

राजास

Suratgarh – Anupgarh –  
Kalibangan – Hanumangarh -  
Goga Medi – Rakhigarhi - Agroha

# Tour Details & Map

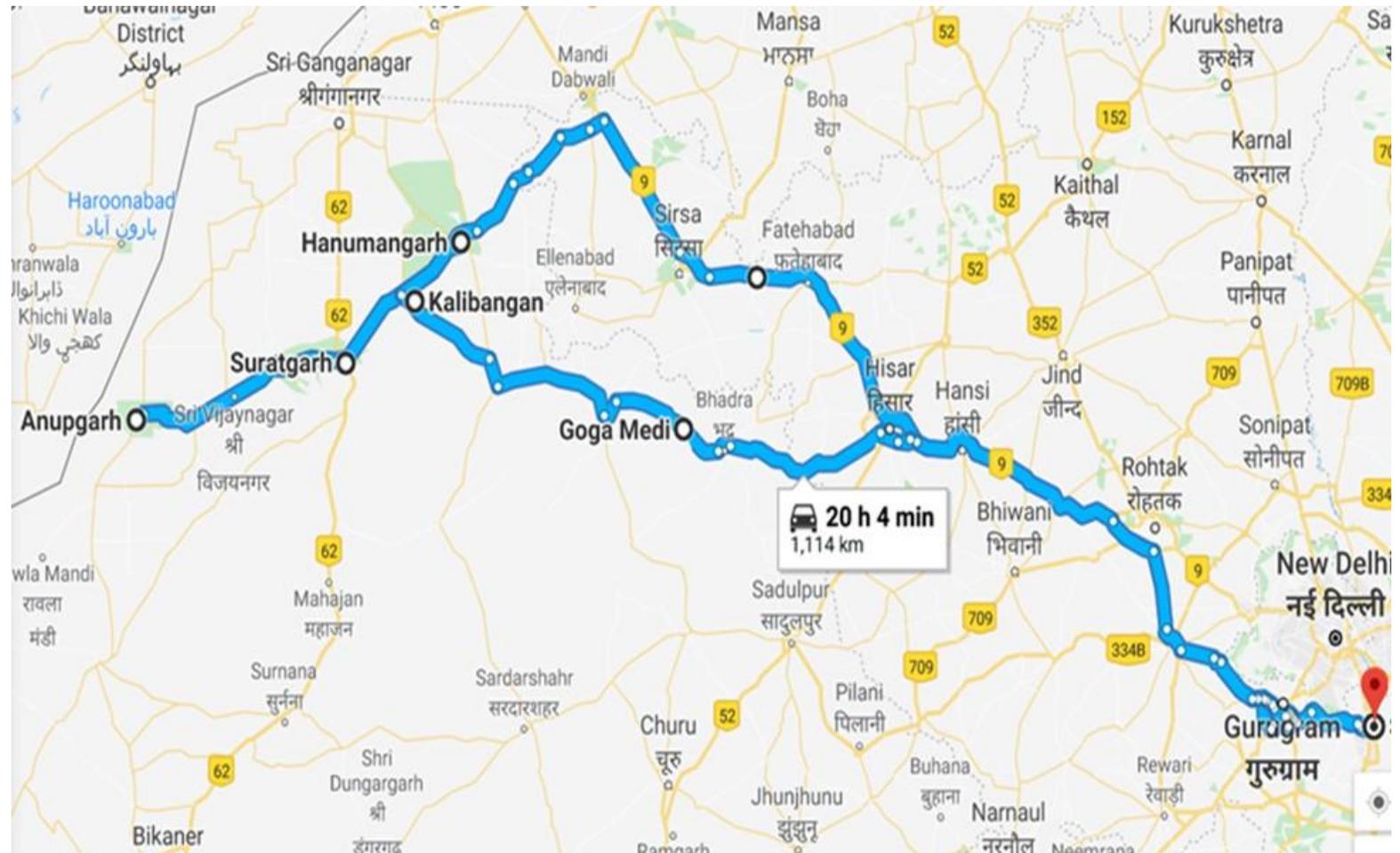
8 – 10 days  
July 2018



Suratgarh – Anupgarh –  
Kalibanga – Hanumangarh –  
Goga Medi - Rakhigarhi

- Sector 14, Faridabad, Haryana
- Suratgarh, Rajasthan
- Anupgarh, Rajasthan 335701
- Hanumangarh, Rajasthan
- Kalibangan, Rajasthan 335801
- Goga Medi, Rajasthan 335504
- Sector 14, Faridabad, Haryana

