THE DISTRICT SIDDHARTHNAGAR (U.P.)

LOCATION AND GENERAL ACCOUNT:-

The district Siddharthnagar came into existence on 29 December 1988 by incorporating parts of the Bansi, Itwa, Naugarh, Shohratgarh and Domariaganj. It is one of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh state in Northern India. Siddharthnagar district is a part of Basti division. The district is known for the ruins of the Shakya Janapada, at Piprahwa. 22km from the district head quarters Naugarh. Siddharthanagar is from The Buddha's given name Siddharta. The name Siddhartenagar was given by Komal Dutta Tiwari. The history of the district is related with life of Gautam Buddha. His father's capital KapilVastu is in this district. The total geographical area of district Siddharthnagar is 298855 hectare. It is bounded by Nepal state in North, Maharajganj in the east, Basti in the South and Balrampur district in the west. Gonda district is also touches it on the triangle south west area. The district is divided into 5 tehsils and 14 development blocks, 1015 Gram Panchayat. The district falls in the Tarai belt of the state with Rapti, Budhi Rapti, Banganga, Kuda and Ghoghi as the major rivers.

The district is adjacent to neighboring country, Nepal. It is surrounded by many other districts of Uttar Pradesh, on East by Maharajganj district, South by Basti and Sant Kabir Nagar districts and in West by Balrampur district. The district occupies an area of 2752 km². The district lies between 270N and 27028’N latitude and 82045˚E and 83010E Longitudes. Due to its location in the Tarai belt, almost every year the district has to witness devastating floods because of heavy rains in the Nepalhills. This has affected the economy of the district badly. Being a flood prone district and lack of proper drainage system many of the blocks viz. Uska Bazaar, Shohratgarh, Bansi, Jogia and Naugrah remain mostly water logged.
DIVISIONS

The district has 5 tehsils; Naugarh, Shorathgarh, Bansi, Itwa and Domariagang. There are 5 Vidhan Sabh constituencies within the district. These are Shoratgarh, Kapilvastu, Bansi, Itwa and Domariaganj.

The only Lok Sabh constituency in this district is Domariaganj. A small village SHAHPUR is located 2km away from Domariaganj on the bank of Rapti is famous for “kala namak” rice and kalhans kshtriyas.

Naugarh is the seat of administration of Siddharthnagar District, Uttar Pradesh. It is located about 130 km north of Varanasi Kapilvastu at Piprahava near Birdpur is a only major tourist interest in the district.

Nearest airport is at Lucknow. Naugarh Railway Station is located on the Pharenda-Balrampur line.

Shohratgah is a tehsil and nagar panchayats in Siddharthnagar District. It is 27.22°N and 82.57°E. Tetri Bazaar is a city and a municipal board in Siddharthnagar. Bansi is also a city and municipal board in Siddharthnagar. Bansi is located at the bank of river Rapti at 24.87°N and 78.48°E. Bansi is famous for having DIET, Navodaya Vidyalay, Mangal Bazaar, Rani Ganj Market and 3 fort spread around the city. Domariaganj is located at 27°13′N 82°40′E ≅ 27.22°N 82.67°E. It has an average elevation of 88 m (289 ft). Domariaganj is a town and tehsil of Siddharthnagar district in eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is largely Agrahari populated area. Dumariyaganj is politically very undeveloped area. Itwa is come into existence in 1990. It is surrounded by Shohratgarh in North, Dumariaganj in South, Bansi in the East, and Balrampur in the west.
**Topography:**

Siddharthnagar district is a part of indo-Gangetic plain of north-east India. It is a level with gradual slope from north to south. The middle part is deep in the east area.

**Rivers:**

The main rivers of the District are- Rapti, Budhi Rapti, Baan Ganga, Parasi, Kooda, and Ghoongi. Rapti is flows down from Nepal. The color of this river is brown in color. This river rises in the foot hills of Nepal to the north of Behraich and after course of about 130 km. from that district traverses to the northern portion of the Gonda and first touches Sant Kabir Nagar in the north-west. The rivers often take a changeable course and floods the neighboring areas during rainy season. The flow of river is from west to east or north-west to east direction.

