

The Impact of Rural Tourism on Socio-Economic Environment in the Chitrakoot Region

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Abstract- *Tourism is currently the world's largest industry and the fastest growing sector of the market. Tourism is usually viewed as being multidimensional, possessing physical, social, cultural, economic and political characteristics. "Definitions of tourism share a range of common elements" (Dowling 2001, P24). Mathieson and Wall (1982) that tourism is the temporary movement of people to destinations out of their normal home and workplace, the activities undertaken during the stay, and the facilities created to cater for their needs. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) tourism is the world's largest industry generating 12% of the global gross national product and it employs around 200 million people worldwide (WTTC, 1995). Worldwide tourism is ranked second highest revenue generating industry next to the oil industry. It is necessary to differentiate between different type of tourist to understand and analyse their purpose of visit. There are different ways to attract domestic and foreign tourists, we need to understand what types of services are required to attract and retain the customers. There is a large potential market for rural tourism especially for foreign tourists, which has not yet developed because government has not taken up any systematic approach to attract foreign tourists.*

Keywords- *Impact, Rural Tourism, Environment*

Introduction- Tourism growth potential can be harnessed as a strategy for rural development. Any form of tourism showcases the rural life, art, culture, and heritage at rural location, there by benefiting the local community economically and socially as well as enabling interaction between the tourist and the locals for a more enriching tourism experience can be termed as as rural tourism. It is manifested any may entail agricultural tourism, cultural tourism and eco-tourism. Rural tourism characteristics like, it is experience oriented, the locations are sparsely populated, it is predominantly in natural environment, it meshes with seasonality and local events and is based on presentation of culture, heritage and traditions. Many villages of Chitrakoot region have great potentialities as tourist destination. Villages of Chitrakoot Region have specialty in their different culture, religious, folk art and lifestyle. Now a day a segment of urban population are

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interested to visit the rural areas and understand their perspectives. This segment has been rapidly growing in the past decade and has to lead to rural tourism becoming a good prospect. The income from rural tourism can be contributed to revival of lost of folk art and culture of villages. Rural tourism has created tremendous impact on the local economy and socio cultural scenario of the concern area on one hand and carries a potential scope for the rural residents on the other hand. Rural tourism brings people of different culture, faiths, languages and life style, close to one another and it provide a broader outlook of life. It not only generates employment for the people but it also develops social, cultural and educational values. Rural tourism is an opportunity for rural development. Rural tourism is one of the opportunities that rural communities might consider to improve Productivity and incomes. Sustainable rural tourism can generate long term benefits for villagers. Tourism and more specifically rural tourism has been seen as a vehicle that has the potential to influence socio economic changes through the use of natural, socio culture and economic resources(Nzama,2010). It has been seen as a tool with a potential to enhance the development of rural areas on an ecologically viable basis and also as a means that can improve the quality of life of people living in the rural areas. Thus, tourism has been linked with poverty reduction for number of reasons, such as its ability to thrive in rural areas using readily available natural and socio cultural resources, thereby creating job opportunities for the local residents (Ashley and Roe, 2002).

There are a number of Challenges that have been associated with tourism development in rural areas, such as the general lack of capacity and tourism development related skills. Most rural areas in Chitrakoot region are characterized by lack of infrastructure, high illiteracy rates, unemployment, poverty and a general lack of knowledge and understanding of tourism development issues.

I.Rural Tourism- Rural tourism is among the most polymorphous of all forms of Special Interest Tourism (SIT). The diversity of attractions included within rural tourism embrace:

- Indigenous and European heritage sites
- Aspects of culture (agriculture)
- Industrial tourism (farm practices)
- Educatioanl tourism
- Special events
- Ecological attractions
- Adventure tourism
- Wine tourism

Such diversity represents major opportunities for rural areas that have turned to tourism as a means of supplementing diminished incomes (Douglas, 2001).

1. Geographic And Demographic Definitions- "A multi-faced activity that takes place in an environment outside heavily urbanized areas. It is an industry sector characterized by small scale tourism business, set in areas where land use id dominated by agricultural pursuits, forestry or natural

areas” (Department of Tourism, 1994:3)

2. Product-Related Definitions- “The Rural Tourism product could be segmented to include such product components as rural attractions, rural adventure tours, nature based tours, ecotourism tours, country towns, rural resorts and country-style accommodation, and farm holidays, together with festivals, events and agricultural education” (Department of Tourism, 1994:4).

