

International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

*Indian Streams
Research Journal*

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AN OVERVIEW OF HISTORICAL TOURIST PLACES IN TELANGANA

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ABSTRACT

India is fast emerging as an important tourism destination in the World. International arrivals touched 5 million per year. The campaign "Incredible India" which showcase the best that India has to offer to the tourists has now attracted world wide attention. The proactive policies of the Government of India are encouraging tourism in Indi India is a vast country with a history that goes back 5000 years. Its vast geographical diversity, rich culture & heritage, fairs & festivals, snowcapped mountains, a vast coastline, monumental attractions that span the entire country and the gaps in the infrastructure offer tremendous potential for tourism. As per the Hospitality and Tourism industry projections the rise in foreign tourists to India are expected to touch 5 million and the domestic tourists are projected to touch 90 million by the



year 2014. The Telangana region with Hyderabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Medak, Khammam, Mahaboobnagar, Nizambad, Ranga Reddy and Warangal can be called the Tourist Destination of the south. There were many dynasties which ruled over the Telangana region, the art and architecture they encouraged still enlivens Telangana. Period of Kakatiya was termed as a Golden era. They have built many forts, temples and lakes. Kakatiya art preserved the balance between the architecture and sculpture

KEYWORDS: Tourist places , Telangana, Nizamabad, architec-

ture

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.An overview of Historical tourist places in Telangana.
- 2.To explain the importance of historical places in Nizamabad district.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sandeep Das (2011): in his article explains that tourism provides opportunities of job creation directly. So this sector should provide with incentives for sustainable and overall economic growth along with creation of jobs. Barnamaullick (2012): in his article highlights about the tourism as strategy for rural development. He has

given more priority of tourism sector and its contribution to earn foreign exchange and the accelerating trend of this sector towards attracting the foreign tourist arrival in India from 2001 to 2010.

ParmarJausingh (2012): in his article explains tourism as an engine for economic growth. In his study he focused on the rural economy of Himachal Pradesh with the findings that this state is emerging as a favorite destination for the tourists i.e., both domestic and foreigners which helps for the growth of the state.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism in Telangana

Telangana History:

Telangana region has been ruled by many great dynasties like Sathavahanas, Chalky"s, Kakatiya, Mughals, Qutubshahis, Asafjahis. Of which the Kakathiya simpressions on architecture are found more in these days too

Sathavahanas ruled over the Telangana for about 400 years from the 2nd century B.C. to beyond the 2nd century A.D. Sathavahanas were also called Salivahanas and Satakarnis. In the 3rd century B.C., Simukha, the founder of the Sathavahanas dynasty, unified the various Andhra principalities into one kingdom and became its ruler (271 B.C. -- 248 B.C.). Satakarnis II, the sixth ruler of the dynasty (184 B.C.) was an able ruler who extended his kingdom to the west. He ruled for a period of 56 years. Pulumavi I have brought renewed strength and glory to their kingdom. The only silver lining in this dynasty was the excellent literary work, Gathasaptasati, of Hala, the 17th Sathavahanas king. Dharmapuri in Karimnagar was the capital city for many year

Among Kakatiya, Prataparudra, grandson of Rudramamba was great ruler who succeeded his grandmother in A.D.1295 and ruled till A.D.1323. He pushed the western border of his kingdom up to Raichur. He introduced many administrative reforms. He divided the kingdom into 75 Nayakships, which was later adopted and developed by the VijayanagaraRayas. During the reign of Bahamani sultan Mohr Shah III, one sultan Quli Qutub, who was born at Hamadan in Persia, came to Deccan and started his career as a bodyguard of Mohammed Shah. With his ability and courage he raised from one position to another till he became the Governor of Telangana, the eastern province of Bahamani kingdom.

When the Bahamani sultanate became weak, Quli Qutub became independent and formed his Qutubshahis Dynasty in 1518. From then, he devoted most of his energies in extending his frontiers of his kingdom. He took possession of a part of not only Berar in the north, but also Rajkonda, Deverkonda, Gahanpura, Kovilakonda and Panagallu. Thus, he brought much of Telugu speaking areas into his possession. He Warangal, etc. In 1543 Jamsheed assassinated Quli Qutub defeated Sitapati of Bhogikala and captured Bellamkonda, Indrakonda, Khammam,.

