

# Possibilities of GeoTourism in Bundi District

## A Case Study of Kevdia Mahadev-where Rocks Speaks



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### Abstract

Geotourism is the kind of travel that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and well being of its resident. Geotourism does not imply about where places are. It also implies what places are. At its simplest geotourism is tourism with connection to geology and geomorphology.

Bundi is the popular tourist destination in Rajasthan not only in historical and cultural aspect but Bundi also has great potentiality in geotourism. Bundi is a gift place of nature. Numerous areas of the Bundi district offer immediate opportunities for geotourism because of the presence of a diverse range of geological phenomena and out crops including amongst many landforms structure, residual hills, folding, faulting, waterfalls and many more. Even though geotourism has great opportunities in the sustainable development of Bundi district and also the tourism sector of the state in general. But at present no pragmatic effort has been made by individual or govt. institution to explore the potential of geotourism in Bundi district.

This proposed study aims to develop and prepare management plan for the sustainable development of geotourism in Bundi district so that Bundi becomes a geo attraction in the world.

**Keywords:** Bundi, Geofeatures, Geotourism, Rajasthan.

### Introduction

Nowadays tourism industry has steadily acquired an increasingly important position in the global economy. The tourism industry is becoming one of the largest and fastest growing economic sectors of the 21st century. Being a multi-sectorial economic driver, tourism development has been perceived and promoted as a critical part of economic development and revenue generation. Tourism which helps in not only increasing employment but also people to people contact and promotes ethnic cultural understanding. Presently, tourism industry is offering a variety of products in the form of ecotourism, nature tourism, geotourism, adventure tourism etc.

Geotourism is the kind of travel that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place - its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and well being of its resident. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> International conference on geoparks in Osnabruck, Germany, 22-26 June 2008, Dowling presented a new definition of geotourism as "Geotourism is a sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing the earth's geological features in such a way that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation and is locally beneficial". Geotourism is not just about where places are it is also about what places are. At its simplest, geotourism is tourism with connection to geology and geomorphology. The geotourism concept was developed and promoted from the early 1990s onwards (Hose, 1995). This form of tourism has two aspects, i.e., the geological and the geographical.

Bundi is a gift place of nature. Numerous areas of the Bundi district offer immediate opportunities for geotourism because of the presence of a diverse range of geological phenomena and out crops including amongst many landforms structure, residual hills, folding, faulting, waterfalls and many more. One of them is Kevdia Mahadev. This place is full of natural and geographical beauty.

**Objectives of the Study**

The study is aimed to highlight the geofeatures of the Kevdia Mahadev so that apart from an important tourist place it can become a geo-attraction in the world. From this broader objective a number of subordinate objectives have been identified which are presented below:

1. To study the concept of geotourism and geo-conservation with respect to the study area.
2. To earmark important geofeatures in the study area.
3. To identify the problems hampering pace of tourism in the area.
4. To explore potential of geotourism in Kevdia as well as Bundi district.
5. To promote geographical attraction of Kevdia as well as Bundi district.

**Research Methodology**

The study is both explorative and descriptive in nature. Explorative research [primary data] was done by site visits, field study, discussions and documentation of geofeatures with help of photography in the study area. Descriptive research was done by study and analysis of published material regarding geodiversity, geoheritage, geosites, geoparks, geoeducation, geotourism, etc. This study has used preliminary as well as secondary data but is largely of preliminary nature.

**Review of Literature**

Dr. Nitish Priyadarshi (2014) described the importance of geotourism and highlighted the geo attraction in Jharkhand state.

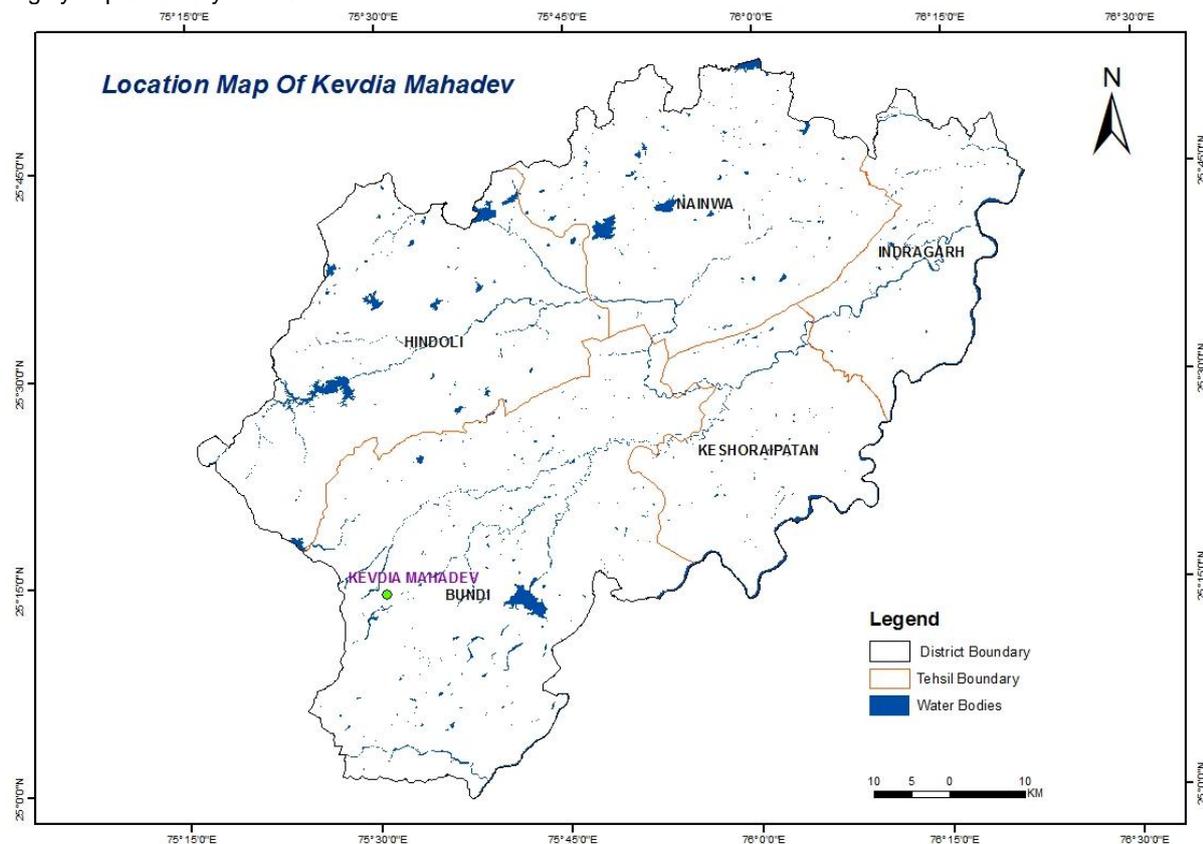
I.C. Shuttle (2015 prepared a strategic management plan for the sustainable development of geotourism with 6 case studies in South Africa.

