



The Changing Nature of Tourism : Sindhudurg Fort

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Introduction:

Tourism is travel. But there is a difference between the two terms travel and tourism due to their purpose. Travel means moving from one place to another for some reason. But tourism means visiting historical, geographical, natural, cultural, artistic places. This visit is either for entertainment, knowledge or passion. Tourism is either a trip or a journey. To get rid of the fatigue caused by busy work , to remove the pressure on the mind, one needs to travel and go somewhere. Recreation and leisure are the basic purpose behind tourism. Tourism is not just a hobby these days but it has become an important part of the development process. Tourism is a modern and rapidly developing human economic activity. The economy of some countries in the world depends on the tourism industry. Considering the economic importance of tourism, every country is developing tools and basic facilities for this business.

Sindhudurg district is a very rich and historically rich district from the point of view of tourism and the fort of Malvan in this district has been trying to achieve its development from the point of view of tourism since the pre-British era. The fort of Sindhudurga is very rich in terms of tourism and it always attracts tourists from the country and abroad.

The changing nature of tourism:

Tourism is a permanent feature of human life and in the Neolithic era we find many evidences of ecology and tourism. ' Due to the surplus production of grain, man began to have free time.¹ As a result, for the rest of the time, man became a wanderer. Surplus production, wealth, free time seems to have resulted in tourism. A.D. The discovery of coins in the 6th century gave a huge boost to tourism.²

From ancient times to modern times, the nature of tourism has changed. Earlier, due to lack of economic prosperity and lack of means of communication, the form of tourism was limited to religious and trade only. As economic prosperity increased and the means of communication developed, the nature of tourism also changed. Tourism started for fun and entertainment. With the development of railways and waterways in the 19th century , tourists began to travel to different places around the world to enjoy tourism. Thus, the scope of tourism increased.³ The 20th century saw radical changes in the nature of tourism. This can include adventure tourism , medical tourism , beach tourism, historical tourism, etc. Adventure tourism includes mountain climbing, mountain climbing , canyoning , medical tourism for meditation, ayurvedic massage, while historical tourism includes visiting old preserved structures, military sites, war sites, various architectures and forts, etc.⁴

Forts have gained importance in historical tourism. Tourists are visiting here in large numbers to see the events that happened in connection with the forts and the architecture on them. Every fort has some kind of history around it. Every fort is a witness of history. People have an attraction to see such historical forts. Realizing the importance of forts in tourism, the government has planned various schemes for their development and conservation. Considering the importance of forts in the changing nature of tourism, various schemes have

been implemented by the local administration and government for the development and conservation of Sindhudurg fort.

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation was established on 20 January 1975 to promote tourism development. To promote tourism in the state through this corporation, it established its divisional offices at various places like Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Kolhapur, Amravati, Aurangabad.⁵

Sindhudurg Fort near Malvan village is a major tourist attraction in Sindhudurg district and is an important fort from historical and tourist point of view. Sindhudurg district is blessed with nature. It also has a long history. Konkan is a mine of amazing natural beauty. Enticing beaches, steep sides of Sahyadri, winding ghats, rich Amraya, unique Deoraya, bird beauty, forts, forts and Bhuikot, ancient temples, lighthouses, backwaters, sea sports like scuba driving, mangoes, fanas, cashews and chavisht. Foods, Kalagrams, Dashavatar and Rasal as well as Konkani man like Irsal are all in Konkan. In fact, this is a perennial tourist area.

Sindhudurg district was formed on 1 May 1981 by bifurcating Ratnagiri district. Considering the richness and diversity of the nature here, the concept of tourism development started to take root in Sindhudurga. An important milestone for this was the declaration of Sindhudurga as the country's first tourist district on 30 April 1997. But for a long time this tourist district remained only on paper.

However, the picture of the tourism sector in the district is changing in the last ten years. Tourists from all over the country are attracted to the beautiful beaches of Sindhudurga. Sindhudurg Fort has become the center of tourism. It increases the participation of locals in a development process. Then the overall speed of progress also increases several times. This is also being recognized regarding the tourism of Sindhudurga. For example, in Malvan, tourists have come together and invested lakhs of rupees to create a water park project in the sea. Glassbatten tourist boats are bought by locals. Locals have set up hotels, home stays.

Some changes are expected in Sindhudurga in the future due to the creation of a new parallel economy through tourism. Tourism has the potential to create a huge economic revolution in the economy. However, it is necessary to create the necessary primary capacity in Sindhudurga to promote tourism. Sindhudurg district is known from the Sindhudurg fort built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Malvan.⁶ From ancient times till the establishment of British rule in India, forts were of utmost importance from the point of view of defence. But as soon as this importance was lost, many forts accumulated history. However, very few forts like Malvan have been developed from the point of view of tourism due to their historical importance.

