



POTENTIAL OF HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN SHRIGONDA CITY

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Abstract

The historical and religious tourism plays huge role in development of internal tourism in Shrigonda city. ShriShaikh Mohammad Maharajmandir, KhandobaBhirobyatra, Salvandeviyatra being an important asset of the cities, make profit and significantly influence their economic development. Leveling seasonal fluctuations and providing additional job openings the historical and religious heritage plays enormous role in the social sphere. Reviving local cultural values, developing national creativity and cultural heritage promotes cultural pick up of indigenous population.

Key Words- Tourism, Development, Shrigonda, Religious, Hindu, Muslim

Introduction

Shrigonda is an old city and a municipal council in Ahmednagar district in the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is also historical and religious place, which is situated on the bank of river Saraswati. In ancient period Shrigonda is formerly known as Shirpur, Chambhargonde and finally Shrigonda respectively. It is understood from ancient books that it is devotion of Panduvipra and insists of Laxmi. God Vishnu created it. It is first known as Shirpur but after the devotion of saint Govindchambhar it becomes popular as Chambhargonde. British government changed the name as Shrigonda.

Historical importance of Shrigonda

The British people named it Shrigonda just because they made the combination of Shirpur and Chambhargonda and made it Shrigonda. It means that they have taken "Shri" from 'Shirpur' and "gonda" from 'Chambhargonda' and it becomes Shrigonda. Religious tradition of Shrigonda is continuously going on from medieval to modern period. It has the tradition of great saint like Govindchambhar, Nimbrajmarharaj, shaikhMahamadmarharaj and Tatyamarharaj. Different saints are recognized for their national integration therefore it is known as "Santancheepaibhumi". Saint Mahamadmarharaj is known for his national integration. He wrote famous religious book that is 'Yogasangram', other is NishkalankPrabodh, Bharud, etc. Today everybody start work by praying Saint Mahamadmarharaj. It is said that the poet of Mahanubhave, sect from seventeenth century wrote his autobiography 'Abab-anvay' at the north of Shrigonda in Wadalinagri.

Malojiraje was brave sardar in Nizamshahi of Ahmednagar. He brought his 'Guru' shaikhMahamadmarharaj at shrigonda

and he established a 'math' for him. In 1633 AD.Maloji's son shahaji was ruling over Shrigonda. ShivajiMaharaj established Maratha sangha there. He was trying to concentrate on Shrigonda but it was impossible to rule because moghal was well settled already.

The period of 'Peshvaj', RanojiShinde's son of MahadajiShinde ruled shrigonda. He was famous and brave sardar of that period. He was injured in the battle of 'Panipath', but he was saved from it so he established a temple of God 'Shani'. He died at Vanawadi near pune at 12th February 1794. After MahadajiShinde, his adopted son DaulatraoShinde became king of Shrigonda. He went to north for war. But both soldiers meet with each other in Kharda and they won the victory of 'Kharda battle', but in the battle Anand baba Shinde was killed.

We find historical and religious proofs of medieval period. e.g. we find the famous temple of '12thJotirlinga temple', and rare 'Surya mandir'.

Festivals in Shrigonda city

MohamadMaharajYatra

ShriShaikh Mohammad Maharaj Samadhi is worshipped by people of all the religions in the surrounding region. Hindus worship Mohammad Maharaj with Haldi and Kumkum. It is an example of Hindu- Muslim brotherhood. TheShaikh Mohammad MaharajYatra held for two days in the month of March when all the worshippers and believers visit the temple – Mosque. During the ceremony of applying chandan paste to the Samadhi. This yatra held on "AamlakiEkadashi" i.e., on FalgunShukl-paksh 11" of Hindu calendar.

KhandobaYatra

Khandoba also known as MartandaBhairava and Malhari, is a Hindu god, worshipped as a form of Shiva, Mainly in the Maharashtra and Karnataka. KhandobaYatra is a big events in the Shrigonda surrounding area

after the Shaikh Mohammad MaharajYatra in the month of April. Khandoba temple is situated in the right bank of Saraswatiriver.

BhairobaYatra

Shrigondekar worshiped the god Bhiroba on occasion of festival.BhirobaYatra is annually held in Magh month. This is the one important annual fair and festival at the Bhiravnath temple in Shrigonda. The day is of importance to the citizens and surrounding villagers. People from nearby towns and villages arrive to participate in this annual fair.

SalvandeviYatra

Salvandeviyatra is celebrated in Navratra . In these nine days before Dashmai, a huge number of people visit the Salvandevi temple located about three km. south of the Shrigonda town. According to mythology, a Devi- Bhakta asked Bhavani Mata to come to his home in Shrigonda. Mata agreed and came along, walking behind him. But he was not supposed to turn back. However just before reaching the town, he turned back to check on her and the Mata disappeared for the lack of faith on her. The temple is believed to have been built on the place where she disappeared.

Conclusion

Many saints of different cast had done the good work here. They had taught humanism. It does get the support of many kings. Historical and religious things, monuments or relics are ruining. It is necessary to stop the destruction. It is responsibility of the Government and the people because ‘tomorrow’s bright future lies in the past history and development of tourism’.

The researcher come this conclusion, by using through observation of people and visitors of the place. Most of Hindu and Muslim family are visited this place so national integration is contributes in this place. In the fair all religious people were participation in cultural programs.

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