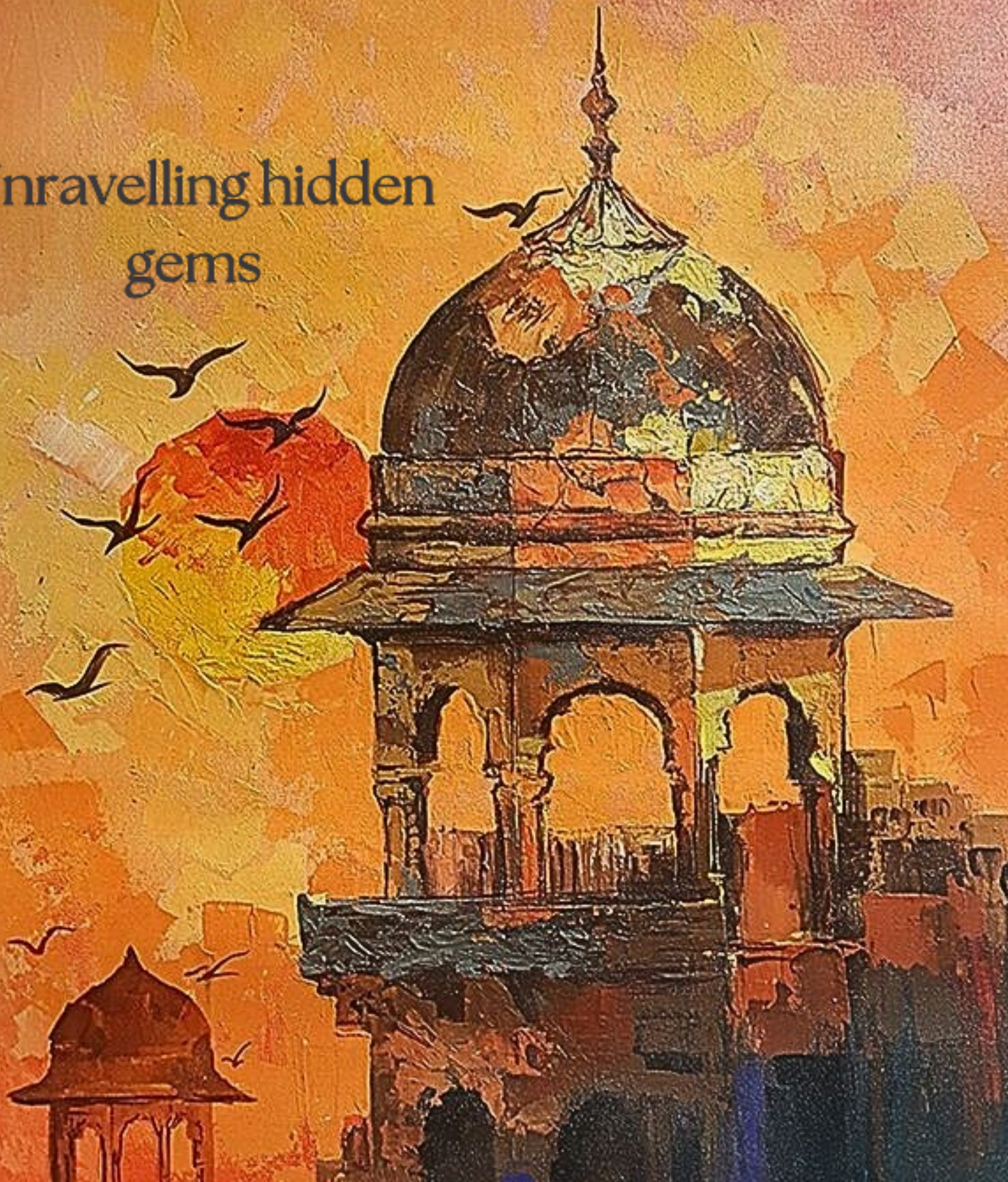


Itivritt

Unravelling hidden
gems



**“ It is a scholarly initiative
by
the students of
History Department ,
Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya ,
Kamachha, Varanasi
2023-24”.**

Acknowledgement

We would like to sincerely express our gratitude to Smt. Uma Bhattacharya, Manager, V.K.M, Dr. Rachana Srivastava, Principal, V.K.M, Dr. Smriti Bhatnagar, Head of History Department, Dr. Poonam Pandey, Dr. Shashikesh Kumar Gond and Dr. Bhawana Tripathi, for making our imaginative plans possible, for their consistent guidance throughout this journey, for their counsel and direction during trying times. We would also like to thank all the people who provided us with insights of these lost marvels. We request your generous reading as no true effort is devoid of errors.

