Prospects and Problems of Tourism industry in Mithilanchal of Bihar

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ABSTRACT

Tourism is a short time movement of people from one place to another place which have travelling for fun. People who travel for fun are called tourists. Tourism is now a day considered as an important industry which has vast scope for the generation of income and employment. It is one of the world’s fastest growing industries. A major source of foreign exchange earner of a nation. The state of Bihar specially mithilanchal is best known for its unique Madhubani Art ( MithilaPainting ). A Phullahar the village contains the temple of goddess Girija, AhilyaAsthān (Darbhanga), MaaJanki (Sita) JanamsthaliPunauraDham (Sitamarhi), HalewhwarAsthān (Sitamarhi), Shyama Mai Temple (Darbhanga) and many more.

Although the whole north region of Bihar has tremendous potential, the tourism industry in the area is still miles to go to exploit the proper potentialities. The state as well as the entire northern region of India has subjected to century long neglect, even after 71 years of the country’s independence. The present paper has been an attempt to highlights the main prospects and problems of tourism in mithilanchal, Bihar

Key word: Tourism, Famous tourist place, Development.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a short time movement of people from one place to another place which have travelling for fun, people who travel for fun are called tourists. Tourism is now-a-days considered as an important industry which has vast scope for the generation of income and employment. It is one of the worlds fastest growing industries, a major source of foreign exchange earner of a nation. The word “tourism” has been originated from french word “tourisme” which means movements of human beings from one place to another for leisure, holiday making or for different purposes. Various scholar have defined tourism in their own words and the definition has also changed over years implying changes in scope and trend.

The word ‘tourist is derived from the latin word ‘tornus’ which means a tool for describing a circle. Oxford Advanced Learner dictionary defines tour as ‘a journey for pleasure during which various places of interest are visited, tourist as ‘a person who is travelling or visiting a place for pleasure’ and tourism as ‘the business of providing accommodation and services from people visiting a place.’ An international visitor is a person entering into a countary which is not his place or country and visiting for the purpose of pilgrims, religious observance, conference, study and business (wto). In a vide term tourism is a means through which we can earn foreign currencies, exchange knowledge and culture create understanding among the world people.
Mithilanchal is best known for Mithila painting, which have unmatched art and unique craftsmanship find expression in each and every aspects of the life of the people of mithilanchal. The folk paintings of the women of mithila are exclusive monopoly of the women artists. Mithila paintings are famous the world over for their intricate designs and motifs. The origin of the Mithila Painting seems very ancient, although it is impossible to exact its date of origin.

The studies about tribal art trend to show formal similarities with the ancient drawings found in some grottos. Thus the origin of some of the motifs still used by the tribal communities have roots from a very ancient times.

The women of Mithila, who are highly talented in their art, have made the art of this region a subject of artistic acclaim, the world over. Realising the artistic worth of the painting, in the 1960s, some local officials took the initiative to popularise the art by making the woman put some of their paintings on paper, which finally led the creation of a worldwide market for their creations. It is a mild irony in Mithila that the Fame of the woman has surpassed that of the men, because Mithila Art, otherwise known as Madhubani Paintings also, is now recognised throughout the world.

**FAMOUS TOURISTS PLACE IN MITHILANCHAL**

**Phullahar (Madhubani)**

The village is situated about 6 kms west of the block headquarters at Umgaon under harlakhi P.S the village contains the temple of goddess Girija. It is said that Sita, the daughter of king Janak, used to come here every day to worship the goddess. Lord Rama saw her for the first time at this place.

**Aahilya asthan (Darbhanga)**

The village in situated about 24 km’s north west of Darbhanga and about 4 km’s from kamtaul railway station. It known for temple of Ahilya Asthan, which is associated with well known legend of the sage Gautam and his Ahilya as told in the epics and Puranas. In side shrine is a flate stone said contain the foot prints of Sita, wife of Ram, as the main object of worship.
Maa Janaki (Sita) Janma sthali Punaura Dham (Sitamarhi)

This temple is traditionally considered to be the Ma Janki (Sita) janam sthali Punaura Dham (Sitamarhi), the daughter of king Janak. This temple is about 5 kms south west of sitamarhi. This temple, however seems to have been built about 100 years ago.

