TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN RAIGAD DISTRICT:
A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

Synopsis of the Thesis
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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.

The main elements of tourism which attract tourist to a particular destination fall under following categories: 1) Pleasant climate 2) Scenic attraction 3) Historical & cultural attraction 4) Accessibility 5) Shopping 6) Adventure 7) Variety of cuisines 8) Accommodation 9) Relaxation & recreation 10) Health - care projects. Therefore, it has been rightly said that the core concept of tourism revolves around for 4 A’s (a) Attraction (b) Accessibility  (c) Amenities (d) Ancillary services.

India’s glorious traditions and rich cultural heritage are closely related with the development of tourism. India, a land of geographical diversity, blessed with a long history of rich civilization and culture. It is a potential tourism paradise with a wide variety of attractions. Today tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earnings and employment. India is a huge market for tourism for outbound and inbound tourists. The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2010 increased to 5.78 million as compared to 5.17 million in 2009. The growth rate in FTAs during 2010 over 2009 was 11.8 per cent. India’s rank improved to 40th in 2010, from 41st in 2009. Tourism continues to play an important role as a foreign exchange earner for the country. In 2010, foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from
tourism were ₹ 64889 crore as compared to ₹ 54960 in 2009, registering a growth of 18.1 %. Number of domestic tourist visits in India during 2010 was 740.21 million as compared to 668.80 million in 2009, with a growth rate of 18.8 %.

Maharashtra is a land of rich culture, tradition and festivals and is a major trade and tourist destination of India, attracting thousands of tourists from across the world every year. So, the campaign slogan for Maharashtra Tourism is “MAHARASHTRA UNLIMITED!”. The government of Maharashtra has shown keen interest to promote tourism activities in all over Maharashtra since 1989. As a result Maharashtra is the first state to declare “Tourism District” for the tourism development.

THE CHOICE OF THE TOPIC

Raigad district is one of the important and solitary districts not only in Maharashtra but also in India. The district is very close to Mumbai. It also reveals a treasure of great tourism resources. Geographically the Raigad district has considerable varieties in relief, climate and socio-economic status. The Raigad district has a great potential for the better development of tourism. At present there is no proper geographical investigation of Raigad district to analyze the present status, which is essential for better development of tourism in the Raigad district. Tourism can generate employment opportunities for the local people and plays a vital role in the economic development of the district. So this topic is selected for detail research.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

The major objectives of the study are to make a geographical investigation of tourism in the Raigad district. Following are the specific objectives of the study-

1) To examine the factors which are responsible for the development of tourism in the study region.

2) To assess the transportation and accommodation facilities in the study region.
3) To assess the socio-cultural impact of tourism upon a few tourist places.

4) To identify new locations having tourism potential and to suggest a strategy for the development of concerned tourist places.

5) To explore the major problems of tourist places in the study region.

6) To suggest a remedial measures for the development of tourism in the study region.

**HYPOTHESIS**

Physical setting and infrastructural facilities play an important role in the development of tourism.

**DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY**

The present study is based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through intensive field work by visiting various destinations in the study region. Questionnaire and interviews had applied for the data collection. Arc GIS, Global Mapper (softwares) are used for the preparation of maps. Secondary data has been collected through District Census Hand Book, Sandarbha Maharashtra, District Gazetteer, Published and unpublished materials, Travel books, newspapers, periodicals, etc. and different statistical methods and cartographic techniques has been used wherever necessary.

A random sample survey of tourist has been conducted during the year 2009. The information related to demographic characteristics, origin of tourists, economic status, mode of transport, infrastructural facilities etc used by tourists. The behavioural attitude of tourist at tourist destination in Raigad district and tourist’s opinion and impact of tourism on residents are calculated with the help of percentage method.
From the point of tourist, Satisfaction Index and Likert Scale methods can be applied. For the assessment of behavioural and functional attitude of the tourists, levels of tourist satisfaction was calculated by applying the following formula:

\[ \text{Sti} = \frac{\sum \text{Mi} \times \text{Ni}}{N} \]

Where,  
\( \text{Sti} \) = Satisfaction Index for the ‘i’th factor.  
\( \text{Mi} \) = Numerical values for particular level of satisfaction for the ‘i’th factor  
\( \text{Ni} \) = Number of respondents deriving the particular level of satisfaction for the ‘i’th factor.  
\( N \) = Total number of respondents for that factor for all levels of satisfaction.

