CHAPTER – IV
CLASSIFICATION OF TOURISM AND TOURIST CENTERS

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4.0 Introduction

Tourism is an old phenomenon. Earlier, it was a need, as people moved in search of livelihood and great achievements. Later, it becomes a hobby and people began to travel for fun. In olden days, there were no high speed vehicles and smooth transport facilities. But now transportation facilities are very fast and comfort for the tourist. Today, when the concept of globalization is taking the real shape, the importance tourism is increasing. Tourism can be a vehicle for international understanding by way of bringing diverse people face to face. Tourism can greatly enrich and promote friendship and goodwill. Tourism also breaks down prejudice barriers and suspicion that exist between nations. People of modern India are a multi colored population, constructing various religious groups, customs, traditions and ways of life. Therefore, there is a lot of tourist potential in India. The development of tourism is in progress in our country. India is a large country, therefore different types of tourist centers are found in India.

4.1 General Classification of Tourism

Tourism can be divided into different forms on the basis of region, duration, purpose, nationality, accompany, season, the number of tourists, etc. There are a lot of changes, creation, variety found in tourism. Therefore the classification of tourism came into vogue over the years. The major types of tourism are the following.

4.1.1 Classification of Tourism on The Basis of Region of Tourism

If we considered the criterion of the region for the classification of tourism, it can classify into two major types as given below.

4.1.1.1 Domestic Tourism

In this type of tourism the tourist visited the tourist spots within the boundaries of their country, i.e. the tourist activity of residents of a country within their own country in which they do not cross the boundaries of the country. In short, people travel outside their normal residence to certain other areas within their country. A resident of India may visit Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh and enjoy domestic tourism.

4.1.1.2 Foreign Tourism

In this type of tourism the tourist travels to such countries which are different from the countries of their residence. They become foreign tourist and visit more than one nation in a single trip. In this tourism visa, passport and other documents are essential for the tourist. There are problem in communication and currency because
the language and currency are different from the tourist’s own country. Foreign tourism is very important for a country because it earn valuable foreign currency. The Indian people visit to Europe, America, Australia and Asian countries for foreign tourism.

4.1.2 Classification of Tourism on the Basis of Number of Tourists

If we considered the criterion of number of tourists for the classification of tourism, it can classify into two major types as given below.

4.1.2.1 Individual Tourism

Sometimes tourist goes individually on tours to satisfy their lust for travel. Visiting the place is fixed by them. They decided their program before starting travelling, but it is flexible. So, they can change their route and destination. In this tourism the decision is taken by tourist himself. They may also mix business with pleasure. This type of tourism is called individual tourism.

4.1.2.2 Mass Tourism

In mass tourism large numbers of people set out at a time together for enjoying their leisure time. The pioneer of the modern mass tourism is Thomos Cook. He organized the first package tour of 570 people in July 1841. It could only have developed with improvements in technology, allowing the transport of large numbers of people in a short space of time to places of leisure interest, so that a large number of people began to enjoy the benefit of leisure time. (Chawla, Romila 2008).

4.1.3 Classification of Tourism on The Basis Of Duration of Tourism

There are two types of tourism on the basis of duration of tourism.

4.1.3.1 Short Term Tourism

In short term tourism the duration of tourism is only one week to ten days. Those tourists who cannot go for a long period for tourism because of economic problems or holidays or lack of time, such tourist arrange short term tourism.

4.1.3.2 Long Term Tourism

In this type of tourism the duration of tourism is longer than short term tourism. When the period of holidays is more, at that time this type of tourism is undertaken by the tourist. It could may be a few weeks to several months. Due to fastest and luxurious transport facilities, tourist can see several countries.
4.1.4 Classification of Tourism on The Basis of Season

If we considered the criterion of the season for the classification of tourism, it can classify into three major subtypes as given follow

4.1.4.1 Winter Tourism

Winter tourism is famous in western countries. It was largely invented by the British leisured classes initially at Swiss village Zermatt and St. Moritz in 1864. Recently it is arranged from December to March. In this coldest winter season the land is covered by snow. This situation is very ideal for skating and skiing. The Korea tourism organization organized fun ski and snow festival annually since 1998 and participated thousands of tourists from Asia. In winter tourism majority of the events, participants are foreign visitors who came from countries with a warm climate that have no snow.

4.1.4.2 Summer Tourism

Summer tourism is famous in western countries and also in America. In the summer season when the temperature is increased at that time the people turn to hill stations. Therefore the summer tourism arranged from March to June in every year at the hill stations. The activities like sunbath, water sports, and rain dance are enjoyed by the tourist. Recently, all hill stations like Kullu, Manali, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala, Matheran etc. are full with tourist in the summer.

4.1.4.3 Rainy Season Tourism

Rainy season tourism is now famous in India, particularly in Maharashtra because of monsoon climate. Tourists are eager to take experience of heavy rainfall, fog and waterfalls. So the tourist arranges their tours at the high rainfall spot in rainy season. The tourist spot like Lonavala, Khandala, Malshej, Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Amboli, Ghatghar, Chikhaldara, Bhimashankar are houseful by tourist in rainy season.

4.1.5 Classification of Tourism on The Basis of Purpose of Tourism

If we considered the criterion of purpose of tourism for the classification of tourism, it can be classified in to fourteen major subtypes as given below.

4.1.5.1 Cultural Tourism

Cultural tourism is based on the mosaic of places, tradition, art forms, celebrations and experiences that portray the nation and its people, reflecting the diversity and character of the nation. The aim of cultural tourism is to experience activities and aspect. The pride of every country depends upon his cultural edifice and
the remains of forts, museum, theaters, art galleries, music, academies and libraries are the standing testimonials of culture. It is undertaken to gain more knowledge about people and around their respective culture. Cultural tourism has a special place in India because of its past’s civilization. Thousands of historical and archeological monuments scattered throughout the country provide opportunities to learn about ancient history and culture. Due to the rich cultural heritage in India both domestic and foreign visitors intend to visit these alluring places with a view to understand the greatness of the place and popularity.

4.1.5.2 Heritage Tourism

The national trust defines cultural heritage tourism as travelling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes cultural, historical and natural resources.

The glorious past of India has insured that the present and subsequent generations have plenty of historical and cultural heritages to be proud of. In India rich heritage comes alive with all its fragrance and colour which are still breathing in the heritage forts, palaces, temples and monuments fringed in each and every corner. Delhi, Rajasthan, Puri, Konark, Khajuraho, Chennai, Agra are popular heritage places in India.

4.1.5.3 Historical Tourism

Some tourists go only to see old places, forts, museums. They may not show any interest in other places of tourist attraction. These people could be archeologist, historians or research scholars. Visiting to Agra Fort, Pratapgarh, Shivneri, Raigad, Ahmednagar Fort, Mysore palace, Salarjung Museum, Tanjavar Art Gallery are the example of historical tourism.

4.1.5.4 Health Tourism

India is known for traditional health care systems and therapies. Some of these include yoga, aromatherapy, body massage, Ayurveda unani and siddha. These systems of medicine have proved to be quite effective in those medical cases that were declared as impossible by the modern medical science. Many a visitors are using this facility and visiting areas where they can get relief from the diseases. India offers relief to many chronic diseases without side effects for which many people from different parts of the world are visiting the famous health centers. This is known as health tourism. In India; Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been providing treatment for various diseases. This is like medicinal springs or spas that provided
relief to the needy. “Health is wealth” is standard epithet. Many people used to visit health centers for getting relief to their chronic diseases. (Kothari, Anurag.2011).

4.1.5.5 Medical Tourism

Medical tourism is quite different from health tourism. A cost of medical treatment and surgery are a lot in the foreign countries. But some countries in the world like in India, this treatment and surgery are comparatively cheap. Several patients are come from foreign countries in India and take treatment in the popular hospital like Apollo, Tata, Breach Candy, Jaslok, Hinduja, Gangaram, Sancheti etc. to attain perfect health. Medical tourism refers to travelling other countries to obtain treatment. The main objective of the visit of these patients is to get new lease of life for their bodies. At the same time they could also tour, and fully experience the attractions of the countries they visit. Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Pune have taken a lead in the field of health tourism.

4.1.5.6 Religious Tourism

Such tourism activities are undertaken by religious pilgrims. Devotees of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jews go to their respective religious place in search of peace of mind and salvation. Several tourists undertake tours to please the soul of their great great grandparents or ancestors; the ceremony undertaken by them falls under the gamut of Pitra Shraddha. Religious ceremonies performed for the dead are done by many Hindus at Haridwar, Varanasi and other religious places. Several devotees, not necessarily of the same clan, share resources to undertake pilgrimage to popular religious places. Makka, Madina, Haji Ali, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Kolhapur, Tuljapur, Pandharapur, Shirdi, Shani Shinganapur, Tirupati Balaji, Buddha Gaya, Sarnath, Nanded, Amritsar, Jerusalem, are the famous religious places that tourist visits to prefer.

