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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Smt. Soumi Das..... bearing C.U Roll No.

182044-13-0004....., Reg. No. 044-1211-0532-18..... an examinee of B.A (Major) 3rd year, 6th semester (under CBCS) Tourism and Travel management Examination, 2021, of the University of Calcutta, has successfully completed her project work and prepared a Project Report on Shimla and Manali (Himachal Pradesh), based on secondary data.

The project report, which she submitted, is her genuine and original work to the best of my knowledge.

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DSE B (2) : Project Work on Shimla & Manali

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A PROJECT WORK ON SHIMLA AND MANALI

■ INTRODUCTION

Tourism is rapidly growing industry in Himachal Pradesh. Tourism industry occupies an important place in the economy of Himachal Pradesh. Tourism includes the development of various public utility services like roads, transport services, airports, communication networks and civil amenities etc in much better way.

Shimla and Manali is one of the beautiful and important tourist destinations of Himachal Pradesh. The main objective of the project is to know about the tourism potential in these places of Himachal Pradesh.

● Some facts about Himachal Pradesh

Indeed the name of the state Himachal Pradesh, is a reference to its setting, Himachal means - 'Snowy slopes'. In Sanskrit 'Hima' means Snow and 'achal' means slope and 'Pradesh' is state.

Nestled in Himalays, the world's mightiest mountain range, Himachal Pradesh is blessed with some of the most spectacular and beautiful landscapes, anywhere it is travelers' paradise, mighty snow peaks, deep gorges, fast flowing rivers, enchanting lakes and flower filled meadows, its high mountain and valley are linked by winding roads and flight passes.

* Historical reference of the State

The history of the state begins as early as 1750 BC. In the territory of the future state lived a number of tribes such as Kinnara, Khara, Kirat etc. They were small tribal republics, called 'Janapada'.

In the 4th century, the territory was conquered by the Gupta dynasty. In 606 Harshavardhan conquered the territory. Afterwards the Gurkhas who served in the Indian and British armies participated in the suppression of uprisings. They captured various regions of today's Himachal Pradesh.

Later the state remained under the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1809. Afterwards the region came under British rule. In 1956, Himachal became the Allied Territory. Atlast, In 1971, Jan 25, the state of Himachal Pradesh was established and was proclaimed by 18 states of India.

* Geographical position of the state

The area of the state is 55,7 thousand km². The state is divided into 12 districts, each of which is divided into sub-districts and further into blocks. The state is populated with more than 6,000,000 people. It has 5 borders : east - PRC, Southeast - Uttarakhand, South - Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, Southwest - Punjab, north - Jammu and Kashmir. The state is mountainous with a height of 350 to 6000 meters above sea level. From the north and east, the state surrounds the mountain ranges of the Himalayas, from the south - the mountain range Shivalik. The main river is the Sutlej, a tributary of the River Indus. The rivers Beas, Chenab, Rabi, Jamba flow through the entire mountain range, promoting the growth of forests.

► SHIMLA - history, geography, climate, accessibility, attractions accommodation and activities

Shimla derives its name from Shyamala Devi, an incarnation of the goddess Kali, whose temple existed in the dense forest covering the Jakhu hill in the early 19th century. Shimla is the capital city of Himachal Pradesh. It is known as the 'Queen of Hills'.

⊗ Historical reference of Shimla

Shimla was the summer Capital of the British Raj. While going through the details about Shimla, it is learned that the British soldiers came across a dense forest post the Gurkha war which was close to the Goddess Kali known as Shyamala temple. It is also said that earlier this temple was shifted to another place by the British people. Now it is popularly known as the Kali Bari temple and it also counted as one of the popular attractions in Shimla. The history of Shimla remains incomplete if not spoken about the Anglo-Gurkha war that represents the struggle of the Gurkhas during the 19th century. Afterwards the British saved the land from the Gurkhas. They played a major role in growth and development of the place. In 1864, Shimla was affirmed as the summer Capital of India by the British Government. In 1903, they established the Himalayan Railways (toytrain), that travels between Shimla and Kalka. The history of Shimla proudly boasts the colonial style of architecture that exists still now such as the Christ Church, Crafty Theatre, and Cecil Hotel.