## North Rajasthan & Haryana



# Suratgarh & Thermal Power Station



Suratgarh was a significant arena of historical incidences in the ancient past. The city was once called Sodal. Around 3000 BC Suratgarh is believed to have been a lush, green place due to the presence of two big rivers, Sarasvati and Drishadvati. Present sand possessed various botanical and zoological species within the basins of chaste Sarasvati and Drishvati. The traces of ancient civilization at Kalibanga and near Rangmahal, Manaksaar and Amarpura show the historical significance of Suratgarh where Sarasvati civilization has receded after 1500 years of stability.

Suratgarh developed greatly under the rule of Maharaja Ganga Singh who built a hunting lodge at Suratgarh and ensured the connectivity of Suratgarh to train service. Suratgarh Thermal Power Station started working from 3 November 1998 and this laid down one more milestone in the progress of Suratgarh city. It has a thermal power plant of 1500 MW and a PLF of 93%, which has won an award for one of the best-operated plants in India.

# Suratgarh – India Gandhi Canal



The Indira Gandhi Canal the longest canal of India . It starts from the Harike Barrage at Harike, a few kilometers below the confluence of the Satluj and Beas rivers in the Indian state of Punjab and terminates in irrigation facilities in the Thar Desert in the north west of Rajasthan state. Previously known as the Rajasthan Canal, it was renamed the Indira Gandhi Canal on 2 November 1984.

The canal consists of the Rajasthan feeder canal with the first 167 kilometres (104 mi) in Punjab and Haryana state and a further 37 kilometres (23 mi) in Rajasthan followed by the 445 kilometres (277 mi) of the Rajasthan main canal, which is entirely within Rajasthan. The canal traverses seven districts of Rajasthan: Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, and Sriganganagar.

The idea of bringing the waters from the Himalayan Rivers flowing through Punjab and into Pakistan was conceived by an hydraulic engineer, Kanwar Sain in the late 1940s who proposed that 2,000,000 ha (20,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of desert land in Bikaner and the northwest corner of Jaisalmer could be brought under irrigation from the stored waters of Punjab rivers.



# Suratgarh – India Gandhi Canal



The initial plan was to build the canal in two stages, Stage I consisting of 204 km (127 mi) feeder canal from Harike barrage in Punjab. Stage I also included constructing distributary canal system of about 2,950 km (1,830 mi) in length. The stage II involved construction of 256 km (159 mi) long main canal and distributary canal network of 3,600 km (2,200 mi). It was planned that the main canal will be 140 ft (43 m) wide at the top and 116 ft (35 m) wide at the bottom with water depth of 21 ft (6.4 m). The canal was scheduled to be completed by 1971.

In 1970 the plan was revised; entire canal will be lined with concrete tiles, Five more lift schemes were added, Flow command of stage II was increased by 100,000 ha (1,000 km<sup>2</sup>). The total length of main, feeder and distribution canals was about 9,245 km (5,745 mi). The stage I was completed in 1983.

After the construction of the Indira Gandhi Canal, irrigation facilities were available over an area of 6,770 km<sup>2</sup> (1,670,000 acres) in Jaisalmer district and 37 km<sup>2</sup> (9,100 acres) in Barmer district. Irrigation had already been provided in an area of 3,670 km<sup>2</sup> (910,000 acres) in Jaisalmer district. The canal has transformed the barren deserts of this district into fertile and good fields.[citation needed] Crops of mustard, cotton, and wheat now grow in this semi-arid north-western region replacing the soil there previously.

