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Editorial

The basic and most important unit of the society has been the family from the beginning. For the empowerment and development of the country, first of all it is necessary to pay attention to the moral, social, economic and cultural dimensions of basic institutions like family. Balanced development of the family is very important for the development of the society. Therefore, if we want to have a complete and balanced development of the country, then we need to lay maximum emphasis on the basic institution called family. It is necessary that we should not make any discrimination between son and daughter in the family and we must explain this to our sons and get them involved in their activities. Even today, those who belong to the old belief believe that a woman cannot get any freedom, she cannot go anywhere alone, she cannot roam anywhere alone, but today's youth refuse to accept these values.

Some people also say that the importance of the walls in the house, the same importance is given to the education of the boys in the society. But how is a house made? Who are in the base of the house? The base of the house is our daughters, our girls, that means they are related to the roots. If our root becomes weak in the society, then our house or house cannot be strong at all. There is a need to understand this social context in reality.

The extent of favoritism is reached when we see discrimination in small tasks. Some people think that a girl is someone else's wealth, what job she should do. That's why some parents discriminate between boys and girls and this discrimination is visible somewhere in our behavior, in feeding and dressing. This is sheer injustice. God has given the same brain to boys and girls and today girls are proving it by bringing better results.

Girls stay at their parents' house for only a few days, so it is our duty to pay deep attention to their education, upbringing, only then we can fulfill the concept of a strong society. God has made us the trustee of our children so it is our duty to treat all members equally with full justice because both boys and girls have same power, same soul. So we should give them equal opportunities for development.

The basic objective of women empowerment is the development of women and communication of self-confidence in them. Women empowerment is important for the overall development of the society. Empowerment of women is the most important social phenomenon because they are the creators. If you empower them, make them strong, encourage them, it is better for the society. Women and men are the basis of creation and human society. Both complement each other. These are the wheels of the chariot of life by which the journey of life runs

smoothly. The role of both has been equally important for stability in family and society. The basis of change and development in a society depends on the mutual interaction of men and women, walking step by step and equal mobility of both. A chaotic situation is created in social life when any one side lags behind. The history of mankind is witness to this that where women have been neglected, the development of the society has been stunted. The role of women in creation of creation, education of children, upbringing of family is much more important than that of men, thus her position becomes central in the society. Therefore, without the progress of women, there can be no upliftment of mankind and society. As far as India is concerned "Yatra Naryastu Pujayante Ramante Tatra Devta" means where women are worshipped. The deities reside there. With this ideal any Indian woman can feel pride in comparison to the western woman. The ideal of learning in Saraswati, the ideal of wealth in Lakshmi, the ideal of valor in Durga, the ideal of purity in Ganga, even the ideal of creation in the form of Jagad Janani we find only in India.



Professor Akhilesh Shukla
Chief Editor

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Tourist places in Meerut District: an over View

• Poonam Chaudhary
•• Anchal

Abstract- *This study is to find and analyze the tourist place and their importance. Meerut is rich in tourist places like historical heritage, culture, food and craft etc. This can be offered to tourists. Meerut has historical sites of Mahabhart, 1857 revolution related historical place, many cultural sites are presented here. Many religious places are presented here, like Jain Teertankara's birth place at Hastinapur, Sikh's Panch Pyare Gurudwara in Saifpur, Hastinapur village and Christian's Sardhana Church . The basic purpose of this research paper is to identify tourist place and their importance. The study will help to attract tourist in Meerut district which will help to improve life style and increasing job opportunities for local people. This study will also help to government for infrastructure development and policy making.*

Keywords- *Historical heritage, Craft, Revolution, Tourist, Teertankara.*

Introduction- Tourism is a activity of tour one place to another for recreation and amusement. **The UN World Tourism Organization** defines tourism, "Tourism refers to the activity of visitors. A visitor is a traveller taking a trip to a main destination outside his/her usual environment for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited."

