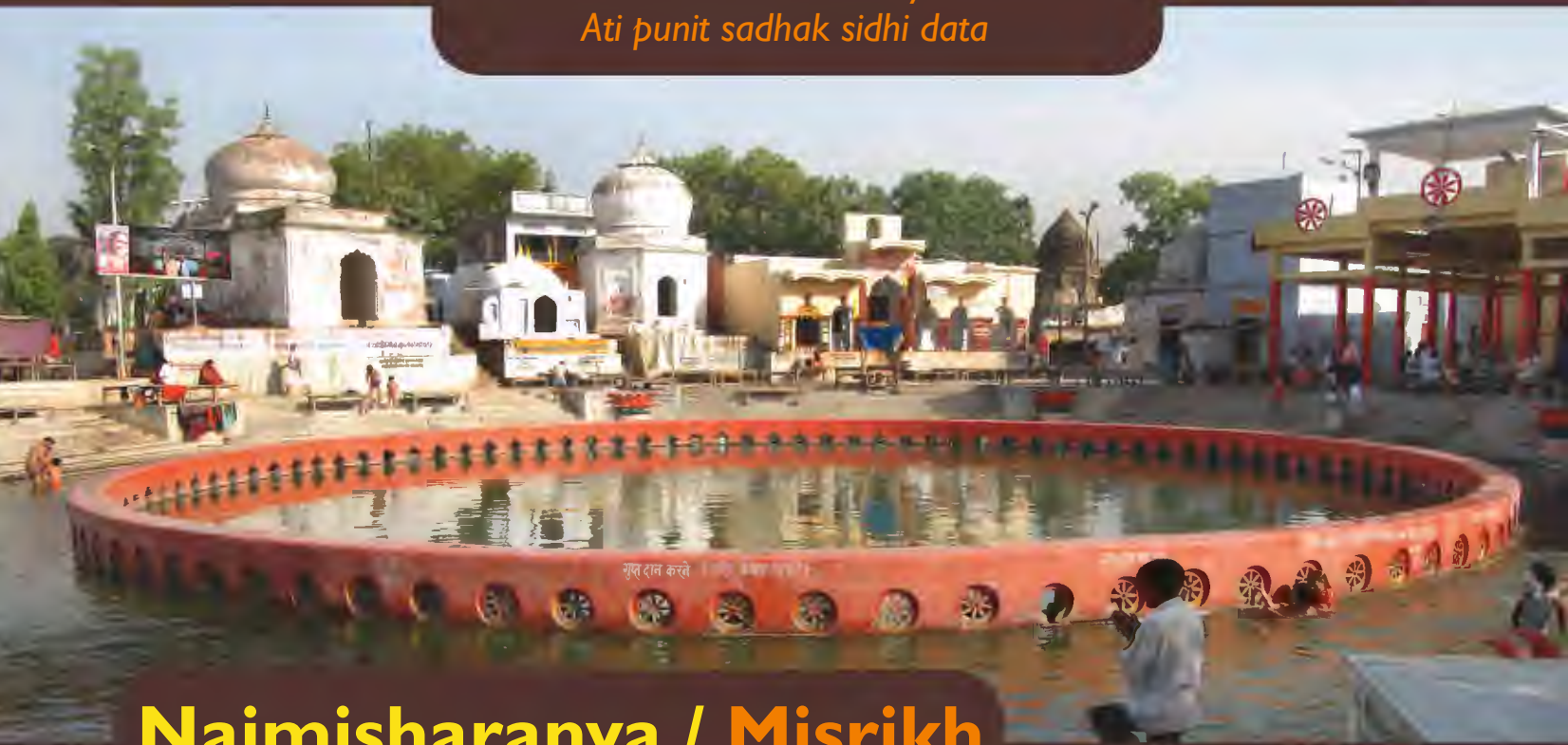


Incredible India!

*Tirat var Namish vikhyata
Ati punit sadhak sidhi data*

Incredible Uttar Pradesh!



