

10. HERITAGE AND TOURISM

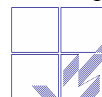
10.1 INTRODUCTION

Kanpur stands on the banks of the Ganga and is North India's major industrial centres with its own historical, religious and commercial importance. It was founded by king Hindu Singh of the erstwhile state of Sachendi and was known as 'Kanhpur'.

Upto the 1st half of the 18th century Kanpur was an insignificant village. In May, 1765, Shuja-ud-daula the Nawab Wazir of Awadh was defeated by the British near Jajmau. The strategic importance of the site was realized by British during this time. European businessmen had gradually started establishing in Kanpur. In order to ensure protection to their lives and property the 'Awadh local forces' were shifted in 1778. Kanpur passed into British hands under the treaty of 1801 with Nawab Saadat Ali Khan of Awadh. This was a turning point in the history of Kanpur as it soon became one of the most important military stations of British India. It was declared a district on 24th March 1803.

Kanpur became the epicenter of the outbreak of 1857, as some of the leading luminaries i.e. Nana Sahib, Tantiya Tope, Azimoolah Khan & Brigadier Jwala Prasad- of the War of independence hailed from here. The three strategic events of the 1857 war at Kanpur were the fight at 'wheeler's entrenchment' where British under Commander Hugh Wheeler retreated into a shallow earth entrenchment; the 'massacre at Sati Chaura Ghat' where fighting broke out between English garrison and Indians and most of the men were killed and survivors i.e. women and children were rescued and imprisoned into the Savad Kothi and later shifted to Bibighar where they were also massacred and their dismembered bodies buried in the well and this episode came to known as 'Bibighar massacre'. The Bibighar was dismantled by the British on reoccupation of Kanpur and a 'memorial railing and a cross' raised at the site of the well. The well is now bricked over and remains of a circular ridge survive which can still be seen at the Nana Rao Park. The Kanpur Memorial Church was raised in honor of the fallen at the north-east corner of Wheeler's entrenchment in 1862 by the British.

After 1857, the development of Kanpur was phenomenal. Government Harness and Saddler Factory was started for supplying leather material for the army in 1860, followed by Cooper Allen & Co. in 1880. The first cotton textile mill, the Elgin Mills were started in 1862 and Muir Mills in 1882. Today besides being the most industrialized region of the state, Kanpur is also an important educational centre and birth place of great Hindi litterateurs.



10.2 TOURIST ARRIVALS

Since 2001, number of tourists visiting Kanpur city has increased yearly. Kanpur has received 2.6 lakh tourists in the year 2005. Out of total tourist arrived in 2005, about 94 percent were Indians whereas only 6 percent were foreigners. Since 2001 to 2005, 40 percent growth has occurred in total tourist arrivals in Kanpur.

Table 10.1 Tourist Arrivals

Sl. No.	Year	Tourists		Total
		Indian	Foreigner	
1	2001	1,81,922	4,602	1,86,524
2	2002	1,85,678	6,287	1,91,965
3	2003	2,13,647	4,534	2,18,181
4	2004	2,28,411	5,987	2,34,398
5	2005	2,45,524	6,359	2,61,883

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur

10.3 PLACES OF INTEREST IN KANPUR CITY

10.3.1 Historical Places

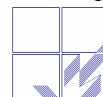
Jajmau

The mount of Jajmau on the eastern end of the city occupies a high place among ancient sites of the region. During 1957-58, excavations were carried out on mound which unearthed antiquities ranging from 600 BC to 1600 AD. In ancient times, Jajmau was known as Siddhapuri and was the kingdom of Yayati, the Puranic king. The high mound overhanging the Ganga is known as the site of his fort. Today Jajmau houses the Siddhnath and Siddha Devi temples and the mausoleum of Makhдум Shah Ala-ul-Haq, the famous Sufi saint, built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq in 1358. A mosque build by Kulich Khan in 1679 is also situated here.