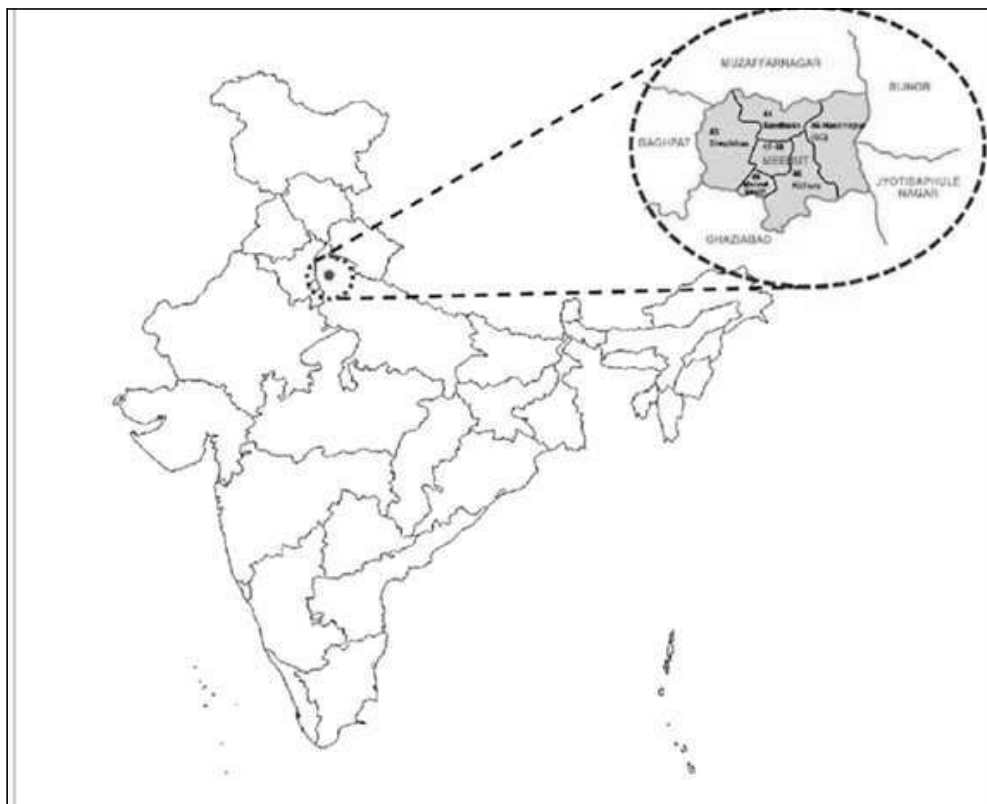
In other words, Tourism is a major social and economic phenomenon of present time. It provides employment and helps to improve economic condition of country. Tourism is main source to reduce poorness in developing countries. In 2020 the total travel and tourism sector in India contributed around 4.7% to the total GDP of the country. In 2019 it was 6.9%. Due to covid tourism has been affected a lot. India is rich in tourist places. Like India, Meerut district also example of unity in diversity because of various cultural and religious diversities.

Meerut District is land of many historical events like 1857 revolution. There are many historical heritage sites for tourist visit in Meerut District. India is a land of earliest civilization that's why India has rich cultural and historical background. Different parts of India are under the reign of many rulers and dynasties. Which have resultantly that India is rich

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in various cultures, heritage and arts. Historians always interested in tourist sites of India. In the series of historical tourist places and other tourist attraction, Meerut District plays an important role to attract domestic and foreign tourists. Archeological sites of national and international importance are situated in Meerut; Like, epic Mahabhartar and Ramayana related events and monuments which is related to Hastinapur and Parikshitgarh block of Meerut District. There are many tourist sites which have their Historical and religious importance. Meerut is the land of various religious place like: Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian etc. That's why Meerut District is famous tourist attraction place.

Field of Study- Given Study is a part of Meerut district which is part of Ganga-Yamuna plain. It is situated between $28^{\circ}18'$ to $29^{\circ}18'$ North latitude and $77^{\circ}7'$ to $78^{\circ}7'$ eastern longitude. It is a 26th most populous city of India. Its geographical area is 2569 square Kilometers. Meerut district has total population of 3,443,689 of which male and female were 1,825,743 and 1,617,946 respectively in 2011. The average sex ratio of Meerut district is 886. As per census 2011 out of total population, 51.1% people lives in urban areas while 48.9% lives in the rural areas. The total literacy rate of Meerut district is 72.84%. Meerut is hub of many historical events, monuments and various religious relicts. Each of them has their own popularity.



Source: Reseachgate.net

Objective of the study

- I. To identify the tourist sites in Meerut District.
- II. To identify historical and religious importance of tourist sites.

