



# VINDHYACHAL

**ETERNAL SEAT OF POWER ENDOWED WITH THREE GODDESSES**



Ashtabuja Devi



Vindhyawasini Devi



Kali Devi-Kalikhoh

**Vindhya Region** is such a unique place enriched with historical, spiritual and natural heritage which comprises of the proximity of long-lasting vindhya mountain-range on one side whereas on the other side it has full of rare attractive heritage of historical forts, mansions, caves containing wall painting, stone carved statues, very old fossils, picturesque wild-life and full of springs, rivers annexed with sweet rippling sound and unsurpassed natural beauty. The renowned centres of reverence since time immemorial situated in this area have always been the source of inspiration to pilgrims from the very old age.

In this context special mention is required about Vindhychal town situated at the bank of Ganga River in Mirzapur district. While visiting to this place pilgrims enjoy the privilege of three-tier appearances of mother goddesses Laxmi-Kali & Sarswati. This is the very reason that specific importance has been mentioned about triangular-circumambulation of vindhya town in the scriptures. The pilgrims after catching a glimpse of the temple of Mother Vindhya wasini in the holy city they go around Mother Kali-khoh, Mother Asthabhuja (having eight hands) and other temples. This area has a provision of bath in the holy water of kali-kund (water-tank). The circumambulation of this place is completed after having a glimpse of tank of Mahatma (great soul) Karnagiri.

In old treatises the names of Mother Vindhya wasini are known as Vardayani, Vardeshwari, Varda, Vindhychalwashni, Lokpujya et cetera –

**SA Vindhya wasni Vishnornuja Vrdeshwari** –Shrimad Devi Bhagwat.

As per Shri Devi Bhagwat (a treatise) while describing about her abodes Mother Bhagwati has stated Vindhychal to be her best abode. –

**Vindhychal Niwasinyah Sthanam Sarvottamam | |**

The following lines of 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Shri Durga Saptasati explain the antiquity and glory of Vindhychal.

**Nand-gop-grihe jata , yasoda -garva-sambhwa | tatastau nasyishhyami , vindhychal niwasini | |**



## Maa Vindhyawasini Devi Temple-

Maa Vindhyawasini Devi temple is the main attraction of Vindhyachal town. Because of its specific glory it has been a centre of reverence and inspiration for loyal and steadfast devotees from ancient period. A large number of spectators across the native places visit here during Navratra festivals in Chaitra (March-April) and Aashwin (September-October). The temple premises houses different idols and these not only filled with chanting of devotional songs and buzzing sound of drums- bells and blowing of conch but also provide a unique sense of atmosphere with fume of oblation offered to fire-god. In the temple premises the devotees consider themselves to be blessed by worshipping and having a glimpse of Maa Vindhyawashini, Mahakali, Maha Sarsawati, Panchmukhi (having five faces) Mahadev, Dakhinmukhi (south-facing) Hanuman and hall of religious sacrifice and oblation et cetera.



Panchmukhi Mahadev



Temple premises of Ma Vindhyawasini



Organising of kindled lamp on daily basis at the premises of Maa Vindhyawasini temple too has its own importance and attraction. Kindled lamp ( Aarti) are held in four phases. :-

- Mangla –Aarti: at 4.00-5.00 P.M.
- Madhyan–Aarti at 12.00-1.30 P.M.
- Sandhya –Aarti at 7.15-8.15 P.M.
- Shayan – Aarti: at 9.00-10.30 P.M.

Vindhya-region is also famous for singing kajli(a typical folk song), whose emergence is associated with Maa Kajla Devi. Kajla devi is the second name of Maa Vindhyawasini Devi. By having a glimpse through smallish window of Maa Vindhyawasini temple the tradition of affixing Kajli-tika (a mark put on the forehead) is still in vogue. In every year famous kajli-singers assemble at the temple of Maa Vindhyswasini temple at Akadashi (eleventh day of either half of a lunar month) of Krishna paksh(dark half of a lunar month) in Jyestha mas( third month of a Hindu calendar) and begin their worship through kajli-singing which continue up to the end of the rainy season.