The economic, socio-cultural and physical impacts of tourists on residents can be measured by a seven point Likert Scale. The collected information is finally tabulated, analyzed and the result presented in the form of maps, tables, figures and photographs etc. It should be easier to analyze and draw conclusion from them.

**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 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Raigad district is located between 17° 51’ N to 19° 80’ N latitude and 72° 51’ E to 73° 40’ E longitude. The district had a population of 2207929 persons as per the 2001 census. The total area of the district is 7152 sq.kms and it occupied 2.32 percent area of the total area of the Maharashtra state. According to 2001 census, Raigad district has 15 tehsils having 26 census towns, 11 statutory town and 1919 villages. The district is having north - south length of 150 kms and east - west width is 24-48 kms. The district head quarter is located at Alibag.
Raigad district is one of the 35 districts of Maharashtra state. It is divided into 15 tehsils namely Uran, Panvel, 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. Basically the district is a narrow coastal strip of land with hilly and rugged topographic features.

**DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS**

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

2. Rasayani, Taloja, Nagothane are the main industrial centers developed in Raigad district.

3. Thal Vayshet 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 Shivaji Maharaj’s Kingdom is located in Mahad tehsil.

7. Out of Eight Ashtavinayaka temples, Shri Ballaeshwar and Shri Varadvinayaka temples are located at Pali (Sudhagad) and Madh (Khalapur) 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 Elephanta every year.

9. Matheran, the eye catching hill station also is a tourist attraction of the district located in Karjat tehsil and Matheran railway had been inspected by UNESCO world heritage site officials in the last week of October 2009.

10. ONGC, BPCL, GPTS are the important plants located near Uran town.

11. Raigad district is very close to Mumbai.

   The Raigad district has great potential for tourism resources; it has a treasure of tourist places. The main attraction of Raigad district is Raigad Fort, beautiful beaches, natural scenery, caves, monuments and towns. Well-known beaches are
Alibag, Akshi, Nagaon, Kashid, Kihim, Murud, Saswane, Varsoli, Shrividhan, Harihareshwar, etc are the best beaches on the western coast of Arabian Sea. Tourists visit the historical forts of Raigad, Kolaba fort, Janjira fort, caves, pilgrimage centers, natural scenery and hill stations. Konkan Railway plays an important role for the development of tourism in the district and for which the work has already been started and will help in changing the face of the entire district.

DESIGN OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

Chapter I begins with the INTRODUCTION of the Tourism in the world, India, Status of FTA and FEE, Tourism policy in India, Tourism in Maharashtra and its policy, Choice of the topic, objectives, hypothesis, research methodology, review and design of the work.

Chapter II is concerned with the ‘GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND’. It includes history of the study region, physiographic features, water resources, forest and natural vegetation, climate wildlife, fishes, population characteristics, occupational structure, infrastructural facilities such as transportation and communication, accommodation, health and other facilities.

The district is drained by short westwards flowing parallel streams, which originate in the Sahyadri Mountains in the east and flow into the Arabian Sea. Ulhas, Patalganga, Amba, Kundlika, Savitri, Kal, Gandhari and Ghod are the major rivers in the district. The district has experienced hot and humid climate. The average rainfall for the district is 3028.9 mm. The rainfall increases rapidly from the coast towards the Sahyadri on the eastern border of the district. Forest soils, varkas soils, rice soils, khar or salt soils, coastal alluvium and laterite soils are found in the district. Rice is an important crop in the district.

The population characteristics in the district play an important role in tourism sector. According to census 2001, Raigad district has a total population of 2207929 comprising of 1117628 males and 1090301 females. About 75.8 per cent of total
population is concentrated in rural areas while 24.2 per cent is living in urban areas of the district. The average growth rate for the rural and urban areas of the district are 11.8 per cent and 62.7 per cent respectively. The density of population has increased from 255 in 1991 to 309 in 2001 and ranking 9\textsuperscript{th} in Maharashtra State. Raigad district has a sex ratio of 976 which is unfavorable to female and is higher than the state averages of 922, ranking 7\textsuperscript{th} among the other districts of state. The SC population (2.4 per cent) is lower than the ST population (12.2 per cent) to the total population of the district. The literacy rate for the district was 77.0 per cent as compared to the 76.9 per cent literate population of Maharashtra state. Different activities like primary, secondary and tertiary are practiced in Raigad district. Due to development of tourism, most of the population is engaged in other activities like hotel, travel and other activities related to tourism.

