



Role of govt in development of tourism sector especially in Pir Panjal region

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Abstract

Global tourism is seen as a significant instrument for economic growth and development. The State of Jammu And Kashmir enjoys a unique position among the world's major tourism attractions. The well renowned Pir Panjal range is noted for its magnificent pure water lakes (named Sar) and vast green pastures Lesser Himalayas (called Margs). It covers 900 m² with 27 large and small lakes and 12 meadows, all above the sea level at 12000 ft. In this article the author has attempted to discover Pir Panjal Range's unknown tourist spots by performing an initial study. More unusual and stunning are the results that despite their emotional attractiveness, the region notes relatively few tourists and the number of visitors in recent years has constantly decreased. This decrease is attributed to urbanisation, government employment and so on, in particular among Nomads, who stayed in the region with their livestock every year for 3-4 months (called Dhoks).

Key words: Global, tourism, development, Economic Growth etc.

Introduction

With its snowy mountains, beautiful wilderness, calm lakes and exuberant green woods, Jammu and Kashmir are endowed with abundant natural resources. The State also contains vast resources, forests, herbal plants and minerals. Tourism and agri-based industries are the cornerstone of the economy and provide enormous opportunity for investment.

The Pir Panjal Range is mostly located in south-eastern Jammu and Kashmir. It spans more than 200 miles (320 km) from Nilam (Kishanganga) River in western Kashmir (controlled by Pakistan) to Beas River, North West Himachal Pradesh (India), Southwest Jammu & Kashmir. Rising steeply to more than 13000 feet (4,000 m), it divides the Jammu Hills south from the Kashmir Valley, which lies beyond the Great Himalayas. The most important passages are the Pir Panjal [3,494 metres] [1,462 feet] and the Banihal (8,985 feet) [2,739 metres]. A road tunnel at Banihal Pass allows travel from the South, even in winter, to the Vale of Kashmir. The mountains north of the Nilam River in Pakistan sometimes belong to the range.

Pir Panjal's agroclimate conditions provide a wide range of fruit, for instance apples, almonds, cherry, apricot, citrus fruits etc. The area provides workers on delicate handicrafts such as sticking, wood carving, fur and leather, woodwork, willow and grass work, nomadic artisan crafts, decoration, painting, stone craft, metal work, pots, etc.

Lakes of pir panjal range:

The tourism sector has a major contribution to economic growth (Sinha S 2017). The Pirpanjal Lakes region is the backbone of tourism in this area. From Nandan Sar on the west to the Simar Sar on the east, near Budhal, a continuous chain of lakes begins. All tourist attractions including these lakes are above sea level 13000 ft. From Lake Nandan Sar, about 8-10 kilometres to the east from the renowned Peer Ki Gali (The most famous and highest motor able pass of Pirpanjal



region, connecting Rajouri and Poonch with Shopian). As installations such as electricity, telephone, railways and roads in the region are like a dream come true, it is thus compulsory to explore this area on foot. It takes approximately 6-8 hours from Pir Ki Gali trekking East to reach a very beautiful lake Nandan Sar in the lap of nature between the North and South peaks of Nandan Sar. Nandan Sar is the biggest, largest and best known of the five Pirpanjal lakes. The lake is nearly 1 km long, oval and has a tapering end with blue and pure water, the most famous for travellers and tourists thus far. The Katoria Sar, called for the bowl, comes north at a step of 2 hours (Katori in local language). The lake is lovely and is full with snow and icebergs till June-July every year. On each side of a high mountains named Nandan Sar Chot are Nandan Sar and Katori Sar Lakes (peak). Another Chandan Sar (seen for nomads), almost comparable to the size of Nandan Sar, is located just about half an hour away from Nandan Sar. Kaldichni Sar, blackish in colour, extremely deep in appearance, oval in form, arrives to the East within 1 hour. The renowned Sukh Sar, which is another lovely medium-sized lake in this area, comes in the same row towards the North East, a walk of 1 hour.

Towards the south-east of Sukh Sar, another lovely and very picturesque lake named Neel Sar is a half hour's walk into the lap of nature. It boasts crystal clear blue, pure and fresh water, as its name indicates. The next destination after Neel Sar is the Handu Sar, which is rounded and relatively smaller in size, on foot for two hours. Finally, Gum Sar, the next in this sequence of seven renowned lakes, is likewise a spectacular beauty. It's an oval lake near Nandan Sar. You may access Gum Sar through the Nandan Pass south of Nandan Sar. The nomads from Budhal, Bakori, Kalakote, Darhal and Thannamandi cross these seven renowned lakes every summer in search of food and pasture for livestock and reach the Kashmir Valley.

