

## **CHAPTER - V**

# **FUTURE SCOPE FOR TOURISM IN SINDHUDURGA DISTRICT**

The researcher visited a number of places and destinations which are frequently visited by the tourists across the District of Sindhudurga. He identified the need for development. His observations include identification of development of tourism and related projects at various locations. These considerations are taken under Future Scope for Tourism in Sindhudurga District.

### **5.1 DETAILS OF SCOPE :**

The concept of “Quality Tourism” becomes indispensable for the planning for Sustainable Tourism Development. It is connected with attracting the tourists, facilities and services offering “good value for money”, protecting tourism resources and protecting high esteem of the local environment and society.

Maharashtra has enough potentialities for tourist attractions; Dense forests, adventure sports, excellent waterfalls, caves, ancient pilgrim places, historical monuments, Archaeological sites, cultural and religious festivals, and many others. The concept involves the maximum exploitations of these potentials for development of tourism, observations of the gaps and limitations at the local sites, recommendations for overcoming of the limitations as well as interactions with the local people. The basic idea is to enhance the visitor’s experience to the place.

Broad Classification of the scope based on Theme of Tourism: Nature – Eco Tourism, Ethnic Tourism, Leisure Tourism, Corporate Tourism, Health Tourism, Religious Tourism, Special Interest Tourism, Mega Projects and Development of Gateway.

### **5.2 ECO-TOURISM:**

Sindhudurga District has immense potentials for Nature-based Tourism. Ecotourism is universally recognised as a specific type of nature based tourism. It promotes responsible tourism to natural areas that keeps balance in between tourism, conservation of environment and interests of the local people.

"Ecotourism is environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features - both past and present) that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio economic involvement of local populations." (Stated by IUCN - now called the World Conservation Union). Proposed activities to Ecotourism Sites:

1. Tours through rivers, forests and hills, boating, natural trails and other explorations. Even special activities can be organised such as introduction to local flora and fauna, ecology, education camps, natural campaign etc. Development of communication means and travel conditions so that less visited tourist places can be brought into the main stream of tourist development.
2. Ecotourism can develop other potential areas such as sanctuaries, National parks, water places and other unexplored areas. Basic elements of Ecotourism are;
  - a. Conservation of bio-diversity,
  - b. Keeping the interests of the local people,
  - c. Contribution to tourism and tourist industry.
  - d. Development of Small groups by small-scale industry
  - e. Maximum utilization of non-renewable resources.
  - f. Development of local participation, ownership, business opportunities and business leadership of the local people.

### **5.3 ETHNIC, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE TOURISM :**

Ethnic Tourism develops the potentialities of heritage places, historical monuments, museums, fairs and festivals, archaeological places etc. Ethnic Tourism highlights unique identity of the places and people. Such projects include;

- a. Conservation and development projects of heritage places, various forts and historical sites. This includes beautification, restoration and decoration of the sites.
- b. Organisation of special cultural festivals, dances, drama and local art. Organisation of Art and Craft Villages at District and national level to attract the tourists and conservation of local art.

- c. Organisation of Food Park or Festivals such as Mango festival, agricultural festival, fish festival etc. to promote sell and employment of the local people. It promotes processing and packing of local stuffs like mango, fish, coconut, cashew nut etc.

#### **5.4 CORPORATE TOURISM :**

Corporate Tourism completes the need of modern business world. Modern business organises meetings, dealer interactions, training, marketing and corporate planning at tourist places. Generally, the modern business world prefers scenic locations like forest, hill stations, beaches and resorts. Hilly background of Sindhudurga offers excellent environment for such projects.

#### **5.5 AYURVEDIC TOURISM :**

The district is enriched with fresh rare herbs, medicinal plants and natural resources. Traditional Auyrvedic therapy can be used to attract the tourists. Health Resorts can fulfill such demands of the tourists. Ayurvedic treatment, Panch-karma therapy, Rejuvenating treatments, Yoga and Meditation camps can be included in the “health Holidays Camps” of the Health Resorts, Herbal Health Resorts and Ayurvedic Centres have been already proposed at various centres. The district consists of experts in Ayurveda.