Raigad district is well connected by roads, railways and waterways. Express Highway, National Highways No. 4, 17 and 4B pass through the district. Therefore, all modes of transportation network helps to increase the number of tourists.

Accommodation is a core area of tourism industry and the key element in the tourism product. Unfortunately accommodation facilities are not satisfactory. Tourists can accommodate themselves in hotel, resorts, private house, cottages and the scheme of bed and breakfast. There were three hundred and ninety accommodation facilities available in the district. Health facilities are also not satisfactory. Security of tourists is important in tourism industry but this security status is not satisfactory. The strength of police force is less as per the government norms. Entertainment facilities are less in number. Bank and ATM centers are also less in the district as compared to population of the district.

Chapter III is related to the DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOURISTS PLACES. Relief features play an important role in the development of tourism. There is positive correlation of relief features and infrastructural facilities. The distribution of tourists’ places like beaches, caves, forts, religious places, hot spring
and hill stations depended on the Physiography of the region. Here some of the famous and potential tourists places are selected and highlight with their basic facilities.

Raigad district has one hundred and sixty one tourist centers which are distributed all over the district. The district has many natural, socio-cultural and man-made attractions. Every tehsils of Raigad district has a treasure of tourism and the tourist places are significant in the view of tourism development.

The western coast of the tehsils has variety of beaches. There are 21 beaches which are worthy to develop as tourist attractions. Alibag, Kihim, Kashid, Murud, Diveagar, Shrivardhan and Harihareshwar beaches attract more tourists.

Sanctuaries are one of the most important attractions for observation of wild animals, bird watcher and nature lover. There are two sanctuaries in the district, Karnala bird sanctuary and Fansad wildlife with their great biodiversity.

The temples are spiritual centers which provide psychological shelter to the people. Raigad district has total 78 religious centers; out of these 29 temples are more attractive. Asthavinayak temples-Shri Ballaleshwar at Pali, Shri Varadvinayak at Madh, Suvarna Ganesh temple at Diveagar and Harihareshwar (Dakshin Kashi) are the major attractions of Hindu people and Idgah at Murud and Pirwadi darga at Uran are the major attractions of Muslim community. About thirty temples are mostly devoted to Lord Shiva and Ganesha.

Matheran is the only hill station in the district. It has 38 tourist points which are the major attractions of the tourists. During the summer season, large number of domestic and foreign tourists visits Matheran. Toy train is also an added attraction of tourists. Calm, quiet places, natural beauty, cold air, peaceful atmosphere and great biodiversity are some of the characteristics of Matheran.
Forts have good potential for tourism in the district, there are 49 forts located in Sahyadri mountain range having their historical significance. The main attraction of the district is Raigad fort and Janjira fort.

Hot water springs are the gift of nature. There are two hot water springs at Sav and Unhere; these springs are located near the river. The significance of hot water is to cure the skin disease.

The district has 18 waterfalls which are hidden inside in the Sahyadri mountain range because of undulating topography and heavy rainfall. Waterfall is the prime attractions of youngsters during the rainy season. Pandavkada waterfall is the prime attraction of Mumbaikar and local people.

Caves are also one of the most important attractions of tourists. There are 10 group of caves situated in the district having their historical significance. An Elephanta cave is the main attraction of the district. UNESCO has declared it as a world heritage site. Large number of domestic and foreign tourists visits to Elephanta caves.

Agro tourism is the source of income as it directly and indirectly benefits to the local people. Karjat (Saguna Bag) and Alibag (Karpewadi) tehsils have developed the agro tourism. There are two Sahakari Sanstha’s namely Kokan Bhumi Agro Tourism, and Alibag Krishi Parytan Vikas play main role in the development of agro tourism in the district.

Raigad district is one of the important districts for its historical, religious, social, cultural and political background. Many famous social reformers, spiritual Guru, writer, freedom fighters, actors, musicians and political leaders of Raigad district are pride of the Maharashtra state. The birth place of Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Vinoba Bhave, Dr Nanasaheb Darmadhikari, etc all of them contributed in various spheres of life and have been of great importance to the
society. A native village of the great personalities has one of the attractions for
tourists. It helps to promote the tourism development.

