

CULTURAL TOURISM IN THE AWADH REGION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LUCKNOW

A Study in Tourism & Recreation Geography

**A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy (Arts)
University of North Bengal**

20390



by

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1992

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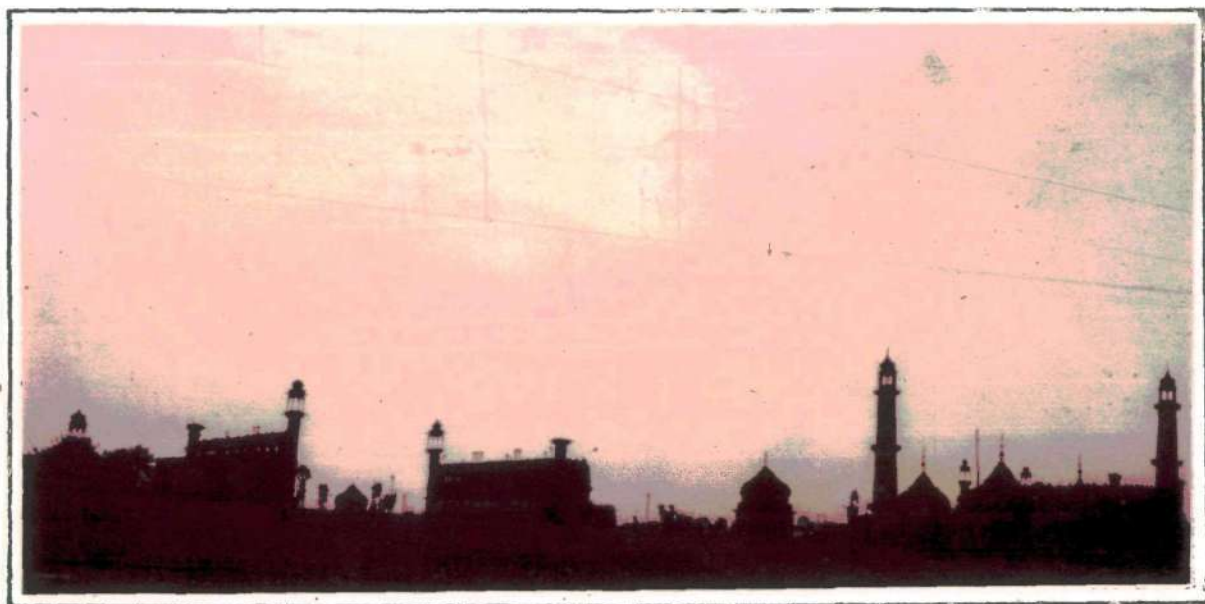
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SHAM -E-AWADH



Lucknow's past is buried in religious myths and folklores. Once a humdrum cowerd-hutment around Tila Lakhna, southwest of the Gomati, it has witnessed many vicissitudes until Shaikhs in 12th century selected this site for their stronghold; Garhe Machchi Bhavan, having two beautiful palaces : Mubark Mahal and Panch Mahal. In 1732, intrepid Saadat Khan, The first Nawab Wazir, overwhelmed Shaikhs. The later Nawabs transformed the landscape with bizzare religious edifices of saracenic designs, blending Muslim and Rajput styles. The city of Imambaras, monuments, mausolea and mahals has now no trace of the Machchi Bhavan. At sunsets, the skyline of old Lucknow glows with sunset hues, leaving behind silhouettes of domes and minars. Sham-e-Awadh is the favourite metaphor of the city. Picture shows an overview of Asafi Imambaras, - far left Rumi Gate, to the right Mosque on the Tila Lakhna. Tourism has a role in preserving these architectural Heritages.