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Archaic Route of Budhi Ganga Formerly Known As River Ganga

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Abstract: ***The present route of Budhi Ganga starts from Ishaqwala and reaches Hastinapur via Saifpur Firozpur.Based on preliminary survey, the Budhi Ganga starts from Ishaqwala. On the old road, we still get to see many ancient temples such as Siddha Peeth Shiva temple in Saifpur Firozpur, Pandeshwar temple in Hastinapur, Karna Ghat temple and Draupadi Ghat temple, maybe even as far as Garhmukteshwar many more temples find in the way. The ancient route of the Ganges in Saifpur Firozpur was spread over a considerable area, the evidence of which is present even today. In this research paper, many small evidences including these facts have been presented, which may not have been done in the past.***
Keywords : Dewal , Ishaqwala , Budhi Ganga, Hastinapur

I. INTRODUCTION

In the turn of showing big datum, history has always neglected to show small factums ; it is only small evidence that sometimes is capable of making volumetric transformations. Perhaps this is the reason why the national poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar has given a line in his composition about rivers in "*Rashmirathi*", which is as follows :

मूल जानना बड़ा कठिन हे नदियों का, वीरो का,
धनुष छोड़ कर और गोत्र क्या होता रणधीरो का ?

The research on rivers has never been done which it deserves. Sometimes the pages of history become so bleak that to ride them it becomes necessary to go to the spot with the evidences; one has to understand the ancient and existing evidence. Something similar has happened with the old passage of Ganga which is commonly known as Budhi Ganga who has addicted the evidences of great war Mahabharata and later civilizations.

In the previous research paper [1], we had shown the journey of Budhi Ganga from Saifpur Firozpur to Hastinapur and existence in the time of Timur. Archaeological evidences were discovered on the banks of Budhi Ganga in the period of 1962 [2], in which evidence of umpteen decency came to the fore. In 1950-52 [3], bore wells were also done in Hastinapur at the bank of the Budhi Ganga during excavation on Mound known as Ulta Khera commonly known as *Pandav Tila*, in which again there was a salvo of evidence. But some works are really lacking on the Budhi Ganga.

In the continuation of previous research paper, we have made an attempt to show the origin of Budhi Ganga from Ishaqwala in tehsil Jansath of District Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh). There is a complete lack of strive. By the way, this research has tried to "stab" even the smallest evidences.

A. Bhishma alter the path of Ganga as mentioned in Mahabharata

*Maharaj*a Shantanu lived in Hastinapur, the delightful capital of the Kuru dynasty. According to the *Sambhav Parva* of *Adiparva* of Mahabharata, once a predatory animal was tied with arrows by King Shantanu, he followed him and come on the bank of Ganga. At that time there was very little water in the Ganges. Seeing this scene, King Shantanu got worried, why the Ganges is not flowing today like before?

When Shantanu came forward to find out the reason, he saw a Kumar practicing divine weapons and standing by stopping the Ganges stream with arrows. This Kumar is Bheeshm. I mentioned this fact here because might be this is the first chance in *Dwapar Yug* when Ganga change their coarse ? which was noticed by King Shantanu. But this fact mentioned in another way.

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B. Physical evedences shows the origin of Budhi Ganga is from Ishaqwala.

It is seen in the most of the documents that the source of old route of Ganges (Budhi Ganga) is from Dewal, but in reality that source starts from Ishaqwala.In the revenue documents it is only Ishaqwala, Tehsil Jansath, District Muzaffarnagar (Refer image 2 to 4)



Image 1 : Google Earth showing the coordinates of Budhi Ganga stream at Ishaqwala in District Muzaffarnagar.

