

# Heritage conservation: a case study of champaner-pavagadh archaeological park

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**Abstract** - Country is losing its real identity because of new development in the urban area. It is important to preserve the original identity of the country. Heritage is the historical identity of any city. Many agencies are working in India for the conservation of the heritage like archaeological survey of India (ASI), heritage conservation committee (HCC), under ministry of urban development, INTACH etc. Champaner-pavagadh is protected under the Archaeological survey of India, and 2004 UNESCO conferred the world heritage site tag to the champaner-pavagadh site during its 28th session held in Suzhou, china. But this site was once an important religious shrine and point of pilgrimage, despite its ruinous condition today, champaner story of revival is ad special as it is intriguing. while the first things that Come to mind when visitors usually think of Gujarat rated are the Rann of kutch and the Gir sanctuary, champaner-pavagadh remains under-rated gem.

**Keywords** - Heritage Tourism, UNESCO, Tourism, Heritage Conservation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is defined by the World Tourism Organization as people visiting and staying in locations outside of their normal environment for up to 24 hours at a time, for enjoyment, business, or other reasons. This generates significant amounts of revenue for the local economy in the form of payments for the goods and services required by tourism as well as openings for jobs in the service industry. A portion of tourism defined as "heritage tourism" is related with the town's rich cultural history. Something that has a heritage is something that has been passed down. The collobaration up the idea of transmission from the past to the future. In actuality, heritage should be viewed as a legacy that we pass down from our ancestors and must impart to future generations. Because it establishes and reinforces the identity of monuments, preserves the cultural town centre, promotes unity and comprehension, and supports culture, heritage tourism is significant in terms of its economic and social effects.

Heritage tourism is a brand-new, modern cultural form of cultural travel that dates back to the dawn of time. It is an excursion designed to look into and investigate the locations, events, and objects that demonstrate the histories and lives of people in the past and present.

The Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park region is located in the Panchmahal district of Gujarat, India. Champaner was a flourishing region during the 8th century under the Chavda dynasty. It was the capital of the Gujarat Sultanate under Mahmud Begada in the 15th century and lost its glory a century later after being ravaged by the Mughal Emperor Humayun. Today, this 3000-acre site contains vestiges of its history and heritage in the form of several monuments and has been the first location in Gujarat to receive the UNESCO World Heritage tag in 2004.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### I. IMPACT OF HERITAGE TOURISM

Heritage tourism refers to historical or cultural sites that are oriented towards tourists. It includes activities and celebrations as well as buildings and landmarks related to historical totals, ways of life, and customs. Enhanced visitor numbers, industry-wide ripple effects, and the opening up of job opportunities for the local neighbourhood locals are all advantages of heritage tourism.

Culture and heritage represent important resources for business development, and business successively makes a crucial contribution to cultural development. Heritage sites offers unhappy pictures of ancient lifestyles, yet as of the progress of a vicinity or country. Some important impacts of Heritage tourism are as follows:

#### A. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Injects new money into the economy, boosting businesses and tax revenues generation.
- Creates new job alerts, businesses activities, events and attractions, thus helping diversify the local economy.
- Supports small businesses enterprises and enables them to expand at large scale.
- Promotes the active preservation and protection of important local monuments.
- Builds vital relationships among and within nearby local communities
- Help encourage the development and maintenance of new/existing community precincts.

#### B. SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Helps build social capital Income
- Promotes preservation of local traditions of values, customs and culture. UNESCO now recognizes intangible cultural heritage as being as important as monuments.
- A positive market for culture and heritage tourism experiences and traditional projects provides economic support for keeping these skills and traditions alive

- It Promotes positive behavior
- It Helps improve the community's valuable image and pride
- Builds opportunities for healthy and useful community relationships and partnerships among people and governments.

#### **C. ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS**

- It Help encourage a culture of preservation
- Boost awareness of the visitors' site, attraction or area's significance and importance
- Help encourage residents and visitors to be mindful about their impact on the natural and built environment.
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#### **II. CONSTITUTION OF HERITAGE**

India's heritage must be safeguarded and preserved, according to the Constitution. Three main laws—the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904, and the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878—protect cultural heritage. The Biological Diversity Act of 2002 and the Environment Act of 1986 both provide protection for the natural heritage sites.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) maintains 3,667 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance. Besides these, the state governments protect 3,573 monuments. In 1977, India ratified the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, which makes it necessary for India to take measures to identify, protect and conserve its cultural and natural heritage.

#### **III. WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

An area or landmark designated as a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is one that is legally protected by international laws due to its cultural, historical, scientific, or other significance. Sites are important to the interests of humanity as a whole. The city with a rich cultural heritage is actually a hub for different mean, collective memories, and a variety of values, ideas, and meanings.

The World Heritage Site must be a distinctive and singular landmark, as well as a geographical and historical location with special cultural or physical significance, in order to be chosen. May be a sign of a significant human accomplishment and provide insight into the development of human thought on this planet.

