



Pawapuri, also known as Pavapuri or Apapapuri, is a significant pilgrimage site for Jains located in the Nalanda district of Bihar, India. Situated approximately **19 kilometers from Rajgir** and **101 kilometers from Patna**, Pawapuri is revered as the place where **Lord Mahavira**, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, attained **Mahanirvana** (final liberation).

Historical Significance

- **Mahavira's Nirvana:** Pawapuri is particularly important to Jains as it marks the site of Mahavira's death in **527 BCE**. The location is considered sacred, and it is believed that Mahavira was cremated here, making it a vital pilgrimage destination for followers of Jainism.
- **Meaning of Pawapuri:** The name "Pawapuri" translates to "the sinless town," reflecting its spiritual significance and the purity associated with Mahavira's teachings.

Key Attractions

1. **Jal Mandir:** One of the main attractions in Pawapuri is the **Jal Mandir**, a beautiful temple situated on an island in a serene lotus pond known as **Kamal Sarovar**. This temple is famous for its tranquil setting and is surrounded by water, enhancing its beauty, especially during the summer when lotus flowers bloom.
2. **Pilgrimage Site:** The site attracts thousands of devotees, especially during festivals and special occasions. The peaceful environment and scenic beauty make it an ideal place for meditation and reflection.
3. **Baba Thakur Sahdev Temple:** Near the Jal Mandir, this temple is dedicated to Baba Thakur Sahdev and holds significance for local devotees who believe that their wishes will be fulfilled if they pray here.
4. **Other Temples:** Pawapuri also hosts several other temples, including those dedicated to Durga, Shiva, and Ram Janki, which are important to the local community.

Cultural Events

- **Pawapuri Mahotsav:** Since 2017, Pawapuri has celebrated the **Pawapuri Mahotsav**, a two-day festival organized by the Nalanda district administration. This event showcases exhibitions on the history of Bihar, the life of Lord Mahavira, and cultural performances, attracting visitors from various regions.



Economy

The economy of Pawapuri primarily revolves around agriculture, with small industries such as brick-making and rice milling contributing to local development. The presence of the Bhagwan Mahavir Institute of Medical Sciences also provides employment opportunities in healthcare.

Accessibility

Pawapuri is well-connected by road and can be reached from major cities in Bihar. The nearest railway station is in Gaya, which facilitates access for pilgrims traveling to this sacred site.

Conclusion

Pawapuri stands as a testament to Jain heritage and spirituality in Bihar. Its historical significance as the site of Lord Mahavira's nirvana, combined with its beautiful temples and tranquil surroundings, makes it a must-visit destination for those interested in exploring the rich cultural tapestry of Jainism and Indian spirituality.