CHAPTER- VIII
PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM
IN RATNAGIRI DISTRICT

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CHAPTER- VIII
PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN RATNAGIRI DISTRICT

8.1 Problems of Tourism in Ratnagiri district.

Ratnagiri district has all tourist features as similar as Goa. Beaches, temples and natural beauty of Konkan including local culture are the major resources of tourism in Ratnagiri district. But, this district is quite behind in tourism development as compare to its capability. During the course of study certain problems were observed as major hurdles in development of tourism in Ratnagiri district. The tourism developments in Ratnagiri district have not crossed the state boundaries. Tourists from nearby states are giving visit to Ratnagiri district in limited proportion. Tourism of district should be developed according to national – international tourists’ requirement. Tourists those are giving visit to Goa may visit to Konkan and especially Ratnagiri district if the problems that are discussed under are focused neatly and resolved efficiently. Such problems i.e. hurdles in tourism of Ratnagiri district were as under.

1. Lack of Marketing-

Marketing is collective and integrated process that ensures fulfillment of customers needs and wants more satisfactorily. Such efforts including marketing mix strategy are required to attract national and international tourists in Ratnagiri district. But, such efforts are absent at local and government level in Ratnagiri district. Most of people of the country are unknown about interior beauty of Ratnagiri district; due to lack of promotional efforts. Tourist those are giving visit such unknown places may get impressed but simultaneously may feel frustration due to poor services and lack of tourism awareness in concern region. Such problem mainly observed at potential tourist places. Food, shelter and other services are not available at some places like Unhale, Vetye, Ambolgd, and Rohile. Velas and Murud is existing tourist place but food and shelter is not easily available at this places. Tourism is vastly growing at these places but regional hoteliers and or local domestic lodge operators have not improved their capabilities and resources; they providing services with resources what they had earlier. Some places, local businessmen are providing such services on their terms and
conditions; for example at Kelshi, Anjarle, Ladghar and Asud shelter is available without food services; tourists are required to search other options for food and there is no surety that it will be available in nearby domestic hotels. Some residents are providing shelter and breakfast as per their own schedule only. Local people have converted their existing houses as domestic lodges without making required modifications; carpets are provided instead of beds, common toilets, common food recipe rather than variety etc. adversely affects on tourist satisfaction especially on national and international arrivals. This scenario is mainly observed at tourist villages of Dapoli and Guhagar tehsils.

Beach tourism can become specialty identity in Ratnagiri district. Some interior places i.e. Kolthare, Tavsal, Madban, Malgund, Kasheli etc. beaches are observed very clean and attractive but there are no any place wise differences in terms of product mix. Certain new tourist destinations in Ratnagiri are marketed by MTDC through its literature and web sites but in reality there is no co-ordination between local people and MTDC. In the age of internet and electronic media local service providers are quite behind from this media. On line search we will get information and photographs about tourist attractions in Ratnagiri district but most of these data have are uploaded by tourists themselves local service providers are far away from such type of activities.

2. Lack of Tourist Circuits-

Mountains, creeks, rivers and valleys are valuable tourist resources of Ratnagiri district; but such geographical setup has adversely affected on transport development in the district. There is no proper network of rail and road transport in the district. Rail passes through eastern part of the district in a straight direction; whereas road transport does not have short inter connections to link various tourist places within a limited schedule. Tourist generally plans to visit several places within limited time and travel. Such plan works if tourist places falls within specific tourist circuits. In Ratnagiri district such shortest routes or tourist circuits need to be developed. Velas to Dapoli is just 26 km. by aerial distance but by road it is 72km. There are nine tourist places falls within this journey like Asud temple and Asud-eco village, Murud beach, Karde beach, Harnei Fort & port, Anjarle beach & temple, Ade beach, Kelshi temple & beach and Velas beach. But these places are not properly connected to each other by road transport. Tourist may not give visit to Karde beach, Harnei fort, Anjarle beach and Kelshi village
under one trip; while they visit to Dapoli and Murud. Tourist may save time and money and can visit other places also if these places are connected by shortest route under one tourist circuit. According to historic references; water transport was the main mode of transport in this region. Such mode of transport need to reinstate once again at commercial level to provide shortest and thrilling routs as well as it can offer employment also.