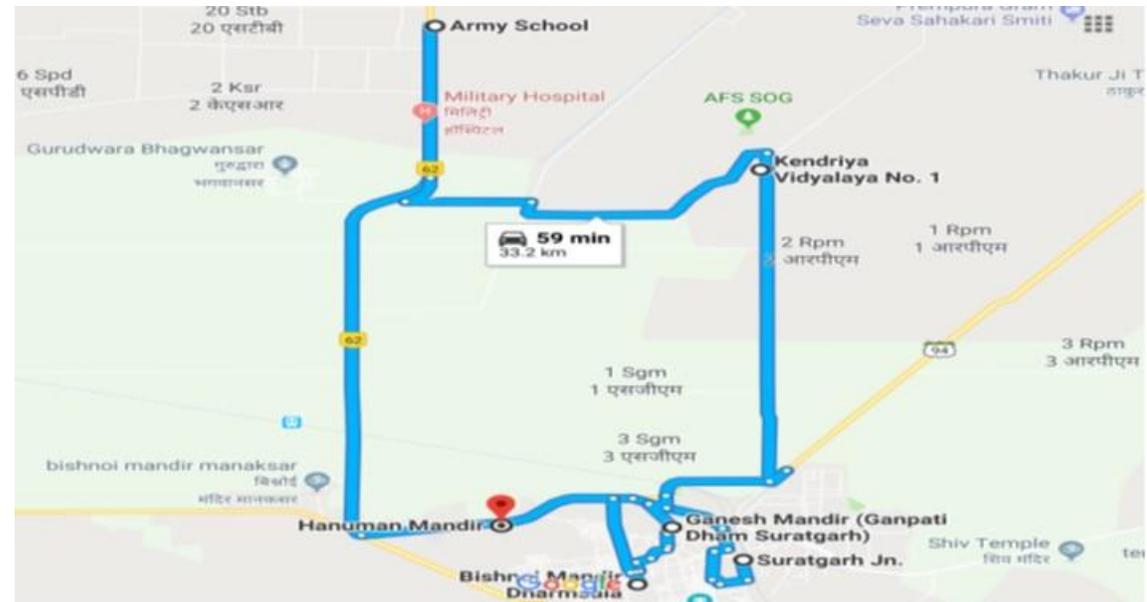
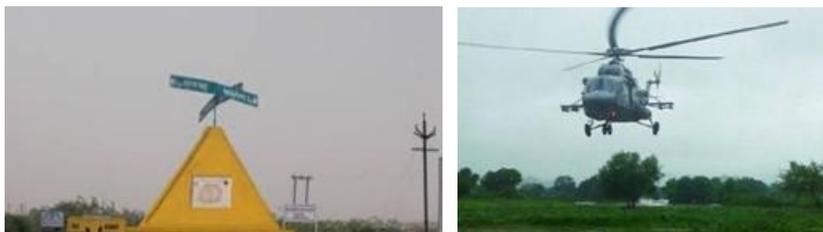
# Suratgarh – City Places



**Suratgarh Fort:** The ruined Suratgarh Fort lies in the centre of the town.

**Temples – Ganesh, Bishnoi & Hanuman Mandir:** Old Hindu temples are located in the town, worth visiting.

**Military Stations - Army & Air Force:** The presence of two major military stations of Indian Air Force and Indian Army fueled to enhance the economy & lifestyle of the town



# Laila Majnu Ki Mazar, Anupgarh



Laila Majnu Ki Mazar the mausoleum of Layla and Majnun is situated at Binjaur, a village near Anupgarh in the Sri Gangannagar district of Rajasthan. According to the local legend, the famous lovers Laila and Majnu died here. A fair, held annually in the month of June, is attended by hundreds of couples and newlyweds.

Many people associate this Mazar with the lovers Laila and Majnun. According to them Laila-Qais were from Sindh and came to this place escaping from the clutches of Laila's parents and her brother who were against love of Laila-Majnun. But there was high sand dune at the time of Laila and Majnu and there were not able to cross this desert due to thirst and finally Laila's parents followed up them but they find that both are dead. Thus this place became a symbol of love and people come here to seek blessings to Laila and Majnu. According to local people, on the festival of Laila and Majnu married and bachelor couple come with true hearts to get blessing, they blessed for lifelong togetherness. Some people, such as Rani Raisikh, one of the early caretakers of this Mazar, the mausoleum is not related to the mythical Laila-Majnu but are the two graves of a great teacher and his devoted student. The mausoleum is a symbol of mutual respect and love between that teacher and his student.

# Kalibangan



Kalibangān is a town located on the left or southern banks of the Ghaggar (Ghaggar-Hakra River) in Tehsil Pilibangān, between Suratgarh and Hanumangarh, Rajasthan. It is also identified as being established in the triangle of land at the confluence of Drishadvati and Sarasvati Rivers. The prehistoric and pre-Mauryan character of Indus Valley Civilization was first identified by Luigi Tessitori an Italian Indologist (1887–1919) at this site. Kalibangan's excavation report was published in its entirety in 2003 by the Archaeological Survey of India, 34 years after the completion of excavations. The report concluded that Kalibangan was a major provincial capital of the Indus Valley Civilization. Kalibangan is distinguished by its unique fire altars and "world's earliest attested ploughed field".

