



GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF TORANMAL HILL STATION IN AKRANI TAHSIL, NANDURBAR DISTRICT (MS) INDIA

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Abstract

Tourism has got importance in all over the world, a number of tourists have been increased in recent few decades. “Tourism means to travel from one place to another place in accordance with religious object and the recreation & the leisure”. Toranmal is the second coolest and highest hill station in Maharashtra State of Western Satpura in Nandurbar district. The seven fold ranges of the Satpura hills surround the region. Thick cover of forests surrounds this hill station, which has different varieties of flora and fauna. It has a natural lake called Yashwant Lake and Lotus Lake, the waterfalls and gorges like Sitakhai and Kalapani, Aawashbari point, Sat Payri (seven steps) view point and the popular sunset point, and Forest Park & Medicinal Plant Garden etc. attracts a lot of tourists from this hill station. The Gorakhnath Temple, Machhindranath Caves, Nagarjun Temple tourists visited on the occasion of Mahashivratri. This study will help the tourists to know about the beauty of the Toranmal hill station and Satpuda ranges. The objectives of the study is to explore and potential the area through the media for its development and importance.

Keywords: - Caves, Hill Station, Lakes, Medicinal Plant, Tourist Attraction.



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Introduction:

The case study is about the tourist places in Toranmal Hill Station of Satpura ranges and its potential of tourism development. The sixth and seventh ranges of Toranmal in Satpura are in the area of Narmada valley. The plateau with hill station known as Toranmal has a temple called the Torana Temple (as Goddess of tribals) and Toranmal Village. Toranmal hill station has lot of scenic beauty of tourist's attractions like Yashwant Lake and Lotus Lake, the waterfalls and gorges like Sitakhai and Kalapani, Aawashbari point, Sat Payri (seven steps) view point and the popular sunset point, and Forest Park & Medicinal Plant Garden etc. attracts a lot of tourists from this hill station. The Gorakhnath Temple, Machhindranath Caves, Nagarjun Temple tourists visited on the occasion of Mahashivratri as well as all over the year around. The hill station is 55 km from Shahada, 90 km from Nandurbar; 200 km from Surat is connected by roads. And accommodation facilities

available for Hotel for MTDC, Rest House of Forest Department and Private Accommodations.

Materials and Methods:

The Present study is based on the primary and secondary information, primary information collected through the local people. These places are visited by me and with my friends frequently and got the information through the local tribe. The Survey of India, Topographical Maps are used for the study area of mean sea level height, relief features, slopes, drainage pattern, settlement, distance, location of tourist centers etc. e.g. **46 K/1, 46 K/2, 46 G/13, 46 G/14, 46 K,** and **46/g**. The actual photographs of the area are used to local tourist places. And represented through location maps.

Objective:

