

TOURIST PLACES OF THE RAJSAMAND DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

KAMLESH PALIWAL^{*}, VINITA PALIWAL^{**}

ABSTRACT

Rajsamand district is located in the southern part of Rajasthan state and extends between north latitude 24°43'32" and 26°1'36" and east longitudes 73°28'30" and 74°28'55". Rajsamand district with the area of 4550.93 square kilometers covers 1.39 percentage of total area of state. The total population of the district 11, 58,283 according to 2011 census. Rajsamand district has religious, historical and natural biodiversity enriched famous tourist place.

The Marble industry of Rajsamand also attracts the tourists and business man for their excursion. They not only visited the area but also settled down hence the number of immigrants in population has been increased.

KEYWORDS: Rajsamand, Tourist, Goramghat, Devar, Kumbhalgarh, Kamalighat.

TOURIST PLACES OF RAJSAMAND DISTRICT

KUMBHALGARH

64 k.m. north west of Udaipur and birthplace of Maharana Pratap, Kumbhalgarh is the second most important citadel of Mewar after Chittaurgarh. The Aravali ranges protect this impregnable fortress. Thirteen mountain peaks surround it. It is built on the top of ridges, 914 meters above sea level. It's serpentine 36 kilometers long wall is thick and broad enough for eight horses to ride abreast. This wall is second only to the 'Great Wall of China'. There are 360 temples within the fortress, out of which a Shiva temple placed with huge Shivling.

HALDIGHATI (THE YELLOW VALE)

A narrow pass runs South to North-East and ends in a plain where the famous battle of Haldighati

was fought in 1576 between Maharana Pratap and the forces of Emperor Akbar. The colour of the soil here is yellow like turmeric. Hence the valley is also known as Haldighati. Badshahi bag situated near the Haldighati is famous for 'Chatri-Gulab'. The rose water and 'Gulkand' which has tremendous medicinal value and sweet taste as well. British author Col. James Todd described Haldighati as "Thermopile of Mewar" in his famous book Annals and Antiquities of Rajputana.

CHETAK TOMB

Only 2 km. West of Haldighati, lies the tomb of Chetak. After being seriously wounded and losing a leg in the fierce battle of Haldighati, Chetak dutifully carried his master, Maharana Pratap, safely to this place and at last after crossing a stream, fell dead.

^{*} Lecturer, Department of Geography, B. N. P. G. Girls College, Rajsamand, Rajasthan.

^{**} Lecturer, B. N. P. G. Girls College, Rajsamand, Rajasthan.

Correspondence E-mail Id: editor@eurekajournals.com

Here stands a monument constructed and dedicated to the memory of this royal steed.

MACHIND

Machind, situated in the Aravali range, parallel to the Jarga range of mountain is historically important. Maharana Pratap and his son Amar Singh stayed here for a short duration. The remnants of the construction of Pratap's age and a step well are still visible. Machind is also known as the birthplace of Maharana Amar Singh.

DEWAIR

At the Northern edge of Mewar, Dewair is situated between the mountain ranges spread in close proximity of Kumbhalgarh and Madaria. In the olden times it had been under the domain of different tribes of Mer to Deora Rajputs. Maharana Pratap made the adventurous military campaigns of the Mughal ruler ineffective by resorting to guerrilla warfare. On the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashmi, in 1852, he was crowned with historic victory, which led to the automatic liquidation of all 36 Mughal military outposts in Mewar.

After this humiliating defeat Akbar stopped his military campaigns against Mewar. The victory of Dewair was a crowning glory for Maharana Pratap. James Tod described Dewair as Marathon of Mewar. In his famous book *Annals and Antiquities of Rajputana*.

RAJSAMAND LAKE

In 1662 A.D. there was a severe famine in Mewar. In order to alleviate the suffering of the starving people of Mewar

Rana Raj Singh decided to construct a dam near the village of Kankroli. This dam situated between two hills on the Gomtiriver. The dam is of a bow shape about 6.4 kilometers long and 2 kilometers broad. Its area is nearly 3 sq. miles. It is completed in 1670 A.D. there after other construction work was as a Nouchoki,

Dwarkadheesh temple and irrigation garden at Rajsamand.

NOUCHOKI

The banks known as Nouchoki consist of 25 carved stone RAJPRASHASTI the longest stone inscription in Sanskrit in the world.