Maha Kali Temple



Temple Premises



Maa Kali

## Maa Kalikhoh Temple

This place is situated at vindhya-mountain. Here lies the grand temple of Mother Kali. As the saying goes that when deities were being terrified by the demons they eulogised Bhagwati Parvati. By hearing the pathetic tale she got enraged very much. As a result the colour of mother turned black. For this very reason Bhagwati Maa became renowned as Maa Kali, Chandi, Chamunda and Chandika etc. In the temple premises one can view other deities along with Mother Kali. While wandering in the premises tourists are seen feeding the monkeys with **graman** parched grain.



Temple-Premises



Maa Ashtabhuj

## Maa Ashtabhuja Devi Temple

Maa Ashtabhuja Devi Temple is situated at exquisitely charming **vindhya-mountain** and at a distance of just three Kilometer far from Maa **Vindhyawasini Devi Temple**. This place is associated with the tenet of **myth**. According to this when Kans was going to kill the **newly born** daughter of Yashoda by knocking down at the ground realizing it to be the eighth issue of Devaki ( on **previous** occasion kans had heard a destined voice of heaven that eighth issue of Devaki would kill him ) the girl slipped from his hand and made her way to celestial sphere and at a later stage appeared in the form of Shakti (the goddess of power) at **vindhya** -mountain. The temple is situated at a height. First one has to travel by a vehicle then **by** using stair one can go there easily. One can enjoy the charming bird's view of Vindhyachal **city** from the temple. In and around Maa Ashtabhuja temple and adjoining temple premises there are a lot of temples and other sight-seeing places.



Maa Ashtabhuja Temple





श्री गणेशाय नमः  
श्री गणेशाय नमः  
श्री गणेशाय नमः  
श्री गणेशाय नमः

Bhairav-Kund

## Sita-Kund

There is one more water-spring near Maa Ashtbhuj temple, whose water is collected in a tank. The assumption is that Sitaji had bathed over here, as such it is known as Sita-kund. Statues of Lord Hanuman, Ram, Sitaji are placed near the tank. Bhairav-Bhairavi temple, Bhairav kund (tank), elaborated unique shriyantra (instrument of wealth and glory) engraved on the stone of Maa Kali temple, Shri Ram Charan Paduka (footwear) etc. are seen near Maa Ashtabhuj temple.



Sita-Kund



Bhairav-Bhairavi Temple



'Shriyantra' engraved on stone

## Bhairav temple

As per the belief to protect vindhyachal, vaman bhairav is located here. In the east Anand bhairav, in the west Siddhanath , in the south Kapal bhairav, and in the north Rudra bhairav are situated. Lal bhairav, Batuk bhairav (kal bhairav) temples are situated in different places of the city.

## Budhenath temple

In the middle of the city at trimuhani bazaar area at budhenath locality this temple is situated. Shivling, the statues of Hanumanji and other deities are established near Maa Vindhyawasini Devi temple. As per mythological tales Shivling established in this temple is having symmetry with the Shivling of old temple of Baba Vishwanath of Varanasi.

## Tarkeswarnath temple

According to a legend, tarkeswarnath temple situated near kachahari (court), Mother Laxmi had gone into penance at this very place by hearing the greatness of Tarkeswarnath from Lord Vishnu. Even after prolonged penance Lord Shiva did not appear. Then Mahamaya dug a tank towards north of tarkeswar. This tank was later renowned as Laxmi-kund.



Batuk Bhairav Temple



Lal Bhairav Temple



Rameshwara Mahadev Temple



Maa Taradevi Temple

## **Narad ghat**

The grand importance of this ghat has been mentioned in mythology. In the old days this was known as Karma Narayan ghat.

## **Rameshwara Mahadev temple**

This temple is situated near Ram-Gaya ghat. As per tenets Lord Ram had offered oblation to his forefather at this Shivling which had been established by Bharat(yonger brother of Lord Ram)as per Legend.