* The climate of the State

Since the state of the mountain, the weather in it is somewhat cooler than in the other states of India. The climate of Himachal ranges from Sub-tropical hot to cold and is divided into three seasons, hot, rainy and cold. The hottest time is the interval from mid-April to the end of June. The hot season (around 38°C). The rainy season starts from the end of June or early July. The residents of winter meet in the end of November. The temperature is around 15°C in the lowland, in the mountainous regions the air temperature reaches 0°C . In the high Trans-Himalayan belt, at an altitude of more than 2000 meters, snow falls and the air temperature drops below -8°C .

* Attractions of Himachal Pradesh

Passing through the sights of the state, Shimla is one of the most famous attractions — the capital of Himachal Pradesh. The capital is at an altitude of 2100 meters above sea level, surrounded by the famous Himalayan forests. The architectures of British rulers, the castles, the monasteries, museums, church, temples make the city worth for travelling.

Chamba, a town beautiful town in the Himachal. The town is famous for public and cultural events and handicrafts.

Manali, is one of the most popular destinations of Himachal among the mountain lovers. The place is famous for snow-covered mountain peaks, scenic natural beauty and adventure sports.

Besides, there are many other attractions including Kullu village, Chail, and other natural attractions.

✳ Geographical Condition of Shimla

Located in the middle ranges of the Himalayas, Shimla is a lovely hill station that is a favorite among tourists. The city of Shimla is spread over an undulating altitude that averages at 2100 meters above sea level. It lies between 31.06° North to 77.13° East. The high altitude has a fitting vegetation cover of evergreen pine trees. The city is spread over an area of 25 square kms.

✳ Climatic Condition of Shimla

The climate in Shimla is predominantly cool during winters and moderately warm during summer. Temperatures typically range from -4°C to 31°C over the course of year. The average temperature during summer is between $19^{\circ}-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ and between -1°C - 10°C in winter.

✳ Best time to visit Shimla

The best time to visit Shimla is between March to June when the weather remains pleasant and the temperature ranges from 15°C to 30°C . The best time to experience snowfall in Shimla is during winter months - November to February. This time is ideal for snow-activities like skiing and exploring the snow-covered surroundings.

* Attractions in Shimla

There are numerous beautiful places to visit in Shimla including Ridge, Kufri, Mall Road, Jakhu Temple, Chail etc.

1) The Ridge

The Ridge is the most photographed wide open street located as on the side of Shimla Mall Road. The Ridge has everything from shops and markets. Shimla's rich past is evident from the Gothic buildings standing in this part of the town.

2) Kufri

Kufri is located 17 km away from Shimla. It is a popular tourist destination known for snow-laden peaks, skiing and Kufri Zoo. Travellers have to either hire or take a horse from the parking lot to reach Kufri.

3) Mall Road

The Mall Road in Shimla located in the heart of the town, is the main street that is lined up with a number of restaurants, clubs, banks, shops, tourist offices etc. There are other exciting attractions as the Kali Bari Temple and scandal point in this road.

4) Jakhu Temple

Set amidst the lush green background of the Shivalik hill range on Jakhu hill, the highest point in Shimla. This temple is an ancient site dedicated to the Hindu God Hanuman. The statue of Lord Hanuman is visible from most of the parts of Shimla.

✳ Accessibility (How to reach)

▢ By Flight

The Shimla airport also known as Jubbachatti airport is around 25 km away from the main city. However, since this airport is not functional throughout the year, hence it's advisable to choose Chandigarh or Delhi as connecting airports. People coming by air till Chandigarh generally prefer to book cabs to reach Shimla, which will take 3-4 hours. The nearest major airport that is connected with most major cities is Chandigarh (IAC), 60 km away from Shimla.

▢ By Road

There are buses run to Shimla from as far as Delhi, Jaipur, Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh. Taxis and private cars are also available from Chandigarh and Delhi or any other local places.