Naimisharanya / Misrikh

Yagyavatasch sumhan gomatya naimise vane
aagyaptaam mahabaho tadhi punyamuttama
-Valmiki Ramayana



Introduction

In the human body, the brain has specific significance due to its properties. In the same way, some places on the earth are unique due to their properties. That is why these places are considered as holy in the form of pilgrimage sites.

Located on the banks of the holy rivers, these shrines once used to be the center of penance and worship of the sages, because green forests and pure environments were favourable for spiritual activities. Also, these peaceful pilgrimage centres attracted a lot of followers. With the development of modern civilization, these pilgrimage sites became associated with business activities but their basic belief continued.

One such pilgrimage site is Naimisharanya in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh, whose glory is described in the Puranas. It is said that Shaunak Rishi went to Lord Brahma to pacify the thirst of knowledge. Lord Brahma gave him a 'Chakra' (disk), asked him to keep rotating it and said that wherever the rim of the chakra falls, consider it as a holy place and establish an ashram there. Many other sages along with sage Shaunak left for this purpose. Finally, on the banks of Gomti river, the rim of the chakra fell and got absorbed by the land. Since then, this place became popular as 'Naimisharanya'. According to legend, the name of Naimisharanya is the abnormality of Nimisha, which means the splendour of the eye. During the Vedic period, it was known as a major education center. According to legendary belief, Naimisharanya was the center of learning of 88,000 sages.

It is said about this place, mentioned as Naimish in Valmiki Ramayana that Shri Rama had performed the 'Ashwamedh Yagya' on the banks of river Gomti - 'Laxman was appointed to protect the horse with the Rishis, while Sri Ram left with the army for Naimisharanya'. According to Mahabharata, Yudhisthira and Arjuna had visited this place of pilgrimage. The story of this place is also found in 'Aaine Akbari'. The birthplace (Baari) of the pride of Hindi literature, Mahakavi Narottam Das is also located near Naimisharanya.

It is said that Sage Soot had taught the story and essence of the 18 myths to Shaunak and other sages here. Sri Krishna's brother Balram also came here in Dwapar and performed a sacrifice. In ancient times, large area of this picturesque site was forested. Due to the calm and pleasant atmosphere it is an ideal place for study, meditation and learning.

*The ancient and prevalent 'Sri Satyanarayan Katha' originates from the holy land of Naimisharanya.
It begins with the mention of Naimisharanya*

***Ekda Naimisharanye rishiyah shaunakadayah
prapuchumanyah sarve sutam pauranikam khalu***



*Once in the supreme spiritual place for Vishnu and other Gods, Naimisharanya, Shaunak and other sages
ritualized a great yagya for thousand years with the desire to attain God.*

-Srimadbhagvat Mahapuran - Chapter I

Naimisharanya is mentioned in the Koorm Purana, in which it is said to be famous in all the three worlds-

Eedam trelokyam vikhyatam, teertha naimishuttamam

Mahadev priyakaram, mahapatakashanam

While it is mentioned in Sri Devi Bhagwat that Chakrirtirth and Pushkar are the best pilgrimage centres, devotees believe that the journey to Badrinath and Kedarnath is completed only after completing the journey to Naimisharanya.