## **Taradevi temple**

This temple is situated in the burning ghat area of Ram-Gaya ghat of the city. This temple has wide recognition. The grand statue of Bhagwati Tara is established here. It is said that at Ram-Gaya ghat Lord Ram has offered oblation to his forefathers.

## **Vamandev temple**

At the confluence of Ojhla and Ganga river near Vindhyachal at kantit gram(village)ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu in the rare form of Vaman statue are worth seeing.



Kantit Sharif



Nag Kund

## Kantit Sharif

Kantit Sharif situated at kantit locality of the city is not only visited by Muslim community alone but people of all communities visit to offer prayers. It is a tomb of Ismail Chistiji who happens to be the nephew of Khwaja Chistiji of Ajmer Sharif. On 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> day of sighting of moon in the month of Rajjab (as per muslim calendar) urs (a muslim religious function) is observed. It is the general assumption that if one cannot go to Ajmer for whatsoever reason he should visit this tomb. This visit gives the same grace as it would have been in the case of visiting Ajmer.

## Nag kund

This place is reckoned as the oldest places in the city. Here the pond with 52 ghats (banks) was got constructed by kings of Nag-dynasty. On Nag Panchmi day (a Hindu festival) dipping in the pond is regarded to be of specific important.

## Other worthy places to visit

Vindheswar temple, Kumud Hanuman, Kamakshya Devi Chhetrapal, Chitwa-Khoh, pond of Lalbhatt, ek-dant Ganesh, Sapta-Sarowar, remains of Pratapbhanu fort, Shiv-Khoh, Bhraamari, Virodhini, Virbhadra, Sankatmochan Hanuman, penance site of Ravan, Sakhi Gopal temple, Sheshhsayi Vishnu, tomb of Bengali Baba , Sidhkali temple of Patalpuri, Akadas Rudra temple, Matsyendra-Kund, Goraksh-Kund, Maa Aanandmayi Aashram, Ram Janki temple, Akshomya temple, Sanktadevi temple, Shitla Devi temple et cetera.

## **Gerua Talab**

This place is situated at vindhya-mountain ,which is 14 k.m. away from the city. The statue of Lord Shri Krishna is installed here in an old temple. Clay of gerua(ochrous) colour is found near the temple. Here lies a nice water-pool too.

## **Motia Talab**

This place is situated at Vindhya-mountain amidst charming atmosphere at a distance of 2 k.m. west of Gerua Talab. Water-pool divided in two parts, and old temples of Lord Shankar and Hanuman are centres of attraction.

## **Akodhi temple- Kankal Kali temple**

This temple is situated at 14 k.m. west of Vindhyachal in Akhori Gram (village). As per general assumption this temple had got constructed by Akrodh Muni.

## **Badevranath Shiwdham**

Jigna is situated 35 k.m. away at Vindhyachal-Allahabad route. A grand fair is organised at this famous seat of a deity on 13<sup>th</sup> day of paush (tenth month of Hindu calendar)and on Mahashivratri.

## **Khaira Shiwdham**

This old Shiv temple is situated at Jigna which is 42k.m. away on Vindhyachal-Allahabad route. On the eve of Maha Shivratri , Kartik Purnima and on every Monday a large number of devotees assemble here.



Budhenath Temple



MIRZAPUR

Ornated Ghat of Ganga



## MIRZAPUR

With the proximity of patit-pavani( one who uplifts the downtrodden )Ganga river and famous seat of power Vindhyachal, the city of Mirzapur is glorified with the junction of faith, craftsmanship and traditions. At the bank of Ganga River a decorated ghat constructed with stone, the attractive Clock Tower constructed in a very artistic way in the year1891 in gothic style, old temples and other historical places are the testimony of glorious history of Mirzapur. Brass, china-clay, carpet and a kind of mat making handicrafts in an artistic way et cetera are the speciality of this region. It is the origin of famous folk song Kajri , which is famous in distant areas.

