



Maharaja Suheldev

Why in News

The Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of a **Maharaja Suheldev memorial** and the **development work of Chittaura lake** in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district.

Key Points

▪ About Maharaja Suheldev:

- He was the **erstwhile ruler of Shravasti** in Uttar Pradesh's (UP) Bahraich district, who ruled in the 11th century.
- He is known in history for waging **guerrilla warfare against Mahmud Ghazni's large army**.
- Suheldev was deeply moved by the loot and destruction of the magnificent Somnath temple by invader Mahmud Ghazni that he decided to **gather heads of different communities like Tharu and Banjara** as well as small kings to block the invasion.
 - His army defeated and **killed Ghazi Salar Masud**, the nephew of Mahmud Ghazni, at Bahraich.
- Raja Suheldev finds **mention in 'Mirat-i-Masudi'**, a 17th century Persian-language historical account.
 - 'Mirat-i-Masudi' is the **biography of Salar Masud**, written by Abd-ur-Rahman Chishti during the reign of the Mughal emperor Jahangir (1605–1627).
- In local folklore, Suheldev is **said to be a Rajbhar**.
- He is **popular as a caste icon** among the **Rajbhars (OBC)** and the **Pasis** (second largest Dalit caste in UP), both of whom have been competing for his legacy and are predominantly found in central and eastern UP.

▪ Chittaura Lake:

- The Chittaura Jheel is located in the Bahraich District near the village Chittaur in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Teri Nadi**, a small river originates from this lake which is a home to many migratory birds.
- Being a Hindu pilgrimage site, many fairs are held near this lake during Kartik Purnima and Vasant Panchami.
- There is an ashram where **Muni Ashtwarka** used to live and this site also **witnessed the epic fight between Ghazi Salar Masud and Raja Suheldev** in the year 1033.
- There is a **temple complex with the statue of Raja Suheldev** and **temple dedicated to Goddess Durga** situated here.

[Source: IE](#)