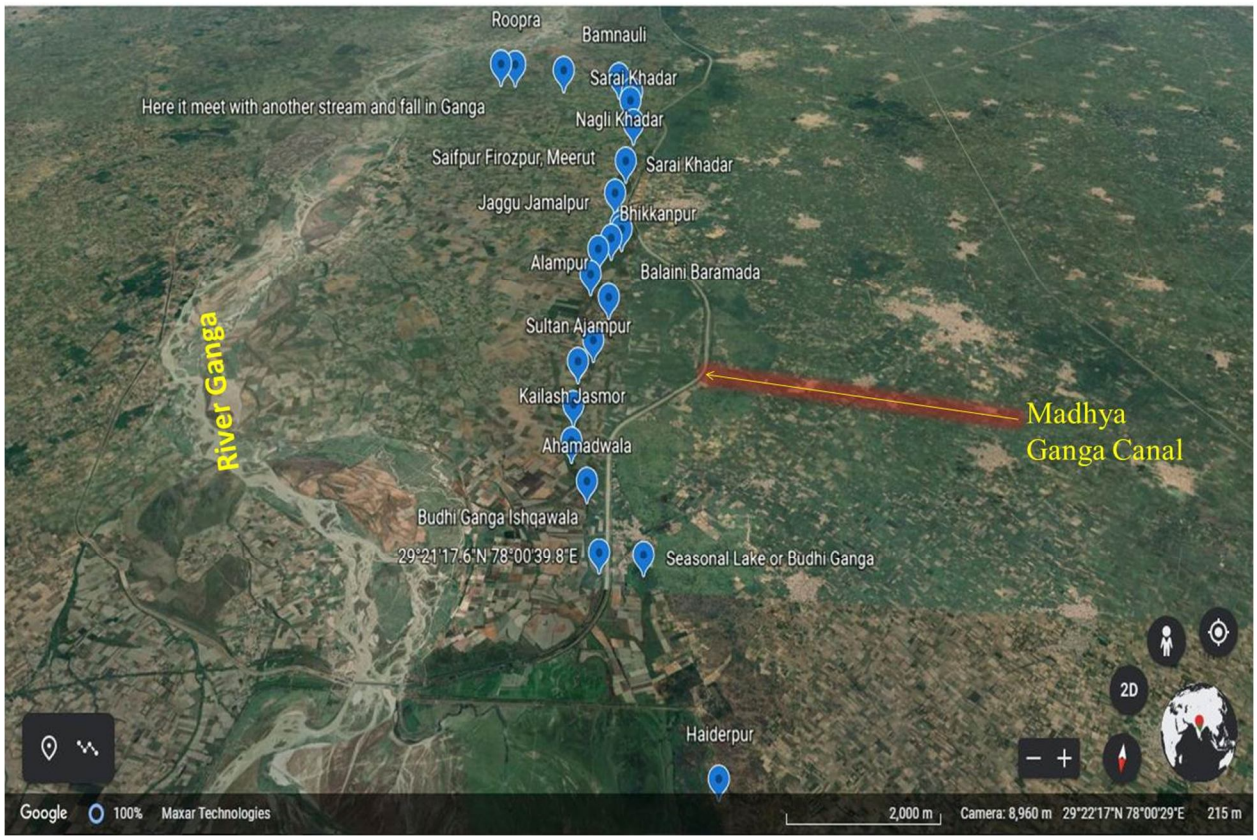


Image 2 : Google Earth image showing the stream of Budhi Ganga from Ishaqwala (Muzaffarnagar) to Hastinapur (Meerut). This is continuous stream with planty of water.

