

## GANGA CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION

## KANSHIRAM NAGAR DISTRICT

## JANUARY 2022







#### **PREFACE**

National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has commissioned Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to document "Cultural Heritage along River Ganga from Gaumukh to Ganga Sagar". The scope of work is to identify and make inventories of the tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage properties found within 5 km on either side of the River Ganga.

Responding to the geographical, topographical and cultural diversity of the entire stretch, we have divided the stretch into three parts. The first part is from Gaumukh to Haridwar, the second part is from Muzaffarnagar to Katihar and the third part is from Malda to Ganga Sagar. Listing is done under three categories. They are Natural Heritage, Architectural Heritage and Intangible Heritage. Accordingly three teams are working to cover the three aspects of Cultural Heritage. Architectural Heritage Division of INTACH has been assigned with the work of listing the Architectural Heritage.

In this report we are documenting the Built Heritage of Kanshiram Nagar District, which flourished during the ancient times as it was a part of Etah district. It showcases a rich cultural and religious significance due to mythological legends, political occurrences and commercial necessities. The report includes the documentation of built heritage in the three tehsils of this district - Patiyali, Kasganj and Sahawar. They lie within an offset of 5kms from the bank of the River Ganga. A group of architects and an urban designer conducted the survey in November 2021, listing a total of 5 structures, within our study area. The report includes a proper understanding of the various typologies, their evolution and architectural appreciation based on primary survey and site visit.

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#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Kanshiram Nagar District

Kanshiram Nagar District is one of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh. It lies in the upper Gangetic plains. It was historically known as Kansganj, which was separated from Etah district in 2008. At the time, it was named after the politician Kanshi Ram, and thus, known as Kanshiram Nagar district. In 2012, post the change in the government, the district was renamed Kasganj. Kanshiram Nagar district comprises three tehsils, including Kasganj, Sahawar and Patiyali tehsils. All three tehsils lie within the 5km study area. The district lies along the southern banks of Ganga river, sharing its historical significance with Etah district. As it was frequently visited by several travelers and rulers, several religious buildings such as Shiv temples and Dargahs, were built.



Figure 1: View of Kanshiram Nagar riverfront from the bridge which crosses over Ganga. Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

<sup>1</sup> https://kasganj.nic.in/about-district/, accessed on 29/12/2021

#### 1.1.1 Kasganj Tehsil

Kasganj is the western-most tehsil of the district. It occupies an area of 591 sq. km.<sup>2</sup> The tehsil lies in the Ganga-Kali Nadi doab region. It is surrounded by Aligarh district to the west, Budaun towards the north, across Ganga, Sahawar tehsil of Kanshiram Nagar district to the east, and Etah district to the south. Kasganj city is the headquarters of the tehsil. The slope of the tehsil is towards the south-east, draining into Kali Nadi river. The town was also a major trade centre with the principal market in the centre of Kasganj town. Grain, sugar and cotton are some of the important trade items within the town. Alongside, it was an important junction and an engine-changing station. Thus, a large railway population settled within the town.<sup>3</sup> During the British rule, a cantonment was also established in Kasganj which was destroyed during Holkar's attack. The town was raided by the Marathas, who settled in parts of the tehsil and established settlements with temples. A dargah was also built, which is presently on a high mound, in Kadarbari village, suggesting the possibility of the river to have passed through the town, 3.5km to the south of its present course.



Figure 2 : Mound at Kadarvadi, Kasganj Tehsil Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team



Figure 3: Shiva and Hanuman Temple, Kasganj Tehsil Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

#### 1.1.2 Sahawar Tehsil

Sahawar tehsil lies in the centre of the district, with Kasganj tehsil to the west, and Patiyali tehsil to the east. Ganga river passes along its northern boundary. The tehsil occupies an area of 472 sq. km.<sup>4</sup> The tehsil was formed in 2008, when Kasganj district was separated from Etah district.<sup>5</sup> Sahawar town is the headquarters of the tehsil, founded by a Chauhan Thakur. However, he was overthrown by the Mughals, as a result of which, all locals were forced to convert to Islam. He returned with a larger army and re-established his rule. During 19<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Marathas settled in the tehsil. Shiva temples were built by them in the settlements located closer to the banks of Ganga river.



Figure 4: Shiva Temple, Mujaffarnagar, Sahawar Tehsil Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

 $<sup>2\</sup> https://villageinfo.in/uttar-pradesh/kanshiram-nagar/kasganj.html,\ accessed\ on\ 29/12/2021$ 

<sup>3</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, p. 185

<sup>4</sup> https://villageinfo.in/uttar-pradesh/kanshiram-nagar/sahawar.html, accessed on 29/12/2021

<sup>5</sup> https://kasganj.nic.in/history/, accessed on 29/12/2021

#### 1.1.3 Patiyali Tehsil

Patiyali is the eastern-most tehsil of the district. It is surrounded by Sahawar tehsil to the west, Budaun district to the north, across Ganga, Farrukhabad district to the east, and Etah district to the south. Kali Nadi river marks the southern boundary of the tehsil. Burh Ganga river also cuts across the tehsil, passing along the northern boundary of the historic town of Patiyali. Presently, a few oxbow lakes are located towards the eastern side of the tehsil, marking the ancient course of Ganga. The tehsil was earlier covered with forests, occupied by the Ahir tribes. Patiyali also finds mention in the puranas. During Mahabharata, Patiyali was under the Panchala Kingdom, a part of which was given to Guru Dronacharya. The tehsil is also renowned as the birthplace of Sant Tulsi Das.



