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## PROBLEMS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN RAIGAD DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Tourism industry is considered as a significant factor in the economy of many nations. Tourism is very fastest and growing industry in the world. It generates the employment opportunity to the local people and supported to the local economy. Tourism is an important sector of the economy and contributes significantly in the country's GDP as well as foreign exchange earnings. Seven mantras are the vital role in the development of tourism industry. Maharashtra is a land of rich culture, tradition and festivals and is a major trade and tourists destination of India, attracting thousands of tourists from across the world every year. As a result Maharashtra is the first state to declare 'Tourism District' for the tourism development. Raigad district is one the important among the 36 district of Maharashtra. Raigad district is located to the western coast of Maharashtra and it is close to Mumbai. The main attraction of Raigad district is Raigad Fort which is the capital of Chh. Shivaji Maharaj and also beautiful and wonderful beaches, waterfalls, natural scenery, caves, hill station, monuments, world heritage sites, sanctuary, etc. There are 161 tourist places are distributed in 15 tehsils of district. Hence it is known as great reveals of treasury of tourism. During the tourism season, week end, national holiday, Christmas vacation, winter vacation or year ending, tremendous tourist visit at coastal tehsils of the district. Therefore, lots of pressures on natural resources, Therefore tourist have face many socio, economic and environmental problems at different places in the district. Hence this paper focuses on problems of tourism industry in Raigad district.

**Key words:** Tourism, Development, Treasury, Tourism District, Natural Resources.

**INTRODUCTION:**

World tourism is considered as a significant factor in the economy of many nations. Today tourism related infrastructure in various parts of the country has improved the quality of life of the local people and helped to promote local arts and crafts. Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Due to growing economic significance of tourism, there is a spectacular increase in tourism worldwide and increase in earning of the local people. It helps to increase job opportunities related to tourism sector. In Sanskrit literature, the three famous words "Aththi Devo Bhava" means „the guest is truly god□ are a dictum of hospitality in India.

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**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To examine the infrastructural facilities at different tourist places.
2. To explore the major problems of tourism industry in the study area
3. To suggest a remedial measure for the development of tourism industry in the study.

**DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Raigad district is one of the coastal districts of Maharashtra. There are many small ports on the seashore. JNPT is one of the famous international port located near Uran town.

2. Rasayani, Taloja, Nagothane are the main industrial centers developed in Raigad district.
3. ThalVayshet is famous for fertilizer plants.
4. The 125 years old famous Magnetic Observatory is located at Alibag.
5. Pen town is famous for manufacturing of Ganesh idols in Maharashtra.
6. Raigad fort, the capital of Chh. Shivaji Maharaj's Kingdom is located in Mahad tehsil.
7. Out of Eight Ashtavinayaka temples two are in the district, ShriBallaeshwar and ShriVaradvinayaka temples are located at Pali (Sudhagad) and Madh (Khopoli) respectively.
8. World heritage site, Elephanta caves are the main attractions of the district located in Uran tehsil. Hundreds of domestic as well as foreign tourists visit every year.
9. Matheran, the eye catching hill station, also Try Train (Matheran Chi Rani) are the tourist attraction of the district located in Karjat tehsil.
10. ONGC, BPCL, GPTS are the important plants located near Uran town.
11. Raigad district is very close to Mumbai.
12. Raigad district has great reveals of treasury of tourism.
13. Raigad district has a potential for tourism development.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

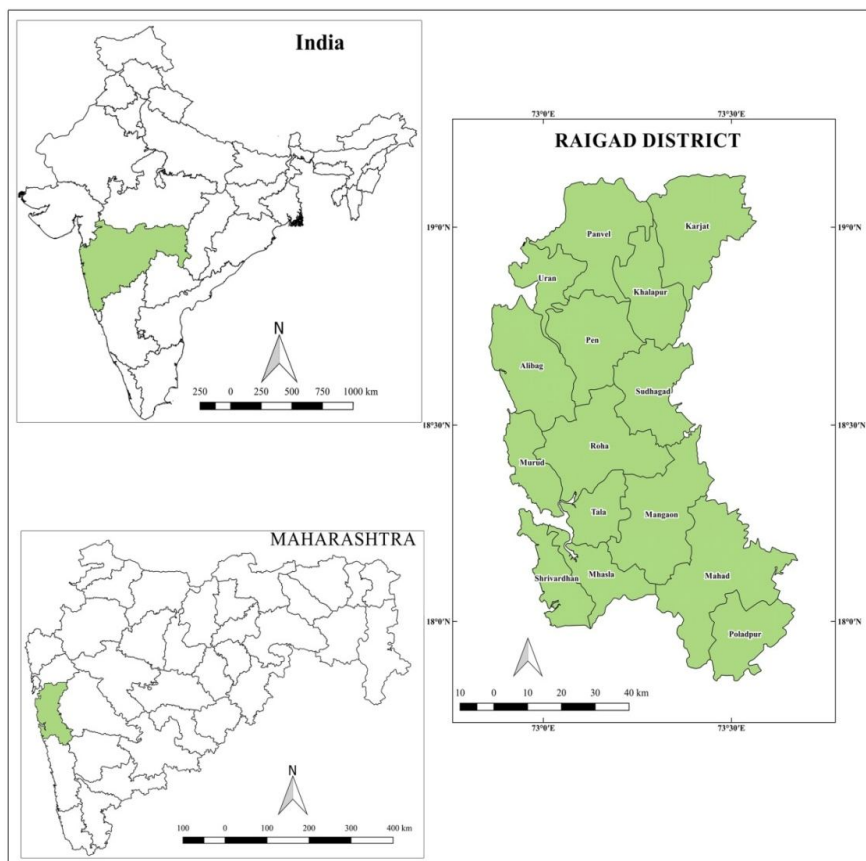
The present paper is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through questionnaire, field visit and observation. Secondary data was collected through census handbook, district gazetteer, published and unpublished books, articles, tourism magazines, newspapers etc.

