solid waste?

#### 9.1.11. Medical waste pollution control

Medical waste poses significant risks to public health and the environment if not adequately managed. In Bihar, ensuring that healthcare facilities follow strict protocols for medical waste disposal is essential. These questions focus on how candidates will enforce regulations and provide infrastructure to handle medical waste safely.

**What** actions will you take to ensure proper management and disposal of medical waste in Bihar?

**Why** is controlling medical waste pollution crucial for public health and environmental safety?

**How** will you enforce stringent regulations, monitor healthcare facilities, and ensure safe disposal practices for medical waste?



#### 9.1.12. Ensuring vegetation coverage by all newly constructed apartments or buildings

Promoting vegetation coverage in new constructions contributes to environmental sustainability, reduces urban heat islands, and enhances quality of life. In Bihar, where urbanization is accelerating, ensuring that new buildings include green spaces is essential. According to India's National Forest Policy, 33% of the entire land should have forest coverage at the national level (GoI-MoEFCC, 2014). These questions explore how candidates will implement and enforce this requirement to promote green urban development.

**What** policies will you introduce to mandate adequate vegetation coverage for all newly constructed apartments or buildings in Bihar?

**Why** is it essential to include vegetation in urban planning, and what benefits does it offer for environmental sustainability and quality of life?

**How** will you enforce this requirement, monitor compliance, and promote green building practices among developers?

#### 9.1.13. Biodiversity

Bihar's biodiversity is essential for maintaining ecological balance and supporting agriculture, wildlife, and livelihoods. Conserving biodiversity is crucial for long-term environmental sustainability and protecting the region's natural resources.

**What** steps will you take to preserve and promote biodiversity in Bihar, especially in sensitive ecosystems and protected areas?

**Why** is biodiversity conservation important for Bihar's ecological health, and how will it contribute to sustainable development?

**How** will you implement policies to protect biodiversity, prevent deforestation, and ensure sustainable land-use practices that benefit the environment and local communities?

#### 9.1.14. Climate change

Climate change is an urgent global issue with local impacts in Bihar, such as increased flooding, unpredictable rainfall, and rising temperatures. Addressing climate change is crucial for safeguarding Bihar's future.

**What** is your plan to combat climate change in Bihar, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, and protecting vulnerable communities?

**Why** must Bihar address climate change, and how will it impact agriculture, livelihoods, and the environment?

**How** will you implement climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to ensure Bihar is resilient to changing climate?

## Chapter 10

### 10.1. Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the backbone of economic development and social well-being, providing the necessary foundation for transportation, communication, energy, and public services. In Bihar, inadequate infrastructure has long been a barrier to progress, limiting access to markets, reducing economic opportunities, and contributing to poor living conditions. Issues such as deteriorating roads, insufficient power supply, inadequate water and sanitation facilities, and poor connectivity in rural areas hinder the state's development and affect the daily lives of its citizens.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to improve infrastructure, voters can assess their commitment to creating a more connected, efficient, and sustainable Bihar. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for upgrading transportation networks, expanding access to clean water and sanitation, improving energy infrastructure, and enhancing digital connectivity. Additionally, voters should inquire about plans to invest in sustainable and resilient infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change and support long-term economic growth.

**What** are your plans to improve the infrastructure in Bihar, including roads, transportation, and public utilities?

**Why** has infrastructure development been slow, and what are the root causes of the current state of disrepair?

**How** do you intend to finance these projects, and what is your timeline for completion?

#### 10.1.1. Aviation infrastructure and facility

Aviation infrastructure in Bihar is underdeveloped, limiting connectivity and economic opportunities. Improving airport facilities and expanding air travel options is crucial for enhancing accessibility, boosting tourism, and fostering economic growth.

**What** steps will you take to improve aviation infrastructure and facilities in Bihar, including modernizing existing airports and developing new ones?

**Why** is enhancing aviation infrastructure essential for Bihar's economic growth and connectivity, and how will it benefit businesses, tourism, and residents?

**How** will you ensure the development of aviation infrastructure, secure investments, and collaborate with the central government and private sector to expand air connectivity in Bihar?

#### 10.1.2. Inter- and intra-state road

A robust road network is essential for connecting rural and urban areas, improving trade, and enhancing accessibility within and beyond Bihar. Inter-state and intra-state road infrastructure require significant upgrades to meet the demands of economic development and daily transportation needs.

**What** plans do you have for improving Bihar's interstate and intrastate road connectivity to ensure better trade, travel, and accessibility?

**Why** is a well-developed road network crucial for Bihar's economic development, and how will it impact agriculture, industry, and daily life for citizens?

**How** will you prioritize road infrastructure projects, allocate resources, and ensure the timely completion of high-quality roads across the state?

#### 10.1.3. Public transportation

Efficient public transportation is vital for reducing congestion, improving mobility, and providing affordable travel options for citizens. Bihar's public transportation system faces overcrowding, lack of reliability, and insufficient infrastructure, which need urgent attention.

**What** is your plan to develop an efficient, affordable, and reliable public transportation system in Bihar?

**Why** is public transportation necessary for Bihar's economic and social development, and how will it improve mobility and reduce environmental impact?

**How** will you implement upgrades to public transportation, including buses, metro systems, and other mass transit options, while ensuring accessibility for all sections of society?

## Chapter 11

### 11.1. Employment

Employment is a fundamental driver of economic growth and social stability, providing individuals with the means to support themselves and their families while contributing to the broader economy. In Bihar, high unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, have been a persistent challenge, leading to widespread poverty, migration to other states in search of work, and underutilization of the state's human resources. Addressing employment issues is crucial for reducing poverty, improving living standards, and fostering inclusive economic development.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to create jobs and improve employment opportunities, voters can assess their commitment to tackling one of the state's most pressing issues. These questions should explore candidates' strategies for attracting investments, promoting entrepreneurship, supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and developing sectors with high employment potential, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Additionally, candidates should be asked about their plans to invest in skill development and vocational training programs that equip the workforce with the skills needed for modern industries.

**What** is your strategy for creating more job opportunities in Bihar, particularly for the youth?

**Why** has Bihar struggled to attract industries and create employment despite being rich in human and natural resources?

**How** do you plan to promote industrial growth, entrepreneurship, and vocational training to address unemployment?

#### 11.1.1. Ensuring jobs in Bihar

Job creation is one of Bihar's most pressing needs. With a large youth population and high migration rates, ensuring local job opportunities is crucial for the state's development. This question focuses on how candidates will create jobs and prevent the outmigration of skilled workers.

**What** strategies will you implement to ensure adequate job opportunities within Bihar and reduce the need for migration?

**Why** have job opportunities been limited in Bihar, leading to high levels of outmigration, especially among the youth?

**How** will you promote local entrepreneurship, support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and attract industries that can provide sustainable employment?

#### 11.1.2. Ensuring jobs and opportunities for all skilled and meritorious individuals

Ensuring that skilled and meritorious individuals have access to job opportunities is essential for retaining talent within Bihar. This question focuses on how candidates create an environment supporting skill development and merit-based employment opportunities.

**What** strategies will you implement to ensure all skilled and meritorious individuals in Bihar can access jobs and opportunities?

**Why** is it important to match skills with job opportunities, and what impact does meritocracy have on the state's overall development?

**How** will you create a merit-based system for employment, promote skill development programs, and ensure that opportunities are available across all sectors?

#### 11.1.3. Reducing migrant laborers

Many of Bihar's workforce migrates to other states for work, highlighting the lack of local job opportunities. Addressing this issue requires creating sustainable jobs within Bihar to reduce outmigration (Jha, 2023).

**What** measures will you take to create job opportunities within Bihar and reduce the need for labor migration?

**Why** do you believe providing local employment is key to reducing the migration of laborers and improving Bihar's economy?

**How** will you develop industries and infrastructure to generate employment opportunities and ensure long-term job creation?

#### 11.1.4. Reducing talent migration outside Bihar

Bihar experiences a significant brain drain, with many talented individuals leaving the state searching for better opportunities elsewhere. Retaining talent is essential for Bihar's education, technology, and industry development.

**What** are your strategies for reducing talent migration outside Bihar by creating opportunities for skilled professionals within the state?

**Why** do you believe retaining talent is crucial for Bihar's development, and how will it impact critical sectors like education, technology, and industry?

**How** will you incentivize professionals to stay and contribute to Bihar's growth while creating an environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship?

#### 11.1.5. Bringing intellectual and accomplished Biharis back to Bihar

Bihar has a rich history of producing intellectuals, scholars, and professionals who have made significant contributions within India and globally. However, due to limited opportunities and resources, many of these accomplished individuals have migrated to other regions or countries for better prospects. Reversing this "brain drain" by bringing back intellectuals and accomplished Biharis can significantly benefit the state by leveraging their skills, knowledge, and networks to drive economic growth, innovation, and social development.

By asking candidates how they plan to attract intellectuals and successful professionals back to Bihar, voters can assess their commitment to reversing the brain drain and fostering a vibrant, knowledge-based economy. These questions should explore candidates' strategies for creating a conducive environment that includes high-quality educational institutions, research facilities, industrial opportunities, and a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship. Additionally, voters should inquire about initiatives to engage the diaspora in contributing to Bihar's development through mentorship, investment, and collaboration in critical sectors.

**What** strategies will you implement to encourage accomplished Biharis to return and contribute to Bihar's development outside the state or abroad?

**Why** have so many talented individuals left Bihar, and what has been done to reverse this brain drain?

**How** will you create an environment in Bihar that attracts these individuals and offers them opportunities to thrive and contribute?

## Chapter 12

### 12.1. Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of Bihar's economy, employing a significant portion of the population and contributing to the state's food security and economic stability. However, the agricultural sector in Bihar faces numerous challenges, including outdated farming practices, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, lack of access to credit and markets, and vulnerability to climate change. These challenges limit productivity, reduce income for farmers, and contribute to rural poverty. Strengthening the agricultural sector is crucial for improving the livelihoods of millions of people and ensuring sustainable economic growth in the state.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to address the challenges in agriculture, voters can evaluate their commitment to revitalizing this critical sector. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for modernizing farming techniques, improving irrigation and water management, providing better market access, and ensuring fair prices for agricultural products. Additionally, voters should inquire about plans to support small and marginal farmers, promote sustainable farming practices, and enhance the resilience of the farm sector to climate change.

**What** steps will you take to support farmers and improve agricultural productivity in Bihar?

**Why** has Bihar's agricultural sector remained underdeveloped despite its rural economy, and what are the impediments?

**How** will you implement modern farming techniques, ensure fair pricing, and provide farmers access to markets?

#### 12.1.1. Food security

Food security is essential for Bihar's development, particularly for vulnerable populations. Addressing food distribution, storage, and agricultural productivity can reduce hunger and improve public health.

**What** measures will you implement to improve food security in Bihar, particularly for low-income and vulnerable communities?



**Why** is food security critical for reducing poverty and improving public health in Bihar?

**How** will you strengthen food distribution systems, support local agriculture, and ensure equitable access to nutritious food?

#### 12.1.2. Encouraging food produce like Makhana

Makhana is a significant agricultural product in Bihar, with potential national and international markets. Promoting its production and processing can boost the local economy. These questions focus on how candidates will support Makhana farmers and producers to expand this industry.

**What** measures will you take to encourage the production, processing, and marketing of unique food products like Makhana in Bihar?

**Why** is promoting local food production important for the state's economy and cultural heritage, and what are the challenges in scaling these industries?

**How** will you support farmers, improve supply chains, and ensure products like Makhana reach national and international markets?

#### 12.1.3. Agriculture Insurance

Agriculture is the backbone of Bihar's economy, and farmers are highly vulnerable to risks such as unpredictable weather, crop failures, and market fluctuations. A well-designed agriculture insurance scheme is essential for protecting farmers' livelihoods and ensuring economic stability in the agricultural sector.

**What** specific measures will you implement to ensure that all farmers in Bihar have access to comprehensive agriculture insurance that protects them from crop failures, natural disasters, and market risks?

**Why** is agriculture insurance necessary for farmers' financial security in Bihar, and how will it help stabilize the agricultural sector in the face of unpredictable risks?

**How** will you ensure that agriculture insurance schemes are affordable, accessible, and effectively implemented, and what steps will you take to ensure timely compensation and support for needy farmers?