All towns have their own identities with respect to social, historical, cultural,
economical and political importance. Out of 26 towns Alibag, Uran, Pen, Murud,
Shrivardhan and Mahad are major attractions towns from a tourism point of view.

Chapter IV is deals with the ‘FUNCTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF TOURISTS’. A tourist is the backbone of the tourism
industry. Tourists are satisfied with tourism activity and its products, so they can
enjoy more and visit again and again to the destinations of the district. Therefore the
study of the functional and behavioural attitude of the tourists is essential for the
promotion of tourism. There are one hundred and sixty one tourists’ centers. But a
very few of them are well known to people. Here twelve centers like Alibag,
Kashid, Matheran, Elephanta caves, Pali, Madh, Unhere, Harihareshwar, Karnala
bird sanctuary, Raigad fort and Murud-Janjira has been selected for the assessment
of behavioural characteristics of the tourists. 445 tourists had personally contacted
and questionnaire was filled by them.

Tourists’ data analysis reveals that, about 58.43 per cent of the incoming
tourists are male and 41.57 per cent are female. It seems that male tourists are more
than the female. About 63.2 per cent incoming male tourists’ age group is 15-30
years and 62.1 per cent senior citizen spend more time at the destination in the
district for relaxation, paying of gods, nature observation and entertainment.

About 57.08 per cent tourists are married and 42.92 per cent are unmarried.
Tourists always visit with their family members especially newly married couple
visit to Matheran and Kashid beach. They do not take interest in other places.

Raigad district is also famous as pilgrimage district. The tourists’ data depicts,
about 63.37 per cent Hindu people always visits to religious places which is close to
their residence. Such tourists always visit to Pali, Madh (Ashtavinayaka temples),
Dakshin Kashi, Diveagar, Nandgaon, Rameshwar etc. During the Sankasthi and Vinayaka Chathurtis tourists visit on large scale. Muslim people also visit Idgah at Murud and Darga at Pirwadi in Uran town. People of other religion also visit to the district but their number is less. So among tourist Hindu people are more in numbers than the people of other religions.

The occupational structure reveals that, about 59.78 per cent incoming tourists are engaged in service sectors. Central and state government provides LTC facilities to the employee. Therefore these people i.e government employee visit on a large scale.

Monthly income of the tourists determines the intensity of the tourism activity. About 53.03 per cent tourists’ income is between Rs. 45000 to 60000 who are engaged in service sectors. They visit the district during holidays.

Most of the tourists who visit Raigad district are from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and from other states of India and foreign countries. About 77.3 per cent tourists have come from Maharashtra. Out of them 28.8 per cent tourists are coming from Mumbai, 17.8 per cent from host district. About 9.00 per cent of tourists are remarkably from foreign countries. The largest numbers of Mumbaikar are registered during the holidays and weekends. Host people also visit tourists’ destinations frequently followed by tourists from Thane and Ratnagiri districts.

Frequency of tourists helps to understand the popularity of the destination. About 32.6 per cent tourists had visited places thrice. As per the discussion with tourists, all tourist places are very beautiful in scenery, calm and have pleasant climate, attractiveness, and are having good accommodation, accessibility and amenities. Most of the people visit for only relaxation on weekend or holidays.

About 55.05 per cent tourists came with their family members. 22.69 per cent tourists enjoy with their friends. During the holidays and weekends maximum tourist
arrange trip with their family members. Secondly tourists enjoy with their close friends. Thirdly maximum school and educational centers also arrange their trips for reminding history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’, Balaji Peshwa and Nawab Siddhi.

The purpose of tourists is to get rid of from the daily routine work, hectic life. People want relief for their mind also wish to enjoy nature. The mainly visit to cultural heritage site, religious places, historical places. Their main intension is to get together with friends and relatives, experience adventure, bird watching, entertainment, relaxation and refreshment of body, seeking knowledge of geographical features and travel for business meet. About 34.83 per cent of the tourist travel to destination for nature observation like beaches, waterfalls and greenery. About 18.65 per cent tourists prefer to visit the spiritual purposes such as Pali, Madh, Birla temple, Harihareshwar, Diveagar etc.

