iJRASET
International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 13 **Issue:** I **Month of publication:** January 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2025.66618

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue I Jan 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

A Survey on Recreational Suitability Assessment and Information System for Indian Beaches

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Abstract: ***This review brings together the findings of numerous research studies centered on advancing the dissemination of tourist information and the development of ecotourism systems specifically tailored for beach destinations. The project seeks to enhance tourism experiences by harnessing the power of mobile technologies. By implementing these cutting-edge technologies, the project aims not only to promote tourism but also to contribute to the growth of local economies. The research underscores the critical role that real-time information systems and mobile platforms play in shaping the modern tourist experience. With the widespread adoption of smartphones, the project explores how tourists can gain immediate access to vital information, such as weather conditions, beach safety, and environmental hazards, ensuring that their visit is both enjoyable and secure. Furthermore, it enables visitors to make informed decisions that align with their interests, promotes local businesses, and allows them to share beach information.***

Keywords: Beach suitability assessment, Recreational activities, Coastal tourism, Oceanic conditions, Meteorological data, Beachgoers.

I. INTRODUCTION

Coastal tourism serves as a vital engine of economic development, with beach-centric attractions accounting for a significant proportion of revenue generation in numerous regions across the globe. The allure of sunlit coasts, pristine sandy beaches, and breathtaking oceanic views draws millions of visitors annually, providing a substantial boost to local economies by creating jobs and fostering business opportunities within communities [1]. Despite its pivotal role, coastal tourism faces persistent challenges such as improving accessibility, mitigating environmental degradation, and meeting the growing demand for precise and timely information that enhances tourist satisfaction while preserving ecological integrity [9]. This review emphasizes the transformative role of mobile technology in addressing these challenges and elevating the coastal tourism experience. Research by Cai et al. (2023) highlights the potential of mobile platforms to align with marine ecotourism principles, delivering essential services and information tailored to beachgoers' needs [2]. Digital tools have revolutionized how tourists engage with destinations, offering convenient access to vital services such as booking facilities, location navigation, and safety alerts [3,4]. Moreover, these platforms facilitate responsible tourism by empowering users to adopt eco-conscious behaviors that minimize their environmental footprint [13]. Building on García-Alba et al.'s (2023) insights into real-time risk prediction for coastal safety, these systems provide dynamic updates on environmental parameters, including water quality, wave activity, and weather conditions [5]. This real-time data enables tourists to plan their activities with greater confidence and safety, ensuring an enhanced and hassle-free experience [14, 15]. Such tools not only cater to visitor convenience but also actively contribute to the preservation of sensitive coastal ecosystems by encouraging sustainable practices, a theme echoed by Alsahafi et al. (2023) in their work on smarter tourism solutions [6]. In summary, the studies explored in this review underscore the immense potential of mobile technology and digital platforms to reshape coastal tourism. By delivering real-time, accurate information and promoting eco-friendly behaviors, these innovations elevate the quality of tourism experiences, bolster local economies, and safeguard the fragile coastal environment for future generations [16]. This alignment of technology with sustainability reaffirms the role of digital tools as indispensable in the evolution of coastal tourism [19].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent advancements in digital technologies have significantly transformed the beach tourism sector, addressing key challenges such as sustainability, accessibility, overcrowding, and ecological preservation. Cai et al. (2023) demonstrated the potential of integrating advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Augmented Reality (AR) within marine ecotourism frameworks. They developed a comprehensive beachcombing service system designed to enhance user experiences through secure and interactive tools for planning marine activities. This innovation promotes responsible tourism practices, fosters economic growth within local communities, and supports the sustainable development of coastal tourism [1].

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In response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, Vivar and Javier (2022) introduced a mobile application aimed at revitalizing tourism in Peru's La Libertad region. The application provides tourists with essential information about beaches and connects them with local services, effectively boosting visitor engagement and supporting the local economy [2]. Similarly, accessibility remains a critical focus area in beach tourism. Mayordomo-Martínez and Sanchez-Aarnoutse (2019) addressed the challenges faced by individuals with motor disabilities by designing a mobile application that delivers essential information on accessible facilities such as parking areas and dining options. The application also raises awareness among authorities, encouraging the development of inclusive tourism infrastructure [3]. Overcrowding, another persistent issue in beach tourism, was tackled by Girau et al. (2018) through the development of the "Be Right Beach" (BRB) system. Leveraging the Social Internet of Things (SIoT) paradigm, this system provides real-time updates on beach conditions, including weather, crowdedness, and travel times. By enabling tourists to select less crowded beaches, the BRB system not only enhances visitor satisfaction but also mitigates the environmental strain on overburdened destinations, promoting a more sustainable tourism model [4].

