

CULTURAL / HERITAGE TOURISM IN LUCKNOW: AN IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT:

Cultural / heritage tourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry because there is a trend toward an increased specialization among tourists in Lucknow; the capital of Uttar Pradesh. This trend is evident in the rise in the volume of tourists who seek adventure, culture, history, archaeology and interaction with local people. Because of people's inclination to seek out novelty, including that of traditional cultures, heritage tourism has become a major "new" area of tourism demand, which almost all policy-makers are now aware of and anxious to develop and they do not much more think about the pollution increasing in environment. Heritage tourism, as a part of the broader category of "cultural tourism", is now a major pillar of the nascent tourism strategy of many countries. Cultural/heritage tourism strategies in various countries have in common that they are a major growth area, that they can be used to boost local culture, and that they can aid the seasonal and geographic spread of tourist.

Keywords: Archeology, Cultural / Heritage Tourism, Environment, Lucknow etc.

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The most populous state of India, Uttar Pradesh is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India. Uttar Pradesh is filled with its wealth of historical monuments and religious fervor. Geographically, Uttar Pradesh is very diverse, with Himalayan foothills in the extreme north and the Gangetic plain in the centre. It is also known as the heartland of the India. It has so many visited sites and the most delicious cuisines like Awadhi cuisine and Mughlai cuisine, are famous not only in India but also many places in abroad. Uttar Pradesh is known for ages for its rich culture and tradition. It is home to Ayodhya and Mathura birthplace of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna respectively.

Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, extends along the banks of the River Gomti. The creator of Lucknow as it is today was Nawab Asaf ud Daula. It is also known as 'the city of nawabs', 'the golden city of India', 'Constantinople of east', 'shiraz-i-hind'. It is founded by the Maharaja Lakhan Pasi. Lucknow has always been known as a multicultural city and flourished as a cultural and artistic capital of north India in the 18th and 19th centuries and as a seat of power of nawabs. Lucknow is a city of heritage and it is abundant with palaces, tombs, monoliths and religious monuments built by the "Nawabs of Avadh". And the culture of Lucknow called as "Shan-i-Awadh". Lucknow is the attraction point in all over the world for its tehjeeb and its 'Mehmaan-nawazi' to its guests, which attracts people towards it, weather in India or in foreign countries.

Lucknow society is very famous for its etiquette and traditions to attain a rare degree of sophistication. Lucknowites are also known for their polite and polished way of speaking which is noticed by visitors to this city. The 'tehjeeb' or mannerism is still prominent and a topic of great appreciation of this city. This is a city that still speaks the language of "aap", "janab" and the dictum of "pehle aap", it is still a part of everyday life for a true Lakhnawi. - And so natural it is - Aadab or salutation which has its own sophistication and style. Lucknow is also known for its elaborate cuisine and "Chikankaari" or exquisite shadow work embroidery on fine Muslim cloth. Lucknow is in fact among a few cities that duly understands the grace of the 'dupattas' or the covering cloth.

An institution it was the "kothas", where sons of Nawabs were deliberately sent to learn the culture, sophistication and respect for the fairer sex. Lucknow has been a major influence on the Hindi Film Industry of India. Muzaffar Ali's unforgettable film "Umrao Jaan" is a depiction

of this social institution. This region has its own Dance, Drama and Music forms. The city became known as a centre for Urdu poetry, Ghazals and courtly diction, and reached its acme during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah who was a connoisseur of music and poetry.

Lucknow has traditionally been a sports-loving city. In the past pehlwani, kabaddi, chess and cock fighting were popular pastimes. "Kan kauwe bazi" or kite flying was not only a pastime but the means of sending love letters to the beloved. Love was found in Lucknow-- a proof of this is the lovers' lane in the posh modern Hazratganj: these lanes were used as a meeting place for the lonely hearts to escape the monitoring eyes of their parents. Hazratganj -a Symposium of the old and the new in Lucknow. This Awadh region has its own distinct Nawabi style cuisine, the most famous cuisine of Awadhi region consist of various kinds of biryanis, kebabs i.e. Tunde-ke-kabab, Kakori kababs, Shami kababs, Boti kababs, Seekh kababs, Rahim-ke-kulche nihari, Ram Asrey ki malai aur lal peda, Raja-ki-thandai, Parathas naans aur sheermals ya Sharma-ki-chaat etc. Among sweets Lucknow's Rewadi is famous all over India.

Be it the cultural charm or the monumental one, all is well conserved here to make Lucknow "the city of many splendors". Walking through the lanes by lanes of Chowk and Aminabad one can find the actual Lucknow. The main shopping areas in the city are Hazratganj, Aminabad, Chowk, Nakkhas, Sadar, Narhi, Kaiserbagh, Alambagh, Aliganj, Indira Nagar, Gomti Nagar.

In the 21st century the tourism is increasing day by day and it has helped the growth of industrialization. This has given rise to increased opportunities of employment. Forts, religions temples, various places, Monuments and Culture have become centers of tourism. There are many places of attraction like Bara Imambara, Chhota Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, Mosque of Husianabad, Kashiram Smarak, Tomb of Saadat Ali. La Martiniere College, Ambedkar Park are the notable example of it cultural heritage.

These above places are the most prominent places in Lucknow, developing day by day, and are being thronged by local visitors and tourists, in recent year, for having an extra-ordinary and tremendous experience with them. There are 359 centrally protected monuments / sites under the jurisdiction of Lucknow Circle and these monuments are periodically inspected by sub circle incharge and senior officers and inspection notes are drawn regarding conservation measures to be taken up. But still we can easily find the lack of preservation and conservation in these

cultural monuments keeping safe for present and future. Archaeologist should always keep into their mind that monuments should always been into its own actual condition, while renovate it, they should be very specific with the material, which are going to be used. The policy for Conservation of monuments is primarily aimed at extending the life of the monument without altering their original features. Reconstruction of the missing portions is kept to the barest minimum except when it is absolutely necessary for its structural stability. The guidelines for conservation works are laid down in the Archaeological Works Code and Archaeological Conservation Manual.