The Golconda fort was built by Quli Qutub. His son Jamsheed became the King who was succeeded by his brother Ibrahim in 1550 .During his reign, trade and commerce flourished enormously. Telangana, like Egypt, became the Mart of the whole world. Merchants from Turkistan, Arabia and Persia used to frequent Telangana and found their trade attractive and prosperous. In his reign two tanks namely Ibrahim Pantam tank and Hussaian Sagar were built. He also built a bridge on river Musi, which is known as Puranapul. The Hindus of Telangana remember him for his patronage of Telugu literature. Many Telugu poets like Addanki Gangadher Kavi, Kandukuri Rudra Kavi flourished in his court. He gained goodwill among his Hindu subjects. He died in 1580, and was succeeded by his son Quli Qutub Shah.

Qutubshahis shifted his capital from Golconda to Hyderabad on the river Musi. He built the Jamia mosque at Charminar. He died in 1611. He was succeeded by his nephew Mohd. Qutubshahis as he had no sons. Mohd. Qutub Shah joined the confederation of Deccan powers against Mughals to stop their advance towards Deccan/South. He was a scholar and composed gazals, tarki, bunds and rubaya. He died in 1662, and was succeeded by his son-in-law Sayyed Ahmed in 1667.

At this time the Mughals annexed Ahmednagar and marched towards Golconda. Sayyed Ahmed signed the treaty, and accepted the suzerainty of Moughalemporer Shah Johan and agreed to pay 8 lakhs of rupees as tribute to Mughals. With the connivance of mirjumla the Mughals Emperor Aurangzeb sent his son Mohd. Sultan in 1656, who besieged Golconda and occupied Hyderabad. However on intervention of Darashekou and Jahanara from Delhi, Aurangzeb was compelled to rise the size on payment of one crores and to surrender Chinnoor. Later Mohd Sultan married the second daughter of Abdullah. Abdullah died in 1672 and his son-in-law Abul Hassan succeeded him. He appointed Madonna as his Prime Minister and his brother Akkanna as commander in chief. In 1687Aurangzeb again attacked Golconda which successfully resisted -his advance. But due to treachery of Sardar Khan a high officer in the Army who opened the gate of Golconda fort, captured the fort in 1687 and Abul Hassan was made captive. They looted the city in every street and market place where lakhs worth in cash, property, chinaware and costly carpets of aristocracy was available.

The State of Hyderabad was founded by Mir Qamruddin Chin Qilich Khan. He was the son of Aurangzeb's general Ghazi-ud-din Khan Feroz Jang, who traced his ancestry to Abu Bakr, the first Khalifa. In 1713, six years after Aurangzeb's death, emperor Farrukhsiyar made Mir Qamruddin Viceroy of the Deccan, with the title of Nizam-ul-MulkFeroz Jang. Later, emperor Muhammad Shah conferred on him the title of Asafjahis, by which title the dynasty is still known. By 1724, Mir Qamruddin had made himself virtually independent of Delhi, although he

and his successors continued to profess a nominal allegiance to the Mogul emperor right up to 1858, when the British Crown assumed the governance of India. In 1799 the Nizam aided the East India Company in the war with Tipu Sultan and after the latter's defeat and death; the British gave a part of his territories to the Nizam. The death of Nizam Ali Khan and the succession of his eldest surviving son, Sikander Jah, occurred on 7 August 1803. Sikander Jah died on 21 May 1829, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Nassir-ud-Duala. By the Treaty of 1853, the province of Berar, along with certain districts in the Raichur Doab and on the western frontier of Hyderabad, were assigned for this purpose, their administration being taken over by British officers under the control of the Resident at Hyderabad. By the Treaty of 1860, except for Berar, all the other districts assigned in 1853 were restored. Mir Mahbub Ali Khan was a minor when he succeeded his father Afzal-ud-Duala on 26 February 1869. The Hyderabad contingent with the exception of the artillery which was disbanded was delocalized and incorporated in the Indian Army, with provision for the protection of the Nizam's dominion.

Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan Bahadur is the seventh in the line. He succeeded to the Gaddi on 29 August 1911. In 1918 the title of "His Exalted Highness" was conferred on him as a hereditary distinction. Shortly thereafter, by an autograph letter from the King, he was granted the title of 'Faithful Ally of the British Government.'

