III

DISTRIBUTION OF TOURIST PLACES

3.0  INTRODUCTION

3.1  BEACHES

3.2  SANCTUARIES

3.3  RELIGIOUS PLACES

3.4  HILL STATIONS

3.5  FORTS

3.6  HOT SPRINGS

3.7  WATERFALLS

3.8  CAVES, TEMPLES

3.9  AGRO TOURISM

3.10  GREAT PERSONALITIES

3.11  MAJOR TOWNS

REFERENCES
3.0 INTRODUCTION

Raigad district has great reveals of a treasure of tourism. The main attraction of the district is Raigad fort which was the capital of the great Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. There are many attractions of tourists which are distributed all over the district. The district has many natural, socio-cultural and man-made attractions. The western coast of district is covered with loveliest beaches like Alibag, Kihim, Kashid, Murud, Diveagar, Shrivardhan etc. Hot water springs, hill stations like Matheran, sanctuaries, waterfalls, forts, Asthavinayka temples at Pali and Madh, World Heritage site of Elephanta caves and towns like Alibag, Madh, Shrivardhan, Harihareshwar and Diveagar attract large number of tourist every year. The district is full of attractions, so many tourist places are distributed all over the district. Each and every tehsil of Raigad district has a treasure of tourism. All tourist places are significant in the view of tourism development.

Beaches are always the most significant tourist attraction. The western coasts of the district have has variety of beaches along the coast of Arabian Sea. Raigad district, there are 21 beaches, having natural beauty but only 8 beaches are selected from tourism point of view. They are the attraction of Raigad district. These beaches are Pirwadi, Awas, Kihim, Varsoli, Kashid, Murud, Shrivardhan and Diveagar.

Sanctuaries are one of the most important tourist places in the district because they provide best opportunity to the Botany, Zoology and Geography researchers. They have great variety of biodiversity. For the bird watchers sanctuary is most important. There are two sanctuaries namely Karnala and Fansad wildlife sanctuary in the district. These
sanctuaries are famous for bird and butterflies respectively. These two sanctuaries are selected for the study.

The Raigad district is also famous as pilgrimage district. There are two Asthavinayaka temples Shri Ballaeshwar at Pali and Shri Varadvinayak at Madh. Harihreshwar is also famous for religious tourism, it is known as ‘Dakshin Kashi’. There are 36 major and 41 minor temples which are distributed all over the district. Out of these five temples are selected for the study from a tourism point of view like Birla temple, Kankeshwar temple, Shri Ballaleshwar temple, Shri.Varadvinayak temple and Lord Shiva (Harihreshwar) temple.

Hill station plays main role in the development of tourism. Hill station is the main attraction of tourists. Matheran is the only hill station in the district. During the summer season, large number of tourist visit Matheran. Calm, quiet place with natural beauty, cold air and peaceful environment and biodiversity are some of the characteristics of Matheran.

In Riaagad district, there are 49 forts having their historical significance. The district is named after Raigad fort. The Raigad fort was the capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Raigad and Janjira are major attraction of forts to the tourists. Here only seven forts are selected for the studies which are preferred by the tourist. These forts are Raigad, Karnala, Korlai, Janjira, Kulaba Sarasgad and Birwadi fort

Hot water springs are the gift of nature. They are remarkable and have become attraction of the tourist. The district has two hot water springs namely Sav and Unhere. The significance of hot water is its ability to cure the skin disease. Therefore, these places have more potential for the development of medical and ayurveda tourism. These hot springs are selected here from the tourism point of view.
Eastern boundary of the district is marked by the Sahaydri mountain range. During the rainy season it is covered with full of greenery with waterfalls and magnificent natural view of the region. Tourists are enjoying with waterfall. There are 18 waterfalls are found in the district. Some waterfalls are hidden inside the range. For the tourism point of view four waterfalls are selected these are Shivtharghal, Vagreshwar, Pandavkada, Zenith and Fansad.

On the other side, caves are also most important attraction of tourists. There are 10 groups of caves situated in the district having their historical significance but here only three important caves are selected for the studies. These caves are Elephanta, Kude and Gandharpale.

Besides these tourists attractions memorials or monuments and sculptures are the important aspects from the tourism point of view. Raigad district has got great personalities like Sane Guruji, Vinoba Bhave, Kanhoji Angre, Malojirao Bhosale, Tanaji Malusure, Nana Fadnis and Vasudeo Balawant Phadke. As well as cultural tourism like sculptures also make impact on tourism development. Here five famous personalities are selected for the study from a tourism point of view.

3.1 BEACHES

Along the coast of Arabian Sea, many beaches are the attraction of tourist. The total length of coast is 240 kms. These beaches are distributed in Uran, Alibag, Murud, and Shrivardhan teshils of Raigad district. Very few beaches are attractive and provide facilities to the tourists but some of are potential. During the summer and winter season, large numbers of tourist visit these beaches. In the present study area, a few important beaches which are well known and frequently visited are selected.
Following table 3.1 shows the tehsilwise distribution of beaches in the Raigad district.

### RAIGAD DISTRICT

**DISTRIBUTION OF BEACHES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Beaches</th>
<th>No. of Beaches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Uran</td>
<td>Pirwadi, Alibag, Varsoli, Kihim, Thal, Awas, Saswane, Mandwa, Nagaon, Akshi, Nandgaon, Chaul and Revdanda</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Alibag, Varsoli, Kihim, Thal, Awas, Saswane, Mandwa, Nagaon, Akshi, Nandgaon, Chaul and Revdanda</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td>Murud, Kashid, Nandgaon and Rajpuri</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shrivardhan</td>
<td>Shrivardhan, Diveagar, Aravi and Harihareshwar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by Author

Table 3.1 Distribution of beaches, Raigad District

There are 21 beaches in the Raigad district. Only one beach is located in Uran tehsil, Alibag tehsil has 12 beaches, 4 beaches are in Murud tehsil and 3 beaches are located in Shrivardhan tehsil. Here, 7 beaches are selected for study purpose and these beaches are the potential tourist places.
3.1.1 PIRWADI BEACH

Pirwadi beach is known for the Pir of Muslim community. This beach is located in Uran tehsil and is situated along the ONGC plant.
Pirwadi village is not a census block; it comes under the Kegaon census town in Uran municipal area. The distance is 2 kms away from Uran town. This beach can be divided into two parts, to the northern part is sandy and the southern part is rocky.

![Location and View of Pirwadi Beach](image)

**Photograph 3.1 Location and View of Pirwadi Beach**

Total length of beach is 1 kms and it is 50 meters wide. This beach is very calm, beautiful and peaceful covered with coconut and palm trees. To the south there is a musjid. Every year, Muslim people celebrate uroos of pir. On this occasion large numbers of outside Muslims visit this place. Every day local people visit this beach at the evening time.

There is no facility on the beach. Tourists as well as local people spend one or two hours on the beach. Therefore, it is suggested that minimum facilities should be provided. This beach is well connected by roads, but there are no buses ply towards beach. Only auto rikshaws are available at Uran town. Accommodation and food facilities are not available here; tourists have to bring the food from Uran or from their homes.
Pirwadi beach is well connected to Deoolwadi in Uran. There are 8 temples such as Urnawati, Vitthal-Rukhmai, Shiv, Mahadeo, Balaji, Shri Datta, Shri Siddeshwar and Hanuman. During the Shri Datta jayanti, large numbers of local as well as outsider devotees visit to Uran. Also Shri Sai Baba temple in Nagaon, Ratneshwari in Jaskhar, Chirner’s Mahaganpati, Darga at Pirwadi, JNPT Port, Karnja Port etc are worth to visit. So Pirwadi beach is one of the tourism potential centres in the district.

3.1.2 KIHIM AND AWAS BEACH

Kihim and Awas beach are in the Alibag tehsil. These beaches are connected to each other. They are located to the northern side of Alibag Town. Kihim and Awas villages cover an area of 3.65 sq. kms and 9.46 sq. kms with population of 2640 and 3540 respectively.

Kihim beach is pollution free, beautiful and exclusive beach laced with coconut, cypress and palm trees. It is 2 kms long spread of white sand. This beach is famous for Marathi film shooting. It is favorite weekend place of Mumbaikars as it is quite convenient for tourist. This beach can be connected to Underi and Khanderi fort which are controlled by navy department but are restricted to the tourist and local people.

Awas beach is 1.5 kms long with pleasant climate, beautiful colourful beach of white sand and covered with coconut, cypress and brushwood trees. There are three temples namely Shri Nagoba, Shri Panbadevi and Shri Vakratund Ganesh. Shri Nagoba temple has big festival after fifteen days of Diwali. Sunset from this beach looks very beautiful. This beach is safe for bathing and swimming. So Awas beach is one of the tourism potential centres in the district.
These two beaches are well connected by well constructed roads. Buses ply between Alibag to Revas or Mandwa. Autorikshaws and six seaters are available from Alibag, as well as from Revas and Mandwa. 300 six seater rikshaws ply between Alibag - Revas and Mandwa. Apart from road, these beaches are also connected by sea route. For ferry from ferry wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) to Revas, it takes nearly about 45 minutes and another catamarans service (Maldar, Ajanta and PNP) is available.
from Gateway of India to Mandwa. The distance between Mandwa to Awas and Kihim is 5 and 7 kms respectively and Revas to Awas and Kihim is 10 and 12 kms respectively. This nearest railway station is Pen, about 29 kms from Alibag on Konkan railway.

Accommodation and food facilities are available in Kihim and Awas. Private bungalows and houses are available for stay and the MTDC approved bed and breakfast scheme is also available.

Infrastructural facilities like drinking water, electricity, telephone booth, sign boards, parking, banking, petrol pump, medical, toilet blocks, etc are available on these two beaches. Shopping and marketing facilities are not available here. But tourists through wastage material eleswere, so air pollution can form. Therefore it is suggested that dustbins and clean beach instructions board should be properly made with this regards.

### 3.1.3 VARSOLI BEACH

Varsoli beach is located in Alibag tehsil, which is at outskirt of Alibag town. Varsoli village covers an area of 3.62 sq. kms. having population of 5564 persons. This village is situated along the shore of Arabian Sea.

Varsoli beach is 1 kms long and 70 meters wide and has sparkling white sand and clear blue sea water. Along the shore there is a very thick vegetation of brushwood, coconut, palm and casuarinas trees. The main attraction of this beach is fresh air and pollution free atmosphere. This beach is popular for shooting of TV serials and films.

Varsoli beach is well connected by two roads, one is major district road from Alibag via Revas or Mandwa and another is from Alibag city.
There are no municipal buses from Alibag to Varsoli, only auto rickshaws are available.

Accommodation and food facilities are available in hotels, resorts, private bungalows and houses with MTDC approved bed and breakfast scheme. Infrastructural facilities are not well developed here. Due to this center is close to Alibag town. Varsoli beach is very attractive and beautiful, but it is relatively less visited place. So this place is potential spot for beach tourism.

Photograph 3.4 Locations and View of Varsoli Beach

3.1.4 KASHID BEACH

Kashid beach is in Murud tehsil, located 31 kms away from Alibag and 18 kms from Murud town. Kashid village covers an area of 6.53 sq. kms with 975 populations.

Kashid beach is popular for its dazzling silver sand and blue sea, Green Mountain and paddy fields. This beach is 3 kms long tucked in between two rocky hillocks with casuarina plantations all around the shore. Tourists who have visited at Kashid beach could remember the
Goa beaches. Mostly foreign tourists are attracted towards this beach. At weekend most of the tourists enjoy sea bath on the beach. This beach is popular for shooting of TV serials and films.

Photograph 3.5 Locations and View of Kashid Beach

Kashid beach is well connected by road of State Highway No-4 which is connected from Alibag to Murud and from Roha to Murud via Bhalgaon. These roads are single. Therefore it is suggested that the PWD works department of Raigad district should widen these roads. Another convenient way to Murud is to travel by catamaran services from Gateway of India to Mandwa (Alibag) or by ferry from Bhaucha Dakka to Revas (Alibag) and from Mandwa or Revas by road. The nearest railway station is Pen which is 63 kms away from Kashid village. So accessibility is very good. Food facilities are available in the form of food stalls, snacks and coconut stalls. As far as accommodation is concerned, there are luxury class resorts, private bungalows; houses with MTDC approved under the bed and breakfast scheme are available at Kashid village. Signing boards, boating, parking, security etc are various types of infrastructural facilities are available here. But Banking and ATM, toilet blocks, drinking water, telephone booth, travel agencies, shopping centers
and markets and garbage boxes are not available here. Therefore it is suggested that such facilities should be made available at Kashid beach.

3.1.5 MURUD BEACH

Murud beach lies in Murud tehsil, Murud is an old fisherman town. Murud beach is the attraction of tourists. It spreds about 1 km from north to south with white – silver sand. Murud town covers an area of 3.51 sq. kms with population of 12552 persons.

Murud beach is surrounded on three sides by mountains. The beautiful beach is lavishly strewn with whispering casuarinas, coconut, betel nut and palm trees. This beach is safe for bathing and swimming. This village also has a historical background. Murud city is famous for the impregnable fort of Janjira. The word ‘morod’ is peculiar to Kokani and is absent in Marathi, now this word more generally used for those parts of the village which were originally dry land as against the fields, which were swamps. Thus during the rainy season, the fields get flooded but Murud never gets flood. The founder of Maratha Empire Chhtrapati Shivaji Bhosale, Moropant Pingale fought to conquer the Siddis. The State of Murud –Janjira was known to the Maratha Empire as Habshi, the land of the Habshi.

The village is well connected by road and sea routes. This beach is located parallel to Alibag-Murud major district road No. - 92 and State Highway No.-4. Murud is 49 kms away from Alibag. State transport buses run regularly from Alibag, Mumbai Central, Pune, Kolhapur, Pandharpur, Thane and Roha. Another convenient way to Murud is to travel by catamaran services from Gateway of India to Mandwa (Alibag) or by ferry from ferry wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) to Revas (Alibag) and from there by bus to Murud from Mandwa or Revas, road connectivity is
also there. The nearest railway station is Pen on Konkan railway which is 81 kms away from Murud.

Photograph 3.6 Locations and View of Murud Beach

Every year during last week of December, the Murud Municipal Corporation celebrates ‘Murud- Janjira Paryatan Mahotsav’ on beach. On this occasion food festival, cultural programmes, half marathon, bullock carts races and other programmes are arranged by local people for tourists.

Accommodation and food facilities are easily available here. Hotels, resorts, khanawals, lodging and boarding, private bungalows and houses with MTDC approved scheme of bed and breakfast are available here. Infrastructural facilities like drinking water, toilet blocks, parking, post and telegram office, police station, petrol pump, banking, ATM, travel agencies, telephone booth, reservation agencies for state transport buses, etc are available here. Large numbers of tourists visit to Janjira fort. So they also visit the beach.
This beach is connected to Kashid beach, Fansad wildlife sanctuary and waterfall, Korlai fort, Shri Siddhivinayak temple of Nandgaon, Kude-Mandad caves and Kasa fort and other tourist destinations in Alibag.

3.1.6 SHRIVARDHAN BEACH

Shrivardhan beach is located in Shrivardhan tehsil. Shrivardhan and Harihareswar are the twin cities. Shrivardhan is famous for Rotha areca nut. This village also has a historical background and was the ancestral home of the Peshwas, Prime Minister of the Maratha Kingdom; originally resided at Shrivardhan which covers an area of 4.05 sq. kms. and with population by 15186.

Shrivardhan is a nice and beautiful place with sun kissed sands on a spectacular beach. It has nice atmosphere, an unpolluted fresh air and blue sea. This beach is having 3 kms long and 70-80 meters wide with soft silver sand covered by areca nut and palm trees. There are nine temples in the village namely Somjai, Peshwe, Laxminarayan, Jivneshwar, Ram, Kusumadevi, Aravi- Narayan, Devkhol-Kusumeshwar and Gangadevi. Jivaneshwar temple is an old Shiv temple. The pillars used for this temple are from Peshwa’s house in Shaniwarwada, Pune. Somjai temple is located just at entry point of the village.

Shrivardhan is a birth place of Shrimant Balaji Vishwnath Peshwe. So this place has a historical importance. There is need to create a museum of Balaji Peshwe at this place showing the importance of Peshwe. So it may be additional attraction of Shrivardhan.
Shrivardhan is well connected by roads and sea way. This place is located along the Panvel-Goa National Highway No No-17, in Mangaon tehsil, Mangaon to Mhasla State Highway No-97 and Mhasla to Shrivardhan State Highway No- 98. (The distance from Panvel to Mangaon is 95 kms, Mangaon to Mhasla 27 kms and Mhasla to Shrivradhan is 17 kms). State transport buses ply from Mumbai to Shrivardhan, Mangaon to Shrivardhan and local buses are there. Boat services are available from Murud to Dighi and from Veshvi (Ratnagiri District) to Bagmandla.

Accommodation and food facilities are developed in hotels, resorts, private bungalows and houses and MTDC approved bed and breakfast scheme with high rates. Infrastructural facilities like drinking water, electricity, post and telegram, telephone, medical facilities, toilet, police station, govt. rest house, petrol pump, garage, banking, etc. are available here. This place is connected to Harihareshwar, Diveagar, and Bankot fort in Ratnagiri district.
3.1.7 DIVEAGAR

Diveagar is located in Shrivardhan tehsil. Suvarna Ganesha temple is one of the major attractions of Diveagar. It covers an area of 5.17 sq. km. with population 4069. The beach is a real revelation, a 6 kms long stretch with white sand and clear water. At one end of the beach is a fishing settlement while at the other end is vegetation. This beach is very beautiful and calm covered with palm, betel nuts, and coconut and casurina (suru) trees. Traditional all homes surrounded by coconut, banana and betel nut (supari) gardens.

