# Ranivas Mound in Bihar Now a Site of National Importance

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12 November 2026: A Central government notification has declared Bihar's Ranivas Mound (Ranivas/Raniwas) an archaeological site of national importance; the site lies in East Champaran, close to the world-famous Kesaria stupa.

Law: Such declarations are made under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act); conservation responsibility rests with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Site: A mound spread over about 1.63 acres, owned by the Bihar government; near Kesaria (East Champaran).

Name: 'Ranivas' is linked to local folklore.

1861 visit: ASI's first Director-General Alexander Cunningham came to the site; after excavating the mound he noted the existence of an old Buddhist establishment and a temple with a colossal Buddha image.

Neighbourhood: The proximity of the Kesaria stupa (a massive brick stupa of Maurya-Shunga maturity) reinforces the site's Buddhist-historical significance.

Founded: 1861, by Alexander Cunningham; headquarters in New Delhi.

Work: Maintenance of protected monuments, scientific excavation, study of inscriptions.

Key laws: The AMASR Act, 1958 and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

Syllabus link: General Studies - Art and Culture (archaeology, Buddhist sites), Bihar-specific (PCS).

Key: Declarations of national importance are made by the Centre under AMASR 1958; monuments of state importance remain with state departments.

Possible confusion: Ranivas Mound (East Champaran) and the Kesaria stupa are not the same site - they are two separate sites close to each other.

**Q1: Ranivas Mound in Bihar is close to which famous Buddhist site?**

(a) Nalanda(b) Vaishali(c) Kesaria stupa(d) Bodh Gaya

Answer and explanation: (c) Ranivas Mound is located near the Kesaria stupa in East Champaran.

**Q2: Archaeological sites of national importance are declared under which Act?**

(a) AMASR Act, 1958(b) Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972(c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986(d) Indian Forest Act, 1927

Answer and explanation: (a) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR).

PTI - Bihar's Ranivas Mound declared a monument of national importance

ThePrint - Ranivas Mound gets national importance status

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