Preface

We are privileged to start this project and produce the first edition of Itivritt, the annual magazine by the department of History, Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kamachha, Varanasi. The theme of this magazine for this year is - "Unraveling Of Hidden Gems". The key focus is to find the lost locale monuments, places or sites which have lost their names and importance in the passage of time. The articles and photographs contributed in the magazine have been originally researched by the masters students. The making of this magazine is an attempt to enhance and widen the sphere of knowledge by empirical learning and reconstruction of the past through research and observation. The magazine is solely composed and crafted by the students involved

Principal's Note



“I appreciate the enthusiastic work taken up by the students of M.A History initiating and leaving a legacy for their forthcoming students to follow, by starting “Itivritt” the annual magazine of the department of History.

“Itivritt” as a magazine provides insightful knowledge about the glorious past of India along with unlocking the analytical skills of the students preparing them as future explorers and scholars. I believe that this journey from soil to soul will proceed uninterrupted on the path of recognition and learning. My blessings, appreciation and heartfelt support to the team and the department.”

Prof. Rachana Srivastava

Principal

Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya

Introduction To The Faculty

Head of Department

Dr. Smriti Bhatnagar



Professor

Dr. Poonam Pandey



Assistant Professor

Dr. Shahikesh K Gond



Dr. Bhawana Tripathi



Introduction to Core Team



President

Ankita Singh

"Welcome to our Itivritt ! Our mission is to bring the past to life, uncovering hidden stories and forgotten heroes. Each

issue is a journey through time, offering fresh perspectives and engaging narratives. We aim to inspire curiosity, foster a deeper understanding of our world, and connect readers with the rich tapestry of human experience. This magazine serves not only as an educational tool but also as an inspiration for future generations to appreciate and learn from history's rich tapestry.

Join us in exploring the lessons of history to illuminate the present and shape a better future. Dive in, and let the adventure begin!"

History is not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul." – Lord Acton

Vice-President

Tanya Rakshit



Thoughts are material entities. Whatever we think and conceive, becomes a reality. The invisible process going on inside our heads that we call thinking can produce objects of reality. "Mind is its own place and in itself can make a heaven of a hell and a hell of a heaven. Great men become great not because they were born great or they had greater thrust upon them by fate, but because they dug up their potential and worked it out to realize their worthy goals.

Don't fritter away your energies and immense potential in negative thoughts of self doubt, low self -esteem and self-abnegation. We are proud and fortunate to be in a

Shine called Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya (BHU) , which provides us a conducive environment. Itivritt is just one such opportunity for us to realize our creativity and imaginative power. We have taken advantage of this opportunity to cultivate our powers of expression. I pray to the Almighty to give us all with success and joy, with a hope that students to come will shine forth and radiate light.

Editor In Chief

Anshika Mausham



Secretary & Editor

Rushika Tyagi



Editor & Designer

Annesha Choudhury



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Editor's Note

India is the epitome of cultural tradition and sedimentary living due to the diversity and vastness of the country.

India as part ,one of the ancient civilizations has witnessed numerous victorious losses, King-Emperors and Queen and the ending list of events. While the past is now getting unraveled to us, its sole witness through time in the land has been the monuments , structures of remains and various stones and sculptures , while some of them have survived the tests of time , some found in the lost history, while some yet remain concealed from us.

While these gems might be amongst us, as locales they have lost their importance amongst us.

The History they uphold for the nation is invaluable as all over the nation there are numerous such places, monuments , structures which couldn't stand time and have been lost in it and in history. This magazine is a humble attempt in unraveling the hidden marvels around

us which are lost. At present many of these marvels are in a wrecked state and very few even survive, the existing ones need the extreme care of the government to regain their glory and ability to survive.

While the heritage of the nation is getting lost this attempt is to bring them back in light and knowledge of both people and scholars of history to know what's the condition of the essential component of history, which helps us to learn and unlearn and explore it repeatedly.

स्मारक

“राख में सोने का साम्राज्य
शून्य में रखते हो संगीत,
धूल से लिखते हो इतिहास
बिन्दु में भरते हो वारीश;

तुम्हीं में रहता मूक वसंत
अरे सूखे फूलों के हास!”

