

8. Tourism and History

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8.1 Tourism in the Past

The tradition of travelling is quite old in India. People used to travel for various reasons like pilgrimage, going to local fairs and festivals, in search of a renowned teacher and good education, for trade, etc. In brief, from ancient times people took to travelling for various reasons.

Do you know ?

The Buddhist literature tells us that Gautam Buddha travelled to several cities in ancient India for preaching. Buddhist monks were ordained not to stay at one place but keep travelling continuously to various places. Jain monks, sadhus also used to travel constantly.

Yuan Shwang, the Chinese monk travelled to India in 630 C.E. In the medieval period Saint Namdev, Saint Eknath, Guru Nanak, Ramdas Swami travelled extensively in India.

Tourism : Tourism can be defined as travelling to visit places in distant regions for a specific purpose.

In the latter half of the 19th century C.E. the name of Thomas Cook is

Do you know ?

Benjamin of Tudela is known as the first European traveller/discoverer. He was born in Spain. During the period of 1159-1173 C.E. he travelled to France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Syria, Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Persia, India and China. He maintained diaries of the accounts of his travels. His diaries are viewed as important historical documents.

Marco Polo, the Italian traveller of the 13th century introduced Asia, especially China to Europe. He stayed in china for 17 years. He wrote about the flora and fauna, social life, culture and trade systems of Asia.

Ibn Batuta, the traveller of the 14th century took the world on a virtual travel of the Islamic world with his travel accounts. He was travelling for 30 years. He had resolved not to travel twice on the same route. His accounts are helpful in understanding the medieval history and social life.

Gerardus Mercator, of 16th century was a cartographer. He is known for creating a world map and globe of the earth. His work proved to be very useful for navigation around the world.

noteworthy in the context of tourism history. He organised a trip by railway from Leicester to Loughborough for about 600 people. Later he was successful in Organising a round trip of Europe.

Eventually he established a travel agency selling tourist tickets. This early venture of Thomas Cook opened doors for the development of modern tourism.



Do you know ?

The tradition of travelling from corner to corner was prevalent in India from ancient times. Vishnubhat Godase wrote down the accounts of his journey from Maharashtra to Ayodhya and back to Maharashtra. It is published as a book entitled, 'Maza Pravas' (My Journey). Vishnubhat travelled during times of the Indian war of independence in 1857. He was the eye witness for many events related to this historical event. His accounts are full of detailed descriptions about various incidences during this period, especially those about the life of Lakshmibai, the queen of Jhansi. We also get to know the nature of Marathi language of the 18th century. This book is one of the important sources of history of that period.

8.2 Types of Tourism

These days tourism has become an independent field of local, interstate, national and international business. The desire to visit national and international monuments, places of historical importance and natural beauty, ancient centres known for handicrafts, pilgrim centres, industrial centres and sites of various developmental projects, etc. promotes tourism. Tourists from all over the world wish to visit natural and manmade sites, which offer a delightful and awe inspiring experience. The places like snow-capped peaks, beaches, pristine jungles, which were neglected previously, became important

locations of tourist interests. Mass media began to make special audio-visual presentations highlighting places of tourist interest. Tourism can be broadly typified into local tourism, interstate tourism, international tourism, religious tourism, historical tourism, health tourism, science tourism, agro-tourism, sports tourism, tourism based on special events, etc.

Local and Interstate Tourism : This kind of tourism is not very overwhelming because it is within one's own country. It does not cause difficulties of language, procuring currency and documents. More so, we can plan it at the time suitable to us.

International Tourism : Nowadays, it has become easier to travel because of the easy availability of a number of options of railway, marine and air transport. Marine transport has linked the coastal regions. There is a trans-European railway route. Aviation has brought the entire world closer. Because of the economic liberalisation policy of the Indian government the number of people travelling back and forth from India has increased considerably. They include people travelling for studies, relaxation, sightseeing, and professional assignments (meetings, agreements, etc.), also for shooting of films, etc. One needs to procure various official documents for travelling abroad.

