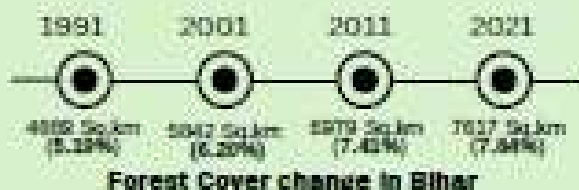


FOREST COVER CHANGE IN BIHAR



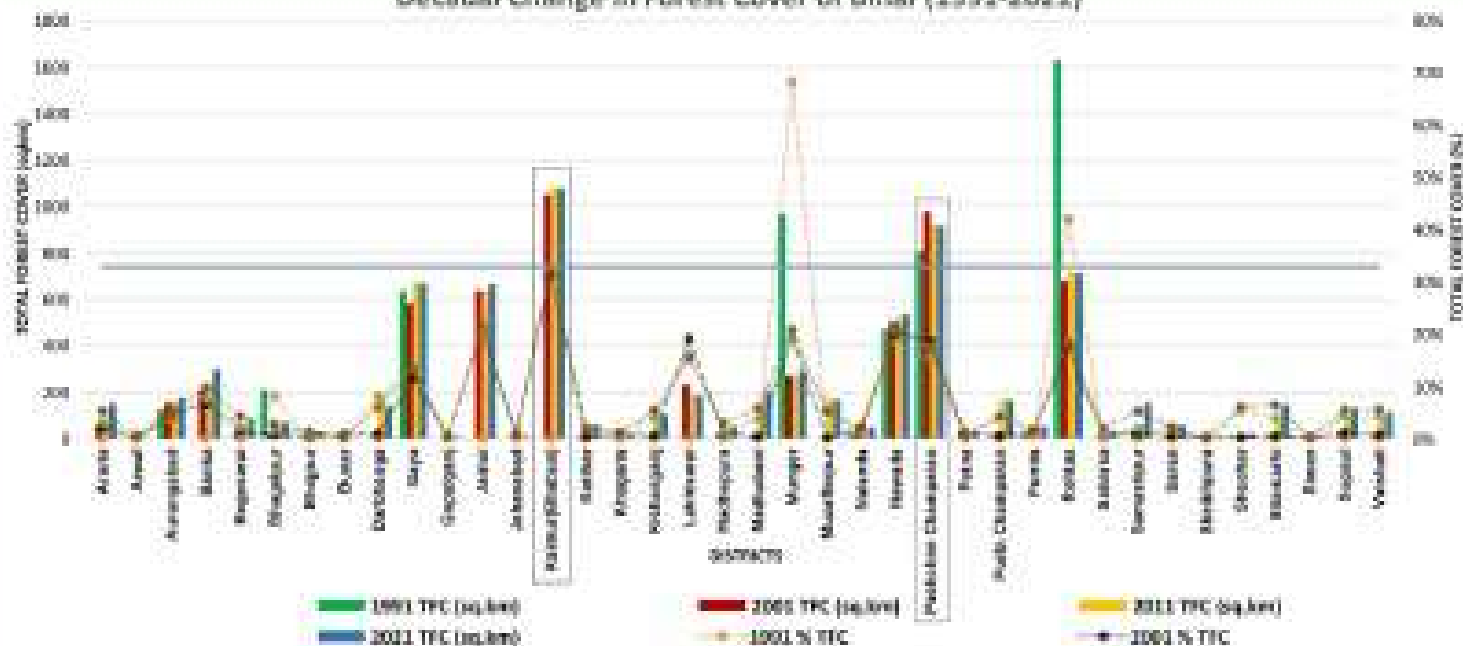
Source: Forest Survey of India, 2020

Bihar has a total forest cover of 7.84% (7380.79 Sq.km) of its total geographic area (94,163 Sq.km), according to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) India State of Forest Report 2020.



Forest Cover change in Bihar

Decadal Change in Forest Cover of Bihar (1991-2021)



Source: Forest Survey of India

Indian National Forest Policy focuses on the importance of forests in maintaining ecological balance and environmental stability. Minimum percentage of forest cover recommended National Forest Policy (1988) is **33%** of the geographical area.

As depicted in the graph, districts like **Kaimur** and **West Champaran** has shown gradual increase in forest cover upto **32%** and **17%** respectively, whereas districts like **Munger** and **Rohtas** shows decrease forest cover from **68%** to **42%** and **21%** to **18%** respectively.

West Champaran and Kaimur districts of Bihar has high forest cover as they are maintained for environmental conservation purposes (Valmiki Tiger Reserve and Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary respectively) and not prescribed for any commercial exploitation.

From 2001 to 2021, Munger lost 2790 sqm of tree cover from fires and 150000 sqm from all other anthropogenic activities.



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