Photograph 3.8 Locations and View of Diveagar Beach

There are three major temples as Roopnarayan temple as a Vaishnav temple, Uttareshwar is a temple of Shiva and the third is Shri Siddhivinayak temple and eight other temples which are devoted to Shiva, Hanuman, Dattatreya and Mahalakshmi. As per the Hindu calander, during Magh and Sankasti Chaturtthi, a four days festival is held in Shri Ganesh and Uttareshwar temples.

Diveagar village is accessible by well constructed roads and sea way. Mangaon is located on Panvel-Goa highway No-17. From Mangaon
– Sai -Morbe ghat-Mhasla (State highway No - 98 and 4) pass through Shrivardhan and Diveagar. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central to Diveagar, Mangaon and Shrivardhan. Ferry services are available from Rajpuri (Murud Janjira) to Dighi (Shrivardhan) and Dighi to Diveagar is about 20 kms by roads.

Accommodation and food facilities are available in hotels, resorts, lodging, private houses and MTDC approved bed and breakfast scheme. They provide breakfast, lunch and dinner, but charges are high. Infrastructural facilities like drinking water, parking, toilet blocks etc. are properly developed. Post office, police station, petrol pump, medical, banking facilities are available here. There is no ATM facility in Diveagar. Large numbers of tourists visit at the time of Ganesh Chaturthi and Sankasthi Chaturthi.

3.2 SANCTUARIES

INTRODUCTION

Wildlife sanctuaries and national parks are visited to witness to nature’s beauty. The wildlife attractions of India are huge and worth appreciating. Numerous rare and endangered species of animals, birds, reptiles and variety of plants are found in the country. Maharashtra is home of many wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. State government also supports the development of national parks which are well protected and upgraded every year to attract foreign and domestic tourists. All amenities such as jeep riders, night safaris, accommodation and efficient transport are also available in parks. Sanctuaries have takes with serene beauty. The protected areas are reserved for the home of wildlife such as Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Crocodiles, Bison’s, Gawas, wild deer, etc. Apart
from this they serve as home of numerous birds and are also visited by the most exotic migratory birds every year.

In Raigad district, there are two sanctuaries which are located in Panvel and Murud tehsil namely Karnala Bird Sanctuary and Fansad Wildlife Sanctuary. Both the sanctuaries have great variety of biodiversity and are the main attraction of nature lovers, bird watchers, researchers and tourists.

Map 3.2 Distributions of Sanctuaries, Raigad District
3.2.1 KARNALA BIRD SANCTUARY

Karnala bird sanctuary is located in Panvel tehsil which is on Panvel -Goa National Highway No No-17. This sanctuary is named after the fort Karnala and declared as sanctuary in the year 1968, initially the notified area covered only 4.48 sq. kms. In 2003, an additional area of reserved and acquired forest of village from periphery and now total forest area is about by 12.10 sq.kms. Out of which 6.65 sq.kms areas is reserved forest and 5.45 sq.kms is acquired for forest. The KBS is about 85 meter from MSL and from this place; there is a uphill trail of about 3 kms to climb up to the fort. The Karnala fort is at the height of 445 meters from MSL.

This sanctuary is very vast as forest at Karnala is rich in flora and fauna diversity. The floral diversity can be sub- divided into five categories 1) Trees 2) Shrubs 3) Herbs 4) Climbers 5) Grasses. There are 642 species of trees which are mostly of deciduous trees like Ain (Treminalia crenulata), Kusum (Schleichera oleosa), Hirda (Terminalia chebula), Dhawada (Anogeissus latifolius), Palas (Butea monosperma), Mango (Mangifera indica), Khair (Acacia catechu) etc. However there are 147 species of residing birds and 37 species of migratory birds. These migratory birds visit the sanctuary during the winter season. The two rare birds, Ashy Minivet (Pericrocotus divaricatus) and Heart Spotted woodpecker (Hemicircus canente) are sighted here. The forest areas along with trails have luxuriant avifauna. Nature lovers and bird watchers visit the trails in the sanctuary. Some of the commonly birds are Emerald Dove (Chalcophaps indica), Racket Tail Drongo (Dicrurus paradiseus), Crested Serpent Eagle (Spilornis cheela), Shaheen falcon (Falco peregrinus), Indian Gray Hornbill (Ocyeros birostris), Black headed Oriole (Oriolus xanthornus), Green Pigeon (Treron phonicoptera),
Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) etc. As many as 67 types of birds have been sighted easily by bird watchers on a single visit. The topographical features and ecological conditions are also favourable for the wildlife smallest animals like Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Jungle Cats (*Felis chaus*), Indian Giant Squirrels (*Ratufa indica*), Jackals (*Canis aureus*), Hyena (*Hyaenidae carnivora*), Common Languor (*Presbytis entellus*), Common Mongoose (*Herpestus edwardsi*), Red head Monkeys (*Presbytis entellus*) etc.

Photograph 3.9 Locations and View of Karnala Bird Sanctuary

This sanctuary is well connected by road, about 63 kms distance from Mumbai and 13 kms from Panvel. This sanctuary and fort are easily accessible for nature’s lovers, bird watchers, trekkers etc. Towards the Highway side, in the sanctuary, there are sign boards as ‘Control Blowing Horn’ and don’t throw food material for Monkeys. If no one obeys this instruction, ₹ 5000 penalty would be fined by the forest department. The four wheelers are not allowed inside the sanctuary. Only motorcycles are permitted inside the campus. For four wheelers parking facilities have
developed along the highway. The income coming from parking is utilized for conservation of forest.

Photograph 3.10 View of Karnala Bird Sanctuary

The forest department has been arranging programmes such as nature camps, massive tree plantation and wildlife week (1st to 7th October) and celebrates the world environment day.

For accommodation there are two ‘Mayur’ and ‘Bhardwaj’ forest rest houses having two suits each are available inside the sanctuary and also tourist cottage ‘Kotwal’ with two rooms are available for tourist on prior permission from wild life division, Thane. These accommodation facilities are inadequate. Therefore, it is suggested that it should be increased and well monitored. Only tea and snacks are available at forest canteen but food facility is not available in the sanctuary. Along the 500
meters away from the sanctuary six resorts are there, tourists prefer these resorts.

Nature trails, nature information centre, drinking water, parking facility, security, sitting benches, display boards etc such type of infrastructural facilities are available. For better development of tourism in sanctuaries, seminar hall, honey industry, ropeway facility for Karnala fort, should be developed.

This sanctuary is connected to Yusuf Mehar Ali Centre which is located 1.5 kms away from this place, Shree Shiv temple, Skanshi fort near Pen, Mahaganpati in Chirnar (Uran), Vasudev Balvant Phadke Memorial at Shirdon are also connected from this place.

Entry fees from tourists and their vehicles are charged by the forest department, Government of Maharashtra as the following-

1. Visitors (5 to 12 years) - Rs 10 each
2. Adults - Rs 20

**For vehicles**

1. Heavy vehicle - Rs 75
2. Light Motor Vehicle - Rs 50
3. Motorcycle - Rs 15

### 3.2.2 FANSAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Fansad Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Murud tehsil. It covers an area of 52.71 sq. Kms. The sanctuary has a wide variety of flora and fauna. 701 spices of plants have been identified, out of these 21 spices of endemic plants like Clitoria biflora, Banevia gibsoni, Ramphicapa nongifolia etc, the ethrobotany of this sanctuary is represented by above 91 species of plant and considerable numbers of medicinal plants are also observed in this area. The sanctuary is having 90 species of butterflies like Common mormon (*Papilio pofytes*), Lime butterfly (*Papilio demoleus*), Nawab
blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) and there are 148 types of birds including Indian Grey hornbill (*Tockus birostris*), Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyuran*), Vulture (*Diurnilis neophron*) etc, as well as Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) is the major carnivore. The other animals like Hyena (*Hyaenidae carnivora*), Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), Jungle crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Bonnet macaque (*Macaca radiate*), Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and Indian giant squirrels (*Ratufa indica*) etc are also seen in this sanctuary.

Formerly the entire sanctuary was a private hunting place of Siddhi Nawab of the Janjira State. Now-a-days this sanctuary is under the Government of Maharashtra protected for Rabbit (*leporidae cuniculas*), and Tigers (*Panthera tigris*). Accommodation and food is available inside the sanctuary which is approachable on Murud- Roha Road via Supegaon. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central, Alibag and Roha to Murud.

Photograph 3.11 Locations and View of Fansad Wildlife Sanctuary

Nature information center, exhibition, trekking facilities are made available by the government near Supegaon. Accommodation, food,
drinking water and toilet facilities should be increased for the better development of this place. This sanctuary is connected to Birla temple, Revadanda beach, Korlai fort and Kashid beach, Shree Siddhivinayak temple at Nandgaon, Murud and Janjira fort.

3.3 RELIGIOUS TEMPLES

In India religious places are spiritual centers that provide psychological shelter to the people who believe in god. Large sections of people in different parts of the India are also motivated to travel as a result of spiritual motives that is visiting shrines, holy places and making pilgrimage to the sacred religious sites. The great religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Christianity and Sikhism are the integral part of Indian culture and heritage. There are numerous destinations in India which are considered sacred by people of different faith, because of their religious importance. A pilgrimage tour in the divine land of India will surely bring all the faces of Indian devotions.

Maharashtra is not just known as a perfect tourist destination but it has also made its mark as a valuable pilgrimage destination. Mostly, tourists visit to the Asthavinayak temples, Shri Sai Baba (Shirdi), Vitthal-Rukmini (Pandharpur), Mahalaxmi (Kolhapur), Bahavani (Taljapur), Shri Siddhivinayak (Mumbai) etc.

In Maharashtra, Asthavinayak darshan or yatra is most important and popular pilgrimage. This includes eight most sacred temples of Lord Ganesha easily accessible from Pune. After visiting pilgrimage places, it provides mental peace to the people.

Raigad district has been creating a religious atmosphere because out of eight Asthavinayaka temples two Lord Ganesha temples are in Raigad one is located at Madh in Khalapur tehsil and another is at Pali in
Sudhagad tehsil. Besides these, Golden Ganesh (Suvarna Ganesh) temple at Diveagar, Harihareshwar is considered as a Dakshin Kashi, Prati Pandhari, Shiva temples etc are the famous religious centers in Raigad district. The unique example of religious tourism is Mini Pandhari and Darga are located in one place at Malegaon in Goregaon of Mangaon tehsil.

Raigad district has total 78 temples, mostly devoted to Lord Shiva Ganesh and Darga. There are 11 - Ganesha, 19 - Lord Shiva, 3 - Datta, 3 - Hanuman, 4- Vitthal, 2 of Shri Sai Baba, 5 - Muslim Darga and other 31 temples. Out of 78 temples, 29 temples are main attraction of tourist. The 12 temples are located on beach side. The Agri, Katkari and Koli people believe in god, hence there is impact of these temples on the society. Following Table 3.2 shows the distribution of religious places in the district.
### RAIGAD DISTRICT
#### TEHSILWISE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS PLACES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Temples and Darga</th>
<th>No. of Religious Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Uran</td>
<td>Urnawati Devi, Balaji, Vitthal – Rukmsai, Shri Datta, Hanuman, Laxmi Narayan, Shree Siddeshwar, Shri Sai Baba, Shiva, Mahaganpati. Ratneshwari. Darga</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td>Shri Sai Baba, Shri Kandheshwar, Siddeshwar, Ratneshwari. Darga</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Rameshwar, Kankeshwar, Paleshwar, Nagoba, Vishnu, Ram, Vithoba, Laxmi Narayan, Jain, Panbadevi, Nageshwar, Datta, Maruti, Kashivishveshwar.</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Karjat</td>
<td>Dighambar Siddhvinayak,</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Siddhivanayak, Mankeshwar, Rameshwar, Maheshwari,Vagreshwar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Khalapur</td>
<td>Dhakti -Pandhari(Bobalya Vithoba), Shri, Varadvinayak, Vireshwar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td>Birla temple , Shri.Siddehshwar Ganesh, Shri.Datta,Idgah</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Shriward</td>
<td>Harihareshwar, Golden Ganesh, Shri.Kalbhairav, Somjai, Peshve, Laxmi-Narayan, Ram, Kusuadevi, Aravi-Narayan, Gangadevi, Roop narayan, Panchmukhi, Uttreshwar, Jivneshwar</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Londhor, Ansaidevi, Dhavir Maharaj</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mahad</td>
<td>Shri. Vireshwar, Gabhakt, Mugawali Ganpati, Shivtharghal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mangaon</td>
<td>Mini-Pandhari, Durga, Vaijayanath, Siddeshwar, Panchmukhi Gabhakt, Parshuram</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td>Matvan, Madhev</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tala</td>
<td>Hanuman, Chandike</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sudhagad</td>
<td>Ballaleshwar, Rameshwar, Varadayani</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mhasla</td>
<td>Amruteshwar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**: 78

Source: Compiled By Author

Table 3.2 Tehsilwise Distribution of Religious Places in Raigad District
It is observed that from table 3.2, that twelve temples are in Uran tehsil, three temples in Panvel, fourteen temples in Alibag tehsil, two temples in Karjat tehsil, four in Pen tehsil, Khalapur tehsil having three temples, four temples in Murud tehsil, fourteen temples in Shriwardhan tehsil, three temples in Roha tehsil, four in Mahad tehsil, six temples in Mangaon tehsil, three temples in Sudhagad tehsil, Poladpur tehsil and Tala tehsil having two temples each and only one temple in Mhasla tehsil. However, the temples and darga are the great attractions of Hindu, Muslim and other people. Here five important temples are selected for the study as tourism point of view like Vikram Vinayak temple, Kankeshwar, Ballaleshwar, Shri.Varadvinayak and Lord Shiva (Harihareshwar),
Map 3.3 Tehsil Wise Distributions of Religious Places, Raigad District
3.3.1 VIKRAM VINAYAK TEMPLE (BIRLA TEMPLE)

Salav village lies in Murud tehsil which is situated on the Revdanda creek. The village covers an area of 4.58 sq. km. with population of 1506. Vikram Ispat Company, a part of Birla Udyog Group has built this temple, so it is known as Birla Temple. The whole temple is constructed with pure milk white marble and the dome of the temple can be seen from a long distance. Both the sides of the steps are covered by green carpet of grass with beautiful flowers. The nave of the temple is open from all sides. The beautiful carved idol of Ganesha is placed in the nave and Riddhi and Siddhi idols are also placed on both sides of Ganesha. Around the nave there are small temples of Radha-Krishna, Shiv-Parvati, Bhavani Devi and Suryadeva. One statue of Aditya Birla stands in the garden. The temple remains open from 6.00 a.m to 11.00 a.m and in evening timing is 4.30 p.m to 9.00 p.m.

Photograph 3.12 Locations and View of Vikram Vinayak Temple

Birla temple is well connected by a road on SH- No 91 which is 20 kms away from Alibag, and 2 kms from Revdanda. State transport buses are frequently ply from Alibag to Roha via Salav. Three or six seater
rickshaws are available from Alibag and Revdanda. Accommodation and food facilities are available inside the temple.

3.3.2 KANKESHWAR TEMPLE

Kankeshwar temple is a beautiful pilgrimage place which is located on the top of Kanakgiri hill with 350 meters elevation. Kankeshwar village lies in Alibag tehsil. It covers an area of 1.23 sq. km. with population of 26 people only. Mapgaon village is situated at the base of this hill. As per the local information, the temple was built by Raja Ramdevrai Yadav in 1764.

There are two ways to reach this destination. One is via Mapgaon, on this way there are 750 stairs and second way is via Zirad/ Chaoundi. Zirad is located on Alibag – Revas road. This is one trail which passes through dense forest area. So local people prefer this path of stairs which safe one. On this way there are some small rest spots such as Nagobacha Tappa, Jambhalicha Tappa, Devachi Payari, Gaymandi (sculpture of cow) and Raut Bodan Tappa. Paleshwar, Maruti, Brahma Kund, Tomb of Mirchi Baba, Balaram, Devi Putrabai, Vyaghreshwar temples are found on this route. Kundeshwar, Rameshwar, Vishnu, Mankeshwar, Ram and Siddhivinayak small temples are around the Kankeshwar temple. A sweet water tank, popularly known as Pushkarni is situated behind the temple which is filled with water almost throughout the year. As per the Hindu calendar Kartik Poormina is the day of Lord Shiva fair. As far as accommodation and food facilities is concerned, there is no such facilities near the temple. Therefore it is suggested that there is a need to develop at this place to provide opportunity of jobs for local people.
Zirad village is located on Major State Road - No 4 which passes through Alibag to Revas. Mapgaon is located at foothill of Kankeshwar. State transport buses ply from Alibag to Revas or Mandwa via Zirad. Six seaters (tamtam) are also available in Alibag. Therefore it is suggested that State Transport buses should run from Alibag to Revas via Choundi-Mapgaon- Hashiware. This pilgrimage place is a potential tourist centre in the district.