Luigi Pio Tessitori was doing some research in ancient Indian texts. He was surprised by the character of ruins in that area, and he sought help from Sir John Marshall of the Archeological Survey of India. At that time ASI had some excavations done on Harappa, but they never had any idea about the character of the ruins. In fact, Tessitori is the first person to recognize that the ruins are 'Prehistoric' and pre-Mauryan. Tessitori also pointed out the nature of the culture, but at that time it was not possible to guess that Indus Valley Civilisation lay in the ruins of Kalibangan, and he died five years before Harappan culture was duly recognized.

# Kalibangan



There occurred an earthquake around 2600 BC during which the site was abandoned, which brought to an end the Early Indus settlement at the site." This is perhaps the earliest archaeologically recorded earthquake. At least three pre-historic earthquakes affecting the Indus Valley Civilization at Dholavira in Khadir have been identified during 2900–1800 BC.

After India's independence, both the major Harappan cities together with the Indus became a part of Pakistan and Indian archaeologists were compelled to intensify the search for Harappan sites in India. Amlānand Ghosh (Ex. Director General, ASI) was the first person to recognise this site as Harappan and marked it out for excavations. Under the leadership of B. B. Lal, Balkrishna Thapar, M. D. Khare, K. M. Shrivastava and S. P. Jain carried out excavations for 9 years (1960-9) in 9 successive excavation sessions.

The excavation unexpectedly brought to light a twofold sequence of cultures, of which the upper one (Kalibangan I) belongs to the Harappan, showing the characteristic grid layout of a metropolis and the lower one (Kalibangan II) was formerly called pre-Harappan but now it is called "Early Harappan or antecedent Harappan". Indus Valley culture existed at the site from the proto-Harappan age (3500 BC - 2500 BC) to the Harappan age (2500 BC - 1750 BC).

# Kalibangan – Indus Valley Civilization



**Fort & Houses:** The fort had been built twice in different periods. Earlier, fort wall had a thickness of 1.9 meters, which was raised to 3.7-4.1 meters during reconstruction in this phase. Brick size was 20 × 20 × 10 cm in both construction-phases. The citadel mound (smaller mound) is a parallelogram about 130 meters on the east-west axis and 260 meters on the north-south. Town planning was like that of Mohenjodaro or Harappa. The direction of houses and brick sizes was markedly different from that used in the Harappan phase (KLB-II).

Within the walled area, the houses were also built of mud bricks of the same size as used in the fort wall; the use of burnt bricks is attested by a drain within the houses, remains of ovens and cylindrical pits, lined with lime plaster. Some burnt wedge shaped bricks also have been found.

**Earlier Ploughed Field:** It has been found south east of the pre-Harappan settlement, outside the fort shows a ploughed field, the first site of this nature in the world. It shows a grid pattern of furrows, placed about 30 cm apart running east-west and other spaced about 190 cm apart running north-south, a pattern remarkably similar to the one practiced even now." For preservation, this excavated ploughed field area was refilled after excavation and the area was marked by concrete pillar posts.

**Pottery:** The distinguishing mark of this early phase is pottery, characterized by six fabrics labelled A, B, C, D, E and F, identified at Sothi in North Western India. It contains designs in light-black, often decorated with white lines. Lines, semicircles, grids, insects, flowers, leaves, trees and squares were favourite motifs. Fabric-B shows marked improvement in finishing, but the lower half was deliberately roughened. Flowers, animals were painted in black on red background. Fabric-D contained designs of slanted lines or semicircles in some, while most pots were plain. But Fabric-C pottery was thicker and stronger. Fabric-C was distinguished by violet tinge and fine polish, with designs in black; it is the best proto-Harappan pottery in finishing. Fabric-E was light colored and Fabric-F was grey.

# Kalibangan – Harappan Civilization



**Fire Alters:** These altars suggest fire worship or worship of Murukan, the god of fire. It is the only Indus Valley Civilization site where there is no evidence to suggest the worship of the "mother goddess". The structure of these fire-altars is reminiscent of altars, but the analogy may be coincidental, and these altars are perhaps intended for some specific (perhaps religious) purpose by the community as a whole. In some fire-altars remnants of animals have been found, which suggest a possibility of animal-sacrifice.

**Lower Town:** The lower town was also a fortified parallelogram was made of mud bricks (40 × 20 × 10 cm) and three or four structural phases have been recognized. It had gates in north and west.