3. Tourist Experience-Related Definitions- “Rural Tourism should be seen as offering a different range of experience to those offered in big cities” and that “the emphasis in rural tourism is on the tourist's experience of the products and activities of the area” (Department of Tourism, 1994: 3).

II. The Impact of Rural Tourism

1. Social and Cultural- The most influential statement on the social and cultural impacts is Bouquet and Winter's (1987) diverse anthology of studies on the conflict and political debates associated with rural tourism. They consider the relationship between tourism, politics and the issue of policies to control and direct tourism and recreation in the countryside in the postwar period. In contrast, Neate (1987) considers farm-based tourism in the Scilly Isles in relation to attempts to diversify the economic base of family owned farms in the climate of declining profitability in agriculture. Vincent (1987) argues that rural tourism development requires that close-knit communities adapt to the incursion of capitalism in the expansion of tourism, where family independence, traditional values and cultural traditions may be adversely affected.

The role of women in rural tourism has also belatedly attracted interest as a highly seasonal and unstable economic activity, since tourism is one of the few opportunities taken up by women but also contributes to the marginal status of women in the rural workforce.

Increasingly, native people are becoming involved in tourism to help meet their own goals of independence and cultural survival, yet tourism development carries special risks for them. There are also special problems related to obtaining financing for projects, training with cultural sensitivity, attitudes towards work and service, and making decisions communally (Smith, 1997). In communities with low economic activity and low tourism development there will be high hopes and expectations of tourism (Johnson et al., 1994). It has also been noted that long term residents of rural areas are much more likely to support growth and change than newcomers, usually because the newcomers moved there for amenities which they do not want changed (Getz, 1994).

2. The Economic Impact- The economic impact of rural tourism has been a fruitful area for research among a range of social scientists, often emphasizing or challenging the role of tourism as a panacea for all the economic and social ills of the countryside (Getz, 1981). But Butler and Clark rightly acknowledge, tourism in rural areas is not necessarily the magic solution to rural development, given its: “Income leakages, volatility, declining multiplier, low pay, imported labor and the conservatism of investors. The least favored circumstance in which to promote tourism is

when the rural economy is already weak, since tourism will create highly unbalanced income and employment distributions. It is better supplement for a thriving and diverse economy than as a mainstay of rural development“ (Butler and Clark, 1992: 175).

3. The Environmental Effect- In a rural context, the growing pressure emerging from the development-intensive nature of tourism and the expansion of Mass tourism has posed many new pressures as “new tourism” discovers the qualities of rural environments. In fact, the construction of theme parks in rural environments, second homes (Gartner, 1987), timeshare, conference centers, holiday villages have all contributed to the insatiable tourism appetite for rural environments.

A number of recent special issues of journals have also focused on sustainability and rural tourism. However, it is apparent that tourism in rural context displays many of the features of the symbolic relationship, which exists between tourism and the environment. For these reason it is appropriate to consider the tourism resource base, emphasizing supply and demand features in relation to the business aspects of Rural tourism (Page and getz, 1997).

III. Benefits of Rural Tourism- Rural tourism, while still only a minority tourism market, is making a valuable contribution to rural economies. Its contribution can be expressed not only in financial terms, but also in terms of jobs, contributions towards funding conservation, encouragement to the adoption of new working practices, and the injection of a new vitality into sometimes weakened economies. Potentially rural tourism promises some of the following benefits to rural development:

1. Job Retention- Rural tourism cash flows can assist job retention in services such as retailing, transport, hospitality and medical care. It can also provide additional income for farmers, and, in some cases, for foresters and fisherman. Job retention is not as politically glamorous as job creation, but, by helping the viability of small communities, it is critical to the survival of marginal areas. Studies of rural Austria, Sweden and Ireland have documented the role of tourism in job retention.