- महादेवी वर्मा

सुजात

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Monsoon temple: A hidden gem in Kanpur

Written by- Samridhi Mishra

My hometown, Kanpur, is well-known for its historical and tourist attractions, which includes the prominent Nana Rao Park, Kanpur Memorial Church, JK Temple, and Bhitargaon Temple. The **Jagannath Temple**, located in the village of Benhta, three kilometers from the headquarters of the Bhitargaon Block in Kanpur district, is one such little-known hidden gem. This temple does not attract many tourists and receives very few visits. I came across this temple while visiting the Bhitargaon temple, which was established in the sixth century under the Gupta Empire.

This temple is also called the **Rain Temple or Monsoon Mandir**. It is reported that this temple forecasts the monsoon every year. The temple's main building is shaped like a dome. The temple is located on a 8-foot-high platform. The structure and its appearance have sparked much debate, although no credible evidence of the architecture's past has been discovered. Some say the dome construction resembles Buddhist architecture. It is widely believed that Samrat Harshavardhana erected the temple in 600 CE.



We cannot draw any conclusions because there is no definite proof of the temple's origin or date. The temple's main and only entrance is on the front side, facing east,

as is usual in Hindu temples. On either side of the entryway, there is a historic 100-foot-deep well and a pond. Lord Jagannath is the temple's principal deity, with senior Lord Balabhadra and sister goddess Subhadra serving as supporting figures. God's appearance differs from that of conventional idols.



The idol is carved in black stone which rests on a stone pedestal. On first appearance it seems only Lord Jagannath is there, but on a closed observation you can find Balabhadra and Subhadra on right and left respectively. The small replica on the left of triad deities is mounted on a chariot during the Ratha Yatra. The temple priest informed me that the ceiling of the temple sanctum is dampened seven days before rain. If there is only moisture, it will rain moderately. If the water droplet falls on the floor then it may rain heavily. It is very useful for farmers as they perform agricultural activities accordingly. It is also believed that the Disc mounted on the top of the temple Shikhar has some magnetic effects, in that event no causality has been reported in that area due to thunderstorms.

With so many mysteries and wonders, I spent some time in the temple, thinking that such a wonder is hidden from the public, but this could also be why it is so

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well preserved. Its distinctive architectural architecture makes it a particularly fascinating place to explore. Its weather forecasting ability may entice many travelers. I hope that the government and other relevant authorities work to bring this hidden gem to light.



Moti Mahal: The Pearl Mahal

Written by - Srishti Singh

The Moti Mahal, also known as the Pearl Palace, is located in Faizabad. A few Kilometers away from the town of Ayodhya, the Moti Mahal is a historically and culturally significant landmark. It was built in 1743 AD and was the home to Queen **Begum Unmatuzzohra Banu**, wife of the then-Nawab **Shuja-ud-Daulah**. The monument is a superb example of Mughal architecture, and its magnificence echoes the rich legacy of Nawabi culture. Faizabad's Moti Mahal is famous for its grandeur and for capturing the essence of the city's rich Nawabi culture during the Mughal rule in India.



One of the heritage sites with a distinct identity is Moti Mahal in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. But now the building is dilapidated and utterly destroyed. Right now, it's being repaired. Its name escapes us, and navigating its tight pathways is necessary to learn its whereabouts. Additionally, the surroundings are unclean. Nobody in Faizabad is aware of the historical structures. It needs major renovations as well as essential amenities.

The Ratu Fort: From the times of the Nagvansh Dynasty

Written by - Pratibha Kumari

The **Nagvansh Dynasty** ranks as the world's fifth longest dynasty. With a history spanning 2890 years, the Bulgarian Dulo clan, or house, is regarded as the longest in the world. The Joseon dynasty of Korea, the Nagvansh dynasty, the La Dynasty of Vietnam, and the Imperial House of Japan are the next greatest clans. For 1931 years, the Nagvansh dynasty ruled over Jharkhand, or Chotanagpur, in India. The Sutiambe Garh location, 23 km north of Ranchi, Jharkhand, is where the Nagvansh dynasty began in 83 C.E. Sutia Munda is thought to have led 21,000 Hundas in their migration from Rohtas Garh to Sutiambe. Sutia Munda had great leadership qualities and due to this reason people declared him their king.

