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ON
"RECENT TRENDS IN GEOGRAPHY"



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Department of Geopgraphy

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संत गाडगेबाबा अमरावती विद्यापीठ अमरावती संलग्नीत
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"A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF THE TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF WASHIM CITY"

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INTRODUCTION :

It is always said that 'Change is the spice of Life' This change from the tedious daily routine by experiencing a different face of life can be named as Tourism. Tourism bring happiness to One's life. It is a way to get rid of the stress of everyday work. Today, all over the world Tourism has gained special importance. With every passing day Tourism is becoming an indivisible part of man's life. To get relaxation from the hectic every day life, the idea of using natural, historic and religious places is on the increase.

The following research essay consist the geographical study, particularly of the historic and religious tourist destinations of Washim city.

STUDY AREA

For the geographical study of the Tourist places in Washim city, particularly the historic and religious places are taken into account. Washim was separated from the Akola district in the Amravati division on July 1st 1998 and became an independent city. Washim Nagar parishad was established in 1869. The Area of washim city is 4781.46 hectors and Longitudinal expansion is 20°6'45" north latitude and 77°11' east of longitude. At present, the shape of washim is conical and it is expanding in the west and south directions.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY :-

- 1) To study minutely the historic and religious tourist destinations of washim city.
- 2) To find out ways and means for the development of the historic an religious places of washim.
- 3) To bringing into notice the existence and importance of the neglected tourisplaces.

HYPOTHESIS :-

In the modern age, Tourism has gained great importance. There fore, the historic and religious places are being developed as Tourist Destinations.

METHODOLOGY:-

The statistics and information needed for the research essay is basically of primary and secondary data. The primary information is obtained by actually visiting the tourist places and

taking interviews of the tourist and also through questionnaires. Also, the information obtained through different news papers and magazines is taken into consideration.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLANATION :-

Today's Washim city was once recognized by the name Vatsagulm. There are two stories behind this very name which are famous all over.

1) All the God had taken residences in the hermitage of sage vatsa forming groups. So, the name Vatsagulm .

2) In a reputed country named Supratistist .there lived a Brahmin named somshami who had two sons named 'vatsa nd Gulm' These two sons performed an explicit and established their kingdom in the nearby province and named their capital Vatsagulm. From then the city came to be known as Vatsagulm. So, the history of this very place must be nearly 2000 years old.Vatsagulm was the capital of Vakataks who were the rulers of this area.

THE PROMINENT RELIGIOUS AND HISTORIC PLACES:-

1) THE HISSE BORALA INSCRIPTION:-

This is an inscription in the south-east direction at a distance of 11 km. from washim where the Hisse Borala wa found . The king of Vakataks Swamilladev Bult the sudarshan lake for the animals and creatures. For this inscription was covered. The spatiality of this inscription is that live-in the time is specified through the medium of stars.

2) THE INSCRIPTION AT KATA:-

The king of Devgiri named Raja Ramdevrao Yadav used to go the pond of Vatsagulm for bathing . The inscription on the idol of Goddess in the Shivasakti Temple at kata which is about 5 km. from washim is belived to had been cavred by the king ramdevrao yadav.

3) THE INSCRIPTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF BALAJI TEMPEL:-

On the inscription at the entrance of Balaji Temple, the name of washim is mentioned as Vatsagulm or khairatabad Haveli kasbe washim.so, washim was also called as Khairatabad. This inscription was established by shrinivas kalu . The prmission was granted by the then Nawab Hasmatgunj Bahadur Jagirdar, senasahib subha and sardeshmukh .

4) LALADEV HILL:-

In 1994-95, in the excavation of laladev hill a temple facing north, marked with an asterisk was there. The expansions of this temple is 11 meters north-south and 7.50 meters east-west. Circumstance is 3+3 meters and the pavilion is 6.50+ 5.50 meters . the circumstance is act angular in shape. The antiquity of this temple built in 5th -6th century. In the excavation of the same laladev hill, almost 51 coins of the 3rd century were found. Also, the remains of the idol of Bhagvan Mahavir were also Found.

5)BALAJI TEMPLE:-

The Balaji Temple at Vatsagulm is an excellent example of Architecture. There is a small window at the upper side of the entrance in a wall which is in front of the idol in the circumstance

so the sun must get a glimpse of Lord Balaji. The temple is facing the west. From the period when the sun enters the winter solstice till the start of the summer solstice panta kalu has completed the construction of this temple from 6th August 1778 to 22nd August 1783, even today, the custom and ownership resides with the inheritors of Bhavani panta kalu.

6) KARUNESHWAR TEMPEL:-

Within the city of washim and the surrounding region there are almost 42 temple of lord shiva and each one is recognized by the different names of lord shiva. Among all of those, the karuneshwar temple is the ancient temple and has been the real village deity of Vatsagulm. In the ancient times, due to the prerace of sage vatsa, lord shiva felt mercy on him and visited his hermitage along with other gods. For the welfare and well being of sage vatsa and other people, it is believed that, lord shiva resided her permanently for ever. At this very place, the temple is constructed.

7) MADHYAMESHWARA TEMPLE:-

This is an ancient temple . In the scripture named 'siddhattshiromani' by Bhaskaraacharya the reference of astrology was given. In the same ways the sages had assumed that the central line of the earth passed through washim . At the place from where it passed through washim was a big temple of the god named 'madhyameshwara' . In that very place, in Vakatak Era, was an observatory . In later times, while construction a new temple the remains of this observatory were found.

8) PADMTEERTH:-

It has been mentioned in the mythology that Vatsagulm is a place of pilgrimage . The fires of sage Dadhichi were dissolved in this padmateerth. Therefore, this pilgrim is of extraordinary importance. It is constructed from the Lord rocks hight from the early age and has ten ghats. There is a legend which tells that Lord Vishnu had placed his lotus on this place and water reservoir was created from that very lotus. So this Lake is named as Padmateerth. Today also, many people go to this lake for having a pure and spiritual bath especially in the rainy and winter sesons .Besids, there are also other lakes in washim city such as 'sudarshan Talav' 'Daridrya Haran Talav', 'Dew Talav' and 'Itaali Talav'.

CONCLUSION:-

After studying the Tourist Destinations of Washim city, we can see they are greatly having the effect of the geographical , religious, Historic and cultural factors. By standing about the present condition of there destinations, we can make out that they are not well developed and therefore the number of tourists visiting there places is also quite less. So , the benefit of income through the medium of Tourists is also considerably less. The transport facility plays an important role in the development of such tourist spots. Considering the city of washim, there are many lakes here. So, if the facilities like a garden or park in the lake area as well as the boating facility may give a push to the tourism in washim and make it move a step further.

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