



AN ASSESSMENT AND POTENTIALS OF HISTORICAL TOURIST PLACES: A CASE STUDY OF NORTH NASHIK DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract:

The historical, religious, and cultural importance of the Nashik district is unique, particularly in the context of Maharashtra's tourism. Most of the forts in Maharashtra, located in Nashik district in the northern part of the district, have been studied in this research article. The research article aims to examine the forts in the northern part of the Nashik district. These historical tourist spots have the potential to attract a large number of tourists. Though the road connectivity is comparatively good, other elements like quantity and distribution of hotels, awareness among the administrators and host community, lack of publicity and marketing are responsible for fewer tourism activities in this part. This paper is based on both secondary and primary sources, including field visits, surveys, and interview questionnaires. Efforts are taken to identify the challenges faced by tourists arriving from the Forts of the Study area. The main objective of the paper is to highlight the historical tourism potential of Nashik & its Challenges.

Keywords: *Historical Tourism, Potential, Forts.*

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Introduction:

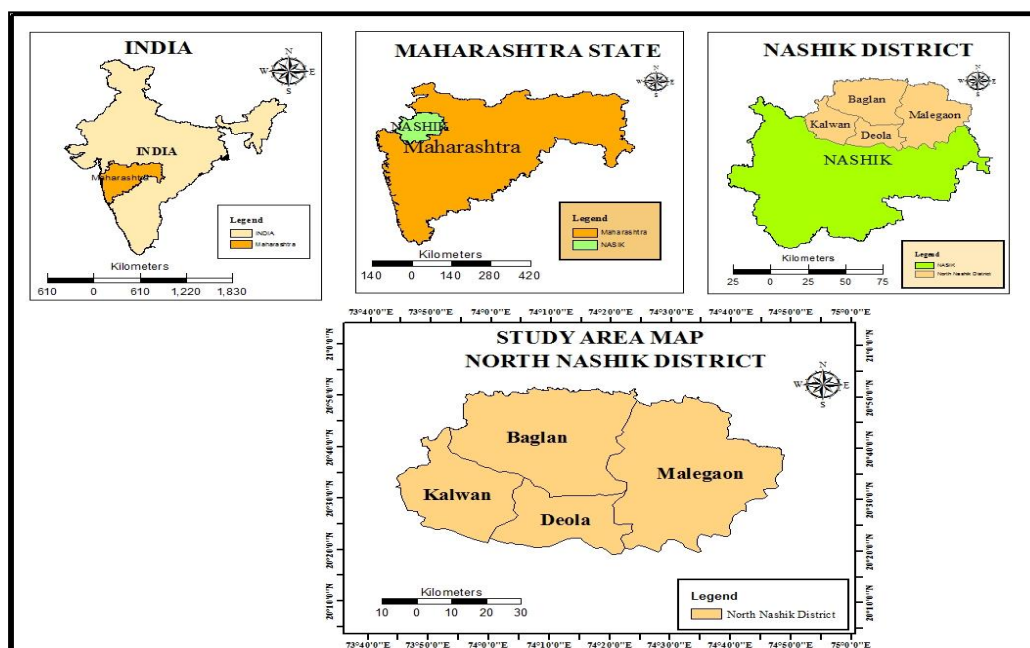
The economy of the country depends on various trades, mainly direct and indirect exchange of goods. Tourism is a form of international or national trade that generates foreign exchange without involving the direct exchange of goods. Additionally, the development of local tourism in any region relies on the available natural and human resources. This tourism business can provide a lot of employment to the local people and help in the regional development of many things. However, there are various types of tourism, mainly historical tourism, natural tourism, religious tourism, cultural tourism. All these tourist centres are included in the Nashik district. Socioeconomic, geographical, technological, demographic, and political factors are responsible for the development of tourism. The socio-economic, political, and religious factors of that region affect the development of tourism there. This tourism business boosts local and regional development. It also boosts the local market to a large extent. This business creates a large variety of jobs and creates new markets. Natural resources are essential for tourism development, as more and more manpower is also required. Human development is necessary for tourism. In short, tourism cannot develop



without manpower. Therefore, the evaluation of the historical tourist places and the study of the potential of tourism development in the talukas of Kalvan, Satana, Deola, and Malegaon in the North Nashik district have been studied in this research paper.

