

Reverberations of Woodland—Chhattisgarh: in Sync with Tribal Rhythm

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Abstract

‘Click-Click’ reverberations by the road-side of 100 million *Jatropha* and *Carcus* saplings— medicinal plants, and more concerted efforts by Chhattisgarh Tourism Board—CTB, and the residents of the state, will witness Chhattisgarh -- the Central Heartland of India, established on 1 November 2000-- as the ‘Greenest State’ of India. The vision of pronouncing the state as a ‘Tourism State’ is not far behind. We breathe in a state where 80% are ruralities, who are far away from the industrial environment degradation. Indigenous tribes comprise 40 percent of total Chhattisgarh’s population such as Gond, Kamar, Korva, Birhi, Baiga, and many more which exhibits their rich culture and traditions. The walls and tunnels of the state glorifies foreign tribal arts forms exhibiting their customs and simple lifestyles. To celebrate the state’s beauty and its rivers, the state song—‘Arpa Pairi ke Dhar, Mahanadi he Apar’....., defines its beauty and vigor. As a part of the evolving concept of Tourism 4.0, Chhattisgarh is integrating digital innovation with its cultural and natural assets to create sustainable tourism.

Keywords: Reverberations, Chhattisgarh Tourism, Cultural Heritage, Digital Innovation, Sustainable Tourism, Public-Private Alliance.

1. INTRODUCTION

Chhattisgarh is known world-wide for its rich tribal culture and traditions, for its dense forests, and various tourist attractions like Chitrakoot Waterfalls, Kanger Valley National Park,

Bhoramdeo Temple. Apart from iron and steel, the state exports handicrafts made from Bell Metal, wood, processed food, and medicinal plants. The state is rich with 200 varieties of medicinal plants and herbs which makes it attractive hub for eco-tourism and herbal-tourism. The governments initiative to promote E-Drive Schemes to promote electric vehicles will help the state maintain environment sustainability. The application of **Tourism 4.0**—use of technologies like AI, Big Data, Blockchain to reduce the negative impact of Tourism and promote sustainable Tourism.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Echoes of Chhattisgarh: 36 Shades of Chhattisgarh by Vilas Jaiswal

Ancient History of Chhattisgarh (1 book series) kindle edition by Chandrashekhar and 1 more

Title: History of Chhattisgarh Trilogy Book 1: "Echoes of Antiquity" - Ancient

Chhattisgarh Book 2: "Realms of Kings and Conquests"

Case study on: Chhattisgarh Tourism by Aishwarya Singh Raikwar, Chandigarh University, Punjab

Chhattisgarh Tourism 4.0: Harnessing Cultural Heritage and Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Future Dr. Tapesh Chandra Gupta 1, Sushma Tiwari²

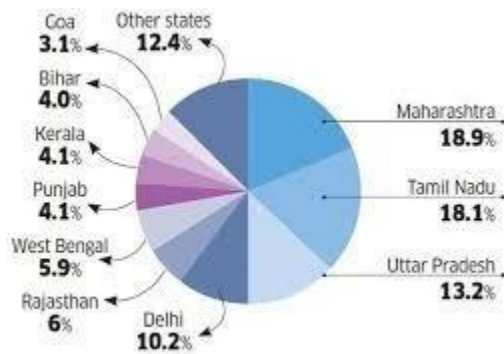
3. OBJECTIVES

- Endorse sustainability in Tourist Areas
- Promote social development
- Advance economic development
- Boost revenue generation from Tourism
- Encourage cultural development

4. RESEARCH METHOD

The study is based on the State of Chhattisgarh, and the study is based on descriptive science and qualitative research approach. In the secondary source, Government statistical reports, newspapers, magazines and internet sources have been used and analyzed. The study attempts to explain the Opportunities and Challenges so as to pronounce Chhattisgarh as among the Greenest State of India and Increase Revenue from Chhattisgarh Tourism.

5. DATA EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION



Source: Tourism in Chhattisgarh, an assessment report, Government of Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh's share in Total Tourism is less than 1%, which is represented in other states. Therefore, the need is to improve infrastructure, develop tourist destination, and enhance various forms of Tourism—namely Eco-Tourism, Ayurvedic Tourism, Adventure Tourism, and Film Tourism.

