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## A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF MAJOR POTENTIAL TOURIST PLACES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT, (MS), INDIA

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**Abstract:-**The potential tourist places in Kolhapur district are summarized with the view of development of tourism industry in future. Although a few selected tourist places in the Kolhapur district have always been on the tourist map of the district, yet all the tourist-places are not exposed to the people. The researcher has tried to explore the whole district as a tourist destination. Religious, historical, natural, cultural, adventure sport, fair and festivals, etc. are the important potential places in the study region. The present research paper has been made to highlight the potential tourist places in the study region.

The potential for the tourism development also depends on how the resources are developed and how they are sold. It also depends on the variety and richness of tourist attractions in addition to factors like climate, season, accessibility, attitude of local people and planning. All these things create the base for tourism.

**Keywords:** Tourism potential, attractions, infrastructural facilities.

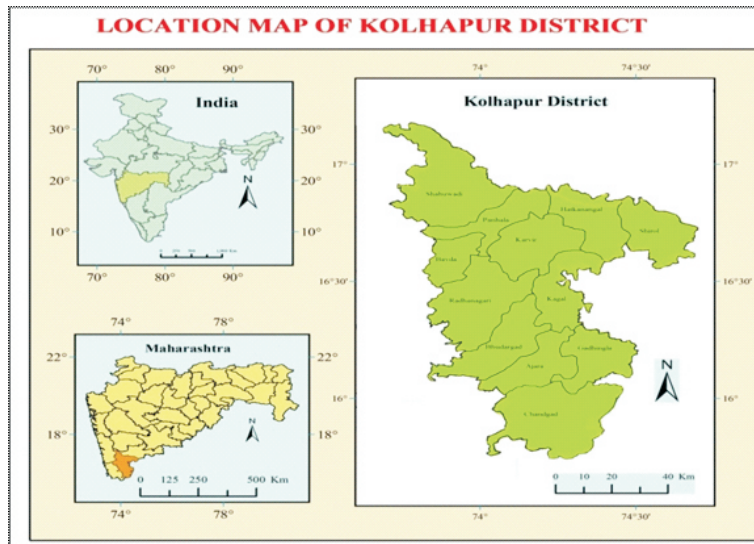
### INTRODUCTION

Kolhapur district is rich in natural resources but the richness of these places is not yet properly explored. Such places need basic infrastructure with proper marketing and planning. Kolhapur district has a lot of tourism potential. The development of tourist places as a destination enhances its rich legacy, tradition and culture. Richness of the natural resources also encourages development of tourism. Religious, historical, natural, cultural places, wildlife sanctuary etc. are the tourist places, where tourists want to spend their spare time or wish to visit such places to refresh the mind and escape from stress and tensions of regular life.

In the present study various places of the Kolhapur district are studied as potential places for the development of tourism.

### STUDY REGION:

Geographically Kolhapur district is situated on the south-west part of Maharashtra State. It lies between 15°43' to 17°17' North latitude and 73°40' to 74°42' East longitude. It spreads across the Deccan Plateau in the rain shadow region of the Sahyadri mountain ranges. It is bounded by Sangli district to the north, Belgaum district to the east and south, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg district to the west. To the west, of it are the Sahyadri ranges and the River Warna is to the north which forms the natural boundaries of the district to west and north respectively. The total Geographical area of the district is 7746 sq. kms which is about 2.5 percent of the total area of the state. The average height of the district is 545.6 meters from the mean sea level.



**OBJECTIVES:**

The main objectives are as follows

1. To study profile of the Kolhapur district.
2. To find out potential tourist attractions and highlight this places.
3. To study facilities available at potential tourist places

Database and methodology:

Following methodology was used to complete this paper

1. Designed the questionnaire to collect primary data from tourist and visit the place to see factual situation.
2. The information regarding to the historical and cultural facts has been collected from the Secondary data i.e. Reference books, booklets, newspapers, magazines, internet and district censes hand book etc.

**MAJOR POTENTIAL TOURIST PLACES IN THE DISTRICT:**

In the present study various places of the Kolhapur district are studied as potential places for the development of tourism. Out of these, some sample places have been selected by the researcher as potential tourist places in the district. These are the follows.

