



"Iconic Buddhist sites in Nagpur city of Maharashtra; developing as a tourist & cultural hub"

Sanjay N. Kaninde

Department of Political Science

Vasanttrao Naik Govt. Inst. of Art's & Social Science, Nagpur

Introduction:

Religious tourism remains an unstrapped sector by the hospitality industry despite it being very popular among the devotee. The region of Nagpur dotted with various spiritual and religious destination that can be explored and develop into popular tourist destinations. Entire territory is bless with scenic beauty and remains a hotspot for tourist. Adding religious places to tourism sector can help the region make a fortune. The center and state government is keen on opening up new avenues for prosperity of the local populace. It will help in quicker decision making at the bureaucratic level and hospitality industry in the region can cash in on the tourist flow. A mix of good infrastructure, proper accessibility to the religious places and effective marketing by the administration can open up floodgates for economic prosperity and also creating a cultural hub. In an effort to put Nagpur on the tourism map the government has proposed a plan called 'Buddhist Tourism in city; which aims to give fillip to tourism. The project includes beatification and development of popular Buddhist sites and their improved ambience.

Hypothesis: -

- 1) Buddhist Iconic sites in Nagpur can be explored and develop into popular Buddhist destination and Cultural Hub.

Objective of the study: -

- 1) To elaborate the importance of Buddhist sites in Nagpur.
- 2) To draw the plan of development of these places.
- 3) To explore these palaces as Buddhist tourist destinations.
- 4) To explore their importance in building Cultural and Buddhist Hub.

Methodology:-

To collect the data Historical analytical method will be use. Detailed information will be collect by visiting various sites. On the basis of case study plan of developments and beautification of sites will be explore.

Brief history of the sites:-**Deekshabhoomi : -**

Deeksha bhoomi is a sacred monument of Buddhism at the place where the architect of the Indian constitution Bharatratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, embraced Buddhism with his about 600,000 followers on 14th October 1956.

What to explore :- Discover a sense of inner peace and explore rich history at this majestic destination right in the heart of city just Two km form the Zero Mile, it stands as a symbol of peace and equality.

Architectural delight: Designed by architect Sheo Dan Mal, the Stupa of Deekshabhoomi is the largest hollow among all Buddhist stupas in the world. at the Centre of this hall inside, a large image of Buddha is placed here, which was donated by Thai students. discover its charme' in Front of the Stupa there is a bronze image of lord Buddha and Bodhi tree. This Bodhi tree was planted here from the three branches of Bodhi tree. (sacred tree) at Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. This movement is a symbol of Dhamma chakra pravartan. Lakhs of people visit. This place every year 14th Oct. and Dashera.

Shantivan (Dr. Ambedkar Museum and Buddhists Training Center) Chicholi, Nagpur

What to explore: -Around 20 km from Nagpur in Chicholi Village, Shantivan is a small museum dedicated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's belongings and artifact. The place has the statue of Lord Buddha. In front of which Dr. Ambedkar took his diksha. We can explore this serene and peaceful place and discover its history.

Architectural Delight: -The museum was developed by Dr. Ambedkar's close associate Wamanrao to Godbole. Nankchand Rattu the Assistant of Dr. Ambedkar donated The belongings of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Although the half of the museum is comparatively small, the place is frequently visited by thousands of tourists because of its significance. The design is typically inspired by Buddhists architecture and now renovated and rebuild with thai architecture.

Discover its Charm :-The most attractive features of the museum are the cloths of Dr. Ambedkar, his Hat and other equipment's like his typewriter, which are display here. Government of Maharashtra. Sanctioned 400 coror rupees for its development and recently buildup new Buildings for the purpose. New building for of Dr. Ambedkar's belongings, meditation hall, Hostels and Buddhist training Center &Library. NIT of Nagpur is developing this Place which will be emerged as major Buddhist pilgrimage in Nagpur.

Dragon Palace Temple :

The Dragon Palace Temple, also known as the Lotus temple of Nagpur, is a Buddhist temple in Kamptee, Maharashtra, India. The Temple was established in 1999 with funds from the Japan based Ogawa Society a Charitable trust.

What to explore: Known as the Lotus Temple of Nagpur, the palace Temple is surrounded by Verdant greens, skillfully landscaped gardens with beautiful flowers. Situated in Kamptee, the temple is aobut 15 km from the city and was founded by social and political Activist Sulekha Khumbre.

The Dragton Palace temple Comprises a magnificent Buddhist prayer center, which exudes peace and serenity to its visitors, Enshrined on the first floor of the meditation hall of the temple is a colossal statue of Lord Buddha. The idol is said to have been carved out of a single block of sandalwood.

Dhamma Naga :

What to explore : Dhamma Naga is situated at the bank of a small lake in Mahurzari village just 18 km. from Nagpur. The Centre is dedicated to ancient techniques of meditation including vipassana. The place is ideal for those looking to spend of peaceful and quite time. The center also provides accommodation.

Architectural delight: The meditation building is situated overlooking a small lake and the architecture s inspired by Tibetan style. Ten days meditation courses will be held here every three months.

Discover its Charme :- There is a Japanese garden inside the center and a beautiful bronze statue of Lord Buddha right in the middle of the garden where monks meditate.

Nagaloka :

The Nagaloka Campus extends over 15 acres on which there are seven residential halls, a class room and library building, kitchen facilities, a Dhamma Teaching hall, a meditation hall, as well as an administrative Building. These were designed by Master architect, Choristopher Charles Benniger, Who based on architecture on the Buddhist meeting halls that were found in India two thousand years ago. At the Centre of the campus is the magnificent walking Buddha created by master wen kwei chan. Walking towards the Buddha is a 'statue of a serene.' Here various training programs on Buddhism and Ambedkarism will be held.

Conclusion:

Nagpur is a city located in the central India and has historical Buddhist monuments. The city can be emerged as a Buddhist tourist hub in coming days. We can explore the sites to create cultural hub in Nagpur.

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