TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKDROP

For an adequate understanding of the development and growth of tourism in India, the description of topography as also the analysis of the socio-economic background of the tourist centres become imperative. While the topography provides the detailed knowledge of the geography of the area, the socio-economic analysis helps promote familiarity of the socio-cultural and economic scenario of the tourist centre.

The present chapter, therefore, undertakes the fulfillment of the above tourism objectives. The first part deals with the topography of the two tourist centres selected for the present study viz. Lucknow and Agra. While the second part explores the socio-economic contours of these centres.

Truly, the magnificent architecture, its exquisite beauty, its majestic and regal appearance has placed the Taj among the seven wonders of the world. It is indeed one of the greatest masterpieces of Moghal architecture, Agra, therefore, becomes the first and the most obvious choice for the present study of tourist centres. Since the present study is confined to the tourist centres in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow is justifiably the second choice it being the rare heritage of the Moghul monuments of outstanding artistic, architectural and
cultural value.

The topographical description is not only necessary from the historical and zoological perspective but also from the viewpoint of the alarming nature of the threat to our land, water and forest resources posed by the continuous exploitation of the natural environment by the man-made technological urban culture. The ancient monuments and buildings cannot remain immune to the ever increasing deforestation, speedy depletion of water resources and fast growing menace of industrial pollutants including toxic acid and carbon di-oxide.

Conservation of cultural heritage, therefore, is increasingly becoming a shared responsibility, nationally as well as Internationally. Some basic principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings were defined for the first time in 1931 by what is known as the Athens charter. This led to an International awareness to the extent that the second International congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic monuments, held at Venice in 1964 under the patronage of UNESCO, produced an International charter for the conservation and Restoration or monuments and sites commonly known as the Venice Charter.

India by and large abides with the important principles enshrined in these charters and follows the method of conservation but the new concept of conservation-viewing monuments and groups of monuments as wider conservation areas and as ensembles - have not gained currency in India.
Topography and other features of Lucknow

Geographic location - Western division of Oudh, united provinces, lying between 25° 49' and 28° 42' N. It extends from the damp submountain tract on the borders of Nepal to the thickly populated area of southern Oudh. The division lies entirely between the Gangas on the south-west and the Gogra on the north-east. The head quarters of the Commissioner are at Lucknow city area and also in respect of population. It includes Lucknow, as one of the districts under it, which has been selected for the study because of its historical and cultural importance.

Lucknow District - Central district in the Lucknow division of the united provinces, lying between 26° 30' and 27° 9' N. and 80° 34' and 81° 13' E, with an area of 79 square kilometres. In shape the district is an irregular oblong. It is bounded on the north-west by Hardoi and Sitapur, on the north east by Bara Banki, on the south east by Rae-barelli and the south-west by Unnao. The two principal rivers are the Gomti and Sai, and near these streams and their small tributaries the surface is broken by ravines, while the banks of the rivers are generally sandy. The Gomti enters the district from the north and after passing Lucknow city turns to the east and forms part of the boundary between Lucknow and Barabanki.

Flora and Fauna - The flora of the district is that of the Gangetic plain generally. There is very little Jungle, the only considerable tract being in the north-east, where a dhak (Butea
**Geography** - There are three tehsils - LUCKNOW, MALLAHABAD, and MOHANLALGUNJ - the head-quarters of each being situated at a place of the same name. The principal town is Lucknow city, the District head quarters.

**Handicrafts of the city** - There are few industries deserving mention in Lucknow city. Common country cloth is the chief article produced in the small towns and villages; and dyers, bangle-makers, brass-workers, and potters supply local needs. The city is, however, celebrated for its cotton printing, dyeing, embroidery, gold and silver work, ivory and wood carving, ornamental pottery, and clay modelling. Chicken work is most popular working of the people.

Always Lucknow city has been very important railway centre in the united provinces. It was the head quarters of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, the main line which passes through the district from south east to north west and south west to north east. Communications by road are also good. The most important route is the road from Kanpur to Fyzabad, passing through Lucknow city.