3. Poor Transport

Tourism in Ratnagiri becomes possible only if tourist have their own vehicles. Public transport services do not have tourism intention. Their travel routes and schedules have designed according to local need and day today passengers. Rail transport available only in eastern part of the district and that mainly connects Chiplun and Ratnagiri stations. Most of trains do not halts at other local station except two passenger trains. The present study has revealed that the rail transport has preferred as least mode of transport by tourist in Ratnagiri district. Trains that are available are also not connected with other rail routes of the region and country. Nearest cities of the state like Pune, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Solapur, Belgaum are also not connected with Ratnagiri district by rail. Marin transport has already stopped. State Transport Corporation does not have special tour package i.e. site seeing service in Ratnagiri district. Private tour operators works from Pune and Mumbai they do not have regional offices. Petrol pumps are available only on main roads. Gas pumps are also available at only tehsil head quarters excluding Devrukh, Guhagar and Mandangad tehsils. Road maps, tourist sites maps are not available as public amenity on any routes in all over district. It is quite challenging and risky to travel in late night especially trough Sagari Maha Marg from western costal line in Ratnagiri district. This rout is suitable in day travel along with local guide only. Traffic check posts, road maps or guiding signs, hotels, motor workshops and fuel pumps etc. are not available on this rout. Villages and settlements are quite inside by Sagari Maha-Marg; this road passes through jungles and hills that one is major risk in late night journey. Domestic air port is situated at district head quarter. But there is no any commercial flight service on day to day or weekly basis for public purpose. This terminal is an occasionally used by government authorities only.
4. Lack of Safety Measures –

Beaches, waterfalls, mountains, valleys and forest etc are the major tourist attraction in the district. Tourist gives visit to all these places in huge numbers. Ganapatipule, Guhagar and Murud beaches are seen overcrowded at most of the time. But there is no any safety measure at all these places. Ganapatipule and Guhagar beaches are not safe for swimming due to the internal land forms. Tourists’ accidents i.e. sinking incidents are recorded regularly at Ganapatipule and Guhagar beaches in an every tourist season. Such incidents were not much common at Murud and Ratnagiri beaches, but from previous two three years these incidents are also recorded due to lack of safety measures. In these entire accidents tourist were main victims. At all these beaches there is no any provision of safety measures except public notice. Tourist wants to swim or they wish to enter in water while they visit any beach or water source, their safety should be given priority at these places. Beach, waterfalls, rivers are the major attraction for tourist while they visit Konkan. These resources need to be made more secure by providing necessary safety measures. Tourists entry have restricted i.e. banned at Marleshwar water fall, Nivali water fall for safety purpose. This policy has adversely affected in tourism development at this region. Tourists should not be prohibited to visit waterfalls; it is major attraction for any tourist to visit that region especially in monsoon. There entry can be made secure with necessary care like hanging bridge, guarding wall and by providing supporting ropes and nets.

Road accidents are become very common due to heavy transport and bending curves on N.H.17. According to district high way authority, total 239 people have died while 734 vehicle accidents have been reported in the year 2009-10 under road accidents. Road becomes slippery in rainy season and visibility becomes very poor in winter season especially at night due to the heavy fog and smoke. Therefore highway police need to be more alert while regulating the traffic on N.H.17. Water tourist resources like boating including dolphin view Safaris have developed as tourist attraction at Murud, Guhagar, Ganapatipule and Ratnagiri beaches. Most of these boats are operating illegally with unskilled and untrained man power. Outdated fishing boats are being used for tourist ride without any safety measures. It has resulted in increasing boat accidents at Murud and Guhagar. In the year 2009-10 total 09 tourist boats accidents have observed that
victimised 04 tourists; while only 03 accidents were registered in customs office. This office has sealed 14 boats on various beaches due to lack of safety measures and without license.