### Adalpura Sheetla Dham

This temple is situated 45k.m. away from Mirzapur on the bank of river Ganga in Adalpura. In the Navaratri, huge number of devotees come here for Darshan. People say the idol of Devi Sheetla was founded by Nishad from river Ganga.

### Bhandari Devi Temple

This temple is situated on a mountain in Ahraura, which is around 60 k.m. away from Mirzapur district headquarters. People from nearby districts come here for darshan. Near temple there is a stone carving of King Ashoka which is preserved by Archeological Survey of India.



Shahid Smarak Udyan



Sri Balaji Temple

Places Worth of Seeing in Mirzapur

Tarkeshvar Mahadev temple, Budhenath temple, Sankatmochan temple (Wasliganj), Lohdi Mahaveer temple (bridge of eleven planks), Ojhla bridge, Ghore Shahid baba ,Panchmukhi Shiv temple(Bariaghat), Hotel Jhanhwi Ghat, Choubey Ghat, Lalla Ghat, Naar Ghat, Pucca Ghat, Sundar Ghat, Kachhari Ghat, Church ( mission compound), Balaji temple, Shahid Smarak Udyan et cetera.



Stone Ghat



Shiv Temple



Ojhla Bridge



Devdari-Waterfall

## Worth seeing sites in the vicinity

### **Gurudwara Ahraura and Chota Mirzapur**

Ahraura is 52 k.m. away from Mirzapur on Varanasi-Sonebhadra route and Chhota Mirzapur is 55 k.m. away from Mirzapur on Chunar-Varanasi route. These places are situated under Narayanpur development block. Guru Teg Bahadur ji while going from prayag to Varasnasi had taken a glimpse of Maa Vindhya wasini Devi in course of his entourage programme.

### **Gurudwara Bhuili Sahib**

This place is situated 30k.m. away from Varanasi. Guru Teg Bahadur Ji had stayed at bhuili while going to Patna.

- **Lower Khajuri Jalashaya (water-pool) – (10 k.m.)**
- **Tanda waterfall (14k.m.)**
- **Wyndham waterfall (16k.m.)**
- **Sirsi waterfall (45k.m.)**
- **Devdari waterfall (120 k.m.)**

## Chunar

It is 40k.m. away from Varansi and 35 k.m. away from Mirzapur. It is situated at the bank of river Ganga. Chunar had its glorious history. This place is associated with mythological stories of Vaman-Vishnu and others. In old literature this place is known as Charanadri, Nainagarh et cetera. The specific attraction of this place is the grand fort erected on hill and situated at the bank of Ganga River. This fort was constructed by King Vikramaditya for his brother King Bhartihari. In the very premises of this fort the tomb of king Bhartihari is also situated. In respect of Sonwa-Mandap housed in the fort there is a public saying that in the year 1029 king of Kannauj State Raja Sahdev had made a public announcement regarding her daughter Sonwa that whosoever would defeat her in the warfare, he would get her daughter married to him. In the warfare 52 kings conceded their defeat and were imprisoned in the fort. To commemorate this event king got constructed an umbrella with 52 pillars supporting it near the tank in the fort. At last the brave youth of Mahoba 'UDAL' defeated Sonwa and married her. After marriage 'UDAL' along with his brother AALHA went to Mahoba. Residence of Warren Hastings and a sun-dial is also situated in the fort.





Durga-Khoh

## Durga -Khoh

Merely one kilometre from Chunar Railway station and in the south-west direction this charming place is situated at the bank of a tiny spring named Jhirna Nala. Here in the natural cave an old temple of goddess Durgaji lies. Because of this fact this place is renowned as Durga-khoh. Reputed archaeologist A. Cunningham had discovered this place in the year 1883-84. He introduced the rock-painting drawn at the wall of the cave of Gupta period along with small records.



