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CHAPTER V

SPATIAL PLANNING FOR JEJURI AND AROUND AS A TOURIST REGION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

A region, eventhough, politically contiguous unit, may not be geographically heterogeneous with diverse tourism resources. The scale of planning that determines the size of regional unit is basically important. The politically defined and delimited regions are not likely to serve the purpose for simple reason that many a times they miss the geographical entity.\(^3\)

The tourist attractions take many forms seemingly limited by the imagination. The natural beauty, as represented by high mountains, deep valleys and dense vegetal cover etc. are tourist attractions over which man has relatively little control. Man-made attractions such as religious places, historic ruins as forts in sahyadri etc. are also the tourist attractions. These certain locations, sites or regions are necessary to evaluate and put them together in the form of tourist regions consisting of variety of attractions which accelerate tourism development. Especially, the geographers role is to examine and explain existing pattern of tourism development in terms of range of locational attributes.

Tourism is an industry which occurs at destination areas with different natural and man-made attractions and attracts tourist for variety of activities. These tourists become major economic consideration of the destination as money spent by them become basic or earned income for the residents. It leads to make the destination more appealing and diversified in the competitive market, requires to create support facilities and created attractions which enhance the enjoyable and comfortable stay at the destination. The support facilities and created attractions will supplement and complement the natural resources of the destination. The Jejuri and tourist destinations around Jejuri have natural as well as man made attractions but deeply need support facilities and created attractions.

As tourism is concerned with spatial conditions, the geographical thinking of various activities such as finding new tourist places to understand changes in the environment, balance of environment, to avoid stress on a particular destination, to prepare maps to understand quality of local environment of the destination, the study of impacts such as physical, socio-cultural,
environmental are more useful and may help to make tourist regions. Here, an attempt has been made to examine Jejuri a religious destination and the destinations around Jejuri as tourist attractions to form ‘tourist region’ to facilitate tourism activity.

5.2 THE CONCEPT OF REGION

The word region is derived from the latin word “regio”, means different segments of earth’s surface. On the basis of elements, factor of space, the region is a ‘geographic’ or ‘areal unit’ with certain limits and bonds. The unit may consist of a few villages to a number of countries. Region, being an areal unit, occupies an important position in geographic research and conceived by geographer from single feature region to compaque. Vidal-de-la-blache, the renounced geographer defined as follows, “a region is where many dissimilar elements and human being are brought together and ultimately they have adopted to the common existence”.

The definition of the region given by Vidal-de-la-blache can be implemented for the planning of a tourist region. The planning means simply to determine the future actions for the betterment of human beings of their region. It should be viewed as essentially a means to strengthen the national economy. It is a technique to evaluate the potentials of sub national areas and to develop them to the best advantage of the nation as a whole. It may spread equal economic development of a region and avoid the imbalances within the region.

The distribution of tourism resources such as water, weather conditions, forests, mountains and any other type of scenic resources is not in our hand. But balanced utilization of these resources, for the benefits of the people can be done by doing appropriate planning. The region under study has also availability of such varied resources and can be utilized for the regional planning and development. The regional development assumes equitable income distribution, improvement of standard of living and optimum use of available resources in the region. But interaction between economic, socio-cultural, environmental and political aspects is inevitable. Tourism is also an important activity to foster the regional development.

5.2.1 The Planning for the region, generally signifies a proposed method of action or achieve a pre-determined goal or objective. In the planning process, a clear objective is necessary. To achieve
this objective, there must be a programme leading to the objective and measurement of progress of that programme is necessary. The planning helps to maximize output, income and employment and to ensure the balanced growth of different sectors. Basically, for the planning of tourism in a region, a detailed survey of the characteristics of the area being considered for the development and in particular, its tourist resources must be evaluated. The survey of that area is necessary for the studies of future customers. It is observed that, if an area possesses attractions and provides some hospitality for prospective tourists, tourism will probably develop. Care should be taken that the development of the area is to benefit the host area. This is so because the communities in rural areas look on tourism as a source of diversifying their economic base and employment source for their women and youth who cannot find work in traditional primary activities. It can be used as an agent of economic development in depressed peripheral regions. But for this, government has to create favourable climate for the development of region through regulations and take fiscal measures to make tourism sources. The govt. should invest large amount of public and private capital in tourism infrastructure and facilities to provide employment and raise living standard.  

5.2.2 Tourism has been traditionally seen as an important tool for regional development. It tends to develop on the periphery areas and thus stimulate economic activity in outlying regions or peripheral areas. Tourism is one activity which avoids central places.

The growth of tourism industry does not depend upon demand forces alone. For that, some degree of planning is necessary to co-ordinate and synchronize and the development of the different sectors such as private and public sectors. But there is a need to keep balance between them, considering limited resources base, to maximize positive impacts and to minimize its adverse effects. For that, goals and objectives of the tourism development can be defined before the stage of the planning process.  

The regional objectives should include for raising incomes and creating employment in rural areas, providing social infrastructure and conservation of the environment. More specific objectives may be defined amongst general, social and economic goals. It is defined to consider the tourism potential as well as the
economic, social and environmental objectives of development and relationships with other sectors of the economy. At the level of individual town or resort, greater attention will be given to actual physical layout and structure.

5.2.3 The spatial planning at the local level, concerns the physical organization of the sectors, namely, attractions, transport, accommodation, supporting facilities and infrastructure. The primary attractions which are natural, socio-cultural or man made, will commonly be a focus for planning as their location is often fixed and their features Vulnerable. The distinction between transport to and within the destination is critical at this level. The range of accommodation facilities, including residential housing must be kept in mind and appropriate densities and height limitation determined. Provision must be made for services such as shops and restaurants as well as other functions and forms of land use. Particularly where tourism is but one of the several activities. There will not be a compromise on the site either physically or visually, by the injudicious location of buildings or other facilities. The design of the resort should be such that as many as possible, have ready access to the attractions and facilities. At the same time, it must be recognized that the different forms of accommodation should be able to support land prices or rents.

The spatial planning for the regional level, generally, will be made by considering national plans. But in many cases initiative may come from the region. The choice of the localities within the region is the first concern for the development. The degree of local participation and regional stimulus will be increased as existing settlements are incorporated into development plan. Some form of structural hierarchy will usually be necessary. In this, a major regional centre may serve as a gateway to the region. It may provide many of the higher order services and functions. The transport network, which plays the essential role of linking these various centres together, may also be hierarchical. The environmental considerations also become an important issue at the regional level where a range of spatial strategies may be implemented.8
5.3 GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS OF THE TOURIST REGION

The physiography of the region determines the landuse, human settlements, growth and distribution of population and locations of various tourist centers in the region. The relief features exercise a direct influence on landuse, cropping pattern and spatial distribution of tourist attractions in the region. The physiography of the tourist region is influenced by the sahayadri ranges. Eastern part of the sahyadri range is a part of Deccan plateau created before 70 million years due to fissure eruptions.

The region is part of Deccan plateau. The northern part of the region includes in Bhima Basin. Nira river forms southern border of the region. The Karha river flows west-east from almost middle of the southern part of the region. The general slope of the region is from west to east ranging from about 900 meters to 300 meters. The western part has deep valleys with rivers and eroded hill ranges while eastern part is covered with extended river beds and plains.

Broadly the region is divided into three parts.
1. Western hill ranges.
2. Eastern plateau region.
3. Northeast and extreme Eastern plain area.

5.3.1 WESTERN HILL RANGES

The Western hill ranges run from Rajgurunagar (Khed Tehsil) towards south, named as Shingi hill range, Tasubai hill range. Maval Dighi hill range. Mandavi hill range, Tamhini hill range, Sinhgad Katraj hill range. Dive hill range and towards extreme south Mandarddeo-Khambataki hill range. Mostly eastern part of these ranges come in the region.

1. SHINGI RANGE

Shingi hill range runs between Bhima and Bhamra rivers and height ranges between 600 to 900 meters from mean sea level. The hill range merges with the plateau land near the confluence of Bhima and Bhamra rivers.

2. TASUBAI HILL RANGE

Tasubai hill range runs between Bhamra and Indrayani rivers towards south-east from north west. Towards east, the range merges with confluence of Bhima and Indrayani river near village Vadu-Budruk. This range is known as Bhamchandra hill
(Bhandara hill) near Dehu village. It is said that Saint Tukaram had written most of the hymns (Abhang) on this range (Dongar). Presently, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), is developing various plans on the Bhamchandra hill under the State Govt. Teerthkshetra Development Plan. In the near future, this place will be a significant tourist destination.