These innovations underline the transformative role of digital technologies in reshaping the coastal tourism experience. By addressing critical challenges and emphasizing sustainability, inclusivity, and real-time accessibility, these solutions pave the way for a more resilient and eco-conscious tourism industry.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. *Existing System*

The SAMUDRA app, developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), serves as a highly reliable platform offering real-time oceanographic data to enhance safety and decision-making for various groups, including fishermen, coastal residents, marine professionals, and maritime agencies. Its primary function is to provide accurate forecasts related to waves, tides, and ocean currents, which are crucial for users to avoid dangerous sea conditions [10]. For fishermen, SAMUDRA acts as a vital resource, enabling them to plan their sea journeys with greater precision and safety. By consulting the app's up-to-date data, they can determine the best times to venture out, avoiding areas where waves or currents pose higher risks, and ensuring a safer return from their expeditions. This ability to access real-time information minimizes the unpredictability often associated with fishing in open waters [10]. Coastal communities also greatly benefit from the app. They can use its tide forecasts to better prepare for potential high tides and storm surges. The early warnings provided by SAMUDRA allow them to take necessary precautions, such as securing their homes or evacuating in extreme conditions, thereby reducing the risk of loss of life and property [10]. Marine operators, including shipping professionals and port authorities, rely on the app to guarantee safe navigation through coastal waters. By monitoring oceanic conditions, they can chart safe routes, avoid hazardous areas, and improve overall maritime safety. Accurate data from SAMUDRA assists in making better-informed decisions, enhancing both operational efficiency and safety for crew and vessels [10]. Researchers and scientists studying ocean behavior also benefit from the real-time data that the app provides. Whether they are conducting research on ocean currents, climate change, or coastal ecosystems, the access to reliable and updated data significantly supports their studies [10]. This allows them to make informed conclusions and advance their work in understanding the complexities of marine environments.

B. *Challenges in the System*

1) *Limited Data Access:* Tourists in remote or poorly connected areas often struggle to access reliable, real-time beach condition updates due to inconsistent internet connectivity [10].
2) *Data Accuracy and Integration:* Combining data from multiple sources, such as meteorological and oceanographic institutions, can result in inconsistencies, leading to potential inaccuracies in safety alerts or environmental conditions [10].
3) *User Experience:* The app's complex data presentation can be difficult for tourists to understand, reducing its effectiveness [10].
4) *Scalability Issues:* While effective in certain regions, the app may struggle to adapt to new areas due to varying local conditions and data availability [10].
5) *Environmental Integration:* The app prioritizes safety but fails to promote sustainable practices, limiting its ecological impact [10].

C. *Research Gap*

The literature on sustainable beach tourism management highlights potential opportunities to address high tides and storm surges more effectively. Early warnings provided by systems like SAMUDRA are vital for enabling coastal communities to take precautions, such as securing homes or evacuating in extreme conditions, thereby reducing risks to life and property.

Furthermore, there is a need for user-friendly platforms that can simplify data presentation, integrate environmental sustainability practices, and adapt to diverse local conditions [10].

D. *Proposed System*

To address the limitations of existing platforms and enhance the experience of beach tourism in India, the proposed system aims to develop an advanced Recreational Suitability Assessment and Information System for Indian Beaches. This system is designed to provide beachgoers with real-time, accurate, and user-friendly information about environmental and oceanic conditions, enabling safer and more informed travel decisions.

Unlike traditional systems that focus primarily on safety, this solution integrates sustainability and user convenience, ensuring a holistic approach to coastal tourism. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as real-time data processing, weather forecasting modules, and personalized recommendation engines, the system not only promotes safety but also empowers users to adopt eco-friendly practices while exploring India's diverse coastline.

The proposed architecture incorporates key functionalities such as:

1) Real-Time Environmental Monitoring: Providing updates on weather, tidal patterns, wind speeds, and water quality.
2) Sustainable Travel Recommendations: Encouraging low-impact tourism by offering insights into less crowded and ecologically sensitive areas.
3) Interactive User Interface: A visually engaging and intuitive platform for users to access relevant data and share experiences.
4) Social Engagement Features: Allowing users to share feedback, photos, and safety insights to build a community-driven approach to responsible tourism.

This innovative system addresses critical gaps in the accessibility, accuracy, and ecological integration of current tools, ensuring that Indian beaches become safer, more sustainable, and globally appealing destinations.