Later, **Maharaja Madra Munda** succeeded Sutia Munda. It is believed that during King Madra Munda's rule in 64 C.E., a new-born kid was discovered in Anderia Lake, Sutable, who was being safeguarded by the Pundrik Nag (snake) himself. When King Madra Munda discovered the child, he took the child with him to raise. The child's name was Fani Mukut Rai. Since the kid is claimed to be protected by the snake, the dynasty and clan became known as the Nagvansh dynasty. Fani Mukut Rai later ascended the throne based on his abilities and became the first king of the Nagvansh dynasty, marking the start of the famous Nagvansh Dynasty.

Sutable Garh was the Nagvanshi's original capital, following which the capital was moved numerous times: from Sutiambe Garh to Chutia Garh, to Khukhra

Garh, to Doisa Garh (Navratan Garh), to Palkot Garh, and finally to Ratu Garh, where Nagvanshi monarchs ruled for 1931 years in the Chotanagpur district. The Ratu Garh was established by the 61st ruler, Maharaja Pratap Udaynath Shahdeo. The fort is erected on 22 acres of land. After the death of 61st Maharaja Udaynath Shahdeo, his great-grandson Chintamani Sharan Nath Shahdeo was anointed as the 62nd king on March 9, 1950, at the age of 19. He was the son of Kali Sharan Nath Shahdeo and Vaideni Kumari (rajamata).

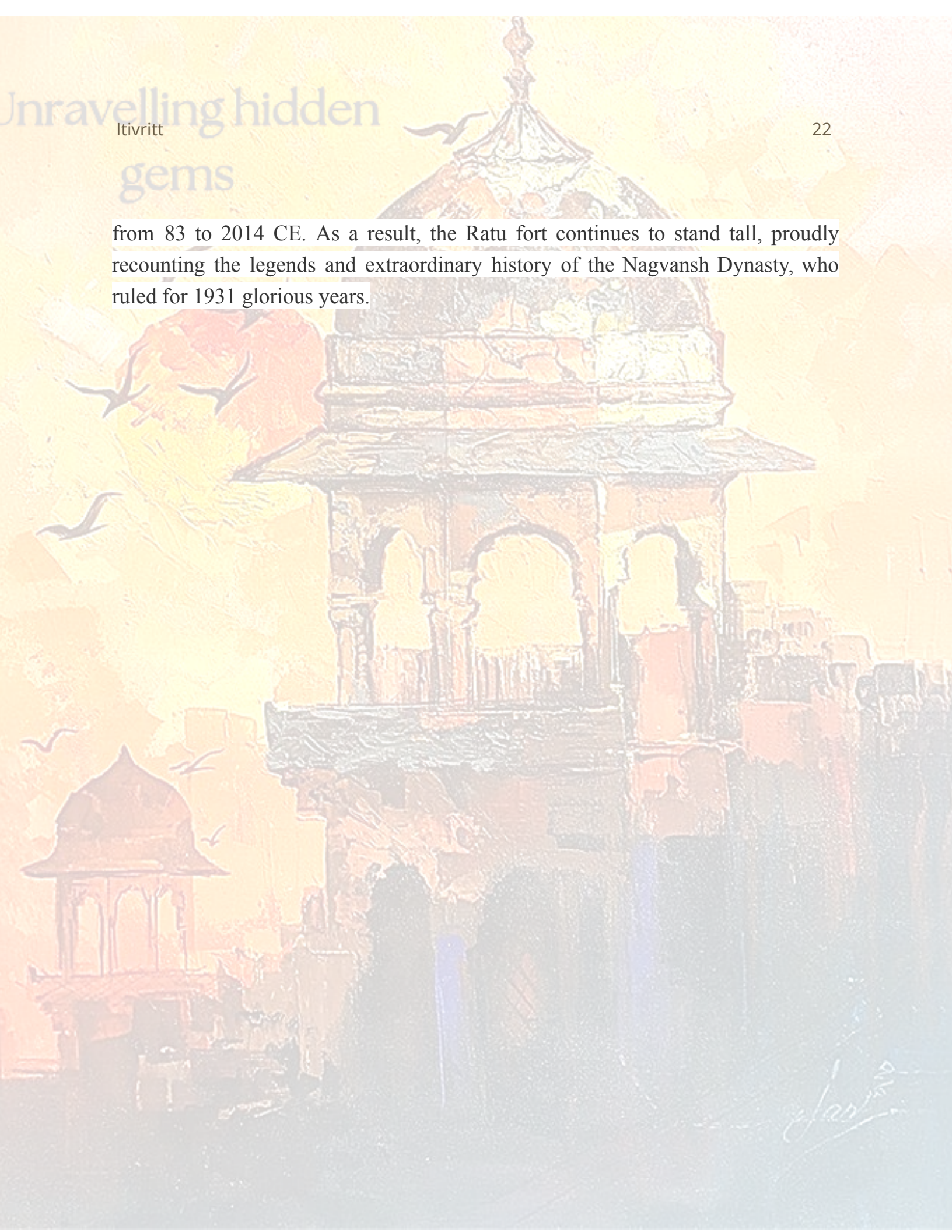
In 1901, Ratu Palace was founded. Following independence, the Zamindari abolition act of 1950 caused the Nagvanshi rulers to lose their hegemony in post-independence India. But their power persisted till 2014, when Maharaja Chintamani Sharan Nath Shahdeo passed away. Even though the Nagvanshi monarchs' reign was autocratic in nature, the people gave them a lot of support, and because their system was known as “Enlightened Despotism”, their influence lasted for a very long time. 2010 saw the passing of Gopal Sharan Nath Shahdeo, the heir apparent. Four daughters and one boy were born to King Chintamani Sharan Nath Shahdeo and Maharani Prem Manjari Devi. Princess Madhuri Manjari, the rajmata of the Vijaygarh region of Uttar Pradesh, inherited the Ratu fort and the well-being of her followers from her father, King Chintamani Sharan Nath Shahdeo, before his death. The 103-room Ratu Palace is built in a manner reminiscent of Buckingham Palace. Thus, at Ratu Fort, which stands as a living testament to the rich history of Nagvansh and the noble heritage of the entire nation, particularly to Chotanagpur, the 1931 Nagvansh Dynasty comes to an end.