3. DIGHI HILL RANGE

Dighi hill range, known as Wadgaon-Maval Dighi range in Maval tehsil runs, between Indrayani and Pawana rivers, parallel to Pune-Bombay highway, continues upto Talegaon and then onwards in interrupted form, goes towards south of Alandi. Towards east, near Dighi village, it is known as Dighi range and merges in the Mula-Mutha valley.

4. MANDAVI RANGE

Mandavi hill range runs between Pawana and Mula rivers. It runs towards south east on the west of Pimpari chinchvad and spreads upto Pune-Mumbai express highway and merges with the Mula valley. The height of the range varies between 600 to 900 meters from mean sea level and in some places more than that.

5. TAMHINI HILL RANGE

Tamhini hill range lies between Mula and Mutha rivers and runs from west to east in Mulashi tehsil and then enters into Haveli tehsil. The range consists of broken hillocks in and near Pune city, named as Chatushringi, Vetal Tekadi (hill). Range hills, Parvati, Gultekadi, Ramtekadi etc. and merges near Mula Mutha confluence.

6. SINHGAD-KATRAJ-DIVE HILL RANGE

The range comes from Velhe tehsil and enters into Haveli tehsil towards east, continues as Sinhgad-Katraj and Dive hill range. Though it appears as hill range towards west it actually is the northern range of Purandar (Saswad Pathar). This range goes towards east from the border of Daund and Baramati tehsil to Indapur tehsil and ends near Bavada village. The range has Bopdeo, Ramdara, Malhargad, Dhavaleshwar and Bhuleshwar temples.

7. PURANDAR HILL RANGE

Sinhagad-Katraj hills range has one more branch emerging near Katraj village in Haveli tehsil. From Katraj, it turns towards south and then eastwards to Jejuri, Valhe, Takale and up to
PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE JEJURI AND ARROUND

ALTITUDE ABOVE SEA
Level - Metres
1. Shigi Range
2. Tasubai Range
3. Dighi Range
4. Mandavi Range
5. Tamhini Hill Range
6. Sighgad-Katraj-Dive Hill Range
7. Purandar Hill Range
8. Mandardev Hill Range

300 - 450
450 - 650
650 - 900
More than 900

Map 5.1
Pandare village. The height of the hill ranges between 600 meters to 1000 meters and consists of Purandar fort, Balaji mandir (Ketkvale), Narayanpur, Kade Pathar and Jejuri Khandoba temple. From Jejuri onwards, the range is in broken form. Towards east of Valhe village, seven hillocks are located and referred to as seven pots of sins made by Valya Koli during his first half of life.

8. MANDARDEV HILL RANGE

The range is located towards south of the east flowing Nira river. It is referred as ‘Khambataki’ towards south of Shirval and then onwards known as ‘Shambhu Mahadeo’ hill range. Veer dam and Mhaskoba temple of Veer comes near this range as one branch reaches the Veer dam wall from Shambhu Mahadeo range.

5.3.2 EASTERN PLATEAU REGION

Plateau region of this area is divided into two parts by Mula-Mutha valley. One is northern plateau region from Rajgurunagar in Khed tehsil to Shirur and then Ghodnadi towards east and Bhima river towards south. The plateau area merges into plain and the height of this plateau region from sea level varies between 600 meters to 900 meters.

The southern plateau region is broad and consists of major portion of Purandar tehsil, western part of Baramati tehsil and southern part of Daund tehsil of Pune district. The Karha river flows near about at the centre of this plateau region. In addition, Chambal, the tributary of Karha river and other streams covered this plateau area. On this plateau, Koteshwara (Kodit), Sangmeshwar, Nageshwar, Sopankaka tomb, Changvateshwar, Siddheshwar, Pandveshwar, Javalarjun, Morgaon etc. Teerthkshetre (Pilgrimage centres) and temples are located. This plateau merges in to plain area near Western border of Indapur tehsil. The height of this plateau ranges between 600 meters to 1000 meters.

5.3.3 NORTH EAST AND EXTREME EASTERN PLAIN AREA

The plain area is considered towards north-east, the straight line distance, from Pune to Shirur. The region is mainly drained by Indrayani, Bhima, Mula and Mutha. The region is on the confluence of Mula-Mutha and Bhima rivers. The height of this plain ranges between 300 meters to 600 meters from mean sea level. The area has irrigation facilities which cause urbanization and industrialization. This area consists of the eastern part of
Haveli tehsil, southern part of Shirur tehsil and western part of Daund Tehsil.

Towards extreme east of the region, the area of eastern karha valley and the part of Baramati tehsil on Nira river bank is included. Urali Kanchan and the agro research centers in Malegaon, tourist centers, educational centers, sugar factories etc. are developed in this area.

5.3.4 CLIMATE

The climate of the region, mainly, falls under the great monsoon. It is associated with the rain shadow region of Sahyadri mountain. The temperature increases from west to east as well as rainfall decreases. The region has climatically, four seasons namely monsoon, post monsoon, cold season and hot season. The rainfall varies greatly from west to east. The western part of the region receives moderate rainfall, Pune (681 mms) and Alandi (600 mms). While eastern part receives low rainfall, Jejuri (478 mms) and Baramati (483 mms). Mid June to Mid September is a south west monsoon period. The region receives about 85 percent rainfall during the monsoon period. The temperature of the region varies between 27.0 °C to 30°C in western part. The range of temperature is 3°C. The average temperature is 28.5°C while temperature varies between 28°C to 32°C in eastern part of the region. The range of temperature is 4°C. The average temperature is 30°C. The average temperature of the region is 29.25°C. July is the month of maximum rainfall in western part while September receives more rainfall in eastern part.

The post monsoon season is mid-September to mid December in which monsoon rain withdraws but sometimes thunderstorms occur during this period. The temperature varies between 28.4°C to 32.5°C in western part of the region. The range of temperature is 4.1°C. The average temperature is 30.4°C. In the eastern part of the region temperature varies from 29.1°C to 34.3°C. The range of temperature is 5.2°C. The average temperature is 31.75°C. The average temperature of the region is 31.07°C.

The cold season is mid December to February. The temperature varies between 12°C to 31°C in the western part of the region. The range of temperature is 19°C. The average temperature is 21.5°C. In the eastern part of the region the temperature varies from 15°C to 36°C. The range of temperature
is 21°C. The average temperature is 25.5°C. The average temperature of the region is about 23.5°C.

The hot weather season is from March to May. In the Western part of the region temperature varies from 23°C to 38°C. The range of temperature is 15°C. The average temperature is 30.5°C. In the eastern part of the region temperature varies from 24°C to 39°C. The range of temperature is 15°C. The average temperature is 31.5°C. The average temperature of the region is 31°C. Many times thunderstorms occur and it showers heavily over the region.

5.3.5 NATURAL VEGETATION

The region has low rainfall and scarcity of natural vegetation is seen. The western part of the region, plateau areas and hill slopes, are found bare and treeless. But the low lands of Mula-Mutha, Indrayani, Bhima, Nira and their tributaries are studed with Mango, Banyan, Jamun, Pisa, Kate Shevari, Hrida, Behada and Tamarind groves and enriched with patches of garden tillage. The eastern part of the region, particularly Purandar and Baramati tehsils, consists of thin jungle and clusters of xerophytic trees. The main species are Babul, Jodhuri Babul (Acacia Arabica), Nim, Ber (Zizyphus Jujuba). But there are some patches of Mango, Tamarind, Banyan and other shed trees. The region has less than 10 percent land under forest.

5.3.6 CROPS

The crops of the region are mainly Bajra, Jowar, Wheat and Groundnut. But now the development of the irrigation facilities in the region has altered the landuse of the western part, to a great extent. Waters of Bhima, Indrayani, Mula-Mutha have been utilized for irrigation purpose and sugarcane forms an important cash crop. Now, it is observed that there is a considerable increase in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, flowers and nurseries. Farmers are practicing intensive and high-tech agriculture in the region.

In the eastern part of the region, Tur, Bajara, Pulses, Grains are grown in Kharif season, while Jowar is mainly a rabi crop. Unirrigated area of Purandar, Baramati tehsils practice the traditional agriculture based on monsoon rains. While, the irrigation water promotes horticulture in the region. Fruit gardening has also increased. Purandar tehsil is known for fig. and custard apple. Baramati is known for Grapes, Guava, Ber and Pomegranate. The irrigated parts of the eastern region are
supported by Malhar Sagar dam and Vir dam. The canal irrigation of Nira river has changed scenario of the region, especially, the Baramati tehsil. Due to availability of water and influence of urban centers like Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, the region has got encouragement in production of fruits, flowers, vegetables, onion etc. while Jowar, Wheat, Soyabean, Sunflower and fodder are also grown because of availability of water in this region.

