CHAPTER-VIII

CONCLUSION
Conclusion:

The present study is designed to fulfill the objectives about status of tourism, its environmental impacts and its potentiality for both the districts i.e. Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur of West Bengal. A number of hypotheses have been dealt with to satisfy the objectives of the present study. Tourism is conceived as a tool for backward area development and also acts as a multi-sectoral development activity. The entire study area is very much concerned with diversified tourism resources which are not optimally utilized. The study area is economically backward (especially Paschim Medinipur) in spite of having such plenty of tourism resources. The present study aims to analyze whether tourism can be able to turn the study area a developed one by optimal utilization of tourism resources with proper planning which can ensure the regional development of the area.

The Chapter-I of the present work entitled ‘Tourism, Environment and Economy- A case study in the districts of Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.’ deals with the conceptual framework, its objectives, hypotheses, methodology and the reason behind selection of the study area. An extensive literature survey has been carried out to frame the work objective wise accordingly. A number of methods have been applied to satisfy the objectives and hypotheses of the present study. An outline of tourism resources presently available in Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur have been described in this chapter. Tourism and its impacts on environment and economy have been discussed in the conceptual part of this chapter. This chapter concludes with a review of literatures that have been consulted during the research.

Chapter-II deals with the physical and cultural environments of the study area. It is found that the western part of Paschim Medinipur is the upland area whereas the plain land covers the eastern part of this district. The entire Purba Medinipur lies on the plain land- alluvial and coastal. From geological point of view, the western and north-western parts of the study area are lateritic whereas the southern and south-eastern parts are formed with alluvium deposit of Gangetic delta. The entire study area is under the monsoonal climatic regime. In spite of that the western and north-western parts are characterized by a vicious dry heat in summer and a short cold winter whereas the southern and south-eastern parts are characterized by hot and humid climatic condition. About 19.35% of the total area is under forest cover in Paschim Medinipur whereas in Purba Medinipur it is only 0.64% (table no. 2.7). Agriculture is not
very much suitable in the western part of Paschim Medinipur due to the infertile laterite soil character and its unsuitable physiographic and climatic condition. All the western blocks of the district are regarded as the drought prone area (figure no. 2.8). Besides that the coastal part of Purba Medinipur is a vulnerable area due to the frequent cyclonic hazards (figure no. 2.9). Most of the populations are living in rural areas both in Purba and Paschim Medinipur. The larger concentrations of tribal populations are found in the drought prone western blocks in Paschim Medinipur. It is noteworthy that from the year 2006-07 to 2010-11, the agricultural landuse and irrigated areas are decreasing in nature in Paschim Medinipur (figure no. 2.14). As a result the agricultural productivity has been decreasing affecting the rural economy. In this connection, it is worth mentioning that the larger concentrations of marginal workers are found in the western part of Paschim Medinipur than Purba Medinipur district (table no. 2.16 and 2.17). The first hypothesis on the economy of the study region is thus deals with.

