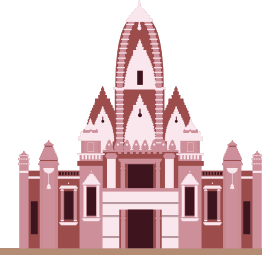


UTTAR PRADESH TIMES



UTTAR PRADESH'S TOURISM RENAISSANCE

Uttar Pradesh has experienced remarkable growth in its tourism sector over recent years. With a plethora of significant events such as the MotoGP, G20 presidency, Kashi Vishwanath corridor, World Cup matches, inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, and the grand Deepotsav, the state is emerging as a top destination for world-class events in India. In 2019, Uttar Pradesh attracted the highest number of domestic tourists, accounting for 23.1% of India's tourist share, with approximately 53.6 crore domestic tourists visiting the state. Additionally, international tourism figures were equally promising, with around 47.5 lakh visitors.



VARANASI: WHERE TRADITION MEETS TRANSFORMATION

In the midst of Varanasi's vibrant Godowlia crossing, a majestic Nandi statue stands in reverent stillness, its eyes focused on the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple. This longstanding tradition of the guardian deity directing towards Lord Shiva's sanctuary symbolizes the city's deep-seated spiritual essence.

Formerly known as Banaras, the city has been aptly depicted by Mark Twain as "older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend." Presently, Banaras is undergoing a remarkable revival, witnessing a surge in tourist visits.



UTTAR PRADESH'S RICH FOLK MUSIC LEGACY

Uttar Pradesh boasts one of the oldest folk music traditions, known as "rasiya" or "braj," with a central theme revolving around the love and longing between Radha and Krishna. Often accompanied by drums and other instruments, these folk melodies are commonly performed during festivals. The roots of this musical heritage can be traced back to ancient times, flourishing particularly during the Gupta period. Alongside rasiya, other popular folk music genres include Bhajan, Purvi, Kajari, and Phag, with dances like khyal also enjoying widespread popularity. Additionally, the study delves into Sohar, Kaharwa, and Chanayni as significant folk musical traditions.



VIBRANT UTTAR PRADESH: CULTURAL MARVELS AND FESTIVE DELIGHTS

Uttar Pradesh offers travelers an immersive cultural experience with a diverse array of events. Ayodhya's Deepotsav during Diwali boasts over 17 lakh diyas, setting a Guinness World Record. In Nandgaon and Barsana, "Lathmaar Holi" adds a playful twist to the festival of colors. The Hot Air Balloon Festival in Varanasi provides a unique perspective, while the Kumbh Mela attracts millions seeking spiritual purification. Vrindavan's widows now join in Holi celebrations, symbolizing a break from tradition. Agra's Taj Mahotsav showcases the state's cultural and craft heritage with elaborate stalls and entertainment. These events highlight Uttar Pradesh's rich cultural tapestry, offering unforgettable experiences for travelers.

BRUSHSTROKES OF HISTORY: UTTAR PRADESH'S ARTISTIC LEGACY

Painting has been a cherished tradition in Uttar Pradesh since ancient times, with evidence dating back to prehistoric eras seen in the cave paintings of Sonbhadra and Chitrakoot. The Mughal Era marks a golden period for painting in Uttar Pradesh, particularly flourishing during the reign of Jahangir. Mughal-style painting stands as a remarkable achievement of Asian culture, distinguished by its unique concept, presentation, and style. Bundelkhand witnessed a pinnacle in painting excellence during the reconstruction of the temple of Keshav Dev in Mathura by the King of Orchha. The paintings of Mathura, Gokul, Vrindavan, and Govardhan portray scenes from the life of Lord Krishna, reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage. Additionally, the Garhwal School, patronized by the Kings of Garhwal, represents another significant pre-modern painting tradition in Uttar Pradesh, further enriching the state's artistic legacy.

