

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT

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Abstract: *Tourism is travel for wish or profitable also the idea and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism has become an significant source of income for many regions and even entire countries. Pilgrimage tourism reveals the high positive effects of pilgrimage season on income, employment and high standard of living of the residents in Pudukkottai. Thirumayam Fort is a 40-acre wide fortress in the town of Thirumayam in Pudukkottai. The fort is of great historical significance and was an important stronghold of rebel chiefs in the Polygar Wars. Sittanavasal is an isolated palce where we cannot find much crowd. It is a single jain cave with faded paintings. Pilgrimage tourism is now documented as a source of expanding the country's economy. It would how ever be madness to pretend that the sector will continue to stimulate the economy without proactive measures aimed at managing the forces provoking this sector.*

Key Words: *Tourism, Pilgrimage, Pudukkottai, Sittanavasal.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Tourism is travel for wish or profitable also the idea and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism may be global, or within the traveller's country. The World Tourism Organization describes tourism more usually, in terms which go "beyond the shared perception of tourism as being incomplete to holiday movement only", as people "traveling to and staying in places outdoor their usual environment for not more than one successive year for leisure and not less than 24 hours, business and other purposes.

Tourism has become an important source of income for many regions and even entire countries. The World Tourism of 1980 recognized its importance as "an activity essential to the life of nations since of its direct belongings on the social, ethnic, educational, and financial sectors of national civilizations and on their global relations.

Pudukkottai has been wonderfully impressive in pilgrimage tourism. Pudukkottai is holy with sufficiently of well-known religious terminuses. Pilgrimages to these termini bring huge financial gains to native people. The number of people staying pilgrimage centres is nearly equal to the populace of Pudukkottai. Pudukkottai has lot of trip potentialities, some of the main places are Avadaiyarkoil, Thirumayam Fort, Peraiyur, Thirukokarnam Temple, Thiruvapur, Kumaramalai, Thiruvarankulam Temple, Narthamalai, Kattupava Pallivsal and Avur church. These are some of the eminent pilgrimage sites visited by people all over the year. The Govt. of Tamilnadu has taken recent measures to promote the various places of worship as a well channel of pilgrimage tourism. There have been some individual efforts too by a few tour companies in promoting some pilgrimage festivals which un avoidably are the best times to experience Tamil culture and religious rituals. Infrastructures are improved every year to accommodate the ever increasing number of devotees. Even the tourism department runs several busses to link the various sacred sites through the State. Tamil Nadu, which over the pages of history has evolved as an ideal place for pilgrimage tourism. It takes place in the visitor centers of Pudukkottai, to see the architecture, the history, the myths, the festivals, the societies, the ceremonies, and the music which gives Pudukkottai a spiritual attraction and an advantage over all other districts. Pilgrimage tourism reveals the high optimistic effects of pilgrimage season on income, employment and high normal of living of the populations in Pudukkottai.

The Pudukkottai District is most significant role in India on after freedom and before freedom also lot of sightseer places in this district. The investigator point out only two spaces in Pudukkottai particularly

1. **Thirumayam Fort**
2. **Sittanavasal**

2. THIRUMAYAM FORT:

Thirumayam Fort is a 40-acre extensive fort in the city of Thirumayam in Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu, India. It was built by Vijayaraghunatha Sethupathi the ruler of Ramnad land in 1687. The fort is of great historical implication and was an important stranglehold of rebel chiefs in the Polygar Wars. Oomathurai, the associate of Panchalankurichi chief Kattabomman was captured in this fort. It is said that the the generous state of Pudukkottai was

the only self-governing state during the British. They made this by an act of betrayal is my belief. The British were lead to the beating dwelling of Veera Pandiya Kataaboman by the rulers of Pudukottai. Fort is well kept with clean toilets. ASI could a improved job of setting up a small board about the antiquity of this fortress.

Now it is tourist residence and paid the arrival fee However, although it is not so much a fort as a reinvigorated hilltop post bounded by an impressive wall, there are great views from the top of the crucial platform on all sides for many much, given the flatness of the local terrain generally as it is built on top of the hill, path is not conventional. We need to climb the hill to reach the top. There is big canyon at the top of the hill and the view of the city from top is very nice. There are two temples near to the Fortification and they will be closed by 12am morning. These two temples one is vishnu and other is of shiva are very old shrines. There are models on top of the supports of the halls. The Temples are well maintained.

4. SITTANAVASAL:

Sittanavasal is an isolated palce where we cannot find much crowd. It is a single Jain hollow with distressed paintings. ASI is trying preserving whatever sculptures and paintings that are remaining. We have stayed this place in the warmer month of April, despite the heat this place is wonderful, the paintings are great but some of them got damaged, government should take steps to protect these treasures. The uphill ascent was a great involvement and exciting too. It's a small hillock which is folded like a cave.

Need to hike steep rock to get to the place to see nonentity. The paintings are damaged and poorly maintained. Need to have vehicle to reach the place which is mostly deserted and not suitable on hot days and in the afternoon. The small pond and garden are ok. No shops nearby and need to carry water.

Even though it was noon, it wasn't too hot. The rocks are huge and impressive and we were a bit apprehensive about the climb. But the steps aren't steep and can be covered quite easily. The government guide explains the paintings very well. They are similar to Ajanta and sadly haven't been preserved well enough! What took our breath away (literally too) was the meditation room which doesn't produce any echo, but resonates with our breath. The vibration is very powerful and must be experienced! A must see if you are going to Trichy or Thanjavur or Chettinad..

The Painting here are compared to paintings in Ajantha Caves. It is beautiful and we had to climb about 45 steps to reach here. Will not be hard. Also another hill which is hard to climb has the "Samanar Padukai" - Place where the saints sleep. This hill is hard to climb. Each place separately costs Rs.15 as entry fees. People who travel should have some respect to history, rather they are scribbling, making the place dirty enough to feel the pride.

5. CONCLUSION:

Pilgrimage tourism is now documented as a source of expanding the country's economy. It would how ever be madness to pretend that the sector will continue to stimulate the economy without proactive measures aimed at managing the forces provoking this sector. it has revealed various problems that confront the sustained development of pilgrimage tourism in pudukkottai district. The data presented in this paper indicate the potential for pilgrimage tourism development. Although development to date has been limited to few major spots shows that it should be possible to spread the development of pilgrimage tourism to more parts of the region. Particularly taking into account the potential for combining pilgrimage tourism with cultural and nature based tourism and the potential for developing new age or pilgrimage tourism.

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