5.3.7 POPULATION

The population of the tourist region is 51,583,88 persons and total geographical area is 6415.94 sq. kms. The average density of population is 804 persons per sq. km. of the region.

TABLE 5.1: TEHSILWISE DENSITY OF POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Haveli</td>
<td>1134.16</td>
<td>1,353,050</td>
<td>1193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Daund</td>
<td>1381.23</td>
<td>341388</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Purandar</td>
<td>1183.73</td>
<td>223428</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bhor</td>
<td>973.36</td>
<td>171719</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Baramati</td>
<td>1386.35</td>
<td>372852</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Pune city</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>2695911</td>
<td>5899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Total Region</td>
<td>6415.94</td>
<td>5158388</td>
<td>804.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001

TEHSILWISE DENSITY OF POPULATION

![Bar chart showing the density of population per square kilometer for each Tahsil.]

FIG. 5.1
The table 5.1 indicates tehsilwise density of population of the region. The Haveli tehsil has an average density of 1193.0 persons per sq. km. Daund tehsil has average density of 247 persons per sq.km. Purandar tehsil has density of 189 persons per sq. km. Bhor tehsil has density of 197 persons per sq. km. Baramati tehsil has density of 270 persons per sq. km. Pune city, an urban area, has density of 5899 persons per sq. km. While average density of the whole region under study is 804 persons per sq. km.

The area, population and density of population of the region is compared with Pune district in which study area includes and the position in the state of Maharashtra.

Table 5.2 : Comparison of Population and Density of Population

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>307713</td>
<td>98878627</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Pune Dist.</td>
<td>15643</td>
<td>7232555</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.08</td>
<td>7.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>6416</td>
<td>5158388</td>
<td>804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2.08</td>
<td>5.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>41.01</td>
<td>71.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPARISON OF DENSITY OF POPULATION

FIG. 5.2
The table 5.2 indicates the comparison of area, population and density of population of the region with the state of Maharashtra and the Pune district. It is seen that the area of the Pune district is 5.08% of the state while area of the study region is 2.08 percent of the state. The population of Pune district accounts 7.46 percent of the state while population of the region accounts 5.21 percent of the state. In comparison of the study region with the Pune district it is revealed that the area covered by the region of Pune district is about 41.01 percent and population is about 71.32 percent of the Pune district. It revealed that major portion of Pune district is covered by the region.

The density of population of the state, Pune district and region is given 315 per sq. km., 462 sq. km. and 804 person per sq. km. respectively. The density of the region is more as Pune urban area is included in the region.

5.3.8 CULTURAL SETTING

Jejuri and area around Jejuri is mainly dominated by the Hindu religion. The various religious centers like Jejuri, Alandi, Dehu, Saswad, Morgaon, Vir etc. are located in this region. Every year fairs are held in those places and attended by lakhs of people. The fairs of Khandoba at Jejuri, Saint Dnyaneshwar at Alandi and Saint Tukaram at Dehu are celebrated largely. People from all over Maharashtra and nearby states attend these fairs largely. Besides this, every village has temple of their village deity, locally known as Yatra, Jatara or Urus. In the yatra, various activities like bullock cart race, wrestling, loknatya (Tamasha) are held and enjoyed by the people. These are the attractions of local community and attended by nearby villages. In addition, the Hindu people celebrate various festivals like Gudi Padva, Pola, Nagpanchami, Gouri Ganpati, Dasara, Deepavali, Holi Pournima etc. and also by other religions. Similarly, other religions people celebrate their festivals. Each is invited to the others festival and participating in each others festivals shows a fine example of National Integration.

Pune has got tremendous importance regarding the culture. It is known as the cultural capital of Maharashtra. It has its own cultural heritage. Pune is famous for Chatushringi temple, Parvati temple, Saras bag, Peshave park, Kartraj snake park, Appu ghar at Nigadi, Jangli Maharaj temple, Pataleshwar caves, Bund garden, Agakhan palace etc. Recently, Pune has become significant in arranging the famous activity Ganesh festival. It attracts large
number of tourists to enjoy the festival. The foreign tourists come to Pune to participate in the festival of Ganesh and enjoying the festival heartily.

5.3.9 INDUSTRIES

Industries in this area are mainly concentrated in Pune and suburban areas. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has developed the industries within and around the Pune. It becomes an important industrial zone of Maharashtra. About 60 percent of industries are located within 40 kms radius around the Pune. The other industries are located at Saswad (Saswasd Tehsil), Jejuri (Purandar Tehsil) and Baramati (Baramati Tehsil) in the region. The concentration of heavy Engineering industries are found along the Pune-Mumbai, Pune-Kolhapur, Pune-Nasik, Pune-Solapur and Pune-Ahmedanagar road.

In the rural areas of the region, mostly agro based industries are found. The Pharmaceuticals, Chemical, Machinery and household industries are also found, mostly, in the eastern part of the region. The region has dairy industry. Milk collecting, Chilling, Processing, by products and cattlefeed units are found in large scale in the region. Pune, Saswad, Baramati have such units. The village and cottage industries, such as Jaggery making, wool industry etc. are found in the region. Alandi and Dehu are famous for craft industry. The village and cottage industries are mostly located in rural areas of the region.

5.4 JEJURI AND TOURIST DESTINATIONS AROUND JEJURI

5.4.1 JEJURI

The region under study has tourist resources such as natural, socio-cultural and man-made attractions. In this region, 'Jejuri' is a pivotal regional centre and may serve as gateway to the region and other centers around the Jejuri form 'tourist region' to strengthen the tourism in the region. (Map 5.2)

Jeejuri is a famous pilgrimage destination in Maharashtra. It derives importance from the religious fairs held in honour of the God Khandoba. There are two temples of Khandoba in Jejuri. One is on Jayadri hill, constructed in 13th century rejuvenated by Ahilyabai Holkar in the 17th century. The other is on Karhe Pathar towards south west of Jejuri which was called as Dhavalgiri.
Every year lakhs of pilgrims come to Jejuri for Darshan of Lord Khandoba. Besides these two temples, other attractions in Jejuri are Lavathaleshwar Mandir, Holkar Talav, Tamarind Garden, Ballaleshwar Mandir and Peshave Talav. These are the attractions in Jejuri and visited by large number of pilgrims as well as pilgrim tourists (Chapter-II).

5.4.2 VALHE

Valhe is situated in Nira basin, about 11 kms towards south from Jejuri. It is on the southern slope of Purandar range and has natural beauty. Towards east of the village is Purandar range having conical hills in a line which attract tourists attention.

Valhe is the birth place of Walya Koli or Valmiki Rishi. The Walya Koli was great thief who looted and behaved violently with the travellers on the way. The legend about Walya Koli was that he had made tremendous sins during that period by looting and violence. For each sin, one stone was dropped in a rounded pot (Conical hill). Like this seven pots were filled up by stones. These seven hillocks towards east of the village are seven pots of sins. But in the second half of his life, he changed tremendously because of his meeting with Gautam Buddha. Then, he stopped committing robbery and behaved as a good man. He wrote Mahakavya ‘Ramayan’ which later was known as Walmiki Ramayan. In the village, towards the north-west, a mausoleum of Walmiki is located. The villagers have converted this mausoleum into a temple. At present, all the religious activities are arranged in this temple. It becomes an important attraction for the tourists. Bus service is available from Jejuri and Nira.

5.4.3 KARANJE (SOMESHWAR)

Karanje is known for its someshwar temple. In the past, it was a place of cowards. The place is also referred as Somanath Karanje. Shrikshetra Somanath Karanje is located in Baramati tehsil of Pune district. It is about 13 kms from Nira station on Nira-Baramati road and about five kms towards north from Karanje bridge.

The main attraction of Karanje is the Someshwar temple. The entrance of the temple is from the Western side. The temple is very beautiful. Around the temple a wall is built and ovarya (room like space) are made. Devotees take rest here. The usual Pooja is done three times in a day. In addition to this, Naimitik Pooja, Abhishek is also performed in the temple. Every Monday,
on Pournima, on Amavasya, in Shravan month and on Mahashivratri, large number of devotees come to Karanje to take Darshan and pray to the god. Behind the temple, the Pushkarani well is located. On the four sides of well, steps are there to go down in the well. Therefore, the well is known as ‘Pushkarani’. The legend is that in this Pushkarani, devotees do not speak a lie. If, somebody speaks a lie, the cobra comes and bites that person. Therefore, nobody speaks a lie here. It is supposed that God Somanath (Shri Shankar) took incarnation here. He stayed in the form of ‘Swayambhu Ling’ because of the immeasurable prays of the devotee Malu Gavali. Shri Somanath arrived here from Sorati Somanath of Gujarat.