▢ By Train

The nearest broad gauge railway station from Shimla is the Kalka Railway Station which is only 90 km away. Chandigarh Railway station is also 113 km away from Shimla. These railway stations are well connected with every corner in the country. And from both of these stations, Shimla is well connected with local buses and cabs.

▢ Local Transport in Shimla

Local bus services (HRTC buses) are available within the State Himachal Pradesh. There are private taxis and cabs too.

5) Chail

Chail is a two hours' drive from Shimla and is home to the world's highest cricketing pitch. Surrounded by lush greenery and mesmerising views from such a great height Chail is bound to give a tourist a memorable travelling experience. Besides there tourists can visit the Chail Palace, nearby plantations, zoo etc.

6) Christ Church

The Christ Church is one of the oldest churches in North India. The church reminds the tourists about the British Colonial rule in Shimla.

7) Kalka - Shimla Railway

Kalka - Shimla Railway is a UNESCO World Heritage Site along with the Mountain Railways of India. It was built in the year 1898 to connect Shimla with other railway lines of India by British. It runs from Kalka to Shimla. It stops through many tourist places like Summer Hill, Solan and many more. A rail trip through this line will give the viewers some breathtaking views and the journey through many tunnels and bridges would make up for an unforgettable experience.

8) The Shimla State Museum

Also known as Himachal State Museum and Library, the Shimla State Museum was built in the year 1974. The colonial style building amidst marvelous lawns in itself is an inspiring sight. It gives tourists an in-depth view of the city's glorious past.

1) River Rafting

The swift flowing rivers of Shimla offer the ideal condition for the river rafting adventure sports. The Sutlej river near Shimla offers interesting river rafting is done on an inflatable rubber dinghy. The popular white water rafting place in Shimla is water rafting from Chabba to Tattapani a stretch of 12 km. and two hours river down challenging the rapids of aggressive Sutlej River.

2) Ice skating

Ice-Skating is one of the most popular things to do in Shimla during peak winters. The Kufri is famous for adventure sports like this.

3) Hiking

Jakhoo hill is the highest point of the city. It is covered with the Alpine trees. On the top of the hill is the Jakhoo temple.

4) Rock-climbing

Rock-climbing is among one of the most thrilling adventure sports in Shimla. Where tourists get a chance to put the adventurer inside them to test by attempting the demanding sport of climbing and also down the natural rock formations.

5) Paragliding

Paragliding is also very famous among adventurers. Kangra Valley, the glider's sanctuary in Shimla, is popular for paragliding where tourists can appreciate the excitement of flying freely in the sky.

* Accommodation in Shimla

There are various hotels, lodges, guesthouses, bungalows, resorts, luxury hotels etc. for accommodating. Some of them are —

- Wild Flower Wall, An Oberoi
- The Oberoi Cecil
- Radisson Hotel Shimla
- Vipul Home Stay
- Taj Theog Resort and Spa
- Sai Cottage Shimla
- Geeta Cottage Homestay

* Food in Shimla

With tourism at the heart of Shimla, it is no less than brimming with option for food. There are a number of eateries here from shabas, Bakeries, local eating shops, restaurants as well as fine dining restaurant. Shimla has a range of restaurants which serve different cuisines like North Indian, South Indian, Chinese, ~~Continental~~ Continental etc.

* Activities in Shimla

Shimla is full of thickly populated pine trees and small rivulets, rivers in deep gorges and also peaceful mountains lakes, mountain sides curtained in snow, and green alpine meadows, all form a part of this immense spectrum and also the possibilities for a wide range of adventure activities are enormous.

Shimla is also famous for its adventure sports activities which thrills and spills.

► MANALI - history, geography, climate, accessibility, attractions accommodation and activities

One of the most popular hill stations in Himachal Pradesh. Manali offers the most magnificent views of the snow-covered mountain peaks. A gift of the Himalayas, Manali is a beautiful township nestled in the picturesque Beas River valley. The place is a classic blend of peace and tranquility which makes it a heaven for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts, who want to get off the main tourist trails and experience nature up close.

