

Prospects and Challenges of tourism and Hospitality Development in Rohtas and Kaimur Districts of Bihar State –A study

Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Nath Pandey
Professor in Commerce
Sri Shankar College Sasaram
Dist – Rohtas Bhar

ABSTRACT

The Indian Tourism and Hospitality industry is one of the largest segments under the services sector of the Indian economy and offers the most diverse products globally. Tourism in India has registered significant growth over the years. Rohtas and Kaimur districts in Bihar State are predominantly agricultural districts. The nature has bestowed all the beauty to the twin districts. Places of Historical Importance, Places of Locational / Natural Importance, Places of Religious Importance are situated in the district in great number and all have potential of development into tourist places of importance. The development of tourism in the region may lead to augmentation of income and employment of the people residing in the area and thus result in the development of the country,

Introduction:

The Indian Tourism and Hospitality industry is one of the largest segments under the services sector of the Indian economy and offers the most diverse products globally. The country's rich history, cultural heritage, diversity of religion, variety of landscapes and medicine fascinate both, budget and luxury travelers. Tourism in India has registered significant growth over the years, which is led by rising incomes, increasing affordability, growing aspirations, increasing globalization, and a growing airline industry along with improvement in travel-related infrastructure. The industry holds immense potential for the Indian economy and it can provide impetus to other industries through backward and forward linkages.

This sector contributes around 6.23% to the national GDP and 8.78% of the total employment of the country. The direct contribution to the GDP totaled US \$30.95 Bn in 2012 and is expected to rise to US \$40.8 Bn this year. The market size of the tourism and hospitality industry stood at US \$117.7 Bn. The industries grew at a CAGR of 36.50% during 2009-2013 and growing at a forecasted CAGR of 15.15%, it is expected to become a US \$ 418.90 Bn industry by 2022.

Importance and Relevance of Study:

Service sector has attained an important place among various sectors of the economy and tourism has same place in service sector of every country. It is widely realized that for the expansion of the economy the development of service sector is inevitable and it is not possible without the development of tourism and India cannot be an exception. Rohtas and Kaimur districts in Bihar State are predominantly agricultural districts. The

nature has bestowed all the beauty to the twin districts. Many waterfalls, ancient religious places, Forts, besides natural beauties, are situated in the districts. The prime occupation of the residents of the district is agriculture. Although in both the districts agriculture, particularly paddy, wheat, pulses, and, oil seeds, are in developed state but the per capita income of the residents is very low. Both the districts lack industrialization. Development of industries will lead to erosion in cultivable land in the districts. The districts have rich historical, cultural, religious and natural resources, necessary ingredient for tourism development. Tourism development can become a tool for the development of the districts. Tourism will promote employment and income growth in the districts and also in the country, which the prime objective of every program and policies of the State and Central governments. In the ancient past this region was known as Koshal, the place of Koshalya the mother of Lord Rama. It has been the residence of famous warrior demon King Sahastrabahu. A fierce battle has been fought between Parsuram and Sahastrabahu in which the demon was defeated and thus ground for the development of Vedic culture was facilitated. Sahasram, presently Sasaram is considered the combination of names of Sahastrbahu (Sahas) and Parsuram (Ram).

Objectives of Study: This study has been undertaken with a view to the following hypothesis---

1. To survey the potential tourist places in the district of Rohtas and Kaimur districts of Bihar state.
2. To assess the tourist potential of tourist places in the district of Rohtas and Kaimur districts of Bihar state.
3. To recommend for the development of tourist places in the districts of Rohtas and Kaimur of Bihar state.

Hypothesis: In this study the following hypotheses have been tested on the basis of data and information collected during the research

H₀₁= Tourism in Rohtas and Kaimur District is in developed state.

H₁₀= Tourism in Rohtas and Kaimur District is not in developed state.