Recently, Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Somanath Karanje as a ‘C’ category, tourist destination. It is developed under the pilgrimage centre (Teerthkshetra) development fund. In this place, Bhakta Nivas, Dharmashala are available for accommodation of devotees. Infrastructural facilities like water, sanitation, shops are available. Recently, provisions of canteens, bathrooms, garden etc is under consideration by the Devasthan committee. The transportation facilities are available up to Karanje bridge. Devotees should get down at Nira station by southern railway. Then onwards, S.T. or local vehicles are available. The S.T. buses from Swargate and station bus Depot of Pune via Nira up to Karanje bridge are also available. Then, local transport can be used. The devotees from all over Maharashtra visit this destination as it is a sacred place.

5.4.4 BARAMATI

Baramati is a taluka place located in Pune District, about 70 kms from Jejuri. It is connected by transport network namely road, rail and air. Politically, the place has got importance as the ‘area’ of our national leader Shri Sharad Pawar. As it is a town, all infrastructural facilities are available in Baramati.

Baramati is famous for Krishi Vikas Pratisthan and Sharadabai Pawar Mahila Shikshan complex. Towards the west of Baramati, about six kilometers, on barren land, Krishi Vikas Pratisthan was established in the year June, 1971 by Late Padmashri Dr. Appasaheb Pawar. The area covered by this Pratisthan is about 150 acres. The Pratisthan is known as Agro-Development Guidance Centre for progressive farmers. Baramati is a centre of a Jersey and Holsten breeding, A bull nurture, Fruit production and Development, Silk breeding, Drip and Sprinkle
irrigation, Biotechnology, Milk production, Poultry farming, Pig farming etc. The experts in each field are available to provide scientific guidance to the farmers. The guidance to farmers in drought prone area is a very important activity of this centre. In addition, various types of training courses related to agriculture and animals being arranged by this Pratishthan frequently. The facilities of stay and food on reasonable rates are provided with pre-permission from the Pratishthan. Shri Rajendra Pawar and Sou. Nandatai Pawar carry the responsibility of this Pratishthan.

It is observed that all the requirements for the agro-tourism are fulfilled by the Pratishthan. Therefore, this place can be referred as an Agro-tourism centre.

Sharadbai Pawar education complex is very near to this Krishi Vikas Pratishthan. The significance of this complex is that only the educational facilities are made available for Girls and Women, the education from Nursery to Post graduation is also available. In this complex more than 5000 residential girls take education. In addition, I.T.I., Agricultural College, Weather forecasts centre, Mahila Bachat Gat guidance and Advice centres are also located. The women of Baramati taluka and nearby talukas are taking advantage of these facilities.

By visiting this complex and Krishi-Vikas Pratishthan, one gets knowledge and satisfaction. Therefore, it is suggested that Baramati should be visited at least once to see this educational complex and Krishi Development Pratishthan.

5.4.5 MORGAON

Morgaon is situated in Baramati tehsil of Pune district, 25 kms from Jejuri and 64 kms from Pune. Karha river flows near by Morgaon. Here, Karha river is known as “Brahmakamandalu Ganga”. It consists of ‘Ashtatirtha’ (Places of sacred water) named as Gaya, Onkar, Sarvapunya, Kapil, Bhim, Rishi, Vyas and Sanvidhan.

Morgaon, is the Adyapeeth of Ganapatya Sampradaya in Maharashtra. The shape of the village is like a peacock. In the past, this village had large number of peacocks, therefore, the village is named as Morgaon. Lord Ganapati sworned on a peacock, came here on Bhadrapad Sudh Chaturthi. Therefore, the name Morgaon is given to this area and established ‘Lord Ganesh’ here.

Here, Lord Ganesha is known as Mayureshwar or Moreshwar. The legend is that, it was the Gandari Kingdom and
Attractions around the Jejuri-Route-I

Walmiki Samadhi - Valhe

Datta Temple - Bet Kedgaon

Bhuleshwar Temple

Mayureshwar Temple - Morgaon

Shri Someshwar

Narayan Maharaj Samadhi - Kedgaon

Bhuleshwar Temple - Front view

Pandeshwar Temple

Plate 5.1
Chakrapani was the king of that kingdom. His son Sindhu was granted a boon of immortality from the Sun god. He became insolent and troubled all divinities. All Gods prayed to Lord Ganesha and requested him to make them free from all troubles given by the king. Shri Ganesh came there and fought with king Sindhu and defeated him. At that time, he was sworn on a peacock and came there. Because of that he was named as Mayureshwar or Moreshwar.

In Maharashtra ‘Ashtavinayaka’, that is, the eight Ganapati locations are religiously very important. But, of that, five locations of Vinayaka are located in Pune district, two locations in Raigad district and one in Ahmednagar district. Morgaon is first location in Ashtavinayaka and Yatra begins by Darshan of Mayureshwar of Morgaon and after completing Darshan of all other Ashtavinayakas again come to Morgaon to take Darshan of Vinayaka. Then, it is supposed that Yatra of Ashtavinayaka is complete.

Temple of Lord Ganesh of Morgaon is facing northward. Eastern facing, Swyambhu (Self existence) Ganesh idol is established in a Makhar and covered by Snakes hood (Nag phana). The idol of Ganesh is having left trunk and both sides there are bronze idols of Siddhi and Riddhi. Temple is about 20 to 25 feet above the local level of the village. The temple is walled on all sides to about 50 feet height. Nagarkhana (Kettledrum room) is located to one side and big bull (Nandi) and mouse are near it. Temple has a magnificent hall and Shejghar (bed room) towards the east. In four corners of the temple, minarets are erreted. Astha Ganapatis are located in the eight corners of the rampart. These are recognized as Ekdant, Mahodar, Gajanan, Lambodar, Vikat, Natraj, Dhumravarn and Varkratund. In addition, there are 23 household idols established in the temple.

Towards the east of the hall (Sabhamandap), inside the temple, Shami and Bel trees are located. Towards west, ‘Tarafi’ tree is there and known as “Kalpurkha”. The devotees sit under this tree and pray to god for their betterment. It is believed that god blesses them if they do rituals under this ‘Kalpurkha’.

Temple is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. In a day, Prakashal puja, Shodoshopchar puja and Panchopachar puja are performed as under:
Table 5.3 indicates that there are five Puja’s performed in a day from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. First Prakashal puja is performed at 5.00 a.m. Shodoshopachar Puja at 7.00 a.m., Third shodoshopachar Puja at 12 noon, Prakashal Puja at 4 p.m. and Panchopachar Puja at 8 p.m.

Every day, there is a rush of devotees from all over Maharashtra. On Bhadrapad Sudh Chaturthi and Magh Sudh Chaturthi (Ganesh Jayanti), the rush of devotees is very large.

Accommodation and food facilities are available in Morgaon. Many devotees stay at their Upadhye houses. Recently, Devasthan Committee has started ‘Yatri Nivas’ for the devotees. In addition, Maheshwari and other two Dharmshalas and 7 to 8 lodges are available for stay and food. About 20 to 22 hotels are located in Morgaon to provide food to devotees.

Transportation facilities are made available by Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC). It is connected from Baramati via Karhavajan, Jalgaon, Kade Pathar, Sherechivadi to Morgaon. It is connected from Jejuri, Supe, Khandobachi wadi by state highways. There are a large number of private vehicles available from all sides to go to Morgaon.

Especially special tours are arranged for Ashtavinayak Darshan from all over Maharashtra, privately, as well as by MSRTC. Vehicles like Jeeps, Cars, Tempo Travellers etc are found in large number and devotees come to Morgaon in these vehicles.

It is observed that the facilities provided at Morgaon pilgrimage centre are found inadequate as compared to number of devotees. It is felt that accommodation and food facilities should be increased. Devasthan committee is trying to increase these facilities at Morgaon. It helps to increase the number of devotees and to improve the economy of the residents of Morgaon.
Ganeshjaya, is a religious place, about eight kilometers from Morgaon. Here, on the bank of the Karha river 'Ashtadashpadan Kit, Ganesh Sheela (Stone) are located where people do Pitrushradha. Here, very beautiful architecture is seen. There is a temple of Mahadeo called as Pandaveshwar temple. This is the place of Yadnya Bhumi of Pandavas. This temple was built by Pandvas. Tourists should spare some time and visit this place.

