INTACH

Cities and their unique heritage: GORAKHPUR



Gorakhpur is an important city of Uttar Pradesh located around 273 kilometres from the capital city Lucknow. It is situated on the banks of Rapti River and located near the Nepal border.

Etymology and History

Gorakhpur was named after the Gorakshapuram, which was the abode of Gorakhnath, a very important saint of the Nath Sampradaya.

During the ancient period, Gorakhpur was a part of the Kosala kingdom, one of sixteen mahajanpadas with its capital being Ayodhya. The earliest known ruler in this region was Ikshvaku. In the later centuries, Gorakhpur became a part of many empires like Maurya, Sunga, Kushan and Gupta. In the medieval period it was under the rule of The Tharu dynasty. The region also came under the rulers Qutub-Ud-Din Aibak, Alauddin Khiji and the Mughal Emperor, Akbar, in the following years. In the modern period, Gorakhpur came under the control of the British East India Company. Gorakhpur was prominent in India's struggle for independence. The 'Chauri-Chaura' incident was a turning point in the freedom fight, which led to the non cooperation movement being called off abruptly and Mahatma Gandhi being sentenced to prison.



DID YOU KNOW…

Tradition has it that Ala-ud-din Khilji ordered the conversion of old shrine of Goraksha of Gorakhpur into a mosque. However, on Akbar's re-organisation of the empire, Gorakhpur gave its name to one of the five Sirkars comprising the province of Avadh – the other four being Awadh, Bahraich, Khairabad and Lucknow.

Places to See



Gorakhnath Temple - Gorakhnath Temple is dedicated to saint Gorakhnath after whom the city is

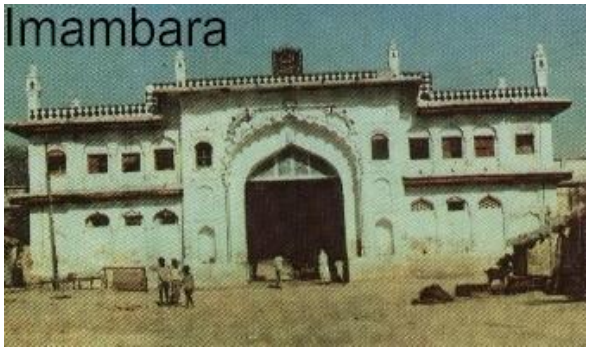
named. It is considered to be the most important center for Nath yogis. The temple dating back to the 12th century is an architectural marvel. The most attractive feature of this temple is the garbhgriha where a white marble statue of Gorakhnath is portrayed as a manifestation of Lord Shiv in deep meditation posture.



Gita Press - The Gita Press is famous all over the world for its publications, which was founded in 1923. Its present form was inaugurated on April 29th, 1955 by India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. It is more than just a press. Beautifully designed like a temple, the marble walls adorn inscriptions and pictures from the Mahabharata. There are several wall hangings and paintings which reveal the life of lord Ram and Lord Krishna.

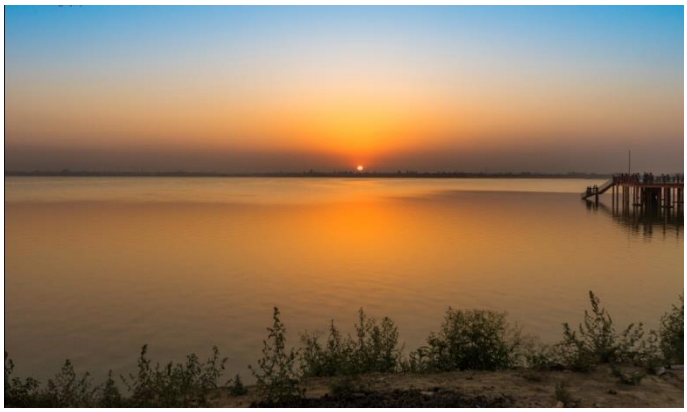
Arogya Mandir -Gorakhpur Arogya Mandir was established in the year 1940 by Dr. Vithal Das Modi. It is set in a green and serene area and is one of the largest naturopathy centers in India.

Vishnu Temple - This famous temple is associated with a large statue of Lord Vishnu which is made of Kasauti (Black) stone. The temple dates back to the Pal dynasty of 12th Century A.D. The Ramleela organised here during Dusshera is a grand affair which attracts countless tourists.



Imambara – The Imambara was built by Hajrat Roshan Ali Shah in 1717 AD. It is

famous for gold and silver 'Tajia'. A smoke fire (dhuni) is constantly maintained here. This place has been the seat of the Sufi for over 300 years now.



Ramgarh Taal - Ramgarh Tal is a huge and natural lake spread over 1700 acres. Its beauty is attributed with Tara Mandal at its southern bank. Certain migratory birds also flock here. Other attractions here are: a Water Sports Complex, Buddha Museum, Planetarium, Champa Vihar Park and Circuit House.

ACTIVITY

1. Write in detail about the Chauri Chaura incident that had a deep impact on the freedom struggle of India.

2. Gorakhpur has been named after Gorakhnath. Find out about the saint and the Nath Sampradaya.

3. Write in your own words how you can promote heritage tourism in Gorakhpur. You can make a plan as well.

References

http://gorakhpur.nic.in/history.htm

http://www.gorakhpuronline.in/city-guide/history-of-gorakhpur
http://gorakhpurgorakhnath.blogspot.in/2011/02/history-of-gorakhpur.html#.Wk3WlFWWbDc
https://www.mapsofindia.com/uttar-pradesh/places-to-visit-in-gorakhpur.html
http://gorakhpur.nic.in/placesto.htm