#### **STUDY REGION:**

Raigad district is a coastal district situated on the western coast of Maharashtra, and renamed after Raigad, the fort and former capital of the Maratha Emperor Shivaji Maharaj. Raigad district spreads between 17° 51' N to 19° 40' N latitude and 72° 51' E to 73° 40' E longitude. The district had a population of 2,634,200 persons as per the 2011 census, out of which 24.2 percent

is urban and 75.8 percent rural population. The total area of the district is 7152 sq.km and it occupied 2.32 percent area of the total area of the Maharashtra State. The district head quarter is located at Alibag. The district has a long indented coastline with 240 km, having a number of creeks and inlets suggesting submergence. It is divided into 15 tehsils namely Uran, Parnel, Karjat, Khalapur, Pen, Alibag, Murud, Roha, Tala, Sudhagad, Mangaon, Shrivardhan, Mhasla, Mahad and Poladpur. Geographically Raigad district has different types of relief features, climatic conditions and socio-economic status. The location of Raigad district is shown in map 1.

### LOCATION OF RAIGAD DISTRICT:



### TOURIST DESTINATIONS:

Raigad district has great treasury of tourism. The total 161 tourist's places are distributed all over the 15 tehsils of the district. Each and every tehsils has lot of tourism potential. Out of these a few tourist places are famous like Karnala Bird sanctuary, Pen, Alibag, Kashid beach, Murud-Janjita,

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Harihareshwar, Shrivardhan, Mahad, Raigad fort, Matheran, Saswane, Choul, Pali, Madh, Saguna Bag, Elephanta Caves, Unhere hot water spring, etc.

#### TEHSIL WISE DISTRIBUTION OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Sr. No	Tehsil	Selected Tourist Places	No of Tourist Places	Total No of Selected Tourist Places
1	Uran	Elephanta Caves	10	01
2	Alibag	Alibag, Varsoli beach	31	02
3	Mangaon	Vadghar	09	01
4	Mahad	Raigad Fort	17	01
5	Poladpur	Umrath	08	01
6	Pen	Pen	11	01
7	Tala	Kude Caves	02	01
8	Mhasla	---	01	--
9	Panvel	Karnala Bird Sanctuary	13	01
10	Shrivardhan	Harihareshwar, Shriwardhan	09	02
11	Shudhagad	Pali	10	01
12	Murud	Janjira Fort, Kashid beach	15	01
13	Karjat	Matheran	11	01
14	Roha	---	09	--
15	Khalapur	Madh	05	01
Total			161	15

Source: Compiled by author

Above table reveals that only 15 tourism places are famous and tourists are always prefer these tourist places. During the tourism season, week end, national holiday, Christmas vacation, winter vacation or year ending, tourist prefer to visit closest tourist places near by their residents. Therefore lots of tourists visit at coastal villages of tehsils like Alibag, Murud, Saswane, Awas, Akshi, Nanadgaon, Revdanda, Kashid, Harihareshwar, Shriwardhan, Pali, Karnala bird sanctuary, Janjira fort, Raigad fort, etc.

**INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEMS:**

Tourism industry is mainly based on 4 As' i. e. Accommodation, Attraction, Accessibility and Ancillary Services. Insufficient numbers of infrastructural facilities, tourists are not satisfied with tourist destinations. They have faced many infrastructural problems. Some of the problems are as below:

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Accommodation is one of the important factors of tourism development. It consists of lodging and boarding, cottages, resorts, hotels, bed and breakfast, Bhakta Niwas etc. Most of these facilities are available in town sites. Some of the tourist destinations having no accommodation facilities like Elephanta caves, Raigad fort and Kude caves. Therefore tourists are not satisfied with these destinations.