The lower town was 239 meters east to west, but north-south extent cannot be determined. 8 main roads have been recognized, 5 north-south and 3 east-west. Roads and lanes had widths in accurately determined proportions, like in other Harappan cities, ranging from 7.2 meters for main roads to 1.8 meters for narrow lanes. Fender posts were installed at street corners to prevent accidents. In second structural level, roads were laid with mud tiles. Drains from houses emptied into pits (soakage jars) beneath the roads. Some central authority must be there to plan and regulate all this.

**Housing:** Like town planning, housing also followed the common pattern of other Harappan cities. Due to grid-pattern of town planning like a chess board, all houses opened out to at least two or three roads or lanes. Each house had a courtyard and 6-7 rooms on three sides, with a well in some houses. One house had stairs for going to the roof. Houses were built of 30 × 15 × 7.5 cm mud bricks (same as those used in second structural phase of fort wall). Burnt bricks were used in drains, wells, bathing platforms and door-sills, besides fire-altar. Floors of rooms were built of thrashed fine mud, sometimes laid with mud bricks or terracotta cakes. One house had floors built of burnt tiles decorated with geometrical designs.

# Kalibangan – Harappan Phase (Burial System)

Three systems of burial have been attested in the burial ground ~300 yards south-west of the citadel, where ~34 graves have been found :



1. Burial in rectangular or oval pit, with corpse laid down straight (extended), head northwards amidst pottery. In one pit a copper mirror was found among these objects. Pits were mud filled after burying. One grave was enclosed with a mud brick wall plastered from inside. One child had six holes in the skull. Many paleopathological evidences have been gathered from these graves.
2. Burial in pot (urn) in a circular pit, with no corpse. Four to 29 pots and utensils were placed around the main pot (urn). In some graves beads, shell, etc have been found.
3. Rectangular or oval grave-pit, containing only pottery and other funerary objects. Like the first type, the length of this type of graves was also along north-south. The latter two methods were not associated with any skeletal remains and may be related to symbolic burial, not found at other Harappan towns. The third type of graves contained objects as in the second type, like beads, shells, etc., but no corpse.

# Bhatner Fort, Hanumangarh



The Bhatner fort is at Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, India, about 419 km northwest of Jaipur along the old Multan-Delhi route and 230 km north-east of Bikaner. The old name of Hanumangarh was Bhatner, which means "fortress of the Bhatti Rajputs". Believed to be 1700 years old, it is considered to be one of the oldest forts of India.

The ancient fort situated on the bank of river ghaggar was built in 253AD by Bhupat, son of king Bhati of Jaisalmer. It is said that after losing the battle against the Sultan of Ghazni, King Bhupat took shelter in the jungle around the Ghaggar River. There he constructed a safe castle for himself which came to be known as Bhatner. The entire fort is built of bricks, covering an area of 52 bighas. It is in the shape of a parallelogram, with a dozen bastions on each side. Painted Grey Ware (circa 1100-800 BC) and Rang-Mahal Ware (1st-3rd century AD) have been found in wells situated along the wall.

In the middle of the thirteenth century AD, Sher Shah Suri (Sher Khan), a cousin or nephew of Balban (the sultan of Delhi), was governor in these parts of the country. He is said to have carried out repairs to the forts of Bhatinda and Bhatner. Sher khan's sepulture is still there in bhatner fort.

# Bhatner Fort, Hanumangarh

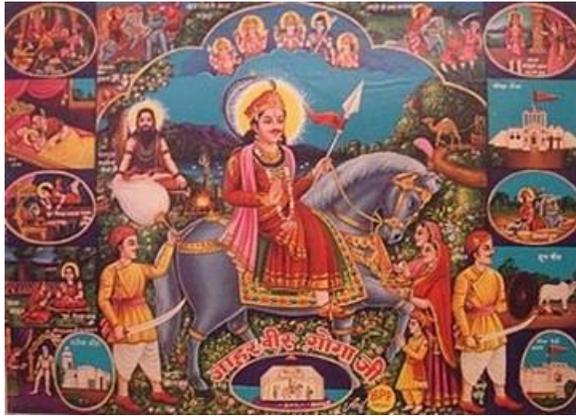


In 1391, Bhatner was wrested by Timur by defeating bhati king Rao Doolchand. A mention has been made in "Tuzuk-e-Timuri"(Autobiography of Timur) about this fort and he stated this fort one of the strongest and secured fort of India. Even Mughal Emperor Akbar described his fortification in his book "Ain-I-Akbari". Subsequently, the fort appears to have been held by Bhatias, Johiyas and Chayals until 1527 when it was taken by Rao Jet Singh of Bikaner. After that it came twice under Mughal control as well, in addition to being the possession of the royal families of Chayal and Bikaner.