4.1.5.7 Educational Tourism

In this type of tourism, tourists go to educate themselves about the lands, people, geography, culture, weather, eco system, economy, demography or general conditions of living of a foreign country. They may visit two or more countries in one itinerary. They do not take up educational courses in the academic institutes of those countries because they are tourists and not students. These types of tourist activities can also be undertaken by a tourist within the country of his residence. The chief guiding force behind this type of tourism is curiosity. (Revathy, Girish. 2010).
4.1.5.8  Rural Tourism

Rural tourism is based on integration in the local environment, utilization of local products and participation in local activities. For rural tourism, tourist are taken to such a rural areas as are fresh, untouched by materialism and very natural. Many urban dwellers want to get away from the hustle and bustle of urban life. They seek relaxation and lonely environs. So many tour operators send such types of tourist in remote villages. Tourist visits these typical places of villages and become rural folk for a few days. They also visit field along with villagers of those villages that are visited by them. They try to know more about the rural ways of Indian living during their stay in the village.

4.1.5.9  Agricultural Tourism

This type of tourism activity is conducted for those tourists who are interested in agriculture, farm management and animal husbandry. They would also visit to field in rural areas and see how villagers grow crops, add fertilizers in soil, irrigate their fields and finally reap their harvest.

4.1.5.10  Farm Tourism

Farm tourism is somewhat similar to agricultural tourism. Around the urban place the farms are beautifully decorated, despite the fact that their chief products are fruits, vegetables, orchids. In fact, the owners of these farms develop this for the purpose of relaxing during the weekend. Their employees grow crops, vegetables, flowers and fruits and sell them in open markets. In this farm the facilities like food, games, liquor and hospitality are available. Such facilities attracted tourist and owners earn profit and employees also stand to gain.

4.1.5.11  Political Tourism

This form of travel implies the participation in great political events and important national celebrations. This type of travel is undertaken by the politicians for studying the actual working of important organ of the government, namely legislative, exudative, judicial system of other countries.

4.1.5.12  Holiday Tourism

The purpose of holiday tourism of tourist is to spend the holidays far away from his residence. Tourist prefers to visit to the scenic beauty, dam, beach, mountain, forest with his family. The middle class people in India as well as Europe and America enjoy holiday tourism during their children’s school holidays. Mostly such type of tourism is enjoyed with family, relatives, friends and colleagues.
4.1.5.13 Wilderness Tourism

For the experience of wilderness tourism, tourists are taken to remote areas, which are far away from human settlements. These tourists want to enjoy the loneliness of the environs of such destination. Deep gorges, high mountains, remote and hot deserts, wild seas and dense forests are wishing to see in the list of tourist. These tourists want to enjoy the eerie silence of the nature at these tourist spots.

4.1.6 Classification of Tourism on the Basis of Attraction

There are eight subtypes of tourism on the basis of attraction

4.1.6.1 Mountain Tourism

The mountain tourism is big business in many hilly regions. Because mountaineering, trekking, rock climbing, skiing, river rafting, golf are the major attraction for the tourist besides natural scenic attractions. So tourist always attract towards mountain tourism. There are a lot of varieties of herbs, wild flowers and plants cover the mountain in thick foliage and they add to the natural beauty and richness of the mountains. The central Himalaya valley of Kangra, Kullu Manali, Silent Valley, Sahyadri have attracted a large number of trekkers and tourists.

4.1.6.2 Space Tourism

Space tourism encompasses not only tourist activities in space but also visiting earth based museum such as National Air and Space Museum, participating in space camps, enjoying theme parks. Space campers spend two weeks learning about the universe and space flight, riding in simulators using astronaut. After the selection for the space tourism of tourists, they are trained primarily in the operation of the space craft system and how to live in the space. Limited training can be considered as a fun activity and can be included in the vacation package.

4.1.6.3 Adventure Tourism

Adventure is always filled with fun and thrill. The lush greenery of valleys, splendid sites of top of the hills, blue water, sunny days and starry nights, boating, canoeing, kayaking, trekking rock climbing, paragliding, parasailing, scuba diving, snuba diving, bungee jumping, river rafting, white water rafting, ocean bed walking, ballooning, micro light flying, Para trooping, sea surfing, wind surfing, water skiing and roller skating are the different branches of Adventure Tourism and these types of adventurous activities undertaken and enjoyed by the tourist under the supervision of trained guide. This type of tourism is very popular in India.
4.1.6.4 **Sports Tourism**

Sports tourism is motivated by the person who wishes to practice sport. In this type of tourism, both participants and the spectators will fetch recognition, fame and name along with a bonanza of money. In view of this position, many international events like Olympic games, cricket world cup, football, hockey, tennis, rugby, badminton, Kabaddi, boxing championship, which attracts not only sports persons but also thousands of followers and other interested people. The people visit other countries to watch live sports competitions and matches. They become sports tourist in this context.

4.1.6.5 **Dark Tourism**

Dark tourism involving travel to sites associated with death and suffering. This tourism is identified by Lenon and Foley in 2000. This type of tourism involves visits to “dark” sites such as battlegrounds, scenes of horrific crimes or acts of genocide. This includes sites of pilgrimage such as the site of St. Peter’s death in Roam battlefields in Scotland, sites of disaster either natural or man-made such as ground zero in New York. Prisons are now open for the public such as Boaumaris prison in Anglesey and Wales one of must notorious destination for dark tourism in the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz in Poland.

4.1.6.6 **CONFERENCE TOURISM**

This is emerged as a new area in tourism and becoming popular in recent years. In order to share the latest knowledge, techniques, exchange of views among the intellectuals, leaders, businessmen and professionals used to meet and this is known as conference tourism. NAAGI, MBP and DGS conference will be held every year at some designated destination and interested academicians will attend such conference.

4.1.6.7 **Business Tourism**

Today business tourism has assumed an important place in the tourism scenario. With a growth in industrial and business sector, the percentage of people undertaking business trip per year also increased a great deal. Several businessmen visit to other places and countries to conduct business transactions or sign business deals with their prospective partners in foreign countries. When they finish their work, their business associates take them to popular tourist spots or resorts.
4.1.7 Classification of Tourism on the Basis of Approach of Tourism

If we considered the criterion of approach of tourism for the classification of tourism, it can classify into two major types as given below.

4.1.7.1 Eco Tourism

The concept of Eco tourism is defined as travel to destinations where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. In this tourism, tourist are taken to national parks, bird sanctuaries, wildlife sanctuaries, the natural habitat of local tribes and backwater areas of a particular region (Geetanjali, 2010). They enjoy the tourist activities, but at the same time some of them are exploited the environs of a tourist spot. Tourists are not allowed to pollute the tourist spots visited by them. They are motivated to plant trees and green and green plants in those hotels where they stay. Use of polytheism bags is banned. While they visit zoos, they are advised not to feed animals. They are also advised not to burn bonfires while they enjoying the trip to a wild forest. Rules and norms are becoming strict in parlance of eco tourism. (Kothari, Anurag 2011).

4.2 Classification of Tourist Centers in Ahmednagar District

Ahmednagar district is the largest district by area in the Maharashtra state. Geographical and cultural environment are different in all over the district. Therefore, there is a lot of variety in landscapes, historical background, political background, religious faiths and traditions, cultural activities, agricultural activities, natural beauty etc. found in the district. It has great tourism potential as it has unique diversification in cultural as well as geographical variation. So there is a wide scope in the activities of tourism development. In short, Ahmednagar district is situated in the historical, Natural, religious and agricultural tourist centers. Some of the important tourist centers are as follows.