* Historical references of Manali

Manali, often referred as the 'Valley of Gods' is believed to have a fabled past. The mythological history states that Manali was the abode of the great sage Manu, the lawmaker of Mankind. It is believed that Sage Manu stepped out of his ark in Manali to recreate the human life. The word Manali is regarded to be the changed name of 'Manu-Alaya'; that means 'home of Manu'?

However, the factual history states that the modern Manali was recognized as an exquisite summer resort by the colonial rulers of erstwhile British India. They used to visit this exotic resort town during the summers to escape the scorching and blistering heat of the Northern plains.

* Geographical Condition of Manali

Situated at a stunning height of 2050 m, Manali is one of the might in shining armours for Himachal Pradesh. The distance to Manali from the capital of the state, Shimla is about 270 km(N) Around 40 km away from the town of Kullu. Manali and Old Manali have an elevation range of as much as 5900 ft - 6000 ft. Talking about the total area,

* Accessibility (How to Reach)

□ By Flight

The nearest airport to Manali is Bhuntar, located at a distance of 50 km from Manali and 10 km from Kullu. Air India operates a flight from Delhi to Kullu, however, services are irregular and prices are very high. One can hire a taxi or cab from there to Manali. Chandigarh Airport (IXC) is also 178 kms from Manali.

□ By Road

There are frequent bus services from Delhi to Manali which is at a distance of 570 km. There are also bus services from Shimla, Sarchamshala, Leh and Chandigarh. Alternatively, one can hire a taxi to travel to Manali from Chandigarh and Delhi.

□ By Train

The nearest railway station from Manali is in Joginder Nagar which is 50 km away. Ambala Cantt or Chandigarh are also feasible options. It is well served by rail but one will need to travel from there to get a bus from for Manali.

□ Local transport

Taxis, Cabs and private cars are easily available to cover the town. There are HRTC bus services too.

it covers, it is about 3,287,263 square kms. The place is blessed with the magnificent Himalayas, the cascading waterfalls, the gushing rivers and streams. The Beas river one such beauty that enhances the enchanting nature of Manali. Manali is in the District Kullu.

④ climatic condition in Manali

Manali is known for its extreme and unpredictable weather conditions. On one hand the summers are relatively cool and range from about 10°C to 30°C . whereas the winters are far from mild. Temperatures can drop from 10°C to as low - 7°C , decorating the town with layers of snow and fog.

⑤ Best time to visit Shimla Manali

October to June is the best time to visit Manali, with a pleasant climate with temperature ranging between 10°C and 25°C . December to February is the best time to experience snowfall in Manali. with temperatures that hover around Subzero, Manali becomes a paradise on earth that with its snow clad surrounding while tourists visit Manali throughout the year. Monsoon season (July to August) is bit low, due to landslides and land-blockages.

④ Attractions in Manali

1) Rohtang Pass

On a meandering uphill road, 51 km away from Manali, Rohtang Pass is an ace tourist attraction that elevates the travel experience of tourists. The pass gives summer access to the land of Lahul and Spiti. It is located at a distance of just 51 km from Manali. The tourists do also enjoy adventure activities of paragliding, trekking and skiing here.

2) Solang Valley

An open meadow running along a slope surrounded by deodar rich forest in the midst of high peaks around, Solang valley is 13 km away from Manali. A variety of adventure sports like zorbing, rock climbing, paragliding can be indulged here.

3) Hidimba Temple

Located amidst the snow-covered hills of Manali, the Hidimba / Hadimba temple is always a unique shrine dedicated to Hidimba Devi, who was the wife of Bhima. Surrounded by gorgeous deodar forests, the beautiful shrine is built in the image of goddess Hidimba herself. The temple attracts devotees and architecture lovers around the world.

4) Manu Temple

At a walking distance from Manali town, Manu temple in Old Manali is a fine stone and wood monument roofed with slate tiles. The temple is devoted to sage Manu.