5. Lack of Professional and Visionary Approach

Hoteliers, tour operators, hawkers, auto drivers and local people those are directly involved in tourism activities are need to be service oriented. Hospitality management is the key word in growth and development of tourism. Such hospitality awareness is still not developed among all these middlemen in Ratnagiri district. Very few hotels of the district are star category hotels; all other hoteliers have owned local staff on need basis. These hotels do not have trained and skilled manpower, lack of hygiene environment, lack of service approach etc. are common problems at most of these places; foreign tourist and rich class tourists do not prefers accommodation at these places. Tourist have registered their complaints for non cooperation at many places if they reaches late night; lodge operators as well as local people; those who are providing domestic stay service do not entertain tourist beyond to their regular schedule. It is common scenario in Murud, Guhagar, Kelshi, and Pawas. It has observed that many tourists’ have spent their nights in their won vehicles lack of accommodations. Local restaurants, hotels do not have food variety according to tourist’s food culture.


Present intake capacity of Ratnagiri district in respect to current growth of tourism is not in required proportion. Tourism has comparatively growing up in Ratnagiri district. But lodging, boarding and other local accommodation facilities have not increased accordingly. A “House Full” banner is a common scenario in all over Ratnagiri district. This scenario is very common mainly in peak season. Lodging and boarding facilities have increased in Ratnagiri but such growth is comparatively low in proportion of growth of tourism. Seasonable tourism, lack of tourist circuits and maximum proportion of day trippers’ etc. factors does not encourage hoteliers and lodge owners to extend their capacities. MTDC have its- accommodations only at Ganpatipule and Hedvi-Velneshwar. Velas, Rohile, Bhudal etc. potential tourist places do not have any commercial lodging facility at present.
7. Parking Problem

Public transport is least preferred by tourist as mode of transport in Ratnagiri district. Majority tourists are prefers their own or hired vehicles, while they visit different places of Ratnagiri district. Therefore parking problem has become sensitive issue in tourism development of Ratnagiri district. It is severe problem at all over places of Ratnagiri district. This problem is more severe at Ganpatipule, Murud, Guhagar, Pawas, Marleshwar, Anjarle, Velas and Kshetra Parshuram also. Tourists are parking their vehicles on beach and mud flats. Road side parking on N.H.17 is common problem especially at Parshuram, Sawatsada water fall and Arawali hot water spring in peak seasons. Vehicles parking have become cause of conflict between tourists’ and local people at Murud, Guhagar and Ganpatipule. Local governing authorities are themselves not aware about beach environment and therefore they are allowing tourist to park their vehicle on mud flats, beaches and mangrove fields.

8. Poor Development Plans –

Poor infrastructure or lack of primary facilities is the major hurdle in growth and development of tourism in study area. Poor network of roads forcing tourists to waste lot of tourist time in traveling only. Water shortage is another problem that mainly occurs in summer. Ratnagiri district is known for heavy rain fall but due poor water storage; water shortage becomes sever problem at Dapoli, Ganapatipule, Ratnagiri, Pawas and many other tourist places of Ratnagiri district. Electricity shortage is another example of poor infrastructure in study area. Load shading is adversely affecting on lodging and hotels services. Development activities are taking place in Ratnagiri district at private level as per own interest of investors. It may cause regional imbalance if such developments are not regulated by Government and social level. Banking, communication facilities are yet not available in remote areas like Velas, Kolisare, Ambolgad, Tavsal etc.

9. Lack of Travel Agencies and package tours/Tour operators

These factors plays important role in tourism development and promotion. But, these factors are inactive in Ratnagiri district at present. According to M.T.D.C. survey there are 15 travel agents and several traveling vehicles but during the course of study it has observed that most of agents are not active and it is secondary activity for some of
them. Packaged tour programmes are not much popular in study area at present. Local people and mainly local youngsters have not seen interested in making their career as travel Agent, tour operators and or travel guide. Lack of motivation and training might be reason behind this problem.

10. Lack of Tourist Information Centers

Collectorate of Ratnagiri district has recently i.e.in the year Aug. 2013 published a hand book on tourism in Ratnagiri district. Such authorised document was not available prior to this. Some general books are available at certain tourist places. But these books are not providing detail information about places and available services in the region. Tourist expects various type of information like approach roads, shortest routes, specialty of the places, available facilities, various contact numbers including hotels, lodging, banks, hospitals, petrol pumps, local tour operators etc. such information is not available in collective form at any tourist places. Tourist information booths need to be established on main highway at certain entry points. M.T.D.C. regional office need to launch tourists help lines i.e. call centers in Marathi, Hindi and English. Local unemployed youth need to be trained so they can work as guide cum driver.