**PARKING:**

Parking is a prime facility for the tourists. A few destinations such as type of facilities are available. Shri Ballaleshwar Ganpati, Pali is one of them. No parking fees facility is available with hundreds of light vehicles are easily parked. Otherwise there is no any provision near by the tourist's places. Some destinations provide such facilities like Alibag, Madh, and Pali. Most of the tourists bring their own car for shortest distance. But lack of parking, traffic congestion problems were found. This is the most serious problem in all destinations in the district. There is no open space for parking facilities at Raigad fort, Kude caves, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Murud-Janjira etc.

**TOILET BLOCKS AND BATHROOM:**

This is the most important facility required for all tourists. Alibag and Kashid beach two tourist places have been available such facilities. But local Municipal Authority has not provided such facilities to the tourists. Water tap is there, but no water. Also there is no proper maintenance of toilet blocks and bathrooms.

**MEDICAL:**

This is also important facility has required for the development of tourism destinations especially in beaches site. Raigad fort, Elephanta Caves, Kude Caves, Kashid beach, Harihareshwar, Shrivardhan, Diveagar, etc. has not available the Primary Health Centre at not found such facilities tourists are not prefer to that places.

**SAFETY:**

Western coast of Raigad district is very sensitive. There are 21 beaches located in Raigad district; Alibag, Saswane, Kihim, Varsoli, Kashid, Murud, Harihareshwar, Shrivardhan and Diveagar are the famous beaches. Some beaches are good for bathing or swimming like Uran, Alibag, Varsoli, Kashid, Shrivardhan and Diveagar. But these beaches are not safety because lack of insufficient police force, no security guard, no speed boats, no ambulance, no primary health center, no notification boards, etc. Any incidents may occur any times; hence all beaches are waiting all these facilities.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Raigad district is very close to Mumbai. All tourists' destinations are connected to each other by roads. All modes of transportation are available in the district like road, railway, waterway and proposed airways. N.H no 44, N.H. no. 66 and Yeashwantrao Chavan Express Highway is passing through this district. But sometimes outside the highway, it is very narrow roads, internal all roads were damaged. There is no proper maintenance, to develop jetties and increase the numbers of Caterman service.

**DRINKING WATER:**

Water is most precious natural resources; it is basic requirement of people. Only Pali's shri Ballaleshwar Ganpati and Mahad's Shri Varadvinayak Ganpati have provided drinking water. Most of the tourism destination has no water facilities. Therefore maximum tourist brings their water bottle; after the use of water; they throw such bottle, therefore plastic garbage was increased. So, it should be strengthen the potable water facility at respective tourism destination.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

1. It is observed that the conditions of state highway, district roads and village roads are narrow and very rough. Therefore it is suggested that PWD, and local leaders take lead and it should be repaired and maintained properly in order to increase the number of tourists.
2. Central railway and Konkan express trains are running in this district. but very few trains take halt at one or two stations. Therefore, it is suggested to railway department that during tourism season express trains should halt at more stations. It is beneficial to the outsider tourists.
3. Long route buses of MSRTC ply on NH-66 from Mumbai to South Konkan, but not single bus takes stops at Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagothane, etc. Therefore, Forest Department, Thane should take lead and convince MSRTC to provide halt at Karnala sanctuary which will ultimately increase the number of tourist.
4. Beaches are prime attraction of tourists. In case of Kashid beach, Diveagar, Harihareshwar beach, there is lack of medical facilities, speed boat, security, ambulance, parking facilities and beaches are not developed. Therefore it should develop all facilities at these beaches.
5. As Raigad fort is concerned, there are only two small hotels at foot hill, there is no electricity on path, condition of safety guard and stairs is poor and parking facilities are inadequate. So, these facilities should be improved and strengthened.
6. It is necessary to increase the security force at tourist destination. Tourists must feel secure and enjoy the destination.
7. It is necessary to develop fresh water bath facility at Pirwadi, Diveagar, Harihareshwar, Murud, Shrivardhan, Kashid, Akshi, Nagaon, Varsoli beaches.
8. Accommodation (Hotels, resorts, cottages) facilities should be developed at Pali, Madh, Varsoli, Kihim, Akshi, Kashid, Mahad, Raigad Fort, Shrivardhan, Harihareshwar and Gharapuri Island.
9. Display danger zones for bathing



10. Open space should be reserved for Parking facilities under start pay and park scheme.
11. Raigad district has great tourism potential for the development of tourism, but efforts are very less. Therefore, it is suggested that, MTDC, KTDC, ASI and local people should to take the initiative in this regards.

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