Geographically, Hyderabad occupies a pivotal position in the heart of the country. In population, revenue and importance it was the premier State in the country. The population was nearly sixteen million and the annual revenue Rs. 26 crores. Its area was over 82,000 square miles. Hyderabad had its own coinage, paper currency and stamps. Hyderabad was treated by the British no differently from other Indian States. The right of intervention in internal affairs was repeatedly asserted and exercised.

In 1985 Reading, then Viceroy, ascertained that the sovereignty of the British Crown was supreme in India. The Viceroy pointed out that it was the right of the British Government to intervene in the internal affairs of Indian States, and that the Nizam did not stand in a category separate from that of rulers of the other Indian states.

In March 1946 the cabinet mission advised the princely states regarding the future of their merger after the formation of independent India, and separate Pakistan for Indian Muslims. This was further clarified in May 1946 referring to the lapse of paramountcy and formation of federation. The congress opposed the Independent states outside the Federal Union, but the Muslim league was encouraging the states to remain Independent. Nizam of Hyderabad was under the influence of a fanatical body called Ittehadul Musulmin under Kasim Razvi, declared his intention to remain as an independent state. Soon after the announcement of His Majesty's Government's plan of 3 June 1947, the Nizam issued a firman declaring his intention not to send representatives to the Constituent Assembly of either Pakistan or India, and making it clear that on 15 August he would be entitled to resume the status of an independent sovereign. It had been his ambition to secure Dominion Status for his State, on the withdrawal of the British and treatment then henceforth as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. When he saw that clause 7 of the Indian Independence Bill did not permit that grant of Dominion Status to an Indian State. The Nizam sent a delegation to Delhi on 11 July headed by the Nawab of Chhatari, President of the Executive Council, to meet Lord Mountbatten.

Meanwhile Laik Ali was pressing that the Hyderabad issue should be taken to the United Nations Organization. On 17 August, he wrote to Nehru that Hyderabad had decided to solicit the good offices of the United Nations Organization in order that the dispute between Hyderabad and India might be resolved and a peaceful and enduring settlement arrived at. The Indian Government did not agree that Hyderabad had any right in international law to seek the intervention of the United Nations Organization or any other outside body for the settlement of the issue. And as the Government of India regarded the Indo-Hyderabad dispute as a purely domestic one, they did not recognize the Nizam's claim to invoke the good offices of the United Nations in that connotation.

b) Telangana Tourism:

The Telangana region with Hyderabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Medak, Khammam, Mahaboobnagar, Nizambad, Ranga Reddy and Warangal can be called the Tourist Destination of the south. There

were many dynasties which ruled over the Telangana region, the art and architecture they encouraged still enlivens Telangana. Period of Kakatiya was termed as a Golden era. They have built many forts, temples and lakes. Kakatiya art preserved the balance between the architecture and sculpture.

One of the important temples, with intricate design, the temple of Palempeta, can be described as a gem in the galaxy of Medieval Deccan Temple architecture. Thousand Pillar temple at Hanmakonda, Ramappa Temple and Warangal fort and other forts and lakes are some of the excellent architecture pieces of Kakatiya

There are many a number of historic places to visit. To name a few, Mecca Masjid, Birla mender, Lumbini Park, Shilparamam, HussaianSagar lake, Ocean park, Ramoji Film city, Nehru Zoological Park, Public gardens, Osman Sagar, Jama Masjid and NTR Gardens, Charminar, Golconda Fort, Paigah Palace, Ashurkhana, QutubShahi tombs, State legislative assembly, Falaknuma Palace, Asmangarh fort, Kingkoti Palace, Chiran Fort, Salarjung Museum, Birla Science Planetarium and Birla Archaeological Museum. Ikat Fabrics, Perfumes, Bidriware Metal crafts, Bangles and Pearls in Hyderabad. Basara Saraswathi Temple, Adilabad, The only Saraswathi temple in south India, Pocheru and Kuntla waterfalls, Nirmal handicrafts in Adilabad. Elgandal Fort, Sri Raja Rajeswari Temple in Vemulawada, Karimnagar, silver filigr works, Nakasha Paintings, Ramadugu stone crafts in Karimnagar. Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam, Khammam, Alampur Temples of Mahaboobnagar, Medak Church, Jain Temple, Kolanpak and Pochampalli Textile Center in Pochampalli.

