



# DIMENSIONS OF TOURISM IN BUNDELKHAND REGION OF MADHYA PRADESH

*(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PANNA DISTRICT)*

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## **Abstract:**

Tourism is an activity of spending time away from home in pursuit of entertainment, relaxation and pleasure. Tourism is a form of travel for various reasons. At present, tourism has been established as a full-fledged industry. Tourism sector has an important contribution in earning foreign exchange and providing employment to the residents of a nation. The aim of the present paper is to study the dimensions of tourism and to study the scope and possibilities of tourism in Panna district in Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. Bundelkhand region lies in the central part of India. The present study is mainly based on secondary data. Data and related information have been collected from district gazetteer, books and articles related with the Bundelkhand region. The Panna district of Madhya Pradesh has major tourists' attractions mainly includes wild life tourism, jungle safari, places with natural beauty, waterfalls, religious and historical places, apart from this Panna has many diamond mines which are also places of tourism attraction. Each of these places has interesting for visitors. Despite the immense possibilities of tourism, there has not been proper development of tourism here. Lack of basic facilities is a major obstacle in the development of tourism in the region, which needs to be overcome.

**Index Terms:** Historical places, Nature, Temples, Tourism, Vegetation, Wild life

## **INTRODUCTION**

Tourism is an economic, social and cultural phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business purpose. The Cambridge dictionary defines tourism as the business of providing services such as transport, places to stay or entertainment for people who are on holiday. Tourism is the sum of relationships arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not have permanent residence and are not connected with any earning activity (Hunnizkar and Karpel). The history of tourism is very ancient. In ancient times, many philosophers and thinkers traveled for knowledge and discovery. As civilization developed, the tendency to travel also developed in humans. Egypt, Persia, Rome and Greece were major centers of ancient tourism. In the history of human civilization, the medieval period is called the era of exploration when many travellers from European countries went to Asia, Africa and America. In the twentieth century, advancement in means of transport and communication has made the whole world accessible from a tourism point of view. Economic development, increase in standard of living and improved income have played an

important role in the development of tourism. At present, tourism is the main basis of economy in many countries. Tourism is widely growing industry accounting for about 10.3 per cent of global GDP and provide 330 million jobs opportunity(WTTC2022).

India is a country with full of diversity from natural and cultural point of view, where there are immense possibilities of tourism. India is a country with ancient civilization where religious places of different religions, ancient palaces, caves, temples and statues, mountain ranges of Himalaya, beaches have always been a center of attraction for tourists.

After independence, tourism has developed very rapidly due to the efforts of the government. Especially in the last three decades, development in hotel industry, infrastructure, development of rail and air transport, banking etc. had a positive impact on tourism. At present, tourism industry has an important contribution in the rapid economic development of the country, earning of foreign exchange and employment generation. According to ministry of tourism India received 1466 billion us Dollar in 2019 which is about 2.05 per cent of the world.

Panna is popular tourist destination at present time among the domestic as well as foreigner visitors. Madla village of Panna district has been recognized as best tourism village 2023 in gold category by the ministry of tourism in India. The city of Panna has glorious history and known as diamond city of India because Panna district is the only place of production of diamond in India. Panna was primarily a Gond settlement from thirteenth to sixteenth century when the Chandela defeated the Gonds and took over this area. In early days it was made the capital of raja Chhatrasal Bundela who ruled in this area during Mughal period. During British rule the district was a part of Vindhya Pradesh which was merged in to newly formed state of Madhya Pradesh in November 1956. The district is situated between the picturesque mountain ranges of Vindhyaachal in the north east part of Madhya Pradesh. There are many ancient temples in the city and for this reason it is also known as the city of temples. Famous Prannath ji temple located in Panna is the only temple of *Pranami sampradaya* in the world. Panna national park and tiger reserve is home to rare wild life.

## OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

Objectives of the present study mainly includes-

- 1.to study the various dimensions of the tourism in the district.
- 2.to study the present status of tourism in the district.
3. to study the role of tourism in the job creation for the residents of districts.