N.H.17 passes from the eastern part the district in a straight direction; while all beaches and most of the tourist places are lies to the western part. Tourist information centers, tourist purpose road maps in hoardings form need to be guard highway side and visible locations.

11. Lack of Environmental Awareness and Problem of Liberal Licensing

Natural beauty and healthy environment are the major tourist resources of tourism in Ratnagiri district. Uncontrolled tourism activities and other industrial activities that are developing in the region have raised certain environmental issues. Several chemicals, nuclear power and mining industries have established in Ratnagiri district. Their industries are directly releasing their waste and outlets with several Pollutants Rivers, creeks and costal lines. It has resulted loss of aqua culture including marine biodiversity at certain cases. Jagbudi River, Vashithi River and Dabhol creek are major examples of such environmental loss. Lote Parshuram, Gahne khadpoli, Ratnagiri are known for chemical industrial belts; whereas Kelshi, Dapoli, Jaitapur, Rajapur are known for mining activities. Ratnagiri power project i.e. Dabhol, Jaygad power project and Jaitapur...
power project, Finolex industry are mainly located on costal line of Ratnagiri district. The Ministry of Environment had specially appointed a fact finding committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Madhav Gadgil an environment activist; to study status of environment in western Ghat. According to report of this committee report industrial developments in Konkan including Ratnagiri district are destructing the environment and biodiversity of the region and that may create serious issue in the future. Development of Farm houses, hotels on hill tops and river sides have caused to deforestation and jungle fires. CRZ Act, Forest Regulation Act are being violated for industrialisation in terms of economic benefits. According to Gadgil committee report 11 bird species 9 wild plant species as well as 4 species of algae and several fish species are reported as endanger species due to the water pollution in Ratnagiri district. Several reptile species are also losing their life and habitat under deforestation and road construction. Tourist places of Ratnagiri district are surrounded by natural greenery and water bodies; such biodiversity loss may adversely affect on tourist arrivals.

12. Lack of Training Institutions and Programmes

State Government has encouraged tourism in Ratnagiri district and made special budgetary provision in its annual budgets. M.T.D.C. has also given special weightage for Konkan including Ratnagiri district under its 10 year tourism development plan. But all these budgetary provision are mainly concern with physical infrastructure development. There is no any provision and efforts from government and M.T.D.C. level for tourism education and training for local people as they are main stake holders of all these developments. M.T.D.C. has conducted certain workshops in Mumbai with collaboration of star class hoteliers; but local businessmen, villagers were far away from such workshops. M.T.D.C. under Ministry of Tourism needs to prepare place wise action plan for sustainable tourism development in Ratnagiri district.

13. Undisciplined Tourists

Problem of waste, road accidents, casualties, noise pollution, cultural pollution, illegal hunting these issues are becoming common at tourist places. Local people those are very loyal with their custom and environments are opposing tourism activities in their region due to such anti social issues. Murud, Guhagar, Tavsal beaches were very well
known for peaceful, cleanliness and hygienic environment. Unwanted gathering of undisciplined outsiders at the end of year for late night parties, week end celebrations, Kojagiri Pornima celebrations etc. events become troublesome for local people. Therefore local governing authorities have banned tourism at Marleshwar waterfall, Nivali water fall due to the undisciplined behaviour of tourists. Responsible tourism may solve these issues. But, such tourism approach yet to be developed among tourists and local people also.

14. Other issues

Lack of Co-ordination in various Govt. authorities, Political Interference, waste management issue, over exploitation of resources etc. are other issues that are observed during the study course. State government insisting various tourism development programmes in Ratnagiri district but during the period Indian railway a central Government undertaking has discontinued its Deccan odyssey Tourism Rail project without any consultation with State Government. Konkan tourism package was specially designed by focusing of foreign arrivals under Deccan odyssey project.

Natural resources including marine biodiversity are important tourism resources in the district; but the State and Central Ministry of Power and Energy has approved several power projects including nuclear energy projects in Ratnagiri district. All these projects are located at Arabian cost in Ratnagiri district. All these projects are known as highly sensitive in terms of pollution; these projects are carrying their operations at the cost of Marin biodiversity loss in the district.