Tehsilwise Religious Tourist Attractions in Ahmednagar district

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<tr>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Tourist Spot</th>
<th>Tourist Attractions</th>
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<td>Nagar</td>
<td>Vishal Ganapati</td>
<td>Temple</td>
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<td>Meharabad Arangaon</td>
<td>Samadhi</td>
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<td>Anand Rishi Dham</td>
<td>Ashram</td>
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<td>Manjarsumbha Gad</td>
<td>Gad</td>
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<td>Agadgaon</td>
<td>Temple &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Dongargan</td>
<td>Temple &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Dharmpuri</td>
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<td>Goraksha Gad</td>
<td>Temple Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Tehsil</td>
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<td>Akole</td>
<td>Bhandardara</td>
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<td>Randhafall</td>
<td>Waterfall</td>
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<td>Ratangad</td>
<td>Trekking &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Harishchandragad</td>
<td>Trekking &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Kalsubai Peak</td>
<td>Tracking &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Ghatghar</td>
<td>Natural Beauty &amp; Cliff</td>
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<td>Phopsandi</td>
<td>Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Samrad</td>
<td>Sandan Valley</td>
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<td>Tahakari</td>
<td>Temple</td>
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<td>Pemgiri</td>
<td>Baniyan Tree</td>
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<td>Parner</td>
<td>Nighoj</td>
<td>Pot holes</td>
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<td>Wadgaon Darya</td>
<td>Stalactites</td>
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**Tehsilwise Natural Tourist centers in Ahmednagar district**

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<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Tourist Spot</th>
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<td>Akole</td>
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<td>Bhandardara Dam</td>
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<td>Randhafall Waterfall</td>
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<td>Ratangad Trekking &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Harishchandragad Trekking &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Kalsubai Peak Tracking &amp; Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Ghatghar Natural Beauty &amp; Cliff</td>
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<td>Phopsandi Natural Beauty</td>
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<td>Samrad Sandan Valley</td>
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<td>Tahakari Temple</td>
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<td>Pemgiri Baniyan Tree</td>
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<td>Wadgaon Darya Stalactites</td>
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<td>Tehsil</td>
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<td>Nagari</td>
<td>Ahmednagar Fort</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tank Museum</td>
<td>Museum</td>
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<td>Historical Museum</td>
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<td>Chand Bibi Mahal</td>
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<td>Alamgir Museum</td>
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<td>Farya Bagh</td>
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<td>Ahilyadevi Holkar</td>
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<td>Akole</td>
<td>Patta fort</td>
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<td>Parner</td>
<td>Palashi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kopargaon</td>
<td>Raghoba Dada Wada</td>
<td>Wada</td>
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**Tehsil wise Agro base Tourist centers in Ahmednagar district**

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<tr>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Tourist Spot</th>
<th>Tourist Attractions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bhenda</td>
<td>Bhenda</td>
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<td>Nagar</td>
<td>Saiban</td>
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<td>Hiware Bazar</td>
<td>Adarsh Gav and Watershade Management</td>
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<td>Rahuri</td>
<td>MPK Vidyapeeth</td>
<td>Agro tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parner</td>
<td>Ralegan Siddhi</td>
<td>Agro tourism &amp; watershed Management</td>
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</tbody>
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**4.2.1 – Selected Religious Tourist Centers in Ahmednagar District**

Till very recently tourism in India was primarily one of pilgrimage. Travelling for religious purposes was an established custom. The Vedas – the ancient religious texts of the Hindus enjoined that unless a man went on pilgrimage to the four shrines or holy places of the country, he would not attain release and would therefore continue to suffer rebirth for his sins. Bhatia, A. K. (1978).

Ahmednagar district has a large religious background. Because the residence of Saint Kanifnath, Saibaba, Agasti Rishi, Meher Baba, Chakradhar Swami, Biradar
Baba was in this district. The residential place of these great personality is now become religious tourist centers. Apart from this many holy religious places are found as a tourist places in the district. Some of the important religious tourist centers are selected for the study are as follows.

1) Shri Kshetra Madhi
2) Mohatadevi
3) Vruddheshwar
4) Nizarneshwar
5) Shani Shinganapur
6) Shree Kshetra Deogad
7) Meharabad
8) Siddhatek Ganapati
9) Shirdi
10) Saint Sheik Mohammad Maharaj, Shrigonda

4.2.1.1 – Madhi

Madhi is a one of the famous tourist place in Pathardi taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is 10km away from Pathardi and 51km from the district headquarter. It lies in 18° 36’ North latitude and 74° 43’ east longitude. There is a Samadhi of shri
Kanifnath, one of the Navnath. This samadhi is decorated with beautiful stones and carving. This place looked like a fort. Every year from Holy to Rangpanchami Kanifnaths fair is arranged within these days. Madhi is also famous for the market for donkey. Donkey bazar is held at the time of fair. At the time of fair people of nomadic tribes gathered and purchased and sell the donkey. It is a center of nomadic tribe Gopal to meet their relatives and friends. The tribal people trap the wild animals and birds and sell them, their skin, hair, horn and other part of body. The tribe celebrates this fair with a lot of cultural and social programs. At the time of the fair a large number of nomadic tribe’s people gathered here so Madhi is called ‘Bhatkyanchi Pandhari’ in Marathi. The social and familiar problems of these people solved here in their community court i.e. Jatpanchayat. The transportation facilities are available from Shevgaon, Pathardi and Nagar like ST buses, cars, jeeps and other private vehicles to reach Madhi.

4.2.1.2 Mohatadevi

Mohata is village in Pathardi taluka which is 9 km from Pathardi and 70 km from Ahmednagar district headquarter. It lies in 18° 40’ North latitude and 74° 40’ east longitude. It is very famous holy place in Ahmednagar district. The temple of Goddess Kulswamini Renukamata is on gad (fort) at Mohata. So the pilgrims called it Mohatyachi Devi. It is located in the area of Baleshwar mountain range. Temple is the
main attraction in the whole year; valley and greenery are also attracting the tourist in rainy season. This holy tourist place is well developed. At the time of fair at Navaratri; the people of all types of religions, casts, and class visit this center. Social and cultural programme are arranged at the time of fair all nine days and night. The transportation facilities like ST buses, cars, jeeps and other private vehicles are available to reach Mohatadevi Gad from Shevgaon, Newasa, Srirampur and Ahmednagar.

4.2.1.3 Vruddheshwar

Vruddheshwar is one of the best natural and religious tourist spot in Ahmednagar district. One of the holy sites of Lord Mahadev and it is situated in the valley which is 2 km away from Ghatshiras Village in Pathardi taluka and 30 km from Ahmednagar to the east and only 6 km away from Kalyan Vishakhapatnam National Highway number 222. This temple is known as Vruddheshwar temple. It lies in 18° 39’ North latitude and 74° 32’ east longitude. This temple of god Shiva is hemadpanthi style surrounded by hills of Garbhagiri Mountain and trees with birds and wild animals. Rainy season is the best season for nature lovers at this spot because in rainy season this landscape becomes very green with nature beauty and it fascinates all tourists. Ashadhi Ekadahsi, Mahashivratri and every Monday in the Marathi month of Shravan, large number of tourists visit for worship and darshan.
Because of deep valley and hilly region, this place is also famous for Ayurveda plants. ST buses as well as private vehicles run from Ahmednagar, Pathardi, Tisgaon to Vruddheshwar.

4.2.1.4 Nizarneshwar

Nizarneshwar is famous for the temple of Lord Shiva. It is situated in Sangamner taluka. It is 11 km away from Sangamner and only 2 km away from Ahmednagar – Sangamner Nasik state highway in the area of Kokangaon village. This holy place lies in 18° 57’ North latitude and 73° 43’ east longitude. It is also a natural tourist spot because it is surrounded by hilly area and forest. The holy Shiv Ling with beautiful temple, hilly region, thick forest, streams, botanical garden and other temples are the main attractions of Nizarneshwar. Rainy season is the best time to visit religious and natural tourist centers. Cleanliness is the remarkable thing found in areas of the temple. Therefore, the flow of tourist is increasing day by day. The state transport buses from various stations are available till Loni and Kokangaon and thereafter private jeeps, cars, auto rickshaw are also available to reach Nizarneshwar.

4.2.1.5 Shani Shinganapur

Shani Shinganapur is the well known religious tourist center not only in India but also in the world. It is located in Newasa tehsil. The distance of this famous tourist center is 40 km from Nagar, 84 km from Aurangabad, 32 km from Rahuri and just 5 km from the Nagar – Aurangabad state highway no. 60 north to the village
Ghodegaon. This popular tourist spot is lies in 19° 24’ North latitude and 74° 49’ east longitude. The main attraction is Shanidev (Saturn God) of this place. The black rock of five and a half feet installed on a platform which is symbolizes the God Shani. The images of nandi, trishul, Shiva and maruti are also placed around the Shani. Thousands of pilgrims visits every Saturday to this holy place. Another wonders of Shani Shinganapur is that there is no door to the houses installed by the resident. Because the people thought that God Shani protects them at everywhere. ST buses, private cars, rickshaw, tempo and other Transportation facilities are available to reach this spot. Bhakt Niwas for tourist are also available for taking the halt at Shani Shinganapur.