Figure 5 : Shiva Temple, Gajaura, Patiyali Tehsil Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

<sup>6</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, p. 201 7 https://kasganj.nic.in/culture-heritage/29/12/2021

#### 2. Geographical Setting and Boundaries

Kanshiram Nagar District lies in the central portion of the Ganga-Yamuna doab region. It covers an area of approximately 1993 sq. km.<sup>1</sup> The district lies along the southern banks of Ganga, with the river flowing for 74km along the district. Kanshiram Nagar district is surrounded by Aligarh district to the west, Etah district to the south, Farrukhabad district to the east and Budaun district to the north, across Ganga river. The average elevation of Kanshiram Nagar district is 177m, with a gentle slope from north-west to south-east towards Ganga. The district was earlier covered by thick forests, inhabited by several tribal communities.<sup>2</sup>

Kanshiram Nagar district comprise a rich geographical terrain, formed by the three important rivers passing through the district - Ganga towards the north, Kali Nadi along the south and Burh Ganga through the approximate centre of the district. It is intersected by a network of tributaries and canals which help to control floods during the monsoons. As the water level rises in Ganga and Kali Nadi, the excess water is pumped into the canals. To the south of the district, two canals of Kali Nadi, run across the Upper Ganga Canal to carry the water with the help of a bridge. This modern construction technique is renowned across the region. The district comprises a rich alluvial soil, with a low water table level. Thus, it is ideal for agriculture, which is widely practiced across the region.<sup>3</sup>

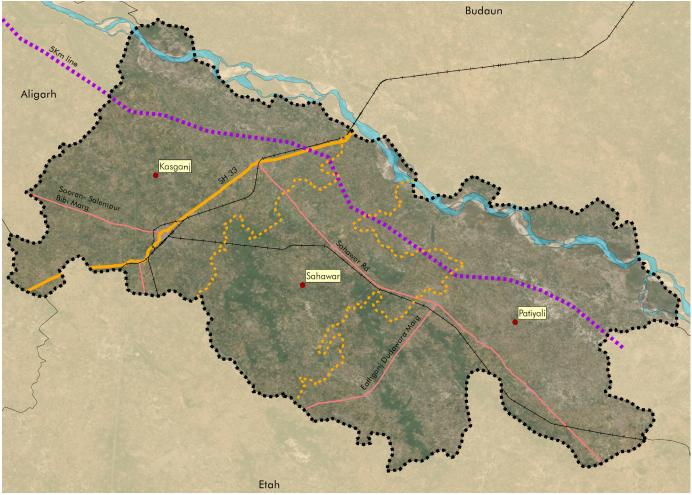


Figure 6: Map of Kasganj district depicting the tehsils, course of Ganga river and the 5km study area Base Map Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

<sup>1</sup> https://kasganj.nic.in/about-district/, accessed on 03/01/2022

 $<sup>2\</sup> https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s3a597e50502f5ff68e3e25b9114205d4a/uploads/2020/01/2020011379.pdf,\ accessed\ on\ 03/01/2022011379.pdf,\ accessed\ on\ 03/01/202011379.pdf,\ accessed\ on\ 03/01/2020$ 

 $<sup>3\</sup> https://censusindia.gov.in/2011census/dchb/0971\_PART\_B\_DCHB\_KANSHIRAM\%20NAGAR.pdf, accessed on 03/01/2022$ 

#### 2.1 Administrative Boundaries

Kanshiram Nagar district was a part of Etah district since the ancient times. Under the British it continued to be a part of the district. It came under the Ceded and Conquered Provinces from 1805-1833. Later, it came under the United Provinces of Agra and Awadh, which was formulated in 1902. Kanshiram Nagar district continued to be a part of Etah district until 2008. It was renamed Kasganj in 2012.4

#### 2.2 Geographical Setting

The geographical terrain of Kanshiram Nagar district is distinguished by the three rivers. Kali Nadi and Burh Ganga are tributaries of Ganga river, which flow parallel to it through the district. The overall soil of the district is loamy. It is majorly found along the banks of Ganga. The river also contributes to the drainage of a small portion of the district near the banks. It acts as an efficient outlet for any quantity of rainwater. Further south of the district, the drainage is directed towards Burh Ganga river. The surface water of the southern portion drains into Kali Nadi river.<sup>5</sup> Ganga changed its course several times in the past. This led to the formation of tributaries Figure 7: Agricultural fields in the district and oxbow lakes across the district. Burh Ganga



Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

demarcates the ancient course of Ganga. As the river shifted its path, it left a trail of water bodies and a bhur tract along its length. Over the years, these water bodies merged to form Burh Ganga river, which merges back into Ganga after crossing Kanshiram Nagar district. Kali Nadi river passes through the southern side of the present-day district. It follows an eastward slope, broader towards the west in Kasganj tehsil. Small rivulets merge into the river, from the north, which are dry for most of the year. The flat alluvial plains along the river tract allow for a distinct irrigation system, supported by several man-made canals. The Nagrai bridge to the south was built by the British between 1885 to 1889 AD. It is one of the exquisite examples of the historic irrigation system, and continues to work even today.<sup>6</sup>

#### 2.3 Ecology

Kanshiram Nagar district displays a rich ecology. Earlier, it was a forested region which was drained by the three main rivers. As a result of the fertile land, it comprised rich mangroves and vast stretches of agricultural fields. Scholars also suggest higher returns if the land closer to the banks of the rivers were planted with trees rather than the present-day crops. The wild animals found across the district are wolves, leopards and jackals, found rarely nowadays. Wild cattle herds were often found in abundance in the *dhak* jungles of the district. However, over the years, there has been a sharp decline, and only a few are found near the banks of Ganga.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> https://kasganj.nic.in/about-district/, accessed on 03/01/2022

<sup>5</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, p. 9 6 https://kasganj.nic.in/tourist-place/nadrai-bridge/, accessed on 03/01/2022

<sup>7</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, p. 14-15

### 3. Significance of Ganga

Several ancient civilizations have thrived along rivers, and have persisted through time. Archaeological evidences suggesting the existence of prehistoric settlements along Ganga, have been discovered time and again. Thus, rivers were an important source of survival since the beginning of time. They also possessed mythological, religious and commercial significance. Rivers were also an important source of communication during the ancient times. They interconnected several settlements spread across the expanse of the country. Ganga is one of the most holy rivers in the world. It flows from Gaumukh in the Himalayas, traveling through the northern plains, and finally draining into the Bay of Bengal near Ganga Sagar. As per the puranas, the sacred river descended onto earth through the thick locks of Lord Shiva. Thus, her torrential force which would have destroyed the earth, was transformed into a calm flow. Several pilgrims, from near and far, pray and perform austerities to the Goddess.

Ganga river flows along the northern boundary of Kanshiram Nagar district. Over the years, it has shifted its course several times, varying from 5 to 15km from its old high bank.<sup>1</sup> As per historic records, the change in the course of the river took place sometime after Akbar's reign. Gradually the river is shifting to its original course.<sup>2</sup> Ganga enters Kanshiram Nagar district near Mandawali village. It flows along the northern boundary of all three tehsils of the district, and flows into Farrukhabad district from the east, near Rajepur Kurra Khas.