#### **5.6 LUXURY TOURISM :**

The district suffers of limitations of tourist infrastructure, lack of entertainment avenues and sources. Luxury Tourism provides all types of rich Leisure and entertainment activities. The researcher suggests the following to develop the Luxury Tourism in the district. These include: Ropeway, Nature Excursion tours, Heritage Excursion tours, Parachute Diving, Night Ferry Cruise, Baggy Rides, Boating, and Backwater Cruises etc.

## **5.7 EDUCATIONAL TOURISM :**

Educational Excursions and Educational tours offer grand opportunity for special interest tourism. District offers wide varieties for promotion of educational tourism. District may offer facilities of the following:

- Sea Beaches, Parks and Sanctuaries, Handicraft production, processing & weaving - Organized visits to carpet farms, handloom factories, Such types of educational tours will be generally organized in small groups.

Other projects, which can be included, are—

- Mango tourism in the form of Mango festival, Commerce tours for study of Mango Economy • Motor bike hire facility • Fishermen villages and village tourism. • Water sports and paragliding, and Botanical, Geographical and Cultural excursions.

## **5.8 RURAL TOURISM :**

This type of tourism directly brings the local people to the main stream of development. It also offers first hand experiences of the real fishermen life and village culture to the tourists. The concept emphasizes the development of model villages for tourism. The lodging can be organized in the traditional style and traditional outlook. It can offer traditional meal, food, local folk dance and other related local arts.

## **5.9 WATER TOURISM**

This concept offers sea based water sports activities. Life Jacket facility should be made compulsory for the Water Tourism. The following list offers potential fields to develop the Water Tourism.

### **a. Beach Sports –**

1. Parasailing activity requires Speed Boat and Para sail Assembly. The sailor can achieve a height of maximum 375 m. This can prove the best attraction for the tourists.
2. **Water Scooter-** This is also one of the best attractions for the tourists. The scooter with the driver or without driver may be provided for tourism.
3. **Water Skiing** facility is the excellent attraction for the tourists. It requires a speed boat and Skiing assembly. As the boat gains speed, the skier will balance on the surface of water by means of two flat boards of skiing. This

needs certain skill and training. This provides thrilling experience to the tourists.

4. **Surf Board** facilities will definitely attract the tourists.

**b. Lake Rides and related facilities –**

1. **Row boat** can be provided by the operators for luxuries experiences. Small row boats will be operated by the tourists / riders themselves.

2. **Mini Pirate Boat** consisting 12 seated facilities can be used for water tourism. Small groups of Corporate Tourism, Educational Tourism and other can be the best targets for Water tourism.

3. **Pedal Boats** operated by two people can be used for Lake Water tourism.

**5.10 ADVENTURE TOURISM :**

**a. Wakeboarding** - The researcher finds out immense opportunity to introduce adventure activities to tourism. However, while introducing these activities, the trained and well experienced instructors and trainers should be appointed for these activities. All the drivers, trainers and instructors should get valid boating license. Various sport adventure activities should move around the concept of Fun.

**b. Waterskiing** – Anybody with a reasonable physical abilities and fitness can participate in water-ski. The trainer should prepare the tourist for participation in this adventure game.

**c. Catamaran sailing** – Catamaran sailing is the most fascinating adventure game and almost anybody can participate in it. The professional trainer can train the participants within few hours. The basic course of catamaran sailing includes safety tips, traffic rules and environmental consciousness. The training course can provide practical and theoretical training so that the tourists may hire the catamaran.

**d. Parasailing** – This is very safe activity. Anyone with normal physical health may participate and enjoy thrilling of parasailing. If proper care is taken regularly, the district can get international standard. The staff must be trained by internationally recognised organisations. This may prove as thrilling experience for the tourists in the district.

**e. Windsurfing** – Windsurfing is one more activity that can be easily made available to the Water Tourism and Adventure Tourism. Windsurfing requires 12 hours training to acquire full skill. The basic windsurfing license includes special training; practical and theoretical.

**f. Kite surfing** – The Kite surfing adventure requires moderate wind conditions to teach lessons to the beginners. Even advanced kite-surfers can be invited and they will have to adhere to the local rules and regulations.