2. Job Creation- Job creation typically occurs in the hotel and catering trades, but can also take place in transport, retailing, and in information/heritage interpretation. Studies in Britain suggest that job creation varies by enterprise type. Farmhouse accommodation and bed-and-breakfast can create up to 23 jobs per £ 100 000 of tourism revenue. Job creation effects are less marked in hotels and caravan/campsites, yielding approximately six jobs per £ 100 000 of revenue.

3. New Business Opportunities- Tourism generates new opportunities for industry. Even those rural businesses not directly involved in tourism can benefit from tourist activity through developing close relationships with tourist facilities where local foods can be used as part of the tourism offering in a locality. Rural tourism facilitates expansion of complementary businesses such as service stations and new businesses are created to cater to tourist needs for hospitality services, recreational activities and arts/crafts.

4. Opportunities for Youth- The tourism industry is often promoted as an

exciting and growing industry suited to the energies and enthusiasm of young people. Career options are enhanced with the opportunities for training and direct involvement in running tourism businesses, especially those within small communities.

5. Service Retention- Visitor information services can be provided by existing outlets, such as shops, thus increasing income flows if payment is made for acting as information outlets. Services can also benefit by the additional customers which visitors provide. Finally, tourism's importance to national economies can strengthen the political case for subsidies to help retain services.

6. Community Diversification- Community diversification is an important activity in many upland and climatically marginal regions. Forest regions have suffered serious socio-economic problems in recent years, partly because of the mechanization of tree felling and processing, and partly because of falling prices following reduced timber demand. Rural tourism can assist forestry by diversifying income sources for forest communities if the special qualities of the forest environment for recreational use are realized and developed.

7. Rural Tourism Enhances and Revitalizes Community Pride- Tourism encourages conformity to an ideal image of community which can result in growth of personal ties and community solidarity. Thus the basis for community solidarity shifts from shared cultural background to shared image. Amenities play a fundamental role in shaping a community's identity and pride and so the potential of tourism for improvements to facilities and amenities has positive implications for community pride, particularly rural museums as an important repository of rural culture.

8. Preservation of Rural Culture and Heritage- In rural tourism the sense of place is a fundamental element in both the tourists and host community's feelings of what makes the area attractive to visit and live in. This sense of place is maintained partly through rural museums which play a vital role in preserving heritage.

9. Increase Arts and Crafts Sale- Arts and crafts have a special place in the cultural heritage of regions and nations. Many commentators have noted that tourism can assist arts and crafts, both by recognizing their importance, and by purchasing craft products. Income flows from these activities are well documented. Support between the arts and tourism can be a two-way process. Many communities now use arts and crafts festivals as a marketing mechanism to encourage visitors to come to their areas.

10. Landscape Conservation- Landscape conservation has become an increasingly important form of heritage protection. Landscape is of crucial importance to rural tourism but, equally, visitor use is vital to the landscape conservation industry. Visitor use brings political benefits, can bring economic gains, and can provide jobs in maintaining and repairing traditional landscapes worn by recreational activities.

11. Environmental Improvements- Environmental improvements such as village paving and traffic regulation schemes, sewage and litter disposal can be assisted by tourism revenues and political pressures from tourism

authorities. These help develop pride of place, important in retaining existing population and businesses, and in attracting new enterprises and families.

12. The Historic Built Environment- The historic built environment can benefit from rural tourism in two ways. Many historic properties now charge for admission in order to maintain their fabrics and surrounding gardens and parklands. Secondly, there are important buildings from the past which have become redundant. Churches have lost their congregations, castles have lost their wars, farm buildings have become too small for modern equipment, railway stations have lost their trains, and canal warehouses no longer have barge traffic. The tourist industry can usually use these redundant buildings profitably and imaginatively: they can become attractions in their own right. The small town of St. Jacobs in Ontario, Canada, has converted grain stores into a craft centre; in Lanarkshire, Scotland, a folly constructed in the shape of a pineapple has become sought after as a cottage for holiday lets; in the Swiss valley of Safiental, a timber farm-house is maintained in its original pre-twentieth century condition by using it as a Youth Hotel.