Ganga was the only navigable river in the district. During the early years, the river was crossed with the help of a bridge of boats, leading to Kachla Ghat in Budaun. During the medieval period, the river was used for commercial purposes for transporting wheat, cotton, indigo and oilseeds. Post the introduction of the railways during the British rule, the commercial use of the river was ceased. Most of the merchants who were settled along the banks in Kasganj, have primarily resorted to cultivation.<sup>3</sup>

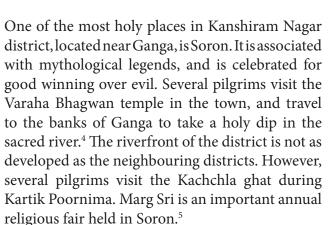




Figure 8: Religious activities along Ganga in the district. Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team



Figure 9: Varaha Bhagwan Temple, Har ki Pauri, Soron Source: https://kasganj.nic.in/, accessed on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

<sup>1</sup> https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s3a597e50502f5ff68e3e25b9114205d4a/uploads/2020/01/2020011379.pdf, pg. 18, accessed on 04/01/2022

<sup>2</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 5

<sup>3</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 5-6

 $<sup>4\</sup> https://shystoryteller.com/myths-and-legends/hindu-mythology/varaha-avatar-story-of-hiranyaksha/,\ accesses\ on\ 04/01/2022$ 

<sup>5</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 60

#### 4. Historical Evolution of Kanshiram Nagar

#### 4.1. Kanshiram Nagar District

Kanshiram Nagar District shares its historical significance with Etah district. It was an important source for trade and commerce since the ancient years, due to Ganga river which flows along its northern boundary. The proximity of the district to Farrukhabad district led to the rule of the Nawabs of Farrukhabad for several years. The multiple layers of the historic fabric of the district is exhibited in the built heritage along Ganga.

#### Different names of the district

As per some scholars, Kasganj was founded by Yaqut Ali Khan, and was known as Yaqut Ganj. The foundation of the town is described in the inscriptions found in Jama Masjid in Kasganj town. The name of the district was Kasganj, as the settlement was established within the thick forested region of the *kans*. There is further speculation, that it may be called 'Tanay' or 'Khasganj', during the Mughal and British era. The district name was changed to Kanshiram Nagar in 2008, named after Kanshi Ram of the BSP political party. In 2012, the district was renamed Kasganj, after the change in the governing body.

#### 4.1.1. Mythological Perspective

Kanshiram Nagar district finds mention in the *puranas*. Hiranyaksha was the first incarnation of the Jaya-Vijaya brothers, who was cursed by the *manasuputras* of Lord Brahma. Jaya was earlier the gatekeeper of Vaikantha (Vishnu's abode). However, incarnated as Hiranyakshya, he was granted the boon by Lord Brahma to survive through seven generations as a devotee of Lord Vishnu, unbeatable by a God or beast.<sup>4</sup> He considered himself the most powerful and in his arrogance hid mother earth in the kund in Soron. Lord Vishnu took the form of a wild boar (which was missed out in the list of animals that could not harm Hiranyaksha), known as 'Varaha', to kill Hiranyaksha and restore mother earth. A temple named, Varaha Bhagwan Mandir is located near the kund to mark the win of good over evil.<sup>5</sup>



Figure 10: Lord Vishnu destroying Hiranyaksha and rescuing Mother Earth

Source: www.exoticindiaart.com, accessed on 4th January 2022

#### 4.1.2 0 AD to 1000 AD

Kanshiram Nagar district was earlier covered in forests along the banks of Ganga. It was inhabited by several tribes, including the Bhars and Ahirs. The Kans tribe was predominant in the district, which led to the name of the district - *Kasganj*. As per scholars, the district was inhabited by several immigrants from the neighbouring region. Subsequently, the Rajputs also settled within the district. However, the year they migrated to the district remains unknown; however, it was prior to 10<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>6</sup> The Solanki Rajput clan settled in the

<sup>1</sup> Thapar, B. K., Indian Archaeology 1975-76 - A Review, Archaeological Survey of India, Government of India, New Delhi, 1979, p. 70

<sup>2</sup> https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/kasganjs-colourful-past/article22728513.ece, accessed on 05/01/2022

<sup>3</sup> https://kasganj.nic.in/about-district/, accessed on 05/01/2022

<sup>4</sup> https://www.amarchitrakatha.com/mythologies/the-story-of-jaya-and-vijaya/, accessed on 05/01/2022

<sup>5</sup> https://shystoryteller.com/myths-and-legends/hindu-mythology/varaha-avatar-story-of-hiranyaksha/, accessed on 05/01/2022

<sup>6</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 126

region between 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century AD. As per the gazetteer, Raja Sonmatti of the clan built a fort on a mound near Kanshiram Nagar town. His settlement spread across the region, spreading to the south-east to Amanpur, and north-east to Soron. The Kannauj rulers were also widespread across the district. Post their fall, the Rathors migrated to Khor, who were consequently expelled during 15<sup>th</sup> century AD.

#### 4.1.3 1000 AD to 1400 AD

The first Muslim rule was asserted in Kanshiram Nagar district in 1103 AD. Shahab-ud-din Ghori, the Sultan of Ghurid Empire, captured the region. During his rule, he had undertaken almost the entire Northern region under his dominion. Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Balban of the Mamluk dynasty (1265-1287 AD) marched through the Northern Gangetic region on several occasions. During one of his journeys, he stayed in Patiyali in Kanshiram Nagar district, where he slaughtered several rebellions. While the Sultans ruled across the district, the Rajputs undertook administrative control. Therefore, post the Sultan's death, the region resorted back to disorder and misconduct. Several times Sultan Jalal-ud-din Feroz Shah had to travel to Kanshiram Nagar to collect the revenue, himself. From 1325 to 1351 AD, Muhammad bin Tughlaq encamped along Ganga in the district during his journey to Khor. He sent several troops in the surrounding region to overtake multiple fortifications.