### 3.3.3 Ashtavinayaka Temples

The Ashtavinayaka yatra covers the eight holy temples of Ganesha in the state. All the temples of Ganesha are swayambhu. Ashtavinayaka means eight famous and attractive places such as Moreshwar - Morgaon, Mahaganpati- Rajangaon, Chintamani -Theur, Girijatmak - Lenyadri, Vighneshwar - Ozar, Siddhivinayak - Shiddhatek, Ballaleshwar - Pali and Varadvinayak - Madh. Out of which five temples are in Pune, one in Ahmednagar and two temples are in Raigad district of Maharashtra. The names of Ganeshas in Raigad district are Ballaleshwar in Pali and Varadvinayak in Madh. On every Sankasthi Chathurthi, Angarkhi
Chathurthi, Ganesh jayanti, large numbers of devotees visit to these holy places.

3.3.3.1 SHRI BALLALEAHWAR TEMPLE

Shri Ballaleshwar temple is one of the eight temples of Lord Ganesha is situated at Pali in Sudhagad tehsil. Pail’s Shri Ballaleshwar is the third number of Ganesha among Astavinayak. The total population of Pali is 8172, which covers an area of 4 sq. km. Pali village is located at the foot of the Sarasgad and at the Coast of Amba River.

This Ganesha is named after Ballal, son of Kalyan Shreshthi. Due to his tapasya, Ganesh appeared at Pali. The deity is known as Ballaleshwar. Original wooden temple was renovated and a new stone temple was built in 1760 by Shri Morobadada Fadnis. The shape of the stone temple is in the form of letter ‘Shree’; it was made by mixing lead with the cement during construction. The east facing temple was positioned so that during southern declination of the sun rays directly fall on the idol of Lord Ballaleshwar.

The Lord Ganesha sits on a stone throne which is three feet high, sitting against a background of silver which displys Riddhi and Siddhi waving chamaras. The idol’s eye and navel contains diamond. There is a big bell inside the temple which is made in Europe. Chimaji Appa brought this bell.
Behind the Ganesha temple another temple of Ganesha known as Shri Dhundi Vinayak which is a Swayambhu Murti with west facing. This is a very rare idol which is facing to the west direction. The devotees first worship Shri Dhundi Vinayak and then Shri Ballaleshwar.

There are two naves in the temple. The inner or main nave is quite big with 15 feet high and outer nave is 12 feet high and it has statue of rat or Mushak with Modak in his hands and facing towards Lord Ganesha. Hall of the temple is of 40 feet long and 20 feet broad and it was built by Late Shri Krishnaj Ringe in 1910. This hall is very beautiful with eight pillars resembling Cyprus throne trees. There are two small lakes are built near the temple. Water from the right side lake is used for Lord Ganesha’s worship and other auspicious occasions.

The Ballaleshwar Asthavinayak temple opens daily at 5.00 a.m. and closes at 11.30 p.m. Outer nave of the temple closes at 10.30 p.m. The time of pooja is in between 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m on Chaturthi day. The Ganesha idol is offered Panchamrut snana (bath), Royal dress, Naivadya, Aarti, Palakhi and Mantrapushpam in the evening. During the
Sankashti and Angarkhi Chaturthi large numbers of devotees visit Pali’s Ballaleshwar as well as Madh’s Varad Vinayak. As per the Hindu calendar, *Maghi Utsav* is a day of Ganesh fair celebrated as a *Ganesh Jayanti*.

Pali village is well connected by road which is State Highway – No 92. It passes through Wakan to Khopoli. Wakan village is situated on National Highway No - 17. State Highway No - 92 links to National Highway No - 17 and National Highway No - 4 near Khopoli. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central, Pune, Khopoli, Karjat and Panvel also. Three and six seater rickshwas are available at Nagothane and Wakan. Pali is 124 kms away from Mumbai via Khopoli and via Wakan is 120 kms, Wakan - 8 kms, Nagothane -13 kms, khopoli – 39 kms and from Pune via Khopoli is 111 kms. The nearest railway station is Khopoli on Central railway and Nagothane on Konkan railway. The nearest proposed Airport is at Panvel. On day of any Chaturthi, there are no special state transport buses from Mumbai Central, Pune, Panvel, and Khopoli. Therefore, it is suggested to start special *yatra* buses, from various places on *Chaturthi* day. In Pali village, roads are very narrow, during the Chaturthi day there is traffic jam problem. Therefore it is suggested that, the roads should be widened or they may be converted into unidirectional (only one side flow) on these days.

Accommodation facilities are available near the temple for the tourist in the form of bhakt niwas. The tariff of bhakt niwas No.1 is ₹250 per person for 24 hours and bhakt niwas No. 2 is ₹300. The management provides food facility for devitors in between 11.00 am to 2.30 pm. for only ₹10. Snacks on cart, small hotels and worship goods shops are found here and large number of small shops of Papads having variety like Poha (flat flacks), Rice, Black gram, Green gram, etc. made
from home products, varieties of chatnies (Masala), Pedhas and Ganesh idols etc are also available near the temple. Other facilities like parking, toilet blocks, drinking water, police station, post office, telephone booth, darshan facility, security, are available here.

This place is connected to other tourist places like Unhere hot springs near to Pali, Ghere Sudhagad, Sarasgad, Manikgad, Karnala Bird Sanctuary and Fort and Alibag town.

3.3.3.2 SHRI VARAD VINAYAK

Shri Varadvinayak is considered to be one of the eight Asthavinayak which is situated at Madh in Khalapur tehsil. Madh village covers an area of 2.39 sq. km. with population of 860. This place is located on Mumbai-Pune National Highway No - 4 and is near to Khopoli town.

The Ganesh idol is believed to be Swayambhu. The original temple dates back 375 years but now in 1725, Kalyan Subhedar Mr. Ramji Mahadev Biwalkar built this temple. The shrine at the temple was found in the lake near the temple by a devotee named Mr. Dhondu Paundkar in 1690. The idol faces to the east, has its trunk to the left and oil lamp (Nandadeep) in the temple burns continuously since 1892. It has a big audience hall with 64 sq, meters.

The dome of the temple is 25 feet high and is golden at the top. Madh’s Varad Vinayak is the only temple where devotees are allowed to personally pay their homage and respects to the idol.

Accommodation and food facilities are available here. Bhakt or Bhakt Niwas are open to all with reasonable rates. Marriages are also celebrated in the temple. Three private lodging and bording facilities are
available here. Food facilities are available in the temple but there are no charges for food. Around the temple seven hotels are there, Snacks as well as lunch is available in hotels. Other infrastructural facilities like drinking water, parking, toilet blocks, *darshan* facilities, petrol pump, etc. are available. On the entry point of the temple on the two sides of the road small shops selling Ganesh idols, books, worship goods shops etc. are here.

The lake is not properly maintained. So it should be maintained and developed with boating facilities. There is no shoes stand outside the temple, so it should be properly maintained by the authorities. During the *Sankashti* and *Angarkhi Chaturthi* large numbers of devotees visit to Madh and Pali. As per the Hindu calendar, *Maghi Utsav* is a day of Ganesh fair celebrated as a Ganesh Jayanti.

Photograph 3.15 Locations and View of Shri Varad Vinayaka Temple

This Ganesh temple is well connected by road and railways. Madh village is located on Mumbai - Pune National Highway No - 4 and near Khopoli town. The nearest railway station is Khopoli. There are no state transport buses ply from Panvel, Khopoli, Pune and Mumbai. Therefore it
is suggested that they should be started from these towns and cities. Auto rickshaws are available from Khopoli and Panvel. This holy place is connected to other tourist spots like Prati Pandhari Sajgaon, Pali, Matheran, Konadne caves etc.

3.3.4 SHRI HARIHARESHWAR

Harihareshwar tourist place is developed as religious as well as natural tourist center which is located near Devghar, lies in Shrivardhan tehsil and 18 kms away from the Shrivardhan town. Devghar is a small town, covering an area of 1.91 sq.km. with 1181 population. Harihareshwar is a famous religious place with an ancient temple of Lord Shiva and Kalbhairav temple situated on beach side. Harihareshwar is known as Harihar or Pushpadri and it is also known as ‘Dakshin Kashi’ and also serene and with charming beach. Harihareshwar village is located in between Bankot and Shrivardhan creek. Bankot creek is confluence of River Savitri and sea. Harihareshwar is also known for tranquil and picturesque beach which is rocky on one side and a clean sandy beach on the other side.

The sacred Harihareshwar is surrounded by holy hills namely Harihareshwar, Harshinachal, Bramhadri and Pushpadri. At this hillock point it is a great fun to watch Arabian Sea.
Photograph 3.16 Locations and View of Shri Harihareshwar Temple

Photograph 3.17 Other Attractions of Harihareshwar
The temple was renovated by First Bajirao Peshwa in 1723. This consists of idols of *Bramha, Vishnu, Mahesh* and *Parvati*. The other temples in the vicinity are of Shri Kalbhairav and Yogeshwari. The main temple is believed to have been blessed by Vishnu and is called Devghar (Devghar means the home of god).

Devotees offer short Pradakshina (prayers and rituals) to all four holy hills. On this route there are sacred places like Shukla Thirtha, Vishnupad, Gabhakt Thirtha, Shul Thirtha, Chakra Thirtha, Kamdhenu Thirtha and Gauri Thirtha. Long Pradakshina includes Bramha Thirtha, Vishnu Thirtha, Nandi Thirtha, Shiv Thirtha, Sakhi Parvati, Vaitarna River, Siddashram, Surya Thirtha, Shankh Thirtha, Devkot and Ram Thirtha. This long Pradakshina starts from the temple. On this route various landforms are formed due to weathering by sea waves like wave cut platforms, sea caves, sea cliffs etc. Harihara beach is not safe for swimming during the low tide period. Therefore, the watch tower, speed boats on beach with medical facilities should be maintained.

Kalbhairav temple is one of the ancient renowned temples. The main deity shrine is the temple of Lord Shiva. Kalbhairav, a lord of all Mantrasastras, is also placed as one of the idols. In most of the special occasion like *Mahashivrathri*, long queues of devotees are observed for *darshan*.

This sacred place is well connected by roads. The village is situated on Major State Highway No - 4. National Highway No - 17 pass through Mangaon town. The nearest railway station is Mangaon which is 65 kms away from Harihareshwar. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central, Thane, Pune and local places. Auto rickshaws are also a main mode of local transport and they are available extensively.
Accommodation and food facilities are developed. There are 13 hotels, MTDC approved; bed and breakfast scheme and private houses are available. MTDC beach resort which is spread over four acres; also offers water sport facilities such as water scooters and boating. Trekking camps are also regularly organized by them. Swimming and other activities are also organized here with all the safety measures for tourists. MTDC resort has 18 rooms. The food is served at the multi cuisines restaurants in the resorts. The resort also offers all kinds of facilities like parking, laundry, medical, multipurpose dormitory to serve the visitors.

Infrastructural facilities like parking, electricity, drinking water, police chowki, petrol pump etc. are available here. There are 15 shops, in which 10 shops of devotional goods, 2 of traditional food products and 3 are tea stalls, but hospitals, toilet blocks and medical store are not available in Harihareshwar. Therefore it is suggested to increase the number of toilet blocks, dispensary and medical store. Worship, coronation, a religious ritual, an antidote etc such type of facilities are available in Harihareshwar.

Harihareshwar temple connects to numerous temples and other places in the vicinity including Shrivardhan, Peshwa Samrak, Jeevaneshwar, Kusumadevi, Bhairavnath, Vitthal, Rameshwar, Laxmi Narayan, Somjaidevi, Bankot Fort, Bagmadala and Diveagar.

3.4 HILL STATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Maharashtra state is the home of various mountain ranges like Sahyadri, Satpura and Harischandra ranges gifted with a number of hill stations such as Mahabaleshwar, Chikardara, Amboli, Jawhar, Panchgani, Toranmal, Lonawala and Khandala. Hill station of Maharashtra not only
attracts the domestic tourists but also foreign tourists, which are exhausted with the fast urban life. Hill station has unique characteristics and its closeness to a city makes it very popular. Maharashtra has several breathtaking hill views and hill stations. Matheran is only one hill station which is located in Raigad district. It is very close to Mumbai. So on weekend large numbers of domestic tourists are visiting to Matheran.

3.4.1 MATHERAN

The name Matheran is derived from two words, mathe means on top and ran means forest, so Matheran means ‘forest on top’. Matheran is smallest hill station in India, which is located on the Western Ghats of Sahyadri ranges at an elevation of 800 meters above sea level. Matheran is only one hill station lies in Karjat tehsil of Raigad district. It is truly a unique place as it is ‘Pollution Free’ hill station. This place truly loved by all picnic lovers, trekkers as well as jungle lovers. Matheran town covers an area of 7.24 sq.km. with 5139 population.

Matheran lies at an elevated region, enjoys a cooler and less humid climate which makes it popular during the summer months. Temperature vary from $16^0$ C in winter to $32^0$ C in summer with an annual rainfall of 524 cm. October to May is the best period to visit Matheran.

Matheran has been declared as eco-sensitive zone by the Union Environment Ministry and can be called as Health Sanatorium. It is small peaceful and relaxing place and small paradise for the nature lovers. Matheran is full of lush green landscape and beautiful hill. Matheran was discovered by Hugh Poyntz Mallet, District Collector of Thane in May 1850. Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay (Mumbai) laid the foundation of the development as a future hill station. The British
developed Matheran as a popular resort to beat the summer heat in the region.

Photograph 3. 18 Location and Views of Matheran Hill Station

Matheran is surrounded by dense forest with almost 150 varieties of plants, including medical plants and herbs, many species of birds like Kingfisher, Robin, Dhanesh, Bulbul, Lank etc., and large number of monkey’s population, of both the red - faced and black - faced breeds. Matheran cliffs, with incredibly steep drops to the plains below, create stunning view points. Matheran has a series of quixotically 38 points are as follows.
# RAIGAD DISTRICT

## ATTRACTIVE TOURIST POINTS AT MATHERAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of the points</th>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of the points</th>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of the points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Charlotte Lake</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Paymaster Park</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Marjories Nookand Belvedere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Echo</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mount Barry</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Lumley Seat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>King George</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Panorama</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Chowk</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Malang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Louisa</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Myra</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Lords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>One tree</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Khandala</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Little Chowk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Madhavi</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Maldunga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sunset (Porcupine)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Rambag</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Chenoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Garbrett</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Artist Nook</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nawriji Lord Garden</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Monkey</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Cecil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Shivaji ladder</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Honey Moon</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Marry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Panday Ply Ground</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Coronation</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Panthers Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Olympia Race Course</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Rustomji</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Matheran Guide Book

*Table 3.3 Attractive Tourist Points at Matheran, Raigad District*
Major points of attraction in Matheran such as -

1) **Echo Point**: It is about 2 kms far from the Post office. This place is mostly visited by love buds. This point also offers picturesque views of the surrounding including milky waterfalls. It is located in between Charlotte Lake and Louisa point.
2) **Charlotte Lake Point**: This lake is crystal clear lake which is the main source of drinking water for Matheran. It is just 2 kms from Post office. It has beautiful scenery and greenery. The famous Echo and Louisa points are on the right side of the lake and Pisarnath temple lays its left.

3) **Louisa Point**: It is situated on west side of Matheran. This point is one of the best point of Matheran with its beautiful milky waterfalls. One of the hillocks on this point is called as Lion’s Head.
4) **King George Point** (Lord Celia): This point is located near to Charlotte Lake. Prabal Fort and Louisa Point can be seen from here. It also presents a beautiful sunset scene.

5) **Panorama Point**: (Sunrise Point) This point is located almost 6 kms from the market place. Monkey Point, Heart Point, can be observed from this point. From this point surrounding towns or area can seen panoramically, so it is called as Panorama Point. It is also known as the ‘King’ of Points. Sunrise can also be seen from this point.

6) **Porcupine Point** (Sunset Point): This point is situated 4 kms from the market place. The shape of this point is like quill of a porcupine provides finest view of the surrounding hills and Mumbai at sunset.

7) **Alexander Point**: This is located near to post office. Garbert point, Palasdari Lake (Karjat) and chowk point can be seen from this point.

8) **One Tree Point**: There was only one tree on this small hill, so it is called as one tree point.

9) **Lord Nowroji Garden**: This garden is built in memory of Lord Nowroji and erected in memory of Vithalrao Kotwal, who lost his life during the national movement in 1942. In the garden fountain is located at the centre, for the entertainment of nature lovers, radio is palced for music.

10) **Shivaji Ladder**: This path which was discovered by Hugh Mallet in 1850, was used by the Chhatrapati Shivaji, the great Maratha rular earlier, so this path is known as Shivaji Ladder. This path goes down to the valley from one tree hill point. It offers picturesque views of hills from this point as well this path is an ideal place for trekking.
11) **Olympia Race Course:** This race course was constructed in 1891, it is biggest ground in Matheran and famous for the horse riding. At the time of event, horse riders from Mumbai and Pune had participated.

12) **Heart Point:** The heart shape point offers a spectacular view of Mumbai at night time and a view of Matheran tiny train coming up the hill.

13) **Honeymoon Point:** This point is the best for the newly wedded couples.

14) **The Mall Road:** The mall of Matheran is the favourite destination for tourists. Along this road, there are many hotels, restaurants and bazaars.

15) **Kapadia Market:** Kapadia market is the main market in Matheran. This market was built in 1917 by Mr. P.N. Kapadia in memory of his wife. The market has many shops with attractive items like cane, leather articles, hats, chappals, riding boots and popular Matheran sweet chikki.