Historical Tourism : This type of tourism is popular all over the world. Tours to historical places are arranged to satisfy people's interest in history. It can be noted in this context that Gopal Neelkanth Dandekar, a renowned Marathi writer used to arrange hiking tours to forts in Maharashtra, to explore the sights closely linked to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his achievements. Tours are also arranged to important historical sites in India such as forts in Rajasthan, Ashrams of Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave,

important places related to the Indian war of independence in 1857, etc.



Valley of Flowers

You would like to know this :

People of various religious communities are dispersed globally. However, they feel united because of their mythological traditions and the places associated with those traditions. This creates a desire to travel to those places and it gives rise to religious tourism. In this context the constructions, undertaken by Ahilyabai Holkar spending from her personal funds are noteworthy. Ahalyabai wanted to provide good amenities on the pilgrim routes like *Chardham Yatras* and *Bara Jyotirlingas*.

Geographic Tourism : This type of tourism involves visiting places to observe special geographic features of a region. It includes various natural and animal sanctuaries, places like valley of flowers (Uttarakhand), various beaches, unique geographical wonders like the crater lake at Lonar and *ranjankhalage* (naturally carved out cavities in rocks) at Nighoj in Maharashtra. Many tourists like to visit these places to satisfy their curiosity.

Health Tourism : People from the western countries find the health services and facilities in India comparatively cheaper and yet of good standard. Hence, many foreigners preferred to come

to India to avail of the medical facilities and health services. India is a tropical country, where ample sunlight is available throughout the year. This attracts tourist from countries with cold climate to India. Availability of facilities for Yoga training and therapies based on Ayurveda is one more reason to want to visit India.

Agro-Tourism : Agro-tourism, which is also known as agri-tourism, is rapidly developing, especially meant for the urban population, which has very little exposure to rural life and agriculture. Now, Indian farmers are also visiting faraway places like agricultural research centres, agricultural universities, and countries like Israel where experimentation in advanced technology of agriculture is carried out.

Sports Tourism : Sports tourism was developed in the 20th century. There are various sports events organised on international level like Olympics, Wimbledon, World Chess Championship and international cricket tournaments, etc. While there are events like ‘Himalayan Car Rally’ on national level, events like ‘Maharashtra Kesari’ Wrestling competitions are organised on state level. Travelling to attend such events comes under sports tourism.

Tourism based on Special Events : People want to travel and they are often on the lookout for special reasons to do it. In the 21st century it has become common to organise such events, which also help to

Let us find out :

Apart from the types of tourism mentioned above, there are other types like, science tourism, leisure and relaxation tourism also known as wellness tourism, cultural tourism and group tourism, etc. Let us find more about it on the internet with the help of the teachers.

promote tourism. Film festivals, various types of seminars and conferences, international book exhibitions, etc. are examples of such special events. People keep visiting several places to attend such special events. Many literature enthusiasts in Maharashtra travel every year to attend 'Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan' (Pan Indian Marathi Literary Convention).

8.3 Development of Tourism

The crucial issue in the development of tourism is providing proper guidance to national and international tourists about various aspects of the actual travel, proper social conduct during the tour and during their stay at the destination places.

Do this.

Gather more information about the *Swachh Bharat* drive.

Giving priority to ensure safe transport and security facilities for the tourists, amenities of reasonably good standard, availability of good accommodation, good washroom facilities on the travel routes is of great significance in promoting tourism. It is also very important to pay special attention to the special needs of handicapped tourists.

It is important to take a few primary precautions in order to preserve the historical heritage sites. It is essential that few things should be avoided at any instance, for example: vandalising or defacing the heritage monuments and sites. In order to avoid it everybody should refrain from activities like writing on walls or carving on trees, paint ancient monuments in garish colours, etc. Lack of good amenities in the precincts of the heritage sites causes filthiness.

It is very essential for the tourists that pamphlets, guides and history



Can you tell?