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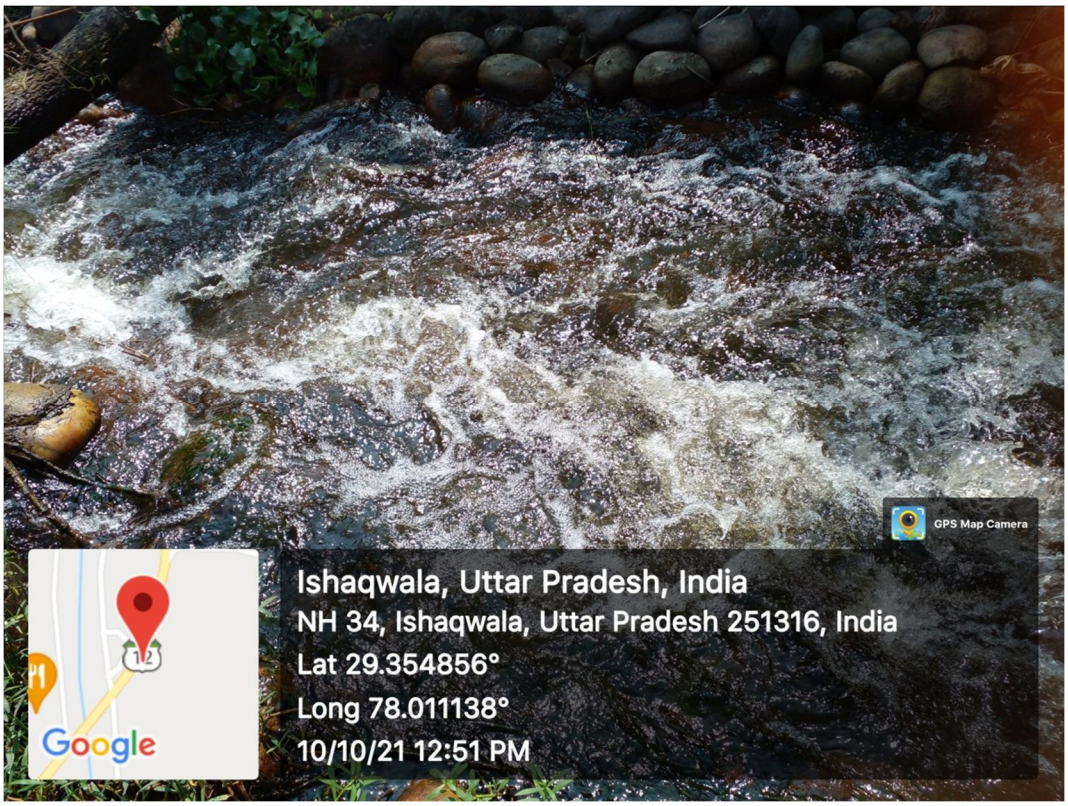


Image 3 : Budhi Ganga at station Ishaqwala, Tehsil Jansath, District Muzaffarnagar