## REVEIU OF LITERATURE

At present tourism emerged as the popular field among the scholars. Chand and Kumari (2022) examine in their study that residents of a tourist place are an important stakeholder in the development of tourism. Dubey (2022) has found in his study that tourism has boosted revenue and cultural awareness. Snehal P. ,Patil and Ravindra G.(2023) studied about the satisfaction of tourists visiting the Delhi-Agra- Jaipur golden triangle tour circuit of India.B,Roy, A Bhatia and M.Yaja (2023) examine the key factors influencing the tourist destination. Mukhtar b.,Farook I.,Danish, M.and Reyaz Q.(2023) analysed the perception and attitudes of residents towards tourism development and its impact on nature. Nag(2014)studied about the development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh and in India with special reference to Pench national park of Madhya Pradesh. Sharma (2002) examines the role of tourism industry in the economic and social development of Madhya Pradesh.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study is mainly based on secondary data followed by primary data. Secondary data and information has been collected from district gazetteer, books, articles and official website of the Panna district and Panna tiger reserve. Annual and periodic reports of the Panna national park have been also consulted to obtain relevant information. For the primary data observation method is used to collect necessary information. Officers, tourists and locals were interviewed to obtain related information.

## STUDY AREA

Panna district has been selected as study area for the present study. It is located in the northeast part of the state and is the part of Sagar division. Panna is about 400 kilometers from the state capital Bhopal. Geographically the district lies between 23°45" to 25°10" north latitude and 79°45" to 80°40" east longitudes. It covers an area of 7135 square kilometres. Panna district is bounded by Banda district of Uttar Pradesh in the north, Satna district in the east, Katni and Damoh district in the south and Chhatarpur district in the west.

The district forms part of Vindhyan ranges in the north followed by Bundelkhand upland in the south. Most of the part is hilly. The Vindhya range consists of two linear steps separated by an uneven narrow valley having an average elevation of 440 meters. District lies in the Ganga drainage system and is drained by Ken river and its tributaries Baghin, Ranj, Aloni and Sumidra. All the streams are seasonal and turbulent during the monsoon while in summer they become dry. Sonar flows in the southern part of the district for about 16 kilometers. Mirhasan, Kurser and Satna are other important rivers of the district. The forest covers an area of 246951 hectares which is about 35 percent of the total land. Panna has two territorial and one wildlife divisions due to its large forest area. Wildlife division is part of Panna tiger reserve while others are north and south forest divisions. The vegetation of the district is mostly dry deciduous type characterized by thorny woodlands, shrubs and grasslands. Tendu, Achar Seja, Mahuwa, Saj, Salai, Bel and teak tree are commonly found in the district.

Panna district has a subtropical type climate as other part of the state. The climate is divided into three seasons: the summer during mid-March to mid-June which is hot and dry, followed by monsoon rainy season during June to September and cold winter during November to mid-February. May is the hottest month when average monthly temperature reaches up to 42 degrees Celsius while January is recorded as the coldest month. The average annual rainfall of the district is 117.8 centimetres out of which more than 92.2 percent of the total rainfall is received during monsoon. The district accommodates about 10.17 lakhs persons as per census of 2011 with 53.3 percent male and 47.7 percent female population. The density of population of the district is 142 per square kilometre.

## DIMENSIONS OF TOURISM IN PANNA DISTRICT

### 1. Wild life Tourism

Panna is famous for its wild life tourism. Panna Tiger Reserve and national parks are the most important tourist attractions in the district. Every year thousands of domestic and foreign tourists visit Panna tiger reserve. This national park was established in 1981 and declared a tiger reserve in 1994. Panna tiger reserve is situated in Panna and Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. Latitudinally, this park is located between 24° 27' north latitude to 24° 4' north latitude and 79° 45' to 80° 09' east longitude. The total area of Panna National Park is 1645.08 sq. km, of which 542.56 sq. km is the core area and 1002.42 sq. km is the buffer zone. Topographically, the national park is located in the Vindhyan range, whose average height is 540 meters. Wide mountainous areas, deep valleys and plains are found in the entire park. Ken river flows through the central part of the park which flows from south to north. Ken is the main water source of the park. Tadoba river and lake and Kolasa lake are other major water sources located in the park. The Ken Gharial Sanctuary has been constructed on the Ken River under the National Park itself, where efforts are being made for the protection of Gharials. Panna National Park and Tiger Reserve area is rich in terms of biodiversity. It is home to many rare and endangered animals, birds and plants.