The status of existing tourism attractions or resources in Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur has been elaborately discussed in Chapter-III. The discussion is about the conventional tourism resources and newer type of tourism resources which are not utilized yet. The chapter deals with the spatial distribution of tourist destinations, its nature and characteristics. In case of Purba Medinipur, the tourist destinations are found concentrated mainly in the coastal blocks and eastern blocks of the district. The tourism resources are classified into several categories like nature based, archaeological and historical based, religious based, folk cultural and village based tourist destinations (figure no. 3.5). The major nature based tourist destinations are Digha, Sankarpur, Mandermoni, Tajpur, Junput, Bakiput, Dadanpatrabar, Hijli, Balughata, Haldia, Nayachar, Kukrahati, Geonkhali and Kolaghat. The archaeological and historical based tourist destinations are Dariapur, Kaukhali, Tamluk, Moyna, Mahishadal, Natsal, and Kolaghat. The well-known religious based tourist destinations are Hijli (Masnad-e-ala), Dariapur (Kapalkundala Kali temple), Tamluk (Devi Bargobhima temple), Moyna and Mahishadal. Basudevpur and Monchasa are among the folk tourism destinations of the area. Among them, Digha, Sankarpur, Mandermoni and Tajpur are already suffering from a lot of environmental problems caused by the development of tourism activities. Despite these coastal destinations, tourism development is not found in Purba Medinipur in spite of having multi-diversified tourism resources. In case of Paschim Medinipur, tourism is also less developed. The district has also plenty of multi-diversified
tourism resources in terms of natural, religious, archaeological and historical and folk-cultural attractions (figure no. 3.6). The western upland part is endowed with magnificent natural beauty. Tourist destinations like Laljal Hill, Gururasini, Kankrajhor, Kanaisar Pahar, Ketki Jharna, Ghagra, Tarafeni, Belpahari etc. lie in the upland area. Jhargram, Kendua, Hatibari and Jhilli are the other nature based tourist destinations of the western part of Paschim Medinipur. The archaeological and historical based tourist destinations are Mughalmari, Pathra, Karnagarh, Birsingha, Chandrakona town and Jhargram. A varied structural characteristic including Deul, Ekratna temple, Pancha-ratna temple and Nava-ratna temples are found in the temples of Paschim Medinipur. Most of the temples are unique in their structural features and terracotta carvings. They have also mythological background and interesting rituals in worshipping the deities. Chandrakona town is recognized as the temple town and Pathra is regarded as the temple village of Paschim Medinipur district. The different types of temples and their importance make this district a religious tourists’ paradise. The potential religious destinations are Garhbeta (Sarbamangala temple), Bagri Krishnagar (Dol-utsav), Raskundu (Ganjani-utsav), Chandrakona town (Temple town), Khiroipai, Karnagar (seat of Sadhak Raghubaba), Malancha (extraordinary Terracotta structure – Dakshina Kali temple), Midnapore (Jagannath temple), Chilkiagar (Kanak Durga temple), Jhargram (Divine temple of Devi Sabitri), Rameshwar (Twelve-linga Shiva temple), Tapoban (Mythological importance), Gopiballavpur (Sri Sri Shyam Sundar Jiu temple and Dando-mahotsav festival), Keshiary (Sarbamangala temple) etc. The village Naya is very much famous for its unique Pat-art. Sabang is famous as handicraft village for its fine and unique mat product. Folk-cultural tourism resources are mainly found in the western part of Paschim Medinipur, basically in the Jhargarm sub-division. Folk songs like Tusu, Bhadu and Jhumur, folk dance like Chhau and Jhumur attract the visitors. Ethnic groups like Santal, Lodha, Mahali, Munda, Bhumij etc. are the ethno-tourism resources in the area. The chapter concludes with a comparison between tourism resources of these two districts.

The Fourth chapter states the present economic condition of both the districts, Purba and Paschim Medinipur with a comparison to fulfill the requirement of hypothesis-I. The economic scenario has been analyzed with the help of block-wise workers composition of the districts. The category of main workers and marginal workers are taken into consideration for analyzing the economic status. Agricultural productivity is considered to classify the agriculturally developed and under-developed blocks in both the districts. The relationships
between agriculturally developed and under-developed blocks with their workers composition have been analyzed with overlay method in this chapter. Considering tourism as a tool for backward area development (hypothesis-VI), the agriculturally low productive blocks and blocks have larger concentration of marginal workers have been identified for the purpose of analyzing scope of tourism in the economically backward areas. The followings are the outcomes of the analysis undertaken in this chapter:

- In case of agricultural and allied workers, it is found that the agricultural and allied workers are mostly concentrated in Paschim Medinipur than Purba Medinipur district (figure no. 4.1).
- The larger concentration of industrial category of main workers is found in Purba Medinipur district rather than Paschim Medinipur district (figure no. 4.2).
- In case of marginal workers concentration, it is found that the western part of Paschim Medinipur has high concentration of marginal workers than that of Purba Medinipur district (figure no. 4.3).
- The northern fringe and eastern fringe blocks of Paschim Medinipur have higher agricultural productivity than the western blocks of Paschim Medinipur (figure no. 4.4). In case of Purba Medinipur, some coastal blocks like Ramnagar-I & II, Khejuri-I & II and other blocks like Tamluk, Haldia, Sutahata, Sahid Matangini, Deshapran, Kanthi-III and Pataspur-II, the blocks are high or medium productive blocks (figure no. 4.5).
- The western part of Paschim Medinipur is more economically backward area as compared to the entire study area due to its unsuitable physical condition for agricultural growth and large concentration of marginal workers.
- Thus backward area is however very much rich in tourism resources which are not utilized yet (figure no. 4.12 and 4.13). The optimal utilization of tourism resources may boost up the tourism development in that area that will surely contribute to overall development including economical, social and cultural development. The scope of tourism is therefore high enough in the study area.