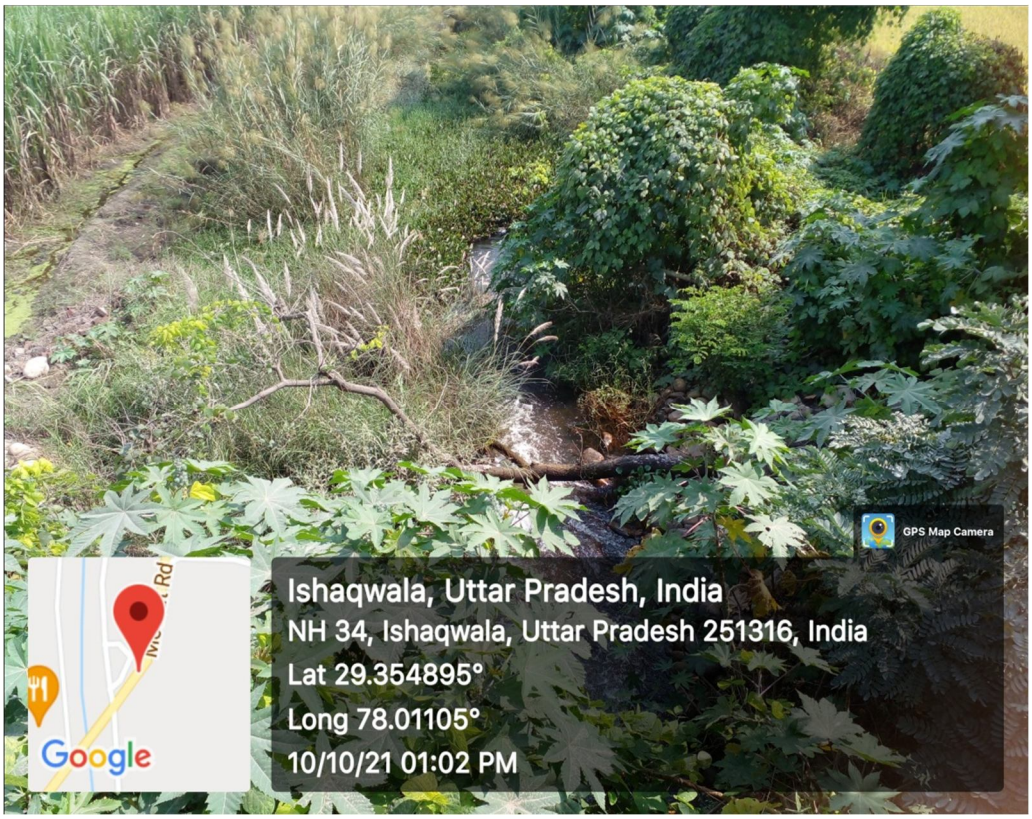


Image 4 : Budhi Ganga stream at Ishaqwala

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C. The origin of the old route of Ganges stream coming to Hastinapur is Ranjitpur near Haiderpur.

The old route of Ganges that starts from Ishaqwala is really amazing (refer Image 3). Budhi Ganga flows (from Ishaqwala to Saifpur Firozpur without any hurdle) in between the middle of Madhya Ganga Canal and the main stream of the Ganges. But here a question definitely starts in the mind that what is the real source of this old route of Ganges stream? To find the answer, we turned towards Ranjitpur near Haiderpur (Haiderpur is a man made wetland which is constituted in year 1984) and their nearby areas. There were many answers to the question which some were surprising.

In between Ganges and Seasonal Lake there is "*Ganga Pushta*" it might be possible that there is a diversion in the route of this stream due to this *Ganga Pushta* and Madhya Ganga Canal starting from Berrage (or it might be possible due to any reason that might be hidden). The residents of Dewal told that this seasonal lake (Image 5) is actually a stream of Budhi Ganga in archaic time and this stream is further connected to Ishaqwala stream which is present nowadays. But after canal formation this stream is discontinued and now water comes from barrage in this present stream. This finding is totally based on the current situation, might be rejig time to time ?

