

Folk Tourism and Deoghar, Jharkhand

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ABSTRACT

The state of Jharkhand is well-known for its sacred locations, hills, and waterfalls that are surrounded by magnificent hills, rivers, lakes, and a wide variety of plants and animals. The State has a potential to develop nationally and internationally significant pilgrimage attractions. In the state, religious tourism is the most prevalent kind of travel. The shrines receive a lot of visitors each year. Popular places of worship include Maa Ugratara Temple, Surya Mandir, Shakti Mandir, Sai Temple, Tuti Jharna mandir, Bhairosthan Temple, Baidyanath Dham, Jagannath Mandir, Dhurwa, Rankini Mandir and Sun Temple. The researcher attempts to provide some exploratory exposures and insights of Jharkhand with special reference to Deoghar district through this paper however it is completely theoretical in nature.

KEY WORDS

Tourism, Pilgrimage, Religious, Baba Baidyanath.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism refers to travelling other locations for pleasure, recreation, or business. It includes a broad variety of pursuits like sight-seeing, visiting cultural sites, going on outdoor adventures, taking part in events and festivals, and just unwinding in a new setting. Travelling within one's own country is known as domestic tourism. Travellers from other countries enter a country through inbound tourism, and citizens of one country travel abroad to visit other countries. In many nations, it is a major economic sector that makes money from spending on things like travel, lodging, food, shopping, and entertainment. Due to its ability to promote mutual understanding and respect between individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and its contribution to the expansion of local economies across the globe, tourism is a critical component of international collaboration, cultural exchange, and economic development. But there are drawbacks as well, such the effects on the environment, crowded popular spots, and tensions across sociocultural groups. In order to solve these issues, sustainable tourism practices encourage responsible travel that respects native customs, protects the environment, and helps host communities.

Tourism plays a key role in any nation or state's economy since it creates income while utilising resources sustainably. In addition to creating jobs for the locals, tourism offers a chance to engage with individuals from around the nation and the globe (Sharma, 2021). There is an enormous potential for pilgrimage tourism in Jharkhand. Although Jharkhand has abundant natural resources, mines, and minerals and was once thought to be solely an industrial and business state, pilgrimage was grossly ignored, and little efforts were made to improve the pilgrimage sites (Kalsi, 2020). Jharkhand is one of those places that practically any type of traveller can find the ideal vacation spot. The state has a lot to offer tourists, including an abundance of lush, green forests, undulating hills, and countless tiny hill streams. It has a lot going for it that will appeal to tourists and everyone who appreciates the beauty of nature. Its lakes, waterfalls, fauna, evergreen forests, and for tourists who enjoy the outdoors, the breathtaking scenery is a veritable gold mine (Kapure, 2019).

DISCUSSION

India's economy, and the rapidly rising economy of Jharkhand in particular, depends heavily on the tourism sector. All of our planners and policy makers have been concentrating on its potential to contribute to the creation of jobs and foreign exchange. The economic impact of tourism on the global economy has become increasingly apparent in recent times. In actuality, tourism has a wide range of effects and influences society in a variety of ways. The strongest justification for a nation's tourist industry's growth is its beneficial effects on the national economy (Sarkar, Need and Scope of the Study, 2014). Numerous advantages result from tourism, not only for visitors but also for the places they go and the local populations there. Tourism offers an opportunity to mingle and bond with individuals from all over the country and the world in addition to creating job for the local inhabitants. These are few of the main advantages of tourism.

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- **Economic Impact:** Many nations rely heavily on tourism to support their economies. Direct employment creation occurs in businesses like hospitality, transportation, and entertainment; indirect employment creation occurs in industries like retail, construction, and agriculture. Tourism-related revenue supports small enterprises, infrastructural improvements, and economic growth.
 - **Cultural Exchange:** Through bringing people from all backgrounds together, tourism promotes cultural exchange. By experiencing different customs, languages, cuisines, and civilizations, travellers can develop respect and understanding between people. Stereotypes can be dispelled, and world peace can be aided by this conversation.
 - **Preservation of Heritage:** The preservation and upkeep of historical structures, monuments, and cultural landmarks are frequently aided by tourism. In order to preserve these historical monuments for future generations, conservation activities might be funded in part by the money received from tourist visits.
 - **Job Creation:** Many different types of people, such as tour guides, hotel employees, restaurant workers, artisans, and transportation providers, can find work in the tourism sector. This lowers unemployment rates and lessens poverty, especially in isolated and rural areas.
 - **Environmental Conservation:** Sustainable tourism practices encourage the preservation of the environment and the prudent management of natural resources. Tourism can help preserve biodiversity and fragile ecosystems by promoting eco-friendly projects and increasing public knowledge of conservation issues.
- In overall, when tourism is handled ethically and sustainably, it can have a good social, economic, and environmental impact.