H₀₂= There is ample scope of tourism development in Rohtas and Kaimur District

H₂₀= There is no scope of tourism development in Rohtas and Kaimur District

Methodology: This study is purely empirical in nature. A comprehensive survey was made by the researcher to get a firsthand knowledge of the likely tourist places in the district of Rohtas and Kaimur districts of Bihar state in April- July 2022. For the purpose all published materials have been studied besides consulting and interviewing the local people on the matter. The book "An Account of The District of Sashabad in 1812-13" written by Francis Buchanan served as the basis. The data collected during the survey has been analyzed and presented wherever felt necessary.

Universe of the Study: The present study has been conducted in the districts of Rohtas and Kaimur of Bihar State. These districts are situated on the 24°43' to 25°20' north and 83°43' to 84°26' east of the globe. This area has very ancient and rich historical background. Excavation in Senuarvillege near Shivsagar block of Sasaram subdivision

indicates is relation with Stone Age. Stone writings on Chandansahid hills, Copper Plate found near Sonhar and rock paintings near Babhani hills prove the historical relevance of the area. This area was called Karus in Vedic period. It is surrounded by Soneriver in the south-east, Bindhachal range of forests on south- west. This area has been the abode of Saints, warriors and intellectuals from the very beginning. The name of Rohtas relates to the son of famous king Harischandra. It is said that Rohitaswa had once ruled over the country. As per the rock writing unearthed from excavation near Mundeswari temple Udaisen was the king of the area in 635 AD. As per the stone writing found near Tarachandi and Tutraho ad RohtasgarhForte one Person named PratapDhawal was the king of the area in 11th century AD. This area have also been associated with SherSah, Mansingh, Hemu,andKhurram. About 1857 this area was the estate of HaziBegam. This area is the habitation of Brahman, RajputsKaisths, Bhumihars, Yadavas, Koiri, Mali, Nai, Panery,Kahars, Sonars, Lohars, Carpenters,Teli, Kanu, Binds, Nonia, shephards, gosai Casts besides Oraons, Kharwars, Chero,Munda, Kol, Shabar, Bhar and Gond forest living primitive Casts. The prime vocation of the residents is agriculture in the plains and collection of forest products besides farming on the hills. The area lacks industrialization.

Potential Tourist Places in Rohtas and Ksimur Districts:

During the survey of the districts in question the following tourists places have emerged as potential tourist places,from the information gathered from the publications and interview of the local people.

a) Places of Historical Importance:

- 1) **Palace of Rohtas Garh:**Palace of Rohtas Garh is situated at a hillock near Rohtas township. This palace or Fort is presumed to be built by Hindu kings probably the tribe Chero tribes who are considered to have ruled over the county for a long period. This fort fell to the fold ofMoughul Muslim ruler Humaun for the first time. Fancies Buchanan believes that SerSah after becoming the king if India kept his family in this fort and latter built a palace for his family at a place known as SerGarh after the king serSah. Still today this place has no road connectivity and visiting this place is an uphill task. A Mela (gathering of people where they meet and transact) is organized in the month of Bhadrpad Hindi Month at the time of KARAMA DHARMA festival in which people from Jharkand and Chatisgargh state participate besides local people. It is estimated by the local people that about 50 thousand people gather in the Mela. Local estimate that about 2 lakh people visit this fort every year.Some local people occasionally visit this palace for picnic etc.
- 2) **Palace of Ser Garh:**This palace was built by famous Afgan emperor of India SerSah at a place in the forest near Chenari township in Rohtas district near Badalgarh village. This palace is of two stories below rocks on the hill. Still today this place has no road connectivity and visiting this place is a uphill task. Some people visit this palace for view of palace and picnic etc. As per local estimates about 50thousand people visit this place annually.