16) **Mount Barry Point** (Dasturi Naka): Matheran is connected to the town of Neral which lies at the base of the hill. A black topped road connects Neral to Dasturi Naka which is 11 kms from Matheran. In order to maintain Matheran’s uniqueness, no vehicles are allowed except ambulance and firebrigade beyond this place. All cars, motor cycles and private buses are parked at Dasturi Naka with parking fees. Within Matheran, transport facilities like horses and hand - pulled rickshaws are available here at the walkable distance of 2.5 kms from Dasturi Naka.
17) **TOY TRAIN**

A narrow gauge toy train from Neral meanders up the mountain treating the tourist to a breathtaking view. The railway line was mooted by Abdul Hussian, son of Adamjee Peerhoy. The Peerhoy family formed the Matheran steam light tramway company and built the railway track in 1901 worth of Rs. 16 lakh. The toy train railway was started in 1907. Matheran railway had been inspected by UNESCO world heritage site officials in the last week of October 2009. The train is completing 100 years and is viewing for a spot in a ‘Heritage Trains of the World’.

![Photo of a narrow gauge toy train](image)

**Photograph 3.21 View of Toy Train**

The toy train chugs slowly hugging the mountain and navigating one of the steepest climbs. The track is zig zag up the side of the hill, bringing into view of the full beauty of the Matheran hill. The train passes through one short tunnel named ‘One kiss Tunnel’. The toy train takes 2 hours for 21 kms. There are three stations on its way named as Juma Patti, Water pipe and Aman Lodge. During the season seven pairs of trains running between Neral to Matheran. However, during the monsoon period only one pair of train is operated at specific timings. Reservation facilities are available at Neral as well as in Mumbai.
Matheran hill station is well connected by road and railway. On Mumbai – Pune National Highway No - 4, there is Karjat Phata at 20 kms from Panvel, to the left side of the Karjat Phata, Char Phata (Karjat) is at 8 kms from Karjat Phata. After taking left turn, on the State Highway No-35, Neral is located. The State Highway No - 108, which is passes through Neral to Dasturi Naka about 10 kms. After climbing the Ghats section, vehicles are parked at Dasturi Naka. On this Ghats, there are some instructions on display boards. This road is very narrow one. State transport 25 seaters buses are ply from Karjat and Neral. The frequency of these buses is very low. Therefore, it is suggested that the number of buses should be increased and the roads as well as to setup the still- guard or rock- wall along the edge of roads should be maintained. It is also suggested that the road should be widened near the U turns. Apart from State transport buses only private taxies are available at Neral. From Daturi Naka to Matheran market the roads are not metal and are made of red laterite rock. So after buying tickets at municipal counter and it is required to move towards Matheran either by walking or by horse riding or by hand- pull rickshaws from Daturi Naka.

Matheran is also connected with railway, which is connected to the town of Neral. Neral is on busy Mumbai - Pune rail route on central railway with its broad gauge connectivity. Neral is well connected by railway line with Karjat being the nearest rail junction. There are few express train stops at Neral. So it is suggested that express train stops should be increased. Local trains also frequently ply between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) to Karjat or Khopoli. Mumbai to Neral is 87 kms while Neral to Karjat is 11 kms and Matheran is 21 kms. The nearest airport is Mumbai.
As far as accommodation and food facilities are concerned, all types of accommodation facilities are available at Matheran. There are 27 hotels in Matheran, few of the best resorts and hotels like Brightlands Resort, Rangoli Retreat, Regal Hotel, Usha Ascot, Richie Rich, The Byke etc. The reservation of rooms can be made well in advance as per the requirement of tourists. The various hotels offer packages with the best facilities. Luxury and budget hotels are also available at Matheran. Mostly, hotels are close to the Matheran railway station. The MTDC’s holiday resort lies close to Dasturi Naka at the entry of Matheran. Most of hotels offer meal with the rooms. Neral village also provides accommodation and food facilities. Vada Pav (Indian Burger) stalls are situated along the roads.

Shopping Facilities are available at Matheran. The Mall road and Kapadia market are famous for shopping. The market offers a variety of attractive items like cane, leather articles, leather bags and shoes, belts, riding boots, Sweet chikki. There are ten shops of Kolhapuri chappals and leather items.

3.5 FORTS

INTRODUCTION

Fort is a derivation of French word ‘Fortis’ which means ‘Strong’. In Sanskrit pura durga and kotta meaning a sort of fortified settlement stands for fort. Perhaps when primitive man fortified his dwelling to keep away wild animals can be presumed the beginning of fort construction. In Maharashtra 350 forts have stood the test of time and tide. These forts are the glory of Maharashtra. The locations of all these forts are associated with the great Maratha ruler, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The Raigad district is renamed after Raigad Fort, which was the former capital of the
Maratha Emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Following lines by the poet Govindgraj express the very nature of Maharashtra:

“Mangal desha, pavitra desha Maharashtra desha
Pranam ghyawa maza ha Shri Maharashtra desha
Rakat desha, kankar desha, dagdancha desha
Najuk desha komal desha fulancha desha”

Thus is the landscape of Maharashtra, at once dry, arid and mountainous and yet made gentle with flora and fauna, dense forest. At the same time the courageous history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is forever connected with the hills and valley of Maharashtra. The forts in these hill ranges bring alive this history even today Swaraj was born in these forts and was also established through them. These wondrous forts are not only for a study for historians, but also are a delight for trekkers and tourists.

All the forts in Maharashtra have historical importance. Raigad district is also not an exception. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj considered the crucial importance in choosing the location of forts serving definite strategic defense, administrative purposes, as well as residence of a rich historical past. The forts are not only for a study for historians, but also for a delightful attraction for trekkers, climbers and tourists. There are 49 forts in Raigad district. The classification of forts as per their location and tehsil wise distribution of forts is given in following tree diagram
## FORTS IN RAIGAD DISTRICT

### Classification of Forts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Forts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground Forts</td>
<td>Hirakot, Rajkot, Sagargad, Thal, Dronagiri, Chanderi, Prabalgad, Manikgad, Peb (Bikatgad), Kothigad, Bhivgad, Rajmachi, songiri (Karjat), Dhak-Bahiri, Avchitgad, Bhosalgad, Birwadi, Surgad, Ratangad, Songiri (Roha), Mangad, Vishramgad, Panhaledurga, Raigad, Lingana, Songad, Chambhargad, Kawala, Madgad, Sudhagad, Sarasgad, Surgad, Changad, Kangori, Chandrgad, Mangalgad, Ratangad, Songiri, Taksai, Sankshi, Miragad, Talegad, KoraL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Forts</td>
<td>Kulaba, Underi, Khanderi, Janjira and Kasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Forts</td>
<td>Karnala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Forts</td>
<td>01 42 05 01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by Author

### Table 3.4 Classification of Forts in Raigad District

As shown in Table 3.4, the forts have been classified into four groups namely Ground Fort (*Sthaladurg*), Hill Forts (*Giridurga*), Marine Forts (*Jaldurg*), and Forest Forts (*Vandurg*). Out of which one is ground fort, forty-two are hill forts, five are marine forts and there is only one forest fort.
# RAIGAD DISTRICT

## DISTRIBUTION OF FORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tehsils</th>
<th>Name of the Forts</th>
<th>Total Forts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Kulaba, Underi, Khandel, Hirakot, Agarkot, Sagargad, Thal,</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Uran</td>
<td>Dronagiri</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td>Karnala, Malangad, Prabalgad, Peb(Bikatgad), Vishalgad,</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Khalapur</td>
<td>Manikgad</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Karjat</td>
<td>Kothigad, Bhivgad, Rajmachi, songiri(Karjat), Dhak-Bahiri</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Avchitgad, Bhosalgad, Birwadi, Surgad, Ratangad, Songiri(Roha)</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mangaon</td>
<td>Mangad, Vishramgad, Panhaledurga</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mahad</td>
<td>Raigad, Lingana, Songad, Chambhargad, Kawala</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shrivardhan</td>
<td>Madgad</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sudhagad</td>
<td>Sudhagad, Sarasgad, Changad</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td>Kangori, Chandrgad, Mangalgad</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Ratangad, Songiri, Taksai, Sankshi, Miragad</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tala</td>
<td>Talegad</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td>Janjira, Korlai, Padamdurg( Kasa )</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by Author

Table 3.5 Distribution of Forts, Raigad District
Above Table 3.5 shows that, different types of forts are distributed all over the district except Mhasla and Khalapur tehsil. Alibag tehsil has 7 forts, Uran tehsil- 1, Panvel - 5, Khalapur-1, Karjat – 5, Roha forts - 6, Mangaon - 3, Mahad - 5, Shrivardhan - 1, Sudhagad - 3, Poladpur - 3, Pen - 5, Tala - 1 and Murud having. - 3 forts. Kulaba and Janjira are great
attractions of domestic and foreign tourist also. Some of the forts Like Khanderi, Underi, and Kasa are restricted by government for the tourists. Large numbers of forts are found in Raigad district because of rugged topography. Seven forts are selected for the study from tourism point of view. These forts are Raigad, Karnala, Kora, Janjira, Kulaba Sarasgad and Birwadi fort. Some suggestions are given for the development of these forts as a tourist place can be strengthening tourism development in the Raigad district.

3.5.1 RAIGAD FORT

Raigad fort was the capital of Maratha Empire Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is also known as ‘The King of the fort’. Raigad fort is situated in Mahad tehsil at 820 meters above the sea level. It is located in the Sahaydri mountain range. There are 1450 steps to climb to the fort. Today a rope way exists to reach the top of the fort.

After facing repeated defeats from the great Maratha King, Shivaji, the British named it as ‘Gibraltar of East’. Fort is inaccessible from three sides. From the tourism point of view, the Raigad fort is one of the big attractions of the district. The Raigad fort was built in 1662.

In 1656, in a fierce battle, Shivaji defeated Chandarao More of Jawali and won the fort. This fort was considered for good strategic location (military side) that had tremendous security potential. In 1670, Shivaji moved his capital to Raigad. Raigad got its name from the mountain Rairi. On the fort, Shivaji was coroneted on 6th June, 1674. He also breathed his last on 3rd April, 1680.

The fort is stragitically situated on an irregular wedge- shape mass of rock with 5.12 sq. kms hill top plateau. There are three main points namely Bhavani in the east, Hirkani in the west and Takmak Tok in the
north. In keeping with Shivaji’s strategy is the fort’s approach should be “easy for friends and impossible for foes”.

At the foothills near the village Pachad, is Chit Darwaja, also known as Jit Darwaja. After footlossing Khoob Ladha Buruj, is a strategically located tower, after a difficult climb comes the Maha Darwaja, it is built over 350 years ago. The design of this Maha Darwaja is an enigma. It defies detection of its location to the attacker.

There was a special entrance for ladies and the queen known as Meena Darwaja. The left of Meena Darwaja is the Rani Vasa. In the front of Rani Vasa is the Palkhi Darwaja, special entrance for conveying to Shivaji Maharaja. Holi Cha Mahal is outside of the Nagarkhana. It is used for annual Holi festival. The Takmak Tok or a place is famous for life punishment. It’s thrilling to stand near Takmak Tok which is always with full of breeze. The market place on the fort is worth to watch and a history lover spends time here recalling the great warrior. The statue of Shivaji Maharaja is situated at the centre of the fort. The main attraction on fort is Shivaji Maharaja’s Throne and Samadhi with dog Waghy. This throne is made from five metals. One can remember Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja and his contribution and full dedication to Swaraj. This place is
very beautiful. Shivaji’s mother Jijabai’s, ‘SAMADHI’ is at Pachad, at the foot hill of the fort. The other places to visit on the fort are Jagesdhwar temple, Koli Lake, Shirkai temple, Hatti tank, Gangasagar, Rameshwar temple. A water tank had been built for the Elephant. Today potable water is available from Gangasagar.

Photograph 3.22 Locations and View of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Statue on Raigad Fort
Raigad is very famous fort for the trekkers. A ropeway has been installed at the foot hill to facilitate those who do not want to climb up. A private company called ‘Millennium Properties Pvt Ltd’ operates this ropeway since 2004 which is 760 meters long. This company provides ropeway package for the visitors and students. It includes a visit to the museum located at foot hills. This museum has been created with the help of renowned historians like Shri. Babasaheb Purandare, Shri. Ninadji Bedekar and others. It displays photographs of various forts in Shivaji’s empire, artifacts, Farman’s and weapons used in those historic times. After the museum, film show detailing about Raigad fort, with 22 minutes audio visual makes us understand and think on how and why was this fort made. The educative film is tastefully created by a team of historians and provides a preview of various aspects of the monument that the tourist is about to see. This value addition makes the trip very memorable and meaningful. The fare of ropeway is ₹. 170/- in ordinary course, but for school trip per students ticket is offered at discounted price of ₹. 85/-. And also for meal at a subsidized rate of ₹ 50/- each. Overnight stay at Bhavani Mandap is charged at normal rate of ₹ 75/- per
bed. Special concession is provided for senior citizens (₹ 10/-, age proof with photo is required)

The fort is well connected by roads. Raigad is easily accessible from Mumbai and Pune and the distance is 210 kms, 126 kms respectively. The fort is located near to Mahad Town which is on National Highway No -17. The distance of fort is 30 kms from Mahad. State transport buses ply form Mahad As well as six seaters rickshaws are available at Mahad. After the parking the vehicles at foothill there is only one pathway with 1450 steps to climb. This path is very narrow and takes nearly about two and half hours to reach at the top. But this path is not in good condition, and along the path there are no safety guards. Therefore it is suggested that it is necessary to make a steel safety guard along this path, to construct the stairs with rocks, to provide the drinking water tap at some spots and where the space is available to make benches for seating for the small rest.

An accommodation and food facility is available in MTDC rest house with prior permission of Municipal Corporation Office at Mahad. Dharmashala is also available for accommodation. Tourists do not prefer to stay on the fort. They give perference to Mahad town. Other infrastructural facilities like guide, toilet and drinking water are available here. But toilet blocks are not enough, so it should be increased and to make disply boards of Samdhai, Takmsak Tok, Shivaji’s Throne etc with their historical importance. The Raigad fort is connected to other tourist’s places like Mahabaleshwar, Shivthar Ghal, Gandhar Pale Caves, Sav hot spring, Torna, Lingana forts for trekking.
3.5.2 KARNALA FORT

The Karnala fort is the forest fort. Bird Sanctuary is developed around the Karnala Fort. It is located on National Highway No- 17, about 12 kms from South of Panvel town. This fort is situated at 445 meters elevation from mean sea level. The Karnala Bird Sanctuary is named after the fort ‘Karnala’

The fort is surrounded by dense forest with various species of plants, birds and animals. This fort was built in the 12th century, used to control the surrounding region. The shape of the fort is like thumb. Therefore the Karnala fort is great historical significance and bird sanctuary is the major attraction for tourists, bird watcher and trekkers. This area is well known for tourism. In 1670, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj attacked the fort and took it in possession from the Moughals. The area about 12 kms radius form the fort is clearly visible and therefore it was useful as watch tower upto the sea coast and for other areas for surveillance. After the death of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Moghuls Emporor, Aurangjeb was incharge of the fort. In 1740 the Peshwas again attacked the fort and got it back from Moghulas. Afterwards the
Britishers attacked it frequently and finally they took it in their possession from the Marathas in 1818. Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke’s grand father was fortkeeper of Karnala fort till 1818. The Fort is in south to north direction and the main gate is to the north. There is a narrow trail passing through dense forest to the top of the mountain, after walking one and half hour there is spur looking like the funnel in the middle of the fort. (It is called as Budhaalya, Lingoba or Panducha Buruj). The slope of the Fort is very steep thus it has been a challenge to many adventurous trekkers and tourists. The fort doorway is adorned with many carvings of Elephantas and tigers and also water reservoirs are developed naturally in the rocks. The cool surroundings and the beautiful landscapes make this region a place for calm weekends.

Photograph 3.24 Location and View of Attractions on Karnala Fort

Accommodation facilities are available in the form rest house named ‘Mayur’ and ‘Bhardwaj’ having two suits each. Also two tourist’s cottages named ‘Kotwal’ are available here. There is no food facility available in the sanctuary. Therefore it is suggested that, forest department should develop atleast one canteen and it should be properly
maintained. Otherwise there are six hotels and resorts are developed along the side of National Highway No-17 in a radius of 500 meters. Forest department has not provided adequate infrastructural facilities like toilets blocks and bathrooms, dustbins, drinking water, telephone, guide etc.

The fort Karnala is well connected by road. This fort is situated 12 kms away from south of Panvel on National Highway No - 17. Only state transport buses (ordinary) ply from Panvel to Pen and Alibag one can get down at sanctuary. Autorickshaws are available at Panvel and Pen. Frequency of buses is very low. Therefore long distance state transport buses should have a hault at sanctuary.

The Karnala fort is also connected to tourist’s places like Manikgad, Irsalgad, Peb fort, Chandni fort (Panvel), Sankshi fort (Pen), Shirdon, Yusuf Mehar Ali Centre, Gogade village of Vinoba Bhave (Pen) and Chirner’s Mahaganpati near Uran and Alibag.

3.5.3 KORLAI FORT

Korlai is a small village, located in Murud tehsil. This fort is situated on the mouth of Roha creek near the Revdanda town. This village covers an area of 3.26 sq.km.with 2877 populations. Korlai fort is just 3 kms away from Revdanda and 28 kms away from Murud. Revdanda was one of the most important centers of the Portuguese in 15th and 16th century. Southward part of the fort Korlai is quite beautiful. It is surrounded by sea on three sides and attached to the mainland by a narrow strip.