**Table: 1 Classification of the Potential Tourist Places**

Sr. No.	Type of tourist places	Name of the potential tourist places
1	Religious	Alte, Admapur, Pattankodoli, TerwadHatkanangale, PrayagChikali.
2	Historical	PanchagangaGhat, Gagangad, Samangad, MasaiPathar, Pavankhind, Pavangad.
3	Natural	Barki waterfall, Rautwadi Waterfall, Ramtirth waterfall.
4	Cultural	Hupari, Kapasi, Ichalkaranji, Warnanagar and Jaysingpur, Jayaprabha Studio.

(Source: Compiled by the Researcher)

**HATKANANGALE TEHSIL**

Alte: The village Alte lies in the Warna basin of Hatkanangaletahsil. It is about 3 kms to the north of

Hatkanangaletahsil headquarter, 35 kms in the west of Sangli and 25 kms in the north east of Kolhapur. It is on the intersection of 16°76' N Latitude and 74°39' E longitude. The height of Alte is about 591 meters above the MSL. It has occupied 2246.25 hectors of land.

Once upon a time, the artisans used to prepare red colour from the Alta at this village, therefore the name of Alte came in to existence. It is a 900-year old village. There are temples of Ramling, Dhuloba, Alamprabhu, RamzanDarga, Birudev, Renuka Devi and Sidoba. The annual fairs are held in different months.



**Photo Plate No. 1- Ramling Temple Alte**

#### **BHUDARGAD TEHSIL**

**Admapur:** It is situated about 42 kms in the south of Kolhapur. It is also on Nipani -Radhanagari MSH No-116 and 12 kms in the north east of Gargoti in Bhudargadtahsil. Tourist can reach from Kolhapur to MudholTita and then from MudholTita to Admapur. It is in the intersection of 16°40' N latitude and 74°15' E longitude. The height of Admapur is about 563 meters above the mean sea level. Admapur is a one of the religious places of Saint Balumama in Kolhapur district.

A number of devotees have faith in Saint Balumama and they worship him. Every Sunday and Amavasha most of the devotees visit there. There are major fairs like Bhandhara fair, Shraavanvadyachaturthi, BhadrpadAmavasha, AshwinShudhaDwadashi and AshwinVadyaDwadashi etc.

#### **PANHALA TEHSIL**

**MasaiPathar:** It is located about 8 kms away in the west of Panhala. There are several table lands one after another consisting area of 913 acres. The width of plateau is 300 to 800 feet, and about 500 to 600 feet deep valley is nearby plateau. It is called 'Masai' in name of the goddess Masai. Masai temple is 32 feet long and 16 feet broad. Every year the annual fair is held at the time of Vijayadashami. After escaping from Siddhi Jouhar's siege, ShivajiMaharaj prayed her and went to Vishalgad.

There are ancient caves in the north of the Masai temple, which is known as Pandavleni. There is a natural water source named as 'Pandavdara'. The enthusiast tourists prefer to walk up to Vishalgad by this route. There are two big and three small caves with an underground root. Now a day a number of enthusiast tourists, mountaineers and other tourists are trekking from MasaiPathar to Vishalgad.

#### **SHAHUWADI TEHSIL**

**Barki Waterfall:** It is also an important potential tourist place. It is situated in Shahuwaditehsil. It is located 45 kms towards the west from the District headquarters of Kolhapur. Barki waterfall is a seasonal attraction for the tourists in rainy season. Tourists can also enjoy backwater reservoir near the waterfall. It is a beautiful water fall, therefore most of the tourists visit in rainy season. Besides, this village was established with the concept of self-dependence by the villagers. It is the specimen of the natural and cruise tourism.



**Photo Plate No. 2 Barki Waterfall**

### **CHANDGAD TEHSIL**

**Pargad:** It is located in Chandgadtehsil and 165 kms away from Kolhapur. The natural landscape of the fort is important for the tourists. There more than 73% area is under the natural vegetation. The different species of the plants are Khair, Shisam, Ain, Nim, Mango, Jambhul, Apta, Dhamahn, Anjan, Hirda, Kindal etc.

