An Introduction to Mithila and Canada

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***Abstract*—The article titled "An Introduction to Mithila and Canada" is a comparative analysis of two cultures, in which on one hand the general introduction of both the regions, demography & Typography, literature and litterateurs, lifestyle, food habits, employment and education has been analysed and on the other hand, male-female ratio, festivals, folk literature, social structure of both the places, cultural glimpse and folk songs etc. have been presented. In this article, on one hand, the names of Mithila's famous litterateurs Jyotirisvara, Vidyapati, Chanda Jha, Yatri, Harimohan Jha, Rajkamal have been presented as examples, while on the other hand scholars like Thomas D'Urfey, Stephen Foster, Jeo Hill, Bela Bartok, Hobeart Smith etc. have also been discussed, due to which researchers doing research on folklore will find it easier. The literature of Mithila and Canada is very ancient. The literary language of Mithila is Maithili while the literary language of Canada is English and French. The presented article is a brief document of comprehensive introduction to both places which will prove useful for researchers doing research on Indian and Western culture.**

***Index Terms*—Canada, Demography, Education, Employment, Festivals, Folksongs, Literature, Litterateur, Male- Female, Mithilala, Population, Social system, Typography, Western**

I. INTRODUCTION

Canada and Mithila (a cultural region of India) have completely different historical backgrounds. The history of Canada is linked to modern nation-building, colonialism, and the union of different cultures. At the same time, the history of Mithila is based on very ancient, religious, philosophical and continuous cultural traditions. The main comparison of the history of both the regions is given below:

The history of Mithila is thousands of years old. It is mentioned in Ramayana and Vedic texts (such as Shatapatha Brahmana). This is the land of King Janak and Mother Sita and the history of Canada as a modern nation goes back a few centuries (the Canadian Confederation was established in 1867). However, the natives (indigenous people- First Nation, Inuit and Me'ties) were living here for thousands of years.

Mithila was a powerful republic and empire (Videha Kingdom) in ancient times. It was known for its justice system and philosophical kings (such as King Janaka). Presently it is a part of the state of Bihar, India. Canada's political background is shaped by British and French colonialism. Today it is a constitutional monarchy and democratic federal country. Mithila has been a center of knowledge, philosophy (Nyaya and Mimamsa philosophy) and art. Great thinkers like Yajnavalkya, Ashtavakra and poet Kokil Vidyapati lived here. Mithila painting (Madhubani art) is its global identity. Canada's cultural history is based on multiculturalism and immigration. Here a new inclusive society has been created by adopting cultures from around the world. Mithila has its own rich language 'Maithili', with its own ancient script (Mithilakshar/Tirhuta) and rich literary history.

Due to the historical background of Canada, it has two official languages—English and French. Along with this, the languages of the native inhabitants are also a part of it. It is more of a cultural and linguistic identity of Mithila than a geographical boundary, spread across parts of India (Bihar) and Nepal today.

Canada is the world's second largest sovereign country by area, whose boundaries and history are determined by geographical discoveries and agreements.

A direct comparison of population, educational ratio (literacy rate) and area of Mithila (cultural region) and Canada (country) is given below: Canada is geographically counted among the largest countries in the world, while Mithila (a region comprising northern Bihar of India and Terai part is known for its dense population and rich cultural heritage.

There is no official political map of Mithila, but it includes about 22 districts of Bihar state of India (like -Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Purnia, Bhagalpur etc.) Its total area is approximately 50,000 to 60,000 square kilometers. On the other hand Canada is the second largest country in the world by area. Its area is 99,84,670 square kilometers, which is more than 170 times larger than the area of Mithila. Despite the small area of Mithila , this area is very densely populated. The total estimated population of this entire cultural area is between 80 million (8 crores). The population density here is very high (1,100+ persons per square km). According to the official statistics agency of Canada, its population in 2026 is 4,14,17,056 (about 4.14 crores). It is interesting that the total population of such a vast country is less than the population of only one region of India (Mithila). The population density of Canada is only 4.4 people per square kilometre's educational level in Mithila region is improving rapidly. The average literacy rate of Mithila, Bihar, is between 62% to 70%. The literacy rate of males (about 75-79%) is much better than the literacy rate of females (about 55-60%). Canada has a literacy rate of 99%. According to Britannica inspection data, primary and secondary education is compulsory and completely free, here. Additionally, about 57.5% of adults aged 25 to 64 have a post-secondary education degree, making it one of the most educated countries in the world.