4.2.1.6 Deogad

Deogad is a one of the best cleaned, disciplined and attractive holy place in Maharashtra located in Newasa taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is famous for the temple of Dutta. A big, attractive and well planned temple was built under the guidance of Kisangiri Baba on the bank of the river Pravara. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 38’ North latitude and 74° 42’ east longitude. Deogad is 65 km away from Ahmednagar to the north and only 5 km from Nagar –
Aurangabad state highway number 60. The construction of the temple and cleanliness are the special characteristic of this holy place.

There are other temples like Siddheshwar temple, Samadhi Temple, Navanath temple, Maruti temple in the campus of Duttatraya temple. Thousands of people visit this holy place on the occasion of Dutta Jayanti, birth anniversary of Kisangiri Baba, and Gurupournima. Deogad is on the rout of Nagar – Aurangabad highway; all types of transportation facilities are available by road from Nagar, Newasa, Newasa phata and from Aurangabad.

4.2.1.7 Meherabad

Meherabad is a religious tourist center just 8 km away to the south of Ahmednagar city on the rout of the Nagar – Daund road situated near Arangaon village. It lies in 18° 34’ North latitude and 74° 16’ east longitude. It is a famous religious center of all religions. There is a Samadhi of Avatar Meherabad on hill of Meherabad. The residence of baba was here for a long period. An ashram was started by him in 1923 and he served poor, lepers and all types of other people. He always engaged in meditation and prayer. The devotees called him Avatar Meherabad.

According to Baba’s wish, after his death in Aurangabad in 1969, his dead body was taken by his followers to Meherabad and buried it where Baba had decided a place before death. The special characteristic of this center is not only the people of
Parsi religion but also the people of all religions i.e. Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddha, Jain always visit here throughout the year, because Baba is a secular saint. To preserve his secular character, the Samadhi is built with the symbols of temple, mosque, church and Gurudwara on its four sides.

The people visit to the hut of Baba and museum. The things used by Baba put in this museum. This is very clean and calm tourist center. The tourists come not only from India but also all over the world and visit this holy place. Foreign tourists come especially from Australia, England, Italy, America, etc. The state transport buses from various stations to Ahmednagar and Arangaon and thereafter private jeeps, cars, auto rickshaw are available from Arangaon to reach Meherabad. Trains are also used by the tourist to visit this center.

4.2.1.8 – Sidhatek

The tourist, who fit in Ganapati always visit to Ashtvinayak which is scattered all over Maharashtra. Among them one of the ganapati known as Sidhivinayak is at Sidhatek in Karjat taluka of Ahmednagar district. The geographical location of this center is 18° 10’ North latitude and 74° 20’ east longitude. It is 100 km away from Ahmednagar, 60 km from Karjat, 30 km from Shrigonda and Daund each. This temple of Ganesha with right trunk was built by Ahilyadevi Holkar on the bank of
river Bhima in the period of Peshwa. The development of this religious center is going on with the help of Maharashtra Government. The visitors gathered here at every Chaturthi of every month for darshan of Lord Ganesha. The Ganesh chaturthi coming in the Marathi month of Magh, a large number of devotees attend the fair of Sidhivinayak. This tourist center is situated on the border of Ahmednagar, Pune Solapur district therefore the transportation service of ST buses are available from Ahmednagar, Pune, Solapur, Dound to Sidhatek. Private cars, buses, jeeps are also ready for transportation service. Railway service is also available till Daund and Botibel railway station.

4.2.1.9 Shirdi

Shirdi is a worldwide famous holy religious tourist center located in Rahata taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is 85 km away from Ahmednagar, and just 15 km from Kopargaon. The geographical location of this place is 19° 77’ North latitude and 74° 48’ east longitude. The Sai Baba Samadhi Mandir is the main attraction in the Shirdi. It is the one of the most famous shrines in India. This temple was built by Baba’s devotee of names Shrimant Gopalrao But in 1917 18. It is well maintained and manages by the Shirdi Sanshan Trust.

The temple of Sai baba is not only the single attraction at the Shirdi. Apart from Shrine, there are a lot of tourist attractions in Shirdi such as chavadi, Dixit wada
museum, Dwarkamai Masjid, Khandoba temple, Lendi Bag, Nana Walli’s samadhi, Maruti Mandir, Shri Tatya Kote Samadhi, V.P. Iyer’s Samadhi, Shri Upasani Kanyakumari Sthan, Upasani Maharaj Ashram, the house of Laxmibai Shinde, Adu Baba Cottage, solar system, prasadalay, Wet N Joy water Park etc.

Dwarkamai Masjid - In this mosque, Sai baba stayed for a period of 60 years.

Chavadi - When Baba was lived in the mosque, he used to come to chavadi for sleeping at night which is nearby to the mosque.

Wet N Joy water Park - This water park is just 2 km away from baba’s temple. It is a major attraction of children and their parents, because there are rides, rain dance, pools and other lot of entertainment.

Gurusthan - The importance of this place is that when Baba was 16 years old, he was appeared at this place first time which is under a neem tree.

Other temples - There are the temple of Ganesha, Shani, Maruti, Khandoba and Mahadeo in the Shirdi. Sai Baba always visits these temples.

Dixit Wada Museum - It is located in the campus of the temple area. In this museum, we can see the paintings and the things used by Baba like vessel, grinder, pipe, chariot, foot wears, cloths and cooking pots.
Lendi Baug – This garden is created by Baba and he always goes to this garden to give the water to the plants.

A large numbers of pilgrims of all religions and castes are visit to Shirdi. The pilgrims are not only from Maharashtra but also all states of India. The foreigner also visits this place. On the festival of Ramnavami, Gurupournima and Gokulashtmi, thousands of people visit Shirdi for take darshan of Baba. Every holiday, the numbers of pilgrims are increased in Shirdi.

Shirdi is well connected by roads and railways. Kopargaon and Puntamba are the nearest railway station of Shirdi. ST buses are regularly plied from various stations to Shirdi. Private Buses, jeeps, cars are regularly used by the pilgrims. The construction work of the airport is going on at Kakadi near Shirdi. After completion of this work, the tourist can come by airways to Shirdi.

4.2.1.10 Shrigonda

Shrigonda is a religious place in Ahmednagar district. It is 57 km away from Ahmednagar. The geographical location of this place is 18° 40’ North latitude and 74° 44’ east longitude. There is a temple of Saint Sheikh Mohammad Maharaj which is a token of Hindu and Muslim unity. Baba and Janardan Swami had the same guru in spiritual areas. Basically, he belongs to Sufi sects. He was famous in the Muslim community as well as Hindu community. Because, though he belongs to sufí, he
participates in all programs of Hindu’s like bhajan, kirtan, pravachan, wari and dindi. He wrote some books like Yog Sangram, Nishkalank Pradhan, Pavan Vijay, Prabodh Rupake, Dnyansagar, and some poem, Abhang and Bharude. He wrote poems not only in Marathi but also in hindi, urdu and Farsi also. After his death in 1660, his devotees built his Samadhi at Shrigonda. Every year on Phalgun Vadya Ekadashi, three days fair is arranged in baba’s memory by his devotees. A large number of people came from not only from Maharashtra but also from other states to visit baba’s Samadhi in this fair period.

There are also other tourist attractions in Shrigonda, such as the temple of Ganesha, Datta, Vitthal Rukhmini, Bhairavnath, Lakshmi Narayan, Khandoba, Narsimha. There are Churches, Pagoda and Gurudwara also in the city. This is also a historical city because there is historical palace (Wada) of Shinde Sardar in the city. All types of transportation facilities are available by roads to visit Shrigonda and Daund is the nearest railway station to Shrigonda.

**4.2.2 – Selected Natural Tourist Centers in Ahmednagar District**

Ahmednagar district has a rich natural environment. There are mountain, plateau and plain relief features found in the district. The western part of the district has Sahyadri range with the highest peak of Kalsubai. The branches of Sahyadri go through the district. Therefore, there are a lot of natural tourist centers found in the district. Some of the natural tourist centers are selected for the study are given below.

1) Bhandardara Dam
2) Randha Fall
3) Mula Dam
4) Nighoj
5) Wadgaon Darya
6) Black Buck Sanctuary Rehekuri
7) Harishchandragad
8) Pravarasangam
9) Dongargan
10) Takali Dhokeshwar Cave

**4.2.2.1 Bhandardara**

Bhandardara is a beautiful nature base tourist spot in the western part of Ahmednagar district in Akole taluka. It is 38 km away from Akole, 28 km from Rajur, 160 km from Ahmednagar and 80 km from Nashik. It lies in 19° 5’ North latitude
and 73° 45’ east longitude. The main attraction at this spot is Bhandardara dam near Shendi village. It is located between Kalsubai and Baleshwar Mountain range at the north and south respectively. This dam was built on the river Pravara in the British period in 1910 under the guidance of the chief engineer Sir Wilson. So, it is also known as Wilson dam. The height of the wall of this dam is 82.32 meters and length is 507 meters while the storage capacity of water is 11 TMC. It is surrounded by hills and forest.