Top 20 Major Attractions and Places In Telangana

Telangana is a newly christened state of India and become the 29th state of India and city of Hyderabad will continue to serve as the joint capital for Andhra Pradesh and Telengana for a period of ten years. Major tourist attractions and Places to visit in Telangana are Hyderabad, Warangal, Karimnagar and Nizamabad, Other major tourist destinations of Telangana includes Falaknuma Palace, Qutb Shahi Tombs and number of famous old temples and monuments.

Charminar -Hyderabad



The monument and mosque and landmark of Hyderabad is listed among the most recognized structures of India, situated on the east bank of Musi river. Charminar and its surroundings area's are famous for pearl and Ittar.

Makkah Masjid -Hyderabad



Makkah Masjid is one of the oldest and one of the largest Mosques in India, located close to the historic

landmarks of Chowmahalla Palace, Laad Bazaar, and Charminar

Golconda Fort -Hyderabad



The Golconda fort is one of the most popular forts of India, Fort is made of beautifully carved stonework, and surrounded by landscaped gardens along with near by tombs of the Qutb Shahi and Naya Qila.

Hussain Sagar Lake -Hyderabad



The Hussain Sagar lake is fed by River Musi and a large monolithic statue of the Gautama Buddha, erected in 1992 stands in an island in the middle of the lake. Hussain Sagar Lake forms an important part of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Birla Mandir –HyderabadThe Hindu temple was one of the series of Birla Mandir constructed by Swami Ranganathananda of Ramakrishna Mission across India. Birla Mandir is the major attraction of city of Hyderabad.



Chowmahalla Palace -Hyderabad



The magnificent Chowmahalla Palace is palace of the Nizams of Hyderabad and renowned for its unique

style and elegance. Chowmahalla Palace is a must see most ancient heritage buildings of Telangana.

Kakatiya Kala Thoranam -Warangal



The Kakatiya Kala Thoranam is a historical arch and symbol of Kakatiya Dynasty, also called as Warangal gate located in Warangal district of Telangana. Kakatiya dynasty that ruled most of the Telugu speaking lands and was one of the great Telugu empires.

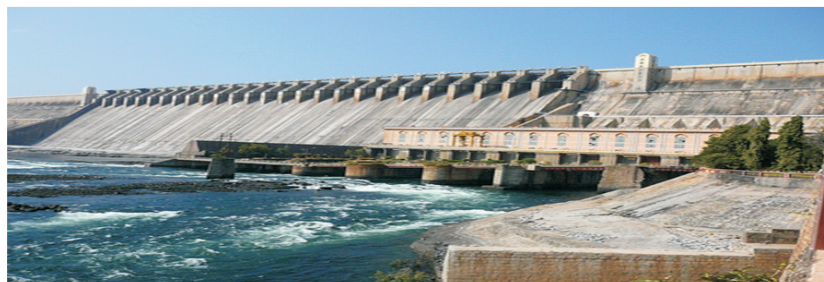
Thousand Pillar Temple -Hanamakonda The Thousand Pillar Temple is located in the town of Hanamakonda, dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and Lord Surya. Thousand Pillar Temple is one of the very old temples of South India



Bhongir Fort -Nalgonda

The Bhongir Fort is a splendid historical fort has a unique egg-shaped construction with two entry points protected by huge rocks. Bhongir Hill fort built in the period of the Chalukyan King Vikram-aditya.

Nagarjunsagar Dam -Nalgonda



The Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is build over the Krishna River and one of the largest infrastructure projects initiated for the Green Revolution in India. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is the biggest dam in the newest Telangana State of India.

Peerlamarri -Mahabubnagar



Pillalamarri is often called with different names including Peerla marri or Pillala Marri or Peerlamarri is an 800-year-old banyan tree located in Mahabubnagar of Telangana. The oldest banyan tree of India also has small nursery and a deer park around the great Peerlamarri.

Kuntala Waterfall -Adilabad



Kuntala Waterfall is one of the most famous waterfall in Adilabad district of Telangana, located on Kadem river in Neredigonda mandal and is the highest waterfall in the state of Telangana.

Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary -Adilabad

Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary is notified Tiger reserve spread over an area of 893 km and known as one of the richest Teak forests in the Adilabad district in Telangana. The amazing world of wildlife found at Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary include tiger, leopard, gaur, sambar, nilgai, barking deer, chowsingha, sloth bear and Several species of birds & reptiles.

Shamirpet Lake –Rangareddi

Shamirpet Lake is an artificial lake located in Rangareddy district of Telangana and a very good birdwatching spot in the state, surrounded by lush greenery and birding is indeed a pleasurable thing to do.

Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple -Bhadrachalam



The most famous temple in the country dedicated to Lord Rama, is situated on the left bank of the Godavari river. Lord Sree Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple also known as Bhadrachalam Temple is the venue of grand celebrations on Rama Navami day.

Vemulawada Temple -Karimnagar



The Vemulawada temple complex is a site of pilgrimage for Hindu worshippers and notable for the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple. It has houses of several temples dedicated to other deities including Rama, Lakshmana, Lakshmi, Ganapathy, Lord Padmanabha Swamy and Lord Bhimeshwara.

Medak Church -Medak



The Medak Cathedral is the largest church in Telangana state and one of the largest churches in Asia. Medak Church is the seat of the Bishop in Medak for the Church of South India.

Laknavaram Lake -Warangal

Laknavaram Lake is located in a village of Govindaraopet one has to pass through the thick forest to reach this place, The beautiful and pristine lake known as known as 'Laknavaram Cheruvu' located in the midst of green lush hills surrounded by thick forests.



Gnana Saraswati Temple -Basar

Gnana Saraswati Temple is located at Basar on the banks of holy Godavari River dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, It is one of the two famous Saraswati temples in India.

Ramappa Temple -Warangal



The Ramalingeswara temple is the ancient capital of the Kakatiya dynasty located 77 km from Warangal and its presiding deity, Ramalingeswara, is the form of Shiva and a personal god of the Avatar of Vishnu, Rama

A SALIENT FEATURES OF THE NIZAMABAD DISTRICT HISTORY

The District derived its name as Nizamabad (Nizam-a-adadi) from the Nizam of Hyderabad Asaf Jahi, VI who had ruled Deccan during the 18th century A.D. Originally the District was called Indur known to have originated in the name of King Indradatta who had ruled this region during the 5th century A.D.

The history of Nizamabad is discontinuous with gaps which are yet to be bridged. The district has few pre-historic sites. The existence of fairly developed megalithic culture was discovered at the erstwhile taluks of Armoor, Yellareddy and Kamareddy. Some of the major ancient dynasties which extended their rule to the district are Mauryas, Satavahanas, Rastrakutas, Chalukyas and Kakatiyas and in the medieval Bahamani Sultans, Qutub Shahis and Barid Shahis and in the modern period Mughals and Asaf Jahis.

During the Prime Minister-ship of Sir Salar Jung-I in the 1846 A.D. the districts in the Nizam's Dominion were re-organized where upon Indur became a District.

In 1905, the taluks of Nirmal and Narsapur were transferred to the newly created District of Adilabad and a part of Banswada Taluk to Nanded District of Maharashtra state. The rest of Banswada was divided into Bodhan and Yellareddy taluks. While Bheemgal was merged in Armoor taluk, other changes were made in Yellareddy and Kamareddy taluks. The District in its new shape was christened as Nizamabad. Before 1979, there were (7) taluks in the district. However, during December, 1979 Armoor and Kamareddy taluks have been bifurcated and (2) new taluks viz, Bheemgal and Domakonda were formed. With these two taluks, the number of taluks rose from 7 to 9. During May, 1985 (35) Mandals have been formed as smaller administrative units in the district. They are listed under the head 'Administrative Divisions'. During August 1988, Yedapally Mandal was newly formed, bringing the total Mandals to 36.

BOUNDARIES AND TOPOGRAPHY:

Nizamabad district is bounded on the North by Adilabad district and on the East by Karimnagar district. On the South by Medak district on the West by Nanded district of Maharashtra State and Bidar district of Karnataka State. The geographical area of this district is 7,956 Sq. Kms. The district lies between 18° 05' and 19° of the Northern latitudes and 77° 40' and 78° 37' of the Eastern Longitudes. As the district is situated at temperature fluctuations do occur in the district. The normal mean minimum temperature is 13.7°C and mean maximum is 39.9°C. The temperature goes as low as 5°C during winter and rises as high as 47°C, during peak summer.