**Education** - Lucknow is also important as an educational centre. The chief institutions are the Canning college, Colvin school, high school maintained by the America mission - Martiniere is another famous school established by Europeans. It is also centre of literary activities, and fine English and eighteen vernacular newspapers and periodicals are published there.
History - Lucknow is the eighteenth century Capital of the Persian sheiks, called Nawab Wazirs who originally arrived in Avadh during Emperor Akbar's reign in the 1500's. Over a period of time, successive Mughal rulers, whose own fortunes were on the decline, granted the Nawabs more and more power. Asaf Daula, the fourth Nawab shifted his seat power from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775, his charity and perhaps megalomania endowed Lucknow with some of the best of its architecturally rich and sometimes outlandish structures, which are located near the left bank of River Gomti in the northern part of the capital.

Monuments of Tourist attraction - Some of the monuments are Bara Imambara, Chhota Imambara, Jama Masjid, Picture Gallery, the Residency, tombs, Lamartiniere etc. The tourists are attracted towards these monuments and handicrafts of the city.

The city of Lucknow is spread out evenly on both sides of river Gomti which is tributary of holy river Ganges. The tourists will find plenty of places of historical interest including Jama Masjid - Chhota Bara Imambara, Rumi Darvanja; Clock Tower, Chhatar Manzil and the La martiniere. There is also a picture Gallery at Hussainabad. A brief mention of the above historical places is appended below:

(1) Rumi Darvaza - This is also known as Turkish Gateway. The Rumi Darvaza leads into the outer ward of Bara Imambara. Widely believed to be a facsimile of one of the gates of Constantinople it expresses the heart and soul of Avadh Architecture.
(vii) Laxman Tila - Tila is situated to the north of Imambara complex. It contains the famous Alamgri Mosque which was built by Sultan Ali who was governor of the province of Avadh during the reign of Aurangzeb. The mosque is known for its outstanding symmetry of form and sobriety of decoration.

(viii) Shahnajaf Imambara - Buried here are the remains of Nawab Ghaz-ud-din Haider and his wives including Begum Mubarak Mahal who was a European lady. It was a strong hold of the Indian mutineers in the mutiny of 1857.

(ix) Chattar Manzil - The construction of the building was started by Ghazi-ud-din Haider though it was completed by his successor Nawab Nasir-ud-din Haider. The building has an imposing facade, huge underground rooms and a beautiful dome surrounded by a gilt umbrella.

(x) Nandan Mahal - Abdur-Rahim Khan-i-Khanah, governor of Oudh during the rule of Akbar the great, lies buried at Nandan Mahal. It is one of the oldest buildings of Lucknow.

(xi) Residency - Built by the nawabs of Oudh for the British Resident between the years 1780 and 1800, it became the last outpost of the English Resistance. It faced heavy bombardment and cannon firings during the mutiny of 1857. The main building faces the river Gomti.

(xii) La Martiniere - Claude Martin, the French soldier of fortune, was imprisoned by the English at Pondicherry. Adopting the salient features of Italian Architecture and
Martin himself designed this building. This was perhaps the first building of the European order to be built in northern India. He breathed his last as Major general Claude Martin in Lucknow.

Tourists, may be Indian or foreigner, takes interest in the historical monuments of Lucknow which still speak about the attainment in the field of architecture by Indians who not only mastered the Indian style but also shown remarkable success in inter-mingling European and Indian architecture in creating these historical buildings and monuments. They still are carrying the cultural heritage of the Mughals and Nawabs. For being spread to the outside World through the medium of tourists who have seen these historical monuments and expressed their grandeurs and glory when they return to their native land.

AGRA DISTRICT :-

Geographic location -

District in the Division of the same name in the United Provinces, lying between 26° 45' and 27° 24' and 78° 51' E with an area of 1845 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Muttra and Etah, and on the east by Mainpuri and Etawah, on the south lie the Native States of Gwalior and Dholpur, and on the west Bharatpur.

The District is divided into four district tracts by the rivers, Jamuna, Utangan or Banganga, and Chambal. North-east of
The flora is that of the Doab north of the Jamuna, while south of the great river it resembles that of Rajputana. The former area is fairly well wooded while in the latter trees are scarce.

Wildlife Leopards and hyenas are found in the ravines and in the western hills, while wolves are common near the Jumna and 'ravine deer' (gazelle) frequent the same haunts. Antelope are to be seen in most parts of the district, Fish are plentiful in the rivers and are eaten by many classes.

Climate Owing to its proximity to the sandy deserts on the west, Agra District is very dry, and suffers from greater extremes of temperature than the country farther east. Though cold in winter, and exceedingly hot in summer, the climate is not unhealthy. The mean annual temperature is about 75°F; the lowest monthly average being about 59°F in January, and the highest 95°F or 96°F in May and June.