④ Accommodation in Manali

There are various kind of accomodation for tourists including hotels, resorts, homestays, cottages, luxury hotels, bungalows and others. Some of the famous among them are —

- The orchard Greens, Resort and Spa
- Nirvana Retreat, A luxury Cottage
- Surface Homestays
- Sun Park Resort
- Kalista Resort
- Hotel Mountain Top
- Hotel Manu Palace

⑤ Food in Manali

The township has some of the best cafes and restaurants that serve choicest of cuisines. The Mall Road and the market nearby are the best places for snacking. Old Manali is a place where most of the menus are filled with western cuisines including Mexican and Italian food. Besides there are a lot of varieties including Chinese, Korean, continental, Japanese, Indian, Thai cuisines along with popular Tibetan momos can be enjoyed.

⑥ Activities in Manali

I) Paragliding

The hillside town of Manali is famous for paragliding. At 2050 meters above sea level, it is an ultimately location for the sport, with its beautiful, green valleys and snow capped mountain peaks. Starting with a basic training course, the operators are well organised, competent and trustworthy.

5) Vashishtha Village

Vashishtha is a sacred village that can be easily reached by a paved path from Manali Market. The village has a temple dedicated to Sage Vashishtha, who finds mention in the Rig Veda, the Oldest religious book of the Hindus. Apart from the temple, a hot water-spring bath is what makes the village worth a visit.

6) Brighu Lake

At the base of Brighu Lake peak, this small lake (4,235 m) attracts a number of trekkers every year. Like a Himalayan Jewel, the lake is flanked by snow-clad mountains on all sides.

7) Nehru Kund

On the way to Rohtang Pass, 5 km beyond of Manali, is a little spring fed by the waters from Brighu lake. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister during his regular visits to Manali would only drink water from this spring. with time it has acquired the name of Nehru Kund.

8) Manali Wildlife Sanctuary

A dense forest of deodar, kail, walnut and maple trees that shelters a lot of shy Himalayan wildlife is a great gateway for nature lovers. The Sanctuary starts about 2km from Manali. The birds and animals that can be sighted include the Monal, Musk deer, Brown bear. Venturing further up to the snowline during summers, one can even sight Blue sheep, Ibex and the elusive snow leopard.

2) Skiing

The undulating slopes of Solang Valley and Rohtang Pass offer a perfect terrain for amateurs to learn their first move while an ideal ground for professional skiing in Manali.

3) Rafting

River rafting in Manali is done along the River Beas and is considered ideal for expert rafters as well as beginners.

4) Camping

One of the many adventures the town offers, Camping in Manali has been the most sought after. Manali offers a number of camping adventures like river-side camps, night camps, trekking camps etc.

5) Zorbing

Zorbing is a fun hill-sport in this region that takes advantage of the picturesque views at downward slopes of the Himalayas. Zorbing is very popular in Solang Valley.

6) Rock climbing and Rappelling

Rock climbing through a rock slab 25-35 feet high and rappelling down a waterfall can be pretty exciting for the adventure lovers.

7) Hiking

There's no better feeling of seeing a beautiful view after tiring your legs out by climbing a rugged terrain and doing it in a place like Manali feels a lot more rewarding.

* CONCLUSION

Himachal Pradesh is one of the fastest growing Segment in tourism and Shimla and Manali is one of the most visited places by tourists. The tourism sector of Himachal Pradesh contributes 7% of to the state's GDP. Domestic tourist inflow in the state reached 16.83 million in 2019, while foreign tourist arrival reached 383,000. As of December 2019, there were 3679 registered hotels in the state. So, tourism is a large contributor to the State economy. Considering the importance of tourism in Himachal Pradesh, the state government has signed investment proposals worth 16000 crore to further explore tourism potential here. A significant rise was noticed in the domestic as well as foreign tourist inflow during last few years but due to COVID19 there is sharp decrease noticed. But with time things are getting quite better as tourists have to be tested negative and should be vaccinated against Covid 19 while travelling.

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To successfully make this project I have got resources and information from following websites

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