Sonwa-Mandap



Old Temple of Goddess Durga



Makbara of Ifthikhar Khan

## Sidhnath ki dari

This charming place is situated at a distance of 20k.m. from Chunar. Waterfall descends from the height of 300 feet. On the other side of the waterfall lies the tomb of Saint Sidhnath. Nearby lies the fort of Shakteshgarh , which was constructed by Shaktesh Singh in 16<sup>th</sup> century. This is a charming place to enjoy the leisure moments.



## Bada Gaon

This place has been famous as an excavation-point of stone for the last 2300 years. This place is situated at a distance of about 2 k.m. from Chunar railway station. It is said that sandy rocks of this place were used for the pillars of Ashokan-period. Some of the stone pieces are important as they depict the rare stone-painting belonging to third century B.C. . This is an important place for the people interested in archaeology.

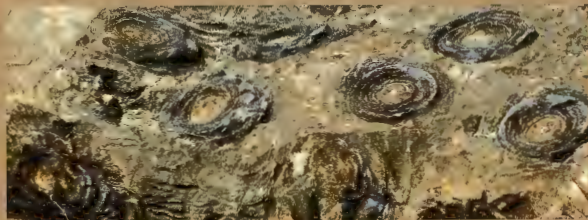


# Sonebhadra

This place is situated at a distance of 89 k.m. from Mirzapur. This region is very rich in attractive tourist spots. The sub regional area of this vast territory comprises of multi-faceted items at different places. These items are archaeological, historical, spiritual and full of unsurpassed natural beauty spots consisting of rivers, falls and wild-life. Rivers like Sone, Karmnasa, Chandraprabha, Rihand, Kanhar, Renu, Ghaghar, Belan with mineral resources and folk-dance like karma are the heritages of this region.



Salkhan fossils



Rock Painting





## Places worth visiting

Baraila (shiv temple), prasi(shahid udyan), Gauri Shankar (shiv-temple) Mahuria(wild life sanctuary), Shivdwar (historical statue of lasya style of uma-Maheswar belonging to eleventh century), Mukhha (water fall, cave painting), Panchmukhi (cave painting, Soneghati, Shiv temple), Mau (museum, Buddha temple, Akmukhi and Sahashra Shivling), Vijaygarh (fort, the tomb of Miran Shah, Ram Sagar talab), Markundi, (Lorik stone pillar, sone view), Salkhan (very old fossils scattered in vast area), Chopan

(Shivalay of Gothani, Kudavidevi, Agori fort), Ghorawal (statue of lord Vishnu), Shaktinagar (N.T.P.C- Singrauli, Jwaladevi), Renukut (Hindalco, Lotus temple, Renukeshwar Mahadev, Shri Ram Mandir, Radha- Krishan Mandir), Pipri (Rihand dam, natural scene of Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar), Obra (Electrical project) et cetera.



Fort of Vijaygarh



Statue of Lord Hanuman



Boating facility at the Lake

## Sitamarhi

This is a charming place situated at a distance of about 45 k.m. from Vindhyachal (via-Gopiganj-Jangiganj). In the main temple dedicated to mother Sita, a grand statue of Sita ji has been installed and the story of her merging into the land has been depicted in an attractive manner. In addition the gigantic statue of Pawansut (son of Lord of air) Lord of Hanuman, Valmiki temple, Shiv temple situated in caves have been attractively constructed. Lake with the facility of boating and guest house are some of the attractions of this place.



Statue of Goddess Sita

## Varanasi

Vindhyachal is an important site of attraction due to nearness to Varanasi (70 k.m.). Tourists enjoy the viewing of long ranges of ghats situated at the bank of Ganga River, and the temples of Kashi Vishwanath, Kalbhairav, Sankatmochan, Maa Durga- Annapurna and centres of learning like Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya, Kashi Vidyapith. Ganga Mahotsav- Dev Deepawali, Shivratri, Ram Lila of Ramnagar, Nakkataiya, Bharat Milap, Nag Nathaiya festivals et cetera are special attraction of this place.