The annual rainfall averages about 26 inches. There is not much variation in different parts, but the tract near the Jamuna receives the largest fall. Great variations occur from year to year, the amount ranging from 11 to 36 inches.

History The District of Agra has scarcely any history; apart from the city. Sikandar Lodi, King of Delhi, had a residence on the left bank of the Jumna, which afterwards became the capital of the empire. It was occupied by Babar after his victory over Ibrahim Khan in 1526, and its foundations are still to be seen.
opposite the modern Agra. Babar fought a decisive battle with the Rajputs near Fatehpur sikri in 1527. His son Humayun also resided at old Agra until his expulsion in 1540. Akbar lived in the district for the greater part of his reign, and founded the present city of Agra on the right bank. The town of Fatehpur sikri, which owes its origin to the same emperor, dates from 1569 or 1570. A tank of 20 miles in circumference, which he constructed in its neighbourhood, can now be traced in the fragmentary ruins of the embankment. The mausoleum at sikandra; 5 miles from Agra, marks the burial place of the great Mughal emperor. It was built by his son, Jahangir, and has a fine entrance archway of red sandstone. Jahangir however, deserted Agra towards the close of his reign, and spent the greater part of his time in Punjab and Kabul. Shah Jahan removed the seat of the imperial court to Delhi, but continued the construction of the Taj and the other architectural monuments to which the city owes much of its fame. The success of Aurangzeb's rebellion against his father was assured by the victory gained at Samogarh in this District in 1658 and the deposed emperor was then confined in the fort. From the the 1666 the district dwindled into the seat of a provincial governor, and was often attacked by the Jats. During the long decline of Mughal power, places in this district were constantly the scene of important battles. On the death of Aurangzeb his sons fought at Jajau near the Dholpur border. Early in 1713 the fate of the mughal empire was again decided near Agra by the victory of Farrukh Siyar over Jahandar. The importance of the District then declined; but in 1761 Agra
was taken by the Jats of Bharatpur under Surajmal and Walter Reinhardt, better known by his native name of Sumru. In 1770 the Marathas overran the whole Doab, but were expelled by the imperial forces under Najaf Khan in 1773. The Jats then recovered Agra for a while, and were driven out in turn by Najaf Khan in the succeeding year. After passing through the usual convulsions which marked the end of the last century in upper India, the District came into the hands of the British by the Victories of Lord Lake in 1803. The city was the capital of the north western provinces from 1843 until the events of 1857, and still gives its name to the province of Agra.

The story of the outbreak of the mutiny at Agra in May 1857, is related to Agra city. As regards the District the tehsils and thanas fell into the hands of the rebels, after the defection of the Gwalior Contingent, on June 15. By July 2 the Nimach and Nasirabad mutineers had reached Fatehpur Sikri and the whole district became utterly disorganized. On July 29, however, an expedition from Agra recovered that post, and another sally restored order in the Itimadpur and Firozabad parganas. The Raja of Awa maintained tranquillity in the north, and the Raja of Bhadawar on the eastern border. But after the fall of Delhi in September the rebels from that city, joined by the bands from central India, advanced towards Agra on October 6. Four days later colonel Greathed's column from Delhi entered Agra without the knowledge of the mutineers, who incautiously attacked the city and hopelessly shattered themselves against his well-tried force. They were put to flight easily and all their guns taken.
The rebels still occupied Fatehpur Sikri, but a column dispatched against that place successfully dislodged them. On November 20 the villages remaining in open rebellion were stormed and carried; and on February 4, 1858, the last man still under arms was driven out of the District.

Art Architecture  — Fragments of Hindu buildings have been discovered at a few places, but none of any importance, and the archaeological remains of the District are chiefly those of the Mughal period. Among these must be mentioned the magnificent fort, with the buildings contained in it, and the beautiful Taj at Agra; the tomb of Akbar at Sikandra the building near Agra on the opposite bank of the river; and Akbar's city at Fatehpur Sikri. The preservation and restoration of these splendid memorials has been undertaken by Government, and large sums have been spent, especially in recent years.

Handicrafts  — Agra city is the most important centre of arts and manufactures in the District. It is especially celebrated for marble articles beautifully inlaid with precious stones, and for the carving of stone or marble into screens of delicate pierced tracery. Cotton and woollen carpets are manufactured, silk and gold and silver embroidery are also having reputation. The city likewise monopolizes the greater part of the trade. It is the centre for the collection of grain oilseeds, and cotton for export, and also a distributing centre from where cotton goods, metals, sugar and salt are sent to the surrounding tracts.