II. DEMOGRAPHICS AND TYPOGRAPHY

MITHILA

Mithila is a highly densely populated region with its ancient cultural and historical boundaries, while on the other hand Canada is a developed nation with a vast geographical area and sparse population:

Population and Demographics: The Mithila region, spread across the Terai regions of Bihar and Nepal in India, is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. The population here is mainly dependent on agriculture and the number of youth here is very high. Most of the people of Mithila live in villages. The main cities of Mithila are Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamadhi, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur Saharsa and Purnia etc.

On the other hand, despite being the second largest country in the world in terms of total area, Canada has a very small population Most of the population here (about 90%) lives in the south, near the border with the United States. Canada collects its demographic, social, and economic information through a comprehensive census every five years.

Mithila is a cultural region in the state of Bihar, India. The total population here is about eight crores (80 million) and the main language is Maithili, which is a constitutional language of India and culturally Darbhanga and Madhubani are very rich cities. The Mithila painting here is world famous. The main clothes here are dhoti, kurta, Mithila-pag and gamchha. The people of Mithila are very fanatic religiously. Although there are a large number of people who believe in Sanatan Dharma here, some people also believe in Islam religion. The Hindus Sanatani are Panch Devopasaks(Belife five God) and are mainly Vaishnav, Shakta and Shaiv. Here, Vishnu (Ram-Krishna), Shakta (Durga, Kali, Sita Gauri) and Shaiva (Shiva) are worshipped.

Most of the literature of the ancient and medieval period, here has been written keeping mythological texts and folk tales at the centre. Vidyapati (1350-1450) is the most prominent writer of Maithili literature.

CANADA:

In India, delimitation means reorganizing the boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies so that all areas have equal representation according to changes in population. But redistribution is an important process in Canada also. For example, Canada amended its Constitution in 2011 to maintain a balance between large, fast-growing provinces and less populous provinces. This ensures that less populated areas also remain appropriately represented in Parliament (House of Commons).

The main and largest cities of canada include Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa. Geographically and economically important major cities of Canada are classified below according to their provinces:

Ontario: -
Ottawa: It is the official capital of Canada. The city is a center of politics, history and beautiful architecture (such as Parliament Hill).

Toronto: It is the largest city and main economic and financial center of Canada. It is famous throughout the world for its cultural diversity and the famous 'CN Tower'. Mississauga and Brampton: Both cities located near Toronto are rapidly growing industrial and residential areas.

Quebec :-
Montreal: It is the second largest city in Canada. It is known for its French culture, excellent food and historic European architecture.

Quebec City: The capital of the province of Quebec, known for its centuries-old walls and European-style streets.

British Columbia:-
Vancouver: This city situated on the west coast of Canada is famous for its natural beauty, mountains and sea. It is also a major center of trade and film industry.

Alberta:-
Calgary: The city is known for its oil and gas industry as well as the famous 'Calgary Stampede' rodeo festival held each year.]

Edmonton: The capital of the province of Alberta, also known as the "Gateway to the North". North America's largest shopping mall (West Edmonton Mall) is located here.

Manitoba:-
Winnipeg: It is the capital of the province of Manito, known for its cultural activities and friendly people.

III. TIME ZONES OF CANADA & MITHILA (INDIA)

The standard time difference between Canada and India (including Mithila region) is 9 hours and 30 minutes (India's time is ahead of Canada). However, Canada's geographical expanse is very large, due to which there are six main time zones in force.The details of 6 time zones applicable in Canada (from west to east) and the time difference with them in India (Mithila/IST) are as follows:-
1. Pacific Time Zone (Pacific Time - PT)
Canadian Territories: British Columbia, Yukon- 12.30 hours behind India (IST).

