

Where lies the original source of Ganges

Ganges River or the Ganga River flowing through the vast country of India, is the most revered among the Indian rivers. The river has major contribution towards the sustenance of life in the great Indian plains. However, the significant journey of the Ganga begins from Gangotri, which is regarded as the original source of origin of the river Ganges.

A famous story about the birth of the Ganges is found mentioned in the Indian mythology. It is narrated that King Bhagirath prayed to Lord Shiva and his desire was granted that Goddess Ganga would flow on earth to endow life to his expired antecedents. It is believed that Ganges River is entangled in Lord Shiva's locks, to save the earth from devastation. Gomukh, situated close to the Gangotri glacier looks similar to a cow's head and surprisingly, the river flows down with immense velocity through this natural structure.

Due to its immense significance to Hinduism, Gangotri is one of the most renowned pilgrimage spots in India, attracting bulk of tourists.

Gangotri is admired for handful of tourists' spots, which are as follow:

Gangotri Glacier: Located in the Uttarkashi district in the northern Indian state of Uttarkhand, adjacent to the boundary of China, Gangotri Glacier is regarded as a noteworthy pilgrimage location for the Hindu disciples who visit this place to take a dip in the holy water near the glacier. The Bhagirathi River happened to be originated from the Gangotri glacier. The glacier measures 30 kilometers in length and is between 2 to 4 kilometers wide. The journey to the glacier though exhausting is worthwhile.

Gomukh: Gomukh, the terminal point of the Gangotri glacier is located at a height of 11,500 feet, which boasts of its enormous volume of over 27 cubic kilometers. It is situated 18 kilometer away from Gangotri in the foothills of the Himalays. Since, the place has a similarity with a cow's mouth, it got its name "Gomukh", which literally means "Mouth of a Cow". The place offers visual splendor with its striking scenic beauty merged with spiritual significance. Gomukh is also blessed by other names as "Gomukhi" or "Gaumukh" and several pious travelers and hermits visit the place for worshipping. However, due to the impact of global warming, the Gomukh snout is retreating rapidly, which according to the modern research has moved 1 kilometer in last 70 years.

Gangotri Temple: This towering marble structured temple, with a height of 20 feet, was built by under the patronage of a Gurkha commander Amar Singh Thapa in the 18th century. In winter, the idol is shifted to the adjacent Mukhimath village, where it is kept for next six months.

The Shivaling: This submerged Shivaling can be viewed only during the winter, when the water level is enough low. The place is extremely sacred, since it is treated as the exact site, where Lord Shiva has tangled River Ganga in his locks.