A wide range of benefits has been identified as potential outcomes associated with promoting the development of agritourism. From an agricultural industry perspective, agritourism is perceived to be a means of:

- expanding farm operations;
- using farm based products in new and innovative ways;
- improving farm revenue streams;
- developing new consumer market niches;
- increasing awareness of local agricultural products;
- increasing appreciation of the importance of maintaining agricultural land uses;
- channeling additional on-farm revenues directly to family members who might otherwise have to work off the farm;
- giving a stimulus to upgrade farm living and working areas, as well as leisure facilities;
- providing opportunities to acquire managerial skill and entrepreneurial spirit, and
- increasing the long term sustainability for farm businesses.

III. Profiles of The Research- The research has been based on the relevant details of the research area. Research area contains Madhya Pradesh neighboring Satna and Uttar Pradesh adjoining Chitrakoot, of which the various profile is given as follows.

IV. Profile of Madhya Pradesh- Madhya Pradesh, the second largest state of the country is located in central India, surrounded by Uttar Pradesh in the North, Chhattisgarh in the East, Maharashtra in the South and Gujarat and Rajasthan in the West comprising 11 Agro – Climatic zones with diverse soil and climatic condition, which helps to support to cultivation of a wide range of crops with diversified cropping pattern. Madhya Pradesh stands in the topmost position for producing pulses, oilseeds, garlic and coriander with

highest cattle population in India. The state is a leading producer of soybean, gram, garlic, and coriander.

The majority of the population of Madhya Pradesh lives in rural areas as 72.37 percent of total population of M. P. lives in the villages of rural areas. In actual numbers, males and females were 27,149,388 and 25,408,016 respectively. The total population of rural areas of Madhya Pradesh state was 52,538 thousand. The population growth rates recorded for the urban and rural area for this decade (2001-2011) were found to be 25.69 percent and 18.42 percent respectively. In the rural area of Madhya Pradesh state, female sex ratio per 1000 males was more as compared to urban area. The same for the child (0-6 age) was 923 girls per 1000 boys. In Madhya Pradesh, 15.84 percent children (0-6) live in rural areas, while 12.38 percent of children live in urban areas. In rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, literacy rate for male and female stood at 74.74 % and 48.49 %. Average literacy rate in Madhya Pradesh for rural and urban areas was 63.94 and 82.85 percent respectively to the total population. (study 112 mp pdf) Madhya Pradesh is the land of diversity. The various crops are grown in Madhya Pradesh. Soybean (26.51%) followed by wheat (22.18%), gram (13.79%) and paddy (7.56%) are the major crops of the state. (Fig 11) Jawar, bajra, maize, Kodo, kutki, lentil, tur, cotton, mustard, pea, barley, moong, urd, linseed, seasmum, niger, groundnut, teora and sugarcane are also grown by the cultivators of the state. (study 112 mp pdf) Out of 52 districts of Madhya Pradesh, Satna is one of the fastest emerging city of Madhya Pradesh. It is also known as cement city of India. Satna situated between Satpura and Vindhya range of hills. Satna district boarded by Banda to north, Rewa, and Sidhi to east, Panna to the west, Jabalpur, and Umaria to the south. (district profile Satna)

V. Profile of Satna District- Satna district is one of the districts of Madhya Pradesh state of India. The district is having the boundaries of Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh State in North, Rewa and Sidhi districts in the east, Panna district in the west and Jabalpur and Umaria districts in the south. The district takes name from Satna, the headquarters town, which is in turn takes it's from Satna River which flows near the town. Satna district consists of Six Sub Divisions, Ten Tehsils, Four Hundred Thirty Eight Patwar Circle, Seven Hundred Three Panchayat Samities, One Nagar Nigam, One Nagar Palika, Nine Nagar Panchayat, Seven Hundred Three Gram Panchayats, Eighteen Hundred Sixteen Revenue village and Seven Assembly Area. And having 2178.655 Km. (Pacca) all weather road and 2263.535(Kachha) seasonal road. The district has 7,502 km² area and as per 2011 census report Satna district has a population of 768,648. The population density of Satna district is 249 person per km².

