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Scope of Tourism Development in Dholpur District (A Geographical Study)

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ABSTRACT: Dholpur District is a district of Rajasthan state in Northern India. The town of Dholpur is the district headquarters. Dholpur District is a part of Bharatpur Divisional Commissionerate. It was carved out from the erstwhile Bharatpur District on 15 April 1982.

Dholpur District has an area of 3084 km². The Chambal River forms the southern boundary of the district, across which lies the state of Madhya Pradesh. The district is bounded by the state of Uttar Pradesh on the east and northeast, by Bharatpur District of Rajasthan on the northwest, and Karauli District of Rajasthan on the west. All along the bank of the Chambal River the district is deeply intersected by ravines; low ranges of hills in the western portion of the district supply quarries of fine-grained and easily worked red sandstone.

KEYWORDS-Dholpur,tourism,culture,traditions,heritage

I.INTRODUCTION

Administratively the district is divided into four subdivisions, Dholpur, Bari, Rajakhera, and Baseri, and six tehsils, Dholpur, Bari, Rajakhera, Basedi, Sarmathura and Saipau.

The economy of the district is primarily agricultural. The regional language of Dholpur is "Braj Bhasha," which has fragrances of Bundelkhandi and Khadi bhasha. It is because Dholpur is situated at the center surrounded by three states of Braj kshetra, are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

It is known for Chambal Bharka (Sand made Mountains).[1,2,3]

Dholpur District Information

Dholpur is a district in the eastern part of Rajasthan, India. The district is surrounded by the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and it has a population of approximately 1.2 million people. The district headquarters is the town of Dholpur, which is located about 260 kilometers from the state capital Jaipur. In this essay, we will discuss the history, geography, economy, and culture of Dholpur district. History

The history of Dholpur dates back to the 6th century when it was part of the Matsya Kingdom. Later, it was ruled by several dynasties, including the Mauryas, Guptas, and Rajputs. In the 16th century, it came under the Mughal Empire and remained a part of it until the 18th century when it was taken over by the Marathas. The British also had a presence in Dholpur and it was part of the Rajputana Agency under British rule.

Geography

Dholpur is located in the eastern part of Rajasthan and covers an area of 3,034 square kilometers. The district is bounded by the state of Uttar Pradesh in the north and north east, the districts of Bharatpur and Karauli in the west ,and by district of Morena of Madhya Pradesh and river chambal in the south. The terrain is mostly flat with some hills in the northern part of the district. The climate of Dholpur is tropical, with hot summers and mild winters. The average annual rainfall is about 660 mm.[5,7,8]

Economy

Agriculture is the main source of income for the people of Dholpur district. The major crops grown in the district are wheat, barley, gram, and mustard. The district is also known for its production of guava fruit, which is grown on a large scale. The industries in the district are mainly agro-based and include cotton ginning and pressing, oil mills, and flour mills. The district also has a large number of small-scale industries, such as handloom weaving and pottery. The tourism industry is also growing in Dholpur, with many people visiting the district to see its historical and cultural sites.

Culture

Dholpur district has a rich cultural heritage. The people of Dholpur are predominantly Hindus and Muslims, and they celebrate many festivals throughout the year. The most important festival in the district is Holi, which is celebrated with great enthusiasm. Other festivals celebrated in Dholpur include Diwali, Eid, and Teej. The district is also known for its folk music and dance forms. The Ghoomar and Kalbeliya dance forms are popular in Dholpur, and they are performed during festivals and other cultural events.

Tourism

Dholpur district has many historical and cultural sites that attract tourists from all over the world. Some of the most popular tourist attractions in the district are:[9,10,11]

1. Machkund Temple: This ancient temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located on the banks of the Chambal River. The temple is known for its architecture and is visited by thousands of tourists every year.
2. Sher Shikar Gurudwara: This gurudwara is located near the Chambal River and is a pilgrimage site for Sikhs. It is believed that Guru Nanak Dev Ji stayed here during his travels.
3. Van Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary: This wildlife sanctuary is home to a variety of flora and fauna, including tigers, leopards, and crocodiles.
4. Chambal Gardens: These gardens are located on the banks of the Chambal River and are a popular picnic spot.