2. Mountain Time Zone (Mountain Time - MT) : Alberta, Northwest Territories (NWT). 11 hours 30 minutes behind India (IST).

3. Central Time Zone (CT) : Manitoba, Saskatchewan- 10.30 minutes behind India (IST). 4. Eastern Time Zone (ET)

Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut.
10.30 hours behind India (IST). 5. Atlantic Time Zone (AT): Nova Scotia (NS), New Brunswick (NB), Prince Edward Island (PE), Labrador.9.30 minutes behind India (IST). 6. Newfoundland Time Zone (Newfoundland Time - NT): Newfoundland Island.9 hours behind India (IST).

Effect of Daylight-Saving Time (DST) :
In Canada, clocks are moved forward by one hour from the second Sunday of March to the first Sunday of November, reducing the time difference by one hour. (Example: The time difference between the Atlantic Time Zone and India is 9:30 hours in the winter, which becomes 8:30 hours in the summer). This system is not implemented in India. In India the entire country follows Indian Standard Time (IST). Since the Mithila region (Bihar) also falls in this standard line (UTC+5:30), the time difference between Mithila and Canada will be exactly the same as for the whole of India.

IV. MAITHILI AND CANADIAN LITERATURE

Maithili and Canadian literature represent two different geographical and cultural settings. While Maithili literature is rooted in the rich oral and classical tradition of the Mithila region of India, Canadian literature (English and French) reflects colonial history, vast natural landscapes, and a sense of multicultural identity.
1. An illustration of cultural background and nature: The land of Mithila, especially the region between rivers like Ganga, Kosi, Kamala and Bagmati, is the center of Maithili literature. The depiction of nature in the poems and novels here is deeply connected with human emotions, especially love and devotion (like in Vidyapati's verses).
Canadian literature is known for its vast and harsh natural settings—snow, forests, and lakes (according to the Survival Guide by Margaret Atwood). Here nature is not just a background but a living force that man has to face

2. Historical and social consciousness: Maithili Literature is mainly composed of prose works like "Varnaratnakar" from ancient times, folk songs and imbued with the sentiments of social reform. From the works of the great poet Vidyapati to Yatri, a realistic depiction of social inequalities and people's life is prominent in it.
Colonial history (British and French conflicts) and stories of immigrants in later years are the main features of Canadian literature. The struggle to establish one's own unique identity (Identity Crisis) has been a major theme in the works here.

3. Main themes and styles: Maithili Literature: It shows sentimentality, embellishment, devotion (especially Radha-Krishna love), and in later times, a mixture of realism and Marxist ideologies. Songs and plays have a special place in it. Canadian Literature: Strong influence of realism, modernism and post-modernism. It focuses on contemporary topics such as Indigenous rights, environment and multiculturalism.
Although the historical context of both the literatures is different, both are known for preserving the cultures and presenting their unique human experiences on the world stage.

V. MITHILA AND CANADIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

The social structure of Mithila region (India) is mainly based on agriculture, caste system and deep family relations, the basis of which is agriculture. Caste and Hierarchy: Maithil society is mainly divided into different castes. Historically there has been a complex Panji-System (recording of genealogy), which is still followed today for marital relations and blood purity. The tradition of the Joint Family is still important here, where elders are respected and participate in decisions. There is a deep involvement of folk arts (e.g., Mithila Painting), local folklore and festivals (mainly Chhaith, Jitia, Barisait and Sama-Chakeva) in the structure of the society which connect women socially and economically.
In contrast, Canada is a modern, industrialized, multicultural, and free Western society that emphasizes individualism and legal equality.
Multiculturalism: Canadian society is a 'cultural mosaic'. Immigrants from all over the world live here, who have the freedom to maintain their distinct cultural identity. Class System: Canadian society is distinguished primarily by income and occupation. Most people consider themselves middle class and there is flexibility in class here. Individualism and Law: The backbone of society here is individual freedom, human rights, and gender equality. The influence of secularism is increasing in Canadian society and religious diversity is emerging rapidly.
The Mithila structure is community, tradition-based and regional, while the Canadian structure is global, multilingual and modern. Today, a large number of Mithila people are settling in Canada, leading to a unique blend of these two cultures.