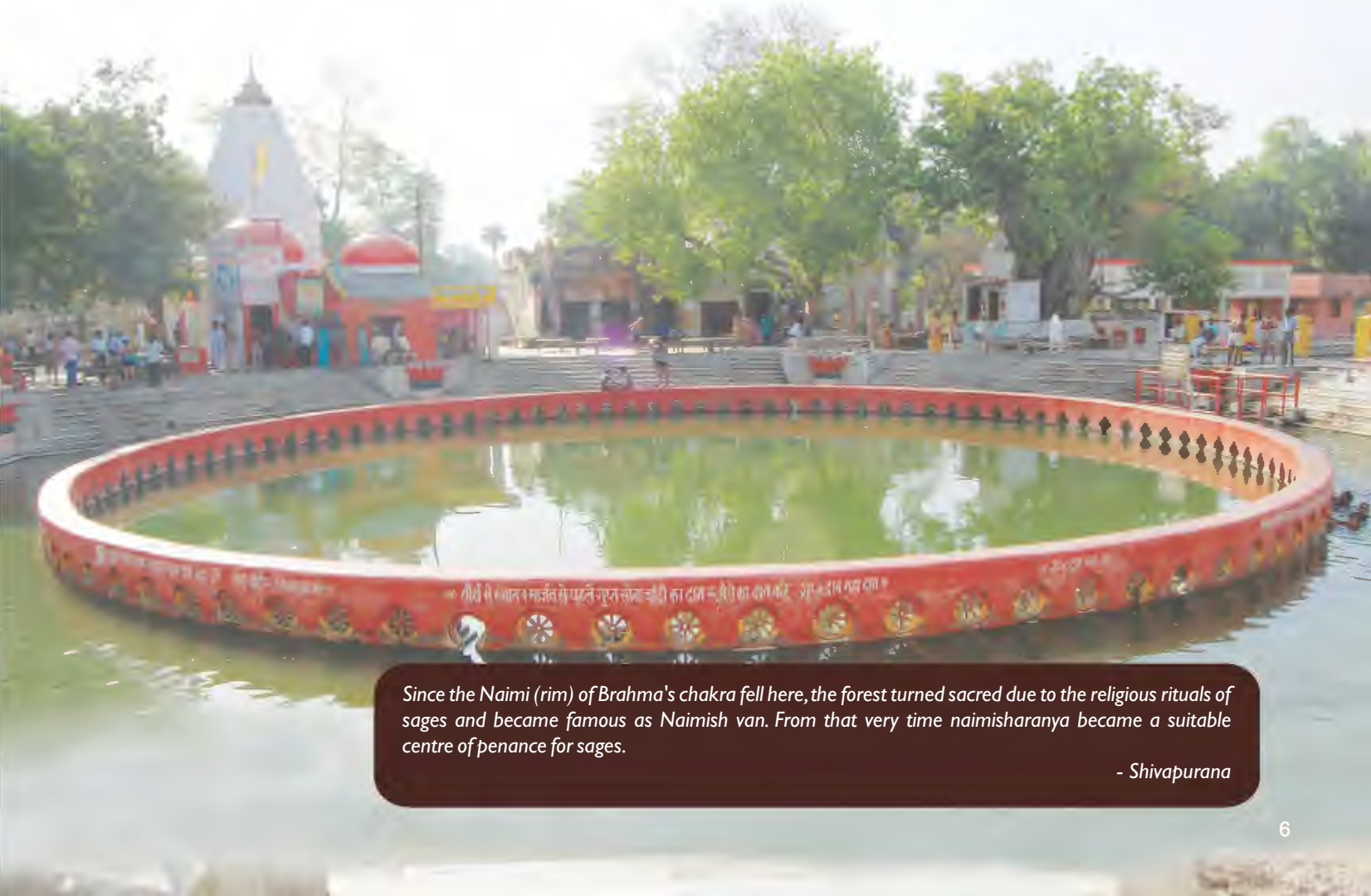
That is why, in the Shri Ramcharitmanas, Goswami Tulsidas had said this in the virtue of glory of Naimisharanya -

Tirat var Namish vikhyata. Ati punit sadhak sidhi data

Naimisharanya is recognized everywhere as the glorified pilgrimage place because of such special glory. That is why every year a large number of devotees come from distant places to visit this place.