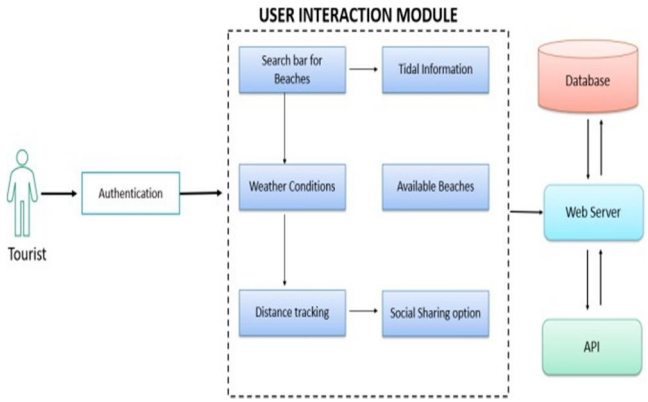


Fig. 1. System Architecture

The system architecture consists of key modules that provide real-time, accurate information to beachgoers while promoting safety and sustainability. Data collection modules gather information on weather, tides, and wind conditions, which is then processed for accuracy. The data is displayed through a user-friendly interface, allowing users to view forecasts and conditions. A Sustainable Travel Decision Support module offers eco-friendly travel recommendations based on beach conditions, while a Recommendations Engine provides personalized advice. The system also enables social media sharing, fostering community engagement. Overall, the architecture ensures seamless access to accurate and timely information for safer and more sustainable beach visits.

E. *Advantages*

1) Users can access beach info, weather, tides, and distance in one place, making planning easier.
2) Integration with APIs ensures up-to-date weather and tidal data for safe beach trips.
3) Modular design allows easy expansion and addition of new features.
4) Authentication safeguards user data, enhancing privacy and security.
5) Sharing options promote app visibility and user engagement on social platforms.

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IV. MOTIVATION

The proposed mobile application aims to transform beach tourism in India by providing essential information on oceanic and weather conditions. This project was born out of a desire to enhance the beach tourism experience by addressing common barriers that discourage visitors from exploring the country's beautiful coastline. India boasts over 7,500 kilometers of stunning beaches, offering great potential for recreational activities and tourism. However, concerns about unpredictable weather, dangerous waves, and poor water quality often limit the enjoyment of these coastal treasures [10]. This application seeks to overcome these obstacles by offering real-time safety alerts and personalized recommendations, helping tourists make better decisions about when and where to visit the beach. It's not just about safety; it's about creating a meaningful experience that combines enjoyment, awareness, and responsibility. By promoting smarter and safer tourism, the app also encourages sustainable practices, aiming to protect the natural beauty of India's coasts for future generations [10]. At its core, this project is about making a difference—ensuring that beach tourism is both enjoyable and safe while also being environmentally responsible. It's about fostering a deeper connection between people and the coastal environment, while supporting the development of local communities. This initiative presents an opportunity to make beach tourism safer, smarter, and more sustainable for everyone involved [10].

V. APPLICATION IMPACT

1) *Enhanced Tourist Safety:* Providing real-time updates on ocean and weather conditions, this application greatly improves beachgoer safety. Prompt notifications about unfavorable weather, wave dynamics, and water quality allow users to make informed decisions, reducing accident risks and boosting visitor confidence.
2) *Informed Decision-Making:* The app assists users in choosing suitable beaches for various activities based on current conditions. By analyzing factors like wave behavior, water clarity, and weather forecasts, tourists can pick the best spots for swimming, surfing, or other recreational pursuits, resulting in more enjoyable experiences.
3) *Encouragement of Sustainable Practices:* This application can educate users on environmental sustainability, promoting responsible behavior at beaches. With insights into local ecology, pollution levels, and conservation initiatives, it raises awareness and motivates actions that safeguard coastal ecosystems.

VI. CONCLUSION

This survey highlights the role of mobile technology in enhancing beach tourism in India. By providing real-time updates on weather, water quality, and tidal conditions, the proposed system helps tourists make informed decisions, ensuring safety and improving their experience. It encourages eco-friendly practices, reduces risks, and supports local economies by promoting responsible tourism. The system combines safety, sustainability, and convenience, revolutionizing coastal tourism. With ongoing development, it has the potential to make beach tourism safer, smarter, and more sustainable worldwide.

VII. FUTURE SCOPE

The development of a mobile application to provide beach suitability information across India offers significant promise for future enhancements. By integrating machine learning, the app could advance to predict beach conditions and visitor trends using historical data. This would boost safety measures by providing early alerts for risks like strong currents or hazardous marine wildlife. Expanding its scope, the app could eventually cover international beaches, functioning as a global beach safety resource. the app could promote eco-friendly tourism by highlighting beaches with sustainable practices, aligning with the increasing focus on responsible travel.