The height of the fort is 91.7 meters with east - west length of 861.97 meters and south - north is 27.12 meters. Korlai was initially known as the ‘Rock of Choul’. This fort was built by Chief Commonder
Diyogu Lopish De Saiker of Portuguese in 1521. The fort has 11 doors, out of these 4 doors are at outside the wall and 7 are inside the fort. At the main entrance, door has an inscription which means ‘None passes me but fight’. Portuguese had established a strong control over the coast and took permission from the first Burhan Nizam. In 1594, there was a chaotic situation after the death of Burhan Nizam. The Portuguese tried to take advantage of this by building fortification. But Hussein Nizam perceived the danger and decided to fortify this mountain. Portuguese had to involve a considerable part of their army to protect this place. Hence they maintained the citadel, the ramparts, storage house and the machi. In 1684, Sambhaji Maharaj made an unsuccessful attempt to capture the fort. In 1739, Chimajiappa made a strong attack on the fort and captured it.

Now ramparts are in good conditions. There is an old church, Hindu temple and light house. These are two bastions, one on sea side is called as San Diyago and another on the creek side is called as San Francisco. In all there are five bastions. The Maratha changed the names of bastions, San Diyago was named Pushti and San Francisco was named Ganesh.

At present the western front side is a storehouse of ammunition. On the western and northern ends cannons were stationed, pointing towards the sea and the fort of Revdanda respectively. There were 70 cannons on the fort in 1602. The fort has images of lion and eagle inscribed on the stone wall at the entrance gate.

Korlai fort is well connected by roads and waterway. The village is located off Sate Highway No - 4 which passes Alibag to Murud. Korlai village is about 110 kms away from Mumbai and 25 kms from Alibag.
and walkable distance is from village to fort. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central, Thane, Panvel, Alibag and Roha to Murud. Therefore it is suggested that, it should be increased the frequency of buses which ply in between Panvel, Alibag and Roha to Murud. Another convenient way to reach Korlai fort is to travel by catamaran services from Gateway of India, Mumbai to Mandwa (Alibag) or by ferry from Ferry wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) to Revas (Alibag). State transport buses or autos are available at Mandwa or Revas up to Alibag. Catamaran and ferry services are suspended during rainy season.

Photograph 3. 25 Locations and View of Korlai Fort and Light House

The location of fort is very beautiful and it has historical significance. Accommodation and food facilities are not available on the fort or village. However these facilities are available in Revdanda (MTDC resort), Salav (Birla Temple), Alibag, Murud and on Kashid beach. Therefore MTDC has given permission to the villagers to provide facilities under the bed and breakfast scheme. There is no infrastructural facility that is why tourist is not attracted towards this place. Therefore
minimum facilities should be developed. This place is a potential site for the development of tourism.

3.5.4 JANJIRA FORT

Janjira fort is located in Murud tehsil. The local name of a fort from village of Murud so is called as Murud - Janjira. This fort is a marine fort. The fort is situated in the Rajpuri creek which is 3 kms within the sea near the village of Murud. This fort is spread over an area of 22 acres. Rajpuri village covers an area of 6.41 sq.Km with 3869 populations.

Photograph 3. 26 Locations and View of Janjira Fort
The word Janjira is not native to India it has originated after the Arabic word ‘Jezeera’ which means an island. The Arabian Sea crashes all around the fort, battered on all sides by sea waves. Its string walls yet standing intact about 13.11 meters high even at full tide. Formerly Janjira is the capital town of the Siddis. Murud is today popular for its alluring beach, whispering casuarians, coconut and betel palm and an ancient Janjira fort.

This fort was originally constructed in the 12th century by Siddis, businessmen turned rulers from Abyssinia, near Africa. While that puts the age of the fort as 950 years old, most records says that the fort in its current form was built over 350 years back by Siddis Johar. This is the only fort in 750 kms coastline of Maharashtra which remained unconquered.

The history of this fort is colourful. In the 15th century, the Rajpuri village was inhabited by fisherfolk and the Nizam ruled the entire shoreline. After winning the forts of Talegad, Ghosalgad and Raigad in A.D. 1648, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj turned towards north Konkan. He realized the strategic importance of Janjira. His first effort to take Janjira was in 1659. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj made six unsuccessful attempts to conquer this fort. Later Sambhaji Raje and even the Peshwas tried to conquer the fort but in vain. The fort Janjira, thus remained unconquered and labeled as impregnable. The splendor of the fort is evident even today. Sambhaji Maharaj (Son of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj) constructed a fort on a nearby island (Padamdurg Fort, now known as Kasa). Today Kasa fort is not accessible to the public and requires special permission from the Navy. Some monuments are inside the fort. The main entrance door of the fort has a stone carving which depicts a tiger, trapped by six Elephants. There are two water tanks inside
the fort and a deep well with water. There are 19 bustins or buruj in the fort, every bustin has huge cannons, especially three big cannons are named ‘Kalal Bangadi’, ‘Chavari’ and ‘Landa Kasam’. These cannons are kept in perpetual readiness towards enemies which remainds that many ships they might have destroyed in wars. After passing the main entrance door, to the right hand side one room like structure which is called as ‘The Peer Panchayatan’. There are five peers in this room. Northwards of the Surul Khan’s Palace there is a lake which is about 20 meters in diameter. On the western side of the fort, just below the sea level there is a small door, this door was used as an emergency exit and above the door along the coast is a jail.

On the ramparts, there are metal cannons which are still in better conditions. It has been discovered that there were 572 cannons on the fort in 1669. There are 22 bustins on the fort. Even today these have stood the test of time and are in a good condition. It takes about 2.5 hours to see the fort. The ruler of fort moved into a magnificent place in 1885, which is located on a cliff edge of Arabian Sea near Murud, also known as Nawab Palace. This palace is designed with a fusion of Mughal and Gothic architecture. From the Janjira fort, fort of Kasa or Padamdurg is clearly seen which was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to counter the power of Siddis.

Accommodation and food facilities are not well developed in Rajpuri village because this place is very close to Murud town. There are twenty hotels and resorts. All type of hotels like guest house, five star, and khanawals etc are available at Murud. The MTDC holiday resorts on the Murud beach are the most popular for staying and Golden Swan Beach Resort is large with 23 rooms, Patil Khanawal is famous for veg and non-veg food. Therefore an accommodation and food facility is well
developed in Murud town. The municipal council of Murud-Janjira has
generated inadequate infrastructural facilities like parking, toilet
bathrooms, drinking water, security, etc. At the time of Murud - Janjira
Festival or in season large number of tourists visit to this place, so traffic
jam problems have been created. Therefore Municipality should take lead
and should start pay and park facility and should construct separate toilet
blocks and bathrooms, drinking water tap along beach side. There is no
parking facility at Rajpuri village, at the time of low tide this place is
used for parking, but local people do not gave any receipt of parking and
there is no fix fee. Therefore Municipality should provide pay and park
facilities at the entry point of Rajpuri village.

Murud – Janjira is well connected by roads and waterways. Murud –
Janjira is connected to State Highway No - 4, which is connecting Alibag
and Murud. Murud is 49 kms away from Alibag. Rajpuri - 5 kms,
Mumbai - 157 kms, Pune - 215 kms away from Murud. State transport
buses ply from Mumbai Central, Thane, Pune, Panvel, Alibag and Roha.
Also buses ply from Murud to Rajpuri village but their frequency is very
less. But Autorickshaws are available from Murud town. Murud-Janjira is
located next to Korlai fort. So, the same route of water transport is to be
followed. For Janjira sailboats are available from Murud Port (which is
behind Ekdara Village) and Rajpuri port.

Murud doesn't just have a beach and the fort. It also has a Temple
over the hill next to the Bus Depot (known as DATTA CHA DONGAR-
HILL OF LORD DATTATRAY). One can have a paranormal view of
Murud and both the islands together from the hill. Ahead of the hill is an
IDGAH, the walk though the dense jungle is an experience in itself as
well as Savatkada waterfall, Khokari Tomb, Fansad sanctuary, Kude
3.5.5 KOLABA FORT

Kolaba fort is a marine fort (Jaldurg) which is located in Alibag tehsil, about distance of 1.5 kms across Alibag beach, is the low fortified fort of Kolaba. The great Admiral of Shivaji, Kanhoji Angre planned and executed the creation of Alibag town towards end of the 17th century. Most land of today’s Alibag was under sea. Beautiful coconut, betel nut, orchards stood on the shore. Legend has it that a wealthy Muslim named Ali. Owned many plantations, which is gave the town name Alibag. Alibag is the District Headquarter of Raigad (formerly Kolaba) district since 1852. Some people like to call it Alibag or Shribag. The town flourished under the regime of the Angres. Alibag covers an area of 1.81 sq.km.with population 19496. Eight surrounding places like Revdanda, Chaul, Nagaon, Akshi, Varsoli, Thal, Kihim and Awas are known as ‘Ashtagars’ (eighth fertile lands)
The name Kolaba is attributed to a sea fort Kolaba built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the great Maratha leader, in 1680. Kolaba fort is when it was chosen by Shivaji to be fortified after the whole of South Konkan came under the command. In 1662, the strengthened and fortified Kolaba fort to made, it one of his chief naval station. The command of the fort was given to Darya Sagar and Manik Bhandari under whom Kolaba fort became the centre of Maratha attacks on British ships.

In 1713, under a treaty with Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath, Kolaba along with several other forts was given over to Kanhoji Angre. He used it as his main base from which to launch raids on British ships. In 1722, the Bombay Government incensed at Angre’s activities, joined the Portugues in an expedition against Kolaba. A Portuguese land force and three English ships of the line under Commodore Mathews co- oprated but the attempt failed owing to the ‘Cowardince of the Portuguese’. About this time Kolaba is described by Hamilton as a fort built on a rock, a little way from the mainland and at high water an island.
The average height of the fort is 8.33 meters. The fort is 300 meters long from north to south and 116.7 meters wide from east to west, which have 17 bustins on all sides. The fort has been standing for over 300 years. The huge front entrance gate arch has tiger, peacocks and Elephants sculpture on it. Beyond that there is another small gate. Next to that gate are the shrines of Mahishasura and Padmavati, Kanifnath, Shri Ganesha and Maruti temples. Beginning from the north, the outwork which is known as Sarjakot is in a state of ruin, which was built after the main fort, to protect the inner fort from the artillery of Hirakot. The two big doors is loavted at the front side and from seas backside for entering in main part of fort. At eastern door is known as Mahadarwaja and the southern door is known as Darya or Yashwant darwaja. Raghoji Angre built a beautiful temple of shri Ganesha in front of the fresh water tank in 1759. Mostly tourists are visiting this temple at Ganesh Jayanti. The inner sanctum includes images of shri Ashtabuja Devi, Shiv, Vishnu and Surya. On one of the 17 bustions; at present there are two cannons in good condition. Only gurav family live on the fort. But thousands of people visit to fort on the auspicious day of Maghi Chathurthi as per the Hindu Calender, a grand festival of Shri Ganesha.

During the low tide, the Kolaba fort is accessible by walking across the seashore or taking a buggy ride. Low tide period is suitable for reaching on the Kolaba fort. There is no facility of boat services or any substitute. For the convenience of the tourists, the Archaeological Survey of India employees blow a warning whitsle, cautioning the visitors to exit. The ASI also charges a token entry fees for the visitors.

Alibag is well connected by roads and waterways. Alibag is located off National Highway No-17 near Vadkhal Naka in Pen tehsil. From Vadkhal Naka State Highway No - 87 passes through Alibag. State
transport buses ply from different places, but high frequency of buses ply to and from Mumbai Central. Alibag is also linked by State transport bus to the other places like Thane, Pune, Borvali (Mumbai), Nasik, Kolhapur, Miraj, Jalgaon, Solapur etc. Alibag is also linked with the sil places within the district like Panvel, Roha, and Murud etc. Konkan railway is not accessible to Alibag but the nearest railhead is Pen, 30 kms far from Alibag.

Another convenient way to go to Alibag is by ferry or launch. This ferry services are ply from Ferry wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka -Mumbai) to Revas port (Alibag). The frequency is almost every hour both ways. The other sea route to Alibag is from Gateway of India (Mumbai) to Mandwa Port (Alibag). Private catamaran services are run by PNP, Maldar, Ajanta and launch services by Ajanta. Fare includes bus services from Mandwa to Alibag. Catamaran and Ferry services are suspended during rainy season.

Accommodation and food facilities are very good in Alibag, two star and three star hotels, holiday resorts, private bunglows, MTDC resorts, bed and breakfast scheme under MTDC, Khanawals, lodging and bording etc are easily available at Alibag. There are 52 hotels and resorts available at Alibag. All types of infrastructural facilities like telephone, entertainment, toilet blocks, security, tourist’s agents, ATMs and banking, medicals etc are available at Alibag. But drinking and parking facilities are inadequate. Therefore it is suggested that, it should be maintained by Alibag Municipal council and to start pay and park facility. Every weekend or holiday, large numbers of tourists visit to Alibag and tourist’s palces in the nearby areas that is why State highway No - 87 should be widened.
Kolaba fort is connected to other tourist places like Magnetic Observatory, Angre Wada, Varsoli, Kihim, Saswane, Kankeshwar temple, Nagoan, Akshi beach, Rameshwor temple, Chaul, Revdanda etc. (Alibag tehsil), Birla temple, Korlai fort, Kashid beach, Nandgaon, Fansad Sanctuary, Murud, Janjira fort(Murud tehsil) and Kude caves (Tala Tehsil).

3.5.6 SARASGAD

Sarasgad is a hill fort which is located in Sudhagad tehsil. The height of the fort is 533 meters. Sarasgad is situated on the border of Pali village. Pali is famous place for Lord Ganesha, among the eight places, which is important pilgrimage place of Shri Ganesha as it is called as ‘Ashtavinayaka’. Lord Ganesha of Pali is known as ‘Shri Ballaleshwar’. A very huge wall of Sarasgad is at the north–south border of Pali village.

The fort was mainly used to keep a check of the surrounding regions. From fort, Pali and all surrounding area can be seen. The great Maratha Leader Chhtrapati Shivaji Maharaj brought this fort under Swarajya and spent 200 Hon (the prevailing currency) for its reconstruction. Till independence, this fort was under Bhor Sansthan.

After climbing the 96 steps there is main entrance door which is called as Dindi darwaja, near the main entrance, there is a triple curtain wall, right to the wall ramparts are there. There are five water tanks, but water is not suitable for drinking to the base of citadel there is a very big water reservoir. This reservoir water is potable throughout the year. There is a small lake near to the tomb of Shahapeer. After the climbing a steps, one can take a small rest in Mahadev temple. To the right side of
the lake, there are some places which are kept siols, armory, jail and residences.

Photograph 3.28 Locations and View of Sarasgad

On the top of citadel, near Kedareshwar temple, two bustions are set up which are useful to keep watch on surrounding areas. Sudhagad, Tailbaila, Dhangad and Korigad can be seen easily, village Pali, River Amba and Unhere’s hot spring can also be seen from the top of citadel. On the auspicious day of Vaishakh Poornima (as per Hindu Calender), the villagers celebrating the festival of Shahapeer and also at the time of Mahashivratri, villagers visit to Kedareshwar temple on the fort. Lastly Sarasgad is one of the favorite places for the trekkers.
Accommodation and food facilities are not available on fort. In a critical condition, 7-8 people can accommodate in silos or the gatehouse but visitors do not prefer this place. These facilities are available at Pali Village. Accommodation and food facilities are available in the form of bhakt niwas. The rate of this niwas is less as compared to other. Other infrastructural facilities like parking, drinking water, toilet, telephone, darshan, medical etc are available at Pali village.

Pali is well connected by road and railways. Pali is located off National Highway No – 17 near Wakan Fata. The route is like Panvel-Pen-Nagothane-Wakan. State highway No – 92 is connected to Wakan to Khopoli. Pali lies along this road. The distance is 8 kms away from Wakan phata, 13 kms from Nagothane (Roha) and 39 kms from Khopoli (Khalapur), 113 kms from Mumbai and Pune 110 kms. State transport buses ply from Pune, Panvel, Roha and Khopoli. Long distance S.T. buses do not stop at Wakan phata. So tourists come from Mumbai and get down at Nagothane. Therefore S.T. buses should take halt at Wakan. Autorickshaws are also available at Wakan, Nagothane and Khopoli. Railway is another accessible mode of transport. The nearest railhead is Nagothane on Konkan railway or Khopoli on central rail and the nearest railway station.

This fort is connected to other tourist places like Unhere’s hot spring (1 kms), Ghera Sudhagad (11 kms), Nadsur caves (10 kms), Khadsambale caves (15 kms) and Madh (46 kms), Sajgaon (35kms) in Khalapur tehsil.
3.5.7 BIRWADI FORT

Birwadi fort is a hill fort which is located in Roha tehsil. The name of fort is derived from Birwadi village, which is a small village with population only 419 and it covers an area of 34.9 sq. km.

Mountain ranges starting from Avchitgad (Roha) engulf many small forts like Ghosalgad, Talagad, Mangad – Kuradugad and Birwadi. To the west of Roha, crowns the last of a broken range of hills varying in height from 400 to 600 meters, which runs south – west from the central hill or backbone of the Roha tehsil. The shape of the fort is like two conical hills, the height of the eastern peak is lower than the western peak. The slope of the hill covers a mixed forest. The great Maratha leader, Shivaji Maharaj conquered the fort of Talagad and Ghosalgad and then built Birwadi fort for the protection of the surrounding regions from his formidable neighbor, the Siddi’s.