Dev Deepawali, Varanasi



Ghats of River Ganga



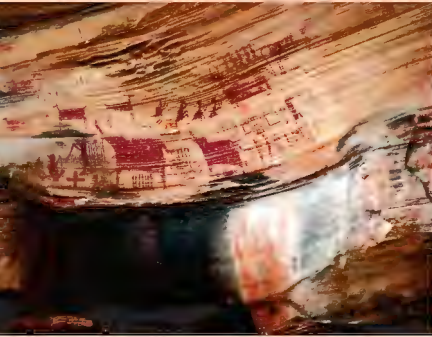
Temple of Bade Hanuman-Shankar  
Viman Mandapam

## Allahabad

Allahabad is situated at a distance of 125 k.m. from Vindhyachal town. This place is famous around the world for holding Kumbh fair. Here, the devotees can see Sangam (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati river), Bade Hanumanji, Shankar Viman Mandapam, Bhardwaj Aashram, Anand Bhawan, Khusrobagh, University, museum and other places of attraction. Organising of Annual Magh fair, Dashehra-Ramdal are worth-seeing functions.



Magh Mela, Allahabad



Rock Paintings

## How to reach there

By AIR – nearest airport is Babatpur(Varanasi-102 k.m.)

By RAIL and ROAD – well- connected with all the prominent cities of the country.

Important fairs and festivals – Navratra( in the month of chaitra and Ashwin), Ramnavami, Shivratri, Shraavan Mela.

Local handicrafts – pot of china clay, toys, utensils of brass and copper, carpets and mats, articles made from stone and bamboo, adoration-material et cetera.

### Do's

- Tourist information should be sought from reliable sources only.
- Take care of your belongings.
- Always keep the contact details, e-mail address of your hotel, tour operator, tourist guide etc.
- Currency exchange should be done through authorised bank or registered money exchange centre.
- Always rely on authentic website or booking centre for ticket, tour and hotel booking.
- Always take services of licence/ authorised tourist guide.
- Always keep your travel documents, passport, tickets etc. carefully.
- Follow the decorum of religious places.
- Maintain the cleanliness of tourist place.
- Dispose the garbage in dustbin available near by you or carry the same in a paper of plastic bag till you find one to dispose.

### Don'ts-

- Do not accept edibles or drinks from any stranger.
- Do not do photography in restricted areas or sites.
- Do not use drone camera without prior permission of local police/ administration.
- Do not consume drugs or any other prohibited intoxicant.
- Don't go with unacquainted to any unknown place.

# Road Map – Vindhya Region

## Accommodation Facilities

### Vindhyachal

- U.P.S.T.D.C. Yatri Niwas, Hanuman mandir tiraha (junction of three paths)- Bartar, Vindhyachal  
e-mail: yatriniwasvindhyachal@up-tourism.com
- Hotel Ratnakar, Shiv Durga Atithi Bhawan,
- Jaypuria Atithi Bhawan
- Birla Atithi Bhawan, Jaysawal Atithi Bhawan
- Kamla Yatri Niwas, Hotel Sandip International, Amrawati Chouraha (junction of four roads)
- Hotel Vindhya Residency, Rehra chungli

### Mirzapur

- U.P.S.T.D.C. Hotel Janhwi , Mirzapur e-mail-rahitbmirzapur@up-tourism.com ●Hotel Shyam Utsav, Narghat ●Hotel The Galaxy ●Hotel O.K. Deluxe ●Hotel S. Residency ●Khetan Smriti Bhawan, ●Hotel yes inn ●Hotel The Spring, Bajirao Katra ●Hotel Milan Palace, Lal Diggi ●Hotel Mark One, Lal Diggi Road ●Hotel Chadda inn, Ratanganj ●Hotel Yash Inn, Choube Tola

## Tourist Information Centre :

U.P. Tourist Office, Hotel Jahnwi-campus, Mirzapur  
Email : ato.mirzapur@gmail.com

U.P. Tourist Office, Sanskritik Sankul, Urban haat, Chauka Ghat, Varanasi, Telephone : 0542-2505033  
E-mail : varanasi@up-tourism.com



★ Not to scale



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