Chakrirtirth, Bhooteshwarnath Temple, Vyasgaddi, Hawankund, Lalitadevi Temple, Panchprayag, Shesh Temple, Kshemkaya Temple, Hanumangarhi, Shivala-Bhairavji Temple, Panch Pandav Temple, Puraan Mandir-Ma Anandmayi Hermitage, Naardanand Saraswati Hermitage-Devpuri Temple, Ramanuj Kot, Ahobil Math, Paramhans Gauriya Math etc. and Mishrikh, Dadhichikund situated 10 km away and Hatyahan pilgrimage site situated 12 km away are major attractions of Tirtha Naimisharanya.





Since the Naimi (rim) of Brahma's chakra fell here, the forest turned sacred due to the religious rituals of sages and became famous as Naimish van. From that very time naimisharanya became a suitable centre of penance for sages.

- Shivapurana

Chakratirth

There is a circular lake in the Chakratirth, in which devotees worship and perform puja. It is believed that this is the place where the 'Chakra' given to Maharishi Shaunak and other Rishis by Lord Brahma got absorbed in the earth. Chakratirth has also been mentioned in the Mahabharat, Brahma and Skand Purana. The temples of Goddesses are set up around the lake. In relation to Chakratirth, there is a mention in Shri Devi Bhagwat -

Prathamam Naimisham punyam, chakratirtham cha Pushkaram.

The legend is that a raging stream of water rushed out from the spot where the Chakra dropped by Lord Brahma fell. The sages prayed to Lord Brahma to stop the stream. At the behest of Brahma, Lalita Devi stopped the prevailing water stream by establishing the Chakra in the same place. Since then, there has been a continuous inflow of devotees throughout the year, but their numbers increase on Somavati Amavasya. The stream flows out in small quantity and remains in Chakrakund. There are places like Bhuteshwarnath temple, Sootgaddi, Chakranarayan temple, Badrinarayan temple, Shivalaya-Bhairavji, Kashikund, among others, near Chakratirth.





A large stone idol of Lord Hanuman

Hanumangarhi

There is a huge stone statue of Lord Hanuman near the Pandav Fort. Lord Ram and Lakshman are sitting on the shoulder of this magnificent statue. According to hearsay (Janshruti), Lord Hanuman appeared here from the Pataal after killing Ahiravan. Therefore, this place holds a very special place in the hearts of numerous devotees. Each year people in large numbers arrive here from every corner of the country to pay obeisance. Located on the stairs of the temple, the statues of Lord Ganesh, Makardhwaj and Panch Pandavs along with various other temples are major attractions here.

Pandav Fort (KILA)

Pandav fort is located in the South-West direction of Chakratirth on the banks of river Gomti. According to legend, this fort belonged to King Viraat of the Mahabharat period. The story of Pandavas staying here at the time of exile is also prevalent. There are sculptures of Lord Krishna and Pandavas on the mound. The fractal column of the fort is a witness to its antiquity. A gate in the fort is built in the Hindu style. According to legend, the fort was rebuilt by Alauddin Khilji's Hindu minister in 1305.



Hamumangarhi

Lalita Devi Temple



Varanashyam Vishalakshi, Naimishe Lingdharini.

Lalitadevi Temple

Lalitadevi is the dominant deity of Naimisharanya which has been mentioned in the puranas as a shaktipeeth. It is believed that in the battle between gods and demons, when the gods prayed to Lord Vishnu for the destruction of demons, then Lalitadevi descended on earth. Devotes take a dip in the Chakratirth pond before paying visit to the shrine of Lalitadevi. There are statues of Lal Bhairav and Kameshwar-Kameshwari etc on the temple premises.

Nearby are temples dedicated to Panchmukhi Lord Hanuman, Panch Prayag, Shesh Narayan, Ram Sewri temple, Paramhans Gaudiya Math, Kalipeeth, Lalita Ashram, Nanakshah Sikh Gurudwara, Nimbark Ashram, Kshemkaya Devi, Radha Bihari temple etc.

Swami Naradananda Saraswati Ashram

Ancient traditions of spirituality and education can still be seen in Naimisharanya. In the ashram of Swami Naradananda Saraswati, education is imparted through the ashram concept. There is also a Devpuri temple here.