VI. FOOD, EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION SYSTEM OF MITHILA AND CANADA

There is a huge cultural and economic difference between the lifestyle and systems of Mithila and Canada. While Mithila is associated with its age-old traditions, agriculture and family values, Canada is known for modern comforts, global education and high standards of living.
There is a clear difference and nature of both the areas in every aspect.
Education: In Mithila, it is a mixture of traditional knowledge and modern education. Historically, Sanskrit, philosophy and art have deep roots here. Presently schools and colleges exist here, but compared to big cities, there is a lack of modern labs, research opportunities and skill-based learning. On the other hand,

Canada is Completely based on modern and practical education. Education here up to high school (grade 12) is free and compulsory. Canadian universities are counted among the best institutions in the world, where the focus is more on skill development and research than theory.

Food : The food of Mithila is simple, fresh and mainly vegetarian and based on local agriculture. Bhaat (rice), Dali, Tarkari (vegetable) and Chokha are the daily meals here. Moreover, culturally 'maach (fish), Pan and makhan' are considered very sacred and special. The 'Tarua' and Makhana kheer here are very famous.

Canada: It is a multicultural country, so food from every corner of the world is available here. If we talk about the local staple food, 'Poutine' (French fries, cheese curd and gravy) is considered the national dish here. Apart from this, maple syrup and salmon fish are important parts of the food here.

Employment: Mithila: The economy of Mithila is mainly based on agriculture and local trade. Makhana cultivation, fish farming and the famous 'Madhubani painting' (handicraft) are the main employment here. Due to the lack of big industries and IT companies, the youth here often have to migrate to Delhi, Mumbai or abroad for jobs. Canada: Employment opportunities here are extremely modern, organized and diverse. IT, healthcare, construction, finance and engineering are the major job sectors here. There is a rule of 'Hourly Wage' (hourly earnings) in Canada, due to which even a person doing small work and gets a respective life and better facilities.

VII. POPULATION, EDUCATION, MALE-FEMALE RATIO OF MITHILA & CANADA

Both Mithila (cultural region) and Canada have very different demographic and social structures. While Canada ranks as a developed nation, Mithila is a historical and cultural region in the north-eastern part of India and Nepal.The main comparisons are as follows:

Population: The population of Maithil speaking and indigenous people in the Mithila region (a mixed part of Bihar and Nepal) is estimated to be between 7.5 to 8 crores. According to the National Demography Program, Canada's total population in early 2069 was approximately 41.4 million (41.4 million). Education: Literacy rate of Mithila is around 65% to 75%. Although the region has been quite prosperous in higher education (especially in the traditional and arts sectors), literacy is still lagging behind the national average. Canada is one of the most educated countries in the world. According to Statistics Canada, more than 65% of the adult population (ages 25–64) has a college or university-level degree or diploma. Sex Ratio: This ratio in rural and urban parts of Mithila region is in line with India's sex ratio data. Generally, there are about 950 to 960 females for every 1000 males. In Canada the ratio is almost equal. According to the World of meter estimates, there are approximately 1,020 women per 1,000 men (i.e. 98.6 men per 100 women).

VIII. PROMINENT LITERATURE & LITTERATEURS OF MITHILA AND CANADA

The literature of both Mithila and Canada is world famous for its rich cultural and historical traditions while Mithila has given heights to Indian knowledge and spirituality, Canada has made its unique identity in global literature through both English and French languages.