Accessibility plays main role in the development of tourism industry. Various modes of transportation are essential for reaching the tourist at destinations desired. About 47.87 per cent tourists used their own car for travelling. Mostly tourists are giving the priority to their own car and hired private vehicles because most of the tourists organize one day trip, they do not stay, especially tourists coming from Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Southern other districts of Maharashtra. Central and Konkan railway, Express way, National Highway No. 4, 4B and 17 pass through the district. Many tourist centers are located near to railway route. So, Raigad district is well connected by these modes of transportation.

Accommodation is a necessary component in the development of tourism industry within any destination. About 16.85 per cent tourists stay in hotels and about 10.56 per cent tourists accommodate in the resorts. Most of the tourists prefer very cheap accommodation facilities which are developed at few tourists places in the district. Maximum tourist destinations are very close to Mumbai, Thane and Pune. These tourists do not stay at any destination
The study of sources of information about the tourist destination helps to understand the tourist trends in the Raigad district. About 40.9 per cent tourist say that they already know the tourist destinations in the Raigad district. Such tourists frequently visit those places such as Alibag, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Murud-Janjira, Harihareshwar, Diveagar, Matheran, and Elephanta Caves etc. About 24.49 per cent tourist says that they collected information through internet.

The expenditure incurred by the tourists on different tourists’ products like accommodation, transportation, food, shopping and other products in the course of their visit. On an average about 17.4 per cent tourist spend up to ₹ 150 per day, about 47 per cent tourist spend amount up to ₹ 600 per day. About 29.16 per cent tourist do not spend money on tourists’ products. Therefore tourist prefers to visit places in the Raigad district which are affordable.

Preferences of tourist destinations mainly depend on attraction of tourism, transportation facilities, amenities and services. Most of the tourists visit Elephanta caves (17.98 per cent), which is significant known World Heritage site in the Raigad district. About 15.73 per cent tourists give preference to Matheran hill station.

Here an attempt is made to analyze the level of satisfaction of the tourists by noting their views regarding the various facilities provided to them at the destination such as accommodation, transportation and food, attitude towards the local people, about the place, shopping, parking, cleanliness, drinking water and personal safety. About 445 tourists contacted at the selected destinations of the Raigad district and asked to mention their views about the various facilities by stating excellent, good, satisfactory and unsatisfactory.

Tourists’ opinion regarding the tourist places in the Raigad district received first rank. It means tourists are more satisfied with the tourism attraction and its products at the destination, behavioural and attitudinal approach of the local people receives second rank, accessibility receives third rank, an accommodation gets forth rank, food facility received fifth rank, parking facility at the destination received
sixth rank, cleanliness of the tourist destination get seventh rank, shopping facility received eighth ranks, drinking water facilities received ninth rank and tourist security and safety gets tenth rank.

The satisfaction index for about the place, attitude of the local people and transportation facilities received high ranks. These factors are more significant for the tourism development in Raigad district.

The fifth chapter deals with ‘**ECONOMIC, SOCIO-CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL IMPACT OF TOURISM**’. Raigad district is in the developing stage; the economic, socio-cultural and physical impacts are assessed by selected four samples of tourist destinations namely Elephanta Caves, Matheran, Janjira Fort and Pali with the help of seven point Likert scale. These impacts are comparatively less at these places. 11 indicators were considered for the assessment of economic impact of tourism on residents of Elephanta Caves, Matheran, Janjira Fort and Pali. There were fewer impacts on the destination with respect to income of the residents, opportunity for shopping and opportunity for jobs, increasing cost of land and housing, increase in general price of goods and services, increase in the number of hotels, resorts and commercial view point of local people. These indicators show the positive impact of the tourism.

For the assessment of socio-cultural impacts, 15 indicators were referred for the study. The positive socio-cultural impacts are observed, increase in density of population, improved in standard of living, change in occupational structure, role of MTDC and ASI, active participation of local social organization, change in value, norms and customs. It is observed that there is low social impact of tourism on residents. The positive social indicators indicate good sign for the development of tourism in the district.

Physical aspects are also important for the development of tourism. There were 8 indicators used for that purpose. The positive physical impacts, overcrowding and congestion, strain on public utility services and recreational
facilities, quality of sewage and garbage disposal, need of separate place for parking. Overcrowding of tourists creates great pressure on local resources and creates the problems of air, water and noise pollution.

