

HISTORY OF SONPUR MELA

Originally, the venue of the fair was [Hajipur](#) and only the performance of the puja used to take place at the Harihar Nath temple of Sonapur. However, under the rule of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, the venue of the fair got shifted to Sonapur. The temple of Harihar Nath is believed to have been originally built by [Lord Rama](#), on his way to the court of [King Janak](#) to win the hand of [Mata Sita](#). It is further said that Raja Man Singh later got the temple repaired. The Harihar Nath temple, as it stands today, was built by Raja Ram Narain, an influential person during the late Mughal period.

Gajendhra Moksha legend is associated with the temple in Sonapur. It involves the story of king Indrayamuna and the [Gandharva](#) chief [Huhu](#), who were turned into an elephant and a crocodile respectively by the curse of great sages [Agasthya](#) and Dewala muni. One day the elephant's leg was caught by the [crocodile](#). It is said that the location was in Nepal. It is said that both of them fought hard for many years with their herds and while fighting, they came to the place near this temple. But ultimately the King Elephant weakened and took the lotus flower from river in its trunk and prayed to the supreme god [Vishnu](#) (Hari) to save him. [Vishnu](#) heard his prayer and cut down the crocodile with his [Chakra](#). But the touch of the chakra released Huhu from the curse. [Vishnu](#) also released Indrayamuna from his curse and took him to his abode [Vaikuntha](#).

Since Sonapur is situated at the convergence of the sacred rivers [Ganges](#) and [Gandak](#), the [Hindus](#) regard it as a holy site. One of the purposes of the people visiting the Sonapur Cattle Fair, apart from the fair, is to take a holy dip at the convergence and pay respects at the Hariharnath Temple.