Haleshwar asthan (sitamarhi)
This is an ancient temple of Lord Shiva about 3 kms north west of Sitamarhi. According to myth the king of Videha on the occasion of putra yesthi yojna, founder this temple.

Shyama Mai Temple

Shyama Mai temple is just 01 km west of Darbhanga Railway station. It is situated in the picturesque and peerless Lalit Narain Mithila university. In fact it is private graveyard of Darbhanga Raj royal family temples have build upon the graveyard of the ancestors of the royal family. Shyama Mai temple is one of them. A huge statute of goddess Kali is enshrined in this temple. This temple is famous not only for its grandeur beauty and lively men but also for the faith that a people here get there in desire fulfilled if they worship holy heart.

Raj Nagar, Dharbhanga

It has been the old capital of the princely state of Darbhanga. Therements of the old palace of Darbhanga Maharaj are seen to describe the historical memory of the place even today. However the palace of the place is now ruins due to neglect, it is located in Mahubani district of Bihar.
Darbhanga Fort

When Darbhanga Maharaj removed his capital from Rajnagar, he built a fort and several palaces in Dharbhanga. This Fort made of red bricks is one of the few attractive forts in the country. In the fort Nargauna palace anandbagh palace and bela palace are prominent.

Bisfi, Madhubani

Bisfi is the Birthplace of poet KokilVidyapati based in Madhubani District. He composed many texts and songs in and Maithili here. It is said thaid Lord Shankar had come here to become aUgna and being jobbing by the devotion of Vidyapati.
Bali Rajgadh

There is an ancient fort and stronghold of Balirajgadh in the Babubarahi block of Madhubani district. It is a site protected by the archaeological survey of India and is known as Raja Bali’s stronghold. Three thousand years old material was found in the excavation done here in five stages.

UchchaithBhagwati Temple, Madhubani

The temple of siddheethuchchaithbhagwati is situated in benipatti village of madhubani district. It has a historical significance. It is believed that Kalidas was given a boon by mother Kaali and only after this he became famous as a great poet. This place is also known for tantra cultivation.
Ugratara Place, Saharsa

Ugratara place is located in Mahishi in saharsa district. It is one of the main saktipeth. It is believed that bhagwati sati’s left eye fell here. This place is famous for tantraculivation. The scholar mandanmishra was born whose jagatgurushankaracharya had to face defeat in the debate with his learned wife Bharti.

Problems of tourism in Mithilanchal

- **Lack of Infrastructure**
  To attracts tourist, there must be dissemination of information, infrastructural facilities like good Hotels, communication network hygienic food, availability of water. Most of places of tourists are not situated by the side of State/ National highway and approch road are not in good condition.

- **Absence of trained tourist Guides**
  Bihar virtually doesn’t have any training Insititute for the Guides, who help the tourist on Important tourist places.
Lack of coordinated efforts
For proper development of tourism Industry, there should be proper co-ordination among all the agencies related to the Industry.

Lack of special tourism security force
For deployment at major tourist destinations, there should be special tourism security force.

CONCLUSION

It is generally believed that tourists, both domestic and foreign, visits different places in search of specialities, which include a variety of things, such as, beauties of nature, architecture, peace of mind and fulfilment in religious places, new and different variety of food, culture of the people and uncommon adventure. In the midst of so many varieties, tourists make certain common demands, and these are clean, hygienic and comfortable living accommodation, good transport system to take them from one place to another, decent shops particularly catering to ethnic art, entertainment representing cultural heritage of the place etc.

Mithilanchal is richly endowed by religious places to become a spotlight of tourism, but mere having a good number of attractive tourist spots is not enough unless all the minimum requirements stated above are not readily available.

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