The tourists attract towards this site in whole year, but the main season of for tourist is in rainy season. Tourist can enjoy heavy rainfall, greenery, a lot of waterfalls, wild life and insect at Bhandardara in rainy season. The dam was overflow in the month of August in every year. Umbrella fall is another attraction at Bhandardara. It is situated near the left side of the wall of the dam. When the water of overflows release from the left tunnel of the dam, the water fall down fast from the slop of rock, this scene is like a umbrella, so that fall is known as Umbrella fall. The tourist gathered and dance in the water of this waterfall. It can be seen only in rainy season when the rain water increases the water level of dam. Boating facility is also available here.

The tourist can see wild animals like fox, wolf, pig, leopard, rabbit, monkey, and deer in this area. There are a lot of birds like kingfisher, bulbul, king crow, babbler, blue jay, eagle, parakeets, heron, yellow lapwing, water hen, cuckoo, strokes, woodpecker, spoon bills, lark, crow, brown dove, ducks, kite, pigeon, owlet, black winged stilt, pewit found in this area. Due to the dense forest tourist found a lot of
species of trees, Snakes and insects in this area. Ghatghar, Kokankada, Ratangad, Randhafall, Kalsubai the highest peak in Maharashtra and the temple of Amruteshwar are another tourist attractions around the Bhandardara. So the tourists flow is always on this site.

Bhandardara is on the way of Kolhar – Ghoti state highway, so tourists can go with their private vehicles to this site. The state transport buses from various stations and private jeeps, cars from Akole, Rajur, Ghoti, Igatpuri, Kotul and Sinnar are also available to reach Bhandardara. The guest house of MTDC and other resorts and hotels and lodges are available for the tourists.

4.2.2.2 Randha Fall

Randha fall is a natural waterfall 11 km above Bhandardara dam on Pravara river near Randha village. It is a natural beautiful tourist spot. It lies in 19° 4’ North latitude and 73° 11’ east longitude. Due to erosion work of Pravara, the rock been 60 meter deep and valley is formed giving birth to the waterfall. In the rainy season the waterfall is running with full water. The roaring sound of the waterfall is very dangerous that we can’t hear anything except waterfall. There is another deep valley to the south of Randha fall, which is 50 meters with U shape is called Hanging Valley. There is a temple of Ghorpadadevi on the bank of the river Pravara and on the top of the waterfall. Rainy season is the best period to visit this spot because the rainy season
this landscape becomes very green with natural beauty, waterfalls, rapids, biodiversity and it fascinates all nature lovers. The problem of Randha fall is that it runs only in rainy season. After rainy season, it starts when the water from Bhandardara is release for agriculture and drinking purpose. Transportation facilities of government’s buses and private vehicles are available to reach Randha fall.

4.2.2.3 Mula Dam

Mula dam is the biggest dam in Ahmednagar district. It is also known as Dnyaneshwarsagar. It is located at Baragaon Nandur village in Rahuri tehsil. The Geographical location of this beautiful tourist site is 19° 31’ North latitude and 73° 05’ east longitude. It is surrounded by hills. It is 17 km away from Rahuri and 30 km form Ahmednagar, and only 7 km from Nagar – Manmad Highway. The dam was constructed on the river Mula near the village Baragaon Nandur near Rahuri. It is very close to Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. The construction of the dam was started in 1958 and completed in 1974. The storage capacity is 26 TMC of this dam. In the rainy season there are many streams and small waterfall found in the area of dam. So, the numbers of tourists prefer to visit this site in rainy season. The nearby area of the dam trees, birds and wild animals are found. Recently sea plane service was started from Mumbai to Mula dam for the tourist, who likes to visit Shirdi and dam.
But, due to some problem this service is closed. The state transport buses from various stations to Rahuri and private jeeps, cars, auto rickshaw are from Rahuri to Mula dam are available. Every week end tourists gathered here and enjoy the nature based tourism. A guest house is available for meetings and halting at night.

4.2.2.4 Nighoj

Nighoj is a geographical tourist place. It is famous for potholes on the riverbed of Kukdi on the boundaries of Pune and Ahmednagar district. This natural tourist spot is located in Parner tehsil which is 25 km away from Parner, 24 km from Shirur, 70 km from Nagar and only 3 km away from Nighoj village. The geographical location of this natural wonder place is 18° 55’ North latitude and 73° 15’ east longitude. These pot holes are locally called Ranjankhalage or Kund. These interesting pot holes are recorded in Guinness Book of World Record. The Kukdi river once flowed peacefully along the plains. Sudden geological disturbances caused a huge valley with steep slopes, an average depth 100 feet, called as a gorge. This landform is created by pebbles and water current of the river. The pebbles rotate on the river bed due to water flow and form cavities like pot shape in the river bed. This process was continued for a long period and then pot hole are formed. For watching potholes, for the safety of the tourist hanging bridge is constructed on the river. A large number of people all over the world visit Nighoj to see this miracle of nature. Another attraction
of this tourist spot is the Goddess Malganga. A beautiful temple is constructed by the trust. Transportation facilities like ST buses and private vehicle are available from Parner, Nagar, Pune and Shirur.

4.2. Wadgaon Darya

Wadgaon Darya is a small village famous for geographical characteristics of Stalactite and stalagmite in Parner tehsil. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 05’ North latitude and 74° 20’ east longitude. It is 15 km away from Nighoj, 18 km from Parner and 39 km from Ahmednagar. This village is situated in hilly and plateau area; therefore, there is a deep valley near the village. In this valley, there is a large cave with Stalactite and stalagmite. In this cave Stalactites are formed due to the deposition of calcium salts hanging from the roof of the cave and stalagmite are formed due to the deposition of calcium salts rising from the floor of the cave are found. The growth of both Stalactite and stalagmite are increasing downward and upward direction very slowly respectively. Some of them are connected to each other and take a shape of the column. The students, geographers and other tourist are always visiting this site.

There is also a temple of Velhabai and Daryabai in the cave. So pilgrims also visit here. It is very popular tourist spot because of Stalactite, stalagmite, temple, waterfall, monkeys, scenic beauty and biodiversity. Transportation facilities of ST buses and private vehicle are available from Parner, Nagar, Pune and Shirur.
4.2.2.6 Rehekuri

In this sanctuary open space of the plateau, grass, water, shade and shelter are available to the Blackbuck. The type of forest in this area is dry deciduous forest. The main species like Khair, Sisoo, Hivar, Bor, Karvand, Neem, Amoni, Chilar, Tarwad, Henkal, Hamate, Gondal Grass, Pavana Grass, Kusali Grass, Kunda grass and other types of scrubs, bushes and cactus are found in this area. Different types of animals and birds are seen with Blackbuck in this sanctuary. The animal such as Fox, Wolf, Rabbit, Mongoose, Wild Cat and Snakes are found in this sanctuary. The birds like Parrot, Pigeon, Crow, Wood Pecker, Brown Dove, Owl, Bulbul, Baya Weaver, Maina, Sparrow, Kites and many other birds fly in the sanctuary. The set up of two towers are there for watching the Blackbuck without disturbance to them. Water storage tanks are made at various places in the sanctuary. In the rainy season they are full of water for some period. After the rainy season the water is filled in the tank through the pipeline from the bore well and wells dug in the sanctuary. For the purpose of water conservation CCT and nalabands are constructed on the slop in the forest. It helps to increase the ground water level in the forest. The forest officers and workers always take care of Blackbuck. They always engaged in the patrolling in the forest to avoid illegal hunting of Blackbuck and protect the forest. The best period to visit this tourist center is August to February. Because in this period, the forest is
green and tanks are full of water. Transportation facilities like ST buses and private vehicles are available till Karjat and from Karjat to sanctuary we can go through private vehicles.

4.2.2.7 Harishchandragad

Harishchandargad is located in western part of Ahmednagar district in Akole tehsil. The geographical location of this place is 17° 56’ North latitude and 73° 20’ east longitude. It is surrounded by the boundaries of Pune, Thane and Ahmednagar district. It is 30 km away from Kotul and 90 km from Kalyan and 47 km away from Akole. It is situated in the western Ghat i.e. Sahyadri Mountain range. The height of this fort is 1424 meters above sea level. For trekking, kokan kada which is almost in concave shape and the marvelous natural beauty are the main attraction of the gad. Therefore, it is very popular trekking hill fort.