Figure 11 :Portrait of Shahb-ud-Ghori Source: www.quora.com, accessed on 6th January 2022

#### 4.1.4 1400 AD to 1700 AD

The Lodi kings took over Kanshiram Nagar district between 1450 and 1488 AD, under the leadership of Behlol Lodi. At the time of invasion, the region was under the rule of the Rajput Chief Rai Partab of Bhongaon. He was ruling over Patiyali under the Muslim government. Post the death of Behlol Lodi, his son, Sikander Lodi fought the Rajputs and won control over the region. In 1526 AD, after the battle of Panipat, Mughal rule, under Emperor Babar, was established across the district. During the reign of the consequent Mughal rulers, until Aurangzeb, the district remained comparatively peaceful.<sup>9</sup>

#### 4.1.5 1700 AD to 1947 AD

In the beginning of 18th century AD, the Marathas started to penetrate into Kanshiram Nagar district. In 1737, they successfully invaded the district. The parganas of Kanshiram Nagar district were under the rule of Muhammad Khan Bangash, the first Nawab of Farrukhabad, who came from the east. In 1743, post his death, the empire was undertaken by his son, Qaim Khan. As the Nawabs of Farrukhabad began to expand their control across the region, Safdur Jang, the Nawab Wazir of Awadh, began to break their rule. In 1749, post the death of Ali Muhammad, the Rohilla chief, he caused the Farrukhabad Nawab to battle the Rohillas and expand their territory. He strategized in the hope of weakening both the forces and overtaking a major portion of the Northern Gangetic plains. Qaim Khan was defeated and killed in Kadarganj, along the banks of Ganga, by Rohilla Hafiz Rehmat Khan. Consequently, Safdar Jung attempted to take over Farrukhabad, and

<sup>7</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 127-128 8 Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 129 9 Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 131

the other provinces under the Bangash Nawabs. However, in 1750 AD, Ahmed Khan, the son of Qaim Khan, defeated the Rohillas at Kadarganj and the Nawab Wazir in Patiyali. He did not kill Safdar Jung, but instead retrieved all the territories that belonged to his family. Safdar Jung was forced to take help from the Marathas, and Ahmed Khan retreated to the Rohilkhand and Kumaon. In 1752, Ahmed Shah Durrani attacked India for the second time. The Marathas evacuated Farrukhabad and Rohillkhand to attain peace, on the condition that Ahmed Khan would repay the debt that Safdar Jung owed to the Marathas. <sup>10</sup> Consequently, the district was under Khuda Baksh Khan, the Nawab of Farrukhabad, which was further overtaken by his son,

For several years the British forces fought the Marathas. They finally took over Kanshiram Nagar district in 1803 AD. The British also established a cantonment in Kasganj town. During the Anglo-Burmese war fought in 1823, Bhimsen (a local zamindar of Kasganj town) led a British army. He fought the Kongwang dynasty, and conquered their fort. Holkar's army raided several towns in and around the district, burning down towns administered by the British. The cantonment was also burnt down by the Marathas in 1804. However, the British came out victorious in the outrage. Col. Gardner built another cantonment for the English cavalry, in Kunwarpur, more than 3km away from Kasganj. Until 1857 AD, the district remained peaceful. During the mutiny, Kasganj and Patiyali towns were attacked by the rebels; however, the situation was contained by the British officials.



Figure 12: First Anglo-Burmese war in 1823 Source: www.wikipedia.com, accessed on 06/01/2022

The last Nawab of Farrukhabad sold Kasganj town to Colonel James Gardner, who was a prominent figure in the district. Consequently, the colonel's son, Suleiman Shikoh Gardner, sold the land to Dilsukh Rai, a former agent of the family. Later, he was made the Raja of the region. The successors of the Gardner family continued to reside in the district. By 1910, most of the members of the Gardner family migrated to other places.<sup>15</sup>

#### 4.1.6 1947 AD to Present

Mohammad Baksh Khan.<sup>11</sup>

Kanshiram Nagar district possesses great cultural and historical significance. It was a major centre for trade and commerce since the ancient times. As the river often changed its course, the region closer to the banks is mostly uninhabited. The major cities of the town, such as Kasganj, Patiyali, Soron, etc. have urbanized over the years. Several major heritage sites have been restored and maintained, visited by several pilgrims and tourists every year. Many fairs and festivals are also celebrated within the district on a large scale, including Kakora Fair, Bhimsen and Nav Durga fair. Many pilgrims visit the banks of the district, opposite Kachhla ghat in Budaun, to take a holy dip in Ganga. <sup>16</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 133-134

<sup>11</sup> https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/kasganjs-colourful-past/article22728513.ece, accessed on 06/01/2022

 $<sup>12\</sup> https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/hindi/sanjeevnitoday-epaper-sanjivan/kasaganj+ke+itihas+ki+dharohar+hai+84+man+ka+bhimasen+ka+ghanta+british+sarakar+se+puraskrit-newsid-n172366724?listname=topicsList&index=0&topicIndex$ 

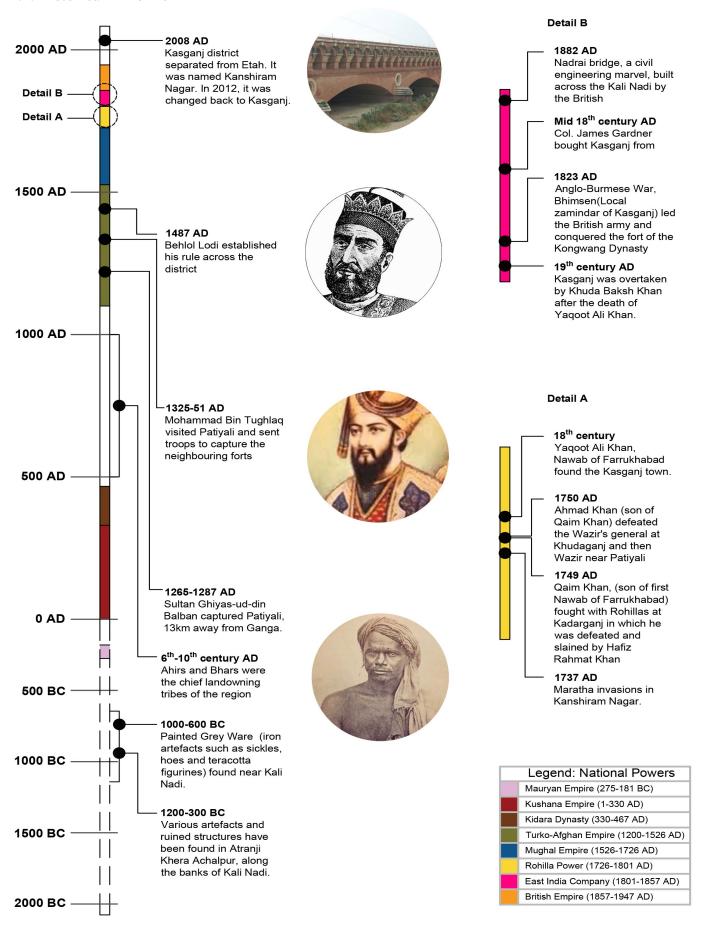
 $<sup>13\</sup> https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/kasganjs-colourful-past/article 22728513.ece, accessed on 06/01/2022 and 06/01/2022 article 22728513.ece, accessed on 06/01/2022 article 22728$ 