About one kilometer west of the ashram, on Hardoi Road, there are ancient sites of Rudravart and Dev-Deveshwar.

Paramhans Gaudiya Math

This math is significant to the believers of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu sect. It was established by Swami Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati.



Goddess Lalitadevi



Laliteshwar Mahadev



Glorified Banyan Tree (Vatvriksha)

Vyagaddi : According to legend, it was on this holy land that Maharishi Vyas created Vedas and Puranas. It is believed that the interaction between Maharishi Shaunak and Soot happened near this place. Besides, in a congregation of 84,000 seers here, Soot narrated various Puranas and stories of the Mahabharat for 12 years. It is mentioned in the Matsya Mahapurana: *Sutmekagramseenam Naimisharanyamvasinah.*

Near Vyagaddi are ancient Vativriksha, Vyas Vatika, Odiya Baba temple, Jagadbandhu Ashram, and ashrams of Manu, Shatrupa and sage Kashyapa.

Puran Mandir - Ma Anandmayi Ashram : In this Puran temple near Hanumangadhi all four Vedas are kept. Not far from there are Anandmayi Ashram, Narsinh Temple, Nepali temple, Jagannath temple, Panch Pandav temple, Lakshmi Narayan temple and Gopal temple etc.

Kalipeeth : In the temple premises a grand statue of south facing goddess Kali is a special attraction. Inside the temple statues of Dashmahavidya, Navdurga and 51 Shakti peeths are established.

God Valekar Maharaj Tapasthali Kalipeeth : The temple is visited by thousands of devotees to pay tribute to the great saint God Valekar Maharaj of Maharashtra.

Other Attractions : Besides the above mentioned sports, Naimisharanya is also home to Rudravarth, Devdeveshwar, Soot Gaddi, Devpuri, Rajghat, Dashashwamedha Ghat, Bhooteshwar Mahadev, Sidheshwar Mahadev, Bramha Varth, Manu-Satrupa Tapasthali, Tirupati Balaji, Ved Vyaas Dham etc.



Vyagaddi



Kalipeeth



Godvalekar Maharaj
Tapasthali Kalipeeth



In the Aadi chapter of Padma Puran, it has been said in the glory of Misrikh as-

***Tato gachchet Rajendra, Misrikh Tirthamuttamam
Tatra Tirthani Rajendra, Mishritani Mahatmana.***

Misrikh

Located about 10 kilometers away from Naimisharanya, Misrikh is an important pilgrimage for devouts. It can easily be covered on the trip to Naimisharanya. It is believed that after getting fed up of the atrocities of Vritrasur, the gods sought help from Lord Brahma. Lord Brahma asked Maharishi Dadhichi to donate his bones for the Vajra weapon required to be made to kill Vritrasur.

Before he gave away his bones, Maharishi Dadhichi expressed his desire to take a bath in sacred water from all the rivers of India. Since the great sage mixed water from all rivers to bathe hence the place acquired its name Mishrit or Misrikh.

Sitakund

According to legend, Sita took a bath at this place when Lord Ram, Sita and Laxman were on the way to the forest after they left for exile from Ayodhya. This is why the place got famous as Sitakund.

Dadhichikund

Dadhichikund is believed to be constructed during the period of King Vikramaditya. Later, Queen Ahilyabai renovated it. There are many old temples on all sides of Dadhichikund. Dadhichi temple is the oldest among them. There is also a well in the centre of Dadhichikund. It is believed that holy water from all teerths or pilgrimages was collected in this well. Besides, there is the Dadhichi Ashram and several other temples in the area.



PARIKRAMA (Circumambulation)

Naimisharanya is well-known for its 84-kosi parikrama or circumambulation. Lord Ram is believed to have conducted a yajna-parikrama in Naimish area: '*Anubhiya mahayagyam Naimishe Raghunandanam*'. Thereafter, Maharishi Dadhichi also performed the parikrama. It is remarkable from the historical perspective of the parikrama that even to this day, those who undertake the parikrama are called 'Ramada!' by the common folk. This parikrama is performed every year in a grand way from the Phalgun Amavasya to Phalgun Purnima.