Study area:

The study area is the northern part of Nashik District. Four tahsils in North Nashik district, namely Kalvan, Satana, Malegaon, and Deola, are briefly known as Kasmade. It has great tourism potential. It lies between $73^{\circ} 74' 27''$ East to $74^{\circ} 81' 52''$ East longitude & $20^{\circ} 19' 15''$ North to $20^{\circ} 51' 50''$ North Latitude with the area of 4733.75 sq. km (2922.77 sq. miles). North Nashik District is bounded on the north-east by Dang district of Gujarat state, on the north by Dhule district, on the east by the Jalgaon district, on the south by the Nandgaon and Chandwad Tahsil & toward the south-west by Dindori & Surgana Tahsil in Nashik District. The Girna River is the main source of water for agriculture and industry. The Girna River originates in the Kem hill range, near the village Chirai, taluka Kalwan. Other than Girna, important rivers like Mousam, Aaram, Hatti, Punad, and Kolti flow across Kasamade. The Kasamade region lies on the western edge of the Deccan Plateau, which is a volcanic formation.



Aims and Objectives:

The most important aim is to study the tourist centres in the north Nashik district. Then the secondary objectives are as follows:

1. To do a geographical study of the tourist centres in the study area,
2. To understand the problems and obstacles faced by tourists in this region

The aims and objectives of the research have been taken from a theoretical point of interpretation.

Data Base & Methodology:

Research is mainly based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through intensive fieldwork by visiting various destinations in the study region. Secondary data is collected through the District Census Handbook, Sandarbha Maharashtra, District Gazetteer, published and unpublished materials, travel books, newspapers, periodicals, etc.



Historical Tourist Places in North Nashik District

Sr. No	Tourism Places	Geographical Location	Tehsil Name
1	Salher Fort	20°72'04"N 73°94'56"E	Satana
2	Mulher Fort	20°75'11"N 74°04'39"E	Satana
3	Chauler fort	20°57'52"N 74°09'97"E	Satana
4	Pisol Fort	20°51'33"N 74°13'23"E	Satana
5	Galana Fort	20°77'38"N 74°53'14"E	Malegaon
6	Malegaon Fort	20°32'43"N 74°31'46"E	Malegaon
7	Dhodap Fort	20°32'33"N 73°45'39"E	Kalvan
8	Hatgad Fort	20°38'49"N 74°03'00"E	Kalvan
9	Markinda Fort	20°38'50"N 73°92'57"E	Kalvan
10	Rajdeher Fort	20°23'11"N 74°11'40"E	Deola

Historical Tourist Places in Satana taluka:

A) Salher Fort:

Salhar Fort is located at 20°72'04" North latitude and between 73° 94' 56" East longitudes in Satana tehsil in Nashik District. Salher Fort is the second-highest peak in the Sahyadri Mountains, with a height of 1,567 m (5,141 ft) above sea level. According to myth, Lord Parshuram made Tapascharya on Salher Fort. Salher Fort is near the twin fort of Salota (4986 feet). An ancient and historically significant place like this is also famous for its battles during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. In 1671, Salher Fort was under the control of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and the Mughals attacked the fort in 1672. Almost one lakh soldiers fought in this war, in which many soldiers died, but finally Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj won the Salher fort. After winning the Salher fort, the Marathas captured Mulher and established their reign over the Baglan region.