Chapter-V dealt with the hypotheses ‘The Tourist destinations of Purba Medinipur is much more popular and offering better infrastructure in comparison with Paschim Medinipur’ and ‘The question of safety and security in recent years arises as a hindrance for developing tourism in Paschim Medinipur’. The chapter represents the accommodation, transport and
administrative scenario and quality of tourism components of the entire study area. Considering accommodation as the backbone of tourism industry a questionnaire survey has been done for the detailed analysis of spatial variation of accommodation infrastructure. The major findings are as follows:

- The majority of accommodation units are located at the coastal zone of Purba Medinipur as a few of the coastal destinations are presently popular among the tourist destinations of the study area (figure no. 5.16).
- The accommodation infrastructure of Paschim Medinipur is too much poor in comparison with Purba Medinipur.
- The worst condition of accommodation infrastructure is found respectively at the western zone and northern zone of Paschim Medinipur district (figure no. 5.16).
- The ordinary type room facility is high enough than luxury type room facility in each and every tourist destination zones as revealed from hotel survey (figure no. 5.17).
- It is found that despite coastal zone, the accommodation infrastructure is not properly developed at any of the destination zones like eastern, central, northern and western zone.
- Tourism entrepreneurs in the accommodation sector are almost local than outsider people as revealed from hotel survey (figure no. 5.18).

Transport is another important element of tourism industry and is termed as the ‘lifeline of tourism industry’. It is found that the transport efficiency is not well enough for the development of tourism in both Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur districts. To study the transport network structure, network density has been calculated and also accessibility analysis has been done in this chapter. The major findings of this study are as follows:

- A high network density is only found at Haldia block of Purba Medinipur and the medium network density is found in Panskura-I, Nandakumar, Mahishadal and Sutahata block of Purba Medinipur (figure no. 5.21).
- The remaining blocks of the district having low network density exhibiting poor network structure in Purba Medinipur district.
- In case of Paschim Medinipur, high network density is found at Debra, Chandrakona-II and Mohanpur blocks and the remaining blocks have medium or low network density (figure no. 5.22).
It is also found that the network density is low in Binpur-II, Gopiballavpur-I, Garhbetta-I, Salboni, Chandrakona-I, Pingla and Sabang blocks where a number of tourism resources are available and are very much potential in terms of tourism development (figure no. 5.22).

From the zone-wise accessibility analysis of different tourist destinations of the study area, five most accessible points have been identified. The five most accessible destinations are Chilkigarh (Western zone), Chandrakona town (Northern zone), Kharagpur (Central zone), Tamluk (Eastern zone) and Kanthi (Coastal zone) (table no. 5.3).

Among the most accessible points, it is found that Kharagpur is the most accessible among all the tourist destinations of the entire study area (figure no. 5.23).

Spatial distribution of police station over the space has been taken into account to analyze the capability of administration to cope with the crime against visitors. The followings are the outcomes of such study:

In case of Paschim Medinipur, it is found from applying buffer analysis that the tourist destinations like Laljal, Gurrasini, Kankrajhor, Ketki Jharna, Kanaisor Pahar, Ghagra, Tarafeni, Hatibari, Jhilli, Rameswar, Tapoban, Mughalmari, Pathra, Karnagar, Birsingha, Khirpai, Raskundu, Bagri Krishnagar and Gangoni are unprotected in the sense that administration may not be capable to reach in the places in time as they are seated outside the buffer created (figure no. 5.24).

In case of Purba Medinipur, it is found that the destinations like Mandermoni, Dadanpatrabar, Junput, Bakiput, Khejuri, Monchasa, Nayachar, Raghunathbari and Geonkhali are unprotected in the similar sense (figure no. 5.25).

