

Kashi as a Modern Spiritual Sanctuary: Tradition Meets Innovation

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Abstract: *This study explores the transformation of Kashi (Varanasi) from a traditional spiritual center to a modern sanctuary, highlighting the intricate interplay between age-old practices and contemporary influences. As Kashi evolves, it retains its historical significance while adapting to the demands of modernization, particularly through the lens of increased tourism and technological advancements. The research investigates how spiritual practices have been influenced by these changes, revealing a dual narrative of adaptation and commodification. It draws insights from diverse stakeholders, including pilgrims, tourists, and local residents, to understand their experiences and perceptions of Kashi as a spiritual destination. Ultimately, the study emphasizes the need for sustainable practices and community engagement to maintain Kashi's spiritual integrity, offering practical recommendations for balancing tradition with innovation. By examining these dynamics, this research underscores Kashi's role as a modern spiritual sanctuary that continues to honor its rich heritage while embracing the possibilities of the contemporary world.*

Keywords: Kashi, Varanasi, Spiritual Sanctuary, Modernization, Tradition, Innovation, Spiritual Practices, Pilgrimage