B) Mulher Fort:

Mulher Fort is located between 20°75'11" North latitude and 74°04'39" East longitude in the northern part of Nashik District. Mulher Fort is situated in Satana district at about 23 km south of the Mulher town, and the height of this fort is about 2,000 feet

(609.60 mtrs) above the earth's surface. This fort lies at the Mosam valley, which is about 64.37 km north west of Malegaon. The fort is half detached from a range which rises westwards till it concludes in Sather of about 20 km from the west. The fort has three equipped peaks near one another that the Mulher fort is in the middle, Mora fort is to the east, and Hatgad fort is to the west. The forts are hard and demand high patience from the trekkers. At the Mulher fort, there are still some houses, a mosque, and some cisterns and reservoirs.

C) Chauler fort

The western part of the Nashik district has many peak forts touching the sky. Going from west to east in the Nashik district, first the Satmala range and then the Selbari-Dolbari range can be seen. Some forts are located in the middle of these two ranges. Chaulher is one of them. The fort stands in the valley of the Girna and Aram rivers. Chaulher is also known as Chaurgad, Tilvan Fort, or Chalheri Fort. To reach Chaulher, you have to reach Satana at a distance of 95 km from Nashik.

Chauler fort is situated at 1,138 mtrs (3,733 feet) in height, and the surrounding area is about 14.48 km. It is located in the south-west of Satana. In 1826, this fort was described as a high hill fort that was



too difficult to access. It is surrounded by strong, hilly, and woody trees. It has four well-defended gates, of which two are at the lower and two are at the upper fort. Only one gate has remained in fairly good condition. The fort is well supplied with water, and the interior of the buildings is defended. The fort is lying in ruins.

D) Pisol Fort:

Pisol Fort is situated in Baglan, 6.43 km north of Jaykhede (a small village). The fort is situated on a high range of hills running from east to west. Its location separates the range from the southeast by a deep rock-cut chasm. A path to this fort leads in the direction of the natural scarp. It passes through a succession of ordinary gateways assembled in the fracture as the angle reaches the plateau on the top. The natural scarp is imperfect, and nearly all rounds, the top has been strengthened by a masonry wall. Here and there, at weak points, there were special defences and provisions for military purposes. This wall and defences are now in ruins. The drop outside the wall has been deepened by an artificial cut about 30 feet deep and 20 feet across. The fort is the weak point of the hill. At the back of the hill, there is a Robber's Leap or Chor Kada, which is used frequently, especially on all sides, but especially the north-west of the fort.

Historical Tourist Places in Kalvan Taluka:

A) Dhodap Fort:

The base village of this fort is known as Dhodambe, from where the tourists have to start to climb the fort. The fort is located 19 km from Deola and is 3 km from the village of Hatti. The village is located at 20 km from Kalvan in the Satmala range, Nashik region of Sahyadris. The height of the fort is 1,451 metres from sea level and 4829 ft (1472 mt) above sea level, which is the third-highest hill peak situated in the Western Ghats in Maharashtra (after

Kalsubai and Salher). Dhodap is located between 20°38'49" North and 74°03'00"E East latitude and longitude in the northern part of the Nashik District. Dhodap is one of the hill forts in Maharashtra state, which is situated in Kalwan taluka of the Nashik district. The Dhodap fort is located on the Nashik-Malegaon highway NH-3, via villages of Shirwade-Wani, Khadak-Jamb, Vadali-bhoi, and Sogras. Another route to the fort is Nashik to Kalwan (70 kms) and Kalwan to Otur (8 kms). The shape of the fort has its unique identification, which attracts the trekkers and adventurous tourists to visit the fort. With the help of local villagers, an accommodation facility is also easily available in the village.

B) Markinda Fort:

Markinda Fort is located in Kalvan, and its height is 4,384 feet (1,336.28 meters) above sea level. This fort is the exact opposite of the Hill of Saptashringi Devi in Vani. In 1818, Captain Briggs visited Markinda and described the fort as having a small, barren rock rising out of a flat hill. This fort is also known as the twine or the Ravlya-Javlya hill. Between these two forts, there is a low neck of hill that runs the pass leading from Kalvan to Khandesh. From this fort, two roads diverge in opposite directions: one leads to Markinda, and the other to Ravlya-Javlya. The feature of this fort is that there is no place for storing defence material in the houses. There is a pond near the fort, and it also has the trees of an umbar. The water supply is continuous and sufficient, and it is also known as Ramkunda. In large numbers, people come on no-moon Mondays or Somvati amavasyas to bathe here. The similarity of sound with a local story defined that the hill is called after the sage Markandeya, who lived on it and persuaded Devi to punish Bhimasur and other demons that were attacking Brahman recluses.