A uniquely special feature of this parikrama is that it gives devotees a rare opportunity to see the namesakes of India's best-known pilgrimages in the form of sacred places. Prominent among these are Ayodhya, Karnaprayag, Vishnu Prayag, Nand Prayag, Guptakashi, Trijuginath, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Kapilmuni, Gangasagar, Jagannathpuri, Baijnath, Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Barsana, Dauji, Govardhan, Madhuvan, Nandgaon, Dhruvteela, Kalighat, Chitrakoot, Rameshwar, Dwarika and Mansarovar.



Gola Gokarnanath



Frog Temple, Oel

Tourist spots in the vicinity

Hatyaharan

About 12 kilometers from Naimisharanya is Hatyaharan, which is mentioned in various ancient texts. According to mythology, Lord Indra, Lord Ram and Balram came here to get rid of a curse. This also comes under the 84-kosi parikrama of Naimisharanya. A fair is organized on the banks of the lake in Hatyaharan in the month of Bhadrapad. Besides, ancient temples are also worth visiting. Not far are the archaeological dunes of Ori Deeh.

Baadi

About 36 kilometers from the Naimisharanya-Sidhauli highway is a place called Baadi. It is famous as the birth place of the great poet Narottamdas who is the creator of Sudama-Charit and other classics.

Gola Gokarnanath

Located about 110 kilometers from Naimisharanya on a hillock, Gola Gokarnanath is a place of mythological importance. Apart from the main shrine, there are several small temples and holy water bodies at this place mentioned in several sacred texts. In the main temple, there is a round stone in a well four feet below the ground as a linga or phallus.

Among tourist places nearby are Devkali (33 km from Gola Gokarnanath) and the unique Medhak Mandir or Frog Temple (49 km from Gola) in Oel. There is also the Gajmochan Lake which is worth a visit.

Hanumat Dham

About 125 kilometers from Naimisharanya is Hanumat Dham in Shahjahanpur. It is famous for a 104-foot tall grand idol of Lord Hanuman and attracts hoardes of devotees. The holy site is on Visratghat on the banks of the Khannaut River.

- Hardoi - 34 km • Sitapur - 40 km • Sidhauri - 47 km
- Lucknow - 95 km • Dudhwa National Park - 170 km
- Kanpur - 175 km • Bithoor (Brahmavarta) - 197 km
- Ayodhya - 235 km



104 feet high magnificent statue of Lord Hanuman.

How to reach

Naimisharanya is situated about 95 km by road from Lucknow. Facility of travelling by bus/taxi is available. On the Lucknow-Delhi train route, from Balamau railway station to Sitapur rail line lies the Naimisharanya railway station.

Nearest Airport- Lucknow (Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport) Travel-tours are arranged from Lucknow by Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation.

Contact details:

UPTOURS, Hotel Gomti
6-Sapru Parg, Lucknow
Tel: 0522-2612659, 2615005
E-mail: uptourslko@up-tourism.com

Important Telephone Numbers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • District Magistrate, Sitapur | 05862-242900, 242996 |
| • Superintendent of Police, Sitapur | 05862-248315, 272704 |
| • SDM, Misrikh | 05865-222241 |
| • Police Station, Naimisharanya | 05865- 251219 |
| • Post Office, Naimisharanya | 05865-251201 |
| • Post Office, Misrikh | 05865-222270 |

Accommodation Facility

- Modi Guest House
- Dixit Satsang Bhavan and Atithi grih
- Chaudhary Paragilal Dharamshala
- Shri Sanadhya Dharamshala