Bithoor

Bithoor is situated 27 km away from Kanpur on the Kannauj Road. Situated on the banks of the Ganga, this spot is of considerable historical and religious importance. According to Hindu scriptures Lord Brahma came to Utpalaranya, as it was known then, for the creation of mankind. The place which first witnessed the creation of mankind came to be known as Brahmavarta or the seat of Brahma. Later Brahma installed a Shivalinga which is still worshipped as Brahmeshwar Mahadeva at the principal ghat of Bithoor, the Brahmavarta Ghat.

A nail of the Horse shoe embedded in the steps of the ghat is an object of special reverence for devotees as it's considered to be of Brahma's horse which he used while going for Ashwamedha Yajna. On the completion of the yajna, the forests of Utpalaranya came to be known as Brahmavarta, from which Bithoor name is derived. In later centuries, Uttanpad ruled the



Brahmavarta and his son Dhruva penanced here in order to please Brahma and place is known as Dhruva Teela.

There is a small pool inside **Valmiki Ashram**, famous as Sita-kund. Sita 'Rasoi' is still preserved, near which stands 'Swarga Naseenee' or Deep Malika Stambha, studded with niches all around for illumination.

During 1753-75 under the rule of Nawab Shuja -ud-daula, the administration of Bithoor was entrusted to Almas Ali Khan, who erected a mosque near Lakshman Ghat on the right-bank of Ganga.

Town of Ghats

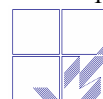
The historic town of Bithoor, once famous by the name of 'Bavan Ghaton ki Nagari', (city of 52 Ghats) is left with only 29 Gahts. The chief among them being the Tuta Ghat, Patkapur Ghat, Khanderao Ghat, Rishikul Ghat, Kalvari Ghat, Hanuman Ghat, Chhappar Ghat, Bramhavarta Ghat, Pandav Ghat, Jhansi Rani Ghat, Mahapatra Ghat, Chhatta Ghat, Maharaj Peshwa Ghat etc. Out of 29 Ghats, most beautiful is the Patthar Ghat built by the Raja Tikaitrai. The other important ghat of Bithoor is the Kalvari Ghat, where a large Garesh Temple built by the Peshwas exists. Other notable sites at Bithoor are the Tripura Sundri temple, Shivananda Ashram, Gyaneshwar Mahadev temple, Janki temple, Pantha Devi temple and Sri Gayatri Dham.

Kos Minar

During the Mughal Period, Sher shah Suri had constructed a road and built a pillar to earmark the distance called as *Kos minar*. The distance between two pillars was 1 *kos* (3.2 km). Generally the kos minar is of 3m height and area (*paridhi*) with the top shaped like a *shankh*. This minar is constructed with old bricks and lime plaster.

Nimbia Khera - Brick Temple

This ancient temple seems to be constructed in 11th or 12th century. The main hall entrance has a sub-temple situated at each of its four corners due to which this temple is called of '*Panchayatan shelly*'. It has been constructed with old home-made bricks and lime and is decorated with ornaments. The main door of the *garbh greh* is made of *Balua* stone with the statues of Brahma Vishnu Mahesh adorning at the top. Shiva's statue in the centre professes it to be a Shiv temple.



Kacheri

The Kacheri Cemetery dates back to the time when the first European troops Marched into the District in response to a treaty Negotiated in 1765 with the Nawab of Oude. The earliest epitaph of Lt Col John Stainforth dated 1781 coincides with the first ecclesiastic returns of births, marriages and deaths to reach Calcutta from Kanpur – Known as Cawnpore. Firstly, it was chiefly the military officers of the East India Company and their Wives and children who were buried here and private soldiers were buried in another cemetery at Hiramun-Ka-Purwa. In 1814, a Bishop of Calcutta was appointed after 50 Years of consecration of cemetery. Upto 1846, Kacheri Cemetery was known as the Officers’ Burial Ground but after the mutiny (1857), when the flag Staff Barracks were replaced by the Kacheri Law Courts, it came to be known as Kacheri Cemetery.