Agra is well supplied with railways. It is a railway
junction on the main broad gauge lines leading towards west and south east parts of the country. Situated at the crossings of National Highways 2, 3, and 11 the city of Agra is well connected with other parts of the country by good metalled roads and is having frequent road transport services for important places like Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow, Gwalior, Haridwar, Mathura & Brindavan etc.

**Education** - Agra takes a fairly high place in U.P. in the field of literacy. There are number of schools recognized as public schools, and colleges in the city where education is imparted. Moreover there are other centres/institutes which run various types of courses.

**Places of Tourist Interests** - Agra still reigns over that unforgettable past created by warriors as skilled in art and architecture as they were on the battlefield. Still the past memories could be cherished by admiring the Taj Mahal, Sikandra (Akbar's Tomb), Agra fort, Jahangiri Mahal, Shahjahani Mahal, Khas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Anguri Bag, Diwan-in-am, Moti Masjid Fatehpur sikri etc.

1. **Jahangiri Mahal** - Entering the Amar Singh gate to the north is the biggest private residence inside the Agra fort, the Jahangir Mahal, supposedly built by Akbar for his son. The palace is huge, measuring about 250 by 300 feet. The central court of the palace is lined by two-story facades bearing remnants of the rich gilded decorations that once covered a great deal of the structure.
2. **Shahjahan Mahal** - The building known as Shahjahan Mahal is actually the remodelled northern part of Jahangiri Mahal; three rooms and a corridor enhanced by a tapering tower gallery topped with a pavilion bearing a spike.

3. **Khas Mahal** - Shahjahan outdid himself in the Khas Mahal, built in 1637; three pavilions overlooking the Yamuna with a fountain tank opposite the central pavilion. This white marble building follows the Mogul pattern in style. Three arches on each side, five in front, and two turrets rising out of the roof. Flowers created with precious stones were entrusted in the walls.

4. **Sheesh Mahal** - On the north eastern end of the courtyard of the Khas Mahal stands the sheesh Mahal built in 1637. This building was the bath of the private palace and the dressing room of the harem, with each of the two chambers containing a bathing tank that was once fed by marble channels. In its glory, small mirrors that covered the ceiling and walls caught the sunlight and turned the interior of the sheesh Mahal into a dazzling vision of brilliance.

5. **Anguri Bagh** - This was apparently a Moghul garden with fountains and flower beds on a marble paved platform divided by stone partitions. Below the terrace, a marble cistern leads to the platform.

6. **Diwan-i-Am** - The most impressive part of the fort was, the Diwan-i-Am, set within the large quadrangle. A huge low structure, it rests on a stage four feet high, with nine cusped
Moghul arches held aloft by rows of slender supporting pillars. Here, the emperor sat and dispensed justice to his subjects, rich and poor alike.

7. **Diwan-i-Khas** - Contrasted with the hall of public audience is the Diwan-i-khas, or Hall of Private audience, built by shah Jahan in 1636-37. Here, the emperor received foreign ambassadors or dignitaries of his kingdom. It contains two halls connected by three arches. White marble covers their red sandstone walls and lavish carvings can still be seen at the base of the columns that support the arches. Outside this light structure is the famous throne terrace with its pair of black-and-white thrones.

8. **The Taj Mahal - Monument to Love**

Tajmahal is an exception; it was built as monument to love. Taj speaks a different language when seen by moonlight through the shimmer of dawn, in the bright light of mid-day, and at sunset. Although a full moon brings out its distinct and heavenly beauty, it also attracts the crowds who destroy the serenity and stately aura.

Shah Jahan vowed to build a memorial for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. He brought in skilled craftsmen from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy. Taj Mahal lies on the banks of the Yamuna river where it can be seen like a mirage from the nearby Agra fort.
Agra which has been capital of the great Mughals through its historical monuments gives an idea about many a decisive battles fought in the vicinity of the present city at different places in the district where now stand the historical monuments to mark the changes in the fortunes of the Mughal emperors, the jats of Bharatpur and the marathas who had also rested control, although for a brief period. The buildings are reminders of the Mughal architecture and the place being centrally located was a nerve centre for controlling the adjoining areas of North South West and East of its location.