The objectives of the Conservation is "To conserve and preserve the monuments and the natural resources around, improve the infrastructure and visitor management, carry out tourist developmental activities and arrange training programs for higher quality of tourism, and improve the quality of life of local population around centrally protected monuments and also to integrate the local population with the development of tourism". It is the responsibility of the state government, the tourism department, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Husainabad Trust to protect and maintain the great legacy of Lucknow. But unfortunately they haven't done much to restore the lesser-known but significant monuments of the city.

The heritage walk and other similar campaigns have only achieved the renovation of some of Lucknow's more famous monuments that receive recognition every now and then, but Lucknow has a lot more to offer. NGO's like the Lucknow Society, Let's Unite for Culture Knowledge Nationalism and Objective Welfare Society (Lucknow) has done a lot in this regards, and they have also spread awareness using social platforms and organizing quizzes and literary festivals. Their campaign, "Save our heritage" aimed to save the diminishing heritage of Lucknow, to fight for the restoration of monuments and culture to its lost glory. Shamim A. Aarzo, General Secretary of the society said, "'Save Our Heritage' is a campaign in itself to save the heritage from the decline & to make authorities as well as citizens aware about the heritage and finally to work for the preservation & promotion of the monumental heritage".

On the contrary Superintendent Archaeologist of ASI Lucknow Circle P.K Mishra said, "There are no ignored or neglected monuments under ASI, we look after every monument but some circumstances obstruct us to restore some illegally occupied monuments but we still try our best to restore them". Oldest monuments which require immediate action are Tombs of Nadan

Mahal which belong to the Mughal Emperior Akbar (16 Century), Nadan Mahal Tomb of Sheikh Abdul Rahim Bijnori which is the only surviving monument of Akbar's time but is in endangered condition. Another vanished structure adjacent to the tomb was the Alamgir mosque built by Aurangzab. Another monument is the Tomb of Janab-e-Aliya, Golaganj, established by the British during the Indian Mutiny (Freedom Struggle) of 1857-58. It is a holy mausoleum surrounded by houses and ill-maintained. Other important structures of historical importance which need to be refurbished to their lost glory are Lal Baradari & Gateway at Badshah Bagh, Lucknow University, and Gori Bibi Ka Maqbara, Lamartinere College. Both these structures are found under the unused premises of the institutions but no authority is concerned about their maintenance. List of monuments that need repair is very long, but the following are the monuments which needs immediate attention:

- + Bakshi Ka Talab, Sitapur Road.
- + Tikait Rai Talab, Rajajipuram.
- + Hussainabad Gateway, Hussainabad.
- + Alambagh (Kothi) Palace, Alambagh.
- + Kasheshwarnath Temple, Mohanlalganj
- + Kothi Darshan Bilas, Near High Court.
- + Musabagh, Hardoi Road.
- + Shishey Wali Masjid, Purana Quila.
- + Rifa-e Aam Club, Near City Station.
- + Paanch Minara Masjid, Near City Station. Etc.

As I live in Lucknow itself, recognised, Tourists are the ones you see rolling down car windows and throwing out rubbish etc, over onto peoples gardens thinking it is a field (as if that is an excuse) and refuse to pick it up when pointed out. They are the ones who stand and point at the kids here, and laugh at how they dress as nothing has a name on it. They are the ones who come and feel that they are onto their own private land, where they have all the rights to do as they want, and when asked to not to do so, they tell you they have a right to roam and no one has the right to stop them. They visit the cultural heritage as a private park, roam hither and thither and threw the rapers and packets of food stuffs and all. Sometimes they use the monuments as their room toilets, this is the very absurd thing, which is not strictly no to do in these spots. These

monuments and forts are our heritage and we should protect it and to make it clean as well. We should avoid to make scratches on the wall of monuments, these monuments are not the perfect prop to use as to give love message to beloved ones. We are not giving proof of our love by doing such rubbish things, though we are losing ourselves as lover of the culture. Have fun by visiting these heritage and leave it as it is clean to visit out next generation as well. It is not an advice, it is just our prime duty, which we have forgotten somewhere.

Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with this use within the acceptable limits of change. Uncontrolled conventional tourism poses potential threats to many natural areas around the world. It can put enormous pressure on an area and lead to impacts such as: soil erosion, increased pollution, discharges into the sea, natural habitat loss, increased pressure on endangered species and heightened vulnerability to forest fires. It often puts a strain on water resources, and it can force local populations to compete for the use of critical resources.

It is the hope to all the visitors and tourists, to be polite, accept the right way of life and stop trying to make others feel bad about anything by doing yourselves, don't think the whole country is your personal bin, dispose of things properly. When driving anywhere, find out about rules and regulations and local practices before going so not annoy everyone who lives there all year round. Your happiness can be harmful for others and their environment, in which they have to survive with their day-to-day life.

The quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential to tourism. However, tourism's relationship with the environment is complex - many activities can have adverse environmental effects. So many of you if ever would have been in Lucknow like me, will agree that each day is distinct here. The shades of the monuments differ with each sun and moon. You discover and rediscover Lucknow every day. No one has known Lucknow to the full and will never. That is why: "Jisey Aap Kehte Hain Lucknow - Usey Hum Kehte Hain Duja Jahan" (The place that you call Lucknow - we call the other world).

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