#### 12.1.4. Insurance for cattle

Cattle are crucial in Bihar's agricultural economy, providing dairy products, labor, and other resources. However, farmers often face losses due to cattle illness, injury, or death. Cattle insurance can provide financial protection and support livestock farmers.

**What** are your plans to provide comprehensive cattle insurance schemes to protect farmers from losses due to illness, injury, or death of their livestock?

**Why** is it essential to offer cattle insurance to farmers, and how will it benefit Bihar's agricultural and dairy sectors?

**How** will you implement cattle insurance programs, ensure accessibility to farmers, and streamline the claims process to provide timely financial assistance?

## Chapter 13

### 13.1. Science, Technology and Industry

The advancement of science, technology, and industries is crucial for driving innovation, economic growth, and competitiveness in the global economy. In Bihar, the development of these sectors has the potential to transform the state's economy, create high-quality jobs, and improve living standards. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited research and development (R&D) investment, and a skills gap in the workforce have hindered progress. Fostering a robust ecosystem for science, technology, and industrial growth is essential for Bihar to realize its full economic potential and address the needs of its population.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to support and expand science, technology, and industries, voters can assess their commitment to building a knowledge-based economy. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for enhancing R&D capabilities, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and attracting investments in critical industries. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to support infrastructure development that enables industrial growth and the creation of high-value jobs.

**What** are your plans to foster science, technology, and innovation in Bihar, especially in education, healthcare, and governance?

**Why** has Bihar lagged in adopting modern technology, and what have been the barriers to digital transformation?

**How** will you integrate technology into various sectors, and what steps will you take to build a tech-savvy workforce?

#### 13.1.1. Encouraging science culture

Promoting a culture of science and innovation is essential for Bihar's progress in education, industry, and research. Encouraging scientific thinking and investment in STEM can drive technological advancements and economic growth. These questions assess how candidates will foster a science culture in the state.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to promote a strong science culture in Bihar's educational institutions and society?

**Why** is fostering a science culture essential for Bihar's development, and what are the current gaps in science education and research?

**How** will you support scientific research, innovation, and education, ensuring students and researchers have the resources and opportunities to excel in scientific fields?

### 13.1.2. Industrialization in Bihar

Industrialization is essential for economic growth and job creation. Bihar has lagged in industrial development, leading to high unemployment and migration. These questions assess how candidates plan to attract industries, promote sustainable development, and create jobs for the local population.

**What** are your plans to promote industrialization in Bihar, attract investments, and set up industries?

**Why** has Bihar lagged in industrial development compared to other states, and what factors have contributed to this?

**How** will you create an investor-friendly environment, provide the necessary infrastructure, and ensure that industries are established and thrive in Bihar?

### 13.1.3. Encouraging rural industries

Rural industries are vital for balanced economic development and job creation in non-urban areas. In Bihar, promoting rural industries can help reduce migration and improve living standards. These questions assess how candidates will develop and support rural industries to ensure sustainable development.

**What** is your plan to develop and support rural industries in Bihar, ensuring that economic opportunities are available outside urban centers?

**Why** are rural industries vital for the balanced economic development of the state, and what barriers have hindered their growth?

**How** will you provide infrastructure, training, and financial support to rural entrepreneurs, ensuring the sustainability and growth of rural industries?

#### 13.1.4. Ensuring investments from National and International agencies

Attracting investments is vital for economic development and job creation. In Bihar, securing funding from national and international agencies can significantly boost infrastructure and services. These questions assess how candidates create an environment that attracts and retains investment.

**What** strategies will you use to attract and secure investments from national and international agencies to support Bihar's development?

**Why** is attracting these investments crucial for Bihar's economic growth, and what sectors will benefit most?

**How** will you create an environment conducive to investment, and what incentives or policies will you offer to attract and retain investors?

## Chapter 14

### 14.1. Good Governance

Good governance is the cornerstone of effective public administration and societal development. It involves transparent, accountable, and efficient management of public resources, ensuring that government actions are in the citizens' best interests. Good governance is critical in Bihar, where corruption, inefficiency, and lack of transparency have hindered progress. Strong governance practices can lead to improved public services, greater trust in government institutions, and enhanced social and economic development.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to promote good governance, voters can assess their commitment to improving the effectiveness and accountability of the state's institutions. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for combating corruption, enhancing transparency in government operations, ensuring public participation in decision-making processes, and improving the delivery of public services. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to strengthen the rule of law, ensure the fair and equitable distribution of resources, and create a government that is responsive to the needs of all citizens.

**What** are your key principles for ensuring good governance in Bihar, and how will you implement them?

**Why** has Bihar struggled with governance issues, and what have been the main obstacles to effective governance?

**How** will you ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in government operations, and what mechanisms will you use to monitor progress?

#### 14.1.1. Judicial system

A fair, efficient, and accessible judicial system is fundamental to upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for all citizens. In Bihar, like in many parts of India, the judicial system faces significant challenges, including case backlogs, delays in justice delivery, inadequate infrastructure, and concerns about corruption. These issues can undermine

public trust in the legal system and deny citizens timely access to justice, essential for maintaining social order and protecting individual rights.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to reform the judicial system, voters can assess their commitment to creating a more effective and transparent judiciary. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for reducing case backlogs, improving judicial infrastructure, ensuring the timely appointment of judges, and increasing transparency and accountability within the system. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to enhance access to justice for marginalized communities, promote legal awareness, and ensure the judicial process is fair and impartial.

**What** reforms do you propose for Bihar's judicial system to ensure faster and fairer justice delivery?

**Why** has the judicial system in Bihar been slow, and what challenges have prevented timely justice?

**How** will you address issues such as case backlogs, corruption, and access to legal services, especially for the poor?

#### 14.1.2. Police system

The police system is a critical component of law enforcement and public safety, responsible for maintaining order, preventing and investigating crimes, and protecting citizens' rights. In Bihar, as in many regions, the police force faces challenges such as inadequate training, resource constraints, corruption, and a lack of public trust. These issues can lead to ineffective law enforcement, delays in justice, and a perception of bias or inefficiency within the system. Reforming the police system ensures that law enforcement agencies operate effectively, transparently, and in the public's best interest.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to reform the police system, voters can assess their commitment to improving public safety and building trust between the police and the communities they serve. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for enhancing police training and capacity-building, increasing accountability and transparency, addressing issues of corruption and misconduct, and ensuring that the police force is equipped with the necessary resources to carry out their duties effectively. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to improve community policing initiatives, promote human rights, and ensure that the police force represents and responds to the diverse communities it serves.

**What** steps will you take to reform the police system in Bihar to make it more efficient and people-friendly?

**Why** has the police force in Bihar been criticized for inefficiency and corruption, and what systemic issues contribute to these problems?

**How** will you improve police training, accountability, and community relations to create a more effective law enforcement system?

#### 14.1.3. Implementation of all central government schemes

Central government schemes are designed to address various issues, from poverty alleviation and healthcare to education and infrastructure development. When effectively implemented, these schemes can significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of states, improving the quality of life for millions of people. However, the success of these schemes depends heavily on how well they are implemented at the state level. Challenges such as bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption, lack of awareness, and inadequate infrastructure can hinder the effective delivery of these schemes, preventing the intended benefits from reaching the people who need them most.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure the effective implementation of central government schemes in Bihar, voters can assess their commitment to leveraging these resources for the state's development. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for improving coordination between state and central governments, enhancing transparency and accountability in the distribution of benefits, and addressing any bottlenecks in the implementation process. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to raise awareness about these schemes among the population, ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are reached, and monitor the impact of these schemes on the ground.

**What** steps will you take to ensure the full and effective implementation of all Central Government schemes in Bihar?

**Why** have specific central government schemes not been fully implemented, or are they effective in Bihar?

**How** will you monitor, coordinate, and report the progress of these schemes to ensure that they reach all intended beneficiaries?

#### 14.1.4. Ensure peaceful protests

Peaceful protests are a fundamental democratic right, allowing citizens to express their views, grievances, and demands non-violently. In Bihar, as in other parts of India, peaceful protests play a crucial role in giving voice to the concerns of various groups, from workers and students to marginalized communities. However, the effective



management of peaceful protests is essential to ensure that they do not escalate into violence or disrupt public order. Balancing the right to protest with the need to maintain law and order is critical for a functioning democracy.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to support and manage peaceful protests in Bihar, voters can assess their commitment to upholding democratic rights while ensuring public safety. These questions should explore candidates' strategies for facilitating peaceful assemblies, protecting the rights of protesters, and ensuring that law enforcement is trained to handle protests without resorting to excessive force. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address the underlying issues that lead to protests, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and their concerns are addressed through constructive dialogue and policy action.

**What** measures will you take to ensure that protests in Bihar remain peaceful and not disrupt public order?

**Why** have some protests turned violent, and what underlying causes must be addressed?

**How** will you balance the right to protest with maintaining law and order, and what mechanisms will you implement to facilitate peaceful demonstrations?

#### 14.1.5. Accountability of all government officials, including teachers

Accountability in public service is crucial for effective governance. In Bihar, ensuring that all government officials, including teachers, are accountable for their performance is critical to improving public services. These questions focus on how candidates will implement and enforce accountability measures across all levels of government.

**What** measures will you introduce to ensure the accountability of all government officials, including teachers and other public servants?

**Why** has accountability been lacking in the public sector, and how does this impact service delivery and public trust?

**How** will you implement systems to monitor performance, address misconduct, and ensure government officials fulfill their duties effectively?

#### 14.1.6. Reach of citizens to all officials

Citizens should have easy access to their representatives and government officials. In Bihar, where bureaucracy can be a barrier, improving access is crucial for effective governance. These questions assess how candidates will make government more accessible to the people.

**What** measures will you implement to ensure citizens have easy access to all government officials?

**Why** is it important for citizens to have direct access to officials, and how does this improve governance and service delivery?

**How** will you facilitate this access through digital platforms, public meetings, and other means of communication?

#### 14.1.7. Regulating privileges, pensions, and facilities for politicians pre- and post-tenure

The privileges, pensions, and facilities afforded to politicians often come under scrutiny, especially when they seem disproportionate to public service. In Bihar, where resources are limited, ensuring these benefits are fair and justifiable is crucial. These questions help determine how candidates will address the regulation of such benefits to ensure fairness and public trust.

**What** steps will you take to regulate the privileges, pensions, and facilities provided to politicians during and after their tenure?

**Why** is it important to review and regulate these privileges, and what impact do excessive benefits have on public trust and government spending?

**How** will you ensure that these regulations are fair, transparent, and in accordance with the state's economic realities?

#### 14.1.8. One state, one pension for politicians, judicial and government employees

A uniform pension policy across all government sectors ensures fairness and reduces disparities. This is particularly relevant in Bihar, where fiscal discipline is needed. These questions seek to understand how candidates plan to implement a "One State, One Pension" policy that balances fiscal responsibility with the welfare of public servants.

**What** is your stance on implementing a "One State, One Pension" policy for Bihar's politicians, judicial, and government employees?

**Why** is it necessary to have a uniform pension policy, and what are the challenges associated with the current system?

**How** will you implement this policy effectively and address any resistance or challenges?

#### 14.1.9. Ensuring meritocracy and discouraging nepotism in all sectors

Meritocracy ensures that the most capable individuals are in positions of responsibility, while nepotism undermines public trust and efficiency. In Bihar, where nepotism has been a concern, these questions assess how candidates will promote merit-based systems across all sectors.

**What** policies will you implement to ensure meritocracy prevails and nepotism is discouraged in Bihar's governance and economy sectors?

**Why** is it essential to prioritize merit over connections, and what impact does nepotism have on governance, employment, and public trust?

**How** will you enforce merit-based recruitment, promotion, and rewards in public and private sectors, ensuring opportunities are based on talent and hard work?

#### 14.1.10.Regularizing tax for all businesses

A fair and transparent tax system is crucial for economic stability and growth. Appropriately taxing all businesses in Bihar can help improve revenue and promote fairness. These questions focus on how candidates will regularize the tax system to ensure compliance and fairness.

**What** steps will you take to ensure that tax policies are fair, transparent, and uniformly applied to all businesses in Bihar?

**Why** is it essential to regularize tax policies for businesses, and what impact do inconsistent tax regulations have on economic growth and business confidence?

**How** will you streamline the tax system, reduce bureaucracy, and ensure that all businesses, regardless of size, comply with tax regulations?