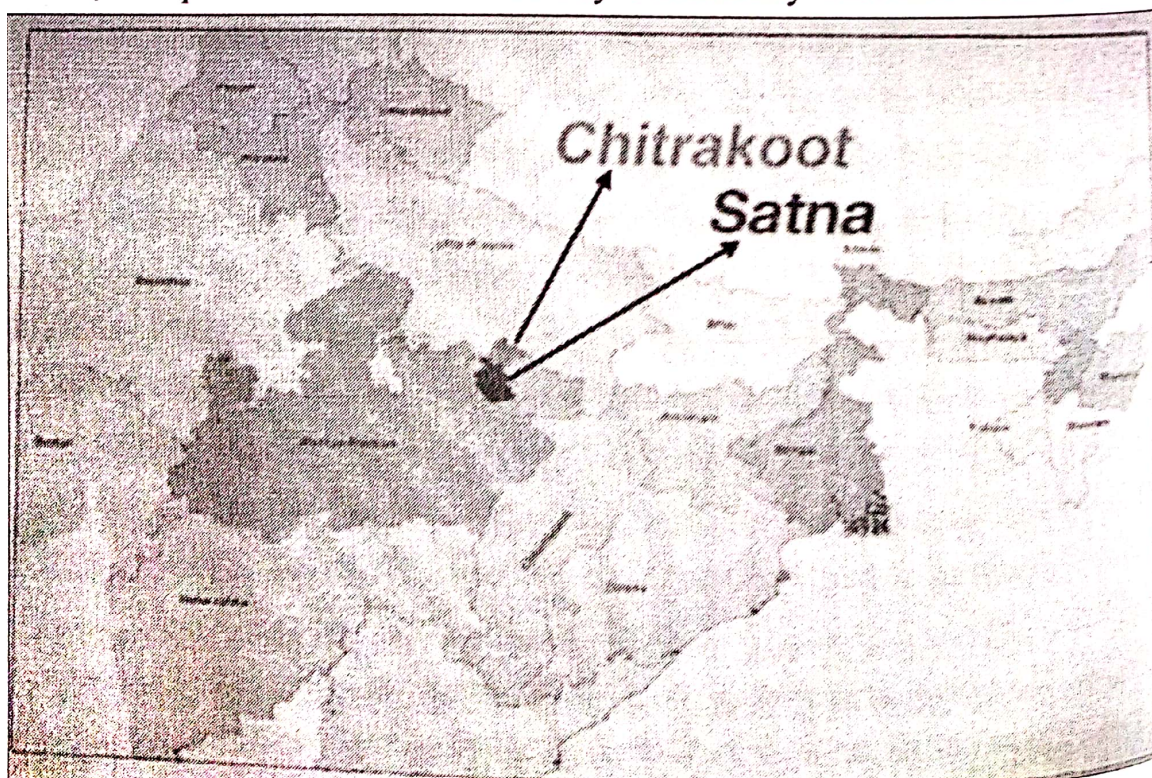
1. Location and Geographical Area- The district is located in between 23.58 degree North Latitude to 25.12 degrees North Latitude and 80.21 degrees East Longitude to 81.23 East Longitude. The District is situated about 305 meters above the mean sea level. The district takes the name from Satna, the headquarters town, which is, in turn, takes it's from Satna River which flows near the town. It has 10 Tahsil, Seven Hundred Three Panchayat

Samities, One Nagar Nigam, One Nagar Palika, Nine Nagar Panchayat, Seven Hundred Three Gram Panchayats, Eighteen Hundred Sixteen Revenue village and Seven Assembly Area. And having 2178.655 Km. (Pacca) all weather road and 2263.535(Kachha) seasonal road. (district profile satna)

2. Physical Conditions- Northern part and western part is hilly while the eastern, southern and central part is plain. Rocks exposed are mainly of sedimentary origin belonging to vindhyan group. In maximum part of the district, water scarcity is the major problem during maximum part of the year (Khan Seraj, 2009, Kumar A and Rajput PS, 2013). The present study aims to analyze the trend of annual rainfall of vital importance in all activities which is the only resources of renewable water resource and analyze the cause of scarcity of water.

