



SHRI BHARAT SINGH BHARTI



Shri Bharat Singh Bharti is a Bhojpuri folk singer, composer, lyricist, guru, and custodian of cultural heritage, whose lifelong dedication has been instrumental in the preservation, documentation and dissemination of Bihar's rich folk music traditions. For over seven decades, he has served as a revered "Guruji," artist and mentor, keeping the traditional knowledge alive and bringing folk music to contemporary society.

2. Born on 20th November, 1936, in Nonaur village of Bhojpur district, Bihar, Shri Bharti began singing in Kirtan groups in his childhood and received traditional training from Shri Shatrunjay Prasad Singh (Lalan Ji). He mastered several instruments including tabla, harmonium, flute, sitar, dholak and jhal. Associated with All India Radio, Patna since 1962, he became a top- grade artist and popularized Bhojpuri folk music to a wide audience through All India Radio and Doordarshan.

3. Shri Bharti's major contributions are in the fields of teaching and composition. He established the Nonaur Gharana and founded the Tara Institute of Learning, Kankarbagh (1995) and Bharti Sangeet Kala Mandir, Nonaur (2005), where thousands of students—especially rural girls and youth from underprivileged backgrounds—received music training. His centers in Ayodhya and Vrindavan contributed to the dissemination of devotional and folk traditions. His works, Nayka Bihan and Sapta Sarovar, provide important reference material by classifying Bhojpuri folk genres—bhajan, nirgun, kajri, Holi, and Devi geet. His songs "Manwa Basela Ganga Tohri Lahariya" and "Sanwar Sanwar Suratiya Tohar Dulha," popularized by Sharda Sinha, remain an integral part of social and cultural events today.

4. Shri Bharti has brought Bhojpuri folk music to prominence, from village stages to national and international platforms. He represented India at the Sagar Festival in Mauritius in 1987, where his album Purabiya Taan was released. He was also associated with the audition board of All India Radio, Patna and the advisory committees of the Art, Culture and Youth Department of the Government of Bihar. He guided a new generation of artists as a judge and mentor at district and state-level youth festivals.

5. Shri Bharti's contributions have been recognized with numerous awards. He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award (2022-23) by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. In addition, he received the Vindhyavasini Devi Award (2015-16), the Purvi Purodha Mahendra Mishra Smriti Samman (2025), the Lifetime Achievement Award (September 24, 2025) from the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Bihar and the Bhikhari Thakur Lokrag Samman.