5.4.6 BET KEDGAON

Bet Kedgaon is situated in Daund Tehsil of Pune district, about 35 kms from Jejuri. The MSRTC buses are available to Bet Kedgaon via Ghalivadi, Pimpari, Rajuri and Khor. It is about 8 kms towards south of Choufula, on NH-9.

Sadguru Narayan Maharaj, the great devotee of Lord Dutta, had selected the place on barren land near Kedgaon named as 'Bet'. The place is surrounded by streams on three sides. He decided to stay there and worship Lord Datta. In the year 1913, he constructed the Dutta temple on this Bet and started penance of Lord Dutta. Dharmshala, Annadan Grah (House for Provision of free food to devotees), Residence house and Penance house were constructed on the Bet. In the year 1922, a house was built in which a mausoleum of Sadguru Narayan Maharaj is seen. Shreeman Vasanaji Sheth had presented a golden idol of Lord Dutta for this temple in the year 1928 A.D.

The peculiarity of this 'Bet' is that it has natural beauty though located in a drought prone area. Tamarind trees and Neemtrees, having dense canapy, provide deep shade and flower garden increases the happiness. Such a place in the temple premises, helps to increase peacefulness of our minds.

At present, the work of the temple complex is carried by a Trustee of devotees. Every year on the Bet, conduct Dutta yag, Gurucharitra Parayan, Satyanarayan Mahapuja. Guru Pournima, Dashhara, Chaturmas, Ganapati Ustav, Datta Jayanati, Gokul Ashtami, Navratri, Mahashivratri etc.

Accommodation facility is available in the complex. About 60 devotees can be accommodated here. Accommodation and food for devotees are free of cost. On pre-information, provision of food can be made here. In this complex two Dharmashalas are located. They can accommodate about 500 devotees. Any devotee can stay here free of cost provided he participates in the religious activities in the complex.
It is suggested that for one or two days persons should stay in this complex and have a peaceful mind and get satisfaction.

5.4.7 BHULESHWAR

Bhuleshwar is situated in Purandar tehsil of Pune district, about 18 kms from Jejuri, 28 kms from Saswad and 43 kms from Pune. It is near the Malshiras village, on the eastern edge of the Purandar tehsil and 213 meters above mean sea level. The local people denote to this as Bhelan Dongar. Bhulshwar temple is located on this Bhelan Dongar (Hillock). The temple has very beautiful architecture and constructed during the Yadav period. During the Maratha period, the place was used for self protection.

Bhuleshwar temple is built in Prakar on magnificent plinth and has starshaped doors on southern and eastern side. It has four parts namely Garbhagriph, Antaral, Sabha Mandap and Nandi Mandap. The apex of the temple is built in bricks. Antaral, Sabha Mandap and Garbhagriph are joined by a small narrow way. Shivling is established deep inside in the Garbhagriph. Nandimandap is small but carvings on Nandi is attractive. The carving of pillars of the mandap is fantastic. It is observed that there is attractive architectural work seen on pillars. Especially, south western part of this temple, the architectural work is noteworthy. On the walls Deoulika (small idols of gods and goddesses) are carved beautifully. Similarly carving of Lions, Mahabharat war, Elephant war etc. were carved beautifully and worthseeing. But it is seen that most of the carvings were demolished in attacks by Muslims during Maratha period.

Peculiarity of this temple is that Navaidya (offering) like Pedhe, Milk disappears immediately if put in a bowl of Navaidya. The construction of this temple is such that every Uttarayan and Dakshinayan, the rising sun-rays fall on the ling in the Garbhagriph.

There are a few tunnels seen in the temple complex. The cold water storages near front door, Nagarkhana, Panchaleshwar Mandir, Borban and Shakti-Ashram etc. are other attractions seen here.

At present, there are no accommodation facilities. Transportation facilities are limited. The Bhuleshwar is about 13 kms. from the Pune-Solapur NH-9. From Saswad via Malshiras road, to reach Bhuleshwar, MSRTC facilities are available but very limited. Tourists depend on private vehicles. Tourists, can
stay at Saswad and visit Bhuleshwar within half a day travel. But it should be noted that at least once, one should visit Bhuleshwar.

### 5.4.8 Urali Kanchan

Urali Kanchan is located in Haveli tehsil in Pune District, about 22 kms from Pune towards the east. It is well-connected by rail and road and on the Pune-Solapur road NH-9. Accommodation and food facilities are available here.

Mamben Shah agricultural trust is the main attraction. The trust works for rural development plans like Forestry, Jalsandharan etc. The place is also famous as bull breeding, bull nurture, bull germ collection and processing centre in India. Trust also arranges different training courses related to rural development. Urali Kanchan is also famous for nature cure. Many people from Maharashtra come to this place for nature cure.

### 5.4.9 Theur

Theur is situated in Haveli tehsil of Pune District, about 25 kms distance from Pune on Pune-Solapur national highway-9. The place is located inside towards north, about five kilometers from Loni-Kalbhor. The temple of Lord Ganapati is located at Theur. This destination is one of the Ashta Vinayaka Ganapatis in Maharashtra. The Lord Ganapati is known as 'Shri Chintamani'.

The temple of Lord Ganapati is eastward facing. The idol of Chintamani is northward facing having left trunk and installed in thigh (Asan) stage. It is supposed that the idol is 'Swayambhu' (self-existed). The great saint moraya has got 'Siddhi' here therefore, the place has tremendous importance. Many people from Maharashtra visit this place. The accommodation and transport facilities are available.

### 5.4.10 Shri Kshetra Veer

Shri Kshetra Veer is a significant religious place in this area. It is known for lord Shrinath Mascoba, the incarnation of Lord Kalbhairav (Shri Shankar). Shrikshetra Veer is located in Puranadar tehsil of Pune district, about 20 kms. towards South of Jejuri and 26 kms. from Saswad. Towards north of this village, on the banks of river Purna Ganga, the temple of lord Mhaskoba is located.

The village has twelve hamlets. All castes people live here and work together in the temple of Lord Mhaskoba. The secretary of this temple trust is from the muslim community. Kulkarni-Patil of this village writes invitation cards and Ghadashi, Gurav community
distribute the invitation cards. Mali community brings turmeric, Pagote to Lord Mhaskoba and Sari-bodice to Jogeshwari. Mali and Koli samaj collectively give colour to the temple. Maratha, Dhangar and other caste people do work in the temple as need exists. Shrinath Mhaskoba is the deity of Maratha, Dhangar and Mali community. People from Mumbai, Khandesh, Marathwada, South Maharashtra etc. come to Veer to Worship Shri Mhaskoba.

Every year, a great fair of Lord Mhaskoba is held from Magh Pournima to Magh Vadya Dasami. The main activity of this fair is the marriage ceremony of Shri Mhaskoba and celebrated enthusiastically by the devotees. Every day, two times, between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, procession (Chhabina) of Lord Mhaskoba is performed with joy from Panchami (Fifth day). Bhakanuk (Prediction) is made by the chief devotee from Dhangar community. The play of swords, is conducted during this period. At Dashami (10th day), fight of colours (throwing colour on each other) is done among the devotees.

During this fair many shops are arranged around the temple. These shops remain open up to Amavasya. This is the main season of transaction for their daily requirements. The businessmen also get substantial profit during this fair period.

Besides this fair, other fairs at Navratri (Nine days), every Pournima (full moon), Amavasya (No moon) and every Sunday are held here. Devotees remain present for the fairs of Navratri, Amavasya and Pournima in large scale. The Devasthan committee provides free meals to the devotees. The temple complex is also found clean which creates satisfactory environment.

The temple complex has some commercial blocks and cultural hall. People use this facility for marriages and other cultural programmes.

5.4.10.1 GHODE UDDAN OR ORIGIN OF LORD MHASKOBA

Ghode uddan (Horse Jump) or origin of Lord Mhaskoba site is located on 5 kms. from village Veer towards South East, on the bank of river Nira. Temple of Lord Mhaskoba is located here between Nira river and Nira left canal. The place has natural beauty and dense tree canopy. Devasthan Committee has developed a garden here which creates charming environment. Devotees who come to veer visit this place without fail.