Photograph 3.29 Location and View of Birwadi Fort

After climbing a few steps from the village of Khera and Chanere, there is a Bhavani Devi temple. Behind the temple is a beautiful statue of Shivaji Maharaj. After climbing 100 steps, temples are seen on the top of
Birwadi fort is well linked by road transport. This fort is located in between Murud and Roha on State Highway No - 60 near the village of Chanere. Several approachable roads are there to reach the fort. Roha-Tambadwadi (Major Zillha Marg No- 88 and State Highway No –92) to Chanere (Major Zillha Marg No-62) and the rural roads which is connected to fort via Usar village. The Chanere village is 16 kms from Roha and 5 kms from Murud. State transport buses ply from Murud, Roha and Nagothane. Autoricksh are available at Chanere and Roha.

There is no food and accommodation facility near the fort. In critical circumstances, 10-15 people can be accommodated in Bhavani temple but visitors do not prefer that place. Visitors always prefer to Murud or Roha town for accommodation and food. The village Birwadi does not provide any other facilities to the visitors. The nature of Birwadi is very beautiful but lack of infrastructural facilities, visitors do not attracted towards the fort. Therefore this is a potential site for tourism development.

This place is connected to other tourist places like Murud-Janjira, Fansad Sanctury, Nandgaon’s Shri Siddivinayaka, Kashid beach (Murud tehsil) and Kolad and Avchitgad, Ghosalgad, Surgad and Ratangad (in Roha tehsil).
3.6 HOT SPRINGS

INTRODUCTION

Spring water is one of the most precious gifts of nature, hot spring water is more important for the human body. Spring are categorised according to mineral content; sulphur spring, magnesium spring, and iron spring. Each type of spring was considered medicinal for specific ailments. People used this water to keep in good health for ages. Hot springing is effective for every kind of allergic skin disease, chronic eczema, hives, wounds, and burn as well as to increase the flow of blood circulation. Modern application of spring water includes hydrotherapy, spring pool, spring snanas, spring massage, and spring health centres. So, three spots in Raigad district have been developed hot spring water as a tourism point of view, namely Unhere in Sudhagad and Sav in Mahad, All these hot water springs have been selected for the study.
3.6.1 SAV HOT SPRING

Sav spring lies in Mahad tehsil, to the left bank of Savitri River. Sav village covers an area of 0.5 sq. km with 1289 population. This spring is about 8 kms from Mahad. The temperature of water is 35°C.
This spring is situated behind the Musjid. Most of the Muslim tourists are visit here. This spring covers coconut trees, nilgiri and other trees. The place is beautiful, calm and tourists enjoy bath.

Infrastructural facilities are not available, local people use water for their daily domestic purposes, so water gets polluted. MTDC should take necessary steps and give permission for bed and breakfast scheme by the local people. This can ultimately change the face of Sav village.

Photograph 3.30 Locations and View of Sav Spring

This place is not accessible; it is located on Mahad – Madangad road nearly 10 kms of Sav Phata from Mahad town. There is no road from Sav Phata to Sav spring, tourist don’t reach their vehicles up to this place. Nobody visit to this place in rainy as well as in summer and winter. Another way to go to sav is available on National Highway No-17 near Pale caves. Tourist must cross Savitri River with tar (small boat). This path is also difficult for people. Therefore tourists are not giving the preference to this place, so sav spring is scared place.

For the development of this place, following amainments should be developed such as tar or black topped road, toilet blocks and display of
instruction board about the utilization of hot water and important things is the positive attitude of the local people towards this place.

3.6.2 UNHERE HOT SPRING

The delightful Unhere Budruk village is famous for its natural hot water spring having medicinal properties. This spring is located close to the Amba River near Pali village. The Unhere Bk covers an area of 2.67sq.km with 393 population.

This spring consists of three kundas out of them two kundas are surrounded by stones having square shaped (6x6 feet long). These these two tanks are very close to each other, but main tank is in a rectangular shape with measurement of 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 5 feet deep. These big kundas are sperated by wall for male and female. The temperature of three kundas is nearly about 32°C. Due to medical properties of this water, every devotee visit to Unhere hot spring and attend to Pali’s Shri Ballaleshwar Ganesha. There is Shri Vitthal - Rukmai temple near the spring.

Photograph 3. 31 Location and View of Unhere Hot Water Spring
This spring spot is well connected by roads and railways. This spot is very close to Pali, The distance is about 1 kms from Pali, 8 kms from Wakan Phata, 13 kms from Nagothane, 39 kms from Khopoli, 124 kms from Mumbai via Khopoli, 116 kms from Mumbai via Nagothane (National Highway No - 17) and 110 kms from Pune via Khopoli. Unhere Phata is located on State highway-No 92 which is connected from Wakan to Khopoli and this spring is situated on other Zilla Marg No - 45. State transport buses ply from Mumbai, Pune, Panvel, Nagothane, and Khopoli. The frequency of buses is good. Autorickshaws are available at Wakan; the second convenient route is rail on both sides. The nearest railway station is Nagothane on Konkan railway and Khopoli on Central railway; local trains also ply from CST Mumbai to Khopoli.

As per accommodation and food facilities are concerned, near to the spring, there are two hotels. Hotel Chintamani provides accommodation facility with low rates. But visitors do not prefer this spot for staying because there are many rooms like dormitory, single bed; double bed, etc. are available in bhakt niwas at Pali. Government rest house is closed for renovation for the last five years. So it is suggested that Raigad Zilla Parishad do the needful as early as possible.

3.7 WATERFALLS

INTRODUCTION

The water falling from the hill top offers a spectacular view to the tourists. The cascading effect of the milky water waves is eye catching and fills the souls of the tourists with bountiful retreat. Maharashtra is the richest state in India which is also rich in wide varieties of waterfall destination best owed with the beauty of Western Ghats of Sahyadri mountain range. Nestling in the pristine hills of the Western Ghats, there
are a numbers of waterfalls which enhance the charms of the state to attract variety of tourists.

A great variety of waterfalls lies in the Karjat, Khalapur, Mahad and Poladpur tehsils of Raigad district. Large numbers of tourists get attracted during monsoon. Waterfalls are the great attraction of young as well as middle aged people. Mostly, waterfalls are situated in remote places. Some waterfalls destinations provide all facilities to the tourists. So, it helps to develop tourism and related activities at the respective destinations. Tourists frequently visit to such places. Waterfalls always attract the attention of tourists. Therefore, these are having importance in the tourism activity. The following table shows the number of waterfalls in the Raigad district.
RAIGAD DISTRICT
DISTRIBUTION OF WATERFALLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of the Waterfalls</th>
<th>Landmark Village</th>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Total Number of Waterfalls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Siddeshwar</td>
<td>Near Sagargad</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ramdharneshwar</td>
<td>Kihim</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pandavkada</td>
<td>Kharghar</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dhodhni</td>
<td>Nere</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vardoli</td>
<td>Vardoli</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Shivtharghal</td>
<td>Mahad</td>
<td>Mahad</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mandale</td>
<td>Mandale</td>
<td>Mahad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ashane-Koshane</td>
<td>Bhivpuri Road</td>
<td>Karjat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mahalgiri</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vagreshwar</td>
<td>Sapoli</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Morzoth</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ghargarkond</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Savatkada</td>
<td>Garambi Dam</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Navdhar</td>
<td>Navdhar</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fansad</td>
<td>Fansad Sanctuary</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sai</td>
<td>Sai,Kharpada</td>
<td>Uran</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Zenith</td>
<td>Khopoli</td>
<td>Khalapur</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kansai</td>
<td>Kamath Resort, Nagothane</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by Author

Table 3.6 Distribution of Waterfalls, Raigad District

As shown in Table 3.6 there are 18 waterfalls which are distributed in Alibag, Panvel, Mahad, Murud, Pen, Poladpur, Uran, Khalapur, Roha and Karjat tehsil of Raigad district. Out of these some of the famous and beautiful waterfall such as Shivtharghal, Vagreshwar, Zenith, Pandavkada,
RAIGAD DISTRICT
DISTRIBUTION OF WATERFALLS

Map 3.7 Distribution of Waterfalls, Raigad District

3.7.1 SHIVTHARGHAL WATERFALL

Shitharghal place is already famous for Ramadas Swami. This is a remote place which is located in Shivthar village in Javali basin of Mahad tehsil. Ghal means caves; this cave is carved from inside in a cliff where
Ramadas Swami resided for 12 years and he wrote ‘Dasbodh’. This cave is 20 meter long and 15 meter wide. Near to this cave, there is a huge waterfall that runs down the same cliff. It is 30 kms. from Mahad, 90 kms from Pune and 200 kms from Mumbai.

Shivtharghal waterfall is unique, very beautiful place, tourists enjoying their holidays. Tourists also enjoying meditation perhaps feel the sanctity of the place. It is sources of inspiration and peace of mind for every one.

Photograph 3. 32 Location and View of Shivtharghal Waterfall

Here, infrastructural facilities like accommodation, drinking water, transportation are available but food, communication etc; are not available. The state transport buses are frequently available to Mahad from Mumbai and Pune. This waterfall should be connected to with town and other tourist places like Chaudar Tale, Raigad fort, Umrath, Sav hot spring etc which are attractions in this region.
3.7.2 VAGRESHWAR WATERFALL

Vagreshwar waterfall the very name comes from Vagreshwar temple of Lord Shiva. It is located near village of Sapoli in Pen tehsil. Sapoli is situated on the foothill of Mira Dongar. Vagreshwar temple is 3 kms on the top of Mira Dongar.

Vagreshwar waterfall is very close to temple; it is very beautiful having spectacular view, marvelous cascade which falls from the height of 100 feet, offers a breath taking view. Local and outside tourists enjoy and this place.

![Vagreshwar Waterfall](image)

Photograph 3.33  Location and View of Vagreshwar waterfall

Infrastructural facilities like drinking water, transport, food, and other activities are not available. There is trail which passes through inside the dongar, which has covered wood forest. All types of vehicles reach up to the Sapoli village. So, auto rickshaws are available from Pen town.
This place should be connected to other tourist places like Gogade, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Shirdon, Pali, etc. There is a need to make restaurants; tea and snack stall near to the Sapoli village.

3.7.3 ZENITH WATERFALL

The name Zenith waterfall comes from a manufacturing company Zenith Ltd. It is located at 12 kms away from Khopoli and 90 kms from Mumbai. This waterfall is a nice beautiful place for one day picnic. It is surrounded by Sahyadri mountain range. Tourist enjoying with their holiday. Mostly Mumbaikar, Punekar and local people always visit on weekend to that place.

Photograph 3.34 Location and View of Zenith waterfall

Here infrastructural facilities are not developed, however accessibility is good. Tourists can prefer either roadways or railways (Local). Accommodation and food facilities are not necessary here as it is very close to Lonaval –Khandala. Zenith waterfall is linked with Pali’s Ballaleshwar Ganpati, Madh’s Varadvinayaka Ganpati, Sajgaon, Khopoli town etc.
3.7.4 PANDAVKADA WATERFALL

Pandavkada or Pandavgad waterfall is a popular spot for the Mumbaikar and Navi Mumbaikar. It is located near to Kharghar in Panvel tehsil. At this marvelous place, water falls from 350 feet, offers a breathtaking view. This waterfall is a beautiful cascading and for one day tour. Large numbers of young and middle aged tourists are attracted towards this place because of its accessibility and convenience by railways and roadways. On harbour railway, Kharghar is convenient station for the tourists. There are many way sign boards marked in Kharghar for easy accessibility. The cascading waterfall offers splendour which is worth enjoying. Recently there was ban on tourists, as this waterfall was declared as dangerous spot by the CIDCO. However, according to Kharghar police station, tourists are free to visit the spot as per their wish but on their own risk.

![Pandavkada Waterfall Location and View](image)

Photograph 3. 35 Location and View of Padavkada Waterfall

There is no infrastructural facility available near to Pandavkada. But many hotels, restaurants, food malls are located around vicinity.
Roadway is more comfortable than the railway. Auto rickshaws, private taxies are available at Kharghar.

This place is linked with other tourist places such as Sai Baba temple in Panvel, Gadeshwar dam, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Shirdon, Usuf Mehar Ali Center, Swapnanagri and mall in Vashi. There is a need to provide minimum facilities to the tourists near the waterfall.

3.8 CAVES TEMPLES

INTRODUCTION

India is an ancient country rich in monumental heritage. The caves in India are one of the best places to visit in exploring the architectural and sculptural brilliance of India’s past. These caves are also storehouses of wondrous paintings that depict the lifestyle. Dating back to thousands years old, caves in India are epitome of architectural masterpiece; the caves with their unique architectural beauty have become world famous tourists’ centers to visitors from all over. Indian monks and artist would take years for creating incredible rock –cut architecture manually out of sandstone, cliff, and rock formations like Taj Mahal, Kutub Minar, Agra Fort, Khajuraho, etc. India’s cave temple show early traces of human life and culture and the importance of Hinduism and Buddhism in the country’s history. The ten most incredible Indian’s cave temples are 1) Ellora caves, Aurangabad 2) Ajanta caves, Arurangabad 3) Varaha caves, Tamilnadu 4) Undavalli caves, Andhra Pradesh 5) Elephanta caves, Raigad, Maharashtra 6) Amarnath temple, Jammu and Kashmir 7) Udayagiri caves, Madhya Pradesh 8) Kanheri caves, Mumbai 9) Bhimbetka rock shelter, Madhya Pradesh 10) Badami caves, Karnataka. Maharashtra is famous for its caves and rock-cut architectures. Large varieties are found in Maharashtra wider than the
caves of Egypt, Persia, and Greece. The caves in Maharashtra are so old, dating back to as early as 1st century BC. Most of the caves were used as the Viharas (hall) and Chityas (Pillared) by Hindu, Buddhist and Jain priests. Ellora, Ajanta, Elephanta, Kanheri, Karla, Bhaje, Kude etc. are the best examples for the experiments that had carried out by Hindu, Buddhist and Jain priests in making these huge and wonderful caves in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, around eight districts have large number of caves located (number in bracket indicates the number of caves) namely - Aurangabad (5), Mumbai (7), Pune (6), Nasik (3), Satara and Kolhapur (4), Raigad (10) and Osmanabad (2). From tourism point of view, these caves are one of the most attractions of tourists. They help to provide opportunities for the local people to change their economic level.

Ten caves are found in Raigad district because of physiographical setting of Raigad which is favourable for rock -cut caves. Nestled in the formidable Sahayadri mountain ranges there are six caves, two caves are in Konkan forested hills, and two caves are found along the west coast of Arabian Sea.
Table 3.7 Distribution of caves, Raigad District

As shown in table 3.7, there are ten caves distributed all over the Raigad district. In Alibag tehsil, Uran tehsil, and Tala thesil having one cave each, Karjat and Madh tehsil was having two caves each and Sudhagad tehsil having three caves. Out of ten, three caves have been selected for the study from tourism point of view. Namely Elephanta caves, Kude – Mandad caves and Gandhar – Pale caves.
3.8.1 ELEPHANTA CAVES

Elephanta caves are located on Elephanta Island also known as Gharapuri. This island comes under the Uran tehsil. It is situated on an
arm of the Arabian Sea. Elephanta caves were declared as ‘World Heritage Site’ by UNESCO in 1987. Gharapuri is a small village to the south side of island. This island is about 11 kms east of the Apollo Bunder near the Gateway of India; Mumbai. The Island is 2.4 kms in length with two hills that rise to a height of about 150 meters from MSL. On the island, there are three hamlets known as Sheth bunder in the north-west, Mora bunder in the north-east, and Gharapuri or Raj bunder to the south. Gharapuri village covers an area of 1.98 sq.km with population 860 and the whole island covers an area of about 10 sq. Km. at high tide and about 16 sq kms at low tide. Now these caves are preserved under the supervision by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Elephanta caves are the architecturally rich with beautiful sculptures as well as crafts to these caves are the archaeological treasure. The Island consists of two groups, the first is a large group of five caves on the western hill of the island, is well known as its Hindu sculpture, the second a small group of two Buddhist caves which are on eastern part of the island. The entire work in the cave has been completed through the process of removal of rock. The whole complex of these caves consists of inner hall, grand hall, shrines and courtyards. It has a huge collection of exquisite stone sculptures of Hindu god and goddess. The Hindu caves contain rock cut stone sculptures representing the Lord Shiva. The present name of ‘Elephanta’ is derived after a colossal statue of Elephanta, which once stood at the Raj Bunder and first discovered by the Portuguese in the 16th century AD. The height Elephanta is 2.2 meters and 4.05 meters long, now this statue has been removed and shifted to Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan, Byculla, Mumbai formerly known as Victoria Garden.

Several Historians describe the history of Elephanta caves. The earliest historical reference to Elephanta Island known as ‘Gharapuri’ is
in an inscription of Mauryan rules of Konkan by the Badami Chalukyas emperor Kin Pulekesin – II (circa 609 to 642 AD) in a naval battle in 635 AD. The inscription describes the puri (place of caves) as the goddesses of wealth of the western ocean, which he wrested from the Mauryas who ruled the western coast from the 4th to 7th century AD. This ancient site is believed to have been a stop over Roman, Arab, and Persian traders. In 1534, the island was passed into the hands of the Portuguese. Again in 1682 it may have formed the part of the Maratha domain. The Island was finally occupied by the British, who took over 1st December, 1774. While some of the Historian also record said that the caves were built by the Kalchuri King Krishnaraja in 6th century AD.