Additionally, data gathered by the app could support local authorities in enhancing beach facilities, such as optimizing lifeguard presence. Integrating with smart wearables could deliver instant alerts for sudden dangers, providing real-time notifications directly to users on-site.

The app's community features could be enhanced by allowing users to share live updates, photos, and experiences, offering that benefit others. Support for multiple languages and an intuitive interface would broaden accessibility for diverse users. The app could also give real-time suggestions for activities like surfing or snorkeling, helping users choose beaches based on current conditions[6]. Collaborations with travel and tourism companies could add value by offering accommodation bookings and transport options, helping users plan visits around ideal beach conditions. The app could also serve coastal research, aiding studies on climate change, coastal erosion, and marine ecosystems. Including an offline mode would further support its use in remote areas with limited connectivity, ensuring users have essential beach safety information even when offline.

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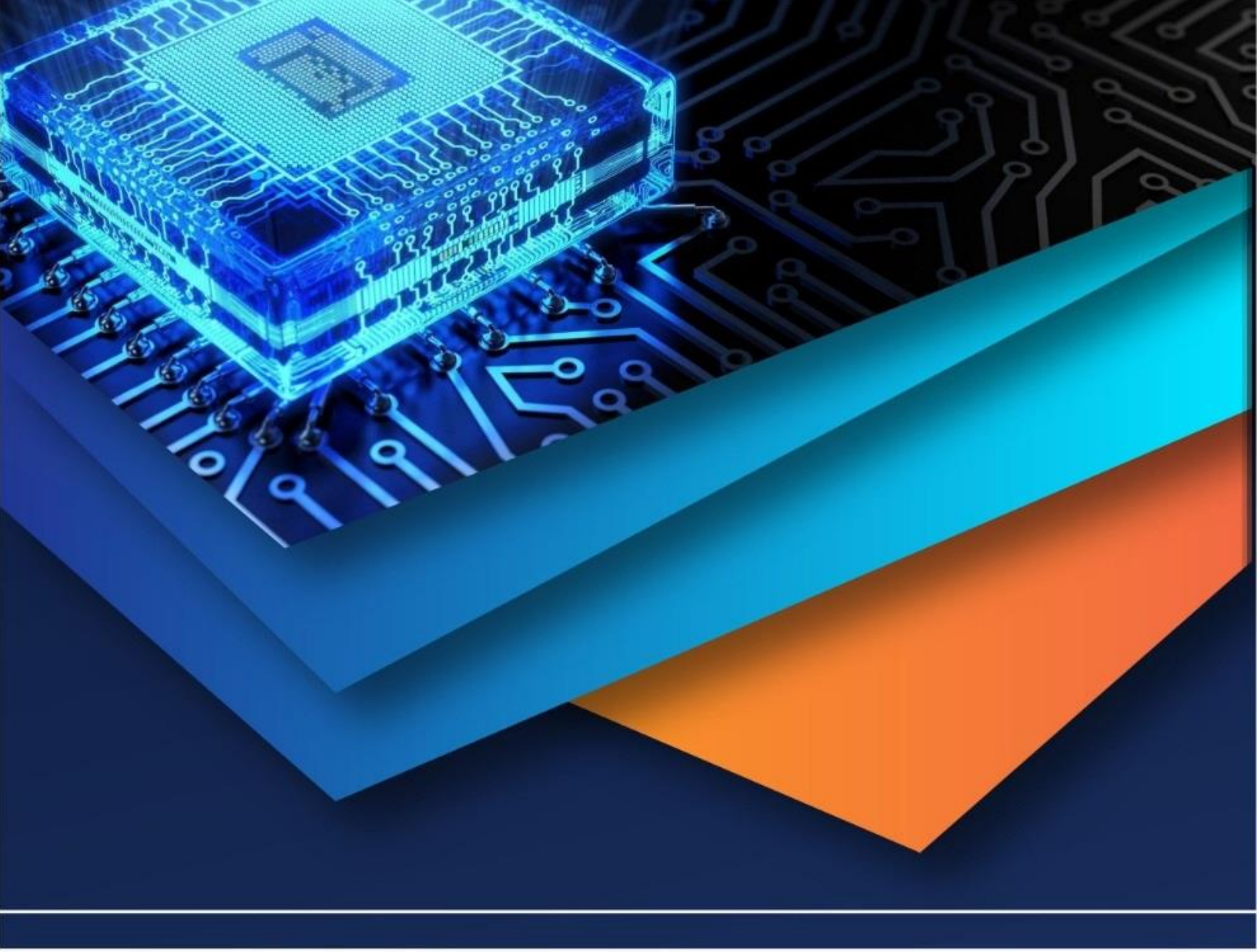
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