Researchers believe that famous Tarain war fought between Mohammad gouri and Prithviraj chauhan is the present Talwara Jheel area of the district. This fort stands in the path of invasion of India from Central Asia and had acted as a strong barricade against the attack of enemies. Finally in the year of 1805, it was captured by Emperor Soorat Singh of Bikaner and remained with it till the formation of Rajasthan. Since the day of victory was Tuesday (known as day of Hindu God Hanuman), so he named Bhatner as Hanumangarh.

# Goga Medi



Gogaji (also known as Goga, Jahar Veer Gogga, Gugga , Gugga Pir, Gugga Jaharpir, Gugga Chohan, Gugga Rana, Gugga Bir and Raja Mandlik) is a folk deity, worshipped in the northern states of India especially in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab region, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu. He is a warrior-hero of the region, venerated as a saint and a 'snake-god'.

Although there are references to him in the folklore of Rajasthan, little historical knowledge of Gugga exists other than that he ruled the small kingdom of Dadrewa (in present day Rajasthan) and was a contemporary of Prithviraj Chauhan.

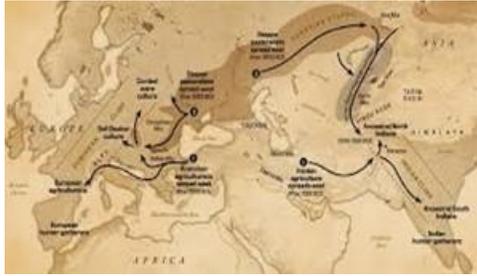
According to legend, Goga was born with the blessings of Guru Gorakhnath, who gave 'Gugal' fruit to Goga's mother Bachhal which was used to name him. Another belief is that he was called Goga because of his remarkable service to cows(Gou in Sanskrit).

The cult of Goga falls within folk religion and therefore his followers include people from all faiths. Goga is popular as a Devta who protects his followers from snakes and other evils. He has been deified as a snake demigod and is a prominent figure among those who follow the Nāga cult in what is now Rajasthan and since the seventeenth century has been worshipped in the Western Himalayas also, possibly as a consequence of migration there from Rajasthan.

He is particularly popular among those engaged in agrarian pursuits, for whom the fear of snakebite is common. Although a Hindu, he has many Muslim devotees and is chiefly considered to be a saint (pir) who had the power to cure the effects of poison (jahar).

He was reputed to be a disciple of Guru Gorakhnath. He learnt the way of entering and leaving solid earth and was initiated in it by a Muslim Pir. According to legends prevalent in Punjab, Gugga consulted Hazi Rattan of Bathinda about Islam. Goga is also believed to have lived for some time in Bathinda. The cult is prevalent in Rajasthan and other states of northern India, including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the north western districts of Uttar Pradesh. His followers can also be found in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

# Rakhigarhi & Agroha Dham, Haryana



Rakhigarhi, or Rakhi Garhi (Rakhi Shahpur + Rakhi Khas), is a village in Hisar District in the state of Haryana in India, situated 150 kilometers to the northwest of Delhi. It is the site of a pre-Indus Valley Civilisation settlement going back to about 6500 BCE. Later, it was also part of the mature Indus Valley Civilisation, dating to 2600-1900 BCE. Rakhigarhi encompasses a set of seven mounds, not all of them were occupied at the same time. Depending on which mounds to include, the estimates of the size of Rakhigarhi have been given variously as between 80 and 550 hectares. In January 2014, the discovery of additional mounds resulted it in becoming the largest Indus Valley Civilization site, overtaking Mohenjodaro (300 Hectares) by almost 50 hectares, resulting in almost 350 hectares.

Agroha Dham is a Hindu temple complex in Agroha, India. Construction started in 1976 and was completed in 1984. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Mahalakshmi. The main temple is divided into three wings. The central wing is dedicated to Hindu goddess Mahalakshmi, western wing to goddess Saraswati and eastern wing to Maharaja Agrasena. Shakti Sarovar is a large pond behind the temple complex. It was filled with water from 41 rivers of India in 1988. A platform at the north-west end depicts the scene of Samudra manthan. A naturopathy center is located near Shakti Sarovar, where treatment is done through yoga. An amusement park with a boating site has been built near the complex.



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