#### 14.1.11.Quick resolution of land disputes

Land disputes are common in Bihar, leading to prolonged legal battles and social unrest. Quickly resolving these disputes is essential for peace and economic development. These questions assess how candidates will reform the legal process to resolve land disputes efficiently.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to ensure the quick and fair resolution of land disputes in Bihar?

**Why** have land disputes persisted and escalated, leading to violence and unrest in many communities?

**How** will you reform land disputes' legal and administrative processes, ensuring that cases are resolved efficiently and justly?

#### 14.1.12.Digitalization of the land registration process

Digitalizing land registration can increase transparency, reduce corruption, and simplify property transactions. This reform is crucial in Bihar, where land disputes are common. These questions focus on how candidates will implement digitalization to improve land management.

**What** steps will you take to fully digitalize the land registration process in Bihar to ensure transparency and efficiency?

**Why** is digitalization crucial for land registration, and what challenges does the current system face?

**How** will you implement and manage the transition to a digital system, ensuring data security, ease of access, and public awareness?

#### 14.1.13.Accountability of all government institutions, including PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions)

Ensuring accountability in all government institutions, including local bodies like PRIs, is crucial for effective governance. In Bihar, where decentralization is critical, holding these institutions accountable is vital for delivering public services. These questions assess how candidates will enforce accountability mechanisms.

**What** measures will you take to ensure the accountability of all government institutions, including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?

**Why** is accountability in local governance crucial for effective service delivery and community trust?

**How** will you monitor, audit, and enforce accountability mechanisms in these institutions to ensure transparency and efficiency?

#### 14.1.14.Controlling and regulating freedom of speech

Balancing freedom of speech with the need to prevent hate speech and misinformation is a delicate task. In Bihar, where social harmony is crucial, these questions assess how candidates will regulate speech while protecting individual rights.

**What** is your approach to balancing freedom of speech with maintaining public order and preventing hate speech?

**Why** is it essential to regulate speech in specific contexts, and what risks do unregulated speech pose to society?

**How** will you ensure that regulations are fair, transparent, and do not infringe on fundamental rights while addressing the potential harms of unrestricted speech?

#### 14.1.15. Controlling and regulating social media

Social media plays an influential role in shaping public opinion and spreading information. In Bihar, controlling and regulating social media is vital to prevent the spread of fake news and maintain public order. These questions explore how candidates plan to regulate social media responsibly.

**What** measures will you take to control and regulate social media platforms to prevent the spread of misinformation and harmful content?

**Why** is regulating social media necessary, and what impact does unchecked content have on public safety and social harmony?

**How** will you implement these regulations while ensuring that freedom of expression is respected and social media remains a platform for positive engagement?

#### 14.1.16. Discouraging VIP culture

VIP culture, where specific individuals receive preferential treatment, can undermine the principle of equality before the law and breed resentment among the general population. In Bihar, discouraging VIP culture is necessary to promote fairness and public trust in institutions. These questions evaluate how candidates will address and reduce the prevalence of VIP culture in governance and public services.

**What** policies will you implement to discourage the culture of VIP treatment and privileges in Bihar?

**Why** is it important to discourage VIP culture, and how does it affect public trust and equality before the law?

**How** will you ensure public servants and politicians are treated equally under the law, and what steps will you take to eliminate preferential treatment in public services?

#### 14.1.17. Ensuring high punishments for misconduct by all government officials

Misconduct by government officials erodes public confidence in the state's institutions and hampers effective governance. In Bihar, where corruption and inefficiency are widespread, implementing high penalties for misconduct is essential to ensure

accountability. These questions focus on how candidates will address misconduct and enforce strict disciplinary measures across all levels of government.

**What** measures will you implement to ensure that government officials who engage in misconduct are subject to high punishments?

**Why** is it important to hold government officials accountable for misconduct, and how does this affect the efficiency and integrity of public services?

**How** will you enforce strict disciplinary actions and legal penalties to deter misconduct among government officials?

## Chapter 15

### 15.1. Reforms

Reforms are essential for continuously improving and modernizing government systems, institutions, and policies to meet society's changing needs. In Bihar, sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, law enforcement, and public administration have long-needed reforms to address inefficiencies, corruption, outdated practices, and inequities. Comprehensive reforms are necessary to enhance the effectiveness of governance, promote economic growth, ensure social justice, and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to implement reforms across different sectors, voters can assess their commitment to making meaningful changes that address the state's most pressing challenges. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for identifying areas needing reform, their plans for implementing new policies and practices, and how they intend to monitor and evaluate the impact of these reforms. Additionally, voters should inquire about the candidates' willingness to engage with stakeholders, including the public, to ensure that reforms are inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the population's needs.

**What** comprehensive reforms do you plan to implement in Bihar?

**Why** have past reforms in these sectors been inadequate, and what has been learned from previous attempts?

**How** will you ensure that these reforms are effectively implemented, monitored, and adjusted as needed to achieve the desired outcomes?

#### 15.1.1. Reforms in the judiciary system

A fair and efficient judiciary is vital for upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice. Bihar's judicial system faces challenges like case backlogs, corruption, and delayed justice, which undermine public trust (Gov-EcS, 2024; NJDC-DCoI, 2024; NJDG-SCoI, 2024)". A decline in trust in the judiciary system could create hopelessness among marginalized communities, leading to chaos in society and destabilizing the state (Ablash, 2016). Therefore, reforms are needed to streamline judicial processes and make justice

more accessible and trustable. This question pushes candidates to explain how they will improve the judiciary to ensure timely and fair justice.

**What** are your plans to reform the judiciary in Bihar to ensure timely and fair justice for all citizens?

**Why** is judicial reform crucial for maintaining public trust and upholding the rule of law in Bihar?

**How** will you address issues such as case backlogs, judicial vacancies, and corruption within the judicial system, ensuring that justice is accessible and efficient?

### 15.1.2. Reforms in the police system

The police force is essential for maintaining law and order, but in Bihar, corruption, inefficiency, and lack of public trust hinder its effectiveness. Police reforms are necessary to enhance accountability, improve training, and build public trust. These questions focus on how candidates will create a more effective and ethical police force that serves the people with integrity.

**What** reforms will you implement to improve the effectiveness and integrity of Bihar's police force?

**Why** is police reform necessary in Bihar, and what challenges currently undermine the public's trust in law enforcement?

**How** will you ensure that police reforms are comprehensive, including better training, accountability measures, and community policing initiatives?

### 15.1.3. Reforms in social systems

Social systems, including welfare programs, support vulnerable populations and promote equity. In Bihar, these systems often fail due to inadequate resources and poor implementation. Reforms are necessary to make these systems more efficient, transparent, and inclusive. These questions ensure that candidates prioritize the well-being of all citizens, particularly the deprived.

**What** reforms will you pursue to address social inequalities and improve the social welfare system in Bihar?

**Why** have social welfare programs in Bihar failed to reach the most vulnerable populations, and what needs to change?

**How** will you ensure that social reforms are inclusive, addressing poverty, caste discrimination, and gender inequality?



#### 15.1.4. Reforms in promoting good citizenship

A sense of good citizenship is essential for creating a cohesive and responsible society. Promoting civic responsibility, respect for the law, and active participation in democracy is crucial for Bihar's development. These questions assess candidates' plans to encourage these values through education, public initiatives, and community programs.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to promote the values of good citizenship among the people of Bihar, especially the youth?

**Why** is fostering a sense of responsibility and civic duty essential for the development of Bihar, and how does this contribute to a stronger society?

**How** will you implement programs that encourage active citizenship, respect for the law, community service, and participation in the democratic process?

#### 15.1.5. Reforms in the education system

Education is critical for developing Bihar's youth and the state's overall progress. However, the education system in Bihar faces significant challenges, including poor infrastructure, inadequate teacher training, and low literacy rates. Reforms are necessary to improve the quality of education and ensure equitable access for all. These questions assess how candidates plan to address these challenges with comprehensive and effective strategies.

**What** specific reforms do you propose for Bihar's education system to improve quality and access at all levels?

**Why** have past education reforms in Bihar fallen short, and what critical areas need immediate attention?

**How** will you implement these reforms, ensuring they are sustainable and effective, especially in rural and underprivileged areas?

#### 15.1.6. Reforms in the health system

Bihar's health system struggles with inadequate facilities, a shortage of medical professionals, and poor health outcomes. Comprehensive reforms are essential to ensure that all citizens have access to quality healthcare. These questions focus on understanding how candidates plan to tackle the systemic issues in healthcare, including improving infrastructure, workforce, and service accessibility.

**What** are your key priorities for reforming Bihar's health system to ensure equitable and quality healthcare?

**Why** has Bihar struggled with poor health outcomes despite numerous interventions, and what systemic issues must be addressed?

**How** will you ensure that health reforms are implemented effectively, focusing on improving infrastructure, workforce, and access to essential services?

#### 15.1.7. Reforms in agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of Bihar's economy, yet it faces challenges such as outdated farming techniques, a lack of infrastructure, and limited market access. Reforms are crucial to enhance productivity, ensure food security, and improve farmers' livelihoods. These questions assess candidates' commitment to modernizing agriculture and supporting farmers through sustainable practices and market access.

**What** reforms will you introduce to modernize agriculture in Bihar and increase farmers' productivity and income?

**Why** is it important to reform the agricultural sector, and what have been the state's main obstacles to agricultural development?

**How** will you support farmers through access to technology, credit, and markets and ensure these reforms reach the most vulnerable?

#### 15.1.8. Reforms in the traffic system

Bihar's traffic system is often chaotic and inefficient, leading to accidents, congestion, and pollution. Reforming the traffic system is essential for improving safety, mobility, and quality of life.

**What** reforms will you introduce to improve the traffic system in Bihar and ensure the safety of pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists?

**Why** is reforming the traffic system crucial for improving Bihar's public safety and urban mobility?

**How** will you implement traffic reforms, enforce road safety laws, and educate the public on traffic rules and road behavior?

#### 15.1.9. Reforms in the railway system

The railway system is a lifeline for Bihar's transport infrastructure but faces issues like outdated infrastructure, safety concerns, and inefficiency. Reforms are necessary to improve service quality and safety.

**What** are your plans to reform Bihar's railway system, focusing on safety, infrastructure modernization, and improving passenger experience?

**Why** is railway reform significant for Bihar's economic growth and connectivity, and how will it improve the lives of daily commuters?

**How** will you work with the central government to implement railway reforms, upgrade infrastructure, and ensure passenger safety?

#### 15.1.10.Reforms in road and transportation

Bihar's road infrastructure and transportation systems require urgent upgrades to support economic growth, reduce congestion, and improve accessibility, particularly in rural areas.

**What** is your comprehensive plan for reforming Bihar's road and transportation infrastructure, especially in rural and underdeveloped areas?

**Why** is improving road and transportation systems essential for Bihar's development, and how will it benefit urban and rural communities?

**How** will you secure funding and manage resources to ensure the timely completion of road and transportation reforms?

#### 15.1.11.Reforms in the aviation system

Bihar's aviation system needs modernization to improve connectivity with other regions of India and internationally. Reforming airports and aviation services is critical to enhancing economic opportunities and accessibility.

**What** steps will you take to improve Bihar's aviation infrastructure and enhance air connectivity with major cities and international destinations?

**Why** is aviation reform essential for Bihar's economic and tourism growth, and how will it enhance connectivity with the rest of India and the world?

**How** will you collaborate with the central government and private sector to develop Bihar's aviation infrastructure and expand flight services?

#### 15.1.12.Reforms in the energy sector

Energy reform is critical for Bihar's development, ensuring access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy sources. The state must focus on renewable energy and modernizing its power grid to support industrial growth and provide energy to all.

**What** reforms will you introduce to improve Bihar's energy infrastructure, including renewable energy sources like solar and wind?

**Why** is energy reform essential for Bihar's development, and how will it support economic growth, job creation, and sustainability?

**How** will you implement energy reforms, secure investments in renewable energy, and ensure universal access to electricity in Bihar?