The State Ministry of tourism categorised tourist places under B and C categories and made certain budgetary provision for infrastructure development. But some places in C category are not popular in local level also that places have been selected under political pressure and provided fund also. Minerals, water, forest, wild life are being exploited at large by industrial sector and private level also; but Government level do not have any regulation programme due to revenue factor and political pressure.

The study concludes that responsible tourism approach with mutual co-ordination of all stake holders may resolve the major issues that are discussed here. In addition new places need to be marketed to attract more tourists’ and to maximise tourism intake.
capacity of the district; with this reference tourism prosperity of Ratnagiri district has discussed as under.

8.2 Prospects of Tourism in Ratnagiri District.

Ratnagiri district is emerging as Tourism District of State of Maharashtra. Most of tourist places of Ratnagiri district have become popular at national and international level also. But, even tourism potentiality of district have not explored in total. The district is rich by culture, history, geography and mainly with natural resources. People of Ratnagiri district, their customs, festivals as well as their living style are the part and parcel of Konkan culture. History of Ratnagiri district is much valuable as Geography. Lokmanya Tilak, Veer Sawarkar, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharshi Dhondo Kesahv Karve, Hutatama Anant Kanhere, Sane Guruji, P.V. Kane and many more are the son of this land. The multiple tourist resources in across the district are capable to satisfy different type of tourists in various seasons. Tourist may enjoy rain fall, waterfalls, flooded rivers, streams and the sweet sceneries of flowing clouds from the hills and even from the roofs of hilly settlements in Monsoon. Winter is the peak season for various tourist activities in district. State tourism department and local NGOs’ organises numerous tourist festivals during this period. Summer season attracts tourist to taste world famous alphanso and other brands of Mangos, jackfruit, cashews and various syrups of indigenous fruits.

Such tourism potential of Ratnagiri district has examined in the present chapter.

The Term potential broadly means; something existing but not yet fully exploited. Thus it symbolizes the sum total of qualitative & quantitative values on which the degree & event of exploitability of the region for the purpose of tourism depends. It is difficult to explain the potential in numerical terms as it involves many factors in the content of tourism. Tourist resource is a complex & comprehensive term. Any natural, cultural thing with an appeal to attract people constitutes a tourist resource. The people have different perceptions, likes, interest that they show accordingly in different aspects of nature & culture. The tourists are required various types of services & the development of tourism in any area generally depends on the basic facilities & services provided in the tourist places to the tourists.
Similarly, the potential for tourism development is also dependent on the way, how the resource is developed and how it is sold. It also depends on the variety & richness of tourists attractions. Tourism deals with the physical, psychological & sometimes even spiritual demands of the people from diverse geographical, socio-cultural & economic background. They travel under different motives, interests, preferences & immediate needs. It means tourism development in any area depends on availability of recreation resources in addition to factors like climate, seasons, accessibility, attitude of the local people & planning. All these things create base for tourism.

The potential tourist places in Ratnagiri district are summarized with the view of development of tourism industry in near future. The study has tried to highlight the significant potential attractions. The attractions & resources, which are available at these places, have studied with the view of future development and for identifying basic infrastructure facilities to be required by the tourists.

8.3. Determinant of Prosperity of tourist places.

Ratnagiri district has lot of tourism prosperity. But all the places of Ratnagiri district cannot be developed as tourist places. Development of any place as tourist destination; several factors should be available according to the requirements of tourists. In the present study various places of the district are examined as potential tourist places; out of that researcher has found 55 places as potential tourist places on the given criteria as under.

1. Accessibility of the place.
2. Availability of basic amenities.
3. Historical Importance/value of the place.
4. Richness of the natural resources of the place.
5. Religious importance of the place.
6. Tourists favoured places.
7. Availability of various tourist resources.

Accessibility of the place means the suitability of the location to visit. Tourists always prefer such places where they can reach easily with their families; such places
develop as tourist destinations. According to this criterion most of the selected places of Ratnagiri districts are easily accessible by road transport.

Tourism develops at that place where food, drinking water, shelter and hygienic environment is available or can be available. Some places become popular even though above factors are not available in those places; especially the place has historical value. For example, most of the forts in Maharashtra are situated in remote areas, accessibility of the forts is not easy and no basic amenities are available in majority places; still the trekkers, researchers and followers of the royal family visit such places. Richness of the natural resources also encourages development of tourism. Water fall, scenery, lakes, beaches, wild animals or even desert etc. are the places where tourists want to spend their spare time or wish to visit such places for mental refreshes.