The programme organizes and records the names of locations that are important to human heritage or culture on a cultural or natural level. In certain situations, the World Heritage Fund may give funding to sites that have been listed. On November 16, 1972, the UNESCO General Conference adopted the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, launching the programme. Since then, the Convention has been ratified by 193 States, raising it to the status of one of the most well-known international laws and the most widely implemented cultural initiative in the entire world.

#### **IV. METHODS OF CONSERVATION**

##### **i. Preservation**

- A process of maintaining the existing state of the heritage resources to retard deterioration and prolong existence.

##### **ii. Maintenance**

- A continuous process of caring for heritage resources to retard it deterioration.

##### **iii. Restoration**

- A form of repair that returns a heritage resources to a previously known state, done without any conjecture, and without the introduction of new materials to the existing fabric.

##### **iv. Repair**

- A process of putting together what is torn broken or replacing any part to keep the heritage resource in good condition.

##### **v. Renovation**

- A process of repair to increase the value, utility, and improve the aesthetic quality of a heritage resource.

##### **vi. Reconstruction**

- A form of repair that refers to the accurate building of a varnished or a irreversibly deterioration heritage resource from a known earlier state and with the introduction of new materials.

##### **vii. Replacement**

- A form of reconstruction that refers to the substitution of a new material, preferably using an equivalent material, to a damaged, depleted, deterioration, or lost components of a formerly known state of a heritage resource.
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#### **V. THE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR UNESCO SITE**

- To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius
- To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.
- To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.
- To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates significant stage in human history.
- To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

- To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
- To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.
- To be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

## VI. STUDY AREA PROFILE

The UNESCO World Heritage Site Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park is located in the historic city of Champaner. It is located in Gujarat State's Panchmahal District, 49 kilometres from Vadodara, in northwest India. The Champaner-Pavagadh site was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004 at its 28th session, which was held in Suzhou, China. Known as a significant shrine, the Kalikamata Temple is perched atop Pavagadh Hill and receives a lot of visitors all year long.

A impressive landscape that also contains pre - historic sites, the hill fortress of an early Hindu capital, and the remains of Gujarat's state capital from the 16th century is enclosed by a concentration of largely unexplored archaeological, historic, and living cultural heritage properties. Defences, palaces, temples, residential communities, agricultural structures, and water installations from the eighth to the fourteenth centuries can be found at the site along with other relics. Champaner, a functioning village, as well as the ruins of fortifications, palaces, churches, residential neighbourhoods, and water-retention structures are all located on the expansive property, which is divided into 12 areas.

The Citadel, which sits in the middle of Champaner, is known for its wonderful 16th-century mosques (which are no longer used for worship) and their exquisite integration of Islamic and Hindu architecture. The entire archaeological complex of Champaner and Pavagadh is home to religious structures from the Hindu, Jain, and Muslim communities along with fortresses, fortifications, palaces, agricultural structures, water-harvesting installations, and other structures.

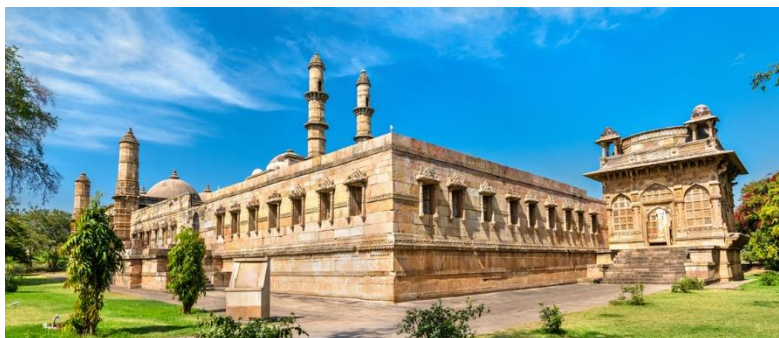
The revered Kalikamata Temple, which is located at the summit of Pavagadh and dedicated to the goddess Kali, is visited by throngs of pilgrims who climb Pavagadh today. In contrast, the Kalika Mata Temple is located on Pavagadh Hill, where thousands gather during Navratri. Only one pre-Mughal Islamic city in India, Champaner, is still entirely intact, and its monuments successfully condense Islamic and other architectural styles.

The nearest airport is in Vadodara, 42 kilometres from Champaner. Access to the domestic airport is available from many Indian cities. The trip from the airport to Champaner would take about an hour and you could choose between taxis, buses, and private vehicles. The nearest international airport, which is in Ahmedabad, is 145 km away and inaccessible to foreign visitors. The closest train station, which has a railhead in Champaner, is 53 kilometres away in Vadodara Railway Station. Vadodara has excellent access to other significant Indian cities via NH-8, so you can also travel there by car. Vadodara, however, offers bus service to the Champaner- Pavagadh Archaeological Park.