- 3) **Mausoleum of Sher Shah at Sasaram:** Situated in the main town of Sasaram it is the main attraction of the town. As is evident from the name this has been built by King of India SerSah. It is known that SerSah was born in this town most probably in Muradabad village. It may be that he has made this small town his seat of residence and rule. Mausoleum of SerSah has been taken over by Archeological Survey of India for maintenance and development. But the Mausoleum has not been maintained properly. The site is dirty and lack basic amenities. The pond in which this is situated is filled with filth and the water is emitting bad smell. It is said that the dome of it is the largest in the world. About 5 Laks people visit this place annually.
- 4) **Mausoleum of Hasan Sur Shah at Sasaram:** The Mausoleum of Hasan Sur Shah is Located in heart of Sasaram Town. Hasan SurSah was the father of king Sher Shah who became the king of India in 1540 and ruled the country for about five years. He bagged the throne from famous king Humayun and built the mausoleum at Sasaram. After his tragic death Humayun again regained the kingdom. Sher Shah has built this mausoleum along with his own mausoleum. It is also an octagonal hall like that of mausoleum of Sher Shah.
- 5) **Mausoleum of Salim Khan at Sasaram:** There is an un-finished mausoleum called the mausoleum of Salim the son of king Sher Shah. It is in the Takia Mohalla of Sasaram town. It is said that while the mausoleum was in being built, he was overthrown from power by Humayun and the mausoleum left unfinished. This mausoleum is also in a pond like that of king Sher Shah. In size and grandeur it seems like that of the mausoleum of Sher Shah. The mausoleum is grossly neglected. There is filth and garbage everywhere in the premises of the mausoleum. Local use this place for solving their sanitation needs as open defecation.
- 6) **Chandan Sahid Pir:** It is near Sasaram town on the top of the hill. It is the most revered place of Muslims. Francis Buchanan writes that Tamurlang while invading India had come to this town also and a fierce battle was fought and many of the saint like warriors had been killed here. At that time it was a belief that those who die here go to the heaven. A mela is organized here on the Sabar festival of the Muslims in which Lakhs of people from local as well as from adjoining and far off states assemble and pray. A mosque has been built on the top of the hill where many people visit and pray. Near the hill prayer room, rest places made of stone and well have been built in the ancient time which continue to serve people still today. People of the other faith also visit this place. According to the priest of the mosque daily visitors on the top of Chandan Sahid hillock range between 100-500 persons.
- 7) **Hanuman Temple at Baidyanath:** Near Ramgarh Township in Baidyanath village a small temple of Hanuman god exist from the ancient times. According to Francis Buchanan this temple was built in the period in which Ajanta- Elora caves were built and probably by the same artist who made Ajanta -Elora caves, because same type of erotic paintings appear on the columns of the temple. This place is not

connected by road and the temple is in bad shape and condition. Local people who are worshippers of the lord Hanuman visit this place and they are not aware of its historical or archeological importance.

b) Places of Religious Importance:

- 1) **Temple of Mundeshwari:** Near Bhagwanpur. It is 50000 year old temple situated atop a hill. It is drawing visitors from across the country and abroad. It has ancient rock painting on Kaimur Hills. At the time of Navratri in the month of OCT-NOV and Mar-April there is more rush. Local people estimate daily visiting of about 20 thousand persons during Novratri period and about 1000 to 5000 persons regularly on other days.
- 2) **Temple of Harashu Brahm:** This is situated near Chand township in the Kaimur district. It is believed that on Brahman named Harsu Pandey ended his life here while fasting against wrongful demolition of his house by the kings halivahan. After the death of Harasu Pandey the king and all of his family also died and hence came the end of the Kingdom. After death Harasu is worshipped as Brahm. Brahm in local language is a symbol of Shiva. A large number of people assemble here to seek blessings of the Brahm (Deity). People believe that Baba blesses worshippers all fortune in their life and he is relieved of any ghost effect. As per the local estimate about daily visitors come around 1000-2000 on daily basis and during Navratri period 10 – 20 thousand people daily. But this place is not developed and lack necessary infrastructure and basic amenities like Dharmshala, hotels, public toilets etc..
- 3) **Temple of Ghinahu Brahm:** This is situated in Khaira –Bhutaha village of Sanjhauli block in the Rohtas district. It is believed that on Brahman named Ghinahu Pandey is worshipped as deity who is believed to remove ghosts from people. This place considered as high Court of Ghosts. People believe that whom Baba bless all fortune to worshippers in their life and he is relieved of any ghost effect. As per the local estimate about daily visitors come around 500-1000 on daily basis and during Novratri period 7 – 10 thousand people daily. But this place is not developed and lacks the necessary basic amenities like road connectivity, resting place and civic amenities.
- 4) **Temple of Tara Chandi:** On the Road to Old Sasaram --- Tilauthu road and now on the By Pass G T Road, near the Kaimur Hills near Sasaram Town, the temple of Maa Tara Chandi is situated. It is the most revered place of Hindus in the district. Local people have formed a trust for the maintenance and the development of the shrine. Much development has taken place at this place. Rest places, water and toilet facilities have been provided by the trust. In the marriage season people organize their marriage rituals also and the facility for the purpose has been developed. During Novratri about 10—20 thousand people daily offer their offerings to the goddess. In rest of the period about 1-2 thousand people daily visit this place