## Chapter 16

### 16.1. Culture and Civilization

Culture and civilization form the foundation of a society's identity, heritage, and values. Bihar boasts a rich history, including ancient learning centers like Nalanda and Vikramshila and a vibrant cultural heritage of arts, music, and festivals. Preserving and promoting culture and civilization are crucial for maintaining the state's unique identity. However, modern challenges such as urbanization, globalization, and the erosion of traditional practices threaten the continuity and vitality of Bihar's cultural and civilizational legacy.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to protect and promote Bihar's culture and civilization, voters can assess their commitment to preserving the state's heritage while fostering a sense of pride and continuity among its people. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for supporting traditional arts, music, and festivals, conserving historical and archaeological sites, and promoting cultural education in schools. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates balance cultural preservation with modernization, ensuring that Bihar's rich heritage is celebrated and integrated into the state's development plans.

**What** initiatives will you take to preserve and promote Bihar's rich cultural heritage and traditions?

**Why** has there been a decline in the recognition and preservation of Bihar's cultural assets, and what factors have contributed to this?

**How** will you ensure that cultural programs, arts, and local traditions are supported and passed on to future generations?

#### 16.1.1. Mandating the national anthem in all academic institutions

Mandating the singing of the national anthem in academic institutions fosters a sense of national unity and patriotism. In Bihar, ensuring students start their day with this practice can promote national pride and civic responsibility. There have been serious concerns about several politicians who did not show respect for the national anthem or song of

India and refused to recite or stand up for it (OpIndia, 2021, 2022b). These questions explore how candidates will implement this mandate across all educational institutions.

**What** is your stance on mandating the singing of the national anthem in all academic institutions across Bihar?

**Why** is it important to mandate the national anthem, and what role does it play in fostering national unity and patriotism among students?

**How** will you enforce this mandate, ensure compliance across all institutions, and address any objections or challenges that may arise?

#### 16.1.2. Enforcing Hindi as the official language

Promoting Hindi as the official language of Bihar can enhance the state's unity and ensure that government services are accessible to most of the population. These questions explore how candidates will implement language policies that promote Hindi while respecting other languages spoken in Bihar.

**What** steps will you take to enforce Hindi as the official language in Bihar's government and public communications?

**Why** is promoting Hindi as the official language important for state identity and governance?

**How** will you implement this policy across government institutions and ensure public services are accessible in Hindi?

#### 16.1.3. Reclaiming Bihar's glory by establishing infrastructure and symbols destroyed by Islamic invaders

Bihar has a deep and rich history, with its roots in ancient civilizations, renowned educational institutions like Nalanda, and significant cultural and religious landmarks. Over centuries, invasions and conflicts have destroyed or deteriorated many of these historical symbols and infrastructure. For many, reclaiming and restoring these symbols is a way to revive and honor Bihar's historical and cultural legacy, providing a sense of identity, pride, and continuity with the past.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to reclaim Bihar's historical glory by restoring and rebuilding infrastructure and cultural symbols destroyed during past invasions, voters can gauge their commitment to preserving and revitalizing the state's heritage. These questions should explore candidates' plans to restore ancient educational institutions, temples, and cultural sites and their vision for integrating these restored

symbols into modern Bihar. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates will balance these restoration efforts with the needs of contemporary society, ensuring that such initiatives contribute positively to cultural education, tourism, and the state's overall development.

**What** are your plans to restore and rebuild the historical academic institutions, temples, and other cultural symbols that Islamic invaders destroyed in Bihar?

**Why** is it important to reclaim and restore these symbols of Bihar's historical and cultural heritage, and what impact do you believe this will have on the state's identity?

**How** will you approach the restoration and rebuilding efforts, including funding, community involvement, and ensuring that these projects are executed with respect for historical accuracy?

#### 16.1.4. Liberating Hindu temples from government control

Many Hindu temples in Bihar are under government control, which some believe hinders their autonomy and proper management (BSBRT, 2024). Liberating these temples can ensure they are managed according to the wishes of the religious communities they serve. These questions seek to understand candidates' positions on religious autonomy and temple management.

**What:** What is your position on the government's control over Hindu temples, and do you support the liberation of these temples from state control?

**Why:** Why is it important to consider the autonomy of Hindu temples, and what are the implications of government control on religious freedom and temple management?

**How:** How will you ensure that temples are managed by their respective communities, with accountability and transparency in their operations?

#### 16.1.5. Reclaiming Hindu temples destroyed and converted into mosques

The destruction and conversion of Hindu temples into mosques during periods of Muslim rule in undivided Bihar is a compassionate and complex issue. There were thousands of Hindu temples destroyed, and Islamic structures were built either on top of Hindu temples or by using Hindu temples' materials (Goel, 2012, 2013). These acts are often viewed as historical wrongs that have left lasting scars on the cultural and religious heritage of the Hindu community. The desire to reclaim these sites is driven by the need to restore cultural and religious identity, seek justice for historical grievances, and preserve the sanctity of these sacred spaces (Figure 12) (Table 3) (Goel, 2012, 2013; *Temples*, 2024a, 2024b).



**Figure 12.** Hindu temples under Islamic occupation in India.

However, addressing this issue is not without its challenges. Reclaiming these temples must be handled with great care to avoid exacerbating communal tensions and ensure that justice is served in a manner that fosters social harmony. It requires a careful balance between respecting historical truths and ensuring that contemporary society remains peaceful and cohesive.



**Table 3.** List of Hindu temples destroyed and converted to mosques in undivided Bihar by Muslims

Sl. No.	District	Area	Islamic structure	Period	Site
1	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Dargah of Hazrat Shahbaz	1502	Temple site
2	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Masjid of Mujahidpur	1511-15	Temple site
3	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Dargah of Makhdum Shah	1615	Temple site
4	Bhagalpur	Champanagar	Several Mazars	---	On ruins of Jain temples
5	Bhagalpur	Champanagar	Masjid	1491	Jain Temple site
6	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	Masjid on the rock on the river bank	---	Temple site
7	Gaya	Amthua	Masjid	1536	Temple site
8	Gaya	Gaya	Shahi Masjid in Nadirganj	1617	Temple site
9	Gaya	Kako	Dargah of Bibi Kamalo	---	Temple site
10	Munger (Monghyr)	Amoljhor	Muslim Graveyard	---	Vishnu Temple site
11	Munger	Charuanwan	Masjid	1576	Temple site
12	Munger	Kharagpur	Masjid	1656-57	Temple site
13	Munger	Kharagpur	Masjid	1695-96	Temple site
14	Munger	Munger	Fort Gates	---	Temple materials used
15	Muzaffarpur	Zaruha	Mamun-Bhanja-ka-Mazar	---	Temple materials used
16	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Muslim capital built after destroying Udandapura which had a famous Buddhist Vihara. Most of the Muslim monuments were built on the site and from materials of temples. The following are some of them:		

17	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Dargah of Makhdumul Mulk Sharifud-Din.	1380	---
18	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Bada Dargah	---	---
19	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Chhota Dargah	---	---
20	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Baradari	---	---
21	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Dargah of Shah Fazlullah Gosain	---	---
22	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Mazar of Malik Ibrahim Bayyu on Pir PahaDi.	---	---
23	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Kabiriud-Din-ki-Masjid	1353	---
24	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Mazar of Sayyid Muhammad Siwistani	---	---
25	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Chhota Takiya containing the Mazar of Shah Diwan Abdul Wahhab	---	---
26	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Dargah of Shah Qumais	1359-60	---
27	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Masjid in Chandpur Mahalla	---	---
28	Nalanda	Biharsharif	Jami Masjid in Paharpur Mahalla	---	---
29	Nalanda	Parbati	Dargah of Haji Chandar or Chand Saudagar	---	Temple materials used
30	Nalanda	Shaikhupura	Dargah of Shykh Sahib	---	Temple materials used

31	Patna	Hilsa	Dargah of Shah Jumman Madariyya	1543	Temple site
32	Patna	Hilsa	Masjid	1604- 05	Temple site
33	Patna	Jana	Jami Masjid	1539	Temple site
34	Patna	Kailvan	Dargah and Masjid	---	Temple site
35	Patna	Maner	All Muslim monuments stand on temple sites. The following are prominent among them:		
36	Patna	Maner	BaDa Dargah of Sultanul Makhdum Shah Yahya Maneri	---	---
37	Patna	Maner	Dargah of Makhdum Daulat Shah	---	---
38	Patna	Maner	Jami Masjid	---	---
39	Patna	Maner	Mazar of Haji Nizamud-Din	---	---
40	Patna	Muhammadpur	Jami Masjid	1510- 11	Temple site
41	Patna	Patna	Patthar-ki- Masjid	1626	Temple materials used
42	Patna	Patna	Begu Hajjam-ki- Masjid	1510- 11	Temple materials used
43	Patna	Patna	Muslim Graveyard outside the Qiladari	---	On the ruins of Buddhist Viharas
44	Patna	Patna	Dargah of Shah Mir Mansur	---	On the ruins of a Buddhist Stupa
45	Patna	Patna	Dargah of Shah Arzani	---	On the site of a Buddhist Vihara
46	Patna	Patna	Dargah of Pir Damariya	---	On the site of a Buddhist Vihara

47	Patna	Patna	Mirza Masum- ki-Masjid	---	Temple materials used
48	Patna	Patna	Meetan Ghat-ki- Masjid	1605	Temple site
49	Patna	Patna	Katra Masjid of Shaista Khan	---	Temple site
50	Patna	Patna	Khwaja Ambar Masjid	1688- 89	Temple site
51	Patna	Patna	Babuganj Masjid	1683- 86	Temple site
52	Patna	Patna	Sher-Shahi Masjid near Purab Darwaza	---	Temple site
53	Patna	Patna	Chamni Ghat-ki- Masjid	---	Temple site
54	Patna	Phulwarisharif	Dargah of Shah Pashminaposh	---	Temple site
55	Patna	Phulwarisharif	Dargah of Minhajud-Din Rasti.	---	Temple site
56	Patna	Phulwarisharif	Dargah of Lal Mian	---	Temple site
57	Patna	Phulwarisharif	Sangi Masjid	1549- 50	Temple site
58	Purnia	Hadaf	Jami Masjid	---	Temple site
59	Purnia	Purnea	Masjid in Keonlpura	---	Temple site
60	Saran	Chirand	Masjid	1503- 04	Temple site
61	Saran	Narhan	Jami Masjid	---	Temple site
62	Saran	Tajpur Basahi	Mazar of Khwaja Badshah	---	Temple materials used
63	Shahabad	Rohtasgarh	Masjid of Aurangzeb	---	Part of a temple converted
64	Shahabad	Rohtasgarh	Mazar of Saqi Sultan	---	Temple site

65	Shahabad	Sasaram	Mazar of Chandan Shahid Pir	---	Temple site
66	Vaishali	Amer	Mazar of Pir Qattal	---	Temple materials used
67	Vaishali	Chehar	Fort	---	Temple materials used
68	Vaishali	Chehar	Jami Masjid	---	Temple materials used
69	Vaishali	Hajipur	Haji Ilyas-ki-Masjid	---	Converted temple
70	Vaishali	Hajipur	Dargah of Barkhurdar Awliya	---	Temple site
71	Vaishali	Hajipur	Dargah of Pir Shattari.	---	Temple site
72	Vaishali	Hajipur	Dargah of Hajiul Harmain	---	Temple site
73	Vaishali	Hajipur	Dargah of Pir Jalalud-Din	---	Temple site
74	Vaishali	Basarh	Dargah of Pir Miran	---	On top of a Buddhist Stupa
75	Vaishali	Basarh	Mazar of Shykh Muhammad Faizullah Ali alias Qazin Shattari	---	Temple site
76	Vaishali	Basarh	Graveyard	---	Many tombs built with temple materials
77	Vaishali	Basarh	Masjid	---	Temple site
78	District to be determined	Hasanpura	Mazar of Makhdum Hasan	---	On the site of a Buddhist Stupa
79	District to be determined	Jhangira	Jami Masjid	---	Temple site

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*Note: Please refer to the source (Goel, 2013).*

**What** is your comprehensive plan for reclaiming Hindu temples that were destroyed and converted into mosques in undivided Bihar, considering the legal, historical, and social aspects of this sensitive issue?

**Why** do you believe it is essential to address the reclamation of these sites, and what impact do you expect this process to have on preserving cultural heritage and addressing historical grievances?

**How** do you plan to implement this reclamation process in a way that ensures legal compliance, respects the sentiments of all communities involved, and promotes communal harmony?