C) Hatgad Fort:

Hatgad Fort is a fort located 71 km from Nashik, Nashik. The base village is Hatgad on the Nashik-Saputara Road. The nearest town is Saputara, which is 6 km from Hatgad village. It is a historic monument located in Maharashtra, India, south of the hill station of Saputara and near the border with Gujarat. It was built by the Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and is located at an elevation of about 3,600 feet. The way to reach the fort is through a trekking route via a narrow rocky path, and cars also go up to the fort. A statue of Lord Shivaling is placed on the top of the fort.

Historical Tourist Places in Malegaon Taluka:

A) Galna Fort:

Galna Fort is located at 20°77'38" North latitude and 74°53'14" East longitude, north of Malegaon. The distance to the north of Malegaon is 22 km. The area of the fort is 20 or 30 acres (8 to 12.14 hectares). The top area of this fort is 2,316 feet, i.e., 706 meters, above sea level, and about 800 feet (243.84 meters) above the earth's level. It has broad steps, but now it is in ruined condition so that the visitors may cross the hill from east to west and then also climb to the east. It passes through the four gateways, i.e., Parkot, Lokhandi, Kotval Pir, and Lakha. From these gates, the Lokhandi gate is remarkable and lined with iron plates. The third and fourth gateways are covered and furnished with strong iron-cased doors and are surrounded by walls nearly twenty feet (6 meters) thick, where the gateways are situated.

B) Malegaon fort:

Malegaon fort is located between 20°32'43" North latitude and 73°31'47" East longitude on the north side of Nashik District. Malegaon fort was constructed in the year 1740 by Naro Shankar and is located on the left bank of the famous river named Mosam (a little above its meeting with the river

Girna). The height of the inner wall of the fort is: at the parapet, it was 60 feet with a thickness of 6 feet, and the breadth of 11 feet; the total thickness of the rampart at the top is 17 feet. The coverage space of the fort and the middle line from north to south is about 40 feet. The roof of the stables is 10 feet high, and a parapet of 5 feet. The middle line was 15 feet high, and the depth was 40 feet. The facing or revetment was 5 feet thick. The width of the ditch was 25 feet, and the depth was 25 feet. The space between the outer slopes is 60 feet, and 300 feet wide at the east. The gateways are nine and are very intricate and contain excellent bomb proofs; the outer ones are on the north, the inner is on the eastern side. The fortress was much weakened on the east and contained great lofty buildings.

Historical Tourist Places in Deola Taluka:

A) Rajdeher Fort:

This fort is located on the border line of Deola and Chandwad talukas of Nashik district and is 70 km from Nashik city and only 10 km from Deola city. This fort is important in the Nashik district. This fort was built earlier than the Yadava period. This fort was under the control of Yadavas in 1216-17. This fort was under the control of Alauddin Khalji and later under the Farukhi. In 1601, the Khandesh Suba was in the hands of the Mughals. This fort was handed over to Ramaji Pant of Bhadgaon in return for the victory over Ashirigad. On 15 April 1818, this fort was won by Col. Prother of British forces, after a fierce battle with Nikam Deshmukh.

Conclusion:

The northern part of the Nashik district is home to nature due to the Sayadri and Satmala mountain ranges. Due to the religious, cultural, and historical tourist sites, the region has great potential for tourism development. But some areas lack roads and communication facilities. If the tourist places in this area are developed, the art of the local people will get



scope, and a large number of local people will get employment. Tourist places do not get adequate financial support from the central government or the state government. Locals and mountaineers visit this fort to some extent. But if the government provides financial assistance, the attention of the archaeological department can be drawn to these tourist places, which can be developed.

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