3. Rainfall and Climate- Average climate is ranging from 05 degree Celsius to 46 degree Celsius in the district. Annual rainfall is about 1200mm and Red Soil, Light Black, Alluvium and Hilly Soils are the predominant soil types available in the district. Rivers are not perennial in nature well, ponds, canals, and tube wells are the main sources of irrigation in the district. The maximum temperature of Satna district rises up to 48C and minimum temperature goes up to 30 C. (District profile Satna)

4. Soil Types- The soils are deficient in organic carbon (0.14 – 0.43%), available nutrients status shows low to medium nitrogen, low to medium phosphorus and medium to high potassium, boron and zinc micronutrients deficient soils. It is seen from the above discussion there are many similarities between both the district such as cultural, agricultural and socio-economic situation etc. And both the district has not a good economic condition of farmers. It has been seen that if the wholesale price of any commodity increase then local market price increase automatically with the same ratio but if, the price of wholesale of any commodity decrease then in local



market they did not decrease in the same ratio. This trend is not in the favors of consumer it favors of only traders also this trend affect mass. So, we are trying to solve this problem of farmers to improve their economic conditions by recommending some suggestion to govt. may take proper action to stop farmer's suicide, hunger and migration problems. both the district reports of hunger, death, suicide, and migration of labor has been reported it may be one of the major factors for these things may be price are not transmitted properly in market and asymmetry in wholesale and retail market.

VI. Profile of Uttar Pradesh- Uttar Pradesh is situated in northern India. Nepal is International boundary of the state. Uttar Pradesh touches multiple boarder from northwest to Haryana and Delhi, from West to Rajasthan, from nrth to Uttarakhand , from east to Bihar ,from south east to Jharkhand and from south west to Madhya Pradesh . It covers 93,933 miles (243290 Km²). This is most populous state of India. It is the fifth largest state of India. It accounts for 6.88 percent of total area of the country. The population of the state was about 200 million as per census of 2011, which accounted for 16.49 percent of the total population of India. Uttarakhand was also a part of Uttar Pradesh till November, 2000. The state is divided into 4 divisions, namely. Western (30 districts), Eastern (28 districts), Central (10 districts) and Bundelkhand (7 districts). At present state has 75 districts, 327 tehsils, 822 blocks and 107452 revenue villages. The other two regions i.e. the central and western are comparatively much better and well developed to eastern and Bundelkhand regions. . (all up data collected from state agri. Profile of up 2014-15).

VII. Profile Of Chitrakoot District- Chitrakoot means the 'Hill of many wonders'. Chitrakoot falls in the northern Vindhya range of mountains spread over the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh was created on 4 September 1998. Chitrakoot Parvat Mala includes Kamad Giri, Hanumaan Dhara, Janki Kund, Lakshman pahari, and Devangana famous Religious mountains. Lord Rama spend a major part of his exile here. According to the epic Ramayana, Chitrakoot is the place where Bharat, brother of Lord Rama came to visit him and asked him to return to Ayodhya and rule the kingdom. It is believed that the supreme Gods of Hinduism, (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) took incarnations here. The place is dotted with many temples and several religious sites. At Chitrakoot, everything relates to Lord Rama. One can also explore the amalgamation of culture and history on this land. Chitrakoot is a spiritual retreat, thronged almost throughout the year by travellers, who have a penchant for the unknown and unexplored. Chitrakoot is a perfect blend of divinity, serenity, and natural beauty.

VIII. History- History described further into two parts ancient history and modern history. Ancient history told us about Lord Ram periods whereas, modern history speaks about moderns era.

1. Ancient Histoty- Celebrated in the entire Indian literature and sacred books; the abode of Lord Ram, his spouse Sitaji and his brother Lakshman during their exile for about eleven years and a half; capable of purifying the

human heart and of attracting the tourists by its charms of nature. Chitrakoot is a holy place famous both for its natural scenery and its spiritual altitude. A tourist is as much thrilled by sighting its beautiful waterfalls, playful young deer and dancing peacocks as a pilgrim is overwhelmed by taking a dip in the Payaswani/Mandakini and by immersing himself in the dust of the Kamadgiri. From times immemorial, the Chitrakoot area has been a live centre of inspiration for cosmic consciousness. Thousands of mendicants, hermits, sages and saints have attained higher and higher spiritual status and have exerted a beneficial impact on the world through their penance, sadhana, yoga, tapasya and various arduous spiritual endeavours. Nature has been very generous in bestowing over the area all the gifts in her power, which enable it to attract pilgrims and tourists alike from all over the world. Atri, Anasuya, Dattatreya, Maharshi Markandeya, Sarbhang, Sutikshna and various other sages, seers, devotees and thinkers have lived in this area through all the ages; and knowledgeable people say that many of such figures are still engaged in tapasya here in various caves and little known places. This lends the area a spiritual aroma which permeates its entire atmosphere and makes it spiritually alive to this day.