<sup>14</sup> Neave, E. R., Etah, A Gazetteer, Vol. XII of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Government Press, Allahabad, 1911, pg. 136-139

 $<sup>15\</sup> https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/kasganjs-colourful-past/article 22728513.ece, accessed on 06/01/2022 and 06/01/2022 article 22728513.ece, accessed on 06/01/2022 article 22728$ 

<sup>16</sup> https://kasganj.nic.in/culture-heritage/, accessed on 06/01/2022

#### 4.2. Historical Timeline



#### 5. Significance of Kanshiram Nagar

Kanshiram Nagar district has survived through prehistoric times. It was earlier a part of Etah district. The archaeological, architectural and cultural significance of the district exhibits the multiple layers of history that Kanshiram Nagar sustained over the years.

#### 5.1 Archaeological Significance

There have been no discoveries of the prehistoric era found along Ganga in Kanshiram Nagar district. However, the evidence for the existence of ancient civilizations was excavated near its southern boundary, along the opposite banks of Kali Nadi in Etah district. Several ancient artefacts and built ruins were found in the Atranji Khera site, along the southern banks of Kali Nadi. Panted Grey Ware artefacts were also found along the Kali Nadi river.<sup>1</sup>

#### 5.2 Religious Significance

Kanshiram Nagar district showcases major religious significance. Soron is one of the most holy places of the district. As per mythological legends, Lord Vishnu battled and defeated Hiranyaksha and restored Mother Earth, who was hidden beneath the kund in Soron. The Varaha Bhagwan temple was built near the kund, to commemorate the legend. A major fair is held in the town, for which pilgrims visit from across the district. They also take a holy bath in Ganga, on the river banks opposite Kachchla ghat in Budaun, near the bridge. The Marathas were settled within the district for several years post the 18th century AD. Thus, many Shiva temples are also found in Kanshiram Nagar district, near Ganga.



Figure 13 : Shiva Temple, Mujaffarnagar Source: Primary Study by AH Division, INTACH Team

#### 5.3 Natural Significance

The natural and ecological balance of the district is majorly influenced by the river Ganga to the north and Kali Nadi river to the south. The region was covered in forests, earlier. However, most of the wild life migrated over the years, as it was inhabited by multiple settlements. Although, some of the birds and animals continue to reside within the district. Most of the region is presently covered in agricultural fields, reflecting a large-scale agrarian economy. The Nadrai bridge is an engineering marvel which was built by the British. It channelizes water across Kali Nadi river, through the bridge, to avoid flooding during monsoons. The canals and tributaries of Ganga intersecting the district, contribute to the water management system of Kanshiram Nagar.



Figure 14 : Ganga river banks in Kanshiram nagar district Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

<sup>1</sup> http://nmma.nic.in/nmma/archReview.do, accessed on 07/01/2022



#### 5.4 Architectural Significance

The built heritage of Kanshiram Nagar showcases a political and economical evolution of the district, distinctive from the architectural vocabulary of different parts of the region. The district comprises no stone quarries, so it is majorly imported from Agra. It comprises block *kankar*, or deposited limestone, which has been used for the construction of bridges and wells across the region. The same material has also been used for ornamentation elements, carvings along the façade and in pillars. Burnt brick and lime mortar is a common construction material used for several historic buildings within the district.<sup>2</sup>

Several ancient mounds across Kanshiram Nagar district suggest the existence of ancient cities. The district showcases two distinct types of architectural influences. The Nawabs of Farrukhabad were predominant in the region, due to which several mosques and tombs are seen in the major towns such as Kasganj, Patiyali, etc. The Marathas also resided within the region, and established multiple settlements. Thus, residences and temples depicting a Maratha style of architecture are majorly found in the towns and villages closer to the river bank.



Figure 15 : Shiva Mandir Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team



Figure 16: Sri Lahareshwar Temple Source: Primary survey by AH Division, INTACH Team

#### 6. Architectural Description

The historical evolution of Kanshiram Nagar district is exhibited in the architectural styles and typologies of this district. The district has evolved through several years. It was invaded by the Sultans, follwed by the Lodi kings and the Mughal Emperors. One of the major political power to have risen across the region were the Nawabs of Farrukhabad, followed by the Marathas and finally the British. The dynamic history of the district is represented in the architectural designs and construction technologies that have been adopted across the settlements within the district. A Maratha influence is seen majorly in the study area of Kanshiram Nagar. The use of multifoilated arches, domes in temples to the discovery of mound with traces of lakhori bricks indicate that Kanshiram Nagar district had a vast and diverse history.

#### **6.1 Building Typologies**

#### i. Religious Temples

In certain parts of Kanshiram Nagar, near Ganga, the settlements were ruled by Hindu rulers. Several temples were built in and around the region, closer to the banks of Ganga, due to its high religious significance. The temples in this region mostly comprise only the garbh-griha, square or hexagonal in plan. The temples are topped by a dome or a pyramidal shikhara. They comprise of multifoliated arches along their entrance façade. The temples are built on a low platform.

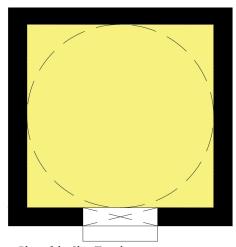


Figure 17: Plan of the Shiv Temple Source: As per primary survey done on site

Figure 18: External facade of the Shiv Temple Source: As per primary survey done on site

#### ii. Archaeological site

Kanshiram Nagar was ruled by several Muslim rulers over time. Monumental structures and forts were built by them on high mounds which are representative of ancient cities or the high banks along the ancient course of Ganga. Presently, most of the structures have collapsed, and traces of certain structures such as a dargah, are found. Ruins in lakhori brick are also found on such mounds.