The village road is there to go to this place but not secured. There is need to improve the road condition. The devotees have to go by their own vehicles. During the time of fair, some private vehicles are available. On the main road, a sign board is necessary to
Attractions around the Jejuri-Route-II

Ghode Uddan - Mhaskba
Veer Mhaskoba Temple - Veer
Veer Dam
Sangameshwar Temple
Changavateshwar Temple
Sopankaka Samadhi
Shambhu Mahadev Balaji Temple Ketkawale

Plate 5.2
show direction (Disha Darshak Board) towards Ghode Uddan (Horse Jump).

5.4.10.2 VEER DAM

Dam over Nira river is an attraction to the people. It is about 6 kms. distance from Veer village towards south. The dam was constructed in between 1932 A.D. to 1936 A.D. and has a capacity of 11 T.M.C. It has left and right canal which have covered rainshadow area of Khandala, Phaltan, Baramati, Indapur and Sangola and is used for agriculture purpose. Industrial development of these regions has become possible because of this canal water. The electricity is also generated on this water.

The dam site is attractive. Beautiful garden and enchanting water storage are attractions of this place. But there is no boating facility and canteen facility is also lacking. There is need to provide these facilities.

At Veer village, large number of devotees come from a long distance but there is no accommodation facility. Thus, being an importance of this place, the facility of accommodation should be made available. It is observed that Devasthan Committee is competent to provide this facility.

Veer village is connected by major roads and other roads from Saswad via Pangire, Pareche and from Jejuri via Valhe. But Bus frequency is not sufficient. From Sarole on NH-4, from Valhe, Jejuri and Khandobachi Vadi road, the transportation is weak. The transportation facility, either by M.S.R.T.C. or privately is the need of this place. There is scope to develop the Veer village by declaring it as ‘C’ grade tourist centre.

5.4.11 BANESHWAR

Baneshwar is known for its Baneshwar temple. It is located in northern part of Bhor tehsil in Pune district. It is on Western side of Pune-Banglore road at five kms distance from Nasarapur. In the complex of the temple, Forest Department has developed a beautiful Vanodyan (Garden in forest). About two sq. kms. surrounding area is covered by dense forest. Baneshwar temple is beautiful. Three natural fountains are near the temple and water flows through Gomukh (mouth of Cow) which creates a pleasing environment. Because of dense trees in this area, variety of birds are found here. An observation point is erected which helps to enjoy the beauty of this area.

Towards west of the temple, on two kms., there is a waterfall created on a big stream. Constant flow of water and its sound gives
Facilities required for tourists are available here. Pune-Banglore road is near to this destination and accommodation and food facilities are available at a short distance. But it is necessary to make provision of accommodation facilities at Baneshwar.

5.4.12 KETKAVAL (BALAJI TEMPLE)

From Pune-Banglore road, on a few kilometer distance, near Ketkavale village, Shri Balaji Mandir Trust has constructed a temple of Shri Balaji of Tirupati. The temple is exactly the replica of Shri Tirupati Balaji temple. The ritual ceremony are also performed according to Tirupati temple. Balaji temple has four doors on four sides. Magnificent Gopuram, big halls, ovaries and idols of different goddesses have been established in it. The significance of this place is that the complex is very clean and peaceful atmosphere gives pleasure to tourists. The temple is open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. for Darshan. Puja is performed three times, in the morning and two times, in the evening.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Type of Pooja</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>5.00 to 5.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Suprabhatam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>6.30 to 8.00 a.m.</td>
<td>First bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>10.00 to 10.45 a.m.</td>
<td>Second bell Archana Navaidya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>6.00 to 7.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Pooja Archana Navaidya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>8.00 p.m. onwards</td>
<td>Shudha Ekant Seva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thursday (Special Programmes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Type of Pooja</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>9.45 to 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Netra Darshan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>5.00 to 5.45 p.m.</td>
<td>Break Darshan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>5.45 onwards</td>
<td>Palangi Seva (Puspavaki)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Friday (Special Programmes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Type of Pooja</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>7.30 to 8.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Abhishek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>8.00 to 10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Break Darshan for Samarpan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>5.00 to 6.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Padmavati Unjal Seva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the night, attractive flood lights of various types increases the pleasure of devotees. Accommodation facilities are not available at this destination. Transportation facilities are inadequate. It is observed that most of the devotees visit this place by private vehicles. MSRTC has to do some special provision through Saswad Depot or Bhor depot on both sides. MSRTC Pune can take lead in this aspect. A point to be noted is that who do not get an opportunity to go Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, may go Ketkavale and take Darshan of Tirupati Balaji.

5.4.13 NARAYANPUR

Dutta temple is the main attraction of Narayanpur. It is located on south west of Saswad, about 15 kms distance. Anna Maharaj of Dutta Smpradai had developed Narayanpur. Shri Dutta temple complex is large and having meditation Mandir. Free food to devotees are given every day. Pournima (Full noon), Guru Pournima, Datta Jayanti etc., religious activities are performed in the temple. On behalf of Mandir trust, collective marriages are arranged every year. Every Pournima, Guru Pournima and Datta Jayanti, a large crowd of devotees gather to pray to lord Dutta. But as the temple complex is on the road, heavy rush of devotees causes the blocking of roads. Therefore, here widening of the road and parking provision is necessary. Illegal possession of land around the temple complex and near the road need to be removed for smooth functioning at the place.

5.4.14 PURANDAR FORT

Fort Purandar is located in Purandar tehsil of Pune district, about 23 kms. from Saswad towards south west and about 1390 mtrs. height from mean sea level. Purandar is also known as Indraneel fort, as Lord Indra had observed penance at this place. Purandar was the birth place of Chh. Sambhaji, the son of Chh. Shivaji and Sawai Madhavrao Peshwe. It was also the capital place during the Peshva period. The very significant historical event of truce between Chh. Shivaji and Mirza Raje Jayasingh had taken place here. During British period, the fort was used by the British army and then onwards by the Hindusthan army.

Purandareshwar Mandir, Remnants of target Bastion (Buruj), Elephant Bastion, Victory Bastion, Rampart, Ammunition storage, Padmavati Talav, Rajale Talav (Tank) reminds one of the historical period. Kandkada and Fethar tekadi are two hillocks in Rajgadi area. At the Apex, Kedareshwar temple is located. From
this, terrestrial view gives pleasure to tourists. This fort had seen Bahamani, Nijamshai, Mugala, Shivshahi, Peshwas and British period. It is worthwhile to see this fort in rainy season.

Accommodation facilities are not at Purandar fort but near to it, in Saswad, accommodation is available. Transportation facilities are limited up to foot of the fort. Then onwards, tourists have to walk on foot. Food facility is also not available. Only limited snacks and tea is available.

5.4.15 SASWAD

Saswad is situated in Purandar tehsil of Pune district on the confluence of Karha and Chambal rivers and about 18 kms from Jejuri towards north-west. Saswad is the administrative place of Purandar Tehsil. Therefore, accommodation facilities are available on a large scale. It is about 45 kms from Pune on Pune-Baramati road. Transportation facilities are available from all directions.

The main attraction of Saswad is the tomb of Sopankaka, the younger brother of Saint Dnyaneshwar. In the complex of this temple, Nageshwar Mandir, Sangameshwar Mandir, Changvateshwar Mandir are located. These temples have great architectural value. Because of Sopankaka tomb-temple, people from Varkari Sampraday visit and take Darshan of Sopankaka tomb. The importance of the temple of this destination is that all the temples are on the banks of the river, more than 20 feet above local land level and surrounded by ramparts. Deepmala before the temples increase the scenic beauty of the temple. But dirtiness reduces the sacredness of the place. It is necessary to focus attention towards cleanliness of the temples. Besides these, tomb of Baji Pasalkar, chief of army of great Chh. Shivaji, Great literary Person P.K. Atre memorial, magnificent Palaces of Kunjir and Purandare etc. are important places. But it appears that these places are not properly maintained.

5.4.16 PUNE

Pune is historical, religious and cultural centre of Maharashtra. It is located in the Sahyadri ranges and has a height of 600 meters from mean sea level.

It is encircled by hillocks of Chatushringi, Parvati, Waghajai and Taljal. Rivers Mula and Mutha meets in Pune city. In the beginning, Pune was a small hamlet known by the name Punwadi, a part of Kasaba Peth. Around it, small hamlets were
there and collectively all these hamlets became Pune. Kasaba Ganapati is the main deity of Pune.

Today, Pune is enriched by literature, culture, art etc. It has cultural heritage since beginning. Pune is the home place of education and also advanced in industrial development. 'Puneri turban' is an adornment of Pune. It is supposed to be a sign of talency. Ganesh festival of Pune is known throughout the world. Foreign tourists attend this festival without fail. Recently, Pune Marathon is getting importance. Pune has many tourist centres like Shaniwar Wada, Parvati, Sarasbag, Lal Mahal, Raja Kelkar Museum etc. Around Pune other tourist centres like Sinhgad fort, Panshet, Theur, Alandi, Dehu etc. are worth visiting.