During his 81-year reign, King Uday Pratap gifted large tracts of property in Ranchi to subordinates and also provided land for the founding of Gossner College, Ranchi University, and Gel Church Campus. Every year, the palace opens to celebrate Rath Yatra and Dussehra. Large tracts of land were granted by Prince Uday Pratap to support the establishment of numerous hospitals, schools, and other service industries. In Chotanagpur, the Nagvanshi clan had a significant influence

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from 83 to 2014 CE. As a result, the Ratu fort continues to stand tall, proudly recounting the legends and extraordinary history of the Nagvansh Dynasty, who ruled for 1931 glorious years.



मान महल: इसे जंतर मंतर के नाम से भी जाना जाता है

लिखित - श्वेता मौर्य और श्वानि कन्नोज्या

वाराणसी में स्थित जंतर मंतर जिसे मान मंदिर या मान महल से जाना जाता है। वाराणसी का जंतर-मंतर जयपुर के राजा जयसिंह द्वितीय द्वारा बनाया गया है ऐसे ही उन्हें दिल्ली, उज्जैन, मथुरा, जयपुर में भी जंतर-मंतर का निर्माण शोध कार्य के लिए कराया था जिसमें से वाराणसी का यह शोध एक है जयसिंह द्वितीय ने इसे 18वीं शताब्दी में सन् 1733-34 ई० के बीच बनवाया था इसकी स्थिति वाराणसी में गदौलिया बाजार के रास्ते से दशाश्वमेध घाट के तरफ जाने पर घाट से 150-200 मीटर पहले ही अवस्थित है इसकी ऊंचाई 75.6 मीटर है। इसमें खगोलीय घटनाओं, ज्योतिष विज्ञान, गणित के सिद्धांत सूर्य, चंद्र व तारों की गति व उनकी स्थिति से समय को ज्ञात करना आदि कार्यों पर शोध कार्य किया जाता था। यह दो तल का वेधशाला है। जिसमें निचले तल पर डिजिटल म्यूज़ियम।

सूर्य, चन्द्रमा, की गति एवं स्थितियों का पता लगाया जाता था और सटिक समय ज्ञात किया जाता था जो वर्तमान समय से एक मिनट भी आगे पीछे नहीं है। अपनी शुद्धता पर ये खरा उतरता है। इस वेधशाला में ऐसे दूरबीन भी बना गए थे जो दिन में तारों की स्थिति बता सकते थे, रात में चंद्रमा की गति से कोन सा पक्ष चल रहा था उसके बारे में पता लगाया जाता था इसी तल से गंगा नदी का सौंदर्य दृश्य भी प्रत्यक्ष दिखाई देता है जो आकर्षण का केंद्र है संपूर्ण जंतर-मंतर 18वीं शताब्दी के भारतीय इतिहास के वैज्ञानिक गतिविधियों की महत्ता व विशिष्टता को दर्शाता है।

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THE KHASPUR KINGDOM

Written by - Nivedita Aditya



Kachari palace ruins at Khaspur

About twenty-five kilometers from the town of Silchar in southern Assam, lie the ruins of one of the most powerful kingdoms of their time, the **Kachari kingdom**, also known as the **Dimasa kingdom**. Legend has it that the Kacharis were the off-springs of **Ghatokacha**, the son of **Bhima**.

