Towering high above history

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About 60 km from Kolkata lies the town of Pandua in Hoogly district. The town revels in a historical past which can be a tourist's delight.

A 20-minute walk from the railway station to Gohat will take you to an amazing but unknown landmark which has been standing for the last 500 years. It is the 'Vijay Stambha'-the victory tower.

Pages of history say that Zafar Khan, a muslim ruler built this to commemorate his victory in the battle of Triveni in 1340. Among locals it is also known by the name "Muyajana".

Arguably the tallest tower in Bengal, the Firoj Minar in Malda is shorter than this, the five storied structure which measures 136 feet was once a sacred place of the Hindus. Legend has it that Sri Jagganath Temple of Puri could be seen from the top of this tower. However, no historical document is available to support the contention.

The tower is also a site where Hindu-Muslim harmony manifests itself every year with a month long fair around it where people from both communities assemble.