II.DISCUSSION

Bari is a city and a municipality in Dholpur district in the state of Rajasthan, India. Bari came into existence as a Pargana of [princely state] of Dholpur during the rule of Rana Ram Singh of Dholpur (born 1883, died 1911). He was the Jat ruler of the princely state Dholpur (1901–1911) in Rajasthan, India. He was from Bamraulia gotra of Jats. He was born on 26 May 1883 and succeeded Rana Nihal Singh in 1901 after his death. He was not of age when ascended to the throne. He got full rights in March 1905.

He married the daughter of the Maharaja Nabha. He was educated at Mayo College, Ajmer; later joined the Imperial Cadet Corps. During his rule the state was divided into six parganas namely, 1. Dholpur, 2. Rajakheda, 3. Badi, 4. Basaidi, 5. Mania and 6. Kulari. This way the administration of the state was improved. He died on 2 April 1911. His successor was Rana Udaybhanu Singh.

Bari subdivision is well known for its excellent sandstone. Historically, this red stone was used for local construction like Bari fort, Talab-E-Shahi, Jublee hall Dholpur, Dholpur palace, Nihal tower (cloak tower) Dholpur and most of other local structures. The world-famous national monuments which are in list of UNESCO world heritage site in India are also made up of Dholpur red stone which is extracted from Bari area in capital Delhi, like the Delhi Red Fort, Humayun Tomb (Humayun ka Maqbara) located in Nizamuddin, East Delhi.

Bari red stone was used in rebuilding of Agra Fort by Akbar. This red sandstone was extracted from Barauli, a village in Bari subdivision.

The modern and future monument The Swaminarayan Akshardham (Delhi) Temple in New Delhi, is constructed entirely from Rajasthani pink sandstone. "On 17 December 2007, Michael Whitty, an official world record adjudicator for Guinness World Records, awarded the reward Akshardham as the World's Largest Comprehensive Hindu Temple."^{[1][2]}

The architect of modern Delhi, Edwin Lutyens, a major 20th century British architect who is known for imaginatively adapting traditional architectural style, had a special liking for this stone, and the Rashtrapati Bhavan exemplifies the use of Dholpur stone in monumental architecture.^[3]

Geography

Bari is located at Latitude: 26°38'58.77"N and Longitude : 77°37'2.58"E Tourist attractions

Talab-E-Shahi and Khanpur Mahal



Talab e Shahi Lake

Talab-E-Shahi is situated five kilometers from Bari town, on the bank of a lake. The Khanpur Mahal is situated near Talab-E-Shahi. It was a pavilion palace built for Shahjahan but never occupied. At present this building is headquarters of Bari area RAC (police).

Dholpur was known for its natural environment, dense forests and ample games that attracted the royal princes regularly visiting this region during Mughal period. According to "Humayunnama" Babar once took all his wives and consorts to Dholpur on the death of his son Anwar Mirza for a change. Not only that, the beauty of Dholpur fascinated Akbar so much that he constructed the palaces at Khanpur on the banks of Talab-E-Shahi near Bari.

Ram Sagar and Van Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary

Spread about 60 sq km area, Van Vihar sanctuary is divided into two parts Van Vihar and Ramsagar. There are two separate wildlife sanctuaries. Van Vihar is situated on Vindhyan plateau and is inhabited by animals like Sambar (deer), Chital, blue bull, wild bear hyena and leopard. The sanctuary is surrounded by Dhok and Khair trees.

The Dholpur-Bari Train



DBLR Train

The Dholpur-Bari Light Railway (DBLR) was a 2' 6" narrow gauge line (among 23 notable narrow gauge railways). Previously owned and managed by the Dholpur Durbar.[12,13,15]

Bhuteswar temple

This is a famous and Holy temple of lord Shiva, on the bank of Parvati river, 10 km from Bari, on the Bari-Baseri road. This is very old temple of Bari Baseri Area, thousands of people visit this temple every month, there are regular picnic and feast (bhoj) programmes organized regularly, on the opposite riverbank stands the Panchmukhi Hanuman temple, this temple is near the river.