1. SHANIWAR WADA (MANSION)

Glory of the Pune is Shaniwar wada, Bajirao I had constructed this mansion between 1730 to 1732 A.D. Ramparts of the Mansion is of 20 feet height. North-South length is 640 feet and West-East breath is 450 feet. Entrance of Shaniwar wada is magnificent. Tourists visit Shaniwar wada. Most of the buildings in Shaniwar wada were burned during second half of Peshwai. Rampart, Nagarkhana and Delhi Darwaja are the remnants of the Shaniwar wada.

2. PARWATI

Towards the south-west of Railway station, about four kilometers on 261 feet height, there is a hillock. On this hillock, Peshave had constructed a Parwati Mandir in 1753 A.D. The temples of Ganapati, Sun, Vishnu, Kartik and Durga were also constructed. Nanasaheb Peshave had constructed a mansion here. Peshave used to come here for a change. Mainly the confidential Political discussions were made here during Peshva period. Early morning aerial view of Pune from Parvati is fantastic.

3. SARAS BAG AND PESHVE UDYAN

Sarasbag is located on the foot hills of Parvati. For the construction, on Parvati hill, 30 acres area was dug for material like stone. At the centre some space was retained. Water from Ambil stream was discharged and tank was created. In that space, a garden was erected and the name sarasbag was given. In Sarasbag, a Ganesh temple was constructed and has become famous as 'Ganapati in Tank'. Beautiful trees, softy lawn and flower bed create a lovable atmosphere.
Peshave Udyan is nearby to the Sarasbag and has a zoo and ‘Fulrani’, mini train for children. It is the main attraction of the Peshve Udyan.

4. **LAL MAHAL**

The palace was constructed by Dadoji Kondadev in the year 1640. The great Chh. Shivaji had enjoyed his childhood in this palace. A known incident, of cutting of fingers of Shahistekhan, Sardar of Aurangazeb, by Chh. Shivaji Raje is famous even today. The location of this palace is behind Shaniwarwada.

5. **RAJA KELKAR MUSEUM**

Two storeyed Raja Kelkar museum is very attractive. It was constructed by Late Dinkar Gangadhar Kelkar in memory of his twelve years old son. The museum consists of a treasure of rare things of ancient, arvachin period. History of two thousand years past is systematically arranged in 36 rooms (Dalan) and has more than twenty thousand things. Indian painting Dalan, Wooden sculpture, cosmetics, clothes, toys, pots, weapon Dalans (rooms) attract the tourists. Mastani Dalan reminds one of the Peshwa period. Tourists should visit this museum.

6. **AGAKHAN PALACE**

The palace was constructed in the year 1940. It is the proof of Indian battle. Most of the dignitaries of Indian battle were imprisoned here. In 1942, Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba Gandhi were imprisoned in this palace. The tomb of Kasturba Gandhi was erected here in the form of Tulasi Vrindavan. Now it is known a ‘Gandhi Rastriya Museum’.

In Pune, many other attractions like Mahadaji Shinde Chatri, Empress Botanical garden, Pawana Jalashaya, Tulsi Bag etc. are worth seeing.

5.4.17 **DEHU**

Dehu is known for saint Tukaram. It is located towards the north-west corner of Haveli tehsil in Pune district, at about 5 kms from Dehu road on Pune-Bangalore National Highway-4. Dehu is famous for philosophical knowledge of saint Tukaram and Palkhi sohala (Palkhi procession to Pandharpur) all over country.

Saint Tukaram temple, Vitthal-Rukmini temple at Deulge-Gatha, Indrayani Ghat. Indrayani Doh (storage) where Tukaram
Attractions around the Jejuri-Route-III

Shaniwar Vada

Parvati

Sarasbag

Agakhan Palace

Deve Ghat

Deve Ghat

Alandi

Alandi

Plate No. 5.3
Gatha had drowned, Shila (stone) Mandir, Vaikunth Gaman Mandir and Bamara Dongar (hill) where saint Tukaram used to do contemplation are the places of attraction at Dehu.

Saint Tukaram temple is constantly flooded by devotees. Sermon, Kirtan, Devotional songs in the temple creates religious and sacred environment. Especially, at the time of Palkhi procession to Pandharpur, on Jyestha Vadya Saptami and on Falgun Vadya Dwitiya, Tukaram Beej ceremony, a large number of devotees assemble at Dehu.

Recently, Dehu-Alandi Vikas Samittee and Teerthkshetra Development Fund of Govt. of Maharashtra have developed Dehu and declared it as a tourist centre. The accommodation facilities are available here through Dharmashala, Math (monastery), Varkari educational institutions, Resident places of Dindi owner at reasonable rates. As the Dehu is near to NH-4 Pune-Bangalore, transport facilities are available on a wide scale. From Pune bus frequency is adequate to Dehu.

5.4.18 ALANDI

Alandi is widely known by saint Dnyaneshwar, as well as, the starting place of saint Dnyaneshwar Palkhi Procession to Pandharpur. Mainly, it is famous because of Dnyaneshwar tomb. Alandi is located on the bank of Indrayani river towards the north of Pune, in Rajgurunagar tehsil of Pune district, at about 20 kms from Pune and about 18 kms from Dehu towards the east. Saint Dnyaneshwar had initiated Varkari Sampradaya.

Saint Dnyaneshwar tomb is the main attraction of the tourists in Alandi. Besides this many other attractions like Siddheshwar temple in Deulgaon, Haibatbaba step, Haibatbaba ovari, Golden Peempat, Ajan Vruksha (tree) Santoshi Mata temple, Padmavati temple. Indrayani Ghat, Gopalpura Siddha Bet, Mukta Mandir, Wall driven by Dnyaneshwar etc. are the places of attraction. Devotees do not forget to visit these places of interest.

About 50,000 tourists visit Alandi every day. On Thursday this figure goes to 1,00,000 tourists. Ekadashi and Dwadashi, Varkaris are found in large number. In Jyeshta month, Palkhi Procession Prasthan Ceremony on Jyestha Vadya Asthami (8th day) and in Kartik Ekadashi, Saint Dnyaneshwar Samadhi ceremony, mostly, all Varkaris collect at Alandi to take blessings of saint Dnyaneshwar. (Ingale 2008)
Alandi is a source place of the Varkari sampradaya. Therefore, many varkaris sanstha, Varkari shikshan sansthas, Music Mahavidyalaya, Monestery, Dharmsalas, Mangal Karyalayas, lodges etc. are located in Alandi. Hence accommodation facilities are available. But during the time of Palkhi Procession and saint Dnyaneshwar Samadhi Ceremony, a large crowd comes here and there is a scarcity of accommodation. Transportation facilities are available to Alandi on a large scale.

On behalf of Dehu-Alandi Vikas Yojana and Teerthkshetra Vikas Yojana of Govt. of Maharashtra, different constructional works are done. But there is need to focus attention towards works like widening of Palkhi-Pradakshina road, adequate water supply. Cleanliness of the sacred places is necessary to prevent epidemics.

5.5 TOUR PLANS AROUND JEJURI

Recently, attitude of the people has changed. They intend to visit the places of tourism interest nearby when they visit any religious destination of their interest. In Maharashtra, Jejuri is a significant pilgrimage destination.

It, being a pivotal location, has many places of tourist interest around. The natural, socio-cultural and man-made attractions are found around Jejuri and people intend to visit these places while they come to Jejuri. By considering this aspect, here an attempt has been made to prepare ‘tourists region’ evaluating Jejuri as prime centre and many other centres like Someshwar Karanje, Baramati, Morgaon, Bhuleshwar, Uralikanchan, Thelar, Saswad, Veer Narayanapur, Baneshwar, Pune, Dehu, Alandadi etc. are centres around Jejuri.

These destinations spread into six tehsils namely, Purandar tehsil having seven tourist destinations, Baramati tehsil with three destinations, Daund tehsil with one, Havei tehsil with five destinations, Bhor tehsil with one destination and Rajgurunagar with one destination.

Here, three tour plans are given to the pilgrims. The pilgrims, generally, attend the fairs held at Jejuri. These seven fairs in Jejuri are usually attended by lakhs of people. They live there for two to three days. By survey, it is observed that they expect to visit nearby attractions. Therefore, representative three plans are given to the tourists. Each plan is of one day and covers maximum number of tourist centres that can be seen within a day.
The journey starts from Jejuri in the early morning at about 6.00 a.m. and ends at Jejuri at about 10.00 p.m. The span of 16 hours is sufficient to cover the given destinations in each plan. Tourists may take advantage of one plan or all three plans, according to their choice.