Figure 19: View of the mound Source: As per primary survey done on site

#### 6.2 Evolution pattern in the architecture of Kanshiram Nagar

The architectural landscape of Kanshiram Nagar district was majorly influenced by the political rulers who reigned over this region for several years. The oldest site documented in the district was the archaeological mound, dating to 17<sup>th</sup> century AD. The built heritage of the district mostly dates to 19th and 20th century AD. These were built by the Marathas or the local Hindu zamindars administered by the British. It is to be noted that even though many sites are historic, the buildings have been re-constructed in the recent years. However, due to the historic significance of the site, the same has been included in the documentation.

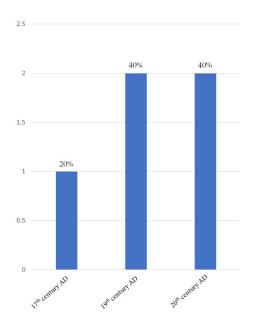


Figure 20: Graph showing percentage of built heritage built across different time periods.

Source: As per primary survey done on site

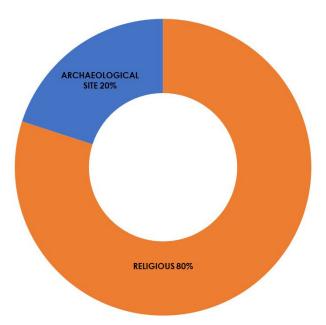


Figure 21: Pie chart showcasing the built heritage typology in Kanshiram Nagar district.

Source: As per primary survey done on site

As discussed earlier, the architectural typologies and settlement pattern was greatly impacted by the rulers who travelled through this district, along Ganga. Due to this, local Hindu rulers and the Marathas established many temples and established several settlements which presently exist as mounds. Mostly temples were documented in the district, as they were built by the Hindu rulers to cater to the religious needs of the settlements. One archaeological site, with a dargah over a high mound was also documented, suggesting the existence of ancient civilizations in the region. Kanshiram Nagar district showcases diverse built heritage, indicating the multiple layers of history it has persisted through the years.

#### 7. Approach and Methodology

The term 'Built Heritage' is a fluid term constituting a diverse array of elements. From individual buildings, to entire precincts of towns, monuments, structures, gardens and landscapes. Heritage is about the value people attach to places and creating local identity and distinctiveness. Kanshiram Nagar district has innumerable values and their significance associated with centuries. On the whole, the areas represent Indian heritage and culture.

The purpose of this report is to identify the built heritage of Kanshiram Nagar district which defines the present city and to derive its association with the river Ganga. The aim to understand the importance of the river in the historic timeline of the city and analyze the architectural characteristics based on this information. For the purpose of this study a boundary was defined at a distance of 5km from the bank of the river on both the sides.

The listing process comprised the preparation of inventories of heritage buildings and sites with respect to their cultural, architectural and historic significance. Following are the elaborated tasks at various stages:

#### 7.1 Literature Study

This stage included the procuring of all existing information, lists and database available from the secondary sources such as national archives, ASI library, INTACH documentation centre etc.

It started with the identification of reliable sources. The various sources including gazetteers, travel books, and several other specialized books containing information about the architecture and history of the area to be listed/documented was gathered. Secondary research on all documentation that has been done so far on Kanshiram Nagar District was carried out at this stage.

Secondly important places and building were selected based on following selection criteria:

- Historic archaeological significance
- Mythical or associational significance of the place
- Pilgrim and tourist preference for visit to the place
- Mention in literature and maps
- Typologies
- Accessibility

The archival research and documentation of the cultural assets in terms of its history, old photographs, drawings, maps, people associated, occasions, ceremonies or festivals celebrated in the building and region was done with the help of available secondary sources. This included, the built form and settlement pattern that helped understand the significance of the heritage assets and analyze its association with the river Ganga.

#### 7.2 Primary Site Survey

A format was prepared for the collection of data from the site that covered all the important aspects to be studied. The forms broadly included the following:

Form: Mapping of Built Heritage

- Name of Town & Property
- Approachability & GIS Location
- Typology & sub-typology
- Brief historical and contextual description
- Cultural significance
- Architectural description
- Ownership & Management
- Uses both historic and current
- State of Conservation
- Association with Ganga (direct or indirect)
- Threats to the heritage property

Grading Criteria: The grading criteria for the heritage assets is based on its Archaeological, Historical, Architectural, Social, Religious and Natural significance.

The selected sites in Kanshiram Nagar district were visited for Primary Survey. The on-site tasks included:

- Cross checking of data, collected from secondary sources
- Finding additional information from local sources
- Filling up of prepared formats
- Analyzing the local significances of such assets

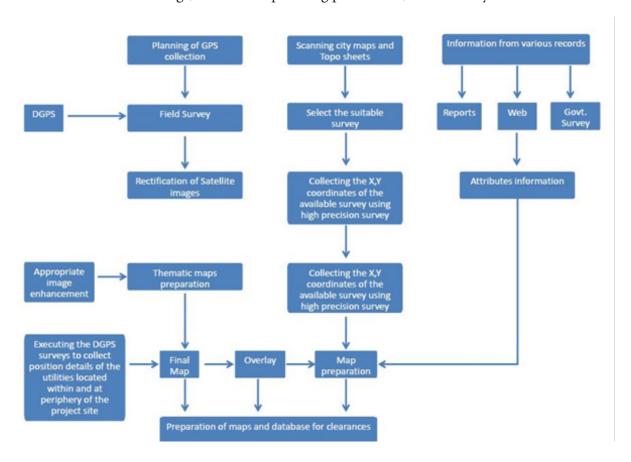
#### 7.3 Filling Inventories

The most commonly used technique in documenting cultural heritage through written means are inventories, supported by photographs. An inventory of a historic neighborhood uses building dates; type, size, and opulence of the structures; and comparisons of original, subsequent and contemporary uses to show how a neighborhood and its economy developed and changed, and how historical research provides context, chronology, description, interpretation, and assessment for architectural and engineering documentation. Research forms the basis for identifying significant structures, the initial step in the documentation. The inventories have 3 basic divisions on Identification, Description and Additional Information. The inventory formats have been filled using primary data collected at site as well as secondary information obtained from various sources. The sources of information have been mentioned in the inventories.