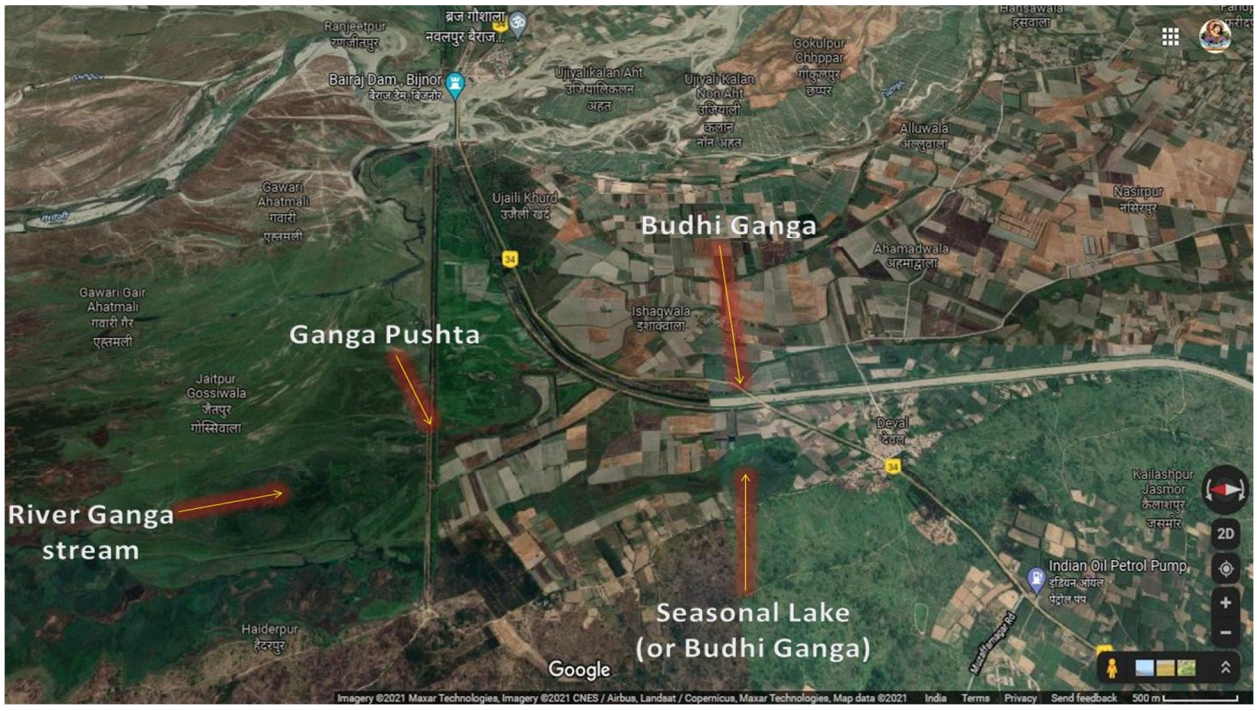


Image 5: Goggle Map Image of Haiderpur stream broken due to excavation of Madhya Ganga Canal and other reasons.

D. Flood in the Ganges

It is inevitable that there is a flood in the Ganges and this fact is also true in even in the present time scenario. Perhaps when there is no canal, there must have been a change in the way again and again, and the flood will also be horrible. Due to these floods somehow there is also change in their path/coarse in which some diversions are mentioned and many are ignored in the pages of history. In the regim of Nichakshu (Horrible flood in Ganges in Hastinapur change their route as archaeological evidences found from Ulta Khera Mound Hastinapur in year 1950-52 and mentioned in Ancient India 10 and 11) and in year near about 1400 AD change in the coarse is noted in the stream of Ganges [1].

E. The ancient flow of Ganga was wide in Saifpur Firozpur

When we move from Saifpur Firozpur Gurdwara towards the bank of Budhi Ganga, we need to look carefully. The view of the banks of Budhi Ganga from this point will remind of history. This path should be the same as that of the present area of nearby Ganges. The grain of the road and the sandy soil, it is possible that this ancient course of the Ganges may have flowed only till this juncture refer Image 6. Seeing the ancient evidence here, the mighty flow of the Budhi Ganga can be guessed, perhaps this is the reason why the soldiers of Timur had to make a lot of effort to cross it.

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Image 6: Google Map image, evidence starts appearing from the place of arrow head that the Ganges used to flow from here in ancient times which change their coarse from several kilometers.



Image 7 : On Saifpur Firozpur station there is *Shivlinga* on the bank of Budhi Ganga. This *Shivlinga* is not so old but in my openion this is biggest evedince. When my eyes striked on this *Shivlinga*, at that time my mind blinked and I think over the connection of old stream of Ganga and Lord Shiva as mythologicaly they both connected with each other. So in coming section I only mention the ancient temples of Lord Shiva on the bank of this stream till Hastinapur.As these temples are helpful in tracing the limits of the tract of old stream.

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F. The old bank of the Ganges and the abode of Lord Shiva

During the survey of Budhi Ganga, an interesting thing happened which I would like to mention here. There are some ancient temples related to mythology from Saifpur Firozpur to Hastinapur, one in Saifpur Firozpur and the others in Hastinapur. These temples were located on the banks of the old route of the Ganges in ancient times.