There is a temple of Harishchandreshwar on the top of the gad. The height of this temple is 16 meters from the base. The great saint Changdev wrote his epic Tatvasaar when he was staying here for meditation in the 14th century. Nandi and Shivaling are very beautiful in this temple. The carving in the caves indicates that this fort is under the control of Mughal. But it was captured by Maratha in 1747.

There are many caves on the gad but only two caves which are used by the trekkers for accommodation at night. In the huge Kedareshwar cave there is Shivling
surrounded by ice cold water. Rohidas, Harishchandra and Taramati are three peak on this gad, among them Taramati peak is the topmost point on the gad which is also known as Taramachi.

There is a beautiful lake known as Saptatirth Pushkarni to the east of the temple. Mula river and its tributaries are rise in the area of this gad. Apart from this there are wild animals like leopards, pigs, fox, wolf, wild cat, deer, mongoose, monkey, etc. and dense forest with different species of trees and plants, mountain ranges, waterfalls, streams, fog, clouds, natural beauty and thrill of climbing because there are many rock patches and steep climbs on the way of gad, these are the another attraction for the tourist. Every year Mahashivratri is celebrated by the people on Harishchandargad. Thousands of pilgrims gathered for darshan and worship of Lord Shiva and Ganesha. The trekkers, Geographers, students, archeologist, researchers, and nature lovers always visit to the Harishchandargad. The transportation facilities are not good to reach Harishchandargad. ST buses are available till Kotul. After this we can use private vehicles to reach the base village Pachnai and Khireshwar.

4.2.2.8 Pravarasangam

Tokyo is a small village in Newasa Taluka, on the bank of the river Godavari and Pravara confluence. Therefore, it is called Pravarasangam. This tourist spot is on
the border of Ahmednagar and Aurangabad district. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 37’ North latitude and 75° 07’ east longitude. It is 75 km away from Ahmednagar, 15km from Newasa, 45 km from Aurangabad and just 1 km away from Nagar – Aurangabad state highway no. 60. This is a very holy place because there are many Hindu temples at Pravarasangam. The Hemadpanthi style temples of God Shiva dedicated to Sidheshwar, Ghateshwar, Sangameshwar and Gangamata area near the confluence of both rivers. There are 8 flights of steps on the bank of the river Godavari constructed in period of Peshvas. There are also small temples of Ganapati, Dutta, Hanuman, Lord Vishnu and Goddess Durga in the compound of the main temple. Transportation facilities like ST buses and private vehicle are available from Nagar, Newasa, and Aurangabad.

### 4.2.2.9 Takali Dhokeshwar Caves

This tourist place is located in Parner taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is 40 km away from Ahmednagar, 110 km from Pune and 204 km from Mumbai. This spot is just 4 km away from Nagar – Kalyan road in the hilly area near Takali Dhokeshwar. The geographical location of this place is 19° 09’ North latitude and 74° 23’ east longitude. These caves are carved in the cultivation period of Ajanta and Ellora caves, i.e. in the 6th century. It is excavate 220 meters high from the base of
the hill. There is a main sculpture of Shri Dhokeshwar carved on the wall of the cave. There are many sculptures such as Shri Ganesh, Shiv Parvati, Lord Krishna, Pandav, Bhairav, Mahadeo, Ashtsiddhi, Sahamata, Tandaveshwar, Nandi, Ganga on Crocodile, Yamuna on a tortoise, Kuber with his bags, Saptmatrukapat, Gandharva, snakes carved on the wall and roof of the cave. Thousands of people visit this cave at shivratri and third Monday of the Marathi month of Shravan.

The best period to visit this cave is rainy season, because it is situated in a hilly area. The natural beauty, waterfalls, lakes, greeneries and other biodiversity are found in rainy season. But the tourist visits this place throughout the year. The public transport facility is available till Takali Dhokeshwar town thereafter private vehicles are used by the visitors to reach the cave.

4.2.2.10 – Dongargan

Dongargan is a natural, religious as well as a mythological tourist center in Nagar tehsil. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 13’ North latitude and 74° 47’ East longitude. It is 18 km away at the north side from Nagar city. The temple of Rameshwar, Valley, Sitechi Nhani, water falls, biodiversity, hills, and other temples are the main attractions at this tourist spot. This spot is surrounded by Baleshwar mountain range, which is locally known as Garbhagiri. There is a natural valley near the temple which is very silence is called Happy Valley. A water fall of 22
to 25 feet height fall into two steps in the valley. There is a cave in the valley which is 62 feet long, 6.36 feet wide and 6 feet high; the local people called it Sitechi Nhani. Rainy season is the best season for nature lovers at this spot because the rainy season this landscape becomes very green with natural beauty and it fascinates all tourists. ST buses and private vehicles are available from Nagar and Wambori to visit Dongargan.

4.2.3 Selected Historical Tourist Centers in Ahmednagar District

Ahmednagar district has a large historical background because Ahmednagar city is founded by Ahmed Nizam Shah. Mughal, Nizam, Maratha ruled different part of this district. Therefore there are a lot of historical places, monuments, memories, events found in the district. Some of them are developed as a historical tourist centers. The major selected historical tourist centers are as follow.

Historical Tourist Centers

1) Ahmednagar Fort
2) Historical Museums
3) Tank Museum
4) Chandbibi Mahal
5) Kharda Fort
6) Chondhi
7) Patta Fort
8) Palashi Fort

4.2.3.1 Ahmednagar Fort
The Ahmednagar fort is the major attractions in the Ahmednagar. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 05’ North latitude and 75° 45’ east longitude. Ahmed Nizam Shah who was the first sultan of Nizamshahi dynasty built this humongous fort in 1490 to commemorate his victory over Jahangir Khan. It is on the eastern side of Ahmednagar city, about half a mile away. It is so built that only the top most part of it can be seen from the road, the rest of the part being hidden by the glacis. There is a great dry ditch, eighty five to one hundred feet wide and fourteen to twenty feet deep. The fort is built by stone masonry which is massive throughout. The fort has two entrances, the chief of which is on the western side. At this entrance the moat is crossed by wooden suspension bridge swung on thick iron chains, and the road, skirting the principal bastion, enters the fort through gate, ways placed at right angles with doors studded with large nails to guard against elephant. At the eastern gate, the moat is crossed by a chain suspension bridge. The walls of fort rising about 30 feet from the bottom of the ditch, consist of a number of semicircular bastions eighty five yards apart, connected by curtain s with parapets varying from five to ten feet in height, pierced in most places by loopholes. Behind the parapet a six feet wide path runs round the top of the wall. The bastions have embrasures. The fort has in all 22 bastions and 24 citadels.

From 1803 to 1817 many Maratha noblemen were kept as prisoners in this fort. In the First World War many German soldiers were kept in this fort as prisoners. In 1947 many Indian patriots like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Acharya Narendra Dev, Asif Ali, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, were detained in the fort. Jawaharlal Nehru wrote his world famous book ‘The Discovery of India’ in this fort.

Recently a third entrance on the northern side is built, and this is now the rout in regular use. The army offices occupy the present fort and it is now open to all.


4.2.3.2 Historical Museum

This museum is located near to district collector office and it is the largest museum in the city. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 05’ North latitude and 74° 44’ east longitude. This museum is mainly dedicated to preserving rich Indian and world history. This Historical Museum and Research Centre was developed with the assistance and guidance of the Ahmednagar Palika. Established on Maharashtra Day in the year 1960, the Centre initially started with just two rooms and now has transformed into a full blown museum.
Personalities like Shri. Sardar Babasaheb Mirikar, Shri. Munshi Ammid, and Shri N.V. Pathak led the research and assembled a huge number of historic files and artefacts. The Museum currently boasts of astounding 12,000 manuscripts, in excess of 8,000 coins and close to 50,000 historical documents, apart from the numerous other artefacts. A London map of India from 1816 and a 66 m long horoscope are amongst the major attractions in this place. The Museum was recently shifted to Hutatma Chowk, close to the Collector’s Office. It is easily reachable by a taxi or a bus. The museum is open on all days except for Thursdays, from 10 am to 5pm.

