



History

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OF PANHALA
FORT (1954 TO 2000)**

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ABSTRACT:

This paper deals with the concept of Tourism development of Forts in Maharashtra. Especially this paper deals with the tourism development of Pahanala Fort and how it had impact on the overall all development of Surrounding of the Fort. This paper also gave focused on the relation of tourism development and impact on the livelihood of people rescinding near by the Panhala Fort. Panhala is one of the advanced and important fort of Kolhapur districts. This place has got historical tradition. In Panhala many places, memorials, palace, Inscriptions gives revival of its historical and traditional importance. This fort also contributes in the society in different ways.

Key Words - Tourism development

INTRODUCTION:

Tourism is an economical profession of mankind which is growing rapidly with accommodation facilities modernism. It has become a comprehensive profession in the 21st century. It is supported by developed and developing countries for its economic importance. "Tourism means, a short- timed migration of the people from their area of residence to some distant places. It happens for research, profession, entertainment and for pleasure." ¹

Panhala is one of the advanced and important fort of Kolhapur districts. This place has got historical tradition. In Panhala many places, memorials, palace, Inscriptions gives revival of its historical and traditional importance. Panhala is religiously, socially and culturally developed at the time of various rulers like Shilaharas, the Bahamanies, the Adilshahas, the Mughal and the Marathas. It was famous as a separate dynasty of the chat. at the time of Maratha power. Panhala become a tourist places and famous hill station from

Maharashtra after independence period. Its scope is widening day by day. So today Panhala fort is one of the most important historical, cultural, tourist places and hill station in Western Maharashtra of the Kolhapur districts.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OF PANHALA:

To development of Panhala Government established ‘Panhala Giristhan’ Nagarpalika (Corporation) on 1st January 1954.² Due to the very few population/ low population the income source of Corporation becomes low. That’s why Nagarparishad (Corporation) facilitated the tourists with various accommodations with the help of Government . To support tourism following things are mainly included facilities.

Panhala hill station committee had developed Paradise hotel before independence is now converted into rest house by corporation. By the means of this hotel the housing and loading facilities were provided with food facilities also In addition to that “cafeteria” restaurant is launched near corporation. These hotels and restaurants which were established by corporation were handed over to steward contract basis. The rates of food items were decided and declared by corporation to facilitate to tourists in cheap rates. ³

6th Assembly of Maharashtra state tourism Board held on fort Panhala on 1965. In views to facilitate various information to tourists , established Tourism Guidance centre in this Assembly .⁴ Hotels which owned by corporation were handed over to this centre tourist places tourists connected with each other by the Guide and having these ideas about most importance of it they appointed Tourist Guide in 1971.⁵ He plays important role in giving various information about historical folktales and the accommodations facilities to tourist about the place.⁶ Various places facilities along with history of Panhala were give to tourist by him. As the importance of Panhala as a tourist place is increasing caused to increase the number of professional guides corporation base guided them with providing training and instructions and Identity cards were also provided in 1993.⁷ A short note on Panhala is published by the corporation for guiding purpose to tourist.⁸ By providing these kinds of accommodation facilities this centre tries to encourage / develop the tourism further.

Along with Panhala corporation kolhapur zilla parished and forest department developed various gardens for entertainment rest purpose 0.84 hectors of land to converted into garden which is a near to Panhala corporation. ⁹ In 1975-76 they established India’s first prime ministers

statue and renamed this garden as Nehru garden/Nehru udhyan. ¹⁰ Various types of amusements material are present in this garden. 'Kamala Nehru Art Gallery' is established which gives photographic detailed information about Pandit Nehru, Madan Mohan Lohiya played vital role in this regards to collect these materials from Delhi. After words now these Gallery is converted into hotel. ¹¹ In 1959 under the guidelines of Rodreex a forest officer created a Tabak Udhyan near Wagh Darwaza. The shape of this garden is look like Tabak of the kind of plate. It look like plate in shape and hence it is called Tabak Udhyan. ¹² Various varieties of medicinal and other kinds of plants, trees are present there on the entrance of the gardens the super structural model of the Panhala fort is made. Forest department developed a snake garden there. The various types of poisonous and non poisonous snakes were kept in this exhibition but afterwards this snake museum is declared used to closed. ¹³ Kolhapur Zilla Parishad look after the 'Gopal Tirtha Garden' which is near to Teen Darwaza. In this garden the cultivations of Tea, Coffe, Nuts, Cardamom and Cummin seed is made in state period. Afterwards this place is converted into garden. ¹⁴

Garden was developed on Panhala fort which supports or helps to tourist for rest and entertainment/ amusement purpose. Various varieties of trees, plants, animals, birds and human made articles, things attracts tourist caused to in erase tourism of Panhala corporation has introduced boating facilities in Shivtirtha tank in 1993. It becomes also means of economic source to corporation. But in future time non existence water supply of tank to closed this boating club ¹⁵ Shiva Kashid and Bajiprabhu Deshpande are to eminent personalities which created there special identities in the history of Panhala. They fought with highly dare for safety of Chh. Shivaji maharaj to besiege of Siddhi Johur. In the 22 May 1977 the statue of Vir ratnna Bajiprabhu Deshpande smarak samitti was established Mumbai and Panhala corporation on Panhala fort. ¹⁶ In 1996 Vir Shiva Kashid Samitti established his statue near Char Darwaja. ¹⁷ In this manner tribute given to both of them and their two Samraks increased beauty of Panhala. Which revivals history of their bravery. Large number of civilians used to visit this place due to its important of taluka place. Also tourists used to visit this place all over the year and hence it is always crowed. For the convenience of visitors Panhala Corporation built new toilets and lavatories in between the year 1954 to 2000. In this 48 for Gents and 39 for Ladies, total 87 in number. ¹⁸ In this way Corporation tried to take care of the tourists needs.

INCOMING TOURISTS AND REVENUE:

Panhala is considered as one of the important hill station, as well as historical, traditional important place in western Maharashtra of the

Kolhapur District. Tourist use to visit this place all over the year. Tourism Panhala is one of the economic sources for Corporation Tax is taken by each tourist and afterwards entry is given to them.

Table 1: shows details of No. of tourist and total tourist tax from the year 1985-2010

Year	No. of tourist	Income from tourist tax in Rs.
1985-1986	2,01,435	1,67,409
1990-1991	2,36,496	1,90,023
1995-1996	3,60,132	4,84,503
1999-2000	4,56,229	6,14,460
2000-2006	12,45,221	19,22,890
2009-2010	15,01,501	23,99,900

Source: Panhala Giristhan Nagar Parishad, Panhala Annual Reports from 1985 to 2010

Above table gives details information about tourist income caused due to tourism etc. from the year 1985 to 2010. 2,01,435 tourist visited Panhala in between the year 1985 to 2010. It makes profit of Rs. 1,67,409/- to the Corporation. In 1990-1991 the number of tourists visited Panhala was 2,36,496 that means the number of visitors increased as compared with last five years. 2,56,299 tourist were visited Panhala in 1999-2000 and it created the income of Rs. 6,14,460/- to Corporation. In the year 2009-2010 the number of visitors were 15,01,501 and its income from that was Rs. 23,99,900/-. It means the number of visitors Panhala increased in 2009-2010 as compare with 1999-2000.

Tourist's tax caused to economical profit to Corporation. The tourist tax is low as compared with the number of visitors in the year 1985-1986. And in the year 1995-96 the tourist tax increased as comparison with their number. There is made increased in each person a tax is the reason behind it. From above the table it becomes quite clear that there increased in number of tourist from 1985 to 2010 it become cleared that Panhala plays vital role in Kolhapur Tourism.

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