(i) Literature and litterateurs of Mithila (Maithili):
The literature of Mithila (region of Bihar and Nepal) is known for its antiquity and folk culture. It began with the songs of the ancient Buddhist Siddhas and the Karnatic period. Kavisekhar Jyotirisvara (1280-1340) was the first prose writer who wrote his eminent book 'Varna-Ratnakar' in 1324 AD. Mahakavi Vidyapati (1350-1450) was the greatest poet of Maithili literature. His Padavalis (songs of Radha-Krishna) and compositions are extremely popular. Chanda Jha (1831-1907) is called the 'Vyas' of modern Maithili literature. He composed the 'Mithilabhasha Ramayana'. Pandit Upendra Nath Jha 'Vyas', Harimohan jha, Yatri, Rajkamal etc was a prominent litterateur who laid the foundation of modern prose, novel, short story and criticism. Lily Ray was an outstanding writer of modern Maithili literature, whose novels and stories are very famous. Dr. Jaykant Mishra, Dr. Durganath Jha 'Shrish', Dr. Dr. Krishna kant Mishra, Dr. Balgovind Jha 'Vythit', Dr. Dinesh Kumar Jha, Dr. Devkant Jha, Dr Mayanand Mishra and Dr. Bijayendra Jha's Contribution can be counted as a historian in Maithili Literature. In the field of Linguistics of Maithili literature Pt. Yashodhar Jha, Dr. Subhadra Kha, Pt. Govind Jha, Dr Naveen Chandra Mishra, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Jha and Dr. Bijayendra Jha (1964-) are famous Personality.

(ii) Canadian literature and literary figures:
Canadian literature is bilingual, incorporating rich traditions from both the English and French languages. Alice Munro is Canada's first Literature Nobel Prize winner (2013). He is considered a master of the contemporary short story. Margaret Atwood is an Internationally renowned novelist and poet. His work 'The Handmaid's Tale' is world famous. Louis Maud Montgomery (L. M. Montgomery) is known for children's literature and novels.]
Michael Ondaatje is a booker Prize-winning novelist, whose work 'The English Patient' has also been made into a film.
French Canadian Literature: Writers from the Quebec region such as 'Gabrielle Roy' and 'Anne Hebert' have taken French-language literature to new heights.

IX. WESTERN AND MAITHILI FOLKSONGS

Comparative study of Western and Maithili folk songs takes us deeper into the basic philosophy, social environment and life-style of both the Cultures although the songs of both regions are linked by oral tradition and folk life, there are distinct geographical and cultural differences in their expressions.

1. Content and social philosophy
Mithila: Mithila's folk songs mainly revolve around agriculture, seasonal changes, and family rituals (such as marriage, tonsure, and birth). Songs like 'Samdaun' (farewell song) and 'Sohar' show emotional connect. Western: Adventure, historical, and 'Cowboy' culture predominate in the folk songs here. In these, the tone of personal conflicts and love stories is more vocal.

2. Connection with nature and environment
Mithila: Nature is the soul of the songs. Here gratitude for nature is evident in Saavan songs (Kajri), prayers for rain, and festivals (such as Chhath or Sama-Chakeva). Western: Western folklore also depicts nature (especially in Scottish and Irish folklore), but it is more symbolic and often used as a pastime or backdrop.

3. Religious and mythological influences
Mithila: There is an unbreakable connection between the love of Radha-Krishna and the ideals of Ram-Sita in the songs of Mithila. Bhajans and kirtans related to the invocation of gods and goddesses are the basis of this culture. Western: Western folklore is primarily inspired by Christianity, carols, and local folklore (such as the Robin Hood legend), with a mix of morality and local history.

4. Language and oral tradition
Mithila: These songs composed in Maithili language are mainly memorized by women and passed from generation to generation. They are also considered documents of women empowerment and their social struggles.
Western: In the modern era, Western folk songs have been preserved more in written and recorded form (such as Bob Dylan's Modern Folk Songs), while traditionally they have been part of pub culture and community gatherings.

Folk songs in a global context:
Folk music-more than any style-has always been the voice of the common people. From the beginning of civilization throughout the construction of modern, urban centers in every corner of the globe, the genre has always managed to find a supportive group. Each regional culture can boast of a unique strain passed along (usually in an oral tradition) from one generation to another, and in many countries this practice dates back several hundred and often thousands of years. In order to truly understand the power, beauty and importance of folk music, one must first comprehend its deep, rich and diversified history.
The loosest definition of the term "folk music" dates back to the first appearance of humankind. Although debate over the true cradle of civilization rages among scholars, arguably, there was some form of simple, yet distinct vocal (chant) and instrumental sound produced in all of the ancient regions of Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Yellow River (China), and the Indus Valley (India).