#### 16.1.6. Survey of all religious structures and their ownership

Conducting a comprehensive survey of religious structures and their ownership is essential for transparency, conflict resolution, and proper resource management. In Bihar, where religious structures play a significant role in social life, such a survey can help address disputes and ensure equitable treatment of all communities. These questions assess how candidates will conduct this survey and use the information to promote social harmony.

**What** plans do you have to comprehensively survey all religious structures and their ownership in Bihar?

**Why** is it essential to have accurate records of religious structures and their ownership, and how does this impact land management and community relations?

**How** will you carry out this survey transparently and fairly, ensuring that all communities are respected and that the findings are made public?

#### 16.1.7. Ban on cow slaughtering

Cow slaughtering is a sensitive issue in India, particularly for native Indians (Hindus), where cows hold religious significance. It has also been a subject of political debate in many states, including Bihar, impacting social harmony and law enforcement. Although cow slaughtering is banned as per “*The Bihar Preservation And Improvement of Animals Act, 1955*” (GoB, 1956), cow slaughtering has not stopped in Bihar yet (Organiser, 2024).

**What** is your stance on cow slaughtering in Bihar, and what policies will you implement to address this issue while maintaining communal harmony?

**Why** do you believe regulating cow slaughter is essential for the cultural and religious sentiments of the people in Bihar?

**How** will you ensure that any policies you implement regarding cow slaughter are enforced while respecting the law and ensuring peaceful coexistence among all communities?

#### 16.1.8. Renaming of places named after Islamic and other invaders

The naming of places holds significant symbolic value and reflects a society's history, culture, and collective memory. In Bihar, as in other parts of India, many areas have been named after figures associated with periods of invasion and conquest, which some citizens feel do not represent the state's cultural heritage or values, such as Bakhtiyarpur Railway Station (Figure 13) (Azad, 2018; Wikipedia, 2014) . The movement to rename such places is often motivated by a desire to reclaim local history, honor indigenous leaders, and reinforce cultural identity by restoring traditional or historically significant names.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to address the issue of renaming places named after Islamic and other invaders, voters can assess their stance on this sensitive and symbolic issue. These questions should explore candidates' criteria for deciding which places should be renamed, how they plan to engage with historians, local communities, and other stakeholders in the decision-making process, and how they will manage such actions' potential social and political implications. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates will ensure that any renaming efforts are conducted in a way that fosters unity, respects diverse perspectives, and promotes a shared understanding of history.

**What** is your position on renaming places in Bihar currently named after Islamic invaders, and how do you propose handling this issue?

**Why** do you believe renaming these places is or isn't essential for reclaiming Bihar's historical and cultural identity?

**How** will you manage the renaming process, including public consultation, addressing potential controversies, and ensuring the new names reflect Bihar's cultural heritage?



**Figure 13.** Bakhtiyarpur Railway Station was named after the Islamic barbaric Bakhtiyar Khilji.

#### 16.1.9. Protection of archaeological sites of Bihar

Bihar is home to some of India's most significant archaeological sites, including ancient cities, temples, stupas, and universities like Vaishali, Nalanda, and Vikramshila (Figure 14-17) (Choudhary, 2024a, 2024b; Digit)™. These sites are a testament to the state's rich history and cultural heritage and hold immense value for education, tourism, and national pride. However, many of these sites face threats from urbanization, neglect, encroachment, and environmental degradation. Protecting and preserving these archaeological sites is crucial for maintaining Bihar's historical legacy, promoting tourism, and ensuring that future generations can learn from and appreciate these invaluable cultural assets.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to protect and preserve Bihar's archaeological sites, voters can assess their commitment to safeguarding the state's heritage. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for preventing encroachment, improving site management, providing adequate funding for conservation efforts, and promoting awareness and education about the importance of these sites. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to balance the need for



development with preserving these sites, ensuring that modernization efforts do not come at the expense of Bihar's historical treasures (UNESCO, 2002, 2016).



**Figure 14.** Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, Bihar.



**Figure 15.** Archaeological site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar.

**What** is your plan for protecting and restoring archaeological sites in Bihar?

**Why** have these sites been neglected, and what are the consequences of losing these historical treasures?

**How** will you secure funding, ensure proper management, and involve experts in preserving these sites for future generations?



**Figure 16.** Ruins of ancient Vaishali, Bihar.



**Figure 17.** Remains of Vikramshila Ancient University, Bihar.



#### 16.1.10. Encouraging arts like Madhubani painting

Madhubani painting is a unique art form that represents Bihar's cultural heritage. Encouraging such traditional arts can promote cultural pride and provide economic opportunities for local artists. These questions assess how candidates plan to support and encourage Madhubani painting and other traditional arts.

**What** steps will you take to promote and preserve traditional arts like Madhubani painting, integral to Bihar's cultural identity?

**Why** is it crucial to support traditional arts, and what role do they play in the cultural and economic landscape of the state?

**How** will you provide platforms for artists, support marketing initiatives, and integrate these arts into tourism and educational programs?

#### 16.1.11. Controlling the vulgarization of film and other media platforms

The content disseminated through films and other media platforms profoundly impacts public perceptions, societal values, and cultural norms. In recent years, concerns have been raised about the increasing vulgarization of content in films, television, and online platforms, which can contribute to the degradation of cultural values, the promotion of unhealthy attitudes, and the objectification of individuals, particularly women. In Bihar, where traditional values and cultural heritage are deeply respected, the vulgarization of media content is seen as a threat to the moral fabric of society, influencing the behavior and attitudes of the younger generation.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to address the issue of vulgarization in films and media, voters can assess their commitment to promoting responsible media that upholds cultural values and social decency. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for regulating content through censorship laws, encouraging the production of high-quality and culturally respectful media, and promoting media literacy among the public. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates will work with the entertainment industry to balance creative freedom and social responsibility, ensuring that media content contributes positively to society.

**What** steps will you take to regulate and prevent the vulgarization of content in films, television, and online platforms?

**Why** has there been an increase in vulgar and inappropriate content, and how does this impact society, especially children and youth?

**How** will you enforce regulations and promote responsible content creation while balancing freedom of expression?

### 16.1.12.Revising state holidays by adding all essential Hindu festivals

State holidays should reflect the cultural and religious diversity of the population. In Bihar, where Hindu festivals play a significant role in the cultural fabric, revising state holidays to include all essential festivals is vital for cultural recognition and respect (Mazumdar, 2023; S. G. Singh, 2023; TOI, 2023)⁻.

## बिहार सरकार के शिक्षा विभाग ने स्कूलों के लिए जारी किया 2024 की छुट्टियों का कैलेंडर स्कूलों में शिवरात्रि, रामनवमी, जन्माष्टमी व रक्षाबंधन की छुट्टी खत्म; ईद-मुहर्रम की बढ़ी

■ गांधी जयंती, अशोक  
अष्टमी व अंतिम श्रावणी  
सोमवार को भी छुट्टी नहीं

पॉलिटेक्निक रिपोर्टर | पटना

बिहार सरकार के शिक्षा विभाग ने आगले साल स्कूलों में होने वाली छुट्टियों में बड़ा फेरबदल किया है। प्राथमिक, माध्यमिक और उच्च माध्यमिक स्कूलों में पिछले साल तक महाशिवरात्रि, रक्षाबंधन, जानकीनवमी, रामनवमी, जन्माष्टमी, तीज और जीउतीया पर होने वाली छुट्टी 2024 में नहीं रहेगी। जबकि ईद, बकरीद, मुहर्रम की छुट्टी बढ़ाई है। 2 अक्टूबर को महात्मा गांधी जयंती की भी छुट्टी खत्म की गई। अशोक अष्टमी और अंतिम श्रावणी सोमवार को होने वाली छुट्टी भी नहीं होगी।

2023 में रविवार सहित 64 दिनों की छुट्टी थी। 2024 के लिए रविवार सहित 60 दिनों की छुट्टी दी गई है। राज्य के सभी उर्दू प्राथमिक, मध्य, माध्यमिक और उच्च माध्यमिक स्कूलों या मकतब में साप्ताहिक छुट्टी शुक्रवार होगी। ये स्कूल रविवार को खुले रहेंगे। कोई स्कूल, जो मुस्लिम बहुल क्षेत्र में है और उर्दू विद्यालयों की तरह शुक्रवार को साप्ताहिक अवकाश घोषित करना चाहता हो, तो जिलाधिकारी से अनुमति प्राप्त कर ऐसा किया जा सकता है। 2024 में लोकसभा चुनाव को देखते हुए ग्रामीणविकास की छुट्टी में परिवर्तन किया जा सकता है। शिक्षा विभाग ने चेतावनी है कि किसी भी सरकारी स्कूलों के प्रधानाध्यापक या प्रभारी प्रधानाध्यापक अपने स्तर से विद्यालय अवकाश की घोषणा नहीं करेंगे, अन्यथा उनके विरुद्ध कार्रवाई होगी।

### ईद की 2 व बकरीद व मुहर्रम की छुट्टी 1-1 दिन बढ़ी

2023 में ईद की छुट्टी 22 अप्रैल को थी। 2024 में ईद की छुट्टी 10, 11 और 12 अप्रैल को दी गई है। इसी तरह बकरीद में 2 दिनों की छुट्टी थी। इसे 2024 में बढ़ाकर 18, 19 और 20 जून यानी तीन दिनों की कर दी गई है। 2023 में मुहर्रम की छुट्टी 1 दिन थी। 2024 में यह 17 और 18 जुलाई यानी दो दिनों की है। हालांकि शब-ए-बारात की छुट्टी 2 दिन से घटाकर 1 दिन की गई है।

### महापुरुषों की जयंती पर भी छुट्टी नहीं, स्कूल में ही होंगे कार्यक्रम

सभी स्कूलों में वार्षिकोत्सव, गणतंत्र दिवस, स्वतंत्रता दिवस, गांधी जयंती एवं अन्य महापुरुषों की जयंती मनाई जाएगी। गुरुवार को विद्यालय में पूरे दिन गतिविधि रहेगी। भोजनावकाश तक अध्यापन का काम होगा। भोजनावकाश के बाद अभिभावकों के साथ बैठक एवं बाल संसद आयोजित होगी।

### शिक्षिकाओं का संकट : तीज व जीउतीया में आना होगा स्कूल

शिक्षिका को तीज व जीउतीया पर्व में भी स्कूल आने की मजबूरी रहेगी। बिहार में कक्षा 1 से 8 के शिक्षकों के 50% पद महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षित हैं। हाईस्कूलों में 35% आरक्षण है। सरकार ने महिलाओं के इस पर्व को ध्यान में रखकर ही तीज और जीउतीया की छुट्टी तय की थी।

■ राज्य के सभी उर्दू प्राथमिक, मध्य, माध्यमिक और उच्च माध्यमिक स्कूलों या मकतब में साप्ताहिक छुट्टी शुक्रवार होगी। ये स्कूल रविवार को खुले रहेंगे।

### 15 अप्रैल से 15 मई तक गर्मी की छुट्टी लेकिन शिक्षक आएंगे

त्योहार	दिन	त्योहार	दिन
गुरु गोबिंद सिंह जयंती	17 जनवरी	बकरीद	18, 19 व 20 जून
गणतंत्र दिवस	26 जनवरी	कबीर जयंती	22 जून
संत रविदास जयंती	24 फरवरी	मुहर्रम	17 व 18 जुलाई
शब-ए-बारात	26 फरवरी	स्वतंत्रता दिवस	15 अगस्त
बिहार दिवस	22 मार्च	चेहल्लुम	25 अगस्त
होली	26 व 27 मार्च	हजरत मोहम्मद साहब का जन्म दिवस	16 सितंबर
गुड फ्राइडे	29 मार्च	दुर्गापूजा (सप्तमी)	10 अक्टूबर
ईद	10, 11 व 12 अप्रैल	दुर्गापूजा	11 व 12 अक्टूबर
डॉ. भीम राव अंबेडकर जयंती	14 अप्रैल	दीपावली	31 अक्टूबर
ग्रामीणविकास	15 अप्रैल से 15 मई	छठ पूजा	7, 8 व 9 नवंबर
बुद्ध पूर्णिमा	23 मई	क्रिसमस	25 दिसंबर

(नोट :- गर्मी छुट्टी 5 दिन बढ़ी है। बिद्याथी नहीं आएंगे। लेकिन शिक्षकों को स्कूल आना है।)