- What facilities should be made available to the tourists?
- How would you behave with the tourist if you are the local person at a tourist site?

books about a tourist site be available in their own language. Hence, such literature should be made available in various languages. It would be helpful if the taxi drivers are trained to converse in more than one languages. They may also be trained as tourist guides.



Gharapuri Caves



Try this.

Collect pictures and photos of the cultural, natural and mixed heritage sites in India, with the help of internet.



Kas Pathar

8.4 Conservation and Preservation of Heritage

It is a hard task to preserve and conserve heritage sites. Our country is very rich with historical sites dating to ancient, medieval and modern period. It is also blessed with abundance of nature.

Heritage of any country is divided into, Natural Heritage and Cultural (manmade) Heritage. There are some Heritage Sites in India, which are acclaimed globally, such as Taj Mahal at Agra, Jantar Mantar observatory at Jaipur, and also the rock-cut caves at Ajanta, Verul and Gharapuri (Elephanta), Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Railway Terminus in Maharashtra. Kas Plateau in Maharashtra is located in the Western Ghats, which is a World Natural Heritage site.

There are tourists all over the world, who wish to visit world heritage sites. Foreign tourists come in large numbers to visit the heritage sites in our country. It makes us feel very proud when an Indian heritage site is declared as a world heritage site. However, whenever we visit such places we feel very disappointed because of what we see there. We get to see that people have written their names with charcoal; have drawn pictures, vandalising the heritage site. It affects our image as a nation. To preserve the heritage sites we need to resolve that :

(1) I shall strive to maintain the cleanliness of heritage sites.

(2) I shall not do anything, which will result in vandalising of any historical site.

8.5 Professional Opportunities in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry

Tourism and Hospitality is an industry with potential to create maximum employment opportunities. If managed professionally, it is a very stable industry.

Heritage Walks : To go on a tour for visiting historical places is known as 'Heritage Walk'. One can experience the thrill of being a part of history by participating in heritage walks.

'Heritage Walks' as an organised group activity has gained popularity in many countries. India has a rich history, which can be traced back to many millenniums. Every region of India is full of historical places from ancient, medieval and modern period. The 'Heritage walk' organised in the city of Ahmedabad is well-known. In the cities of Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra such walks are organised regularly. Heritage walks can encourage people to support projects like conservation and preservation of historical monuments, to collect authentic information about them and to publish it through various media. Residences of renowned citizens who have passed away are also part of heritage. In some cities 'blue plaques' with the names and other relevant information of such citizens are placed on their residences, as a part heritage scheme.



Try this.

Organise 'Heritage Walks' with the help of your teachers as part of educational tours to historical places.

It has tremendous scope for experimentation and innovation.

A good number of opportunities of employment are available in the tourism and hospitality industry. The country which is a tourist destination begins to receive revenue even before a tourist arrives at the airport of that country. He has to pay for his visa. He spends for his travel, stay in hotels, food, payment

to translators and guides, buying newspapers, reference books, souvenirs, etc. This contributes to the growth of economy of that country.

Markets in the vicinity grow along with the development of a tourist centre. Hence, the local handicrafts and cottage industries also begin to develop. The demand for locally processed food items and ethnic handicrafts increases. It results in better income for local artisans, business people and wage earners.

Development of Tourism in Maharashtra : Maharashtra is a state blessed with rich heritage. The much-admired rock-cut caves, paintings and sculptures of Ajanta, Verul and Gharapuri (Elephanta); pilgrim centres like Dehu, Alandi, Jejuri, Pandharpur, Shirdi,

Shegaon, Tulajapur, Kolhapur, Nashik, Tryambakeshwar, Paithan, Haji Malang, Gurudvara at Nanded, Mount Mary Church in Mumbai, etc.; hill stations like Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Khandala, Lonavala, Matheran, Chikhaldara, etc.; dams at Koyananagar, Jayakwadi, Bhatghar, Chandoli, etc. and sanctuaries at Dajipur, Sagarashwar, Tadoba, etc. are among the important tourist centres in Maharashtra.