THE CHIKANKARI LEGACY OF LUCKNOW

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh's capital, is renowned for its traditional Chikankari Embroidery, featuring delicate white cotton threadwork on fine fabric. Originating over 200 years ago under Mughal influence, Chikankari is now practiced on various materials, with around 5,000 families in Lucknow villages involved in this craft, primarily by women artisans from the local Muslim community. Other centers for Chikankari include Delhi and Mumbai.

STUDENT ACTIVITY:

DESIGN AND DECORATE PAPER CUTOUTS WITH CHIKANKARI PATTERNS USING WHITE MARKERS, EXPLORING THE ESSENCE OF THIS TRADITIONAL INDIAN EMBROIDERY.



Diagrams, lower right; elephant, upper right; Lion, human and animal figures, Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh, U.P.



CRAFTWORK IN THE STATE

Uttar Pradesh is renowned for its metalware, particularly brass and copper, with Moradabad standing out for its art metalwork, known for colored enameling and intricate engravings. In pottery, Khurja, Chunar, and Rampur produce glazed pottery with white backgrounds and blue or green patterns, including fine Chunar black clay pottery adorned with silver paint designs. Terracotta art flourishes in Gorakhpur, where clay animal figures and ornate terracotta horses are crafted. Lucknow is famous for its jewelry and enamel work, offering exquisite silverware featuring hunting scenes, snakes, and roses, as well as Bidri and Zربولand silver works known for their fine embroidery. Additionally, Lucknow is known for its ivory and bone carvings, showcasing motifs of flowers, leaves, birds, and animals, crafted into various items such as knives, lampshades, and toys.



SUGANDHIT VIRASAT: LUCKNOW KA ATTAR

Lucknow has been producing 'attars' or perfumes since the 19th century. Perfumers in Lucknow have mastered the art of creating delicate and long-lasting fragrances using a variety of aromatic herbs, spices, sandalwood oil, musk, and flower and leaf essences. Some of the famous fragrances from Lucknow used in perfumes include khus, keora, chameli, zafran, and agar.



MATCH THE FOLLOWING:

CRAFTS AND ARTS

LOCATION

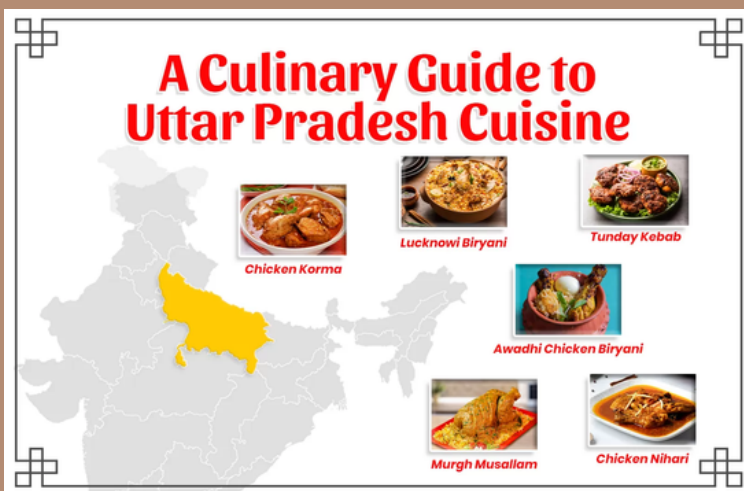
CHIKANKARI
METALWARE
GLAZED POTTERY
ATTAR
TERRACOTTA
ENAMEL WORK

LUCKNOW
MORADABAD
KHURJA
LUCKNOW
GORAKHPUR
LUCKNOW

Dive into the world of Uttar Pradesh's cuisine by organizing a cooking competition where students prepare traditional dishes like Lucknowi biryani or Banarasi paan, promoting cultural appreciation and culinary skills.

DID YOU KNOW?

- It shares an international boundary with Nepal
- The state is sometimes called the 'Hindi heartland of India.'
- Hindi became the language of state administration with the Uttar Pradesh Official Language Act of 1951.
- Urdu is given the status of a second official language
- Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in India



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