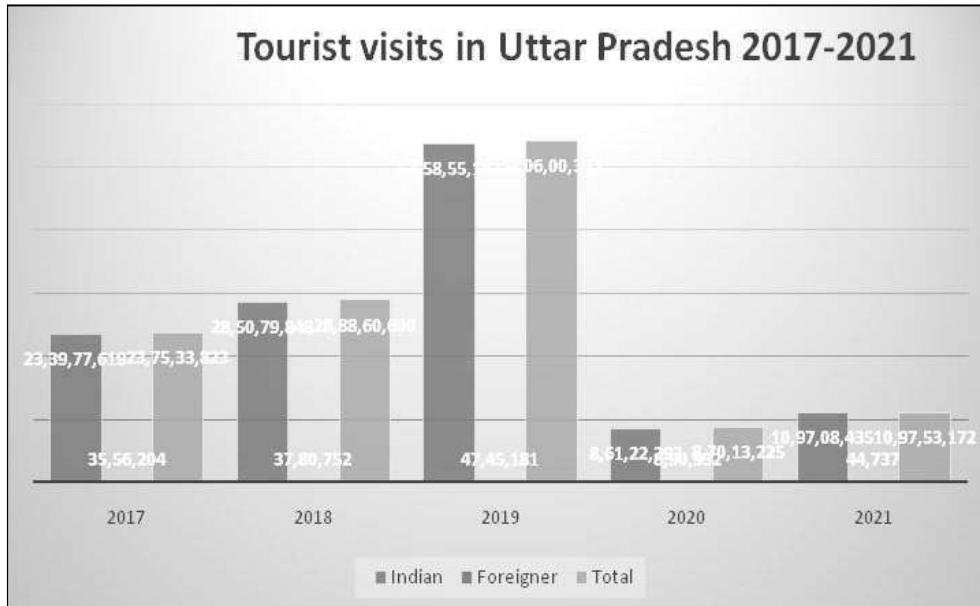
Present status of Tourism in India and Uttar Pradesh- India was ranked 54th within the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2021. In term of GDP during 2019-20, tourism contributed 5.19%. India received 677.63 million domestic tourist visits in 2021. Due to pandemic limitations, India received 1.05 million foreign tourist visitors in 2021. Two states with the most domestic tourists visiting are Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, with 140.65 million and 86.12 million, respectively.

Table 01
Tourist visits in important
places of Uttar Pradesh in Year 2017-2021

Year	Indian	Foreigner	Total
2017	23,39,77,619	35,56,204	23,75,33,823
2018	28,50,79,848	37,80,752	28,88,60,600
2019	53,58,55,162	47,45,181	54,06,00,343
2020	8,61,22,293	8,90,932	8,70,13,225
2021	10,97,08,435	44,737	10,97,53,172

Source: Annual Tourist visits statistics (2017-2022) department of tourism Uttar Pradesh

Figure 01



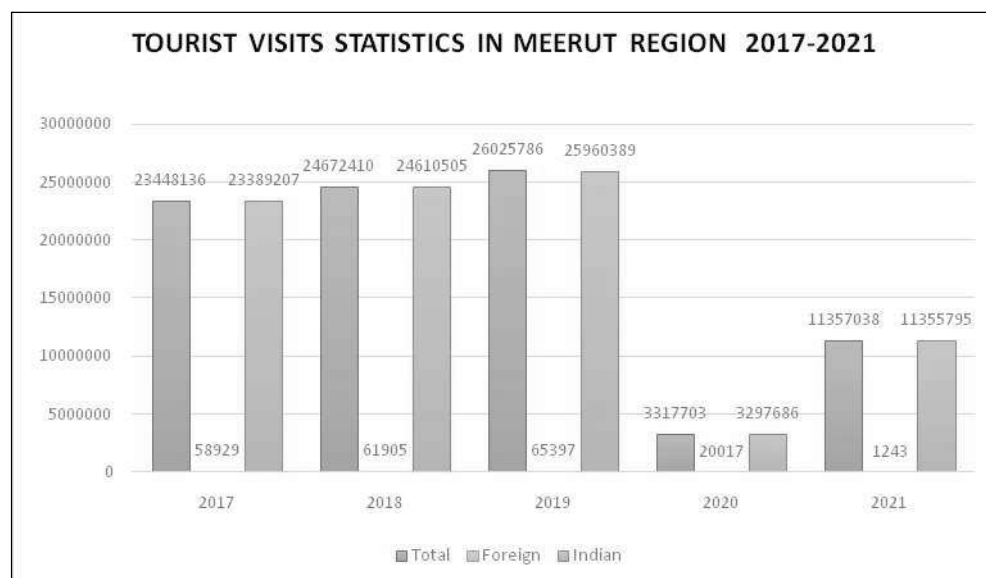
According Table 01, Uttar Pradesh is 2nd largest domestic tourist visiting State in India. The peak point year of tourist visit in Uttar Pradesh was 2019 in given data, after 2019 the number of tourists decreased due to pandemic period. In 2021 tourist numbers increased again because of normal situation after pandemic periods.