Sant Nagar

Shri Param Hans Advait Mat Sant Nagar is a Hindu temple. Advait Mat was a cluster of movements in northern India that perceive themselves to be originating from Totapuri in the 18th century Shri Paramhans Advait Math made its advent over a hundred years ago to spread and preach truth, ideals of Bhakti, Karam Yoga, and spiritual knowledge.

This is a very peaceful and disciplined temple where all saints (Sadhu, Mahatma) produce their food vegetable and milk by self-management (Karmayoga), in temple land which is surrounded by large boundary wall, they are independent by economy. There is very nice garden and temple inside the boundary, the temple is opened for visit from 8Am to 5Pm on regular interval for general public, This temple Provides social services by a charitable hospital free of cost to poor citizens.

Damoh(Dhamoye)

This is a waterfall in Sarmathura region, Placed a distance of 35 kilometer from Bari. It is the attractive tourist destination in whole district. It is visible in rainy season [July–September]. Besides this, Damoh (Dhamoye) has a long and green forest range with wild animals. Tiger Mohan from Ranthambore National Park, whenever escapes from Ranthambhor likes the forest territory of Dhamoh and van vihar in Dholpur.[17,18,19]

Demographics

The Bari Municipality has population of 62,721 of which 33,673 are males while 29,048 are females as per report released by Census India 2011. Literacy rate of Bari city is 70.75% higher than state average of 66.11%. In Bari, Male literacy is around 79.38% while female literacy rate is 60.79%. Population of Children with age of 0-6 is 10102 which is 16.11% of total population of Bari (M). In Bari Municipality, Female Sex Ratio is of 863 against state average of 928. Moreover, Child Sex Ratio in Bari is around 847 compared to Rajasthan state average of 888, there is only one girls school for senior education. Out of total population, 18,730 were engaged in work or business activity. Of this 16,057 were males while 2,673 were females. In census survey, worker is defined as person who does business, job, service, and cultivator and labour activity. Of total 18730 working population, 88.05% were engaged in Main Work while 11.95% of total workers were engaged in Marginal Work.

III.RESULTS

National Chambal Sanctuary, also called the **National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary**, is a 5,400 km² (2,100 sq mi) tri-state protected area in northern India for the protection of the Critically Endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle and the Endangered Ganges river dolphin. Located on the Chambal River near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, it was first declared in Madhya Pradesh in 1978, and now constitutes a long narrow eco-reserve co-administered by the three states. Within the sanctuary, the pristine Chambal River cuts through mazes of ravines and hills with many sandy beaches.

It is part of the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.^[2]

History

Administrative approval of the Government of India for the establishment of the National Chambal Sanctuary was conveyed in Order No. 17-74/77-FRY (WL) dated 30 September 1978. The Sanctuary has sanctuary status declared under Section 18(1) of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. Since such a declaration is carried out by individual states for territory falling within their jurisdiction, there are three separate notifications covering the National Chambal Sanctuary - the Madhya Pradesh portion was gazetted in the Government of Madhya Pradesh Notice No. F.15/5/77-10(2) dated 20 December 1978, the Uttar Pradesh portion was gazetted in the Government of Uttar Pradesh Notice No. 7835/XIV-3-103-78 dated 29 January 1979 and the Rajasthan portion was gazetted in the Government of Rajasthan Notice No.F.11(12)Rev.8/78 dated 7 December 1979.^[3]

The sanctuary is protected under India's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The sanctuary is administered by the Department of Forest under the Project Officer with headquarters at Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

Fauna



Gharial in Chambal River



Red-crowned roof turtle in the sanctuary



Ganges dolphin



An Indian skimmer on the Chambal river

The critically endangered gharial and the red-crowned roof turtle live here, and together with the endangered Ganges river dolphin are the keystone species of the sanctuary. Other large threatened inhabitants of the sanctuary include mugger crocodile, smooth-coated otter, striped hyena and Indian wolf. Chambal supports 8 of the 26 rare turtle species found in India, including Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle, three-striped roof turtle and crowned river turtle. Other reptiles who live here are: Indian flapshell turtle, soft shell turtle, Indian roofed turtle, Indian tent turtle and monitor lizard.^[4]

