

**Cultural heritage tourism:
A tool for developing Burhanpur (India) as a tourist place**

Pankajkumar Shankar Preamsagar

Research Guide & Head, Department of History, Smt. G. G. Khadse College,
Muktainagar, Dist. Jalgaon.
pspremsagar@rediffmail.com

In the world map, Burhanpur is located in India in the state of Madhya Pradesh; situated on the banks of River Tapi, connected with Mumbai-Delhi Railway line (594 KM away from Mumbai), 200-10' North Longitude and 760-14' Latitude on East. The city has economically, culturally and historically rich heritage. In the ancient and middle age, Burhanpur was the Entrance Gate for the northern people travelling from South and vice-versa. As a result, Burhanpur has become a permanently important political center. From the medieval European travelogues, it is evident that this politically and militarily significant city was called as 'the key to the Deccan', and along with that, Burhanpur has become as religious center for Hindu, Muslim, Christian as well as Sikhs also.

The main attractions for the tourists are the following historically important places- 1) Fort Ashir 2) Burhanpur Fort 3) Foruqees Tomb 4) Aau Khana 5) Khuni Bhandara 6) Shahi Jama Masjid 7) Kali (Black) Masjid 8) Dargah-A-Hakimi 9) Rao Ratan Palace 10) The Tomb of Raja Jaysing 11) Shiv Temple (Fort Ashir) 12) Temple of Ashwathama (Fort Ashir) 13) Swami Narayan Temple 14) Kabirpanthi Nirnaya Temple 15) Swetambar Jain Temple 16) Methodist Church and 17) Roman Catholic Church.

All these historical features still show signs of prosperous history of Burhanpur. Hence, it is quite famous as a tourist centre. However, unfortunately, the Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh State have not taken useful measures to preserve these cultural heritage sites in Burhanpur. No mechanism has been adopted to promote and develop facilities to attract tourists to these sites. Tourists are unknown about these treasures of this cultural center. In today's digital era, very few information is available on web regarding the history and mythology of the Burhanpur region. Hence, this paper throws a light on the historical, cultural importance of Burhanpur, and limitations and ways to eradicate the limitations to develop Burhanpur as a Tourist Centre.

Keywords: *Burhanpur, Cultural Heritage, Tourism*