Table 02
Tourist visits statistics
in Meerut Region 2017 -2021

2017			2018			2019			2020			2021		
IN DI AN	FO REI GN	TO TA L	IN DI AN	FO REI GN	TO TA L	IN DI AN	FO REI GN	TO TA L	IND IAN	FO REI GN	TO TA L	INDI AN	FO REI GN	TO TA L
233 892 07	589 29	234 481 36	246 105 05	619 05	246 724 10	259 603 89	653 97	260 257 86	3297 686	200 17	331 770 3	1135 5795	124 3	113 570 38

Source: Annual Tourist visits statistics (2017-2022) department of tourism Uttar Pradesh

Figure 02



According table 02, the total number of tourists in Meerut region was 2 crore 35 lakh in 2017 which increased to 2 crore 60 lakh in 2019, after that due to pandemic periods limitations the number of tourists decreased to 33 lakh in 2020. The numbers of tourist increased to 1 crore 14 lakh in 2021 after getting relief from covid -19.

Tourist Place of Meerut District

Historical Tourist Place- *The Government freedom Struggle*, Museum Located in Meerut Cantonment area. The Museum was established with a motive of preserving the memories of the war and the dioramas of the events of the war time; *Shaheed Smarak*, is mainly built in the memory of the Martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the first war of independence of 1857; *Mustafa Castle*, Built by Nawab Mohammad Ishak Khan in memory of his father who was one of the most distinguished notable of the last Mughal Emperor Bhadur Shah Zafar's time. He was great poet and critic; *Anthony kothi*, is the house of Italian architect who built the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace in Sardhana; *Begum Samru' s palace*, it is situated in Sardhana.

Begum Samru who is known for constructing the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace northern India's largest church; *Shapir ka Maqbara*; Shapir was teacher of Mughal Emperor Jehangir and advisor of queen Noor Jahan; *Abu ka Maqbara*, built in 1688, 354-year old red stone tomb. Abu was Wazir at the court of Aurangzeb.

Religious Tourist Place- Meerut city and Cantonment area, *Augharnath temple* also known as Kali PultanMandir. It has a great significance as the first war for Indian Independence, the revolt of 1857 began from here. This temple also has a cultural significance; the legend goes like Shiva Linga embedded in this temple has emerged on its own. *Suraj Kund temple*, Baba Manoharnath Temple, Chandi Devi Temple and Mansa Devi Temple are famous temple of Suraj Kund. *St. John Church*, it was founded by British army Chaplain the Rev. Henry Fisher. *Seeshe Wala Gurudwara*, The gurudwara was established in 1972. It is related to Punjab regiment which was posted in Meerut between 1929 to 1976. After Indo-Pak war of 1971. *Baleshwar Temple* (Rawan's wife Mandodari's worship place), *Mansa Devi Temple*, this is oldest temple which is dedicated to Goddess Durga. Every Sunday fair is organized. Devotees come here for fulfilment their wishes. *Bhole ki Jhal*, it is a dam that is responsible for providing electricity to Meerut region. There is temple of lord Shiva. These are various religious tourist attraction in Meerut city and Cantonment area.

Kila Parikshit Garh, Epic Mahabharata period relics and evidence are still in Parikshit Garh. *Ghandhari Sarovar*, *Parikshit Garh Fort*, *Queen Navalde Well*, *Shrag Rishi Ashram* which are historically and religiously attracts the tourists are still exist here.