The tourists can see the deep valley from the fort. And from the Middle West of the fort they can see sunsets as well as beautiful land scape of Sahyadri. Therefore it is an important place for the tourists

### **SHIROL TEHSIL**

**Jaysingpur:** It is located on the Sangli- Kolhapur road and Miraj - Kolhapur railway line. It is administered by municipal council. It is established as a part of Udgaon revenue village by Rajashree Shrimant Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in 1916 and has been named as Jaysingpur, in the memory of Late ShriJaysingraoGhatage. Jaysingpur is a one of the planned cities in Maharashtra. It is developed as a commercial center. It is famous for the tobacco market which is one of the biggest in Maharashtra. There are interesting places like God Siddheshwar temple, Digambar Jain temple, ShriSiddhvinayak temple and ShahuUdyan. A number of commercial, educational and other tourists visit Jaysingpur.

### **KARVEER TEHSIL**

**Jayaprabha Studio:**Jayaprabha Studio is also one of the potential heritage sites in Kolhapur. It has played a major role in the development of Marathi cinema and is considered as 'Karmbhumi' of legendary filmmaker late BhaljiPendharkar. The studio was set up by erstwhile Kolhapur princely state ruler Chh. RajaramMaharaj in 1934 in the name of Kolhapur Cine tone, which was purchased in 1944 by Pendharkar. However, due to some problems, he handed it to melody queen LataMangeshkar, who is its owner since then. The studio has total 11 acres of land.

### **FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT POTENTIAL TOURIST PLACES**

Kolhapur district has mighty potential for tourism. It is summarized with the view of development of tourism industry in future. The present study has been made to highlight the present status of potential tourist places and identifying basic infrastructure facilities needed by the tourists. For that the transportation, communication, accommodation, food, drinking water, electricity, medical facilities, bank and police station etc. are considered as the basic infrastructure at the tourist places. Besides, distance, direction and latitude and longitude of the place are also considered in this chart. The information of available facilities at potential tourist places in Kolhapur district is given in following table.

Table: 2. Infrastructural Facilities of potential tourist places in Kolhapur district.

INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES OF POTENTIAL TOURIST PLACES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT																	
Sr. No.	Type of Potential Tourist Place	Name of Potential Tourist Place	Distance from Kolhapur	Direction	Latitude & Longitude	Accommodation	Drinking Water	Restaurant /Hotel	Road	Vehicle Facility	Electricity	Health facility	Safety	Shopping facility	Bank/ cooperative bank	Map/ Information Book	
1	Religious	Ashwini-Randev	25	NE	16°59'N 74°30'E	No	Yes	No	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	
		Vishalgaon	88	NW	16°58'N 73°30'E	Yes	No	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Ashwari	42	S	16°58'N 74°30'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	
		Balasaingale	23	E	16°54'N 74°40'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	
2	Historical and Cultural	Pandharpur	0	NE	16°42'N 74°36'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
		Gangavai	62	SW	16°59'N 73°30'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Co/through Road	SUP/Private	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	
		Pargal	35	SW	15°59'N 74°30'E	No	No	No	Tar Road	Private	No	No	No	No	No	No	
		Sansavai	75	S	16°57'N 74°30'E	Yes	Yes	No	Tar Road	Private	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	
		Bhadargal	57	S	16°55'N 74°30'E	No	No	No	Tar Road	Private	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	
		Bhoreni Mandar	0	SW	16°42'N 74°36'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Kargachi	38	S	16°59'N 74°30'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Dhargai	16	SE	16°56'N 74°30'E	No	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
		Masai Palkar	22	NW	16°58'N 74°30'E	No	No	No	Co/through Road	Private	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
		Jainnagar	48	E	16°58'N 74°30'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3	Natural	Bhakti Watekall	45	W	16°59'N 73°30'E	No	Yes	No	Through Road	Private	No	No	No	No	No	No	
		Bhakti Lake	0	NE	16°42'N 74°36'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tar Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Bhakti Nagar	40	SW	16°58'N 73°30'E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Co/through Road	SUP/Private	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	

Source: Compiled by the Researcher

**CONCLUDING REMARK:**

Kolhapur district is richly endowed with ancient temples and religious festivals. The temple, forts, sanctuaries, waterfalls, monuments are the important places. It gives inspiration to the people and helps development of tourism potential. Many forts and sanctuaries are situated in the remote area and it is not easy to reach there. The success of tourism depends on basic infrastructure facilities. The basic infrastructural facilities are not well developed in rural area, hence there is need to develop the infrastructure facilities for the development of tourists destinations.

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