The first musical instrument was the voice. Gradually, primitive instruments that reflected the economic, technical and cultural environments in which people lived and which reflected their psychological makeup were created to keep time and accompany vocal delivery. Music became a means of celebration and communication. It also spread from the aforementioned cradles of civilization throughout other regions of the world and was shaped to suit particular needs. For example, the variety and depth of African sound reflected the diverse indigenous tribes that populated the continent, with much of this development deeply rooted in individual rhythm and tonal languages. Since the songs used no genuine lyrical system, dance was an intrinsic element in preserving the traditional sound.

In ancient Greece, music played an integral part in the daily life of the average citizen. It was present in marriages, funerals, religious ceremonies, staged dramas and the ballad-like reciting of epic poetry. The aulos, a wood-wind consisting of a pair of cylindrical pipes with double reed mouthpieces, and the cithara, a wooden type of lyre, were the principal instruments. In China, the gugin, a very long zither, was in use. In Persia, historical evidence points to the early notations of a diatonic scale. In Ur, part of Mesopotamia, now Iran, the bull harp was dominant. In Egypt, the lyre served as part of the court orchestra along with a type of hammered dulcimer.

A few centuries later, in Europe, popular songs were rooted in the daily life of the peasant society, integrated into work and customs. In France during the tenth century, roots music with links to the church was being created at a rapid pace. Two hundred years later, Paris boasted important entertainment centers and a strong cast of street performers. In Ireland, before the establishment of Christianity, a very basic strain of music evolved throughout the next thousand years making Ireland, in the opinion of many, the cradle of folk music.

Before and after the first millennium, folk music flourished globally. In the ancient civilizations of the Mayas, Incas and Aztecs, complex rhythms and dance rituals that celebrated death, war, marriage, peace and birth were developed, furled by customized instruments including various drums, whistles, zithers, trumpets and flutes. In Asia, which had strong regional styles, the busy East-West trade along the silk route brought a rich mix of culture, religion and art. In India, the 5000-year-old musical tradition boasted street musicians who plied their trade in crowded markets to earn a few pennies.

Folk is a basic style that nearly everyone has at one time or another embraced, either as a child or an adult. The lyrics and the melodies have been sung and taught to each successive generation of schoolchildren around campfires, at bedtime, in churches, at rallies, at recitals, in personal vehicles on long trips, and in many other places. Folk has been and always will be -the music of the common people. In the context of folk literature, the articles of the following scholars represent it at the global level:-

(a) Historical Figures : Thomas D'Urfcy (1653-1723)- English Folk Comic. Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738)-The Gaelic Harpist. Denis O'Hampsey (1695-1807)- Harp Magic. Niel Gow (1727-1807)- Scottish Fiddle Dance Master.

Edward Bunting (1773-1843)- The Transcriber.

Targjei Augundsson (1801-1872)- Father of Norwegian Folk.Ostap Veresai (1803-1899)- Ukrainian Minstrel. Francis J. Child (1825-1896)- The Collector. Cecil Sharp (1859-1924)- Folklore Revivalist.

(b) American Pioneers : Stephen Foster (1826-1864)- Father of American Folk Music. John A. Lomax (1867-1948)- The Ballad Hunter. Bascom Lamar Lunsford (1882-1973)- Minstrel of the Appalachians; Charles Seeger (1886-1979)- American Musicologist. Aunt Molly Jackson (1880-1960), Pistol Packing Mama
Helen Flanders (1890-1972), The Vermont Songcatcher. John Jacob Niles (1892-1980), Dean of American Balladeers. Elizabeth Cotten (1893-1987)-The Fingerpicker. Clarence Ashley (1895-1967)- The Blue Ridge Entertainer; Dock Boggs (1898-1971) Primeval Hillbilly Folk; Buell Kazee (1900-1976)- Lonesome Balladeer; Ruth Crawford Seeger (1901-1953)- Folk Music Matriarch etc.