PLACES OF TOURIST IMPORTANCE

There are many places of tourist importance in the district. Prominent among them are Nizamsagar, Sriram Sagar, Pocharam, Alisagar and Nizamabad fort. Apart from these, there are places of religious prominence like Limbadri Narsimhaswamy Temple, Lingappaswamy Temple, Peddagutta etc.

NIZAMSAGAR PROJECT - A Project namely Nizamsagar was constructed in the year 1923 across the river Manjira,

a chief tributary of the river Godawari, between Achampet and Bajnapally Villeges of Nizamsagar Mandal. The site is noted for its splendid scenic beauty. The most outstanding feature of the project is the gigantic masonry sprawling across the river for 3 kms. With a motorable road of 14 feet width over it . A Hydro Electric Power Generation Station is also established near Hassanpally village of Nizamsagar Mandal.



SRIRAM SAGAR PORJECT (SRSP) - This is one of the biggest projects in Telangana., which was constructed across the river Godawari at pochampad village of Balkonda Mandal. Former Prime Minister of India late Sri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation in July, 1963. The project provides irrigation water for about 3.92 lakhs Hectares in Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Warangal and Khamam districts. Also provides drinking water to Karimnagar and Warangal. The project site is an important tourist spot. The APGENCO Power Generation House, Lord Rama & Shiva Temples and Mosque located there are worth seeing.



POCHRAM PROJECT- This project is located on the Hyderabad-Nizamabad road and was constructed on the river Aleir. The dam site is considered to be beautiful picnic spot attracting many visitors from Hyderabad & Medak districts.

ALISAGAR RESERVIOR- This reservoir is situated at a distance of 13kms form Nizamabad town, which is an important picnic spot to Nizamabad public. This huge reservoir was constructed in 1931 by the Nizam. Flanked by natural hills and beautiful flower gardens, the reservoir and its surroundings are rich in scenic beauty. Boating facility also available to the visitors.



ASOK SAGAR- This sagar is situated at a distance of 8 kms from the District Head Quarters towards the Bodhan town. Recently, a picnic spot has been developed which attract visitors form Nizamabad. Whire boating facility is also provided. A 18 ft statue of Goddess Saraswathi in the middle of the lake attracts the visitors a lot.



NIZAMABAD FORT- This fort was constructed during the 10th century A.D. on top of a small hill which is located somewhat to the south-west of the Nizamabad town. The citadel was built by the kings of the ancient Rashtakuta dynasty who were in absolute control of these areas at that time.

The control of this fort had successfully passed into the hands of different rulers from various dynasties owing to the constant change of the ruling power in the area.

DOMAKONDA FORT- Domakonda fort was a Samsthanam under qutubshahis and Asaf Jahis. The reddy rullers of Domakonda Samsthanam built the fort in the 18th century at a sight where a fort existed earlier. The entrance of the fort has an arched gateway reflecting Asaf Jahis influence. There are two palaces and a temple complex inside the fort and the temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, imitating the Kakatiya style of architecture.

ROCK FORMATIONS- The hillock of boulders located in Armoor is the wonder erected by the natural weathering over millions of years. Navanathe Siddeshwara Temple was built on the top of the hillock. The local people believe that Navanathas or Siddhas, Venerable sages, still live in the natural caves and caverns of these hillocks. The water spot near by the hillock has been drawing people in large numbers as it is believed that the water has curative powers, healing chronic diseases, disabilities etc.

ANKAPOOR VILLAGE- Ankapoor village is located in Armoor Mandal of this district on the National highway 16 connecting Nizamabad with Jagdalpoor of Chathisgath State. It is a small self sufficient, progressive village and considered as one of the Modal villages in the Country for its all round development, especially in Agriculture. Predominant crops like Turmeric, Bajra, Maize, Paddy etc. are being grown in addition to the vegetable crops in large scale. Many number of seed companies are established by various companies for processing the seed produced by the farmers of this village.

The geographical area of the village is 2205 Acres and 6058 Population (as per 2001 census) are residing there most of them are farmers. Modern amenities are available to the inhabitants of the village.