DEOGHAR

Deoghar was formed after the reconstitution of Santhal Parganas. This place is an important center of Hindu Pilgrimage. Besides Edgar the other towns in the district are Jasidih and Madhupur. The district has seven blocks Edgar, Karon, Madhupur, Mohanpur, Palojori, Sarath and Sarwan (Sarkar, Deoghar Circuits, 2014). The district of Deoghar was called for its main town, Deoghar. Deogharh (the god's fort) is the source of the name Deoghar. "The abode of gods" is what Deoghar implies. The chief deity of the district of Deoghar is Davahidev Mahadev. Deoghar town is well-known for being a Sanctum Sanctorum of Hindus. The district is located 254 metres above sea level in the northern hemisphere, between latitudes 240 03' and 23038' N and longitudes 860 28' and 870 04' E. The district ranks ninth among the state's districts in terms of population, and sixteenth in terms of area. Tribal such as Paharias, Lohras, and Santhals, constitute a sizable portion of the populace. Its culture and creed are distinct due to its tribal dominance. There are rivers, forests, and mountains all around this district. It has unusual and exciting natural occurrences (District Environment Plan for District-Deoghar, 2019). The most famous and important sites of Deoghar district are Baba Baidyanath Dham, Naulakha Temple, Nandan Pahar Park and Trikut Pahar.

i. Baba Baidyanath Dham

Baidyanath Dham is a well-known Hindu sacred site located right in the middle of the city. Another name for this location is Babadham. Holy water is served at the well-known Kamna Ling temple of Lord Shiva every year, particularly on Mondays. Thousands of pilgrims from all over India trek to offer the Ganga's sacred water throughout Shavan month. Eleven temples make up the main mandir complex, which was constructed in 1516. In addition to Baidyanathdham, there are other temples such as Laxmi Narayan Temple, Parbati Temple, Kali Temple, Tara Temple, Surya Temple, Ganesh Temple, Saraswati Temple, Bagla Mukhi Temple, Annapurna Temple, and Anandu Bhairabi Temple (Sarkar, 2014).

Baba Baidyanath Dham Temple



Baidyanath Dham is a well-known attraction in Deoghar town. The presiding deity of Baidyanath Dham, known as Sidha Peeth (a pilgrimage site that satisfies devotees' desires), is Ravneshwar Mahadev. Mahadev is considered as one of the Trinity by Hindus. He is also referred to as Devadhivev. This Shiva Linga, one of the 12 that have spread around the nation, is called Kamna Linga, which literally translates to "with a pure heart, the Lord grants the devotee's desires." The location is also referred to as Ketaki-Vara, Vaidyanath, and Ravana-Karan (where "karan" means "deep forest," as in Karanam Gahamam Varam). There are several legends connected to the location (District Census Handbook, Deoghar, 2011).