The Sixth chapter deals with ‘SUMMERY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS’, It includes remarks and suggestions based on the present work, which will be helpful to the travel agencies, MTDC, local tourist etc for the development of tourism in the district.

SUGGESTIONS

The study reveals that the Raigad district favours for tourism development. Therefore the following suggestions are made.

1. 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.
2. To develop eco tourism at Karnala Bird Sanctuary and Fansad wildlife Sanctuary.
3. It is observed that the conditions of state highway, district roads and village roads are not satisfied, therefore it is suggested that PWD, MTDC and local leaders take lead and it should be repaired and maintained properly in order to increase the number of tourists.
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. Matheran hill station- Matheran Municipal Corporation provides pay and park facility at Dasturi Naka. But parking space is very limited. Traffic jam problem is frequent. Therefore, more space be provides for parking.
6. Ferry services should start from Vashi Navi Mumbai, Belapur and Mora to Gharapuri. It is beneficial for the Thane district and northern part of Raigad district in order to increase the number of tourists.

7. For more attraction of tourists at Karnala Bird Sanctuary and fort, honey industry and ropeway should be developed.

8. Many express trains are running on Central railway and Konkan railway, 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 in the district. It is beneficial to the outsider tourists.

9. Tourists’ data analysis reveals that lack of print media or publicity; tourists know the attraction of tourism in the district. Therefore, it is suggested that the print media should be used to promote tourism vigorously to increase the number of tourists visiting in Raigad district.

10. Long route buses of MSRTC ply on NH-17 from Mumbai to South Konkan, but not single bus stops at Karnala Bird Sanctuary. Therefore, Forest Department, Thane should take lead and convince MSRTC to provide halt at Karnala sanctuary which will ultimately increase the number of tourist.

11. Ropeway should be developed at Matheran hill station from Dhodhani village (back side of Matheran) in Panvel tehsil.

12. For the sustainable development of tourism in the district, we can motivate the NCC and NSS students from schools and colleges in the district for enhancing the awareness of environment and of tourist centers.

13. Raigad Darshan bus services should be started by MTDC; it helps to attract the tourists on large scale.

14. To start Tourism Festival at Alibag and Harihareshwar.

15. To develop garden in the campus of Peshwa Smarak at Shrivardhan.

16. For the development of tourism in the district, MTDC should establish the sub center at district head quarter.
17. To appoint the local people for the supervision of caves site by ASI.

18. As Raigad fort is concerned, there are only two small hotels at foot hill region of Raigad fort, 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.

19. Kokan Bhumi Agro Tourism and Alibag Krishi Parytan Vikas Sanstha should take lead for the development of agro tourism in the district.

20. It is necessary to increase the security force at tourist destination. Tourists must feel secure and enjoy the destination.

21. Long Travel Concession (LTC) facilities should be started for teachers.

22. The museum of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj can be developed at district head quarter.

23. To involve the NCC and NSS volunteers from schools and colleges for the cleanliness of the beaches.

24. Bhakt niwas facility should be straightened at religious places at Madh and Pali.

25. It is necessary to develop fresh water bath facility at Pirwadi, Diveagar, Harihareshwar, Murud, Shrivardhan, Kashid, Akshi, Nagaon, Varsoli beaches.

26. Guest house should be opened and respective facilities be provided to the tourists.

27. Safety guards should be provided at different points at Matheran hill Station.

28. Information centers should be opened at Matheran and directional map of tourist points be displayed near the railway station and Dasturi Naka.

29. Water sports facility should start at Shrivardhan, Alibag, Kihim, Varsoli, Akshi beaches.

30. Parking facility should be developed at Janjira fort (Rajpuri village).

31. Shopping facilities should be increased at famous tourist destinations.

32. The bed and breakfast scheme be introduced by MTDC at all destinations.
33. Accommodation (Hotels, resorts, cottages) facilities should be developed at Pali, Madh, Varsoli, Kihim, Akshi, Kashid, Mahad, Raigad Fort, Shrivardhan, Harihareshwar and Gharapuri Island.

34. Raigad district should be declared as a ‘Tourism District’ along with the Sindhudurg District.

35. Recently Western Ghats is declared as world heritage site which is at eastern boarder of Raigad district. This fact is very useful to for advertisement and promotion of international tourism in Raigad district.

Author feels that the above mentioned suggestions which are based on extensive field work and careful study are useful and will certainly help the development of tourism in the district.

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