6. CHALLENGES

Chhattisgarh has been trying to develop itself as the destination 'full of gems and surprises'.. Now the big question is-- To what extent it has been successful? Some of the threats and challenges have been highlighted:

- Weak Economic Infrastructure—Road, Rail and Airways needs to be developed.
- Shortage of Lodging and Basic amenities
- Dread of Naxal Violence
- Development of New Destinations
- Increase Public-Private Alliance

7. OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 Historical Reverberations

Chhattisgarh, was known by the name of Dakshin Kosala-- an amalgamation of various dynasties—including Haihaya and Marathas. The region was under British rule as part of the

central provinces, and Raipur gained eminence as the capital during this period. Chhattisgarh was part of Madhya Pradesh for 44 years before becoming a separate state. Today its rich inheritance is reflected in vibrant indigenous tribal culture.

7.2 Reverberations of Fields

To have a rural life experience, with flowing water through paddy crops, and listening to the Cher-Chera, karma, Dadaria and Sua song singing within the fields especially during Hareli festival in Chhattisgarh makes it a wonderful state. Labelled as '**Dhan ka katora**'—'the Rice Bowl of India', it ranks 7th in India's total rice production.

7.3 Reverberations of Nature

According to India, state of forest report (ISFR) 2023, approx. **44 % of Chhattisgarh's land is covered by natural forests**. the tourists can enjoy rustling of leaves, animal calls, chirping of birds, buzzing of insects, wind blowing through trees at Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanger Valley national park, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, and many rural and urban areas. It is an amazing fact that **70 percent of Chhattisgarh falls under migratory bird flyway route**—from northern Asia and Europe—especially in winters which makes it an exotic destination for tourists.

7.4 Reverberations of Waterfalls

Baster waterfalls—Chitrakoot waterfalls-- known as Niagara of India and Tirathgarh Waterfalls --known as the "milky falls" has created a nook in India. The gently meandering water flows over rocks, gentle murmurs to forceful splash can be heard to witness the air bubbles and the eddies and the whirlpools that gives added solace to the minds.

7.5 Reverberations of Handicrafts

from tapping of traditional art of Godna to chimes of bell metal and scattering of bamboo art and make of kosa sarees in Bastar in Chhattisgarh, every handicraft is recognized for its sustainable methods. Only natural dyes or recycled materials are used. The state exports bell metal, wood, iron and kosa silk in significant proportions in international market, apart from being in good demand by the tourists in Chhattisgarh.

7.6 Reverberations of Adventure

Tourists seeking adventure can have trekking at kila Dongri or Gadiya mountain or bungee jumping at Jagdalpur, can find bliss at kanger valley national park and Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary. Exploration of kutumsar caves gives additional thrill to the visitors. Chitrakoot falls with its stunning waterfalls, also offers exciting boating rides to reach close to the base of the falls.

7.7 Reverberations of Architecture

The piping of **vernacular houses**, caves, and temples attract the tourists to the state of Chhattisgarh. From baked clay shingled houses to kutumsar—among Asia’s largest caves, to Bhoramdeo temple—khajuraho of Chhattisgarh, the architecture of the state glorifies sustainable lifestyles. The use of natural resources, namely, brick, stone, timber, and clay speak of the state’s historical and cultural heritage.

7.8 Reverberations of Culture

Chhattisgarhi folk music boasts a vibrant folk tradition with marriage songs like: Maymouri, Chulmati, Telmati, Parghani, Bhadoni and Nahdouri, each narrating a story or marking a specific ceremony. Popular dances Panthi, Raut Nacha, Pandvani, and karma, created an impending impression in the minds of people across the world. Tribal men in Chhattisgarh often wear ‘**dhotis**’ and ‘**turbans**’. Some notable tribal food include **Chila** (rice flour pancakes, Muthiya (steamed rice dumplings), and **Chaprah** (a chutney made from red ants).

CONCLUSION

The government is working to trademark the state as a ‘Centre for ‘Ayurveda ’ and make it work on the prototype of ‘**Forest to Pharmacy**’. Chhattisgarh Echoes of Nature—echoes of life. It is a hidden treasure—more one explores, more one gets the enriching experience. It is **Credible Chhattisgarh**—need is to go near and see it!!!

Jai Johar Jai Chhattisgarh!!!

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