A further assessment is carried out to analyze the quality of tourism components of the entire study area. Tourism is a component of 5 A’s – Accommodation, Accessibility, Attraction, Amenities and Administration. The destination zone-wise quality of such tourism components has been assessed to determine the available quality of tourism components. The major findings from this study are (table no. 5.5):

In case of accommodation it is found that a good quality of accommodation is only found at coastal and central zone whereas Eastern zone, Northern zone and Western zone have poor quality of accommodation facility.
In case of accessibility, it is found that the better accessibility is found at coastal zone, eastern zone and central zone of the study area whereas the poor accessibility is found at the western zone and northern zone of the study area.

In amenities based quality assessment, it is clearly revealed that the coastal zone provides only a good quality of tourism amenities facility whereas the remaining destinations are not providing a good quality of amenities.

The western zone and northern zone are under developed in terms of accommodation, accessibility, amenities and also weak from the standpoint of control of administration but in terms of attraction these zones have a good quality of attractions representing the scope and potentiality of these areas for tourism promotion.

Overall, on the basis of all tourism components, coastal zone and central zone attain a better status (figure no. 5.26) in comparison with the other zones.

The hypothesis-IV related to coastal tourism has been dealt in Chapter-VI. Tourism has its impacts upon the environment. The unscientific, unplanned and uncontrolled conventional tourism growth in the coastal Purba Medinipur results into the deterioration and degradation of the environment. The environmental consequences which are found from the study are as follows:

- Beach erosion
- Recession of the beach
- Decay of floral and faunal diversity
- Beach lowering and sea level rise
- Stabilization / destruction of sand dune
- Pollution (including land, air and water)
- Increasing vulnerability as a disaster prone zone

The CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) violation study has been conducted to analyze the ground realities of the coastal destinations of Purba Medinipur. The major findings in this regard are:

- In case of Digha coastal belt, it is found that such violation is more at Old Digha part comparatively than New Digha. The beach resorts and hotels are concentrated in NDZ (No Development Zone) area at Old Digha (figure no. 6.3).
The CRZ violation is also found at Sankarpur coast where coastal erosion is already a problem (figure no. 6.7).

In case of Tajpur, the CRZ violation is apparently less but the construction process is still going on diminishing the sand dune beyond NDZ (figure no. 6.11).

The maximum violation of CRZ regulation is found along the coastline of Mandermoni. Here most of the beach resorts and hotels (above 80%) are developed occupying the NDZ area (figure no. 6.15).

CRZ violation scenario is also alarming at Junput coastal belt (figure no. 6.21).

In case of hoteliers perception on disaster preparedness it is found that they are not very much alert about the onset of a disaster (figure no. 6.23 to 6.27). So sensitization of the hoteliers and also local people is very much required to cope with the disaster situation.

Modified Leopold Matrix method has been used for assessing the quality of environment of the coastal part of Purba Medinipur. The major finding of this study (Table no. 6.1) is that tourism developmental activities like building construction, road construction, concretizing embankment, vehicular movement, waste disposal, water usage, landuse transformation incorporating beach recreational facility and urbanization have negative impacts upon the destination environment including the land environment, aquatic environment and air and noise environment. The impacts on land environment includes landuse and land cover change, habitat loss, loss of species, deforestation, land degradation, changes in ground water level and beach erosion which overall increase vulnerability. The impacts on aquatic environment include deterioration of water, loss of species, impact of fisheries, water pollution etc. The impacts on air and noise environments are found in air pollution and noise pollution.

A SWOT – AHP calculation (Table no.- 6.3 and 6.4) has been carried out to find out the most significant Strength (S), Weakness (W), Opportunity (O), and Threat (T) factor for coastal tourism. The major findings are:

- The coastal destinations are popular as weekend destination sites which is the most strength factor.
- The most important weakness factor is the unplanned development of hotels and lodges.
- The most opportunity factor is the huge potentiality to introduce circuit tourism.
In case of threat factor, most significant threat is the violating of CRZ norms. Hotels and lodges are developed in NDZ diminishing sand dune.