Panna tiger reserve is an important protected area and known for its wide and rich wildlife diversity. Mainly carnivorous animals like tiger (*Panthera tigris*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), sloth bear (*Ursus ursinus*), striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*), wild cat (*Felis chaus*), wolf, jackal, Indian fox (*Vulpes benghalensis*) and rusted spotted cat are found in Panna National Park. Among the herbivores here, sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), Indian deer, chital (*Axis axis*), chinkara (*Gazella Benetti*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), chowsingha (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), four horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), the common langur (*Presbytis entellus*), the Indian porcupine (*hystrix indica*), honey badger



(*Mellivora capensis*) and rabbits are prominent, which can be seen here in the grasslands. rare wild cat and one horned deer is also present here. At present panna tiger reserve has more than 75 tigers. More than 200 species of birds are found in Panna National Park. Many migratory birds are also found. Birds including Marshalls lora (*Aegithina nigrolutea*) white bellied minivet (*Pericrocotus erythropygius*) striated grassbird (*Megalurus palustea*) variety of Galliformes, swan, Indian vulture, honey buzzard, stork, duck, milk king are found here. About 06 species of vultures are found in Panna tiger reserve mainly includes Egyptian vulture, long billed vulture, white backed vulture and red headed vulture. Eurasian, Himalayan griffon vulture and Cinereous are migratory vulture found here. In the first Panna bird survey 2022 about 252 species of birds were found in Panna tiger reserve.

More than 15 species of reptiles are found in Panna National Park. Crocodiles and watchdogs are found in large numbers in the Ken River area. Various species of snakes, iguanas, Indian rock pythons (*python molurus*), common monitor lizards (*varanus bengalensis*), chameleons, soft bone turtles, frogs are the main reptiles here. The snakes found in Panna National Park are Indian Cobra (*naja naja*), Rat snake (*ptyas mucosus*) Rasal Bipper, Karat, Dhaman and *Bhediya*.

Teak (*tectona grandis*) is the main tree of the forests here. Bamboo, Tendu (*diospyros melanoxylon*), dhaba (*anogeissus latifolia*) Salai (*Boswellia serrata*), khair (*acacia catechu*), saj (*terminalia tomentosa*) Palash (*butea monosperma*), bel (*aegle marmelos*) Pickle, Jamun, Mahuva, Lantana are the main vegetation found in Panna tiger reserve. The grasslands are wide on the flat plains and river banks, which are the main pastures of the herbivores here.

## 2. Natural tourism

**2.1 Pandav Falls:** This waterfall is situated at a distance of 13 kilometres from Panna town towards Chhatarpur road. Pandav fall is a serene waterfall located inside Panna national park. This place is comprised of natural, historic and religious place. The waterfall is formed by a tributary of ken river. The fall is cascades down from a height of about 30 meters into a pool surrounded by lush green forest. Due to very clean water of the water tank the fishes are clearly visible. At the foot of fall there are many ancient caves overlooking large pool of water. Along with water fall and dense forest there is more than ten caves known as Pandava caves where water drops always even during the summer. It is believed that during Mahabharat period Pandava have spent some time here during exile. They used to reside here secretly during the time of anonymity. This area is also very important from the point of view of biodiversity as many medicinal plants are found here.

**2.2 Brihaspatikund and Waterfalls:** This is a beautiful place situated at a distance of about 30 kilometers from Panna on Panna Pahadikhera road. But due to being in a very remote location, the number of tourists here is still very less. Devguru Brahaspati has made his ashram in this place. During exile lord Ram also spent his sometime in this place. It is a huge pond surrounded by four high hills and dense forests. The water of the baghin river falls here from a height of 600 feet and creates a beautiful waterfall. This waterfall becomes very huge and attractive during monsoon days, while the rest of the time the water dries up. This place is very important from the historical, religious and ancient point of view. To reach the bottom of Brahaspati Kund, one has to pass through a narrow mountain path where ancient paintings are found in the caves situated in the kund. Many rare herbs and mediational plants are found in the forests around the pond.

**2.3 Kilkilawater Falls :** This water falls is situated on Kilkila river just outside Panna city. This waterfall presents a very beautiful view during the rainy season. When there is excessive rain the waterfalls view become smoky. The water passes through several steps of rocks and falls into the pond below. In this natural spring, water falls from a height of about 50 feet, although it dries up in summer.