- Nepali Dharamshala, Purva Ward, Lalitadevi-Chakratirth road
- Morarka Bada Dharamshala, Uttara Ward, Lalitadevi-Chakratirth road
- Shri Ark Suryavanshiya Kshatriya Dharamshala
- Vishwakarma Dharamshala, Purva Ward, Lalitadevi-Chakratirth road
- Vishram Sadan, Barabanki Dharamshala
- Balmukund Ashram Dharamshala, Dakshina ward, near Ramanuj Temple
- Kolkata Dharamshala
- Rastogi Dharamshala
- Marwadi Panchayati Dharamshala
- There is Dharamshala in Misrikh too
- Nardanand Ashram

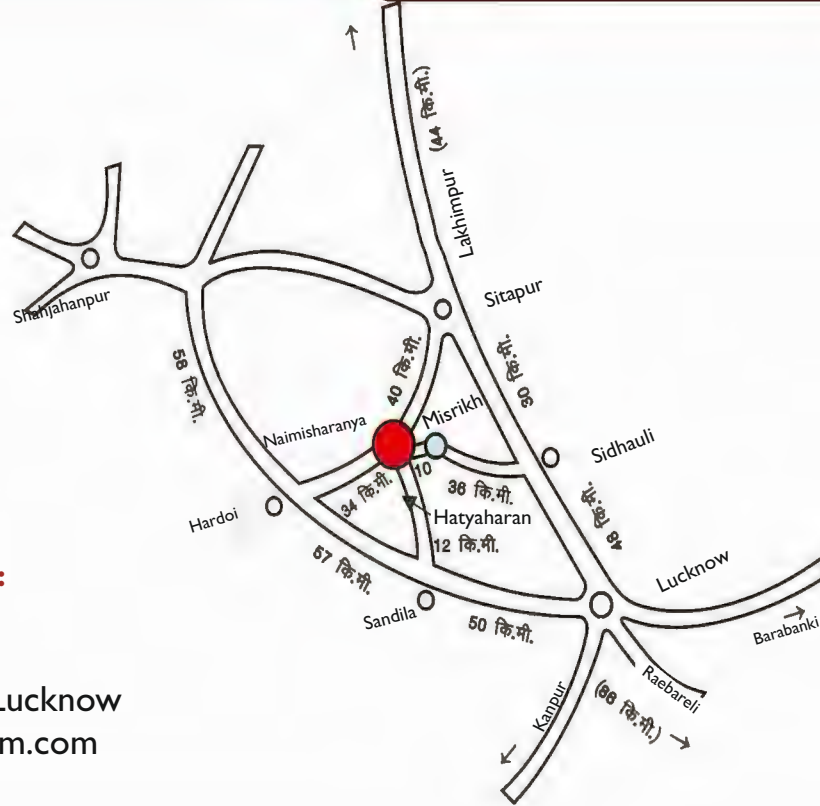
Hotel of Naimisharanya

- **Hotel Treat Vaishnav, Bhojanalay**
Tel. : 9670006205, 9838621907,
Email : treatfamilyrestaurant@gmail.com
- **Hotel Krishna Sparsh**
Tel. : 9005113150, Email : krishan.sparsh70@gmail.com
- **Hotel Abhaydeep**, Tel. : 9792515585
Kali Peeth Atithi Bhawan, Tel. : 9936146700
Email : gopalpujari@gmail.com,
kalipeethsansthan@gmail.com

U.P. Tourism Accommodation Facility

Paryatak Awas Grih, Naimisharanya, Tel.: 05865-251287
e-mail : rahitbneemsar@up-tourism.com

Map



For more details please contact:

Regional Tourist Office
1st Floor, Paryatan Bhawan,
C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomtinagar, Lucknow
E-mail: uptourismlko@up-tourism.com
Tel No : 0522-2307670



Shivalinga-
Chakratirth, Naimisharanya

*Naimisharanya is a supreme pilgrimage.
It bestows enjoyment as well as salvation.
- Agni Puran 'tirth-mahatmay-varnan'*

Uttar Pradesh

You haven't seen India till you've seen U.P.

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