



**Golghar**, meaning "Round House," is a prominent granary located in Patna, Bihar, near Gandhi Maidan. Built in the late 18th century, it serves as an important historical monument and a popular tourist attraction.

## Historical Background

- **Construction:** The Golghar was constructed under the direction of Captain **John Garstin** of the Bengal Engineers during the British colonial period. The construction began in **1784** and was completed on **July 20, 1786**. It was designed as part of a plan to prevent famine in the region, particularly following the devastating famine of **1770**, which resulted in the deaths of nearly one million people.
- **Purpose:** Initially intended to serve as a granary for storing grain for the British Army, Golghar was never filled to its maximum capacity. It was designed to hold around **140,000 tons** of grain. However, it has been suggested that a design flaw—where the doors open inward—would prevent access if the structure were ever filled to capacity.

## Architectural Features

- **Design:** Golghar is built in a beehive shape, inspired by stupa architecture. It stands at a height of **29 meters (95 feet)** and has a diameter of approximately **125 meters (410 feet)** at its base. The walls are about **3.6 meters (12 feet)** thick at the base and taper as they rise.
- **Access:** Visitors can ascend to the top via a **145-step spiral staircase**, originally designed for workers to carry grain bags up to the storage area. The top offers panoramic views of Patna and the Ganges River.

## Cultural Significance

- **Tourist Attraction:** Today, Golghar is not only a historical site but also a popular destination for tourists seeking scenic views of Patna. Its unique architecture and historical context make it an important part of Bihar's heritage.
- **State Protected Monument:** In recognition of its historical value, Golghar was declared a state-protected monument in **1989**.



## Recent Developments

Efforts have been made to improve the appearance and accessibility of Golghar, including renovations that began in 2002. The site also features light and sound shows that narrate its history and significance.

## Conclusion

Golghar stands as an iconic symbol of Patna's history and architectural ingenuity. Its unique design and historical importance make it a must-visit destination for anyone exploring Bihar, reflecting both the challenges of the past and the resilience of its people.