The Kanpur Memorial Church-All soul’s cathedral

The Kanpur Memorial Church was built in 1875 in honour of the British who lost their lives in the war of 1857. The Church was designed by Walter Granville, architect of east Bengal Railway. The complete church in Lombardic Gothic style is attractively executed in bright red brick with polychrome dressings. In east of the church is Memorial Garden which can be approached through two gateways. It has handsome carved gothic screen designed by Henry Yule. Its centre is occupied by the beautiful carved figure of an angle by Baron Carlo Marochetti, with crossed arms, holding palons i.e. symbol of peace. The king Edward VII memorial hall and Christ Church building are other noteworthy buildings built in 1840.

10.3.2 Religious Places– Important Temples

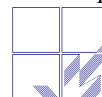
Shri Radhakrishna Temple (J.K. Temple)

J.K. Temple, built by J.K. Trust, is a unique blend of ancient architecture with the modern. Among the five shrines, central one is consecrated to Shri Radhakrishna and the others are adorned with idols of Shri Laxminarayan, Shri Aradhanarishwar, Shri Narmadeshwar and Shri Hanuman.

Jain Glass Temple

It is situated in Maheshwari Mahal behind the Kamla Tower. It is a beautiful temple highly decorated with glass and enamel works.

Among other temples, Hanuman temple at Panki, Anandeshwar temple, Jageshwar temple, Dwarikadhish temple, Prayagnarayan temple, Kailash temple, Buddhadevi temple, Kherepati temple, Varahidevi temple, Bhairav temple are important.



10.3.3 Places of Fun and Frolic

Kanpur Zoo, Allen Forest Zoo, was opened in 1971 and ranks among one of the best zoos of the country. Kamla Retreat lies next to the Allen Forest. It has a swimming tank with equipment for producing artificial waves and arrangement for lighting. Besides parks and a canal with boating facilities, a zoo and museum, which has a good collection of historical and archaeological artifacts is also there. Phool Bagh is another beautiful park in the heart of the city on the Mall Road. In the centre of the park, Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Memorial building, where an Orthopedic Rehabilitation Hospital was run after the first World War, is located. Nana Rao Park is located to the west of Phool Bagh. It is the site of the 'Bibighar Massacre' of 1857.

10.3.4 Excursions

Bhitargaon

The large Temple of Bhitargaon is a unique specimen of the brick architecture of the early Gupta period. It is built of large-sized bricks and decorated with well modeled terra-cotta panel. The temple is the oldest roofed Hindu shrine extant with a high Sikhara. The interior of the temple is plain but on the outside it is decorated with carved brickwork and numerous terracotta panels. Inside the temple only the sanctum or garbhagriha and the porch exist. The upper chamber above sanctum was damaged in the 18th century. The most marked feature of the temple is its recessed plan. The temple is the sole surviving record of this early phase of temple architecture in India.

10.3.5 Archeological Sites

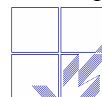
Notable archaeological sites around Kanpur are the 'Shiv temple' at Nimbika Khera, the Jagannath temple at Behta Buzurg and the Lala Bhagat Pillar. In Nimbika Khera, 9th-10th Century old Shiva temple is located at Behta Buzurg. It is Lala Bhagat houses the famous Kukkutadwaj, known as Lala Bhagat Pillar standing in the middle of a modern temple. This red sandstone, six and a half feet high octagonally carved pillar with a small inscription was once surmounted by a cock capital, which dates back to 1st century and is of unique antiquity value. It is broken from the pillar shaft and lies nearby.

Musanagar

The ancient temple of Muktadevi built in Treta-Yug by Raja Bali is located at ancient site of Musanagar. A large fair is held at Muktadevi temple on the occasion of Kartik Poornima. Musanagar is also a rich archaeological site and has yielded a large number of artifacts and specimens of the post Harrapan, Shunga, Maurya and Kushana periods.

Angira Ashram

Maharshi Angira, one of the saptarishis, has penanced at Angira Ashram. The ancient Jagannath temple houses the original wooden idol of Lord Jagannath which is identical with that of the famous Jagannath temple.



Kannauj

Kannauj was the capital of King Harshavardhana's empire. Today it is famous for the Indian essence (ittar) industry.

10.4 RELIGIOUS FAIRS AND ACTIVITIES

The city attracts tourists and pilgrims throughout the city. The religious fairs are organized during festivals. The important fairs organized at city level are Shivratri mela at Sidhant temple and Anandeshwar temple; Navratri Mela at Usmanda Devi temple, chat pujan in the month of November at Ganga river and Dashera mela in the month of October at Ganga.