#### 7.4 GIS Mapping

Geographical Information System (GIS) is a tool for the establishment of integrating spatial and attribute data. The listed properties are mapped in the maps in order to identify the Heritage Zones and their proximity to the river in order to understand its contextual properties. All maps include basic information of the locality in context to the overall district, proximity from the river and major roads in the area.

Overlaying and combining information in GIS with considerable analysis and visualization methods can provide an important contribution for the sustainable development of the historic areas. This tool can be really helpful in identifying, analyzing and managing which have ample of scope for development through their varied natural and built heritage. Beyond that further usage should be considered in preservation of monuments and historic buildings, in different planning procedures, local history and education.



#### 7.5 Compiled Data

The final report with all the required data has been completed, compiled and submitted with:

- Filled forms of all listed buildings
- GIS Maps with the heritage assets

Note: The GIS map of the entire district is divided into zones within Kasganj, Sahawar and Patiyali tehsils, as they lie along the Ganga riverbanks (eg: Zone K1, K2..... K4). All inventories and maps are allocated a reference number. In order to locate an inventory, a particular map number (eg: GaD/Krn/M01) is mentioned in the form and the reference number (eg: GaD/Krn/KSJ/01 for Kasganj tehsil, GaD/Krn/SWR/01 for Sahawar tehsil, GaD/Krn/PTL/01 for Patiyali tehsil) of the particular inventory can be located.



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# ANNEXURE A LISTING INVENTORIES

## **MOUND Reference No** GaD/Krn/KSJ/01 **Map No** GaD/Krn/M03

Tehsil	Kasganj				
Location	27.929054 78.744527				
Address	Kadarbadi, Kasganj				
Approach	It is approached from the east, by BM road. It is 3.5km to the south of Ganga.				
Approx date of construction	17th century				
Precise date of	Not known				
construction					
Ownership	Public				
Owners Name	Not known				
<b>Property Type</b>	Site				
Property	Archaelogical				
Sub-type Property past use	se Not known				
Property	Dargah on Mound				
present use					
State of Unprotected					
Protection					

Mound

**Past Name** 

Architectural

**Building Setting** 

Archeological

Architectural

Historical

Style

Architectural The mound occupies a trapezium footprint, spreading across an area of approximately description 27,000 sq.m. It comprises traces of lakhori brick structures around it. A dargah is built on top of the mound, which was constructed during the later years. A gradual slope leads to the dargah. It is square in plan, with a rectangular opening on each side, leading into the dargah. It comprises minarets, which rise at each corner. Each minaret comprises a blind multifoliated arch on each side, topped by a small-shaped dome over a tapered base. The fat roof of the dargah extends outward to form a chajja, with a decoratie cornice band under it.

Historical/ Cultural Value

Several Muslim rulers reigned during the medieval period, and built settlements. Over time, these settlements converted into mounds, with traces of the ancient towns. Dargahs were built later, dedicated to the saints who crossed the district.

Association with Ganga

The Muslim rulers traveled and settled along Ganga, due to abundance of water and fertile land. It was also a major source of trade and communication. The mound also suggests the possibility of the river to have passed through this town, earlier.

State of conservatio Threats to the Property Danger of disappearance

Material deterioration, Structural deterioration, Vegetative growth, Lack of

maintanence

Condition Description The mound covers the ancient town. Weathering of the lakhori bricks and stones still

seen on site. Primary Survey

information

Source of

Listing done by Akshansh Mishra, Chetan Kataria

Regional

directions.

High

High

N.A.

The mound is situated 450m away from

Kadarvadi village in north-west direction. It is surrounded by agricultural fields in all

Religious

Social

Natural

Grade

Medium

Medium

Medium

IIA



#### GANGA CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION - KANSHIRAM NAGAR DISTRICT

**Reference No** GaD/Krn/KSJ/02 **Map No** GaD/Krn/M04

SHIV MANDIR

		Grade	IIB	Source of information	Rajesh Kumar		
Architectural	MEGIUIII	Natural Grade	N.A.	•	weathered. Plaster is flaking off the façade.		
Historical Architectural	Medium Medium	Social	Medium	Condition Description	The stairs leading to the door are destroyed.  Mortar joints have weakened and brick has		
Archeological	Low	Religious	High	the Property	maintainance, Inappropriate additions, Encroachments		
Anghesississi	east of the temple.		conservatio Threats to the Property	Material deterioration, Altered setting, Lack of			
	agricultural fields to the east. Shri Lahreshwar Temple is 73m to the south-		State of	Signs of deterioration			
8	the north, west a	and south, and			holy river.		
Style Building Setting	The temple is sur	rrounded by re	esidences to		temples dedicated to Shiva, as the lord brought Ganga to earth, to avoid any destruction by the		
Architectural	Regional			with Gallga	Ganga, due to its high religious significance.  Many settled within the village and built		
State of Protection	Unprotected			Association with Ganga	Several rulers and pilgrims traveled along		
present use	•						
Property	Temple				religious needs of the people.		
Sub-type Property past use			Cultural Value	region. They established settlements during that period, and built temples to cater to the			
Property	Religious			Historical/	During 18th century, Marathas ruled over this		
Property Type	Building						
Owners Name	Rajesh Kumar						
construction Ownership	Private						
Precise date of	Not known						
Approx date of construction	20th century						
Approach	The temple is apunpaved road from leading to BM ro	om the north-e	ast,		on top of it.		
Address	Lahora, Soron, K	Kanshiram Nag	ar		The temple is topped by an onion-shaped dome, with an inverted lotus motif and a finial		
Location	27.936774 78	8.765006			two pointed arched niches on its front façade.		
Tehsil	Kasganj			1	accessed by a wooden double panelled door recessed within a blind pointed arch. There are		
Past Name	Shiv Temple			Architectural description	The temple is square in plan and is built on a high plinth. It has only the garbagriha which is		
	SHIV MAND			Reference 140 (	Jad/Krn/K5J/02 Map No Gad/Krn/M04		

**Listing done by** Chetan Kataria, Akshansh Mishra



Reviewed by Mitali Vij

02

#### GANGA CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION - KANSHIRAM NAGAR DISTRICT

#### SHRI LAHRESHWAR MAHADEV

**Reference No** GaD/Krn/KSJ/03 **Map No** GaD/Krn/M04





**Past Name** Shri Lahreshwar Mahadev

**Tehsil** Kasganj

Location 27.936195 78.7651069

Address Lahora, Soron, Kanshiram Nagar

19th century

Approach The temple is approached by taking an

unpaved road from the west, leading to

BM road to the south.