Mammals of less concern which live here include: rhesus macaque, Hanuman langur, golden jackal, Bengal fox, common palm civet, small Asian mongoose, Indian grey mongoose, jungle cat, wild boar, sambar, nilgai, blackbuck, Indian gazelle, northern palm squirrel, Indian crested porcupine, Indian hare, Indian flying fox and Indian long-eared hedgehog.^[4]

The National Chambal Sanctuary is listed as an important bird area (IBA) IN122.^[5] and is a proposed Ramsar site. At least 320 species of resident and migratory birds inhabit the sanctuary. Migratory birds from Siberia form part of its rich avian fauna.^[1] Vulnerable bird species here include the Indian skimmer,^[6] sarus crane, Pallas's fish eagle and Indian courser. The pallid harrier and lesser flamingo are near threatened. Winter visitors include black-bellied tern, red-crested pochard, ferruginous pochard and bar-headed goose. Other species include great thick-knee, greater flamingo, darter, and brown boobook.^[1]

Flora

Common plants in the sanctuary include khair (*Acacia catechu*), palash (*Butea monosperma*), Indian elm tree (*Holoptelea integrifolia*), Indian plum (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) and grassy patches on both sides of the river.^[20,21,22]

Conservation management

The sanctuary is protected under India's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The sanctuary is administered by the Department of Forest under the Project Officer with headquarter at Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

Parts of the sanctuary are threatened by extensive illegal sand mining, which is endangering the fragile lotic ecosystem critical for Gharial breeding.



Gharial and turtles

On 27 December 2010, the Minister for Environment and Forests, Jairam Ramesh, during a visit to the Madras Crocodile Bank, announced the formation of a *National Tri-State Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee* for gharial conservation on 1,600 km² (620 sq mi) of the National Chambal Sanctuary. The Committee members will comprise representatives of three states' Water Resources Ministries, states' Departments of Irrigation and Power, Wildlife Institute of India, Madras Crocodile Bank, the Gharial Conservation Alliance, Development Alternatives, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Worldwide Fund for Nature and the Divisional Forest officers of the three states. The Committee will plan strategies for protection of gharials and their habitat. It will conduct further research on the species and its ecology and evaluate the related socio-economic elements of dependent riparian communities. Funding for this new initiative will be mobilized as a sub-scheme of the 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' in the amount of Rs. 50 to 80 million (USD 1 million to 1.7 million) each year for five years. This project has long been advocated by herpetologist Rom Whitaker.^{[7][8]}

Visitor activities

There are many nature watching opportunities available for visitors to the National Chambal Sanctuary. The best opportunities for sighting and photography of gharial and dolphins can be had by hiring a boat with a driver and guide, available at several points along the river. A boat excursion will also offer many viewpoints for photography of water and shore birds and landscapes. Walking trails in the ravines and along the river offer opportunities for close observation of the wide variety of plants and animals in the sanctuary.^[1]

There are public vehicle entry points to Chambal Sanctuary at Pinahat, Nandagon Ghat, Sehson and Bharch. Boating and visiting arrangements can be made with the help of the office of the Conservator of Forests, at Kota.^[9]

Visitors may explore Ater Fort, a beautiful but dilapidated landmark and historical site near Ater town, 35 km from Bhind. The fort was built by the Bhadauria kings Badan Singh, Maha Singh and Bakhat Singh in 1664-1698. The fort is situated on the banks of the Chambal River and can be reached by bus, jeep or boat.