R.B. Singh and Subhash Anand (2013) have discussed geoparks and geosites in India. They discussed geographical heritage sites or areas of geographical feature with significant, Scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic value.

K. Swarna, S.K. Biswas, and T. Harinarayana (2013) discussed the development of geotourism in Kutch Region, Gujarat. They described ways to promote geotourism and financial, infrastructural aspects and how it delivers to the society primarily focusing on the local economic and sustainable development of Kutch.

**Study Area**

Kevdia Mahadev is situated on south part of Bundi district between 25°15'00.18" North Latitude and 75°29'52.90" East Longitude in loicha gram panchayat tehsil Bundi district Bundi. This place is on Uppermall plateau. Climate of the area is semi humid. Average annual rainfall is 800 mm with 90% rainfall between months of June to September.



**Present Status and Discussion**

India is known for its natural beauty and cultural diversity which fascinate tourists from the world over to witness cultural heritage, historical monuments and amazing landforms. The tourists

arriving in India are hosted by a number of states amongst which Rajasthan is an important tourist destination as it receives about every fifth tourist visiting India. As per annual report of tourism department of Government of Rajasthan (2016), some

16 lac international and 35 lac domestic tourists were hosted by Rajasthan which is an eminent figure on global tourism map and is characterised by historical monuments, colourful festivals and natural beauty.

In Rajasthan, Bundi is emerging as an important tourist destination for both domestic and international tourists. Kevdia Mahadev of the district offer immediate opportunities for geotourism because of the presence of the geographical beauty.

Kevdia Mahadev is located 30 km away from district headquarters. This place is full of natural and geographical beauty. Flow of the water on rocks is the centre of attraction. This place is of geographical importance as we find here layered rocks which cover a long time span, various design of rocks which is the example of work of running water and amazing rock features.

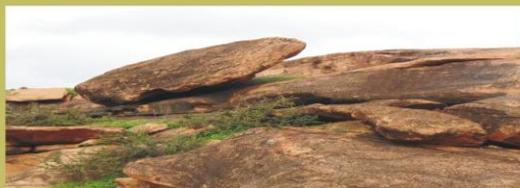
### A VIEW OF KEVDIA MAHADEV



#### **Possibilities**

1. This place is a nature based geotourism destination.
2. This place has a rich biodiversity.
3. This place has a large variety of geographical beauty.
4. Presently a good infrastructure exists at this place.
5. There is a strong domestic tourist attraction place.
6. This place presents the best examples of work of running water.
7. This place has amazing rock features and designs.
8. There is a potential to develop a vision for the betterment of all the stakeholders and local resident.
9. A potential exists for socio-economic development, job opportunities and training.
10. The area is large enough to plan and manage geosites intensively.
11. Undertake educational development and enhancement of geotourism.
12. There is the scope for the sustainable development in an holistic, integrated planning and management manner.

**ROCK FEATURES**



**WORK OF RUNNING WATER**



**RIPLING WATER ON THE ROCKS****Problems**

1. There are no hotel facilities for refreshment.
2. Tourist guides of Bundi are not trained for geotourism; therefore, they find themselves clueless to satisfy curiosities of overseas and domestic tourists regarding landforms and geofeatures of the area.
3. There are no infrastructure facilities for the development of tourism.

**Concusion**

1. The tourist sites should be well connected with district headquarters by roads with affordable and eco-friendly transport facilities.
2. Tourism department should train the tourist guides imparting enough knowledge about structures and processes of formation of these important geofeatures found in and around Bundi.
3. Various educational institutes should be invited at such places for introductory tourist excursions so that students can have experience and practical knowledge of various landforms made over the centuries.
4. Local people residing in vicinity of the geotourism destinations should also be made aware and provided knowledge to conserve and maintain natural beauty of these places.
5. District tourist map should be prepared highlighting these geo-attractions so that apart from a historical tourist destination, Bundi can find a distinct place on national and global geotourism map.
6. Signage at historical sites should also incorporate relevant information like distance and location map of the places of geotourism importance in and around Bundi so that tourists visiting these historical sites can also develop interest in the geo-objects to reschedule their stay in the Bundi.
7. Development of modern lodging facilities at affordable costs is necessary for prolonged and safer stay of domestic and international tourists.

8. To enhance the geotourism experience, geo-awareness for the public, tourists, scholars and students should be undertaken.
9. Geo-education should be given to all the tourists as well as local resident through geographical maps and diagram, geographical exhibitions, posters displays and open geographical museums.

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