



## ECO- TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN

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**Abstract:-** Definition of Tourism given by Burkart and Medlik { 1981} Acc. to “ The phenomenon arising from temporary visits { or stays aways from home} outside the normal place of residence for any reason other than furthering an occupation remunerated within the place visited.” Tourism is one of the main sources of jobs and revenue for the government. As a result, the concept of Eco Tourism was created to promote tourism while also protecting the environment. According to TIES ( 2015) Ecotourism is described as "responsible travel to natural regions that maintain the environment, sustain the well-being of local people, and includes interpretation and education.” Because the world-famous Thar Desert is rich in historical forts, cultural heritages, step wells, holy pilgrimage, national parks, and sanctuaries, Rajasthan offers a plethora of eco-tourism opportunities. It generates jobs for residents and propels state development forward.

**Keywords :- Rajasthan, Environment , Tourism, Heritage, Eco-Tourism, Local People .**

**Introduction :-**Rajasthan is located in the Northwestern part of India. Rajasthan is India's largest state geographically, with a land size of 342,239 square kilometres. Ajmer district , Hadoti, Dhundhar, Gorwar, Shekhawati, Mewar, Marwar, Vagad, and Mewat are the nine regions of the state, which are organised into 33 districts. Rajasthan's western region is arid and sparsely populated. It is located between 23.3 and 30.12 North latitude and 69.30 and 78.17 East longitude.

Rajasthan is also rich in industrial growth, particularly in textiles, cement, marble, salt, and handicraft industries, in addition to national heritages and national parks, which have piqued the interest of tourists for years. As a result, tourism is the only field that is quickly increasing.

### Characterstics of Eco –Tourism :-

- Attention to environmental knowledge .
- Minimum harmful effect.
- Provide economic benefits for the local community .
- Conservation of local culture .
- Protect to human right .

**INDIA'S ECO-TOURISM :-**India is one of the most diverse countries on the planet. It attracts travellers because of its cultural, geographical, and biological variety.

According to India's tourism statistics report for 2019, the total number of tourists in 2018 was 10.56 million, up 5.2 percent from 2017.

There are currently 103 National parks and 544 Wildlife Sanctuaries in India, so many sites have been built as a result of eco-tourism, which produces jobs while also protecting the environment.

#### **Eco- Tourism sites in India : -**

1. Thenmala eco tourism (Kerala)
2. Bandipur national park (Karnataka)
3. Goa traditional trip (Goa) and Galgibaga beach (Goa )
4. River rafting in Rishikesh
5. Sundarban national park (West Bengal)
6. Chilka (Odisha)
7. Kaziranga national park (Assam)
8. Ranthambhore national park (Rajasthan)
9. Dhudhwa national park (UP)
10. Gir national park and sanctuary (Gujrat)
11. Desert national park (Jaisalmer)
12. Kanha National park (MP)
13. Majuli ( Assam )
14. Nanda devi Biosphere Reserve (Uttarakhand)

#### **Rajasthan's Eco-Tourism :-**

Apart from the world-famous Thar Desert, Rajasthan has a rich cultural heritage, palace forts, and biological diversity. Apart from that, the Aravali, the world's oldest remaining mountain range, splits Rajasthan into two halves. Rajasthan now has three national parks and 25 wildlife sanctuaries. As a result, in 1989, the tourist sector was accorded industry status by the state government in order to further promote tourism in the state. And, beginning in 1993, established a capital investment grant plan and a distinct budget for it, and in 2001, established the “Rajiv Gandhi Tourism Development Mission,” which was followed by the implementation of the Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2007-2015. As a result, the number of visitors has increased.

Because tourism is so important to the state's economy because of the state's cultural-historic biodiversity, the state government has begun to promote eco-tourism in order to create employment prospects for residents as well as revenue and public participation in environmental protection. To enhance public participation in environmental protection, the government has released the “ Eco Tourism Policy 2021”. Many eco-tourism

sites have been established in Rajasthan, including one developed as a tourism site in the Fort, Holy pilgrimage, National Park Sanctuary, and the following.-

### **Eco – Tourism Site in Rajasthan :-**

- Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar ).
- Shyampura ( Banswara)
- Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur )
- Ramgarh Fort ( Bundi)
- Chittorgarh Chittorgarh Fort ( Chittorgarh )
- Vaishnav Dham ( Dungarpur )
- Jaisalmer Desert National Park ( Jaisalmer )
- Galta Forest , Jhalana Safari Park ( Jaipur )
- Kumbhalgarh Wild- Life Sancturary ( Rajsamand)
- Todgarh Ravali sanctuaries ( Rajsamand )
- Mount Abu Wild life Sanctuary ( Sirohi )
- Ranthambhore National Park ( Sawai Madhopur )

### **Positive effects of ecotourism include:**

1. Local flora and fauna, historical culture, tourist attractiveness, and eco-awareness in Rajasthan.
2. Increase in state revenue .
3. Increase the number of job opportunities for residents of the state.
4. Environmental and cultural heritage preservation.
5. Eco-Tourism decrease our carbon footprint.
6. We become more caretaking about eco-tourism.
7. Increase of employment chance for local people .
8. Strong international relationship.

**Negative effects include:**

1. Pollution of the environment owing to waste.
2. Biodiversity is being harmed.
3. There is a loss of local culture.
4. Increase the amount of various contaminants.
5. Create of erosion and landslide issue.

**Ecotourism development strategies :-**

1. Appropriate visa policies for tourists should be developed as part of ecotourism development strategies.
2. Tourists should have access to helplines and medical services.
3. A tourist guide training centre should be established at the district and block levels.
4. To raise public awareness, digital posters, newspapers, and generalists should be used.
5. It is necessary to improve the road infrastructure.
6. It is necessary to publicise the educational tour.

**Conclusion :-** Seeing the various hues (diversity) and cultures that tourists visit each year, it is clear that ecotourism has limitless possibilities. There are three national parks and 23 wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan, which is a good number. As the number of tourists grows, we can expect some negative consequences. As a result, it should be treated as a serious issue, with long-term plans in place to preserve its culture, as well as an appropriate tourist advice system and strong rules in place to ensure that we, the next generation, can enjoy it as well. Governments can take steps such as e-vehicles and online reservations, among other things. To protect the environment, the government should enlist the support of environmentally friendly software and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

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