## 3. Religious tourism :

Panna city is also famous for its ancient temples. The government of Madhya Pradesh declared Panna city as holy city. Jugal Kishore temple is the most famous temple among all the temples. The construction of the Jugal Kishore temple was done by the ancient Panna king Hindupat in 1756. The idol of Lord Jugal Kishore was found in the Kishorevan of Hariram Vyas in Vrindavan. During the Mughal period, his devotees brought this idol to Panna and installed it. This temple is a center of faith not only in Panna district

but in the entire Bundelkhand. The flute of the idol of Shri Krishna installed here is studded with precious diamonds. The festival of birth centenary is celebrated here with great pomp. Prannath temple is the second major temple here which is situated in the Dham mohalla of the city. It is said that this is the only temple of Pranami sect in the world which was built in the year 1662. It is built in Hindu and Muslim architecture and has six domes. There is a golden urn in the central dome. Another major temple is Baldau temple which is built in a large area. Here the idol of Lord Krishna's elder brother Baldau ji is installed. The entire *Ramcharitmanas* is written in Ramjanaki temple which is also an important temple in the city. Apart from these major temples many other ancient temples including Jagannath Temple, Padmavati Temple and some Jain temples are located here.

#### 4. Historical tourism:

Panna district has also some major historical attraction which includes forts, museum and other monuments sites. Ajaygarh fort is most famous historical tourists' attraction in the district. this fort is located at a distance of 30 kilometres from Panna city near Ajaygarh town. The fort is situated on the top of Vindhya hills. This fort was very important during Chandela rules. There are two gates to enter the fort which can be reached after a tough climb of about 45 minutes. There are two temples of Chandela period and three Jain temples which are built in Khajuraho style. Although all the temples are currently in a dilapidated condition due to lack of maintenance.

Choumukhnath temple is located in Saleha town of the district. This is very ancient temple which was built in fifth to sixth century during Gupt period .This temple is very unique. The idol of four-faced Lord Shiva is installed here and each face is in a different form. One face is in the guise of God's groom while the other face is in the form of *Ardhanarishwar*, the third face is of being immersed in samadhi and the fourth face is of drinking poison(*vishpaan*). Vishnuvarah temple is located in Shahnagar. This temple was built in tenth century. There are number of architectural blocks and many idols kept in the temple premises. The idol of *Varaha* is installed in the sanctum sanctorum. The Hindupat palace of Panna is also a major tourist attraction. There is a large archaeological museum in Panna which has a collection of ancient sculptures.

#### 5. Diamond mines:

There are many diamond mines in Panna district which is also a major attraction for tourists. Diamond excavation work has been done here for years and even now it is the only diamond producing area in the country. The diamond mine at Majhgawa is operated by NMDC where the diamonds are shown to the visitors. It is located about 20 kilometers from Panna city just outside the Hinota gate of Panna tiger reserve. Brijpur, Ramkhiria, Sakaria, Harduwa are other diamond mines of the district.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM IN THE DISTRICT

The income received from tourists every year can be seen as the economic impact of tourism. This income is mainly received from the sale of tickets, vehicle rentals and consumption of residential facilities located in the Panna city and other places of the district.. The other economic impact of tourism can be seen on the locals in the form of employment generation. growth of tourism has created opportunities for local residents to set up medium and small business such as shops of daily needs, breakfast and tea shops, lodging, restaurants , *dhaba*, and handicraft.

### CONCLUSION

Tourism is an economic, social and cultural phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business purpose. Panna is popular tourist destination at present time among the domestic as well as foreigner visitors. it is located in the northeast part of the state and is the part of Sagar division. There are many ancient temples in the city and for this reason it is also known as the city of temples. Famous Prannath ji temple located in Panna is the only temple of *Pranami* sampradaya in the world. Panna national park and tiger reserve is home to rare wild life. Panna tiger reserve is an important protected area and known for its wide and rich wildlife diversity. Pandav fall is a serene waterfall located inside Panna national park. This place is comprised of natural, historic and religious place. Barahaspati Kund situated in the district is a great tourist attraction which is situated amidst dense forests. During the rainy season, the water of Baghin river falls from a height of 150 meters and forms a beautiful waterfall. wild life diversity, Ancient temples, forts, museums and water falls located in different parts of the district are the main dimensions of tourism in the region. Growth of tourism in the district has created opportunities for local residents to set up medium and small business such as shops of daily needs, breakfast and tea shops, lodging, restaurants etc.

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