### बिफरस विपक्ष

चुनाव देख तुष्टीकरण पर  
उत्तरी बिहार सरकार, यह  
बर्दाश्त नहीं होगा: मोदी

पूर्व उपमुख्यमंत्री व भाजपा के राज्यसभा सदस्य सुरेश कुमार मोदी ने छुट्टियों के इस कैलेंडर का पुरजोर विरोध किया। कहा- बिहार सरकार, चुनाव को सामने देख तुष्टीकरण पर उतर गई है। यह कैलेंडर इस बात की गवाही है कि सत्ताधारी जमात हिंदुओं को जातियों बांटकर, उनको एक-दूसरे के खिलाफ उकसा कर उनका वोट पाने और मुसलमानों को इन्हें सतही उपायों/तीनों से खुरा कर उनको अपने पाले में करने की परजोर कोशिश में है। लेकिन सत्ताधारी भ्रम में है। उनकी यह सांप्रदायिक भ्रंश कामयाब नहीं होगी। इसे कोई भी बर्दाश्त नहीं करेगा। इसका भारी विरोध होगा। मोदी के अनुसार, ऐसा करने का कोई औचित्य ही नहीं है। राम-कृष्ण-शिव, जो बहुसंख्यक हिंदू समुदाय के परम पूज्य आराध्य हैं, को पूजने का मौका या इसका दिन खत्म करके अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के लिए छुट्टियों की बढ़ाना, अक्षिण क्या दर्शाता है? यह तो धर्म के आधार पर भी लोगों को बहुत संवेदनशील भाव में एक-दूसरे के खिलाफ खड़ा करने की नापक सरकारी कबायद है। हाल में भी ऐसा हुआ था, जिसे भारी विरोध के बाद वापस लेना पड़ा। अगर सरकार को पढ़ाई के लिए बकस ही बढ़ाना है, तो वह शिक्षकों से दूसरे काम (वोट लिस्ट निर्माण, जातीय-पशु गणना, मिड डे मिल आदि) क्यों कराती है?



Figure 18. Holidays for Hindu festivals are reduced in schools of Bihar.

These questions assess how candidates will ensure that state holidays are inclusive and representative.

**What** changes will you propose to the current list of state holidays to include all essential Hindu festivals?

**Why** is it essential to revise the list of state holidays, and how will this revision reflect the cultural and religious diversity of Bihar?

**How** will you ensure that the process of revising state holidays is inclusive, respects all communities, and balances the needs of public services and cultural observances?

#### 16.1.13.Regulating all private schools where Hindu values are discouraged

Ensuring private schools respect and include Hindu values in their educational framework is essential for cultural preservation. In Bihar, where education systems must cater to diverse communities, regulating schools to prevent the discouragement of Hindu values is crucial (OpIndia, 2022a). These questions focus on how candidates will enforce cultural inclusivity in education.

**What** measures will you introduce to regulate private schools where Hindu values and cultural practices are discouraged?

**Why** is it necessary to ensure that private schools respect and include Hindu values as part of their educational and cultural framework?

**How** will you implement these regulations, monitor compliance, and ensure that all schools provide an environment that respects and incorporates cultural and religious diversity?

#### 16.1.14.Promoting traditional knowledge

Traditional knowledge, passed down through generations, shapes local cultures, environmental practices, and health systems. In Bihar, traditional knowledge systems encompass agriculture, herbal medicine, architecture, and more. Preserving and integrating this knowledge with modern practices is essential for sustainable development and cultural preservation. Leveraging this wisdom can also provide innovative solutions to modern-day challenges, especially in rural areas.

**What** is your plan to preserve and promote Bihar's rich traditional knowledge systems, including agriculture, medicine, and environmental practices, while integrating them with modern advancements?

**Why** is it essential to safeguard traditional knowledge, and how can it contribute to sustainable development and the well-being of future generations in Bihar?

**How** will you ensure that traditional knowledge is documented, shared, and applied in a way that respects cultural heritage while meeting contemporary challenges?

#### 16.1.15.Promoting traditional skills

Traditional skills, such as handicrafts, weaving, pottery, and agriculture, are vital for preserving Bihar's cultural identity and supporting the livelihoods of many artisans and rural communities. These skills are often at risk of being lost due to modernization and lack of support. Revitalizing and promoting traditional skills can create jobs, boost local economies, and ensure that cultural craftsmanship thrives in today's world.

**What** initiatives will you implement to revive, preserve, and promote traditional skills like handicrafts, weaving, and pottery in Bihar, especially in rural areas?

**Why** do you believe it is essential to support traditional skills, and how will doing so contribute to economic empowerment and cultural preservation?

**How** will you create opportunities for artisans and craftspeople to develop their traditional skills, ensure market access, and provide financial support for these industries to thrive in the modern economy?

#### 16.1.16.Impact of Western culture on Biharis

Western cultural influences, through media, technology, and globalization, have affected traditional values and lifestyles in Bihar. Addressing the balance between modernity and tradition is essential for preserving cultural identity.

**What** is your strategy for addressing the impact of Western culture on Bihar's traditional values, and how will you promote cultural preservation?

**Why** is it essential to balance modern influences with preserving Bihar's traditional culture, and how will this benefit future generations?

**How** will you encourage cultural programs, education, and media initiatives that protect Bihar's cultural heritage while embracing positive global influences?

#### 16.1.17.Ensuring a peaceful festival celebration

Festivals are an integral part of Bihar's cultural and religious life, but they can also lead to communal tensions and disturbances if not appropriately managed. Ensuring peaceful celebrations is essential for maintaining social harmony. However, Hindus are often attacked during their festivals across the country (OpIndia, 2023a). Chhath Mahaparv is the most important festival of Bihar, and vandalizing Chhath Ghath is a clear sign of risk to Hindus; therefore, citizens should ask their leaders this question:

**What** measures will you introduce to ensure that all religious and cultural festivals in Bihar are celebrated peacefully and safely?

**Why** is it important to focus on peaceful festival celebrations, and how will it contribute to maintaining communal harmony in Bihar?

**How** will you work with law enforcement, community leaders, and local organizations to prevent disturbances during festivals and ensure that celebrations are peaceful and inclusive?



## Chapter 17

### 17.1. Rights and Equality

#### 17.1.1. Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

The UCC refers to the proposal to replace personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of all religious communities in India with a standard set of laws governing every citizen (DrishtiIAS, 2024). This is a topic of significant debate in India, including Bihar, as it touches upon issues of equality, secularism, and national integration. A UCC would ensure equal rights for all citizens, particularly women, by eliminating discriminatory practices enshrined in religious personal laws.

By asking questions about how candidates view and plan to approach the implementation of a UCC in Bihar, voters can assess their commitment to promoting equality while respecting the diversity of religious practices. These questions should explore candidates' perspectives on the benefits and challenges of implementing a UCC, how they would address concerns from various religious communities, and what measures they would take to ensure the transition is smooth and inclusive. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to engage with all stakeholders, including religious leaders, legal experts, and the general public, in developing and implementing the UCC.

**What** is your stance on implementing a UCC in Bihar to ensure all citizens are subject to the same laws?

**Why** is the UCC a crucial national integration and equality issue, and what are the arguments for and against its implementation?

**How** will you address the concerns of various communities and ensure that the UCC is implemented relatively and inclusively?

#### 17.1.2. Rights to equality

The right to equality is a fundamental principle enshrined in the Indian Constitution. It ensures that every citizen is treated with fairness and dignity and without discrimination based on religion, race, caste, and gender. In Bihar, achieving true equality remains challenging, with social, economic, and educational disparities persisting across different communities and regions. Ensuring the right to equality is crucial for fostering social

cohesion, reducing poverty, and empowering all citizens to participate fully in the state's development.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to uphold and promote the right to equality, voters can assess their commitment to addressing systemic inequalities and ensuring that all citizens have equal opportunities and protections under the law. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for combating discrimination, promoting social inclusion, and ensuring that government policies and programs are implemented equitably across all communities. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address gender inequality, support marginalized groups, and ensure that development benefits reach all segments of society, particularly those historically disadvantaged.

**What** policies will you implement to ensure equality for all citizens in Bihar, regardless of caste, religion, gender, or economic status?

**Why** have issues of inequality persisted, and what factors have contributed to the marginalization of certain groups?

**How** will you promote social justice, enforce anti-discrimination laws, and ensure equal opportunities in all sectors?

### 17.1.3. Rights to dignity

The right to dignity is a fundamental human right that underpins the respect and worth of every individual, regardless of their background, status, or identity. In Bihar, as in the rest of India, ensuring every citizen is treated with dignity is essential for fostering a just and equitable society. This includes protecting individuals from discrimination, abuse, and exploitation to ensure that all people have access to basic needs such as education, healthcare, and livelihoods, which are crucial for living a life of dignity. Additionally, the right to dignity is closely linked to social justice, equality, and human rights, making it a critical issue for governance and public policy.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to uphold and protect the right to dignity for all citizens, voters can assess their commitment to creating an inclusive and respectful society. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for combating discrimination, promoting social inclusion, and ensuring that marginalized communities have access to opportunities that enable them to lead dignified lives. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address issues such as poverty, homelessness, and violence, which directly impact individuals' dignity, and how they will ensure that government services are delivered in a manner that respects the dignity of every citizen.

**What** policies will you implement to ensure that every citizen of Bihar is treated with dignity, regardless of their social or economic status?

**Why** has the right to dignity been compromised sometimes, and what systemic issues have led to this?

**How** will you enforce laws and create awareness to uphold the right to dignity in all public and private interactions?

#### 17.1.4. Rights to safe drinking water

Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right for life, health, and well-being. In Bihar, many communities, particularly in rural and underserved areas, face significant challenges in accessing clean and safe drinking water. Contaminated water sources can lead to serious health problems, including waterborne diseases, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly. Ensuring the right to safe drinking water is crucial for improving public health, reducing healthcare costs, and promoting social and economic development.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure the right to safe drinking water for all citizens, voters can assess their commitment to addressing this critical issue. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for improving water infrastructure, ensuring the quality and safety of water sources, expanding access to clean water in urban and rural areas, and implementing effective water management practices. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address the challenges of water scarcity, pollution, and the impact of climate change on water resources, ensuring that all citizens have reliable access to safe drinking water.

**What** is your plan to ensure that every resident of Bihar has access to safe and clean drinking water?

**Why** has safe drinking water remained inaccessible to many, and what are the health implications of this issue?

**How** will you improve water infrastructure, prevent contamination, and ensure sustainable water management practices?

#### 17.1.5. Rights to safe roads

The right to safe roads is critical to public safety and infrastructure development, ensuring citizens can travel without the risk of accidents, injuries, or fatalities. Road safety remains a significant concern in Bihar due to poor road conditions, inadequate traffic management, lack of pedestrian infrastructure, and unsafe driving practices. Safe roads are essential for

protecting lives, promoting economic activities, improving access to services, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure the right to safe roads, voters can assess their commitment to improving road safety and infrastructure in Bihar. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for upgrading road infrastructure, implementing effective traffic management systems, enforcing traffic laws, and promoting road safety awareness among the public. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address the needs of vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists, and how they will ensure that new road projects incorporate safety features and sustainable practices.

**What** measures will you take to ensure that roads in Bihar are safe for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists?

**Why** have road safety issues persisted, leading to accidents and fatalities, and what have been the obstacles in addressing them?

**How** will you implement road safety standards, improve infrastructure, and ensure strict enforcement of traffic laws?

#### 17.1.6. Rights to quality education

The right to quality education is essential for individuals and society's personal development, social mobility, and economic prosperity. In Bihar, ensuring that every child has access to quality education is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty, reducing inequality, and empowering the next generation to contribute meaningfully to the state's growth. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, insufficient teacher training, high dropout rates, and disparities in access between urban and rural areas have hindered the realization of this right for many children and young adults in Bihar.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure the right to quality education, voters can assess their commitment to addressing these challenges and improving the state's educational outcomes. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for enhancing school infrastructure, improving teacher training and recruitment, ensuring equitable access to education for all children, and integrating modern teaching methods and technologies into the curriculum. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address issues such as early childhood education, special education needs, and vocational training, ensuring that education in Bihar is inclusive, comprehensive, and geared toward future workforce needs.

**What** initiatives will you introduce to guarantee that every child in Bihar has access to quality education?

**Why** has the education system failed to provide consistent quality across all regions, and what challenges must be addressed?