**g. Underwater Sports-** Underwater adventure includes a large range of sports such as breath –holding, snorkeling or scuba driving. Underwater sports may include the following activities... Scuba diving, Spear fishing Fin swimming, Underwater target shooting, Free diving, underwater photography, underwater football, Aquathlon (underwater wrestling) etc.

#### **5.11 AGRO TOURISM :**

An Agro Tourism is farmed based business that is open to the public. Agro Tourism offers opportunities to the first hand experiences to the Agricultural world. Agro-Tourism offers tourism and agricultural or rural setting. Variety of Mango, coconut, Battlenuts, rice, Cashew nuts, Kokam, Amla, and variety of local fruits are the enchanting products of the Sindhudurga District. If the Agro-Tourism Project is introduced and implemented in the district, the farmers will be benefitted with it. It will add additional income source to the farmers and local people. The immediate effect of the project will be improvement in the standard of living of the local people. It will also support rural and agricultural development process. So, Agro Tourism will add a new experience to the tourists and a new door of the development for the local people.

#### **5.12 IMPACT OF TOURISM ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT :**

The local people may get essential training from standard institutes and get job opportunity at local level. Thousands of local people may be attached with this new stream of the employments; trained and untrained, skilled and unskilled. The New Tourism would definitely increase the economic growth of the region. There will be rise of small scaled industries as well as other related tourism activities such as restaurants, shops selling tourist commodities, local crafts, selling of local agricultural products, etc.

Thus, tourist industry will directly contribute for the general socio= economic development of the entire region.

#### **5.12.1 INFRASTRUCTURE :**

For proper development of tourism industry in Sindhudurga district, one has to look after the sufficient infrastructure. The district has to provide excellent accessibilities like telephone networking, electric power supply, and water and road constructions. Thus, the government departments like Public Works Department and MSRDC should keep this new priority before them.

#### **5.12.2 PRIVATE INVESTMENT :**

Private sector should be attracted towards their participation in accommodation and tourism projects. Private Sector should identify the projects of such investments. Here is the list of possible investment of the private sector; Amusement Park, Water-sport Park, Restaurants and food Complexes, Star Hotel Accommodation, Folk Villages, malls, Adventure Tourism, River sports, Gardens and Bird Parks etc. Above mentioned projects are revenue gathering projects.

The Tourist Industry should prepare itself to meet the demands of First Class and Middle Class tourists. Sufficient Cottages according to the demand, Restaurants and Bars, hotels with basic facilities, conference halls, guest rooms, cafeteria, etc. should be constructed.

The tourist projects should provide health related facilities. Various special packages according to the western and eastern facilities, Health Clubs, Yoga and Pranyam Centres, Ayurvedic Centres, Healing Centres should be provided. It also includes Nature Therapy, Steam or Sauna Bath facilities, Non-star luxury accommodation, Jogging facilities etc.

### 5.12.3 DOCUMENTARY AND DECORATION OF THE HISTORICAL PLACES:

The Tourist Industry should look after beautification and decoration of the historical places. All possible means of lighting, audio-visual aids should be used to narrate historical and cultural significance of the places. Sindhudurga District has played the major role in Maratha history. So, the forts should be properly introduced with historical background.

- a. **Amphitheatres-** There should be enough amphitheatres supported with Audio-Visual Aids to introduce historical and cultural places, incidents and characters. There should be seating arrangement of minimum 150 audiences.
- b. **Effective Lighting and Sound systems-** The forts should be decorated with light effects and sound systems. Special efforts must be taken to beautify the forts.
- c. **Folk Shows, Folk Arts** – The special shows should be supported with presentation of folktales, folklores and folksongs. Even, the songs and dramatic presentations related to the historical incidents and characters should be presented in these shows.
- d. **Translators-** Tourist industry should prepare excellent translators, expert in Hindi and English language. This is the most natural demand of the new economic system.

### 5.12.4 ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS :

Government has already declared a number of places in the district as “Eco-Sensitive Zones.” Sindhudurga district is known for dense forests. Tourism in such environmentally fragile areas like dense forests, hills, interior remote villages, heritage places and mountains may get negative impacts. Even after considering the negative impacts of the ecological system, the positive aspects can not be ignored.