Due to the various historical architecture of Malvan Fort, tourism development has been boosted here. Due to these architectural sculptures, fort tourism is important for history scholars and tourists to get the beautiful Ashi architecture of different eras and the political, economic and social conditions of the time. Today Sindhudurg Fort is visited by a large number of tourists and scholars.

In the second half of the 20th century, increased urbanization, industrialization, improvement in living standards, spread of education, growth in trade have boosted tourism development. Due to the improvements made to the fort during the various regimes, the tourism here has received a major boost in the post-independence period. Recognizing the importance of economic income from tourism at the fort, the Malvan Municipal Council has provided various facilities to encourage tourists to come here. Communication facilities are an important factor in tourism development. If the communication facilities are good to reach the tourist destination, tourists visit that area in large numbers. Realizing the importance of

communication in tourism development, Malvan Municipal Council developed roads to reach historical places. Modern things are provided. One of the important factors of tourism development is hotels, the accommodation and dining facilities of a tourist destination depend on the flow of tourists to that tourist destination. Malvan Municipal Council has made great efforts to provide these facilities.⁷

The Maharashtra government has implemented various schemes through the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation to promote and encourage tourism in Sindhudurg. Besides, construction of International Scuba Driving Center at Tarkarli near Malvan is in final stage. Two houseboats are available at Tarkarli for tourists and two houseboats are operational for adventure water sports. Tourists are taken on a water journey to Sindhudurg fort by the said high speed boat. This includes dolphin watching and sports fishing. Scuba Driving Center is an international center in India being operated in Maharashtra. Tourists always visit Chaipataya because of the nature and abundant forest resources on the Konkan coast, transportation facilities, ancient forts, temples, beaches etc. In this, the number of tourists visiting Sindhudurg Fort is large. The government has created various facilities for the preservation and conservation of the Sindhudurg fort as well as for the tourists visiting the fort. This has boosted the tourism development here.

Many historical sites in India and Maharashtra are included in the list of World Heritage Sites. Among all the water forts, Sindhudurg is an important water fort. It was declared as 'National Protected Monument in Maharashtra' on 21 June 2010.⁸ This Durga has revolutionized the tourism of Konkan. Today, Sindhudurg district has been selected as the cleanest district in the country. Green nature and azure beaches are the features of this district, clear beaches, torrential rains, Ganapati festival, Dashavatar, Gavogaon Bharana Úyatra, ancient temples and historic Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg forts have boosted tourism.⁹ Sindhudurg is a water fort that is crucial for integrating Konkan tourism into historical tourism. Because in the history of the Middle Ages, the important task of expelling the momentum that the waves of foreign domination had taken was done through this Jaldurga.

The importance of this Jaldurga of Sindhudurga is unique in the history of Indian tourism. Sindhudurga became the first tourist district in the country on 30 April 1997 in religious and cultural tourism.¹⁰ Tourists from many countries of the world flock to see this unique fort, which was laid by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj himself. This fort is an excellent example of historical tourism. Sindhudurg is a water fort which is a major place of religious and cultural tourism. During the period of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the European power and the contemporary Indian power and the conflict between them and on this fort, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj idol, Ganapati Mandir, Maruti Mandir, Ram Janam, Ashtami, Navratri, Shiva Jayanti festival, Tripurari Poornima, Dipotsav are all celebrated at the Sun Fort.¹¹

The importance of tourism is increasing day by day. As tourism is an employment oriented industry, skilled and unskilled people get employment. As tourism falls into the service industry, it provides employment opportunities to local people. Hotels, restaurants, shopkeepers, guides, transport etc. Employment opportunities are available to people in large numbers.¹²

Which are the places to stay near the forts. A major change in their economic status is due to tourism. From the constant traffic, from transportation to the sale of various goods, the sale of food, the sale of local goods, and the amenities provided to tourists, financial transactions are taking place somewhere. Tourism in Sindhudurg district is also seen to have an impact on social life. Through tourism it helps to raise the standard of living and social level of the locals by creating employment. Economic dynamism helps increase social dynamism. Due to economic empowerment through tourists, there is a great increase in the

social level. However, along with this, there are also examples of some amateur tourists breaking the social peace, and from this there is also a conflict between the locals and the tourists. This has affected the social life.¹³

Tourism is an integral part of human life. All parts, all elements of human culture are bound to this area. People from different levels, different ideologies, languages and cultures are meeting each other. There is an exchange of cultural ideas, living standards and customs. Sindhudurga's natural, historic site has created a rich tradition of cultural exchange. Not only India but also millions of tourists from abroad visit Sindhudurga. Therefore, it has a correlation with moral thinking, living conditions, language. Food, entertainment, various handicrafts provide cultural exchange and along with this cultural heritage is preserved and preserved.

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