Chitrakoot is the teerth of all teerths. According to the Hindu belief, Prayagraj (modern name- Allahabad) is the king of all teerths; but Chitrakoot is rated as more elevated. When Chitrakoot did not go to him as all the other tearths did, Prayagraj was told that Chitrakoot enjoyed a higher status and it was Prayagraj who was expected to go to Chitrakoot and not vice versa. It is said that Prayagraj comes every year to wash off his sins by bathing in the Payaswini. It is also said that all the gods and goddesses came to Chitrakoot when Ram performed the Shraddha ceremony of his father to partake of the shuddhi (i.e. a feast given to all the relatives and friends on the thirteenth day of the a death in the family). They were captivated by the beauty of the place. Lord Ram's presence there added a spiritual dimension to it. So they were unwilling to depart. Vashishtha, the family priest sensing their desire to stay and in accordance with the wishes of Lord Ram, forgot to utter the visarjan (departure) mantra. Thus, all the gods and goddesses have made this place their permanent abode and are always present there. Today also, even when a mere tourist reaches this place strewn profusely with ancient rocks, caves, ashrams and temples with sages engaged in holy and spiritual sadhana, he loses himself unwittingly in the atmosphere charged with unceasing holy rites and enlightening sermons and partakes of the bliss of a world very different from our own. Thousands of pilgrims and seekers of the truth from all parts of the world resort to this place impelled by an irrepressible desire to improve and elevate their lives.

Chitrakoot has had its own identity and this very name since times immemorial. The first known mention of the place is in the Valmiki Ramayan, which is believed to be the first ever Mahakavya composed by the first ever poet. As an unwritten composition, an epic of growth, it was handed down from generation to generation by an oral tradition. As Valmiki is said to be contemporaneous with (or even earlier than) Ram and is

believed to have composed the Ramayan before the birth of Ram, the antiquity of its fame can well be gauged. Valmiki speaks of Chitrakoot as an eminently holy place inhabited by the great sages, abounding in monkeys, bears and various other kinds of fauna and flora. Both the sages Bharadwaj and Valmiki speak of Chitrakoot in glowing terms and advise Ram to make it his abode during the period of his exile, as the place was capable of relieving a person of all his desires and of giving him a calm of mind that could make him achieve the highest of the goals in his life. Lord Ram himself admits this bewitching impact of this place. In the 'Ramopakhyan' and descriptions of teerthas at various places in the Mahabharat, Chitrakoot finds a favoured place. It 'Adhyatma Ramayan' and 'Brihat Ramayan' testify to the throbbing spiritually and natural beauty of Chitrakoot. The writer has been told that the latter work devotes as many as sixteen cantos to the description of Chitrakoot and its principal places. Entire Indian literature relating to Ram gives it a unique pride of place. The Rev. Father Kamil Bulke even mentions a 'Chitrakoot—Mahatmya'; found among the collections of Mackenzie. Various Sanskrit and Hindi poets also have paid similar tributes to Chitrakoot. Mahakavi Kalidas has described this place beautifully in his epic 'Raghuvansha'. He was so much impressed with its charms that he made Chitrakoot (which he calls Ramgiri because of its time-honoured associations with lord Ram) the place of exile of his yaksha in Meghdoot. Tulsidas, the saint-poet of Hindi has spoken very reverently of this place in all his major works—Ramcharit Manas, Kavitaawali, Dohawali and Vinay Patrika. The last-mentioned work contains many verses which show a deep personal bond between Tulsidas and Chitrakoot. He spent quite some part of his life here worshipping Ram and craving his darshan. It was here that he had what he must have considered the crowning moment of his achievements—ie. the darshan of his beloved deity Lord Ram at the intercession of Hanumanji. His eminent friend, the noted Hindi poet Rahim (i.e. Abdur Rahim Khankhana, the soldier- statesmen-saint-scholar-poet who was among the Nav-Ratnas of Akbar) also spent some time here, when he had fallen from favour with Akbar's son Emperor Jahangir. According to the Beetak literature of the Pranami sect, the saint-poet Mahamati Prannath wrote two of his books—Chhota Kayamatnama and Bara Kayamatnama here. The exact place where Prannath lived and composed these works interpreting the Quran and showing its similarities with Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran, could not be traced.