- 5) **Temple of TutulaBhawani:** Temple of TutulaBhawani is situated at the hillock near Bhadokhara village in Tilauthu block in Rohtas District. It is about 25 KM away from the temple of Maa Tara Chandi. There is a waterfall just besides the temple of Maa TutulaBhwani which makes the scene beautiful and fascinating to the eyes. The scenery and natural beauty around the temple makes it worth visiting. But this place is not connected by even good road and lacks all the tourist amenities including drinking water and resting places, so the visitors quite small here considering the potential. Local people estimate that about 7 Lakh people visit this place in a year. But if developed it has the potential of becoming important tourist place in the district.
- 6) **Temple of JakhaniBhawani:** Temple of JakhaniBhawani is situated near Natwar Township in the Rohtas District. It seems that this place was a developed tourist pilgrim in olden days but it could not develop in coming days. There is a Mela like situation near the temple. Local people estimate that about 2 thousand people daily visit this shrine. Road connectivity to this place is not in good state and lacks comfortable tourist amenities.
- 7) **GurudwaraTaksalsangat / Gurudwara of ChachhaPhalgunmal:** It was built in 1666. In the year the ninth Sikh Guru had visited the town to meet ChhachaPhagumal, a resident of the town and propagator of the faith. While the Guru was on way to the residence of Chhaha his horse stayed at one place where persons named Jio Mai and AchalBhai used to cultivate tobacco and the horse refused to go further. Guru persuaded both to abandon tobacco farming and both of them agreed. They donated the land to the Guru and there a gurudwara was built which is known as the GurudwaraTaksalSangat or the Gurudwara of ChhachaPhagumal.
- 8) **Grand Mausoleum of Bakhtiar Khan:** Near chainpur situated amidst the greenery along river falls, the octagonal mausoleum of Bakhtiar Khan, a relative of chieftain of great Afgan ruler SerSah, has a nicely carved pavilion, coupolas and 24 arched doors. The semicircle grand dome, resting over the main hall with a marvelous canopy atop and latticed pinnacles on its eight corners has a hypnotizing effect of Afgan architecture.
- 9) **Gupta BanarasiDham :** It is situated in the deep forest near Alampur Village near Sasaram Town. It is believed that lord Shiva hid himself in this cave from Bhasmasur whom he had bestowed his blessing that on whose head the demon will put his hand he will be turned into ashes. It is most revered place for Hindus in the district. A religious fair is organized during July- August and Feb- March every year. There is a water fall near the pilgrim name ShitalKund. About 10 lakh people annually visit this place.
- 10) **Rock Paintings in Caves:** The rock painting in 30 caves on hills etched by primitives are treasure-trove for Researchers. The paintings depict cultural, social,

religious and war behavior of ancient man can be a great attraction of tourist from all over the world. The two caves near Bhagwanpur and Chand, where Lord Budha and his disciples spent a night on way to Sarnath from Bodh Gaya after getting enlightenment also have great potential to attract Buddhist pilgrims from India and abroad.

c) Places of Locational / Natural Importance:

- 1) **DhuanKund:**DhuanKund is a famous pilgrim of Sikhs in and around Sasaram. It is situated in the Kaimur hills near Sasaram Town. It is also Known as MazarKund. It has beautiful natural scene and the river water falls from a height of about 200 ft. to the ground in a pond like place known as Kund. People of all faith gather here on the day after SrawamPurnima and a mela like situation emerges. People belonging to the Sikh community stay here for consecutive three days and make their prayers. This festival is organized from the ancient period. As per the local estimates about 15-20 thousand people assemble on the Mela day but some people occasionally visit here for picnic. There is no connectivity to place and visiting to this place is an adventure for the tourists, besides no tourist amenity is available at this place.
- 2) **KarkatGarh Fall:** It is situated in the hills near Bhagwanpur town in Kaimur district. The scenery is beautiful and fascinating to the eyes. If fully developed as a tourist spot it can attract people from far places and other States too. Now tourist from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand visit this place. This place is not connected by good road and is bereft of all the basic amenities of a tourist place.
- 3) **Tetlagarh Fall:**It is near Bhagwanpur Town in Kaimur district in the Kaimur Hill. The natural beauty and scene around the fall is fascinating and is good picnic spot for tourist. People from adjoining areas often visit this place for picnic and adventure. There is no tourist facility developed at this place.
- 4) **Other Kunds and Falls**
- 5) **Durgawati Dam:** Near Badalgarh and SerGarh Fort a dam has been constructed from where two canals have been erected which serve the irrigational needs of Kaimur and Rohtas districts. People often visit this place for picnic but since no tourist facilities including road connectivity have been provided the visitors are very small in number.
- 6) **Kuhira dam:** It is also situated in the Kaimur hills near Bhagwanpur town. People of the adjoining areas visit this place for picnic. This place also is not well connected with all weather road and is lacking basic tourist facilities.

Explanation of Findings of Survey:

Potential tourist places in the districts of Rohtas and Kaimur have been investigated on the basis of (1) Presence of Historical/ Religious / Natural tourist Spot in the area (2)toilets, Restaurants etc. (3) Connectivity of the place and (4) Publicity of the potential Tourist spot (the area in which it is known)(5) Presence of Tourist amenities like safe drinking water, rest places, accommodation etc,The result of the survey have been presented in the table as under

Table No showing relevant information about potential tourist places in the area.
 Source: Computed from the data and information gathered during survey.

Sl No	Potential Tourist Place	importance	No of tourists per year	Tourist Amenities	connectivity	Aptitude of Local	Publicity
1	RohtasGarh Forte	Historical	2 Lakh	Nil	Nil	Good	Local / Regional
2	SerGarh Forte	Historical	50000	Nil	Nil	Good	Nil
3	Mausoleum of SerSah	Historical/Archeological	5 Lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road/ Rail	good	National
4	ChandanSahid Peer	Religious/Historical	5 Lakh	Nil	Road / Rail	Good	Regional
5	Mundeswari Temple	Religious	15 Lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road	good	Local /Regional
6	HarsuBrahmDham	Religious	7 lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road	good	Local
7	Tara Chandi	Religious	10 Lakh	Satisfactory	Road	good	Local / Regional
8	TutulaBhawani	Religious	2 Lakh	Nil	Nil	good	Nil
9	JakhaniBhawani	Religious	1 Lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road	good	Local
10	GurudwaraTaksalSangsat	Religious	50 thousands	Unsatisfactory	Road / rail	good	Local
11	Gupta Dham	Religious	10 lakh	Nil	Nil	Good	Local / Regional
12	Temple of Baidhyanath	Religious/Archeological & Historical	20 thou	Nil	Rural Road	Good	Nil
13	GhinahuBrahm	Religious	5 Lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road	good	till
14	Mausoleum of Bakhtiar Khan	Historical	10 thou	Nil	Nil	Good	Nil
15	Rock Paintings In Kaimur Hills	Historical	N A	Nil	Nil	Good	Nil
16	DhuanKund Fall	Natural Beauty	5 Laklh	Nil	Nil	Good	Regional
17	KarkatGarh Fall	Natural Beauty	2 Lakh	Nil	Nil	Good	Regional
18	TetlaGarh Fall	Natural Beauty	2 Lakh	Nil	Nil	Good	Local
19	Durgawati Dam	Natural Beauty	5 lakh	Nil	Rural Road	Good	Local
20	Kuhira Dam	Natural Beauty	1 lakh	Nil	Rural Road	Good	Local
21	Mausoleum of Father of SerSah	Historical	2 Lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road / Rail	good	Local / Regional
22	Mausoleum Of salim Khan	Historical	1 lakh	Unsatisfactory	Road / Rail	good	Local / Regional