The tributaries and affluent of the Rapti are very numerous, especially those on the left bank. Those on the south represent merely old bends of the river and as such are of little importance, save as local drainage channels.

The main canals are- Jamuaar, Tilaar, Phagihatwa, Paraasi, Sotva, Ghorahi, Boodha and Dooiya etc. The fertile land in the district is irrigated by canals and tube wells. The area of district, which is irrigated by canals, is 7471 hectare.

**Jheels and Ponds**

There are several permanent and temporary ponds through out the area. The main are – Mahla, Marathi, Majholi, Siswa, Bajaha, Pathra Taal, Lavad Taal, Sahari Taal etc. These jheels and ponds are full of water through out the year and show a rich growth of aquatic vegetation.
Geology and Soil

The main soils are Matiyar, Domat and Baluaar. The main area for Agriculture is Uprahar on the south border of the district. The under Agricultural area is 241488 hectare. The soil structure of the district is composed of alluvial soil, the soil brought in by the rivers. The upper belt is called Uparhar and the soil texture is yellowish clay. The basin land of the rivers is mostly sandy soil, and the land adjacent to the rivers is sandy loam. The only mineral of any note found in the district is sand, which is available in sufficient quantity on river banks, and is used in construction works. The district is also noted for its deposits of brick earth.
Climate

The climate of Siddharthnagar district is of marshy in nature, commonly called as Tarai region. The climate is markedly periodic and can be divided into 3 vegetation session.

1. The summer session- 15 March to 15 June.

2. The Rainy session- 15 June to 30 September.

3. The Winter session – October to 15 March.

Weather data

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<th>TEMPERATURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Rainfall (mm)</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Relative Humidity (%)</td>
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<td>31.4</td>
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<td>Nov.08</td>
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<td>29.5</td>
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<td>Dec. 08</td>
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<td>20.8</td>
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<td>35.4</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>
Temperature

During the winter seasons the mean minimum temperature is about 9 degree Celsius and means maximum 23 degree Celsius while during the summer seasons the minimum is about 25 degree Celsius and mean maximum is about 44 degree Celsius.

Humidity

In the south-west monsoon and the post monsoon seasons the relative humidity is high, being above 70 percent. Thereafter the humidity decreases and in the summer air is very dry.

Cloudiness

During the monsoon season, and for brief spells of a day or two in association with passing disturbances in winter, heavily clouded or overcast skies prevail. In the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

Winds are in general very light with a slight increase in force the late summer and monsoon seasons. The average annual wind blow in the district is ranging from 2 to 7.1 km/hrs.

BIOTIC INTERFERENCE

A number of biotic factors have been found to influence the vegetation and floristic composition of the area. It appears that in the past as at present the vegetation was subject to heavy exploitation. The grazing and browsing by domestic or wild animals causes much damage to the ground flora and the twig and branches of shrubs and trees. The important biotic factors influencing vegetation of the area is domestic
animals and man. The plants and animals living together influence each other’s life and also modify the environmental factors. The cattle eat the foliage in a large scale and the wood is used as fuel, so much so that the trees are already rare on the ride, the vegetation reduced to a prostrate, scrubby shrub spreading on rocks and giving an entirely different appearance from plants growing in protected areas. The constantly increasing population, urbanization and bringing land under cultivation have markedly affected the natural vegetation. A great deal of damage to forests is done by grazing of animals, most of which are domesticated. The most injurious effect of grazing is on tree seedling growth. Most of the natural vegetation has been changed from forest to scrub and then to a treeless grassy area due to excessive grazing. In addition to grazing, goats and sheep browse on shoots and leaves of taller plants and cause considerable damage. By trembling, the soil becomes compact and hardened and thus is rendered unsuitable for the growth of trees.

Excessive rains during monsoon causing floods have been almost regular features and consequently vast area of different Tehsils of Siddharthnagar. However, the uplands with paddy and maize crops give a pretentious sight. Floods of a great magnitude occur at times. The water of Budhi Rapti was held up and so the city of siddharthnagar became an island in a waste of water. It has been demonstrated that the floods serve a good purpose of disseminating the various plant species to distant places. It is quite probable that flood water might have helped in introduction of the new species recorded to the flora of District Siddharthnagar (UP).