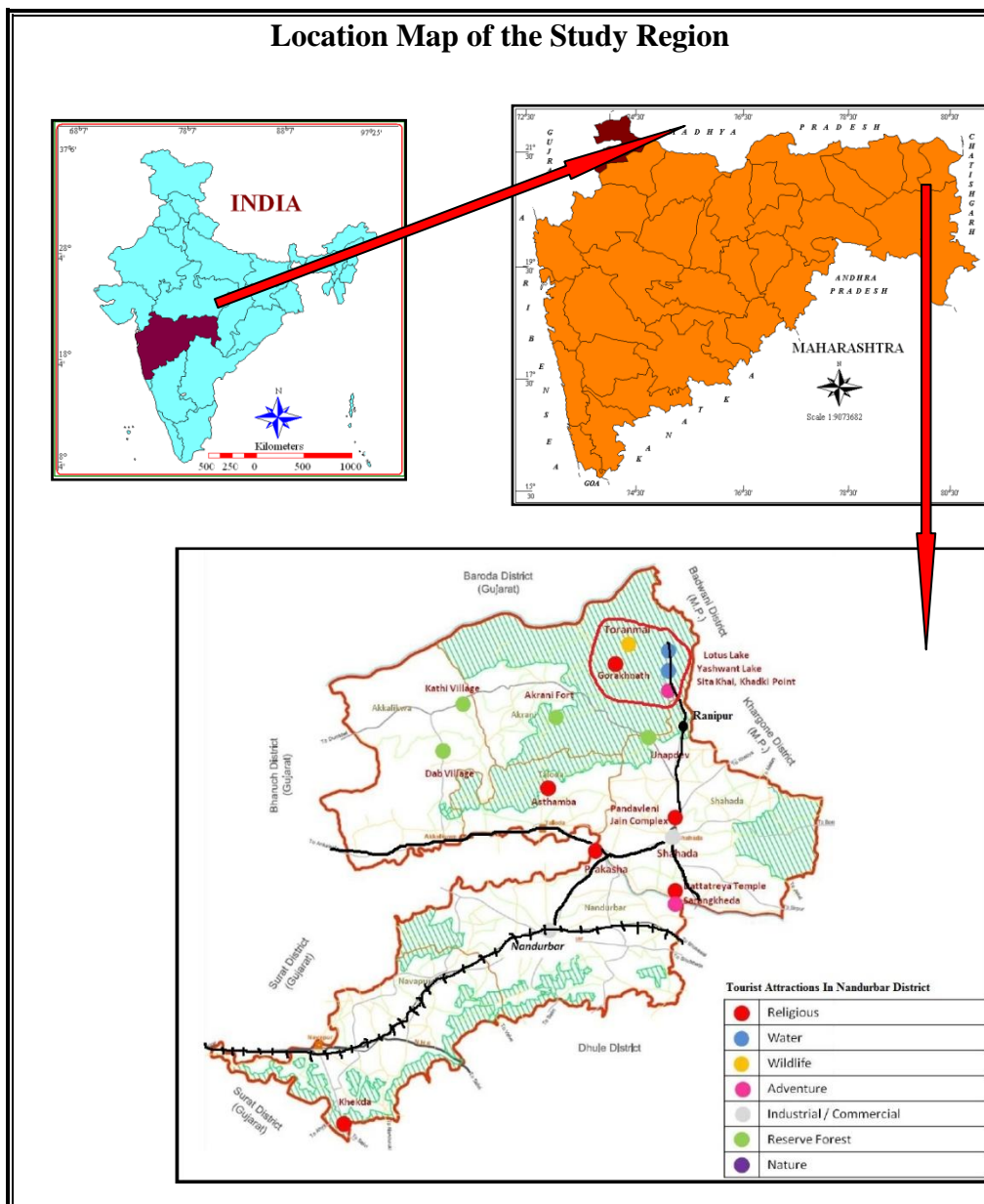
- Focus the potential of tourism development of the study area.
- Avail the opportunities for the tribe economically through the tourists.
- Focus on the development and importance of the tourist places.

Study Area:

Toranmal plateau is a quantum part of Satpura Mountain forming the cultural transition between Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra with its high altitudinal 1155 m MSL, trijunctional location between the three states. It lies in western Satpura Mountain which is a horst block between Narmada Rift Valley on north and Tapi in the south of Nandurbar District in North Maharashtra State. The total plateau summit area covers 41 Sq.km. and extends between $21^{\circ}54'$ to $21^{\circ}61'$ north latitude and $74^{\circ}26'$ to $74^{\circ}34'$ east longitude. This is one of the best and famous hill stations in North Maharashtra in Akrani Tahsil of Nandurbar District.

Linkages and Connectivity:

Toranmal is at a distance of 40kms from Shahada and about 90 kms from the district headquarter of Nandurbar. The district headquarter is Nandurbar which is connected to major towns of Gujarat and Maharashtra through broad gauge rail. The nearest airport is at Surat in Gujarat which is 160 kms away. The major towns in the district are devoid of any national highway road connectivity. National Highway 6 connecting Surat to Dhule, Jalgaon and Nagpur passes through the Navapur Tehsil, but misses any major settlement. National Highway 3 connecting Agra to Bombay also passes at close proximity to the district and is one of the major connecting roads for visitors from the north of the country.