There are forest rest houses at Bah and Chakkar Nagar and Public Works Department inspection bungalows at Bah and Pinahat. There are several commercial hotels and eco lodges at Agra, Etawah and Bah.^[1] The nearest airport is at Agra. The nearest railway station is at Agra. Agra and Mathura are major rail junctions with a number of trains from all over the country. Bharatpur, Ranthambhor National Park (with change at Bharatpur), Bandhavgarh National Park (Katni, Umaria) and Kanha National Park (Jabalpur) are all well serviced by the rail network from Agra.^[9]

Mukundara Hills National Park is a national park in Rajasthan, India with an area of 759.99 km² (293.43 sq mi). It was established in 2004 and consists of three wildlife sanctuaries: Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, and Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is located in the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests.^[2]

History

The national park contains large tracts of forests formerly part of the Maharaja of Kota's hunting grounds. The park was embroiled in a political controversy over its nomenclature, when the Bharatiya Janata Party state government revoked the decision that it be called the Rajiv Gandhi National Park.^[3]

Wildlife

Mukundara Hills National Park is mountainous and has a variety of plants, trees and animals. It has grasslands in between and also many dry deciduous trees. There are four rivers that flow in this region, the rivers are Chambal river, Kali river, Ahu river, Ramzan river.

Tree species in the forests of Mukundara Hills National Park include *Acacia nilotica*, *Atrocarpus heterophyllus*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Breonia* (syn. *Anthocephalus*), *Cassia fistula*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Delonix regia*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Eucalyptus*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus glomerata*, *Ficus benghalensis*.

Bengal tiger, the Indian wolf and the Indian leopard are the major carnivores in this reserve. Prey species include the chital, sambar deer, wild boar and the nilgai. Sloth bear and chinkara also inhabit the area. Reptiles include the Mugger crocodile and the gharial.[23,25]

Asiatic lion reintroduction project



A male Asiatic lion in Gir Forest National Park. Mukundara Hills was once considered for reintroduction of Asiatic lion.

Mukundara Hills National Park was once considered for the reintroduction of the Asiatic lion.^{[4][5]}

Tiger reintroduction

Mukundara Hills National Park received the first tiger from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. In July and August 2020, a male and female tiger were discovered dead and probably died in territorial fights. Later, the other male tiger died. The cause of his death is still not known. The last tigress, was discovered with multiple injuries and for her safety, she was translocated to a biological park for treatment. She was put back in Mukundara after laser therapy. She is the last tiger of Mukundara.

IV.CONCLUSION

Sarmathura (old names: **Sri-Mathura**, **Sir-Mathura**, and **Sir Muttra**) is a subdivision located in Dholpur district, in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

The Sarmathura subdivision is a substantial source of sandstone. Historically, red sandstone from Sarmathura was used for the regional construction of Talab-e-Shahi, Jubilee hall Dholpur, Dholpur Palace and the Nihal Clock Tower.^[1] National monuments such as the Red Fort and Humayun Tomb are also made from Dholpur red sandstone, which was extracted from the Sarmathura and Bari area.^[2]

The local languages are Hindi and Khadi Boli. The town's primary exports include red sandstone, sweet millet, and mustard.

Sirmathura was established in the 15th century by Maharaj Shree Rao Mukat (Jadaun) who ruled from Sirmathura an area of 400 sq. km (36 villages) as an independent territory.

Geography

The nearest town is Bari, and the nearest district is Karauli, Dholpur. It is situated near the river Chambal in Rajasthan district.



Damoh Waterfall

The Damoh Waterfall is 300 ft. high and is visible during the monsoon season, July through September.^{[3][4]}



Parvati Dam (Angai)

Situated on the Parvati River, Parvati Dam has 22 gates to release water downstream.^[5]

Demographics

Sarmathura has a population of 17,988 in 2,950 households, of which 54% are male and 46% are female, lower than the Rajasthan average. 77% belong to forward castes, 17% belong to scheduled caste, and 6% belong to scheduled tribes. 3,147 of Sarmathura's residents are children under 6, of whom 44% are boys and 56% are girls, a lower ratio than the state.

62.90% of the town's population practice Hinduism, and 37.02% practice Islam. Other religions are also present.

The literacy rate of Sarmathura is 86.18%, roughly equal to the Rajasthan state average of 76.11%. In Sarmathura, the male literacy is around 76.86% and the female literacy rate is 53.84% [25]

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