Image 8: Budhi Ganga (at Saifpur Firozpur station), Siddha Peeth Temple (of Saifpur Firozpur) and Red Arrow are shown in this Google image. Here an attempt has been made to show from the red arrow that in ancient times, the Ganges may have flowed till here because this area is exactly like the banks of the Ganges. This may be a divergence of view, but the existing evidence cannot be ignored.

It is believed that the *Shivlinga* established in the *Siddha Peeth* Shri Shiva temple in Saifpur Firozpur is of Mahabharata Period. In ancient times, it would be at a distance of about 877 meters from the Ganges stream. It was called about 877 meters here because when we turn from the Gurudwara and walk towards the old stream of Ganges, that is where the ancient stream used to start (see next section for detailed information). On the other hand, *Shivlinga* established in Pandeshwar Mahadev Temple in Hastinapur is also believed to be of Mahabharata period, this temple is still in front of old route of Ganges (Refer Image 9 and 10). Beside these Karna Ghat Temple and Draupdi Ghat Temple are also situated on the bank of old route of Ganges or Budhi Ganga [4] (here we only mention the temples related to Lord Shiva from Saifpur Firozpur to Hastinapur)

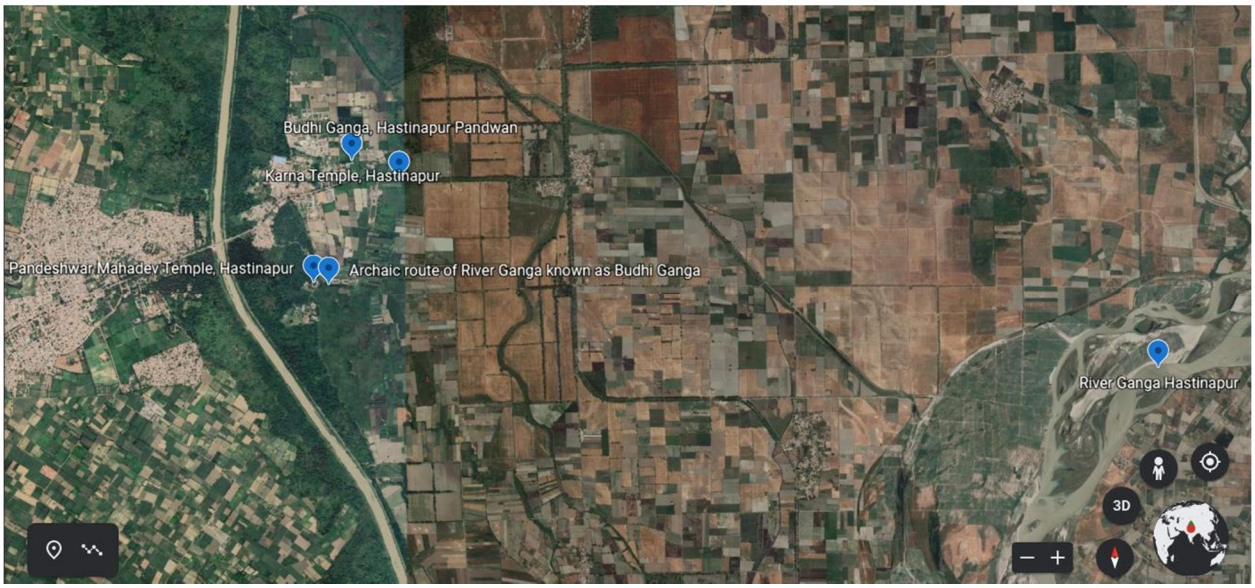


Image 9: Goggle image shown Pandeshwar Mahadev Temple and Karna Ghat Temple on bank of old route of Ganges. Beside these temples there is Draupdi Ghat situated on the bank of Budhi Ganga.