## VII. HISTORY OF CHAMPANER-PAVAGADH

The most famous king of the Chavda Dynasty, Rajput King Vanraj Chavda, founded Pavagadh in the eighth century. He gave it the name Champa, after his friend and fellow general Champa, who later went by the name Champaraj. Around 1300, Pavagadh became the capital of the Chauhan Rajputs. However, in 1484, Gujarat Sultan Mahmud Begada captured Pavagadh, and the Rajputs, facing defeat, committed jauhar (ritual mass suicide). Sultan Mahmud Begada transformed Champaner, at the foot of the hill, into his new capital after taking Pavagadh. But when it was taken by the Mughal emperor Humayun in 1535, the Gujarati capital reverted to Ahmedabad, and Champaner fell, its glory was only momentary.

In the thirteenth century, the Khichi Chauhan Rajputs established their first settlement on Pavagadh Hill's summit and built fortification walls along the mountain range from under the hill. Water-retention systems are among the important artefacts from this era, and temples are among the earliest constructed remains. The hillfort was destroyed by the Turkish emperors of Gujarat in 1484. When Sultan Mehmud Begda decided to make this location his capital, the most important period in the history of this location began.



Gujarat's capital was Champaner at the base of the hill, which was rebuilt and served as such until 1536. It attracted numerous invaders due to its strategic location on the trade routes, including the Khalji Dynasty, Chauhan Gurjars, Solanki kings, and Khichi Chauhans. Later, in 1484, Mahmud Begada took control of the city and rebuilt Champaner into a magnificent new capital.

The heritage site is covered in forts and bastions that extend from the Pavagadh Hills into Champaner City. The landscape of the park is home to monuments representing the archaeological, historic, and living cultural heritage, including chalcolithic sites, the hill fortress of an early Hindu capital, and the remnants of Gujarat's state capital from the sixteenth century. From the eighth to the fourteenth centuries, there are palaces, entrance gates and arches, mosques, tombs, and temples, as well as residential complexes, agricultural buildings, and water installations like stepwells and tanks.

#### VIII. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR CHAMPANER-PAVAGADH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

After years of endless efforts by the Baroda Heritage Trust, Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park in Gujarat, India, was finally inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004 under the following criteria (UNESCO, 2004)

- The site with its ancient Hindu architecture of temples and special water retaining installations, along with military and agricultural structures, built by Mohammad Begda in the 16th century, represents cultures which have disappeared
- The structures within the precincts have a special architectural style that comes from the significant period of regional sultanates
- The Archaeological Park is an outstanding example of a very short-lived Capital. Its natural setting and topography are now making it quite vulnerable due to abandonment, forest takeover and modern life.
- The Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park is a place which still has a living tradition of temple worship by Hindu believers.

#### IX. SUSTAINABILITY AND PRESERVATION STRATEGIES

- The country's tourism value increases as a result of tourism, which works as a complementary enhancement to the country's heritage value. The development of the nation's economy is significantly influenced by tourism. The industry of tourism can serve as a key pillar in sparking and fostering the passion for heritage preservation. It offers possibilities for generating income and jobs.
- Culture and heritage preservation can also be promoted by raising awareness of the importance of heritage preservation, organizing advertisements, and working with the government to implement appropriate regulations to prevent damage to monuments and the deterioration of cultural values. Education forums can also be held and used as a platform to inform the public about the value of heritage and culture preservation.
- Strict punishments will be applied in the event that anyone is caught writing or spitting on monuments' walls or other surfaces.
- Raising funds and increasing job opportunities.
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan implementation and promotion of heritage sites and monuments' cleanliness.
- Appreciation of the creativity and architectural ideas used by architectural experts of that time.
- encouraging a sense of community and appreciation among citizens for the value of history and culture.
- Water harvesting system promotion.
- CAD Training for ancient architectural design.
- Adoption of interior and exterior designs and architecture for the construction of residential buildings with reference to Haweli, considering logistics activities and scientific reasoning.

#### X. CONCLUSION REMARK

Tourism is an important sector of the economy, and heritage tourism is a branch that focuses on the cultural heritage of a location. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park in Gujarat is a prime example of a heritage tourism site that attracts visitors from around the world. This region is of great cultural and historical significance, and the UNESCO World Heritage tag it received in 2004 has helped to promote and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the area. Heritage tourism not only brings economic benefits but also helps to maintain and reinforce the identity of monuments, preserves cultural precincts, and promotes harmony and understanding. As such, it is important to continue to support and promote heritage tourism sites like Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park for future generations.

In addition to the economic and social benefits of heritage tourism, it is also important to recognize the educational benefits that it provides. Heritage tourism allows visitors to learn about the history and culture of a location, which can help to promote a better understanding of different cultures and promote cultural exchange. As such, promoting and preserving heritage tourism sites like Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park can help to promote cultural understanding and exchange, which is more important than ever in today's globalized world.

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