IRRIGATION GARDEN

Here is a very nice garden well maintained by JK Tyre situated on the pal of Kankroli Rajsamand lake. You can take a look of nice view of sunset with beautiful chhatris adorning the embankment of the pal. There are two pillars at the entrance made with marble and having very miniature carving work on them. After the main garden ends there are 4 more main chhatris. The last chhatri is a big one and known as Kamal Burj Chhatri.

DAYAL SAHAB KA KILA

There is a fortified Jain temple on another hill on the bank of the lake known as Dayal Sahab ka Killa. It was built by Singhvi Dayal Shah, the prime minister of Rana Raj Singh, who became famous as an able army general like Bhama Shah during Rana Pratap's time.

RAKAMGARH

About 10 kilometres South-East of Rajsamand is the famous fort of RakamGarh, a small fortress built upon a small hillock. It is said to be the silent evidence of the fight for freedom fought between Tantya Tope and the British troops in 1857, in the fields of Rakam Garh. It is also said that Tantya Tope stayed here in the Rakamgarh Fort for a short duration and was given all type of the help by the then ruler of Kotharia and the Tilkayat of Shrinathji.

SHRI NATHDWARA-THE GATE WAY TO THE LORD

When Aurangzeb embarked on a policy of total destruction of Hindu temples, the custodians of

the idol of Shrinathji of Govardhan near Mathura, left that place with the idol in search of a safe heaven. While several other princes were diffident, it was Maharana Raj Singh who dared to provide refuge.

DWARIKADHEESHJI TEMPLE

As with the Shrinathji at Nathdwara, the idol of Dwarikadheeshji was installed in a new temple at Kankroli in 1726, the town nestles by the beautiful lake of Rajsamand, which was built by Maharana Raj Singh. History reveals that the king Ambrish worshipped Prabhu Dwarikadheesh at Arbuda hills from where the deity was shifted by various devotees finally to Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharyaji. The third grandson of Vallabhacharya, ShriBal Krishna Lalji took the possession of the deity and since then, Kankroli is known as third peeth of vaishnav religion or Shuddhadwait or Pushtimarg.

BODHISTHAL

The Jain religious shrine of Bodhisthal lies at Kelwa just 13 km away from Rajsamand. In 1760 AD., a new Jain sect called Terapanth was born at Kelwa. It was founded by a Jain saint Bhikamji which gradually spread throughout India and is now one of the firmest Jain sect in India, having Acharya Tulsi as its chief preacher - the promoter of Anuvrat movement in India. The place where Bhikamji meditated and made his first preaching of new Panth is known as Bodhi Sthal.

PARSHURAMMAHADEV

It is one of the beautiful place on the peak of the hill. It is believed that Parshu Ram prayed Lord Shiva at this place. It is a beautiful place surrounded by green hills. To reach the temple, pilgrims have to ascend a distance of around four kms. It's nearby area is protected by forest department as wild life sanctuary. It is about 80 kms from Rajsamand, situated near the town Sadri on the way to Jodhpur.

CHARBHUJA TEMPLE

About 38 kms north to Rajsamand and 103 km north of Udaipur, on the road leading to Jodhpur lies an old famous temple of Charbhuj Nath, a Vishnu temple built in 1444 AD. As per the inscription placed inside the temple, name of the village was Badri, therefore, the idol is considered as Badrinath. The deity of Charbhuj Nath is considered to be miraculous. Thousands of pilgrims visit here and make pledge before it in order to enjoy the favor of deity. The town is also called Charbhuj after the name of the deity.

ROOP NARAIN

About 5 km away from the town of Charbhuj and 40 km away from Rajsamand there is another temple of lord Vishnu called Roop Narain Temple at Seventri village. The temple was built in 1652 AD. Just 2 km away from the village Seventri, there is a beautiful lake known as Gomti Muhana and Laxman Jhoola. On the bank of it is situated another beautiful temple devoted to Lord Ram known as Ram-Sita temple.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Dinesh Chandra Acharya, 1994 "Pattern of Crop Productivity in Rajsamand Tehsil" Ph.D thesis, MLSU, Udaipur.
- [2]. B.D. Agrawal, "Rajasthan District Gazetteers-Rajsamand" Published by Mahveer Printing Press. M.I. Road Jaipur.
- [3]. Bulletin of Industrial and Handicraft Fair of Rajsamand, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 District Industry Center-Rajsamand.
- [4]. Census of 2011: Rajasthan.
- [5]. Rajsamand Zila Darshan: Published By Information and Public Relation Department, Rajsamand.
- [6]. www.census2011.com.
- [7]. www.districtsatindia.co.in.
- [8]. www.rajsamand.nic.in.
- [9]. www.rajsamand.infoinfo.co.in.