(c) Political Connections: Joe Hill (1879-1915) -The Initiator; Burl Ives (1909-1995)-The Wayfarin' Stranger; Earl Robinson (1910-1991)- Ballad for Americans; Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)- Bound for Glory; Lee Hays (1914-1981)- Lonesome Traveler; Josh White ; (1914-1969)- Folk-Blues Protest; Cisco Houston (1918-1961)- The Pure Voice; Joe Glazer (1918-2006)- Labor's Troubadour; Pete Seeger (1919-)- Twentieth Century Folk Man; Fred Hellerman (1927-)-The Little Cowboy etc.

Folk Around the World : Béla Bartók (1881-1945)- The Hungarian Ethnomusicologist;
Udi Hrant Kenkulian (1901-1978)- The Oud Master; Atahualpa Yupanqui (1908-1992)- Modern Argentine Folk King; Luiz Gonzaga (1912-1989) - Forró Folk; Edith Fowke (1913-1996)- Canadian Folklorist; Vassilis Tsitsanis (1915-1984) - Urban Greek Folkie;
Amália Rodrigues (1920-1999) Voice of Portugal; Buddy MacMaster (1924-) - Dean of Cape Breton Fiddlers; Hamza El Din (1929-2006)- Nubian Folk Master; Severino Dias De Oliveira (1930-2006), Sivuca etc.
(d) The Pre-Folk Boom Era : Hobart Smith (1897-1965)- Blue Ridge Legacy; Moses Asch (1905-1986)- Folkways Founder; A.L. Lloyd (1908-1982)- Father of English Folk; Richard Dyer-Bennet (1913-1991)- Renaissance Man;

Alan Lomax (1915-2002)-Folksong Revivalist;
Ewan MacColl (1915-1989) - English Folk Revivalist; Oscar Brand (1920-) - The Can-Am Folklorist; Jean Ritchie (1922-)- The Mother of Folk; Harry Smith (1923-1991) - The Anthologist etc.
Similarly, the work done on folk songs by many scholars of Mithila is very important and praiseworthy, including Dr. George Abraham Grierson, Dr. Jaykant Mishra, Dr. Anima Singh, Dr. Prafulla Kumar Singh 'Maun', Dr. Vishweshwar Mishra, Dr. Raja Ram Prasad, Dr. Mahendra

Narayan Ram, Dr. Bijayendra Jha etc. names can be taken. Dr. Bijayendra Jha's research work on the topic -
"Maithili Lok Sahityak Samajshastriya Adhyayan" and many research articles are published in various International Journals, in Maithili and Hindi.

X. FESTIVALS OF MITHILA AND CANADA

Both Mithila (India/Nepal) and Canada have completely different cultural backgrounds. While Mithila is known for its ancient Vedic traditions, nature worship and festivals associated with family bonds, Canada is famous for its diversity, multicultural society and festivals associated with national pride. Here are the details of the main festivals of both the regions:

Main festivals of Mithila:
The festivals of Mithila are mainly based on the solar and lunar calendar, agriculture, and family relationships. Chhaithi Puja: The biggest festival of Mithila. In this, Sun God and Chhaithi Maiya are worshipped. This is a rigorous fast of four days in which Arghya is offered at the ghats of the river. Madhushravani: The main festival of newly married women. It lasts for 13 days in the month of Sawan, featuring nature worship and narrating ancient stories. Sama-Chakeva: A festival symbolizing the love between brother and sister. In the month of Kartik, girls make clay idols (Sama-chakeva) and sing folk songs for the long life of their brother. Judshital (Maithili New Year): A festival celebrated in the month of Vaishakh (April). On this day, elders bless the younger ones by placing stale water on their heads and water is poured on trees and plants.Chaurchan (Chauth Chandra): Celebrated on Chaturthi of Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapada. In this, the Moon is worshiped with fruits and dishes in hand.Kojagara: Ashwin Purnima is celebrated with Makhana, Paan and Batashas. Especially newly married youth receive gifts from their in-laws.