**How** will you improve teacher training, curriculum standards, and school facilities to ensure high-quality education for all?

#### 17.1.7. Rights to know any conspiracy against the state or the country

Citizens have the right to be informed about threats to national security. In Bihar, ensuring transparency about such threats can foster public vigilance and trust (ANI, 2022). These questions assess how candidates balance security concerns with the public's right to know.

**What** policies will you introduce to ensure that citizens have the right to know about any conspiracy against the state or the country?

**Why** must citizens be informed about threats to national security, and how does this contribute to a vigilant and informed society?

**How** will you disseminate information about such conspiracies while balancing national security concerns and public awareness?

#### 17.1.8. Rights to equal access and availability of all welfare schemes for citizens

Welfare schemes should be accessible to all citizens, regardless of their background. In Bihar, ensuring equitable access to these schemes is essential for social justice. These questions probe how candidates will ensure welfare benefits reach all eligible individuals.

**What** strategies will you adopt to ensure equal access and availability of all welfare schemes to every citizen of Bihar?

**Why** have some groups been excluded or underserved by welfare schemes, and what are the barriers to equitable access?

**How** will you ensure that welfare schemes are implemented fairly, monitored effectively, and adjusted to meet the needs of all citizens?

#### 17.1.9. Rights to protect one's property

Protecting property rights is fundamental to economic stability and personal security. In Bihar, where land disputes and encroachments are prevalent, it is vital to ensure that

citizens can protect their properties from illegal actions. These questions seek to determine how candidates will strengthen legal protections and provide timely resolutions to property-related conflicts.

**What** steps will you take to ensure citizens have the right and ability to protect their properties from illegal encroachments and disputes?

**Why** is it essential to strengthen property rights in Bihar, and what challenges do property owners currently face in protecting their assets?

**How** will you improve the legal framework, expedite dispute resolution, and support property owners to safeguard their rights effectively?

#### 17.1.10.Rights to good service

The right to good service is fundamental to governance and public administration, ensuring citizens receive efficient, transparent, and accountable services from government agencies and public institutions. In Bihar, as in many other regions, the quality of public services can be inconsistent, with issues such as bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption, and lack of accountability often hindering the delivery of essential services. Ensuring the right to good service is crucial for building public trust in government, improving public programs' effectiveness, and enhancing citizens' overall quality of life.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure the right to good service, voters can assess their commitment to improving public administration and service delivery in Bihar. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for reducing bureaucratic red tape, enhancing transparency and accountability in government operations, implementing digital governance solutions, and ensuring that public servants are adequately trained and motivated to serve the public effectively. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to address grievances and complaints from citizens, ensuring robust mechanisms are in place to rectify issues and improve service standards.

**What** measures will you take to ensure that all public services in Bihar are delivered efficiently and effectively?

**Why** have public services in Bihar often been inadequate, and what challenges have prevented improvements?

**How** will you enforce accountability and ensure citizens receive the services they are entitled to promptly and respectfully?

#### 17.1.11.Rights to a safe and healthy life for elderly people

The right to a safe and healthy life for older people is crucial to social justice and human dignity. As the population of older adults in Bihar grows, ensuring that they live in safety, comfort, and good health becomes increasingly important. Many older people face challenges such as inadequate healthcare, lack of social security, isolation, and vulnerability to abuse or neglect. Protecting their rights and well-being is essential for building a compassionate and inclusive society where all elderly are valued and supported.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to ensure a safe and healthy life for old age people, voters can assess their commitment to addressing the specific needs of this vulnerable population. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for improving healthcare services for the elderly, enhancing social security and pension schemes, promoting age-friendly infrastructure, and ensuring that elderly individuals have access to social support and community services. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to protect elderly citizens from abuse, neglect, and exploitation and how they will ensure that the rights and dignity of older adults are upheld.

**What** plans do you have to ensure a safe and healthy life for the elderly population in Bihar?

**Why** have the needs of older people been neglected in policy-making, and what are the challenges they face?

**How** will you provide healthcare, social security, and community support to improve the quality of life for older adults?

#### 17.1.12.Rights to receive detailed bills for doctors' visits

Transparent billing practices in healthcare are essential to prevent overcharging and ensure that patients understand the costs of services. In a state like Bihar, where healthcare access is limited, enforcing the right to receive detailed bills is a step toward improving accountability and fairness in the medical sector. These questions ensure that candidates prioritize transparency in healthcare services.

**What** measures will you implement to ensure patients receive clear and itemized bills for all doctor visits and medical services?

**Why** is it essential for patients to receive proper billing for medical services, and how does this contribute to transparency in healthcare?

**How** will you enforce this right across all healthcare providers, ensuring compliance and addressing any challenges in its implementation?

#### 17.1.13.Rights to receive detailed bills for advocate's fees

Legal services often come with significant costs, and transparent billing is crucial to prevent exploitation. In Bihar, where access to justice is a challenge for many, ensuring that clients receive itemized bills from advocates is essential for fairness and accountability. These questions emphasize the need for candidates to ensure that legal services are transparent and accessible.

**What** policies will you introduce to guarantee clients receive detailed bills for services rendered by advocates and legal professionals?

**Why** is transparency in legal fees important, and what are the current issues with billing practices in the legal profession?

**How** will you ensure that all legal practitioners comply with billing regulations, and what recourse will clients have if they do not receive proper bills?

#### 17.1.14.Rights to receive bills for all services

Ensuring citizens receive bills for all services promotes transparency and accountability in both public and private sectors. This is particularly important in Bihar, where informal transactions can lead to disputes and misunderstandings. These questions push candidates to focus on consumer rights and fair business practices.

**What** steps will you take to ensure consumers receive bills for services across all sectors?

**Why** is it essential for consumers to receive service bills, and how does this promote accountability and consumer rights?

**How** will you enforce billing requirements across different service industries, and what penalties will be for non-compliance?



## Chapter 18

### 18.1. Zero Tolerance

#### 18.1.1. Zero tolerance against rape or any crime against women and children

Ensuring the safety and protection of women and children is a fundamental responsibility of any society. Crimes such as rape, domestic violence, and abuse against women and children are not only heinous violations of human rights but also have long-lasting physical, emotional, and psychological impacts on victims. In Bihar, like in many parts of India, these crimes are of significant concern, and addressing them with the utmost seriousness is essential for creating a safe and just society. A zero-tolerance approach to such crimes underscores the state's commitment to protecting its most vulnerable citizens and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against rape and any crime against women and children, voters can assess their commitment to creating a safer environment for these vulnerable groups. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for strengthening legal frameworks, ensuring swift and effective prosecution of offenders, providing support and protection to victims, and promoting public awareness and education to prevent such crimes. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to improve police responsiveness, enhance the safety of public spaces, and implement comprehensive programs to address the root causes of violence against women and children.

**What** specific actions will you take to protect women and children from rape and other crimes, ensuring a zero-tolerance policy?

**Why** have crimes against women and children continued despite legal provisions, and what are the gaps in the current system?

**How** will you improve law enforcement, support services, and public awareness to prevent such crimes and swiftly punish perpetrators?

#### 18.1.2. Zero tolerance against any crime

A zero-tolerance approach to crime is essential for maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and fostering a sense of security within the community. Crime remains a

significant concern in Bihar, affecting urban and rural areas. Issues such as corruption, organized crime, violence, and petty offenses undermine public confidence in the justice system and can have a detrimental impact on economic development and social cohesion. Implementing a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of crime signals a strong commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting citizens from harm.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against crime, voters can assess their commitment to making Bihar a safer place to live and work. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for strengthening law enforcement, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and ensuring that all crimes, regardless of their severity, are addressed swiftly and fairly. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates will tackle issues such as police corruption, improve crime reporting mechanisms, and ensure that victims of crime receive the support and justice they deserve.

**What** is your policy on zero tolerance against crime, and how will you implement it across Bihar?

**Why** has crime remained a persistent issue in Bihar, and what needs to be improved in previous law enforcement efforts?

**How** will you strengthen policing, legal frameworks, and community involvement to ensure a crime-free environment?

### 18.1.3. Zero tolerance against conspiracy against the state and country (e.g., Ghazwa-e-Hind)

National security and the state's integrity are paramount for any nation's stability, peace, and prosperity. Conspiracies against the state, such as those aimed at undermining its sovereignty, inciting violence, or destabilizing the government, pose severe threats to public safety and national unity. In Bihar, as in other parts of India, it is crucial to maintain vigilance against such conspiracies, including extremist ideologies like Ghazwa-e-Hind, which seek to disrupt the fabric of society (Figure 19) (GoI-MoHA, 2022; HinduPost, 2022). A zero-tolerance approach to any form of conspiracy against the state ensures that such threats are dealt with decisively and effectively.



**Figure 19.** PFI militant parade.

By asking questions about how candidates plan to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against conspiracies targeting the state and country, voters can assess their commitment to protecting national security and upholding the rule of law. These questions should focus on candidates' strategies for identifying and preventing such conspiracies, enhancing intelligence and law enforcement capabilities, and ensuring those involved in anti-state activities are brought to justice. Additionally, voters should inquire about how candidates plan to engage communities in countering extremist ideologies, promote national unity, and ensure that the legal framework is robust enough to address emerging threats to the state.

**What** is your stance on dealing with conspiracies against the state and country, such as Ghazwa-e-Hind, and how will you implement a zero-tolerance policy?

**Why** is it crucial to address such conspiracies with zero tolerance, and what threats do they pose to national security and social harmony?

**How** will you effectively strengthen intelligence, law enforcement, and community engagement to prevent and neutralize such threats?

#### 18.1.4. Zero tolerance against bribery

Bribery undermines the integrity of public services and perpetuates inequality. In Bihar, establishing a zero-tolerance policy against bribery is essential to combat corruption and ensure that government services are delivered fairly and transparently. These questions explore how candidates will enforce anti-bribery laws and create a culture of honesty in public administration.

**What** policies will you introduce to establish zero tolerance against bribery in Bihar?

**Why** is it crucial to eliminate bribery from public and private sectors, and what are the consequences of allowing it to persist?

**How** will you enforce anti-bribery laws, encourage whistleblowing, and ensure that those caught engaging in bribery face severe consequences?

#### 18.1.5. Zero tolerance against cheating in exams

Cheating in exams undermines the integrity of Bihar's education system and damages the credibility of academic institutions. A zero-tolerance policy is essential for fostering a culture of merit and fairness.

**What** actions will you take to implement a zero-tolerance policy against cheating in exams in Bihar's education system?

**Why** is it essential to address cheating in exams, and how will it improve the credibility of Bihar's education system and the future of its students?

**How** will you enforce strict anti-cheating measures and ensure transparency and fairness in the examination process?

#### 18.1.6. Zero tolerance against paper leaks in competitive exams

Paper leaks in competitive exams have eroded public trust in the system and disadvantaged hardworking students. Implementing strict measures to prevent leaks is necessary to maintain fairness in the education system.

**What** steps will you take to implement a zero-tolerance policy against paper leaks in Bihar's competitive exams?

**Why** is it essential to prevent paper leaks, and how will it restore public confidence in Bihar's competitive examination system?

**How** will you ensure the security of examination papers and implement measures to detect and prevent any potential leaks?

## Chapter 19

### 19.1. Validating Responses of Leaders

#### 19.1.1. Alignment of vision and execution

Can you explain how your five-year action plan supports your long-term vision for Bihar and what specific milestones you will use to measure progress?

#### 19.1.2. Consistency across policies

How do your proposed infrastructure improvements align with your environmental sustainability plans, particularly in reducing pollution and maintaining green spaces?

#### 19.1.3. Resource allocation and prioritization

Given the limited resources, how will you prioritize investments in healthcare, education, and infrastructure, and what criteria will you use to make these decisions?

#### 19.1.4. Accountability and transparency

How will you ensure that the accountability mechanisms you propose for ministers and government officials are transparent and accessible to the public?

#### 19.1.5. Impact of anti-corruption measures

How do you plan to ensure that your zero-tolerance policy against bribery is enforced at the top levels of government and at the grassroots level, where citizens interact with public services?

#### 19.1.6. Consistency in law enforcement

How will the strict penalties for politicians and government officials with misconduct be applied consistently across different levels of government, ensuring fairness and equality before the law?