10.5 STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE TOURISM

Beautification of ghats

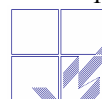
The construction of benches, bathing cubicles, electrification of ghats, provision of drinking water at various ghats i.e. Dhruv ghat, Ram ghat, Hanuman Ghat, Laxman Ghat, Chappar Ghat, Kaurav Ghat, Shra van Ghat, Sita ghat and Bhairav Ghat. Further it is proposed to divert the drainage pipe carrying sewerage water towards bhramvat ghat towards Ganga upstream. The estimated cost of this is Rs. 743.5 lakh. .

About 1.5 km above Bhairon Ghat, Ganga barrage has been constructed and the flow of the Holy Ganges water has been reverted towards Kanpur city so that it passes through each Ghat. Keeping the requirement of religious minded people coming from various parts of U.P. to Kanpur in mind, the protection and beautification of Bhairon Ghat ,Hospital ghat, Sarsaya Ghat,Gola Ghat ,Bhaskar ghat has been proposed and an estimated cost is Rs.362.2 lakh which has been put up for sanction.

The renovation of important religious places were proposed at the cost of Rs. 6 crore 22 lakh. It is proposed to provide benches, constructing water tank, toilets, providing night shelters at sarsaiya ghat, ganesh udyan, tapeswari devi temple, vaibhav lakshmi, shri chindmastika devi temple, J.K. temple, ganesh temple, hanuman temple at Panki, Manju shah majar at Jajmau etc.

It has been proposed to construct the UP Samaj Kalyan Nirman Nigam Ltd near Gautam Buddha Park, Indira Nagar Road Kalyanpur, Kanpur. The modification & up keeping of Nana Rao Park at Mall district , Kanpur has been proposed & an expenditure estimate of Rs 493.66 lakhs has been worked out.

The future vision to make the city a centre of historical importance and of tourist interest encompasses the improvement of the condition of roads with proper car and two-wheeler parking, proper traffic management, effective law and order situation, political support, provision of good hotels, water resorts and better conveyance or transportation system.



10.6 ISSUES & CONCERNS

- Non availability of public transport to visit places of historical and religious interest
- Lack of public conveniences at historical and religious places
- No proper enforcement of rules regarding prohibited area
- No strict regulation to stop encroachment on the protected areas and lack of stringent action against those who damage the protected monuments and encroach upon it
- Long hour power cuts affects tourist stay at Kanpur
- Poor Law and Order Situation

10.7 STRATEGIES

- Steps should be taken to promote Kanpur as a tourist destination through proper advertisement on television, internet, radio and billboards on airports, trains and stations.
- Steps should be taken to improve the rail, road and air connectivity to Kanpur city, provision for better civic amenities at important historical and religious places and market places within the city.
- In Kanpur, two tourist circuits i.e. historical and religious should be identified and developed by interlinking various tourist spots so that floating population can be increased which will give boost to the economy. All the basic facilities should be provided at identified spots in the circuit.
- Need is to have a Tourist Information Centre at railway station which will have all the information related to tourist spots; hotels and restaurants; trains, bus and air booking and can arrange for the same.
- Travel Tours needs to be conducted for tourists covering important tourist places
- The haat should be built on the model of Delhi haat where artisans, craftsmen can display their things and some stalls can be fixed for Kanpur industrialists and traders to display their goods.
- The feasibility study should be conducted for developing the new places of tourist interest such as amusement parks, artificial lakes etc.
- Proper enforcement of law to stop encroachment and damage to prohibited area.
- The river front of both Ganga and Pandu river should be developed by tree plantation, opening hotels and restaurants, organizing water sports, boating etc. to provide boost to economy.
- Better traffic management so that travel time taken between two tourist places can be reduced.
- Construction of footpaths, road signs and removal of encroachment on roads so that tourists can have space to walk in specialized markets
- Law and Order situation should be improved so that tourist wouldn't feel hesitant to move around different places in the city.

