



Fairs & Tourist Places in Jalna District: A Geographical Study

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Introduction:

Tourism is worldwide phenomenon. It is on increase day by day through critical conditions. Since many countries are not supportive for these activities enhance tourism. Main elements required for the process of tourism are space and time. It has serious implications of a socio-economic nature along with an environment. It is one of the most influential phenomena in the economic and social development of the society. As through tourism we earn national as well as foreign currency this is very useful for the development of the country.

Maharashtra is one of India first commercial and industrial state has recognized tourism to be a major thrust area for economic growth in the state. Maharashtra government has acknowledged the potential of tourism is a wealth creation and employment generating activity. Since in 2001 Maharashtra emerged as one of the state and emerged second ranked, at the same time domestic tourist arrivals the state ranked fourth among Indian states. It shows Maharashtra having lots of scope for the development of tourism industry.

Study Region (Jalna District):

For the research, the Jalna district was been selected as a study area. The district is located in the central part of Maharashtra State in Marathwada region. It is located between 19°15' and 20°32' North latitudes and 75°36' to 76°45' east longitudes. The north-south extension of Jalna district is 150 Kms and east-west stretch of the district is 110 kilometers. Jalna district has a significant location on Deccan plateau. Except Ajanta and Satamala range and river basins, majority part of the district comes under plateau region. The region has major portion under flat topography, hence it supports high concentration of population.



Jalna district comprising 8 tahsils, 2 sub-divisions, and eight panchayat samities. The geographical area of Jalna district is 7612 Sq.KM. According to Census-2011, there are 4 cities, 970 villages and 781 grampanchayat's Jalna district. According to 2011 census, the total population of Jalna district has 19,58,483. Out of this total population, the men population were 10,15,116, whereas women population were 9,43,367. Sex ratio in district is found 929. As per 2011 census, there is a considerable difference between rural and urban population. Out of total population (19,58,483), about 80.76% (15,81,251) population lives in rural area whereas 19.24% (3,77,232) population lives in urban area. The 2011 census shows about 71.09% literacy rate in the district. Out of this, male literacy was 83.93% and for women it was 57.50%. Out of the total rural population only 71.09% population was found literate whereas it was 84.04% in urban area.

Objectives:

Objectives of the current research paper is to find out the fairs and places of tourist importance and analyse it.

Fairs and Places of Tourist Importance in the Jalna District:

Fairs

In the Jalna district, even though big scale festivals/ fairs are absent, there are many small fairs locally celebrated which are associated with important deities. So far trade is concerned, fairs are complementary to the weekly markets. In the fairs the traders and shopkeepers set up temporary stalls. Large quantities of agricultural produce and other articles of daily use are brought for sale. The people buy necessary articles in these fairs. In this district every year Navaratra is celebrated at Matsyodari temple (Ambad), in the month of October. A big congregation may be observed at the temple.

Kalubaba's fair is held at Nalni Kh. (Bhokardan tahsil) on Kartika Sud 11, the day on which the Saint Kalubaba left this material world. The Shrine of the Saint was constructed in 1945. The Saint was supposed to possess divine powers of curing many diseases. On the day of the fair, followers of the Saint gather at the temple and offer their respects to him. Panchmukhi Mahadeo fair and Durga Mata fairs are held at



Jalna, the district headquarters. Mahadeo's fairs is held on Mahashivratri day at Panchmukhi Mahadeo temple. When Lord shiva is worshiped in a special manner. The devotee perform an abhishek on the deity on Mahashivratri day. On the first day of the Durga Mata fair, a 'Homa' is performed in the temple and in the night there is recitation from 'Durga Path'. These recitation are held on all the 10 days, the tenth day i.e. Vijaya Dashami, is considered to be the most important and holy day on account of its association with triumph of good over evil in the form of killing of demons like Ravana, Mahishasur etc. A procession is taken out in the afternoon which ends at the open place before the temple when a huge effigy of Ravana, the king of Lanka is burnt in the evening.

Even though famous forts and temple are not found in this district, some important places can be identified.

Ambad

Ambad, situated between a ridge of hills is the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name. It appears that Ambad once enjoyed great prosperity, the marks of which are still seen in the decayed stone-buildings and ruined walls and gateways. The town is famous for Matsyodari temple, so called because the hill on which the temple stands resemble the shape of a fish (Matsya). During the month of October a large fairs is held at the temple. The town also contains a temple of Khandoba and masonry kund (tank), both of which were constructed by the pious and philanthropic queen. Ahilyabai Holkar, about the end of the eighteenth century.

Asai

Asai is an historically important village in Jafrabad tahsil. The village was the scene of the famous 'Battle of Assaye' fought between the British and the Maratha on 23rd September 1803. Till recently traces of the conflict were to be found in the form of fragments, field pieces, cannon balls, musket balls and graps shots. Between the river and the village are seen several graves.

Jalna

Tradition ascribes the foundation of the town as far back as the time of Rama, the hero of Ramayan, whose consort Sita is supposed to have resided here. The local people still point out the place where Rama's palace stood. It was then known as



Janakpur. Subsequently, at the desire of a wealthy Muhammedan merchant, who is said to have been a great benefactor of the place, the name was changed to Jalna, from his occupation of Jalana (weaver). During Akbar's time Jalna was held in Jagir by one of his generals, and Abul Fazl had made it his resident for a short period. Jalna has many temples. Bhaironath temple is the oldest one, having been built about 250 years ago. The town also has many dargah's and mosques.

Forts

Jafrabad, the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name is surrounded by a fortified stonewall, now in a very dilapidated state, but a small stone 'gadhi' inside is in fair order. The place derived its name from its founder Jafer Khan, who held it along with 115 other villages in 'Jagir' from Aurangzeb, the Moghal Emperor. Overall Jalna has many fair and tourist place. Only some of the important and big are analysed here.

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