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## **A Study of Present Condition of Tourist as well as Religious Places in Nandurbar District.**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Religious tourist places have a unique place in Indian culture. Various religions are seen traveling to specific places as per their belief. Where pilgrimage sites are located near religious centres, a large number of pilgrims from the surrounding region are attracted to the site from the area of influence of that religious centre site. Tourism is considered as one of the major industries of the 21st century. Since tourism is a commercial industry, it is being used to develop economically underdeveloped areas. The highest number of tourist spots can be seen in Nandurbar Tehsil of Nandurbar district. In which there are total number of 9 tourist places. Below that there are 5 tourist spots in Navapur Tehsil. Also Shahada tehsil has 4 tourist spots and Akarani Tahsil has 1 tourist spots. Apart from this, Akkalkuwa and Taloda tehsils do not have any tourist spots. Religious tourism is of special importance in Nandurbar district. The Sarankheda Barrage, Prakasha Barrage and Sardar Sarovar projects are likely to increase the irrigation sector and change the livelihood of the people of the agricultural culture and encourage tourism.

**Key Words:** - Tourism, Religious Places, Tourism Industry, Pilgrimage

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### **Introduction:**

Religious tourist places have a unique place in Indian culture. Various religions are seen traveling to specific places as per their belief. Where pilgrimage sites are located near religious centres, a large number of pilgrims from the surrounding region are attracted to the site from the area of influence of that religious centre site. The study of regional distribution of tourism and religious centre is important for the possible development of tourism and religious centres. Tourism is considered as one of the major industries of the 21st century. Since tourism is a commercial industry, it is being used to develop economically underdeveloped areas. The contribution of tourism to the economic development of some areas is significant in bringing about a large change in a short period of time. Tourism is a useful tool for redressing regional imbalances. Specialty tourism boosts businesses like agriculture, handicrafts etc.

Religious tourism is of special importance in Nandurbar district. Growth is possible in the field of irrigation and there is a possibility of change in the living conditions of the people of farming culture and inspiration for tourism. In accordance with this, an attempt has been made to study the present condition of the tourism and religious places in Nandurbar district through this research paper.

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### **Objectives of the Study:-**

The following objectives are considered for the presentation research paper.

- 1) To study the present status and prospective regional distribution of tourist and religious places in Nandurbar district.
- 2) To study the factors affecting tourism and religious places in Nandurbar district.
- 3) To suggest the utilization of natural resource wealth in terms of tourism development.

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### **Research Methodology and Data Collection:-**

The data and information required in the present research paper are from primary and secondary sources. This information and data has been collected through actual visits. Also, the statistics have been taken from District Economic and Social Review and District Statistics Department.

## Study Area:-

Nandurbar district in north-western part of Maharashtra State has been selected for the present research paper. Administratively, the district has six Tahsils namely Nandurbar, Navapur, Shahada, Taloda, Akkalkuwa and Akarani. The latitudinal extent of the district is between 21° to 22° 03' North and the longitudinal extent is between 73° 31' to 74° 32' East. The area of Nandurbar district is 5034.28 Sq. km and the district occupies 1.62% of the total area of the state. The total population of the district is 16,48,295 (2011) and 65.53% of this total population belongs to Scheduled Tribes. The average rainfall and temperature in the district are 551 mm respectively. And 40° centigrade.

### Present condition of Tourist and Religious Places in Nandurbar

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Category of Tourist Places	Number of Tourist Places
1	Akkalkuwa	0	0
2	Akrani	C	1
3	Taloda	0	0
4	Shahada	C	4
5	Nandurbar	C	9
6	Navapur	C	5
	Total		<b>19</b>

## Discussion:-

The study of the present condition of Tourism and Religious Places in Nandurbar District shows that the district falls under category C in the category of tourist places. Among these, the main tourist centres in Akarani, Shahada, Nandurbar tahsils are prominent.

The highest number of tourist spots can be seen in Nandurbar tahsils of Nandurbar district. In which there are total number of 9 tourist places. Below that there are 5 tourist spots in Navapur tahsil Also Shahada tahsil has 4 tourist spots and Akarani tahsil has 1 tourist spots. Apart from this, Akkalkuwa and Taloda tahsils do not have any tourist spots. Religious tourism is of special importance in Nandurbar district. The Sarankheda Barrage, Prakasha Barrage and Sardar Sarovar projects are likely to increase the irrigation sector and change the livelihood of the people of the agricultural culture and encourage tourism.

After the sanctification of Lord Krishna, the district is small in geographical size compared to other districts but is rich in many features. In ancient times this region was known for agriculture. Such mention is found in Ramayana, Mahabharata and Sudeshkumar biography. Then during the Yadav period, the king came and Nandurbar district was called as Seundesh after Chandra. In the Bhishma Parva of the Mahabharata, various regions such as Gomata, Mandaka, Khanda, Vidarbha and Rupavahika are mentioned. Khandah means the country of Krishna. Nandurbar town is still referred to as Nandnagari.

Toranmal is the second largest cold air spot in Maharashtra and is famous as a tourist destination, covering the area 415 sq.kms at an altitude of 1155 meters above sea level. Many tourists from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh come to this place to enjoy the nature.

There is a temple of Datta of Mahanubhava Sect at Sarankheda under Shahada Tahsil and a fair is organized every year on Datta Jayanti. The horse auction market (Chetak Festival) is the attraction of these fair and horse lovers from different parts of the country bring their horses to this horse market. Also, Prakasha in Shahada tahsil is famous as a pilgrimage symbol. Among the many Shiva temples in Prakasa, the two temples Kedareshwar and Sangameshwar are the most visited by devotees and tourists. The flag hoisting ceremony, which takes place every 12 years, was celebrated in Prakash in 2016 with great fervor. Apart from this there are natural hot water springs at Unbadev in this tehsil area. Nandurbar town has an amazing martyrdom memorial of Shirish Kumar. Also, Shirish Kumar Gardens have been created in Nandurbar city in his memory.

Prakasha Barrage, Sarankheda Barrage and SardarSarovar Project Reservoir back water are driving people to visit the natural scenery. From this it is clear that apart from tourism and religious centres in Nandurbar district, due to the prospect of development of water resources in the district, more emphasis needs to be placed on tourism development planning.

## Conclusion:-

Toranmal in Nandurbar district has contributed to the increase in tourism to cold weather destinations. Akkalkuwa and Taloda tehsils do not have any tourist spots. Due to the irrigation project, there is a possibility of growth in the irrigated areas and there is a possibility of a positive change in the livelihood of the people of the farming culture and an inspiration for tourism. Considering the mythological and spiritual importance of Nandurbar district, it is necessary to pay more attention for the development of religious tourism here. It is necessary to increase the accessibility of transport facilities roads to the tourist destination, water availability of residences, along with the creation of beautifying parks, it is necessary to pay attention to restaurants, hotels, facilities.

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