2. Modern History- A newly district was created on 6th May 1997 in U.P. named Chhatrapati Shahuji Mahraj- Nager, which comprises of Karwi & Mau Tehsils and has been carved out from the Banda district. After some time, the district name was converted in Chirakoot on 4 th Sept. 1998. It falls in the northern Vindhya range of mountains spread over the states of Utter Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The larger part is included in the District Chitrakoot of U.P. and the District Satna of Madhya Pradesh. The word "Chitrakoot" has been used here to refer to this larger area and symbolizes the rich and varied cultural, religious, historical and archaeological heritage of the various places and sites of this area. Lacs of people gather here at these

sites on each Amavasya. Somwati Amavasyas, Deepawali, Sharad-Poornima, Makar Sankranti and Ram Nawami are special occasions for such gatherings and celebrations.

3. Location and Geographical- According to the 2011 census Chitrakoot district has a population of 991,657, roughly equal to the nation of Fiji or the US state of Montana. This gives it a ranking of 448th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 315 inhabitants per square kilometre (820/sq mi) . Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 29.29%. Chitrakoot has a sex ratio of 879 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 66.52%.

- District Chitrakoot lies between Lat. 24° 48' to 25° 12' N and Lang. 80° 58' to 81° 34' E
- Distance Covered by district from East to West is 62 Km. & North to South is 57.5 Km.
- District is bounded in the North by Kaushambi, in the South by Satna(M.P.) Rewa (M.P.) , in the East by Allahabad (PrayagRaj), in the West by Banda.
- District is Linked with Roadways to all adjoining districts of Banda, Allahabad, Satna, Rewa & Kaushambi.

4. Distance From Famous Cities-

5. Rivers-

Name of Cities	Distance (In Km.)
Allahabad(Prayag Raj)	125 Km.
Khajuraho	200 Km.
Varanasi	280 Km.
Delhi	670 Km.
Lucknow	285 Km.
Kanpur	205 Km.

The Important Rivers of District Chitrakoot Are :

- Yamuna River
- Mandakini(Paishwani) River
- Gunta River
- Bagein River
- Ohan/Balmiki River
- Bardaha River

6. Physical Conditions- There are many mountains of Vindhyaachal Parvat Mala, Main Mountains are as follows :

- **Madfa Pahar-** This mountain is situated in Karvi Tehsil
- **Chitrakoot Parvat Mala-** KamadGiri, Hanumaan Dhara, Janki Kund, Lakshman pahari, and Devangana are famous Religious

mountains.

- **Balmiki Pahar-** This mountain is situated at Allahabad & Banda National Highway Marg in Karvi Tehsil

7. Climate Conditions-

- **Winter-** This season starts from 15th Sept. and is a very healthy season, but in January the season is very cold and Temp. is down from 5°C to 0°C.
- **Summer-** After 15th March, Temperature is increased up to 49°C in May.
- **Rain-** In mid of June, Average Rain is 100 mm (approx).

8. Soil Types- There are mainly five types of soil in the Chitrakoot Region which are following as :

- Kankirili Soil
- Kabar Soil
- Balui Soil
- Rakad Soil
- Padua Soil

9. Farming- Mostly people depend on farming, there are three types of crops, which are as follows :

- **Khariff-** In this period, Main production of Agriculture goods like Dhan, Urd, Macca, Jawar, Bajra, Til, Mung, Reuncha, Sanva, Kakun etc.
- **Rabi-** In this period, Main production of Agriculture goods like Wheat, Channa, Jau, Pease, Mustard etc.
- **Zaid-** In this period, Main production of Agriculture goods like Water Melon, Kakri, Musk Melon, Mango, Jamun, Lemon etc.

Farming is the main Business of District, other Businesses are as follows-

- Stone Crasher
- Foot Wear Udyog
- Bidi Udyog
- Wooden Toys Udyog
- Murti Udyog

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