Government Initiative towards Tourism In the districts of Rohtas and Kaimur:The government authorities at state and district level accept the importance of tourism and hospitality development for overall development of the

areas in the districts of Rohtas and Kaimur. In policy government promote tourism but it is in conceptual and policy level but nothing seems on the ground level. In principal the government of Bihar has decided to build ropeways at RohtasGarh Fort and at the temple of Mundeswari near Bhabua besides providing road connectivity to all potential tourist places. Tourist Development hotels have been built and managed at Sasaram town and in Bhabua in both the district headquarters. A road to Gupta Dham has also been planned to be built from Sasaram to Gupta Dham which will connect the TaraChandi to Gupta Dham via MazarKund, but till date no DPR has been prepared and construction work seems a distant dream. If this happens it will not only promote tourism but also provide connectivity to the habitats of forest living people of the districts. In the district of Kaimur the district authorities have prepared detailed tourist development plans which include road construction , providing basic amenities to tourist places, advertising the tourists places etc.

Critical Evaluation of Tourism Development in Rohtas: Prospects and Challenges of Tourism and hospitality development in Rohtas and Kaimur districts have been studied keeping in view the basic prerequisites of tourism development which include presence of historical/ archeological/ religious spots, (2) Cnnectivity of potential tourist places, (3) Advertisement of tourist places (4) attitude of local people towards tourist and tourism and (5) No of persons visiting the tourist places. During the survey deta and information have collected which reflect the information provided by the local residents of the area and the basis has been interview and inperson consultation. The summary of the information gathered have been presented in the table as above.

From the perusal of the above table it is clear that in the twin districts of RohtasabdKaimur places of historical importance , religious importance and Natural beauty are situated in adequate number. All the places have potential of development to a tourist of great importance. Among all Rohtasgarh Fort, Shergarh fort, Mundeswari Temple, Gupta Dham, Baidynath, Durgawati Dam, Tomb of Sher Shah and hasan Sur Shah occupies great importance besides KarkatGarh and DhuanKund water falls. These places are attracting visitors even without tourist facilities and if developed it can provide employment to many people and become important source of income generation and thus lead to the development of the region in particular and the nation in general.

Test of Hypothesis: In this study two hypothesizes were tested on the basis of data and information gathered during survey as presented above. The first hypothesis that Tourism in Rohtas and Kaimur District is in developed state is rejected and alternative hypothesis that Tourism in Rohtas and Kaimur District is not in developed state is accepted. The second hypothesis that There is ample scope of tourism development in Rohtas and Kaimur District is accepted on the basis of data and information gathered during survey.

Summary of Conclusion and Suggestions:

Summary:

The Indian Tourism and Hospitality industry is one of the largest segments under the services sector of the Indian economy and offers the most diverse products globally. Tourism in India has registered significant growth over the years. Rohtas and Kaimur districts in Bihar State are predominantly agricultural districts. The nature has bestowed all the beauty to the twin districts. Places of Historical Importance, Places of Locational / Natural Importance, Places of Religious Importance are situated in the district in great number and all have potential of development into tourist places of importance.

Suggestions:

On the basis of above enumerations the following suggestions can humbly be given for the development of tourism in the districts of Rohtas and Kaimur-

1. Government should provide all weather good road connectivity to the potential tourist places.
2. Adequate advertisement should be made regarding presence of tourist places in the districts.
3. Basic tourist facilities should be provided at all potential tourist places.
4. People of the area should be tourist friendly and provide assistance to tourists.

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