4.2.3.3 Tank Museums

The Tank Museum is just 5 km away from Nagar city on the rout of Nagar – Solapur road. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 04’ North latitude and 74° 44’ east longitude. This is the only one tank museum in Asia is known as a cavalry tank museum open for the people since 16 may 1994. This museum is located in the vicinity of the Armoured Corps Center and school in city of Ahmednagar. The museum has a rich collection of various types of tanks used by America, Germany, France, Japan, Russian, England, Pakistan and other countries in various wars. Among them many of tanks were originally German and Japanese tanks captured during World War II. There are Pakistani tank used by them in the war of 1965 and 1971 captured by us also on display in this museum. The main attraction of this museum is the Mark I fitted with a tractor engine used in the World War I period.
There is also a model of a tank which was used by General Dwyer to enter Amritsar’s Jallianwala Bagh. There is variety on display of tanks about its specialized services such as mine detonation, and dozing, bridge laying and aircrew recovery. The Army’s old warhorse, Vijayanta is the latest addition in this museum. Vijayanta played an important role in the 1971 war. There are two Memory halls in which the memorable events and things are displayed. This museum is open to all in the period 9 am to 5 pm. We can visit it with our own vehicle or other private vehicles.

4.2.3.4 Chand Bibi Mahal

This historical tourist spot like a mahal is 12 km away from Nagar city and just 2 km away from Nagar – Pathardi road. But it is a tomb of Salabat Khan. The geographical location of this place is 19° 4’ North latitude and 73° 11’ east longitude. This tomb, which can be seen from art of Ahmednagar city on the eastern side locally, it is known as Chand Bibi’s Mahal, but in fact it is the tomb of Salabat Khan I, the famous minister of Murtaza Nizam Shah I (1565 - 1588). The construction of this tomb was started when the Salabat Khan was alive; it was incomplete when he was dead. After his death, Chand Bibi completed the construction of this beautiful tomb. So the local people known this tomb as Chand Bibi’s Mahal. It is situated on the top of the hill known as Shah Dongar which is 3080 feet above the sea level. In the basement of this tomb, there is not only Salabat Khan’s tomb, but another tomb of his
wife is also there. There are other tombs of Salabat Khan’s second wife; son and his
dog are seen in the campus of this tomb. Mirikar, N. Y. (1968). The building is plain
but the eight sided platform, the three tiers of pointed arches and the dome have all
much beauty of form. By the simple contrivance of a stone terrace built about twelve
feet high and 100 yards broad, the tomb seems to rise with considerable dignity from
the center of an octagon.

The tomb has angular holes so placed that the rising and setting sunlight falls
on it. The tower is about seventy feet high and the base about 12 feet wide while the
galleries are about 20 feet broad. The best period to visit this historical place is rainy
season. Because the location of this place is on the top of the hill, therefore, we can
see the natural beauty with the experience of fogs, clouds and fast and cold wind. The
outsider visitor’s and the local people visit here through the year. To reach this spot, we must have our own vehicle otherwise take on rent private cars, jeeps or rickshaw from Nagar or from Bhingar.

4.2.3.5 Kharda

Kharda is a very famous historical place located in Jamkhed tehsil. The geographical location of this place is 18° 35’ North latitude and 75° 25’ east longitude. It is 97 km away from Ahmednagar and just 23 km away from Jamkhed. This village has very importance in the point of view of Maratha history, because Kharda is the witness of the battle between Maratha and Nizam of Hyderabad. Nizam took shelter in the Kharda fort, but he was badly defeated by Maratha Confederacy in March 1795. This was the last battle fought together by Peshva, Shinde, Holkar, Gaikwad and Bhosale. This fight is known as the battle of Kharda in history of Maratha.

Kharda fort was built by Sardar Sultanrao Nimbalkar in 1773. This fort is at ground level and in good condition. It is situated at the southeast part of the village. It is squar in shape and built with cut stone walls. The walls of the fort are 30 feet high and it was surrounded by the ditch. The wall has two gates at right angles to each other. There is a small mosque and a deep well in the fort. The tomb of the Nimbalkar
was built near the gate of the village. It is 15 feet broad and 4 feet high in size. All types of transportation facilities by road are available from Nagar, Jamkhed, Patoda and Beed.

4.2.3.6 Chondhi

Chondhi is the birth place of Lady Maratha Sardar Ahilyabai Holkar. It is situated on the bank of river Seena in Jamkhed taluka. It is just 33 km away from Jamkhed and 86 km from Ahmednagar. The geographical location of this place is 18° 16’ North latitude and 74° 44’ east longitude. She was born on 30 May 1725 at Chondhi. The birth place of Ahilyadevi Holkar and her Gadhi is still now in good condition.

The development of this historical place is going on under the guidance of Hon. Annasaheb Dange with the help of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, trust and the local people. The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shilpsrushti is displayed for the visitors since 8 September 2013. All the historical and social events are shown through this Shilpsrushti. The main gate is very attractive built with cutting stone. The internal door of Shilpsrushti is big and attractive.
Memory pillar, garden, temple of Choundeshwari and temple of Shiv are the other attraction of tourists. The people of Maratha and Dhangar community are mostly visiting this place. Transportation facilities of ST buses and other private vehicle are available from Nagar, Jamkhed and Chondhi phata to visit Chondhi.

4.2.3.7 Patta Fort (Vishramgad)

Patta fort is a famous historical and tourist center is located in Akole tehsil. It is 35 km away from Akole. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 42’ North latitude and 73° 50’ east longitude. It is on the border of Ahmednagar and Nasik district. The height of this fort is approximately 1392 meters from sea level.

It is also known as Vishramgad, because Shivaji Maharaj took rest on this fort. When he was return after the winning of Jalnapur with a lot of wealth, the Mughal sardar Ranmastkhan trapped him from three sides. The battle began near Sangamner between Shivaji Maharaj and Ranmastkhan. After three days, when the battle was continued, Shivaji Maharaj takes all wealth and reached on Patta fort safely on 21 November 1679 under the guidanc of Bahirji Naik who was the head of the detective department of Shivaji Maharaj. After reaching Patta, Shivaji Maharaj felt sick due to long travel and battle. So he wants to take rest in the fresh and cool and health weather on the fort. He took rest about 17 days on this fort and then he went to Raigad.
There are many caves and water tanks carve in the rocks. The temple of Bhagawati and shrine of Laxmangiri Maharaj are there. The bastions, gates, old buildings, steps in rock, plateau, valleys, forest, wild animals, rivers and natural beauty are the attraction of the fort. Recently, the statue of Shivaji Maharaj was established on the fort and other development in the point of view of tourism is going on under the tourism development Plan with the help of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation. Now, every year 21 November is celebrated as ‘Shivsparshdin’ on the fort. The ST buses are available till Taked and thereafter we can use private vehicles. We can also go via Akole to Pattewadi.

4.2.3.8 Palashi

Palashi is a historical village located in Parner taluka. The geographical location of this tourist spot is 19° 15’ North latitude and 74° 26’ east longitude. It is 60 km away from Ahmednagar and just 20 km from Takali Dhomeshwar town. The village has a tall wall around it like a land fort. The houses of the village are inside this wall. So it is also known as the fort of Palshi. It was built for the protection of villagers at that time. This big wall was built with the help of some part of the wealth which got from Surat robbery. It has two big gates. One of them is Delhi gate. At evening, when the both gates were closed, no one can enter into the village. The skilled workers were called from the north and they built this attractive, protective, historical and strong stone wall around this village.
There is a big wada of Ramrao Appa Palshikar in the village. He was the deewan of Maratha Sardar Holkar. There were 54 rooms in this historical building. The carving on the wood is very beautiful and still in good condition. Now the member of Palshikar family lived in Indore.

There is a tank to the west of the village. It was constructed in the period of Peshava. It is square in shape in three acre. This tank is surrounded by small hills.

There is a very beautiful temple of Vitthal to the east of the village. It was also built with the help of some part of the wealth which got from Surat robbery. The carving on the wall and pillars is very beautiful. The top of the temple is constructed like a shape of a lotus. Garud Dhwaj is also on the temple. There is a tank near the campus of temple which has the steps of stones. There is a ghat on a small river near the temple. Two Samadhi are built on the ghat.

Apart from this, there are the temples of Renukamata, Rameshwar, Malveer, Ganapati and also two Samadhi mandir of Ramrao Appa Palshikar's both wives Sakhubai and Parvatibai. The best period to visit this historical village is rainy season, because this village is situated on a plateau with the small hilly area and in rainy period there is greenery spread everywhere. The student, teacher, archeologist, researchers and other tourist who loved history visit this village. The transportation facilities of ST buses as well as private vehicles are available to reach Palashi Joshi, Suresh. (1976).

