



Kesaria Buddha Stupa

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- **The world famous Kesaria Buddha stupa in east Champaran district of Bihar** is waterlogged following floods after heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of river Gandak in Nepal. East and West Champaran districts share their borders with Nepal at many places.
- The Stupa, located about 110 km from the State capital Patna, has a circumference of almost 400 feet and stands at a height of about 104 feet. The first construction of the nationally protected stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE. **It is regarded as the largest Buddhist stupa in the world.**
- The stupa's exploration had started in the early 19th century after **its discovery led by Colonel Mackenzie in 1814**. Later, it was excavated by General Cunningham in 1861-62 and in 1998 an ASI team had excavated this site, it got the distinction of being the **tallest Buddhist Stupa in the world.**
- It is believed that Buddha gave his Alms bowl to the Lichchhavis at this place while leaving from Vaishali to Kushinagar. **Chinese travellers Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang also mention this stupa and the legend of Buddha and the Licchavis in their records.**
- The original Kesaria stupa is said to date back to the time of emperor Ashoka (circa 250 BCE) as the remains of an Ashokan pillar was discovered there. **The local call the stupa 'devalaya'**. The ASI has declared it a protected monument of national importance.

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