5.5.1 TOUR PLAN – I

The Plan - I includes nine tourist destinations. The following table reveals the details of the Tour Plan - I

JEJURI AND AROUND : PLAN I

Jejuri ----> Valhe ----> Someshwar (Karanji)
Baramati ----> Morgaon ----> Bet Kedgaon ---->
Bhuleshwar ----> Urali Kanchan ----> Theur ----> Jejuri

TABLE 5.5 : DISTANCE OF DESTINATIONS FROM JEJURI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Cummulative Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jejuri</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Valhe</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Someshwar</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Baramati</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Morgaon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bet Kedgaon</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bhuleshwar</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Urali Kanchan</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Theur</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jejuri</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : District Map - Pune

The table 5.5 indicates that first destination is Jejuri known for Khandoba temples at Gadkot and Kade Pathar. (Page 125) The second destination, Valhe, located towards south, about 11 kms. from Jejuri. The birth place of Walmiki Rishi and seven conical hills towards east (page 125). The third tourist destination is Someshwar (Karanje) about 23 kms from Valhe. The main attraction is the Someshwar temple (page 125). The fourth destination is Baramati, about 16 kms from the Someshwar (Karanje), known for Krishi Vikas Prathisthan and Sharadabai
Pawar Mahila Shikshan complex. (page 126) The fifth destination, about 25 kms from Baramati is Morgaon. The destination is famous for lord Ganapati. (page 127) The sixth tourist destination is Bet Kedgaon. (page 130). The place is known for Sadguru Narayan Maharaj and Dutt temple (page 130). The seventh tourist destination is Bhuleshwar, about 17 kms from Bet Kedgaon and known for Bhuleshwar temple (page 131). The eighth destination, Urali Kanchan, about 30 kms from Bhuleshwar and is known for Mamber Shah agricultural trust. (page 132). The ninth tourist destination is Theur, about 14 kms from Urali Kanchan and is known for Ganapati temple. (page 132). Lastly, from Theur tour comes to original destination Jejuri.

The tour covers about 220 kms travel to visit these destinations. The whole travel requires about 16 hours. (Map No.5.3)

5.5.2 TOUR PLAN II

The Plan - II includes nine tourist destinations. The following table reveals the details of the Tour Plan - II

JEJURI AND AROUND : PLAN II

Jejuri ———> Valhe ———> Shrishetra Veer
Baneshwar ———> Ketkavale (Balaji Temple) ———> Narayanpur
Purandar ———> Saswad ———> Jejuri

TABLE 5.6 : DISTANCE OF DESTINATIONS FROM JEJURI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Cumulative Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jejuri</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Valhe</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Shrishetra Veer</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghode Uddan</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vir Dam</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Baneshwar</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Ketkavale (Balaji Temple)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Narayanpur</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Purandar</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Saswad</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Jejuri</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JEJURI AND AROUND
ROUTE 1

Map 5.3
The table 5.6 indicates that the first destination, Jejuri, the second destination Valhe, located towards south, about 11 kms from Jejuri, the birth place of Walmiki Rishi or Walya Koli. The temple of Walmiki Rishi and seven adjacent conical hills are worth seeing (page 125). The third tourist destination is Shrikhestra Veer. Shrinath Mhaskoba is the main attraction. (page 122) The destination ‘Ghode Uddan’, about 5 kms from Veer, the original place of Lord Mhaskoba is located on the bank of the river Nira (page 123). The tourist place ‘Veer Dam’, about 5 kms distance, constructed on Nira river (page 124). The fourth location of tourist interest is ‘Baneshwar’, known for Baneshwar temple (page 124). The fifth attraction is the ‘Balaji Temple’ (Ketkavale) near kapurhol village (page 125). The sixth destination is Narayanpur where ‘Datta temple’ is the main attraction (page 126). The seventh tourist location is Purandar about 5 kms from Narayanpur. The fort Purandar, having historical importance, is the main attraction (page 127). Lastly the eight tourist destination, Saswad, where tomb of Sopankaka, the younger brother of saint Dnyaneshwar is the main attraction (page 127). Finally, it comes to Jejuri, the original destination.

The tour covers about 108 kms distance from 6.00 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Map No. 5.4).

5.5.3 TOUR PLAN - III

The Plan - III includes seven tourist destinations. The following table reveals the details of the Tour Plan - III

JEJURI AND AROUND : PLAN III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jejuri</th>
<th>-----&gt;</th>
<th>Saswad</th>
<th>-----&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>-----&gt;</td>
<td>Dehu</td>
<td>-----&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theur</td>
<td>-----&gt;</td>
<td>Urali Kanchan</td>
<td>-----&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 5.7: DISTANCE OF DESTINATIONS FROM JEJURI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Cummulative Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jejuri</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Saswad</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dehu</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alandi</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Theur</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Urali Kanchan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jejuri</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 5.7 indicates that the first destination is Jenuri, the second destination is Saswad towards North-West of Jejuri and about 19 kms distance, having tomb of Sopankaka is the main attraction (page 137). The third destination is ‘Pune’, 29 kms from Saswad. Being a cultural centre, many attractions are available (page 137). The fourth destination, ‘Dehu’ about 33 kms from Pune, the birth of Saint Tukaram (page 137). The fifth place of attraction is ‘Alandi’ about 1.5 kms from Dehu, is known for Saint Dnyaneshwar. The tomb of Saint Dnyaneshwar is the main attraction (page 140). The sixth destination is ‘Theur’ known for Lord Ganapati (page 132). The seventh destination is Urali Kanchan known for M.S. Agricultural trust (Page 132). While passing, a short visit is also possible to ‘Tulapur’. The tour plan covers about 163 kms distance during the span of 16 hours from morning to night (Map No. 5.5).

5.6 DISCUSSION

In the present chapter, three tour plans are given for the pilgrims who visit Jejuri frequently throughout year and especially at the time of fairs held at Jejuri. A large number of pilgrims stay there for 2 to 4 days. The main purpose is to take Darshan of Lord Khandoba at Kadepathar and GadKoat. It is observed while doing survey that many tourists intend to visit other nearby religious centres like Shrikshetra Veer, Balaji, Saswad, Bhuleshwar etc. But because of lack of transport and other infrastructural facilities, this does not become possible for them. They feel that Devasthan committee at Jejuri, Maharashtra state Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) and even private sector should avail the facility to go for Darshan of other religious places as well as other tourist centres around Jejuri.
JEJURI AND AROUND
ROUTE 3

Map 5.5
The similar discussion of short tours were also made with the MSRTC Depot, at Jejuri, Devasthan Committee and a few travel agents. The concept of short tour plans appealed to them. By keeping this in view, here, an attempt has been made to prepare short tour plans for one day. Accordingly tour plans are prepared. The tourist can make tour for one day, two days, or three days as per their time and economy available. Therefore, three plans are given here, consisting of 18 tourist attractions including Jejuri. In the tour plans, except Valhe, Saswad and Urali Kanchan, repetitions of the tourists centres are avoided. Valhe is included in Plan-I and Plan-II. Saswad is included in Plan-II and Plan-III, and Urali Kanchan is included in Plan-I and Plan-III. These three tourists centres are repeated as they come on the way, in the tours. Such tour plans are prepared as feasibility is there. The pilgrims can also enjoy the other tourist centres around the Jejuri.

While preparing tour plans, care is taken to cover one tour in a day. Tour will start from Jejuri and return to the same destination after completing the tour. By making provision of travel and food by the organizer, the tour can be completed within a day. The Devasthan committee, Private sector and MSRTC can take lead in this regard. Such type of tours will be more economical and help to increase the employment and minor business activities related to tourism industry.

Researcher feels that such type of tours are possible. It will also help to create ‘tourist region’. It is also possible to create such type of tourist regions around the nodal religious centres in Maharashtra. The religious centres should be selected for this purpose considering the natural flow of pilgrims to the concerned destinations. There are many destinations like Pandharpur, Bhimashankar, Jotiba Dongar, Akkalkot etc. spread all over Maharashtra. By considering these nodal centres, tourist regions can be created around them. Ultimately, this will help to strengthen the domestic tourism in Maharashtra. Here, an example of creating ‘tourist region’, by considering Jejuri as the centre and other tourists attractions around it, is produced to create similar tourist regions in Maharashtra.
REFERENCES