#### 19.1.7. Cultural and religious inclusivity

How do your plans to revise state holidays to include essential Hindu festivals align with your approach to ensuring all communities feel represented and respected in Bihar?

#### 19.1.8. Economic development and social justice

How will you balance the need for industrialization and economic growth with ensuring that jobs and opportunities are available to all skilled and meritorious individuals, including those in marginalized communities?

#### 19.1.9. Integration of education policies

How do your proposals to regulate private schools and encourage traditional Gurukuls coexist with your initiatives to promote science culture and modern education standards?

#### 19.1.10.Environmental and urban planning

How does your policy of ensuring vegetation coverage in new constructions align with your broader goals for air and noise pollution control in urban areas?

#### 19.1.11.Legal and ethical standards

How will you consistently apply your stance on prohibiting politicians with criminal backgrounds, even when facing potential challenges from within your party or coalition?

#### 19.1.12.Public engagement and accessibility

How will your plans to ensure citizens' access to all officials and services align with your broader goals of improving transparency and accountability in government?

#### 19.1.13.Cultural preservation vs. modernization

How do your plans to protect cultural values, such as promoting Madhubani painting and traditional festivals, integrate with your vision for modernization and economic development in Bihar?

#### 19.1.14.Public health and safety

How do your proposals for pollution control (air, water, noise, and solid waste) integrate with your broader health policies, especially regarding reducing the burden on the healthcare system?

#### 19.1.15.Regulating freedom of expression

How will you balance the regulation of social media and freedom of speech with the need to prevent misinformation and hate speech, ensuring that legitimate expression is unrestricted?

## Chapter 20

### 20.1. Conclusion

As we reach the end of this book, we must reflect on the journey we have embarked upon together. The questions and insights presented here are not just a series of inquiries—they represent a call to action, a blueprint for civic engagement, and a commitment to building a better Bihar. This book has been designed to equip you, the citizens of Bihar, with the tools you need to actively participate in the democratic process, ensuring that your voices are heard and that your leaders are held accountable.

Bihar's history is one of resilience and perseverance. From the days of ancient empires to the struggles for independence and beyond, the people of Bihar have always played a crucial role in shaping the nation's destiny. However, in recent decades, the state has faced significant challenges that have hindered its progress. Corruption, inadequate infrastructure, poor education and health systems, and social and economic inequalities have all contributed to a sense of frustration and disillusionment among the populace. Yet, despite these challenges, Bihar's spirit remains unbroken.

The upcoming elections offer a pivotal opportunity to change the trajectory of Bihar's future. But change takes time to come about. It requires informed and engaged citizens willing to ask tough questions, demand transparency, and hold their leaders accountable. This book has provided you with a comprehensive set of questions across various sectors, each designed to probe deeply into the policies and plans of political candidates by focusing on the dimensions of **What**, **Why**, and **How**; these questions encourage detailed, thoughtful responses that go beyond superficial promises and rhetoric.

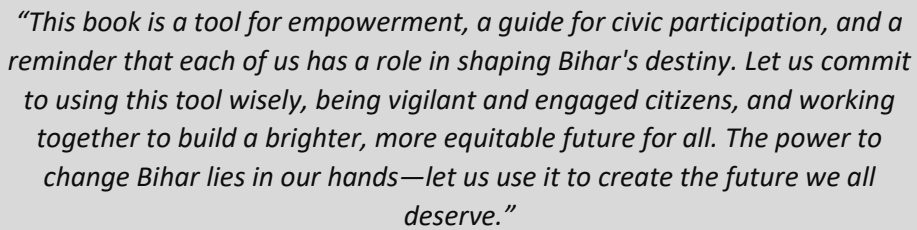
However, the true power of this book lies not in the questions themselves but in how you, the citizens of Bihar, choose to use them. You must take these questions into your communities, engage with your neighbors, and initiate conversations that matter. It is up to you to attend public forums, participate in debates, and hold your leaders to account. And it is up to you to use your vote—your most powerful tool—to shape the future of Bihar.

This book has discussed issues ranging from corruption and infrastructure to education, healthcare, and cultural preservation. We have explored the importance of good governance, the protection of civilizational values, and the need for reforms across various



sectors. But these discussions are just the beginning. The real work begins now, as you take the knowledge you have gained and put it into action.

As we move forward, let us remember that democracy is not a spectator sport. It requires active participation, continuous engagement, and a willingness to stand up for what is right. Bihar's future depends on the choices we make today. By asking the right questions, demanding accountability, and staying involved in the democratic process, we can ensure that Bihar once again becomes a land of prosperity, wisdom, and cultural richness.



*"This book is a tool for empowerment, a guide for civic participation, and a reminder that each of us has a role in shaping Bihar's destiny. Let us commit to using this tool wisely, being vigilant and engaged citizens, and working together to build a brighter, more equitable future for all. The power to change Bihar lies in our hands—let us use it to create the future we all deserve."*



## Chapter 21

### 21.1. Questions Voters Should Ask Themselves

Before casting their vote, voters are responsible for critically reflecting on their choices. A well-informed and thoughtful decision can shape the future of governance, development, and social harmony. Here are the top 15 critical questions every voter should ask themselves, including why they are essential:

#### 21.1.1. What values and principles do I want my representative to embody?

Understanding the candidates' core values—honesty, transparency, and integrity—can help you identify candidates who share your expectations for ethical leadership.

#### 21.1.2. Does the candidate have a clear and practical vision for addressing my community's needs?

A candidate's ability to articulate a vision for development, covering areas like education, healthcare, infrastructure, and safety, reflects their commitment to actionable governance.

#### 21.1.3. How well do I know the candidate's track record?

A candidate's past achievements, behavior, and actions are often the best indicators of how they will perform in the future. Look into their consistency, reliability, and contribution to public service.

#### 21.1.4. Is the candidate prioritizing real issues or diverting attention to divisive topics?

Leaders should focus on solving pressing issues like unemployment, poverty, education, and healthcare rather than creating distractions through polarizing narratives.

#### 21.1.5. Does the candidate have the qualifications and expertise for the position?

Leadership requires knowledge, skills, and the ability to make informed decisions. Assess whether the candidate's qualifications match the role's demands.

#### 21.1.6. How transparent are the candidate's funding and political alliances?

Knowing who funds a candidate's campaign and political affiliations can reveal potential conflicts of interest or influences that might compromise their ability to serve the public.

21.1.7. Does the candidate actively engage with the public and listen to their concerns?

A good leader values public opinion and incorporates feedback into their policies. Consider whether the candidate has demonstrated openness to dialogue and constructive criticism.

21.1.8. Is the candidate's manifesto realistic and aligned with my expectations for development?

A manifesto reflects a candidate's promises. Evaluate whether these commitments are practical and achievable within the timeframe of their tenure.

21.1.9. Does the candidate plan to include marginalized communities in their development agenda?

Inclusive governance ensures everyone benefits from progress, irrespective of caste, faith, gender, or socio-economic status.

21.1.10. Does the candidate have a clean record and a concrete plan to eliminate corruption in Bihar's governance and public services?

Corruption undermines trust in the system and diverts resources away from essential services. A candidate's commitment to transparency and accountability ensures that public funds benefit all citizens.

21.1.11. Does the candidate have a comprehensive plan to reform inefficient systems like healthcare, education, and public administration in Bihar?

Non-functional systems affect the delivery of essential services and hinder development. Reforming these systems ensures citizens receive the services they deserve efficiently and fairly.

21.1.12. Does the candidate have a clear strategy for managing Bihar's population growth while addressing its impact on resources, infrastructure, and public services?

Unchecked population growth strains resources like healthcare, education, and housing. A well-thought-out plan can ensure sustainable development and equitable access to resources for all citizens.

21.1.13. Does the candidate promote social harmony and inclusivity, or do they rely on divisive caste-based politics?

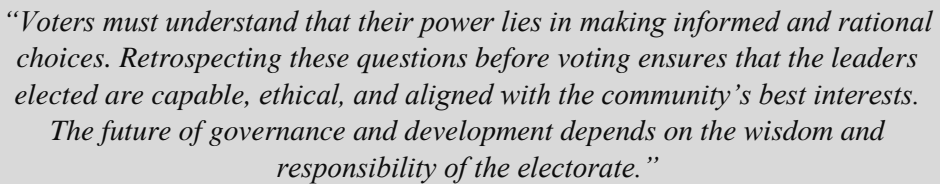
Caste-based politics perpetuates inequality and hinders social progress. A leader focused on inclusivity can foster unity and equal opportunities for all communities in Bihar.

21.1.14.Does the candidate have a plan to address the challenges posed by extreme weather conditions like droughts in summer and lack of winter preparedness?

Bihar experiences extreme climatic conditions that affect livelihoods, agriculture, and public health. Proactive measures can minimize the impact of these challenges and improve citizens' quality of life.

21.1.15.Am I voting based on facts and logic or influenced by emotions, biases, or misinformation?

A vote should be based on rational evaluation rather than propaganda, emotional appeals, or unverified claims. Reflect on whether your choice is informed and free from prejudice.



*“Voters must understand that their power lies in making informed and rational choices. Retrospecting these questions before voting ensures that the leaders elected are capable, ethical, and aligned with the community’s best interests. The future of governance and development depends on the wisdom and responsibility of the electorate.”*

## Chapter 22

### 22.1. Limitations of the Book

While this book is a powerful tool to provoke thought and encourage deeper inquiry into India's socio-political landscape, it is essential to acknowledge its limitations. These limitations arise from the questions' nature, the topics' scope, and the inherent challenges in addressing complex historical and contemporary issues through a question-based format.

#### 22.1.1. Subjectivity of questions

The questions in this book are designed to challenge conventional narratives and stimulate critical thinking. However, framing these questions may reflect certain biases or perspectives that could influence the reader's interpretation. While every effort has been made to approach these topics with balance and fairness, the subjective nature of questioning means that some readers may perceive specific questions as leading or loaded. This could potentially limit the objectivity of the discourse that follows.

#### 22.1.2. Scope and depth

Given the vastness of India's history, culture, and political landscape, it is impossible for any single book to cover every relevant issue comprehensively. This book focuses on specific events, decisions, and figures that have shaped India but inevitably omits many other essential topics and nuances. The book's format, which emphasizes questioning rather than providing detailed answers, may leave some readers seeking more in-depth analysis or explanations beyond the questions themselves.

#### 22.1.3. Lack of direct answers

By design, this book does not directly answer the questions it poses. Instead, it encourages readers to seek answers through research, reflection, and dialogue. While this approach is intended to foster independent thought and exploration, it may be challenging for readers who prefer more guided or conclusive discussions. The absence of definitive answers could also lead to frustration for those looking for clear resolutions to complex issues.

#### 22.1.4. Historical and cultural sensitivity

The questions in this book touch on sensitive historical and cultural issues that continue to evoke strong emotions and contrasting opinions. While the intent is to promote thoughtful discussion, there is a risk that some questions may be interpreted as provocative or divisive. The book may not fully address the emotional and cultural complexities surrounding specific topics, particularly those related to religion, caste, and identity, which could limit its effectiveness in fostering constructive dialogue.

#### 22.1.5. Reliance on reader engagement

The success of this book depends heavily on the reader's willingness to engage with the questions and actively seek answers. For those not inclined toward self-directed inquiry, the book may not achieve its intended impact. Additionally, readers with varying knowledge about the topics covered may find the questions too challenging or too simplistic, depending on their prior understanding.

#### 22.1.6. Potential for misinterpretation

Without the context or background provided by answers, there is a risk that some questions could be misinterpreted or misunderstood. This is particularly true for readers who may not be familiar with the historical or cultural references embedded in the questions. The book's reliance on the reader's interpretation and knowledge could result in different understandings of the same question, diluting the book's intended message.

#### 22.1.7. Cultural and regional differences

India's diversity means that historical events and social issues can be viewed differently across regions, communities, and cultural backgrounds. The questions in this book may resonate more strongly with some readers than others, depending on their personal experiences and regional histories. This could limit the book's universal appeal and relevance, as specific questions may not fully capture the diverse perspectives across the country.

*"While this book aims to catalyze critical thinking and informed discussion, it is essential to recognize these limitations. The authors encourage readers to approach the questions with an open mind, consider multiple perspectives, and use this book as a starting point for further exploration and learning. The ultimate goal is not to provide all the answers but to inspire a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and understanding in Bihar's complex and ever-evolving landscape."*

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