

# Salar Masud-Raja Suhaldev battle

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**In news-** Recently, the Indian Prime Minister, while inaugurating Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor in Varanasi, referred to several historical episodes including the battle between Salar Masud and Raja Suhaldev.

## **About Salar Masud-**

- He was **known as Ghazi Mian** and believed to have **acquired popularity as a warrior in the 12th century.**
- He was the **nephew of the 11th century Turkik invader, Mahmud of Ghazni**, whose invasion of India is known as the moment when Islam entered large parts of the subcontinent.
- **His tomb at Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh stands as a place of pilgrimage** (mainly during the Urs festival ) for a large number of Muslims as well as Hindus.
- **The most comprehensive source of information about Ghazi Mian is the Mirat-e-Masaud** (Mirror of Masaud), a 17th century Persian hagiography written by Abdur Rahman Chisti, a Sufi saint of the Chisti order.
- It was at Bahraich, where in the course of a battle in 1034 CE between Masud and a local king by the name Suheldev that the former was wounded by an arrow and succumbed.
- The 13th century **Sufi poet and scholar Amir Khusrao is known to have mentioned him in his writings.**
- The 14th century Moroccan **traveller Ibn Batuta had supposedly visited his shrine at Bahraich** along with Sultan Mohammad Bin Tughlaq.
- **Mughal emperor Akbar** is known to have **made a land grant** in 1571 CE for the sake of maintaining Ghazi Miyan's shrine.

## About Raja Suhalddev-

- He was the **king of Shravasti during the 11th century.**
- According to Mirat-e-Masudi, Suhalddev **belonged to the “Bhar Tharu” community.**
- He is believed to have been the **eldest son of the king of the Bhar community, from which emerged the Pasi community, a Dalit caste group of the region.**
- Popular history of the region identifies him by **several names including Suhalddev, Sakardev, Sahardev, and Suhildev.**
- In 2016 Amit Shah hailed Suheldev as a national hero and unveiled his statue at Bahraich.

## Salar Masud-Raja Suhalddev battle-

- There are **different opinions among historians regarding this battle** and it is a mix of history and myth.
- As per the Mirat-e-Masaud, Masud accompanied Mahmud Ghazni in all his campaigns, including the celebrated expedition to Somnath in Kathiawar.
- King Suheldev was deeply moved by the loot and destruction of the magnificent Somnath temple by invader Ghazni that he decided to give up the comfort of royal life as a prince.
- **King Suheldev waged guerrilla warfare against Mahmud Ghazni’s army.**
- It is believed that in this battle, Suheldev’s army completely destroyed Salar Masud’s army.