- a. Tourism Revenue can be used for the conservation and maintenance of such places.
- b. Job opportunities and employment to the local people will definitely reduce poaching, deforestation and other illegal activities in which the local people are engaged in.
- c. Social and educational development of the area.

- d. Special interest tourism and ecotourism may be helpful in conservation of natural resources, endangered species, heritage monuments,
- e. Conservation Awareness Programmes for the local people and the tourists can be organised during these periods.

Tourism Projects should be selected for the particular places, sites and locations. It is essential to realise the unique character of the location, people and sites.

#### **5.12.5 Beaches at Sindhudurga District-**

Almost all beaches in Sindhudurga district are secluded on the exotic western shores. These beaches offer to the tourist a wonderful view of the paradise. The beaches attract the tourists with its stunning white sand and beautiful blue water lagoon. Number of them are ideal spots for swimming, sunbathing and holding picnics. The local flock of birds adds to the beauty of the place. There are hilly in the backdrop which offers a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea and there is also a lighthouse situated on the rocky island. Sunset is the best time to visit this beach.

Infrastructure/facilities required –

- a. Entrance to beach, b. Solar Light, c. Taxi stand, d. Public toilets, e. Safe Drinking water, f. First-aid facility, h. Paving & Signage , i. Parking facility, j. Water sports, k.. Shops and souvenirs, l. Beach furniture and infrastructure, m. Restaurants offering multi cuisines, n. The Luxurious class accommodation, o. Resort and cottages, p. Health resort + spa, q. Bird watching infrastructure, r. Solid waste management, s. Seating and shaded resting places, t. Watch tower, u. Guide and life guards.

#### **Tortoise Festival or Tortoise Tourism**

##### **5.12.6 Tortoise Breeding Centre & Sanctuary at Various Beaches –**

There are number of groups working to preserve the sea life. The groups have encouraged the local fishermen to preserve endangered spacey of Oliver Ridley Turtle. India has three endemic turtles and all of them are only found in the Western Ghats. There are number of favourite beaches in Sindhudurga District where thousands of Olive Ridley Turtles turn to hatch eggs. The traditional fishermen used to kill them. Oliver Ridley Eggs were favourite among the local edible dishes. However, the WiLd

Life Groups have totally transformed the traditional scenario. Now a day, the villagers of Tambaldeg, Vayangani and Vengurla are preserving eggs of Olive Ridley turtles. This activity may be exploited to attract the tourists worldwide. Issues such as involvement of locals in sea turtle conservation, monitoring and protection of turtle nests, and reduction of lighting on the seashore should be considered.

The Sindhgudurga Forest Department, local volunteers and communities may handle the hatching sites and tourists at a time. In time of nesting season favourable environment will be created for the attraction of turtle to the spot. Protection and care would be performed for the development and diet of tot turtles to make them strong to survive. The project shall include hatchery management, nest monitoring, development of a long term conservation action plan, and development of alternative income sources to reduce pressure on natural resources. Tourist's infrastructure shall be developed in a way that does not disturb the life and ambiance for the turtles.

The Tortoise Festival or Tortoise Tourism may be held at such places. The villagers may get an opportunity to offer lodging and boarding, to the nature lovers and tourists. Even the temporary arrangement such as lodging and boarding of the tourists in local houses, home cooked local food; sightseeing and other activities may add colours to the project.

These places will be overcrowded with the tourists and the local people may get various types of employment opportunities out of them. These Conservation projects may be aided with –

a. Parking area b. Restaurants offering multi cuisines c. Solar Light d Paving & Signage e. Safe Drinking water + Public toilets f. in-water decks g. Seating and shaded resting places h. Taxi stand i. Beach furniture and infrastructure development j. Solid waste management k. Tortoise Breeding Centre and Viewers Gallery l. Watch tower+ life guard m. Walkway bridge. n. Boating Facility.

## **Dolphin -**

### **5.12.7 Dolphin Sanctuary –**

Sindhudurga Beaches are crowded with highly specialised orders of species like Dolphin. But ship collisions, entanglement in fishing gear, toxic contamination, whaling, habitat degradation etc. has threatened the cetacean population. Hence, there is a need for an integrated approach for the conservation of coastal and marine biological diversity and balanced use of natural resources for sustainable livelihoods.