This village has been recognized as modal village by many National and international Agencies like, Rice Research Organization, Manila, Philippines, for its outstanding achievement in the area of Agriculture production.

The village development committee organizes, co-ordinates and controls all the Agricultural development programmes and marketing of the produce.

BODHAN- Bodhan is a town, with municipal status, with a mixture of people from many cultures and religious backgrounds. It is also considered as a place of historic importance. The ruins of structures built by various dynasties that ruled the area attest the historic importance. The Nizam Sugar Factory existing here is one of the biggest in the country and in early years it was considered as the biggest in Asia Continent.

During pre-historic period, Bodhan was known as "EKACHEKRAPURAM" where the Pandawas spent their Agnyathawasam period. People believe that the Bheemasena has killed the Bakasura (Rakshas) who caused troublesome to the inhabitants of "EKACHEKRAPURAM". The spot of Bakasura's death is being known as Bheemunigutta.

PLACES OF RELIGIOUS ATTRACTION



LIMBADRI GUTTA (Hills)- There is Lord Sri Narsimha swamy Temple on the Limbadri Hills. The spot is situated in a serene atmosphere. Every year a jatra(carnival) will be held from Kartika Sudha Thadiya to Trayodasi. It is about 4 kms away from Bheemgal town.

BADAPAHAD- It is a holy place where a huge gathering of people pay their homage to the Dargah of Hazrath Syed Shadullah Hussaini on the hills near Jokora (V) of Varni (M).

BICHKUNDA- The famous Lord Sri Basawa Lingappa Swamy located in Bichkunda Mandal headquarters and every year a jathara (Carnival) will be organized on “Maha Shivaratri Festival” day attracting several devotees from this state and near by Maharastra and Karnataka states.

SARANGAPUR-There is a huge Lord Hanuman Temple at Sarangapoor which is another Holy Shrine in the district. This is about 5 kms away from Nizamabad and it is said that saint Samartha Ramdas, the Guru of King Chatrapathi Shivaji has laid the foundation to the Temple about 450 years ago. It is attracting a considerable number of pilgrims every day.



KANDAKURTHI, TADPAKAL AND POCHAMPAD –These are the three places recently identified for “GODAVARI PISHAKARALU” and developed by constructing “Snanaghattalu” as well as bath rooms and shelters for the visitors. The district Administration is taking steps to develop these places as Picnic Spots.

DICHPALLY RAMALAYAM-This Temple is located about 15 kms from Nizamabad town, towards Hyderabad. Picturesquely located on a hillock, this Temple of Rama is built of White and Blak basalt stone. An architrave at the foot of the hillock welcomes visitors. The exquisite carvings of Temple walls, ceilings, door frames etc., are on par with Khajuraho Temple and exhibits the craftsmanship of the 17th century AD.



QUILLA RAMALAYAM- This Quilla (fort) was built by the Kings of Rashtrakuta dynasty during 10th century. There

is a 40 feet monolithic victory pillar built during the Rashtrakuta region. This fort was occupied by Allauddin Khilji in 1311 AD, and subsequently went into the hands of the Bahmani Sulthanate, the Qutb Shahi dynasty and then the Asaf Jahi dynasty. The present fort reflects the Asaf Jahi style of architecture. Famous Bada Rammandir Temple was built on the fort by Samartha Ramdas, the Guru of King Chatrapathi Shivaji.



NEELAKANTHESHWARA TEMPLE-This is a famous Lord Shiva Temple built in the Jain style of architecture. This Temple was constructed by Satavahana King, Satakarni-II about 500 years ago. The structure resembles the north Indian style of architecture. The other deities worshiped are God Sathyanarayana and Goddess Annapoorna. The annual festival will be celebrated during Rathasapathami in the Month of January- February and attracts several devotees across the district.



SAIBABA TEMPLE-At about 5 kms from Nizamabad town, towards Hyderabad, there is a famous "Saibaba" Temple located at Mahavanagar and attracting several devotees from the town.

CONCLUSION

Telangana has a variety of attractions hills, wildlife, forests, forts and temples. The Telangana region has all the required qualities for emerging as a potent tourist destination in our country. The government in recent years focuses on eco-tourism, sports tourism, holiday tourism etc. If properly developed a large number of foreign and domestic tourists can be attracted to visit the places in and around the Telangana region.

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