



PROBLEM AND PROSPECT OF TOURISM IN MARGHERITA AND IT'S ADJACENT AREA

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ABSTRACT Tourism is one of the fastest growing and oldest industries of the world. Tourism means a trip made for pleasure, for educational purposes. The simple meaning of tourism is to undertake a journey outside one's normal working or living area without any commercial, business or economic motive; but for recreation, to experience or study the art and culture of its people and its natural beauty. Tourism can help to establish the economy of the place, solve the unemployment problem up to an extent and contribute to the development of social and political understanding. In the age of globalization, the world is becoming too small to travel. New tourist places have come into existence day by day. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, "Tourism is now the world's largest developing industry generating 12% of global national products. It employs around 200 million people worldwide, which is 8% of all jobs or anyone in 12 workers. North east India is playing a vital role for the development of tourism in the country. It is a paradise for tourists. Assam is the second largest state among the seven sisters of north eastern region of India, an embodiment of the natural beauty and grace a true representative of the region has been at the centre stage of the tourist attraction. Margherita Sub-Division is located in the District of Tinsukia in the eastern border of Assam which is veritable gateway of South East Asia. Margherita, the Coal Queen of Assam, The pearl of the north east is a miniature india full of colourful ethnic groups, also an important tourist places of the region for its historical monuments, natural beauty, culture and life-style of the different tribal communities, the Buddha monastery etc.

The objective of the study:

1. To identify the location of the tourist spot of this region.
2. To study the importance of the spot of this region.
3. To find out the problems faced by the tourist of the region.

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources.

KEYWORDS :Tourism, Unemployment, Globalization, Generating, Worldwide, Miniature.

Introduction:

North East India is playing a vital role for the development of tourism in the country. It is a paradise for tourists. Assam is the second largest state among the seven sisters of north eastern region of India, an embodiment of the natural beauty and grace a true representative of the region has been at the centre stage of the tourist attraction. The recorded history tells that since the days of Hiuen Tsang, the great Chinese traveler, who came to Assam during the reign of Kumar Vaskar Barman (594-650 A.D.); Assam has been fascinating millions of people by its aura of myths, mystery music, mountains, nay and all the gifts of nature. The ungrudging blessing of nature has made tourism in Assam essentially nature centric, despite the fact there are historical and religious places of tourists attraction. In this respect Margherita Subdivision in the District of Tinsukia is very much important.

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I. Ketetong Buddha Bihar:

This monastery is situated in Ketetong which is 8km away from Margherita town –ship. In this Bihar, there is a monk and a few students who are taught in Pali language and Brahmi script. This Bihar is one of the oldest among Biharas. Buddha Purnima and other festivals related to Buddha are celebrated here. The ancient books of Pali language is preserved here.

ii Barphakial Buddha Bihar:

Another Buddhist temple popularly known as Barphakial Buddha Bihar is situated 1.5km away from Ketetong Buddha Bihar. This Bihar is one of the oldest Bihar in this region .It is built in the middle of 19th century. There are two monks and several students. Like Ketetong Buddha; students are taught Brahmi and Pali language. A few Principles of Lord Buddha were inscribed on the stone pillar near this Bihar. This pillar is the symbol of 1000 years ago. The ancient manuscript and about 15-16 idols of Buddha are placed in this Bihar. Bihar is famous in this region.

iii. Dibang Buddhahihar:

This Bihar is located in Dibang; 7 km away from Margherita. It was established in 1892A.D. It is one of the oldest Bihar in this region. A monk and several students are living here. Ancient manuscripts and copper plates and various cultural goods are there. The tithes; regarding Buddha are observed enthusiastically every year.

iv. Entnem Buddha Bihar:

This Bihar is the largest in this region. The Buddha Purnima and other festival related to Buddha observed very enthusiastically. It is noted that the chief monk lives here. The students are taught Buddhist literature and religion. The ancient manuscript and several ancient mettles, goods are seen here.

v. Makum Fort:

Makum fort was built by David Reid, a Royal Army, in the middle part of the 19th century. It is situated at Makum, to the north of Buridehing River. This fort was built on the river Buridehing. Later, this place is known as Makum Killa. The main objective to the built this fort is that the Nagas from the south of Buridehing River often reached Makum and oppressed (disturbance) the people of this area. To resist or check the Nagas, this fort was built on bricks. Originally, this fort was three storied building. The thickness of wall of this fort was 4 feet and the height was 50 feet. To observe the enemies, holes were created on the wall. This fort was built by the symbol of Christianity. This fort was under the charge of a native officer and twenty army. Thus the fort once played a vital role of resist the enemies in general and Nagas in particular. It is mentionable that now the remains of this fort is not seen due to unable to preserve by the Government and the local authority.