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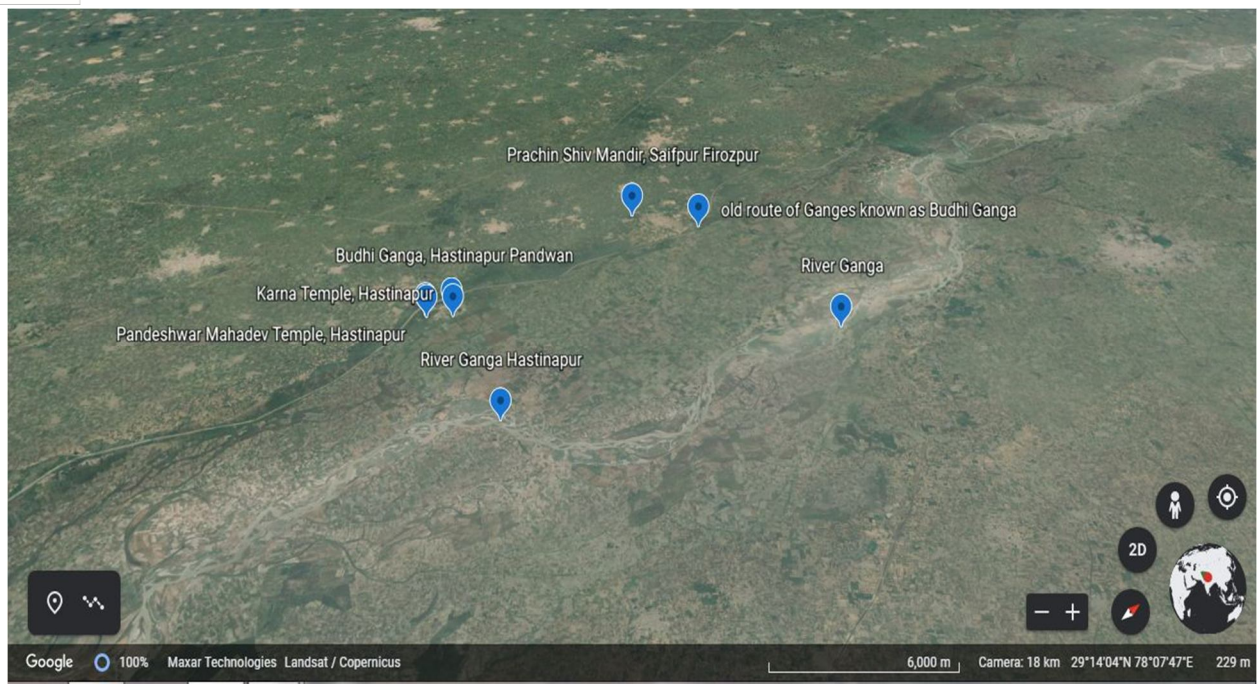


Image 10 : This image shows the old route and at present route of river Ganga starting from Saifpur Firozpur and Hastinapur

II. CONCLUSION

Initially it can be said that the Budhi Ganga starts from Ishaqwala in Muzaffarnagar and reaches Hastinapur in District Meerut. Some of its flow is interrupted in Hastinapur, then again starts from Hastinapur and then moves towards Garhmukteshwar in District Hapur. But till now the survey has been done by us only from Ishaqwala to Hastinapur. Seeing the evidence of the ancient flow of Budhi Ganga in Saifpur Firozpur, it appears that the flow of Ganga has been fierce here. All the ancient temples that were built are situated on the banks of the Budhi Ganga, which means that it was clear that even till that time the Budhi Ganga used to flow there. Evidence kept getting ignored and history kept getting tarnished. This is the reason that there was a lack of research on this ancient flow of the Ganges, on the other hand, the Hastinapur Century area was registered in the revenue data leaving the Budhi Ganga.

One of my suggestions in this research is that some areas of Budhi Ganga have been recorded by another name, that should be recorded again in the name of Budhi Ganga.

At last I conclude that there has also been a change due to the canal from Bijnor barrage on Budhi Ganga, may be this route runs without any hindrance before the existance of canal.