Dolphins are seen in coastal talukas including Deogad, Malvan and Vengurla and the adjoining seascape up to 12 nautical miles. It is the good sign for the nature as well as to the tourism. This one is a paradise for swimmers and dolphin watchers. Dolphin season is between October and February. It is quite popular during season time. There are some fishing activities around here but mostly it is a good space to chill with the sea waves. The tourist centres will allow tourists to view various stages of the process and let them play with the grown Dolphins.

These Conservation projects may be aided with (same as Turtle Tourism) --- a. Parking area b. Restaurants offering multi cuisines c. Solar Light d Paving & Signage e. Safe Drinking water + Public toilets f. in-water decks g. Seating and shaded resting places h. Taxi stand i. Beach furniture and infrastructure development j. Solid waste management k. Tortoise Viewers Gallery l. Watch tower+ life guard m. Walkway bridge. n. Boating Facility.

### **5.12.8 Backwater Tourism in Creeks :**

There are number creeks in the district waiting for beautification and professional attitude. Creeks like Waghotan, Vijaydurga, Devgad, Kalawal, Karli, Terekhol, Achara, etc. have tremendous potentialities for tourist development. If these creeks are developed properly and professionally, the district would turn into Kashmir of Maharashtra. Those have divine scenic beauty and potential of attracting tourists for picnic. Models of Kerala, Goa and other states may be followed for it. These sites can be developed with giving facilities like public toilets, drinking water, Signage and paving, etc.

These Creek Tourism may be aided with (same as Turtle Tourism and Dolphin Tourism) --- a. Parking area b. Restaurants offering multi cuisines c. Solar Light d

Paving & Signage e. Safe Drinking water + Public toilets f. in-water decks g. Seating and shaded resting places h. Taxi stand i. Beach furniture and infrastructure development j. Solid waste management k. Viewers Gallery l. Watch tower+ life guard m. Walkway bridge. n. Boating Facility

#### **5.12.9 Backwater Tourism in Lakes -**

There are number of lakes in the districts. These small lakes like Dhamapour, Atmeshwar, Sawantwadi (Moti Talaw), Mulade Oros, Kurli Damn, Vaibhavwadi etc. may be developed with tourists facilities. It will contribute for beautification and specialisation in tourism. The tourist may get ample choice at the same time variety of tourist events available all over the scattered district. The entire district will welcome the tourists and facilities will be available at every corner of the district.

#### **5.12.10 HILL STATIONS AND WATERFALLS -**

There are number of waterfalls already famous in the entire nation for their exquisite beauties. The Mangeli waterfall, Savdav Water fall, Viridi waterfall, Napane Waterfall, Vyagreshwar waterfall towards Manche, Nangartas Waterfall, Saitawada etc. are the most beautiful sites. However, these are at their primary stage of development. No special attention is given for their developments. If proper development, infrastructure facilities and exposure are given to their development, the district will be overcrowded with tourists during the seasons.

Similarly, there are various hill stations waiting for adequate facilities and infrastructure. High cliffs of Amboli, Dodamarga, Vaibhavwadi, Phondaghat, Shivapur at Kudal, Vengurla can be developed as the Hill Stations. Already few of them are used as the hill stations but professional handling of these places will convert them into real Hill Stations.

#### **5.12.11 SEA WORLD PROJECT -**

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation's (Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation) is going to acquire about 1,300 acre of land for Sea World Project at Malwan. It is Oceanarium-based theme park, previously referred to as Sea World, in the Malvan tehsil of Sindhudurg district. The Oceania-based theme park, is expected to attract domestic as well as foreign tourists. It will require infrastructure such

as resorts, marinas and hotels for tourists. Science and Technology Park has been appointed by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (Ministry of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra) to prepare Techno-Commercial feasibility study for establishment of sea world in Konkan, Maharashtra. This would be first of its own kind sea world in India and Asia. The proposed sea world will create awareness about our marine heritage, encouraging marine research, rescue and rehabilitation of marine animals, promotion of tourism, creating employment opportunities for local communities. It is very ambitious Project and brings about tremendous changes in the economy of the district.