Hastinapur, It is the birth place of three Jain Teerthankara. It was the capital of the Kuru kingdom. Most of Mahabharata incidents have taken place here. There are various sites as *Digamber Jain Temple*, it is old Jain temple dedicated to Shri Shantinatha, 16th Jain Teerthankara. *Astapad*, it depicts Shree Ashtapad Teerth. *Jambudweeb*, this is built under the blessing of Gyanmati Mataji in 1972. It is depiction of Jambudvipa and Kailash Parvat Rachna. *Baradori*, *Pandeshwara Temple*, *Draunadeswa Temple*, *Karna Temple*, *Draupadi Ghat*, *Karna Ghat*, *Vidhur ka Tila*, *Draupadi ki Rasoi*, *Punchpyre Bhai Dharm Singh Gurudwara Saifpur* etc. are many other tourist places in Hastinapur.

Sardhana, Basilica of Our lady Of Grace Church which was built by Begum Yohana Samru. It is related to Christian. This church is famous foreign tourists attraction during Christmas time.

Park And Recreational Tourist Place- *Hastinapur wild Life sanctuary*, Spread in 2073 sq. km. area. Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibian, Herbs and Shrubs are conserve here in huge numbers; *Ghandhi Bag*, Oldest park set up by East India Company. It is famous British spot with greenery and various kind of trees; *Fantasy World*, It is a water park for amusement with three vibrant section of land rides, water ride and children's ride; *Ecological Park*, it was built for recreation and sustainability purposes by the Indian Army posted at Meerut; *Pine Children Park*, it is centrally located in Meerut and it is famous for variety of flowers and plants.

Fair and festival- *Nauchandi fair*; the Nauchandi fair is an annual fair held at Nauchandi ground in Meerut. The fair stretches for about a month and is organized by the Municipal Corporation of Meerut. It generally starts from the second Sunday after Holi.

Gago Tirth Fair; According Ramayana, Lord Rama and Lakshmana were taken by sage Vishwamitra to his ashram to kill demons. That place is the Gagol shrine which was the penance of Vishwamitra. A fair of Khichdi Baba is held at Gagol Shrine. A lot of crowd reaches here during Chhat pooja. A large number of devotees comes here for Ganesh visarajan, immersion of Durga idols.

Makhdumpur Kartik Purnima Fair; it is organized at Ganga ghat in Hastinapur. Devotee comes here for Ganga Snaan and lamp donation on Kartik Purnima.

Tourist Infrastructure in District Meerut

Accommodation- One can easily find a place for shelter in Meerut. There are around three two- star hotels in Meerut. Dharamshalas have been made to stay in Jain temples in Hastinapur.

Restaurants- Local eateries and Dhabas are available near tourist sites. Which provide fast food and local famous foods?

Hospital- LLRM Medical College is located at Garh Road in Meerut District, two state level hospitals run by government, 604 primary health center, many private hospitals are servicing in Meerut District.

Bank- Allahabad Bank, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Syndicate Bank and Union bank of India and many private banks are available in Meerut District. ATM service is available within one Kilometer.

Transportation-

Air Route- Delhi is the nearest airport 120km from Meerut. Tourists can reach tourist sites easily from here.

Train Route- There are two railway stations in Meerut. Meerut city station – 72 trains departure from this station to other parts of Uttar Pradesh. Meerut Cantt- 28 train's departure from here to others parts of Uttar Pradesh.

Road Route- Regular bus services from Delhi to Meerut and other parts of Uttar Pradesh. which helps the tourists to reach at tourist place easily.

Conclusion- Meerut district is rich in historical heritage with religious place. It is land of all religion's holy places. Example- Hindu, epic Mhabhartaand Ramayana related Hastinapur, Kila Parikshit Garh, Gagol Tirth, Kali Paltan Temple and many other temples which are related to Hindu religion; Sikh, Panch Pyare Gurudwara, Seeshe Wala Gurudwara; Jainism, Digambar Jain Mandir, Hastinapur Jain Temples; Christian, Sardhana church, St. John Church. Hence we can say that Meerut District is an example of Unity in diversity. It is best place for tourist attraction because of religious and historical tourist sites. Some of them are well managed but most of historical and cultural heritage sites of Meerut region needs to be preserved and should be well managed with modern facilities such as transportation, hotel, restaurants, tourist guide and some basic need things etc. Government should develop policies according importance of tourist sites to attract more tourists.

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