4.2.4 Selected Agro based Tourist Centers in Ahmednagar District

Ahmednagar district is known as agricultural district. The co-operative movement was started in the district. Sugar factories and dams are found in this area. The agricultural development is very fast in this district. There is Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth at Rahuri for the guidance to farmers and research in agriculture. There are some centers in Ahmednagar district which are role model in the development of agriculture. The farmers visit these centers, therefore these centers are known as agro based tourist centers in the district. The major sample agro based tourist centers are given below.

1) Hiware Bazar
2) Ralegan Siddhi
3) Saiban
4) Bhenda
5) Mahatma Phule Krushi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri
4.2.4.1 Hiware Bazar

Hiware Bazar is a model village located in Parner taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is just 17 km to the west of the Nagar city. The geographical location of this place is 19° 4’ North latitude and 74° 36’ east longitude. It is situated in the hilly area. This village comes under the drought prone region; therefore the villagers faced water scarcity every year. Shri. Popatrao Pawar a well-educated young personality elected as a sarpanch of Hiware Bazar In1990 and he made drastic changes in the village. Under his leadership the villagers drew a plan of development in which priority was given to the drinking water. The water shade development program was implemented by him with the help of villagers and various schemes of Maharashtra Government.

The villagers construct cct, nala bund, percolation tanks, storage tank, and check dams along with planting trees. Five principles i.e. panchsutri was adopted by the villagers. These are nasha bandi, kurhad bandi, nas bandi and shramdan. Nasha bandi means no intake of liquor, kurhad bandi means no cutting trees, charai bandi means no free grazing, nasbandi means no large family and shramdan means voluntary Labour work for the village development. Due to this program there are water conservation, forest conservation and soil conservation in the whole watershed zones of the village, the ground water level was increased and the villagers get water throughout the year. So there is no problem of water scarcity in the village. The income and standard of living were increased due to the availability of water for agricultural and for their cattle’s. The tourist observed the transformation in the lifestyle of the villagers. Due to this ideal work done by the villagers, Hiware bazaar was declared an Ideal Village by the Government of Maharashtra. To see the
development of this village with the help of the watershed management program, large number of students, teachers, people, farmers, officers, politicians and scholars are visiting this village every day. Public transportation facilities as well as private vehicles are available from Nagar to visit Hiware Bazar.

4.2.4.2 Ralegan Siddhi

Another ideal village Ralegan Siddhi is located in Parner taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is 52 km away from Ahmednagar and just 5 km from the Nagar – Pune state highway. It lies in 18° 92’ North latitude and 74° 41’ east longitude. This village comes under the rain shadow zone. Therefore, there are problem like water, agriculture, education, medical facility, poverty, etc. After Anna return to Ralegan Siddhi from the army in 1975, he decided to change this situation and solve the problems of the villagers. Anna understood that alcoholism is main rout of poverty. He called the meeting and convinced the shopkeepers to stop their liquor’s business and take promise with agreement in the temple. Due to this agreement 30 liquor units were closed.

The scarcity of water was the major problem in the village. Anna Hazare started Watershed Management Program with the help of villager’s shramdan and schemes of Maharashtra Government. ‘Arrest Water, Percolate water’ is main theme of Watershed Management Program . The village Ralegan Siddhi divided into four
watershed zone. For the conservation of water and soil, CCT, land leveling and 50 nala bund, percolation dams, 50 bore wells, seven cooperative wells, private wells and check dams were constructed with the help of local people’s shramadan. Due to watershed management program, there were changes in land use and cropping pattern. Standard of living and lifestyle were changed of every villager. Anna started the school for failure students. Grain Bank was started in the village. When the production of grain is not sufficient due to drought, the grain bank provides the grain to the people. A lot of people visit Ralegan Siddhi to see the remarkable development done by Anna with the help of the villagers. The public transport facilities as well as private vehicles are available from Nagar, Parner, Shirur to visit Ralegan Siddhi.

4.2.4.3 Saiban

Saiban is a famous agro tourist center near Nagar city. It is only 11 km northwest to the city and just 2 km inside from the Nagar Manamad State highway behind Ahmednagar MIDC. The geographical location of this place is 19° 10’ North latitude and 74° 41’ east longitude. Saiban is situated in area of Nimblak village. Dr. Kankaria, who is eye specialist in Nagar, bought this hilly and rocky land and converts it into the agro tourist center. At first, he constructs various dams on the Nala which is flowing through Saiban.
There are vanrai dams, cement dams, gabian dams, KT wear and soil dam found on the nala. He also constructs CCT on the slop of the hill. Therefore, water conservation as well as soil conservation is done. Due to this water conservation, the water level is increased and with the help of this water he takes production of various types of flowers, capsicum, strawberry, chickoo, orchids etc with recent agricultural technology. There are poly houses and shade nets constructed for the delicate crops like flower and vegetables. There is a nursery, garden, nakshtra udyan, statues of animals, space centre, and Snake Park open for the visitors. The animals and birds like immu, rabbits, camel, ducks, hens, parrots and love birds are the main attraction of the children. Horse riding, camel riding and ride of bullock cart are available for the tourist. Tourist can enjoy the boating in the KT wear dam which is biggest dam in Saiban. Apart from this water games, sea saw, sliding, puppet show, Ali Baba’s cave, echo point, jumping are the other attractions for the tourist. The farmer always visits and takes guidance and experience of poly house and shade nets. The manager and another person of the Saiban give all information to the visitors. Students, teachers, researcher as well as other people also visit saiban. The Hurda parti is also arranged by Saiban in the period of hurda. They provided village style food like zunka bhakari, bengan bharta, chatanies etc. We can visit this agro tourist center with private vehicles.

4.2.4.4 Bhenda

Bhenda is located in Newasa taluka of Ahmednagar district. There is Shri Dnyaneshwar Agriculture Scientific farm in Bhenda. It is just 14 km away from Newasa phata on Newasa – Shevgaon road. The geographical location of this place is 19° 30’ North latitude and 75° 2’ east longitude. It is organized by Shri Dnyaneshwar Co Operative Sugar Factory. There is Shri Dnyaneshwar Agriculture Scientific Training Farm. This training college gives advice to the farmers. This institution was established by respected Marutrao Ghule Patil, the founder of Shri Dnyaneshwar Co-operative Sugar Factory. There are demonstration farm and laboratories where the experiments are carried out on new streams and it is recommended to farmer to experiment in their field. The horticulture project was established in the surrounding of sugar factory in 1990. This project and Agriculture training college were established to impart and object of practical training to students as well as farmers. This center provides training to those farmers who want to introduce new varieties of
seed to cultivate in their field. The experts are always visited in the field, where the experiments were done by farmers in their fields.

The training program is arranged for the farmer regularly. Tours are always arranged for the farmers to visit Agriculture University who want to take advanced knowledge and new techniques in agriculture. There are a number of trees and gardens available for practice and experiments such as coconut, guava, grapes, pomegranates, fig, amla, mango, cherry, tamarind, etc. The farmers, students, researchers, teacher and people visit the center to get knowledge related to agriculture and this center satisfied them. Therefore, this center is became a famous agricultural tourist center.

4.2.4.5 Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth  Rahuri

MPKV is located in Rahuri taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is 35 km away from Ahmednagar and just 5 km from Rahuri. It is very close to the Nagar – Manamad state highway. It is situated on 2877.4 hectors area. It lies in19° 50’ North latitude and 75° 25’ east longitude. This is a well-known agricultural tourist center. The agriculture university was established on 29 March 1968 with name Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. The aim of this university is to create and develop scientific and technical manpower for obtaining the highest production and productivity in each farm system to bring them at export level. The courses of
agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, farm business and forestry are run at graduate and post graduate level.

Research is the major activity in the university. The research on pulses, vegetables, fruits, fodder crops, commercial crops, flowers; oil seed crops, livestock, agricultural technology, are continuously by the scientist. Apart from this the research is also carried out on dry land farming, water management, post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants.

It is also a training center because training for livestock supervisors; horticulture training is given in this university. The training program is arranged for the farmers and students. There are a large number of trees and gardens are available for practice and experiments such as coconut, onion, guava, grapes, capsicum, custard apple, pomegranates, fig, orange, tomato, mango, tamarind, etc. The farmers, students, researchers, teacher and people of all over the country visits the center to get knowledge related to agriculture and this center gives proper advice and information and satisfied them. Therefore, this center has become a famous agricultural tourist center. This MPKV is situated very closed to the high way therefore; public transportation facilities as well as private vehicles facilities are regularly available to visit here. The Rahuri railway station is just 5 km from university, so visitors can use railway facility to reach here.