In the medieval era, after the fall of Kamarupa kingdom the region of Khaspur was originally a part of the Tripura Kingdom, which was taken over by Koch king Chilarai in the 16th century. The region was ruled by a tributary ruler, Kamalnarayana, the brother of king Chilarai. Around the 18th century Bhima

Singha, the last Koch ruler of Khaspur, didn't have any male heir. His daughter, Kanchani, married Laxmichandra, the Dimasa prince of Maibang kingdom. And once the last Koch king Bhima Singha died the Dimasas migrated to Khaspur, thus merging the two kingdoms into one as Kachari kingdom under the king Gopichandranarayan, as the control of the Khaspur kingdom went to the ruler of the Maibong kingdom as inheritance from the royal marriage and established their capital in Khaspur, near present-day Silchar. The independent rule of the Khaspur's Koch rulers ended in 1745 when it merged with the Kachari kingdom. Khaspur is a corrupted form of the word Kochpur. Gopichandranarayan (c.1745-1757), Harichandra (c.1757-1772) and Laxmichandra (c.1772-1773) were brothers and ruled the kingdom in succession. In 1790, a formal act of conversion took place and Gopichandranarayan and his brother Laxmichandranarayan were proclaimed to be Hindus of the Kshatriya caste.

During the reign of Krishnachandra (1790 - 1813), a number of Moamarias rebels took shelter in the Cachar state. The Ahoms blamed the Dimasa for providing refuge to the rebels and this led to a number of small skirmishes between the Ahoms and the Dimasas from 1803 to 1805.

The King of Manipur sought the help of Krishna Chandra Dwaja Narayan Hasnu Kachari against the Burmese Army. King Krishna Chandra defeated Burmese in the war and in lieu was offered the Manipuri Princess Induprabha. As he was already married to Rani Chandraprabha, he asked the princess to be married to his younger brother Govinda Chandra Hasnu. After Gobinda Chandra the British annexed the Kachari Kingdom under the doctrine of lapse.

Of whatever is left of the ruins, some of it is either in shambles and waiting to be lost forever because of non-maintenance or the rest of them have been repaired so much that they have lost their original feel.

Ramnagar Fort

Written by - Shweta Maurya

The Ramnagar Fort is located 14 kilometers from Varanasi on the opposite bank of the Ganga River. It is the ancestral home of Maharaja Balwant Singh, who constructed the fort palace in the 18th century.

The fort is made of red sandstone and features a temple and a museum on its grounds. The temple is dedicated to Ved Vyas, who composed the Mahabharata, the ancient Indian epic. The Ramnagar Fort Museum houses a royal collection of vintage cars, palanquins, swords, old rifles, ivory carving, and antique clocks. It also houses the Durga Temple, the E.E Chinnamastika Temple, and the Dakshin Mukhi Hanuman Temple. The palace is beautifully decked and radiates with color and vitality during Dussehra.

Ramnagar serves as the entry to Corbett National Park, the country's oldest national park and a popular tourist attraction. It is one of the oldest historical sites in Varanasi (Kashi).

Team Experience

Rushika Tyagi (Editor-in-Chief)

It is an astounding opportunity to work as the editor in chief in this outstanding project. While working on the project it enlightened me regarding the architectural beautification of various concealed marvels around us, which have transcended for a millennium. The richness that encompasses them in various ways is astounding , while they remain still in time, a lot of them have been lost.

Annesha Choudhury (Editor and Designer)

To work in the capacity of the editor and designer on the "Ittivritt" provided an avenue to explore my skills in keeping a keen eye on the content, and ensuring the publication of the relevant content in most proper and lucid format. Being an art and aesthetic enthusiast , the role of designing the cover page for the magazine went really well as it employed the creative aspect of the mind . Working in these roles provided a lot to learn.

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