The Chapter-VII makes a comparison between the districts with reference to hypothesis-II and promotes circuit planning in connection with hypothesis-VI. To study the spatial pattern of development, a number of socio-economic developmental indicators have been taken into consideration to derive Composite Score of Development Index (CSDI) without tourism and with tourism for both the districts Paschim Medinipur and Purba Medinipur. In case of Paschim Medinipur, the CSDI without tourism shows that the developed blocks are Midnapore, Kharagpur-I, Jhargram, Keshpur, Ghatal, Debra and Sabang (figure no. 7.1). The western and southern blocks of the district are put into the category of less developed and under developed blocks. To analyze the contribution of tourism in the development of Paschim Medinipur a further study of CSDI is carried out with tourism factors. The CSDI with tourism shows that only Midnapore and Kharagpur-I blocks are remain as developed as compared with CSDI without tourism (figure no. 7.3). So, it is clear from the analysis that tourism is not playing a significant role as a developmental factor for the development of Paschim Medinipur.

In case of Purba Medinipur the CSDI without tourism shows that Tamluk is the only developed block and Panskura-I & II, Bhagwanpur-I and Kanthi-I are the moderately developed whereas the remaining blocks are less developed and under-developed (figure no. 7.2). From the analysis of CSDI with tourism a significant change is well marked for the district Purba Medinipur with Tamluk, Ramnagar-I block have been appeared as the developed block where most of the coastal resorts are situated. Ramnagar-I is the under-developed block in terms of CSDI without tourism but CSDI with tourism the block has been identified as a developed block which is due to the inclusion of tourism factor (figure no. 7.4). The hypothesis that the tourism is a contributing factor for backward area development is thus satisfied.

The PCA (Principal Component Analysis) has also been applied and finally a Tourism Potentiality Index (TPI) has been calculated with the help of weights of demand or resource components and weights of supply elements or tourism components. The result of TPI represents the zone-wise tourism potentiality of the entire study area (table no. 7.12). The major findings of this study are:
Western zone that lies in comparatively under developed Paschim Medinipur ranks first as the most tourism potential destination zone for the entire study area (figure no. 7.15).

According to TPI, the second most potential zone is the coastal zone followed by central zone, northern zone and eastern zone (figure no. 7.15 and 7.16).

In comparison with the tourism potential between two districts, it is found that the Paschim Medinipur district has much more tourism potential than Purba Medinipur district.

Lastly, circuit-wise planning appraisal has been put forwarded in this chapter with special consideration on environment. A proper planning strategy is very much needed for the sustainable development of tourism in that area. In this connection, a circuit-wise planning is proposed in Chapter-VII. For the overall tourism development of the study area considering its economy and environment, the followings are noteworthy:

- Tourism development is presently concentrated at coastal part of Purba Medinipur but Paschim Medinipur and eastern part of Purba Medinipur have plenty of multi-diversified tourism resources.
- More accommodation facility is required for eastern zone, central zone, northern zone and western zone. The quality of accommodation must be developed to ensure visitors’ satisfaction.
- Transport efficiency should be increased particularly for northern and western zones as these zones have huge tourism potentials.
- Tourist Police for providing better security of the tourists is a necessity particularly for western zone and northern zone where safety and security is one of the major concerning issues for tourism development.
- Regular monitoring of coastal tourism activities is essential for Ramnagar-I block.
- Tourism amenities have to be properly developed in eastern, northern and western zone for boosting up tourism in that area.
- The western part of Paschim Medinipur should be given more thrust for tourism development which is more economically backward in spite of huge tourism resources. By introduction of sustainable tourism, economic regeneration of the area is possible.
Above all, proper advertisement must be necessary for the promotion of tourism of the entire study area. The advertisement should spread through media, internet, newspapers etc. and also should under the banner of ‘Beautiful Bengal’.

Finally it may be concluded that the contribution of tourism on economy and environment has been taken into consideration in the present study with a comparative analysis between two adjoining spatial units having different categories of tourism resources. While Purba Medinipur has already experienced the development of coastal tourism, the Paschim Medinipur has to utilize its natural and ethno tourism resources in order to establish tourism industry as an instrument for backward area development. The outcomes of the study may design the tourism industry of the area more economically responsible and environmentally protective.