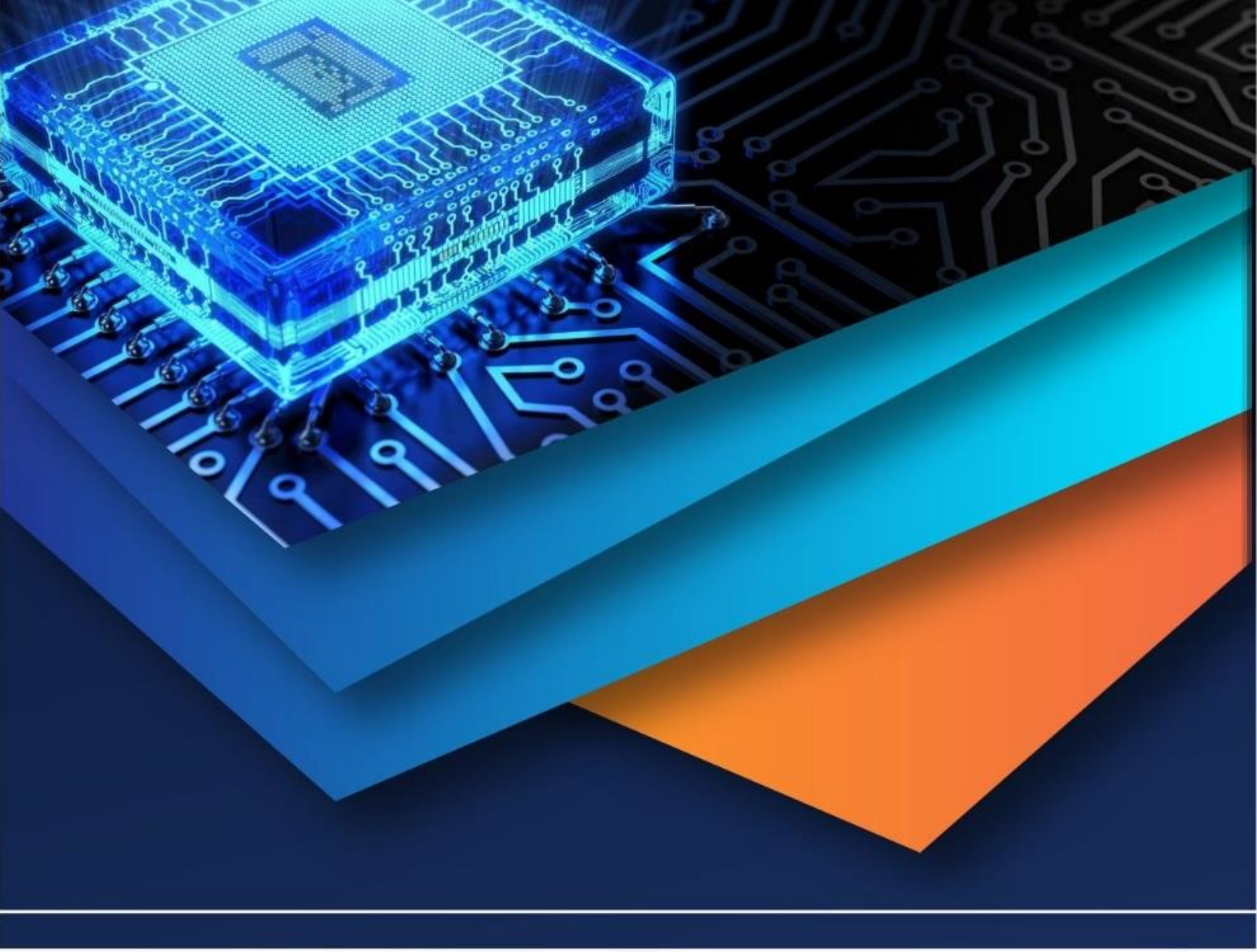
III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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