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation was set up in 1975. It helped in the development of tourism in Maharashtra. The corporation has provided facilities of tourist hotels at 47 places. Together these hotels can accommodate more than 4000 tourists. Many private entrepreneurs are also providing hospitality services to tourists.



Do you know ?

Bhilar is a village near Mahabaleshwar, which boasts of natural beauty and sweetness of strawberry. It is also known as the 'Village of Books'. Every household in this village maintains a library of its own for the tourists to enjoy. Maharashtra State Government has implemented this scheme



An unusual Village of Books

with a view to accelerate the 'Reading Culture' movement for the reader-tourists to enjoy the beauty of Marathi literature enriched by the works of old and new authors and saints. It includes various types of texts like biographies, autobiographies, fiction, poetry, literature by women, literature on sports, literature for kids, etc.

If you go to Mahabaleshwar, make it a point to visit Bhilar as well.



Can you tell ?

- What kind of new occupations were introduced in the surroundings of your village/town because of growing tourism?
- What difference could be observed in the lifestyle of people in the surroundings of your village-town because of growing tourism?

You would like to know this :

Cultural tourism includes activities like visiting educational institutes of repute; trying to get a glimpse of local culture, history and traditions; visiting historical monuments at a place; trying to appreciate the achievements of local people and also participating in the local festivals of dance, music, etc.



Do you know ?

Mahabaleshwar and Panchagani are hill stations. Thousands of tourists arrive here. These tourists are accompanied by guides who provide relevant information on the sightseeing tour. At some places photographers are present to click nice snaps for the

tourists. Horsekeepers provide horses for horse rides and horse cart rides. It is the local people who are engaged in these activities and they can earn good money for their services. In short tourism becomes a major source of their livelihood.



Exercise

1. (A) Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the statement.

- (1) Thomas Cook established a travel agency selling
 - (a) handicrafts (b) toys
 - (c) food items (d) tourist tickets
- (2) Bhilar is known as the 'Village of'.
 - (a) books (b) plants
 - (c) mangoes (d) forts

(B) Identify and write the wrong pair in the following set.

- (1) Matheran – Hill Station
- (2) Tadoba – Rock-cut Caves
- (3) Kolhapur – Pilgrim Centre
- (4) Ajanta – World Heritage

2. Explain the following statements with reasons.

- (1) The number of people travelling back and forth from India has increased considerably.
- (2) It is important to take a few primary precautions in order to preserve the historical heritage sites.

3. Write short notes :

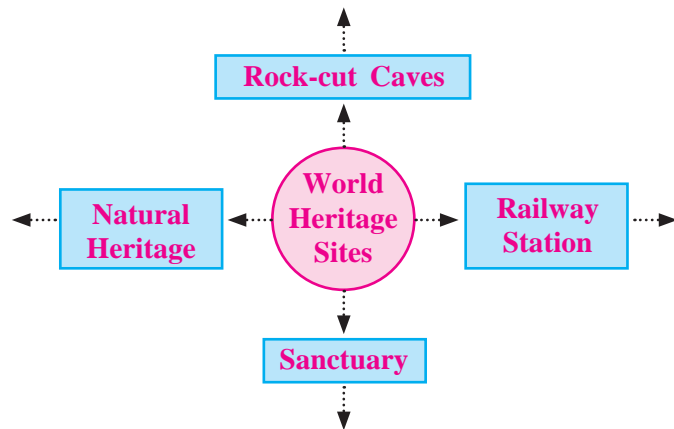
- (1) Tradition of Travelling
- (2) Marco Polo
- (3) Agro-tourism

4. Answer the following questions in detail.

- (1) What are the crucial issues in the development of tourism?

- (2) In what way tourism becomes a major source of their livelihood?
- (3) What would you do to develop the surroundings of your village/town to help the growth of tourism?

5. Complete the following Concept map :



6. Give elaborate answers to the following.

- (1) What are the professional fields associated with tourism?
- (2) Describe any three types of tourism.

Project

Explain the need to preserve the heritage sites. What measures are required to achieve it? Discuss.

