

Prospects of Developing Geotourism in Rajasthan

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Abstract

Around the world India has a diversify country. It has most popular for its culture, food, ancient architecture and versatile landscapes, but many people are not aware of the geological features of the country. The Geological Survey of India has identified 26 sites across the length and breadth of the country as National Geological Sites progressing to drive Geotourism in India. In this paper we have find campaign to push Geotourism is predicted to boost awareness and curiosity among the population regarding the quirks of geoscience. Rajasthan harbours 10 of these Geotourism sites— the maximum in the list. With three fossil parks, three rock monuments, two stratigraphic sites, one economic geological site and one unique granite rock formation site under its belt, Rajasthan is now not just about palaces, camels and desert. all these things has been attracting tourists from all over the world. And it has prosperous for tourism industry in Rajasthan.

Keyword: Geotourism, Palaeontological, Geological tourism

Introduction

Rajasthan has been attracting tourists from all over the world. With its rich, Unique culture and history, it is overrun with tourists the whole year round, especially during winter months. They generally love to visit forts, palaces, lakes with their stunning beauty and also enjoy the cultural aspects of Rajasthan. Unfortunately, they hardly know about many geological monuments with their rich fauna and flora that have significant geological and palaeontological value. Although, protection of some of these began more than three decades back by the Geological and palaeontological value. Although protection of some of these began more than three decades back by the Geological survey of India in collaboration with local institutions/ organization, but systematic process of developing these sites has not taken place for development of geological tourism in the State.

Three National Fossil parks have been established, which include fossil parks (featuring some of earliest known life on the Earth) at Jhamarkotra and bhojunda in Udaipur and Chittaurgarh districts respectively: and the anal fossil wood park in jaisalmer district. The last one is the only Fossil Park that is attracting domestic as well as international tourists visiting jaisalmer, and the former two are drawing almost a blank. They need to be further developed, and advertised to attract geological tourism. Quite a few more palaeontological sites worthy of consideration for preservation as geological monuments fall near Kanak Vrindawan – Amer fort area (Jaipur district) for trace fossils as well as sedimentary structures (MISS) in Neoproterozoic rocks: near Kuldhar–Khaba and Ramgarh (Jaisalmer district) for Jurassic invertebrates and Eocene larger foraminifers respectively etc.

Among the stratigraphic monuments established by the GSI are

- i. Jodhpur Group – Malani Igneous Suite Contact at the foot of the picturesque Mehrangarh Fort within the Jodhpur city.

- ii. Great Boundary Fault at Satur (Bundi district), about 10 km NW of bundi on Jaipur Road In addition to the above, there are many other geological features (stratigraphic, structural, tectonic sites) that would attract geo-tourism, like the wind sculptured rocks on the national Highway No.8 near Beware, the geological features of the majestic “toad rock” and Nakki lake of Mount Abu in Udaipur district., Bap boulder beds of Permian glaciations etc.

At present there is practically only limited or no awareness of the significance and implementation of the concept of geological tourism in Rajasthan. For developing geo –tourism , the broader aspects of the geological features of tourist interest need to be explained to State Government at all levels, scientific and local communities to attract their involvement .It is proposed that some formal (or even informal) body or committee be established to coordinate and promote geological tourism in Rajasthan.

Action Plan For Developing Geo-Tourism In Rajasthan

- Identification of places that have special value for fossils or for telling a geological story that has some kind of uniqueness.
- Preservation of these sites.
- Development of infrastructures like approach road, latrines and litter disposal bins.
- Driving direction to the site from nearby major town.
- Display board at the site with maps and photographs.
- Geological tourism publications, like leaflets/folders with details of material displayed.
- Distribution of geological literature at Tourist information centers.
- Deployment of local tourist guides.
- Identification of expert guides for knowledgeable tourist.
- Encouraging young, semi-educated local persons to act as guide.
- Training of tourist guides.
- Arranging Workshops/ Seminars for tourism related state, district and Panchayat agencies.
- Creation of website for attracted geo-tourism from abroad.
- Vigorous campaign for selected areas for geo-tourism.
- Continuous monitoring of localities developed as geo-tourism sites.

Role of geological Survey of India in promoting geological tourism

Geological Survey of India has already enlisted some of those locales as National Geological monuments. It is imperative that the Tourist Map of India would be greatly enriched by the inclusion of these geological monuments and alike, so that the visitors from the country and abroad can have an insight in the past- the formation of the Stromatolite Park, Bhojunda, and Chittaurgarh District.

The best exposure of the stromatolite in Stromatolite Park is near Bhojunda village, about 6 km SW of Chittaurgarh city on either side of the Chittaurgarh-Geologically they belong Bhagwanpura Limestone of the Lower Vindhyan age (about 600 million years old), and are younger in age than Udaipur stromatolites. Fossils of Stromatolite of Vindhyan age can also be seen in limestone quarries in Bilara area, Jodhpur district.

Stratigraphic and Structural Monuments in Rajasthan

- i. Jodhpur Group-Malani igneous Contact, Jodhpur district.
- ii. Great Boundary Fault at Satur, Bundi district.

i. Jodhpur Group- malani igneous Rocks Contact, Jodhpur District.

The igneous rocks that mark the last phase of igneous activity of Precambrian age (About 600 million years old) in the Indian Subcontinent are well exposed at the foot of the picturesque Mehrangarh Fort within the Jodhpur city. The contact between multi- colored igneous suites with the light colored Jodhpur sandstone is very clear in the area. The igneous rocks include i Purple to red and ash colored laminated tuff Chocolate colored chalcedony, Dark red obsidian, Purple, reddish, buff, whitish and grayish color. Jodhpur city is well connected by State Highways, and Northern railway Main Line. Jodhpur is also approachable by air.

ii. Great boundary Fault at Staur, bundi district.

A zone of disruption constituted by a number of parallel and oblique faults resulting In a step like feature is present at the faulted boundary between Pre-Aravallis and Upper Vindhyan It has a NNW-SSE trend. Minor Earthquakes have occurred along with fault zone. Subcontinent. The orogeny, the palaeoenvironment and the exotic collection of paleo-flora and fauna.

Conclusion

Rajasthan is rich in architecture and is a delight for all kinds of tourists with its sandy dunes, mighty forts, lush blossoming gardens, shimmering lakes and outstanding monuments. Tourism has a significant multiplier effect on the state economy. It increases employment opportunities, generating revenue, developing infrastructure, increasing investment opportunities and revival of traditions and heritage conservation and management.

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