The main cave is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This cave covers an area of 60,000 sq. feet and it consists of a main chamber, two lateral chambers, courtyards, and shrines. It is 39 meters deep from the front entrance to the back. The main cave has three open porticoes and an aisle at the back. The main hall is 27 meters square cave supported by 36 pillars (six rows of six pillars each) and height of the roof is approximately 5 meters. The whole ceiling is having fresco paintings. Although the original colours and fineness is lost due to the impact of climatic conditions. The main caves having ten sculptures – a) Natraj Shiva b) Shiva Shrine c) Andhakasura Vadha Murti Shiva d) Wedding of Shiva e) Gangadhara Shiva f) Trimurti g) Ardhanarishwara Shiva h) Ravan Shaking Kailas i) Mahayogi Shiva (Yogishvara) j) Shiva – Parvati on Kailas.

The most important attraction of tourists is the Trimurti, carved in relief at the back of the cave facing the entrance on the north – south axis. It is also known as Trimurti Sadashiva or Maheshmurti. The image is 7 meter in height from the base, depicts a three headed Shiva. These three
heads show three different aspects of Shiva. The right half face shows as creator – Uma or Vamdeva, this face is closest to that of Brahma. The left half face which dispalying anger, as destroyer - Aghora or Bhairava, the central face as Preserver – Madheva or Tatpurusha, this figure is close to the Vishnu and the forth face which is not visible is said to represent Sadyojata or Nandin. The figures of Dwarapala or doorkeepers are very impressive sculptures.

Photograph 3. 36 Location and View of Elephanta Caves

Apart from the main caves, there are four other caves which are located on the western hill and two caves on the eastern hill, numbered from cave – 2 to 7. These caves are not completed and they have been much damaged by the climate. There is no trail to reach that caves, so tourists do not get attracted towards these caves. Some of important attractions of Elephanta caves are as fellows-
RAIGAD DISTRICT
INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF ELEPHANTA CAVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Hall</th>
<th>East Wing Shrine</th>
<th>West Wing Shrine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Gangadhara</td>
<td>11. Matrikas</td>
<td>16. Linga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Wedding of Shiva</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [www.gharapurisland.com](http://www.gharapurisland.com)

Map: 3.9 Internal Structure of Elephanta Caves, Raigad District

Photograph 3.37   View of Maheshmurti, Elephanta Caves
Large Water Cistern

To the north of the courtyard, there is a water cistern. It is 2.10 meters in length ad 15.75 meters wide. This water is not used for drinking purpose. Some fragment sculptures of earthen pots and metal dishes were found in the cistern. Now a day they are placed in the Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai.

Cannon Hill

Every tourist visited to cannon hill. There are two cannon which is perched on the top of the hill. Cannon -1 (north side) is established in the year 1905 and cannon – 2 (west side) is in 1906. The dais, on which the cannons are placed, can rotate in all directions and approximately length is 10 meters. Surrounding beautiful senery of Mumbai, BARC, Butucher Island, Uran and JNPT Port can be seen easily from the top of cannon hill.

Photograph 3.38  View of Cannon, Elephanta caves

Toy Train

From getting down the launch at Gharapuri Island, toy train welcomes to all tourist who come from Mumbai. This is one of the
attractions of this island. A narrow gauge toy train takes tourist along near about 1 kms. pier to the base of steps which lead to the caves.

There are six hotels out of which one is MTDC’s Chalukya Restaurant with room and beer bar and five small hotels. All types of food are available in all hotels. As far as accommodation is concerned, tourists do not prefer to stay on island because there is no electricity as well as it is very close to Mumbai. So, tourists arrange one day trip. The island has inadequate infrastructural facilities like drinking water, dustbins, security, medical, toilet blocks, etc., but guide, doli or dandi (for aged people), variety of shops like caps, ornaments, books, other attractive show pices shops, etc. are available on island. Therefore it is suggested that, MTDC should construct separate toilet blocks near the main caves, to keep the dustbins at some places, to provide drinking water by tap, to set up the tidal or wind energy for electricity and in case of emergency first aid facility should be provided.

Photograph 3.39  View of Toy Train, Elephanta caves

Elephanta Island is well connected by only sea route. Boat, luxury, ordinary launches and catamaran leave from Apollo Bunder near Gateway of India, Mumbai and it takes minimum half an hour. Boats
usually start every half hour from 9.00am to 2.00 pm from Gateway and between 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm from Elephanta Island. Tourists can return by any boat. During the monsoon season boat services are usually suspended. The fare of luxury - ₹ 120 and Economy launches - ₹ 100 (both are return tickets). Tar (small boat) services can be hired at Mora Jetty (Uran),

**Festivals**

During the World Heritage Day on 18\(^{th}\) April and World Heritage Week in between 19\(^{th}\) to 25\(^{th}\) November, there are special events held at island and Elephanta Paryatan mohostav which is held in the month of February every year on the Elephanta Island. This festival is hosted by the MTDC department.

**Visiting Charges**

The rates of the tickets are fixed, Entry fees ₹ 10 for Indian Visitor, and For foreigners ₹ 250, free entry below 15 year, Videography Charges are per camera ₹ 25, tax by Gram Panchayat Gharapuri ₹ 5, tickets for train ₹ 10 both side, Doli or Dandi Rs. 500 to Climb 120 steps up and down,

*Important instruction for tourist- is to be aware of monkeys. Do not tease or feed them anything as they might harm.*

**3.8.2 KUDE CAVES**

Tala is a small town which is a head quarter of Tala tehsil. This town is situated at the base of Talegad. Kude caves are located on the bank of Rajpuri creek. The name of this cave is from Kude village. Kude village covers an area of 5. 31sq.km with 936 populations.
Photograph 3. 40 Location and View of Kude Caves
Photograph 3.41  Views of Kude Caves

Kude caves are having a group of ancient rock-cut Buddhist caves which contain paintings of Indian Buddhist art. There are 26 caves made for Buddhist mendicants around 1700-2100 years ago, in Hinayana tradition, in the 1st century BC to 3rd century AD. Later in 6th to 7th century AD these were made addition in Mahayana custom which involved various figures and statue of Lord Buddha. Few of the caves are almost incomplete.

In the Kude caves, there are 26 rock-cut caves and 11 rock-cut cisterns. Further there are a few small chambers that also appear like more caves. Some of the caves are situated almost 40 to 60 meters high above the sea level. Facing of all caves to the south –west, facing with beautiful view of landscape of Tala tehsil.

There are 26 compartments in two tiers, 15 (cave 1 to 15) in the lower and 11 (cave no. 16 to 26) in the upper tier. They comprise 5 Chaityas and 21 are Vihras.

The paintings and inscriptions on the fascio of the caves have been experiencing the impact of weather condition. Natural forces have eroded the sculptures, inscriptions and drawings in the front of the interior are better conserved. The inner portions of the caves are not much decorated.
These rock-cut caves are remarkable for their architectural excellence and classic example of Buddhist cave. So, Kude caves are an example of a keen interest in historical monuments and archaeology. There is a rock carved images of an Elephanta on the front of gate of the caves with stupas and water cisterns are in front of caves.

**KUDE CAVES**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TWENTY SIX CAVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cave Nos.</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Contains a Verandah along with two pillars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>A small court yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Name of the sponsor in the inscriptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>In front of court benches and steps leading to Verandah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Cistern in front and contains a Verandah has one pillar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Is a monastery or Chaitya , sculpture of elephant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Has a Verandah with two pillars, two cistern in front side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Is a small chamber with benches for monks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>Is Chaitya and has a shrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>It boasts a small front yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI</td>
<td>Has open Verandah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII</td>
<td>Is poorly damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII</td>
<td>Is an open Verandah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV</td>
<td>Similar to previous cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XV</td>
<td>Is Chaitya and a shrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVI</td>
<td>Has two cisterns in front of caves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVII</td>
<td>Is similar to the previous caves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVIII</td>
<td>Inscription of some merchant left by donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIX</td>
<td>Remnants of plaster on wall, simply courtyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX</td>
<td>Is a bit harder to access, front part is nearly lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXI</td>
<td>Was planned as Chaitya but not finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXII</td>
<td>Has a court with bench in front of cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIII</td>
<td>Contains inscription left by donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIV</td>
<td>Contains inscription left by trader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXV</td>
<td>Is damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXVI</td>
<td>Has a common wall with cave XXV, it is partly broken, small chamber behind Verandah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: On internet: Kude Caves

Table 3.8 Brief Description of Twenty Six Caves at Kude
As shown in Table 3.8 Kude caves are under the supervision of Archaeological Survey of India, Mumbai Circle. These caves are covered by forest; it is full of nature’s beauty. But tourist does not attract as accommodation, food, and infrastructural facilities are not available at Kude caves and the condition of village road is also poor. But all types of facilities are available at Tala town, Murud and Roha town. Therefore, village road, minimum infrastructure facilities should be developed at the place. As well as ASI should appoint one person as a peon as a guide at caves. It helps to increase the number of tourist.

Kude caves are well linked by road ways. These caves are located on State highway No - 95 which is connected from Murud to Roha via Bhalgaon and from right side of Bhalgaon, State highway No - 96 which is passing through Kude caves. Caves are 4 kms away from Bhalgaon, 28 kms from south of Murud, 13 kms from Tala, and 32 kms away from Roha. State transport buses ply from Tala, Roha, and Murud. Autorickshaws are available at Bhalgaon. There are three road routes to reach the Kude caves 1) Alibag – Murud – Bhalgaon – Kude caves [Major State Highway No – 4 and State Highway No – 92] 2) Panvel – Pen – Nagothane – Roha – Kude [ State Highway No – 92 and 95] and 3) Panvel – pen – Indapur – Tala – Kude [ State Highway No – 97 and 95]

Two or light four wheeler vehicles directly reach near to the Kude caves. These caves are connected to other tourist’s places like Alibag, Chaul, Birla temple, Kashid beach, Murud, Janjira Fort and Kolad etc.

3.8.3 GANDHARPALE CAVES

Pale caves are situated on a hill and lie in Pale village of Mahad tehsil. They are located across the National Highway No- 17 near Mahad
town or at the confluence of Gandhar-Savitri rives. The name of the caves comes from Gandhar and Pale village. But Gandhar village is an extinct. Pale village covers an area of 329 hectares with 2254 population.

These Buddhist caves were excavated in 150 – 300 AD. This place is very attractive and stands in eastern facing. There are 29 caves divided into two groups. At upper part of the hill, there are 1 to 20 and at lower part having 21 to 29 caves. The caves have a small stupas located near the prayer hall, it is known as ‘Chaityagrihas’. There is brahmi script carved on the wall one of the caves.

Photograph 3. 42 Location and View of Gandharpale Caves
During the monsoon season, the entire caves or hillock gets green blanket with several rivers lets and water cascades. There are 107 stone steps can be easily climbed up within 10 to 15 minutes. On top of the caves, there is a big platform, so tourists can take rest. This place is beautiful and attractive for tourists. River confluence, Mahad town, Compact Pale settlements are easily seen from here. So, large number of domestic and foreign tourist visit to Pale caves.

Infrastructural facilities are not provided for the tourists because this place is very close to Mahad town. Tourists prefer to stay at Mhad town and some of them return to their residents. Therefore, ASI takes initiative for providing basic facilities to the tourist. It helps to increase the number of tourists towards this place. These caves are connected to other tourist places like Raigad fort, Chaudar Tale, Shivtharghal, Sav spring etc.
3.9 AGRO TOURISM

Agro tourism and eco tourism are closely related to each other. Agro tourism is there when local people of the area offer tours to their agricultural farm. Agro tourism is a leisure learning and entertaining activity. It is a practice of attracting tourists to an area used primarily for agricultural purposes. The concept of agro tourism in India was launched by the Haryana Tourism Corporation in 2003.

Agro tourism is an innovative agricultural activity related to tourism and agriculture. Agro tourism is the source of income and directly and indirectly benefits to the local people. Hence agro tourism is one of the tools of rural development. Maharashtra is agriculturally developed state in India and there is a huge scope and great potential to develop agro tourism.

For the development of agro tourism requires some factors such as large area, publicity, accommodation and food facilities and infrastructural facilities. The following promotional factors are shown in the diagram.

Farms provide all facilities to the tourists that is why, large number of tourists get attracted towards this agro tourism.
Raigad district is in the western part of Maharashtra. The Arabian Sea is to the west of the district, it covers a 240 kms long indented coastline along the lush green, vegetation and its dense forest is the home of wildlife. Therefore, Raigad district is favourable for the development of agro tourism. It consists of nursery, ayurveda, resorts, farms, and fish farms in the district. There is 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. This organization has arranged farm trip, seminars to the local and outsiders. It helps to promote tourism development in Konkan region. MTDC has given licenses under the bed and breakfast scheme to the land owners willing to share and take part in agro tourism. Therefore, local people started guest houses, cottages, and tents in their own garden of coconut, betel nut, mango, agri-farm and fish farming.

Large numbers of agro farms are found in Karjat and Alibag tehsil. The famous agro farms are Karpewadi (Alibag) and Nisarg Niketan or Saguna Bag (Karjat) developed as tourism points. Mostly, farmers and tourists visit to such farms. These are the best attractions of tourists. These two agro-farms provide all facilities to the tourists like accommodation, food facilities, drinking water, swimming pool, entertainment, agri products, etc. Apart from agro farms, fruit farms are also developed in Raigad district. The following table shows the number of farms registered.
RAIGAD DISTRICT
DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT FRUIT FARMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Farms / Agro -farms</th>
<th>No. of farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mhasla</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Khalapur</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sudhagad</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Uran</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shrivardhan</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Murud</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Karjat</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tala</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>82</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Agricultural Department, Alibag

Table 3.9 Distribution of Government Fruit Farms, Raigad District

As shown in table 3.9, about 27 government fruit farms are found in Tala tehsil, about 15 in Karjat tehsil, 9 farms are in Roha tehsil, Alibag and Murud having 8 farm each and Shrivardhan tehsil about 7 fruit farms. Tourist purchase variety of fruit plants, so, tourists are visit o these farms on large scale.

3.10 GREAT PERSONALITIES

Maharashtra has produced numerous social reformers who have plied a significant role in making Maharashtra a more progressive and forward looking state. The social reformers, religious gurus, freedom fighters, writers, thinkers, politicians, administrators, scientists, actors, etc have brought about a renaissance and social awakening in Maharashtra. The efforts of Maharshi Karve, Karmaveer Bhauro Patil, Dr. Babasaheb
Ambedkar, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Jotiba Phule, Chhtrapati Shivaji Maharaj, chhtrapati Shahu Maharaj, Vinoba Bhave, etc have achieved extraordinary fetes.

Raigad district is one of the important districts for its historical, religious, social, cultural and political background. Many famous social reformers, writer, freedom fighters, actors, musicians, political leaders are pride of the Maharashtra state. There were 47 great personalities given to us by this district. Raigad district has been enlightened by the presence of these people since its birth. All of them contribute in various spheres of life and have been of great importance to the society.

**RAIGAD DISTRICT**

**LIST OF RENOWNED PERSONALITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of the person</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Characters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pandurang Shastri Athavale</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Founder of Swadhya Pariwar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr. C.D. Deshmukh</td>
<td>Nate</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>First Governer of RBI, Former Economist, Minister, Former Chairman of UGC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kanhoji Angre</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Navel Chief of Shivaji Maharaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Balaji Vishwanath Bhat</td>
<td>Shrivardhan</td>
<td>Shrivardhan</td>
<td>First Peshwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vasudev Balwant Phadke</td>
<td>Shirdhon</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td>Freedom Fighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Br. A.R. Antuley</td>
<td>Kankidi/ambet</td>
<td>Mhasla</td>
<td>Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra state, Political Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Acharya Vinoba Bhave</td>
<td>Gagode</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Social Reformer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bhave Madhukar</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Journalists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Buskute Prabhakar</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>Author of Madh Gazette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Maltibai Bedekar</td>
<td>Awas</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Village/Area</td>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Profession/Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>R.V. Dighe</td>
<td>Khopoli</td>
<td>Khalapur</td>
<td>Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Yashwant Deo</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Musecians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Rajabhaud Deodhar</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Artist – Ganpati Idols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Vaman Deodhar</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Artist- Ganpati Idols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Shrikant Deodhar</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Making of all sculptures of Dervan (Ratnagiri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Rambhau Desai</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Roha</td>
<td>Journalists, Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Vasant Date</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>Freedom Fighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Anna Date</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari</td>
<td>Revdanda</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Swadhyta Pariwar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>P.K. Gharapure</td>
<td>Awas</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Professor and Writer, Lot of Books on Tourism in Konkan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Herve Guruji</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td>Panvel</td>
<td>Freedom Fighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>V.M. Joshi</td>
<td>Goregaon</td>
<td>Mangaon</td>
<td>Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Manohar Joshi</td>
<td>Nandvi</td>
<td>Mangaon</td>
<td>Former Chief Minister of MH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Bhai Kotwal</td>
<td>Karjat</td>
<td>Karjat</td>
<td>Freedom Fighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Shantaram Vishnu Alaskar</td>
<td>Diveagar</td>
<td>Shrivardhan</td>
<td>Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Nanasaheb Kunte</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Political Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Vinayak Pandurang Karmarkar</td>
<td>Saswane</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Artist of sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Sulochana Chavan</td>
<td>Patner</td>
<td>Mangaon</td>
<td>Marathi Actress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Vishnubhat Balkrishna Godse</td>
<td>Varsai</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Writer-Maza Pravas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Shivram Madheb Paranjape</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>Madh</td>
<td>Writer- Kal Magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dattajirao Khanvilkar</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Alibag</td>
<td>Political Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>K.J. Limayee</td>
<td>Pali</td>
<td>Sudhagad</td>
<td>Political Leader, Founder of Sudhagad Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Tanaji Malusure</td>
<td>Umrath</td>
<td>Poladpur</td>
<td>Sardar of Shivaji Maharaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Netaji Palkar</td>
<td>Chouk</td>
<td>Khalapur</td>
<td>Sardar of Shivaji Maharaj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.10 List of Renowned Personalities, Raigad District


Dr. C. D. Deshmukh was born on January 14, 1896 at Nate, near Raigad fort in Mahad tehsil. He spent his childhood in Tale and Roha, his father was a lawyer and his mother Bhagirathaibai had strong faith in religion. C.D. was great economist and had outstanding educational career. He stood first in the Matriculation examination of the University of Bombay in 1912, and also secured the first Jagannath Sanker Shet Scholarships in Sanskrit. He had been the first Governor of RBI in 1943 to 1949. In September 1949, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru appointed C.D as India’s Special Financial Ambedassdor to America and Europe.
He was a member of Union Cabinet, as the Finance Minister. After that he had been appointed as a Chairman of the UGC from 1956 to 1960. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi from 1962 to 1967. He was the architect of the first five year plan of the country.