Major Festivals of Canada (Canadian Festivals):
Canada's festivals reflect its history, the changes in nature and its multicultural society.
Canada Day: Canada's national day is celebrated every year on July 1. On this day, parades, fireworks and concerts take place across the country. Thanksgiving: Celebrated on the second Monday of October. It is a festival to express gratitude for a good harvest and the comforts of life, in which families come together to have a 'turkey dinner'. Victoria Day: Celebrated on the last Monday of May in honor of Queen Victoria. This is unofficially considered the beginning of the summer season in Canada. Calgary Stampede: The world's largest rodeo (cowboy) festival in Alberta in July. It reflects the western culture of Canada. Winterlude: Ottawa's main winter festival during February. It features ice carving and skating on the world's largest natural ice skating rink (Rido Canal).

Due to Canada's multicultural diversity it is a 'melting pot', so Christmas, Halloween, Diwali, Eid and Chinese New Year are also widely and officially celebrated here.

XI. CULTURAL SIMILARITY AND DISSIMILARITY

Both the cultural similarities and dissimilarities between Mithila and Canada are extremely interesting. While Mithila is an ancient, rich and traditional folk culture spread in the Terai region of Bihar, India and Nepal, Canada is a modern, multicultural and vast western country. A comparative analysis of these two cultures is given below: Cultural Similarities-

(a) Connection with nature and environment:
In Mithila culture the worship of nature - worship of Sun and water in Chhathi festival, Vat Savitri, Madhushravani, Chauthchandra, Jursital, Hurahuri etc. holds a central place. Canadian culture also has a deep respect for nature and wildlife. Canadians consider environmental conservation, camping and maintaining national parks to be a core part of their lifestyle.

(b) Importance of art and expression:
Mithila is known for its world-famous Mithila paintings (Madhubani art), which depict folk stories and life in colour. Same, art is also greatly promoted in Canada. especially the paintings, carvings and totem poles of the natives (Indigenous Art) tell the folk stories.

(c) Diversity and Tolerance:
Mithila has a history of philosophical discussions (such as the dialogue between Yajnavalkya and Gargi, Janak & Sulbha, Arjuna & Krishna, Mandan & Shankaracharge) and religious tolerance, where different views are respected. Canada was the first country in the world to adopt multiculturalism as an official policy. People of every culture and religion live together here.

(d) Collective joy in festivals:
In Mithila, festivals like Chhathi, Jursheetal (Judsheetal) and Kojagara are celebrated with full community support. In Canada, Thanksgiving and other Canadian festivals bring together the entire family and community to eat a meal and express gratitude.

(e) Cultural aspects
The family structure of Mithila is as a Joint Family and Collectivism when that in Canada- 'family' and 'society' are given priority over 'individuals' and decisions are collective. Here individual freedom and self-reliance are considered paramount. Children become independent. In short, Mithila culture is bound by 'Roots and Traditions', where the pride of the past and folk life dominates. In contrast, Canadian culture is based on 'inclusivity and inclusion', which is forward-looking and modern. However, their love for nature connects them with an invisible thread.

XII. CONCLUSION

The above article is an attempt to briefly present a general introduction to Mithila and Canada. In this, details of geographical area and population of Mithila and Canada, time zone, literature, social

structure, food, employment and education, female-male population ratio, major literature and litterateurs, folk literature festivals and cultural similarities and differences have been presented. In this article, on one hand, the names of Mithila's famous litterateurs Jyotirisvara, Vidyapati, Chanda Jha, Yatri, Harimohan Jha, Rajkamal have been presented as examples, while on the other hand scholars like Thomas D'Urfey, Stephen Foster, Jeo Hill, Bela Bartok, Hobeart Smith etc. have also been discussed, due to which researchers doing research on folklore will find it easier. Hopefully, this article will prove useful for students, researchers, teachers and attentive readers doing comparative study of Mithila and Canada.

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