Results and Discussion:

The Important Tourist attraction in Study Area:

1. **Yashwant Lake:** Yashwant Lake is located on the northwest side of the plateau with 2.75.km perimeter, with 39 hectares of spread area and average depth of 10 meters. It was constructed during British period by damming a deep gorge. The main drainage inflow of water enters the lake from southern bank and minor drainages from northwest. The outflow of the lake is located on north east boundary. It runs downward upto Sitakhai fall arrested in between as small reservoir Lotus Lake. After the formation of Maharashtra State the plateau was visited by then Chief Minister of Maharashtra State Mr. Yashwantrao Chavan. The Lake

Yashwant was named in honour of the first visit of the chief minister in the year 1959. After his visit it was developed as hill station. On the eastern bank of Yashwant Lake, the linear pattern settlement of tribal people along the road is the Toranmal village. Rest houses (MTDC) and tourist cottages (PWD) and Forest department are present on the north side of the lake view.

2. Lotus Lake: Lotus Lake is a shallow perennial water body, its spreads in 3.5 hectares. It receives water through streams from higher altitudes of Toranmal Plateau and the outflow of the Yashwant Lake. It is covered with Lotus flowers hence centre of attraction at Toranmal tourist station.

3. Sita Khai: A beautiful gorge falling from the Toranmal plateau, Sita Khai is a beautiful picnic place. It is also very useful for the locals, who hang from ropes in the gorge to collect honey. The water in the gorge varies with monsoon and finds source at the Yashwant Lake.

4. Gorakhnath Temple: The temple is one of the oldest temples on the Toranmal plateau and is visited by thousands of devotees during the grand fair of Mahashivratri in March and April. The temple is famous for producing a large sweet *prasadam* every year to offer the locals.

5. Kalapani Area: This area is located south and 10 km before Toranmal. The high magnitude waterfall is observed in the lower part of the escarpment i.e. Kalapani Waterfall (25m.) the upper part of the escarpment is multifaceted and clearly shows seven steps. This escarpment is locally known as 'Satpairy Ghat'. This is the most active land sliding zone of the Toranmal Plateau. It is dense forest area especially teak forest.

6. Khadki Area: It is located in northwest of Toranmal Plateau. It is plain area with degraded forest. This point is having wide scenario angle for watching small Padas of Khadki village, ranges of hillocks, sight view of Zarkal River.

7. Forest Park & Medicinal Plant Garden: This is a small garden spread over an area of 0.2 Ha, where in about 60 various species of medicinal plants have been raised for variety of purposes like demonstration, conservation and propagation. During the year 2000 almost all the medicinal plants in this medicinal plot are collected from the forest of Satpura, majority being from Toranmal ranges. This plot provides demonstration facility to the students from colleges of Botany, Pharmacy and Ayurvedic Science. Forest park is also

popularly known as Toranmal Park. The park provides panoramic view of the lake water with dense woodland.

8. Machhindranath Cave Point: It is a deep, low height and narrow cave used by the “Nath” sect saints in the past. It is still a place of worship for locals. It provides panoramic view of the southern side low-lying forest tract.

9. Nagarjun Point: A small temple of Nagarjun in cave with an ideal location near to sat payari viewpoint and Mist Mountains of satpudas.

10. Torana Devi Temple: It is situated temple on hillock with beautiful sight to watch all around the pleatue. The tribals are having great trust in the Goddess.

11. Gorakshanth Temple: It is located on the bank of the Yashwant Lake. It is the place visited by many local tribals on all-important occasions. The temple is ancient, very famous and during Shiv-Ratri more than a lakh devotees take the darshan of goraknath.

Conclusion and Remark:

Toranmal is the second coolest and second highest hill station in Maharashtra State of Western Satpura in Nandurbar district. Geographically the Toranmal hill station is full of both naturally and manmade attraction has been lot of tourism potential. The seven ranges of the Satpura hills surround the region. Thick cover of forests surrounds this hill station, which has different varieties of flora and fauna. It has a natural lake called Yashwant Lake and Lotus Lake, the waterfalls and gorges like Sitakhai and Kalapani, Aawashbari point, Sat Payri (seven steps) view point and the popular sunset point, and Forest Park & Medicinal Plant Garden etc. attracts a lot of tourists from this hill station. The Gorakhnath Temple, Machhindranath Caves, Nagarjun Temple tourists visited on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

The Present case study aims at to find out the natural tourist places. The facilities would be made available in these tourist places and the tourists would make easy the social, economic development of the local people. The researchers should attempt to find out new natural Spots as the tourist places and propagate them at grant level to develop socially and economically. On the whole the Govt. should take initiatives to survey the new tourist places and provide basic facilities to the local people through tourism.

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