Meadows of pir panjal range:

The lush green meadows are a huge attraction for tourists without the presence of towering conifers and other woody plants, with fresh, clean and cool air, with a panoramic heart view. These Meadows extend from Budhal Dhoks in the East to Poonch Dhoks in the West (summer destinations for nomads). Near the renowned Peer Ki Gali Pass lies the famous Meadows (Margs), near the famous Doongi Marg. Then follows the renowned Shakar Marg, the (south) mostly of the meadows that border Darhal in the Rajouri district. Attached are Doodh Wali Marg, Khari Marg and Chammar Marg, all three being nearly a half hour walk northwest of Shakkar Marg. Rupri Marg and Sheik Marg are other extremely lovely Pir Panjal wetlands next to the Budhal region. Jaddi Marg and Ravi Wali Marg are two well-known meadows under Poonch district jurisdiction. Phanjari Marg, Goray Battay, Tegyar Choti(peak), Kgora, Namnad, Byadh, Khunali, Kagganali, Chapar Nalo, Kuthgal, Banj, Kundaan Dher, Kafar Katha, Gordiyani, Shaitani Paida, Girjan, Badjori Marg, Sari Mastaan, Marguri, Rupri Gali, Seti, Bela Marg and Sarota Marg are also worth visiting (valley of flowers). All these locations are either Dhoks for cattle retention in summer or for summer campsites and sightseeing excursions.

Roads connectivity to the Pir Panjal Range:



Tourism is an area of human activity that has always been known to humanity. Rural tourism should assist the local community via entrepreneurial possibilities, production of revenue, job opportunities, preservation and development of the rural arts and crafts, infrastructure investment and environmental and cultural conservation. Roads are regarded as the arteries and life-line of any economy, as they are in J&K. The government in recent years has successfully built the renowned Mughal route despite the steep terrain and hazardous topography. This road is an improvement of the ancient pathways of the great Mughals that travel this way into the Kashmir Valley. The Mughal road from Befliaz (the Poonch County tehsil) to Chandimarh, Dugra, Chatta Pani extends up to the Peer Ki Gali Top for 55kilometers. It goes for 45 kilometres from Peer Ki Gali, through Aliabad Sarai, Zaz Nar, Hir pur to Shopian Cashmir. The greatest choice to explore the amazing splendour of the Panjal range is this route, which divides the gamut into two equal halves. As shown in Table 4, Poonch Gulmarag road and Budhal Shopian road are still under development in order to expose the Peer Panjal slice to the rest of the globe.

Economic aspect of pir panjal range:

Tourism has an important part in building booming economies and eradicating poverty, while considering it to be the world's biggest expanding sector. In a single season, each family gets Rs 9000-10000 per buffalo or cow for 3-4 months. In Pir Panjal no other business choice is accessible, save for Pir Ki Gali, where every businessman (with a temporary hut) gets Rs 1000-2000 per day.

Conclusion:

Kashmir is nicknamed Earth Heaven and India Switzerland. The renowned Pir Panjal range in J&K belongs to Lesser Himalyas, with an area of about 900 m2. The region has 27 large and tiny magnificent lakes (Sarr) and 12-13 meadows (Margs), all above 13,000 feet above sea level. Despite its amazing beauty and rich landscape, the region remains concealed from a common man's sight. All lakes and meadows remain undiscovered and were not controlled and managed by the J&K Tourism Development Authorities. A number of 7 of the most renowned lakes, the most famous and often visited are Nandan Sar, Katoria Sar, Chandan Sar, Kaldichni Sar, Sukh Sar, Neel Sar and Handu Sar. It's renowned for being Peer Marag, Shakkar Marag, Doodh wali Marag, Khari Marag, Chammar Marag, Rupri Marag, Ravi Wali Marag of all Shakkar Marag in the Rajouri region of Darhal. All these lakes and meadows can only be reached by foot, since no road connections are possible, save for the renowned Pir ki Gali crossing that passes on the historic Mughal route. The visitors go for 3-4 days and Nomads remain with their livestock for 4-5 months. Other Bakarwals (mobile nomads) traverse this region by foot, taking them to transport their sheep and goats nearly a month up to the higher levels of Cashmire. Results indicate that for many reasons, the number of visitors, tourists and nomads is always decreasing. The decrease in the number of Nomads is attributed to urbanisation, public employment and the absence of basic education. The number of tourists in the region relies on the number of nomads since the nomads become the spring for visitors and the source of food and shelter. The Pir ki Gali is the exception when the number of tourists is extremely large and it is on a continuous walk. The Pir Panjal Range's highest motor pass.



Nomads (Gujjars and Bakarwals) have moved to Pir ki Gali paas from Rajouri, Poonch and Budhal to make easy use of the road and take their Goats and Sheep in the summer to the highest peaks.

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