Approx date of

construction

Precise date of Not known

construction

Public

Precinct

Religious

Temple

Ownership

**Owners Name** Nagar Palika Parishad

**Property Type** 

**Property** 

Sub-type

Property past use Temple

**Property** 

present use

State of **Protection** 

Architectural

Style

**Building Setting** The temple is situated on the eastern edge

Regional

Unprotected

of the village, it is surrounded by residences to the north, south and west,

and agricultural fields to the east.

Archeological Low Religious Historical Medium Social

Architectural Medium Natural N.A.

> Grade IIA

High

High

Architectural description

The temple complex is rectangular in plan and comprises a Hanuman and Shiv temple. The complex is accessed by a gateway with a trefoil arch. It leads to an open courtyard. The shiv temple is built on a high plinth, approached by a flight of stairs. It leads into the colonnaded mandapa with flat arches. The mandapa further leads into the garbh-griha. The garbagriha is accessed by a wooden double panelled door enclosed in a multifoilated arch which is supported by pilasters. There are two bangladhari niches; one on the either side of the door built within a mulifoilated blind arch, on either side of the main doorway. The garbagriha is topped by a pyramidal shikara with a finial on

The Hanuman temple is built to the right of the stairs leading to the Shiv temple. It is square in plan having a rectangular opening in the centre.

Historical/ Cultural Value

It is believed that the shivlinga in this temple was established by the grandson of Shree Krishna. As years passed, people in the neighbouring villages built the temple around this shivlinga.

Association with Ganga

Earlier the district along Ganga was forested. As per mythology, Lord Krishna and his family often traveled along the holy river and rested in these forests. Over the years temples were built by locals.

State of conservatio Threats to the Property

Signs of deterioration

Material deterioration, Inappropriate additions, Alterations, Vegetative growth

Condition Description

The lighting of incense in the niches have led to soot deposits along the mandapa wall leading to garbh-griha. Paint is also peeling off the façade.

Source of <u>information</u>

Rajesh Kumar

Listing done by Chetan Kataria, Akshansh Mishra



#### SHIV MANDIR

Reference No GaD/Krn/SWR/01 Map No GaD/Krn/M05



**Past Name** Shiv Mandir

**Tehsil** Sahawar

Location 27.866322 78.883321

Address Mujjafarnagar, Sahawar, Kanshiram

Approach The temple is approached by an unpaved

road from the north. It is the main road

which intersects the village.

Approx date of

19th century construction

Precise date of Not known

construction

Religious

Temple

Regional

Unprotected

Ownership Public

**Owners Name** Gram Panchayat

**Property Type** 

Building

**Property** Sub-type

Property past use Temple

**Property** 

present use

State of

**Protection** 

Architectural

Style

**Building Setting** The temple is situated in a residential area

and is built within the boundaries of the

Religious

Social

Natural

Panchayat Ghar.

Archeological Low

Historical Medium

Architectural

High

Grade

IIA

High

High

N.A.

Architectural description

The temple is square in plan and is built on a low plinth, approached by a step. It comprises only the garbh-griha, topped by an onionshaped dome with an inverted lotus motif and a finial. The dome rests on an octagonal drum, comprising floral mouldings along the base of the dome. The garbh-griha is accessed by a wooden double panelled door which is enclosed in a multifoilated arch resting on decorative pilasters. The interior façade comprises a mosaic tiled dado slab, with blind semicircular niches above for keeping the deity. A panchayat house was built later in 20th century near this temple.

Historical/ Cultural Value

During 18th century, Marathas ruled over this region. They established settlements during that period, and built temples to cater to the religious needs of the people.

Association with Ganga

Several rulers and pilgrims traveled along Ganga, due to its high religious significance. Many settled within the village and built temples dedicated to Shiva, as the lord brought Ganga to earth, to avoid any destruction by the holy river.

State of conservatio Threats to the Property Signs of deterioration

Material deterioration, Inappropriate additions, Altered setting

Condition Description The exterior façade of the temple is freshly painted with bright colours. The plaster at the corners is degrading.

Source of information

Primary Survey

Listing done by Chetan Kataria, Akshansh Mishra



#### GANGA CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION - KANSHIRAM NAGAR DISTRICT

#### SHIV MANDIR **Reference No** GaD/Krn/PTL/01 **Map No** GaD/Krn/M06 Architectural The temple is hexagonal in plan and is built on a **Past Name** Shiv Mandir high plinth. It is accessed by a wooden double description panelled door enclosed in a rectangular **Tehsil** Patiyali opening. The exterior façade of the temple has Location 27.790516 78.980341 rectangular blind arches on each face of the temple, topped by a semicircular niche. It only Address Gajaura, Sungarhi, Kanshiram Nagar comprises a garbh-griha, without the mandapa. The garbh-griha is topped by a pyramidal shikara with a finial on top of it. The temple is approached from the east, Approach by the road connecting the Old Ganga River to Gajaura village. Approx date of 20th century construction Precise date of Not known construction Ownership Public **Owners Name** Gram Panchayat **Property Type** Precinct **Property** Historical/ During 18th century, Marathas ruled over this Religious region. They established settlements during that Sub-type Cultural Property past use Temple Value period, and built temples to cater to the religious needs of the people. **Property** Temple present use State of Unprotected Several rulers and pilgrims traveled along Association **Protection** with Ganga Ganga, due to its high religious significance. Architectural

Regional

**Building Setting** The temple is located 1.8 kms away from

Style

Burh Ganga River and is surrounded by

agricultural fields in all directions.

Archeological Low Religious High Historical Medium Social High Architectural Medium Natural N.A.

> Grade IIA

Many settled within the village and built temples dedicated to Shiva, as the lord brought Ganga to earth, to avoid any destruction by the

holy river.

State of conservatio Threats to the Property Signs of deterioration

Material deterioration, Vegetative growth,

Lack of maintainance

Condition Description The plaster and paint on the walls of temple is wearing off. Parts of the chajja have fallen off.

Source of Primary Survey information

Listing done by Chetan Kataria, Akshansh Mishra





## ANNEXURE B GIS MAPS