C.D. had taken lead and participated in multifaceted social work on literacy and family planning. He was also proficient in a number of foreign languages. C.D. died in his 87th year at Hyderabad on October 2, 1982.

3.10.2. Vasudev Balwant Phadke (1845 – 1883)

He was the first revolutionary, born in the village Shirdhon of Panvel tehsil in 1845. He worked as an account and in accounts section in the military department at Pune. After that, he organized the youth of Pune and Satara district and revolted against the British Raj. His rebellion nature created havoc across India and England. This revolutionary was given life imprisonment in 1879. He was moved by the plight of the farmer community during British Raj.

With the help of Kolis, Bhils and Dhangers, untouchable communities group in Maharashtra, Phadke formed a revolutionary group called as Ramoshi. Krantiveer Lahuji Vastad Salve was the mentor of Phadke. He was deeply hurt after the listening of a lecture of Mahadev Govind Ranade. This lecture mainly focused on how the British raj policies hurt the Indian economy. After that Phadke formed ‘Aikya Vardhini Sabha’ institution in 1870. Vasudev was moved to jail at Aden, but escaped from the prison by taking the door off from its hinges on 13 February, 1883. Then he took refuge in Thanale – Khadsamble caves which are located near Pali (Sudhgad) to escape from British. Later Vasudev was
recaptured, on 17th February, 1883; Vasudev breathed his last movement as a result of his protest hunger strike.

So, Vasudev Phadke ployed a very important role in India’s struggle for freedom. After the death of Vasudev, in 1884, the Indian Postal Services issued a 50 paise stamp in the honour of this revolutionary. A Marathi movie by the name ‘Vasudev Balwant Phadke’ has been released in December, 2007.

3.10.3. Vinoba Bhave (1895 – 1982)

Vinoba Bhave alias Vinayak Narhari Bhave and was also known as ‘Acharya’. He was born in Gagode village of Pen tehsil in 11 September, 1895. He was an Indian advocate of non-violence and human rights. He is best known for ‘Bhoodan Andolan’. He was associated with Mahtma Gandhi in the Indian independence movement. When he was in jail since 1932, because of activism against Britist rule. He inspiringly talked and published the book ‘Talks on the Gita’, and it has been translated into many other languages. He also participated in the Quit India Movement in his adolescence. He wrote ‘Bhagavad Gita’, works of Adi Shankaracharya, the Bible and Quran. After that he had translated Bhagavad Gita into Marathi.

A University is named after him, ‘Vinoba Bahve University’, which is situated in Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand. Bhave had established seven Ashrams and seven Vinobaniketan in Kerala state in 1954. In 1955, Vinoba Bhave had started land donation movement. He got more than 1000 villages in the form donation for poor people. He obtained 175 villages in Tamilnadu.

In 1958, Vinoba Bhave was the first recipient of the international ‘Ramon Magsaysay Award’ for community leadership. The life of this
influential and determined Mahatma came to an end on 15th November 1982. In 1993, he was awarded posthumously as ‘Bharat Ratna’.

3.10.4. Shivram Mahadev Paranjape (1864 – 1929)

He was a literary artist, nationalist, reporter and orator. He was born in Madh. He started a weekly journal ‘Kaal’ in 1898. He was also known as Kaalkarte Paranjape. He was charged with sedition for extremist writing in his journal and was imprisoned for 19 months. He was the president of Marathi Natya Sammelan held at Pune in 1913 and Marathi Sahitya Sammelan held at Belgum in 1929.

3.10.5. Keshav Sitaram Thackeray (1885 – 1973)

He was popularly known as Prabhodankar. He was a social reformer, journalist, powerful orator and a historian. He published three periodicals viz. Sarathi, Lokhitwadi and Prabhodhan. He was aggressive leader in Sanyukta Maharashtra movement. He had written several articles on social awakening.

3.11 MAJOR TOWNS

Factors like administrative activities, trade, historical importance, industries, religious and tourism activities led to the development of some towns in Raigad district. In Maharashtra, there are many cities having their own identities like Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Aurangabad, Nanded, Kolhapur, Satara, Solapur, Ratnagiri, and Sawantwadi. Therefore, such types of towns have been developed in Raigad district of Maharashtra as a tourism points. Not only tourism but also historical, religious and cultural significance plays role for the development of town. There are 15 census town and 1919 villages in Raigad district with
total populations. Out of 15 towns, 5 towns are selected for the

study of tourism namely Alibag, Murud, Shrivardhan, Mahad and Pen.

3.11.1 ALIBAG (18°30´ N latitude, 72°53´ E longitudes)

Alibag or Alibaug a coastal town is headquarter of Raigad district.
Alibag is also known as ‘Mini Goa’. Alibag tehsil is surrounded three
sides by Arabian Sea. Alibag town covers an area of 1. 81sq.km. with
19496 populations (as per 2001 census), density is 10771 per sq.kms.

Alibag was developed in the 17th century by Shivaji’s naval Chief
Sarkhel Kanhoji Angre. Alibag is the place of Capital of Kulaba district.
It is declared as a tehsil in 1852 and Kulaba district has been formed in
1869. Kanhoji Angre issued his own currency in the form of a silver coin
called as ‘Alibagi Rupaiya’. Bense Israeli Ali who was a rich man and
the town based on Ali’s garden was named as Alibag.

Alibag has a great historical, religious, cultural, social and
geographical importance. Memorial of Kanhoji Angre, Angre Wada,
Magnetic Observatory, Kulaba Fort, Alibag Beach, Rameshwar,
Paleshwar, Nagoba, Vishnu, Ram, Vithoba, Laxmi Narayan, Jain, and
Kashivishveshwar temples are the attractions of Alibag town. So, large
numbers of tourists visit at weekend on holidays from nearby and from
other places. In the market of Alibag, white Onion, Coconut, Palm fruit
(Tadgola), Mango, and varieties of fishes etc are available.

Alibag town is well connected by roads and waterways. It is
located on State highway No – 87 which is connected from Vadkhal Naka
(Pen) and 20kms away from off National Highway No – 17. This town is
linked with other town and tourists places like Varsoli, Kihim, Awas,
Mandwa, Revas, Thal, Murud –Janjira, Roha, and Pali. State transport
buses ply from Mumbai Central, Pune, Thane, Borivali (Mumbai),
Nashik, Kolhapur, Miraj, Solapur, etc. There is another way to reach Alibag by water ways. Ferry wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) in Mumbai, ferry or launch services is available to Revas port (24 kms from Alibag). It journey takes one and half hours. The frequency is almost every hour by both ways. The other sea route is from Gateway of India in Mumbai to Mandwa port (19kms from Alibag). Private catamaran services like PNP, Maldar and Ajanta is available.

Accommodation and food facilities are well developed at Alibag. As far as accommodation is concerned, lodging and bording, hotels, resorts, holiday resorts, private bungalows and houses, and MTDC resorts are available at Alibag. 31 hotels / resorts welcome all tourists. As well as under the MTDC, 15 bed and breakfast facilities are available in Alibag town.

Other infrastructural facilities are available in Alibag like parking, petrol pumps, variety of shops, automobiles, cinema hall, police force, toilet blocks, drinking water, banks and ATMs centers, travel agencies, internal roads, all administrative offices, medicals, plying grounds, etc.

So, Alibag is one of the most amazing places with highly exploring for week-end location. Alibag is connected to other tourist places like Varsoli, Awas, Kihim, Saswane, Kankeshwar, Sagargad, Ramdharne caves, Mandwa, Revas, Nagaon, Akshi, Chaul, Revdanda, (all in Alibag tehsil) and Birla temple, Korlai fort, Kashid beach, Nandgaon, Murud – Janjira (all in Murud tehsil).

MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY

The Alibag Magnetic Observatory, established in 1904, is located on the shore of Alibag beach. It has provided a uninterpreted record of geomagnetic observation for a country. This observatory is the only of its
kind in Asia and one of 13 in the world, with whom data is exchanged at every 12 minutes. The observatory records magnetic movement in the earths’ crust and also magnetic storms caused by solar storms.

3.11.2 MURUD (17° 77′ N latitude, 73° 12′ E longitude)

Murud is a coastal town and lies to the south of Alibag on the shore of Rajpuri creek of Arabian Sea. Murud was the capital town of the Siddis of Janjira. Murud town covers an area of 3.51sq.km with 72046 populations and the density of population is 3576 per sq. kms as per the 2001 census.

Murud town is famous for the impregnable fort of Janjira. Murud is in fact becoming a hot tourist destination with equal number of tourist choosing to stay in and around Murud. Murud is today popular for its alluring beach, whispering casurina, coconut and betel palm trees. Murud beach is very beautiful, calm and clean with silver sand and safe for swimming, is one and half kms long, from east to west. Murud town is not a big, but it has a huge palace of Nawab which is built in 1885, it is a private property, so prohibited for outsiders.

One more attraction of Murud town is Murud festival which is held in the every month of December. The festival hosts many colorful programmes, performed by the renowned musicians like Mugdha Vaisampayan, Fenani Joglekar and others. On the occasion of festival bullock carts competition has been organized. This festival is conducted by the Murud Municipal Council.

The trip of Alibag is incomplete without a visit to Murud – Janjira. Every tourist should visit to Janjira fort. Therefore large numbers of domestic and foreign tourists are visited to these places. The main
occupation is fishing and tourism activity, so, maximum local people are engaged in related to tourism activity.

Accommodation and food facilities are well developed in Murud town. These facilities are provided in the form of hotels, resorts, lodging and bording, holiday resorts, private home and MTDC resort. There are 20 hotels available in Murud. The MTDC resort on the beach offers comfortable accommodation and wonderful cuisine. Patil Khanawal is best for veg and non-veg food with low rates.

Murud is well connected to roadways and waterways; this town is located along the Alibag - Murud Major District road No - 92 and State highway No - 4. Murud is 49 kms away from Alibag. These roads are parallel to sea. State transport buses ply regularly between Alibag to Murud, Mumbai Central to Murud, Thane – Murud and Roha to Murud, frequently buses are available here. Another convenient way to Murud is travel by catamaran services from Gateway of India to Mandwa (Alibag) or by ferry from Ferry wharf to Revas (Alibag) and from Mandwa or Revas road connectivity is there. The nearest railway station is Pen 80 kms on Konkan railway away from Murud.

Murud town is connected to other places like Shri Datta temple, Idagh, Khokari tomb, Garambi dam, Sawatkada waterfall, Goumukh (near to the Murud town), Janjir fort, Fish farming projects, Aagardanda jetty, Kashid beach, Fansad sanctuary Nandgaon’s Shri Siddhivinayak temple, Korlai fort, Salav temple (all in Murud tehsil). Kude – Mandad caves (Tala tehsil) etc.

3.11.3 MAHAD (18° 03’ N latitude, 73° 25’ E longitudes)

Mahad tehsil is lies to the south of Raigad district; Mahad town is located on the bank of River Savitri. Mahad town has become the center
of attraction because of its beautiful surroundings and pleasant climate as well as historical background. Mahad has a personality of its own due to its mythological, historical, social and cultural importance. Mahad town covers an area of 4.07 sq. km. with 24276 populations.

Mahad has become famous for Satyagraha of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for ‘Dalits’. So, ‘Chavdar Tale’ (Lake) is the main attraction of tourists. Apart from these, Shri Vereshwar temple and Gandharpale Buddhist caves are added of attraction of Mahad town.

Accommodation and food facilities are well developed in Mahad town. Hotels, resorts, lodging and bording, two star, three star hotels welcome to all tourists. There were 18 lodging and bordings and hotels are there. Mahad town is well connected by roads and railways. National Highway No -17 passes nearly 3 kms from Mahad town. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central, Pune, Poladpur, Mhasla, Shrivardhan, and from Khed, Dapoli, Mandangad (Ratnagiri district). Pune is connected by the three ways via different ghats like Tamhani (120 kms), Varandha (105 kms), and Mulshi (102 kms); the distance is 181 kms away from Mumbai, 102 kms from Pune. Mahad town is accessible by railway; the nearest station on Konkan railway.

Mahad town is proximited to other tourists places like Shivtharghal (Shri Ramdas Swami had written Dasbodh), Kol caves, Sav hot spring, Raigad fort, Umrath (Memorial of Tanaji Malusare), Pachad (Memorial of Mata Jijabai) etc. apart from these places Shrivardhan, Shrivardhan, and Diveagar etc.
3.11.4 Pen (18° 40′ N latitude, 33° 05′ E longitudes)

Pen town is headquartering of Pen tehsil, located on left bank of Bhogawati River, and on the outskirts of Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Pen town covers an area of 9.82 sq. km. with 30201 populations.

Pen town is famous for the world class of ‘Ganesh Idols’, which is used widely for the Ganesh festival. Many of Ganesh Idols in Mumbai, Pune and nearby village are brought from Pen. Ganesh Idols are now exported to USA. The second attraction is, Pen and other villages famous for Papad Making; large number of women are engaged in this domestic activity of preparing a varieties of Papad and Poha (flattened rice),

Pen village is accessiblle by roads and railways. National Highway No -17 passes through Pen town. Pen town is connected to Khopoli town of Khalapur tehsil by State highway No – 87. State transport buses ply from Khopoli, Alibag, and Panvel. All long route State transport buses have to take halts in Pen town. There are only three passengers halting at Pen station.

Accommodation and food facilities are well developed in Pen village; there are eight hotels available in Pen. All infrastructural facilities like drinking water, Raigad bazaar, market, petrol pump, telephone, medical facilities, autoparts, cinema hall, post office, police force, banks and ATMs centers, etc are also available in Pen.

The vicinity of Pen, other tourist’s places like Gagode (Birth place of Acharya Vinobha Bhave), Varsai, Mahalmeera (ancient temple of Shiva), Sankshi fort, (all pen tehsil) and Karnala bird sanctuary and fort (Panvel), Chiner’s Mahaganpati (Uran), and Alibag are connect by roads.
3.11.5 SHRIVARDHAN (18° 02’ N latitude, 73° 00’ E longitude)

Shrivardhan town is headquartering of Shrivardhan tehsil. Shrivardhan village is located on the shore of Arabian Sea, with 145 feet elevation above the MSL. The structure of the village is well planned and most of all roads being parallel to each other. It covers an area of 4.05 sq. km. with 15186 populations.

The main attraction of Shrivardhan is the birth place of ‘Balaji Vaiswanath Peshwa’. He was the founder of the Peshwa dynasty. There is a big wada / house of Peshwas which is built by Third Peshwa (Balaji Bajirao) in 1750 and Smarak or Statue of Balaji Vishwanath built in 1988. The statue is placed in wada. So, this smarak is the main attraction of historians. The second is Shrivardhan beach, this beach is very quiet calm, golden sand, pleasant climate, and scenic beauty. It is two and half kms long and safe beach for swimming. The third attraction is temples, there are nine temples, and therefore Shrivardhan is not only natural attraction but also attraction of religious places like Shri Laxminarayan, Somjai, Jiveneshwar, Ram, Kusumaidevi, Shri Ganesh, Shri Datta, Shri Hanuman, and Shri Bhairavnath. Out of them, Shri Laxminarayan temple is the main temple of Peshwa and now the best attraction of tourists. Last but the not least attraction, is dense betel nut and coconut trees. ‘Rotha’ betel nut is the famous in the world. There is a betel nut research center in Shrivardhan.

Shrivardhan town is well connected by roads and waterways. State transport buses ply from Mumbai Central, Borivali (Mumbai), Thane, Pune, Alibag, Murud, Roha and Mangaon. Private vehicle are also available on hire. The distance is about 193 kms from Mumbai and 163 kms from Pune, 18 kms from Harihareshwar.
Accommodation and food facilities are well developed; in the form of resorts, holiday resorts, lodging and boarding, private houses, with Konkani food, multi cuisine, veg, and non-veg food. As well as under MTDC’s bed and breakfast scheme is also developed in Shrivardhan town. Other infrastructural facilities are like hospitals, medicals, drinking water, parking, toilet, telephone, petrol pump, and two, four - wheelers garages, banks, video center, etc. are available in Shrivardhan. This holly, natural, religious and historical place is connected to Harihareshwar (Dakshin Kashi), Diveagar (Suvarna Ganesh), Murud etc. tourist centers.
References


   (Pp 17-27)