vi. Ledo Airstrip:

From historical record, it is said that Ledo Airstrip is one of the oldest Airfield which was frequently used during the Second World War (1939-45). This airstrip was constructed by the local contractors with the help of local labourers and coolies. Historical record say China-Burma (Myanmar) India and United States forces in India from March 1942 to August 1944 and during the period some airfields constructed. With the arrival in India of United States Army force in 1942 the services of supply immediately began preparation of facilities for their use. The engineers, who built the Ledo Road which is later known as Stillwell Road, constructed the airfield adjacent to the road. The engineers arrived in Assam before February, 1944. Chinese Army in Chief Chiang –Kai- Shek established camp in South China to fight with

Imperial Japanese Army and they were stayed there without food and other necessary materials of war. Therefore, food military dresses, weapons, shoes, fuels were supplied to the army of South China from Ledo to Kunming through these air strips. The air-way was called Hump, full of high mountains and a very dangerous way. It is noteworthy mentionable that from 1942 to August 1943, near about six lakhs metric ton things transported through the air way.

vii. Stilwell Road:

The Stilwell Road was built during 1942-1944 from Assam through Burma to Kunming, China. This road connected the three countries i.e. Indo-China-Burma during that time. Colonel William J.Green prepared the plan of the road and British General Vinegar J.W.Stilwell built the road in order to maintain the supply line to China, from Ledo Railhead or railroad in Assam during the World War II. Donovan Webster, in the Burma road says, 'The proposed Ledo supply road out of India, through northern Burma, and connecting with the Burma road near the Chinese Border, needed to twist sometimes vertical rain forest, where as much as 150 inches of rain fell during the three summer months. Thirty five thousand Indians, Burmese and Chinese labors constructed the Ledo ROAD working incessantly for long two years. About 1100 Americans and 2600 other labourers had to die there in the accident, or from disease and Japanese invasion. American Colonel Charles Glean, Commander of American's 330th Engineers in Ledo commented that the Ledo road would stand as 'the toughest engineering job on the planet.'

viii. Digboi Oil Refinery

Digboi Oil Refinery is the first ever oil refinery established in Asia and it ranks amongst the world's oldest oil refineries. It was established in the year 1901. Over 100 years of age, the refinery produces approximately .65 million metric tonnes oil per annum. The oil refinery stays current by possessing modern technology to produce a wide range of petroleum products namely wax, fuel, and bitumen and so on.

Oil Industry of Assam Assam is the oldest oil-producing state in India. The major oilfields in North East India are those in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam and its neighbouring areas. The important oilfields of Assam are Digboi, Naharkatiya and Moran-Hugrijan. Other oilfields have been discovered at Rudrasagar, Sibsagar, Lakwa, Galeki, Badarpur, Barholla and Amguri. There are four refineries in Assam, viz., B o n g a i g a o n , Digboi, Guwahati, and Numaligarh. India established its first refinery in Digboi in the year 1901.

ix. War Cemetry

Situated 1.5 km from Digboi, War Cemetry is a cruel reminder of the effects of war. In the War Cemetry, rest the souls of warriors who lost their lives during Second World War braving the attack of Japanese. The Cemetry was initially on hill top and subsequent to an earthquake that destructed the Cemetry, it was shifted to the present location.

Digboi in Assam is a strange mix of tea, nature, wild animals, British culture and war. Touring Digboi will surely be a different experience than the regular destinations.

• Problems:

- The condition of transportation is not good. The first essential thing is to develop the transport system as well as road condition from the national highway to the destination of the spot.
- There is no any guide to communicate the tourists.
- There is not much accommodation facility in this area.
- There is a problem of insurgency in this area etc.

• Suggestions:

- The Govt. should take measures to develop the tourist spot. The destination areas are not attractive due to transportation and communication.
- To train the youth as guide.
- To construct cheap and environmentally suitable accommodation facilities near and adjacent area.
- To engage the youth for employment or income generating programme through this industry.
- The NGO should take some important measures to preserve these spots with the help of local people and also the government.

Conclusion:

Thus tourism in N.E.Region, especially Margherita Sub-Division has a

vast potential area which is yet to be exploited fully. It can help to establish the economy of the place, solve the unemployment problem up to an extent and contribute to the development of social and political understanding.

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