The demon king of Lanka, Ravana, was a mighty ruler and a devoted follower of Lord Shiva, according to the Shiva Purana. He felt that without being the capital, his town would not be ideal. Thus, he prayed to the god at Mount Kailash to establish Lanka as his permanent residence. Instead of answering Ravana's petition, the deity granted him one of his twelve divine emblems, the Jyotir-Linga, under the stipulation that it be transported to Lanka without any stops along the way. In the event that the Lingam is held somewhere on Earth during its voyage, it will stay there and not move. One of the gods' greatest enemies was Ravana. They were afraid of what would happen if a Jyotir-Linga were established in the demon's metropolis. They realised that even with Mahadeva protecting him, they would never be able to overthrow Ravana. So, they convened in a sombre assembly and produced ways to get the better of him. As the water-regent Lord Varuna entered Ravana's stomach, he had the impulse to create water. That is why he had to come down to earth. While travelling, he encountered Lord Vishnu, who was dressed like an elderly Brahmin. Talk between the two started. For a brief period, Ravana asked the Brahmin to hold the Lingam in order to assist him. The request was approved without delay. After giving the Brahmin the symbol of divinity, Ravana withdrew to relax. It took him a long time to go to the toilet because of Lord Varuna's plan. He went back, but the Brahmin was nowhere to be found. He searched him frantically, only to locate the Lingam that was placed on the ground some distance away. He made an unsuccessful attempt to raise it. After failing in his attempts, he kicked the lingam out of desperation, breaking only a little portion of it. This is how the Lingam at Deoghar is found in its current form. When Ravana saw his foolishness, he fell to the ground and pleaded with the Lord for forgiveness. He worshipped the god every day and drank libations of holy water from the Gangotri, the Ganges river's source, to atone for his transgression. Afterwards, a well was dug and holy water from all around that's where the world was kept. At that point, carrying holy water from the Gogotri was no longer required. The current Harlajuri, located around 4 miles north of Deoghar, is the location where Ravana and the Jyotir Linga dropped to Earth. The Jyotir-Linga, also known as 65 Baidyanath, was erected in the present-day Deoghar. The Patalkup in the grounds of the temple is the well mentioned earlier. The Brahmin who received the heavenly emblem, set it up according to the correct procedures, and dedicated the deity with water from a nearby tank is described in the Padma Purana. Prior to his departure, the Brahmin, who was actually Lord Vishnu, instructed a Bhil who had observed the ceremonies of the veneration of the holy symbol. When he came back, this Bhil told Ravana the whole story. Using his arrow, Ravana dug a well and filled it with water from all the pilgrimage sites so that it would be suitable for a god to be worshipped. Another story claims that the Jyotir-Linga was neglected for a very long time before being discovered by a hunter by the name of Baiju, long after Ravana had passed away. He started to worship it after declaring it to be his Lord, Bajjnath. This is how the Baidanath Temple name for the Shrine was acquired (District Census Handbook, Deoghar, 2011).

ii. Naulakha Temple

This temple situated in Deoghar is famous for the beauty of its architecture. This temple was built by a follower of Balanand Brahmachari. The construction of this temple started from 1936 AD and continued till 1948 AD. The structure of this temple is like Ramakrishna temple of Bailur. The construction of this temple cost nine lakh rupees at that time, which was donated by Queen Charushila. The height of this temple is 146 feet.

iii. Nandan Pahar Park

Nandan Pahar is 3km away from the Baidyanath Dham railway station. The summit is home to the temples of Lord Shiva, Devi Parvati, Lord Ganesh, and Kartik. Panoramic view of sunrise and sunset from the hilltop. Water is supplied with drinking water from water tanks situated on a hill, which are linked to the Darowa River. Built next to the hill, a children's park is thought by visitors to be a real park because the rides there thrill the little ones. The park's rides thrill the kids that come here. There's food and other facilities on site (Sarkar, Deoghar Circuits, 2014). People come here to have picnics. Presently this mountain has been developed as an amusement park.

iv. Trikut Pahar

The mountain is located 16 km from Deoghar on Dumka Road. This mountain is filled to numerous waterfalls and caverns. Visitors to the Deoghar Basukinath Temple often choose to spend time on this peak. According to tradition, this peak is where the Pushpak Vimana of the Lanka king Ravana landed. Here, the Tourism Department constructed an 840-foot ropeway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To explore various options for adventure tourism in the nearby hills and forests, including trekking, rock climbing, and nature paths. To encourage both visitors and residents to adopt eco-friendly behaviours in order to protect the area's natural resources and ecological equilibrium. To save the area's varied flora and animals, create nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries. To establish an online presence to promote travel packages, upcoming events, and tourist attractions using a dedicated website, social media accounts, and mobile apps. Work together with media outlets, travel bloggers, and influencers to create excitement and draw travellers to Deoghar. To help guests organise their travels, provide online booking choices for lodging, transportation, and guided excursions.

Coordinating the implementation of such strategies can help Deoghar to establish itself as a top travel destination, drawing travellers looking for cultural, spiritual, and outdoor experiences.

CONCLUSION

Jharkhand has an abundance of potential for tourism. In the state, religious tourism is extremely prevalent. One of the state's most significant pilgrimage, Deoghar welcomes an enormous number of visitors each year. The adventure journey is enhanced by natural sceneries and unique trekking pathways. It has a favourable effect on the city's culture and aids in the expansion of the residents' perspectives. Plans should be put forth by the government to bring tourism to new heights.

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