Ratnagiri district is rich in natural resources but the richness of these places is yet not properly explored. Such places need basic infrastructure with proper marketing and planning.

The religious tourist centers have more importance in the life of Indians. Each and every temple or other religious places of India have tourism prosperity. Some places remain overcrowded throughout the year; where as some places become popular after their renovation or due to some incidents. According to this criterion some places of Ratnagiri district have tourism prosperity; such places have discussed under the religious category.

Sometimes tourists visit places, which are on the way of their journey. People also give the frequent visit to specific places of the nearby areas; that places are called as tourists favored places. For example, sun set point, street bazaars, lake point or like as ‘Gate Way of India’, bangles or Chudi bazaar of Hyderabad; these places became tourist destinations because tourists like to give visit such places. Therefore this criterion is also considered while classifying potential tourist places of Ratnagiri district.

8.4 Classification of Potential Tourist Places in Ratnagiri District.

Potential tourist places of Ratnagiri districts have classified in to three categories namely as Religious, Historical and Natural tourist places.

Natural tourist places have sub classified in to four categories as Waterfalls, Beaches, and Hot springs and Hill stations. Some potential tourist places of the district
have multi potentiality. These places have classified under one category according to preferential potentiality of those places.

The brief information of the potential tourist places of Ratnagiri district as well as facilities available at those places have discussed as under.

8.3.1 Potential Religious places

Ratnagiri district has great tourism potential in respect to Sindhudurga district. But strong political support and wisdom of local people have made Sindhudurga district as first tourist district of the country. But in comparison to Sindhudurga present tourist flow in Ratnagiri district is quite high. Various research survey exhibits that visitors are interested to spend more days in Ratnagiri district as well as they are interested to visit remote destinations of Ratnagiri district. But lack of professional approach & wisdom of local people have failed to glorify hidden beauty of Ratnagiri district.

History of the district as well as natural resources, culture and religious festivals, food and life style etc. factors are important tourism motives. Foreign visitors are the backbone of tourism in Goa. Tourism resources including geographical area of Ratnagiri district is comparatively attract more foreign tourist in Ratnagiri district if hidden beauty and tourism resources of the district marketed properly. Such various type of tourism potential (Table No. 8.1) of Ratnagiri district has discussed on sample basis as under.

1. Anjarle

Anjarle is located 18 Km away from Dapoli. A beautiful temple of Lord Ganapati is located on the top of hill that is the major tourist attraction of Anjarle village. The Temple is famous as 'Kadyavarcha Ganpati'. The temple is built in the period of Madhavrao Peshave a great Maratha king. There is a lake in front of temple. There are two ways to reach the temple. One passes through the village by walking and climbing 250 hill steps & other by vehicles from the outside of the village that reaches directly near the temple. Anjarle village has also a calm & beautiful beach, (Plate No.8.1) which extends 3 Km in length. It can be attract thousands of tourists. The coconut, bettlenut plantation that can encourage the tourists for agro tourism, surrounds the village.

Anjarle a small village but has the facility of Bhakt Niwas in the premises of the temple. Paying guest facilities can be provided by most of the local people. There are 03
hotels cum restaurants, one scheduled bank, primary health center, medical shop etc.in Anjarle. Earlier ferryboat was the only one option to reach Anjarle by crossing Anjarle creek i.e. Jog River; now a bridge has been constructed to enter the village. One can enjoy the ferryboat facility, which is still in practice to cross the Jog River from Harnai to Anjarle. Frequency of buses is quiet good & private vehicles are also easily available. There is no petrol pump; police station & Mobile service. Only BSNL landline service is available.

Table No. 8.1
Classification of Potential Tourist Places of Ratnagiri District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Type of Tourism Potential</th>
<th>Name of the Potential Tourist Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>Anjarle, Dabhol, Ladghar/Tamas-Teerth, Asud, Adivare, Velneshwar, Kasheli, Hatis, Chinchkhari, Tikleshwar, Kasba, Ambav, Burband, Gondhale, Dadar, Turambav, Bharane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Historical</td>
<td>Harnei, Dabhol, Panhalekazi, Gopalgad,Palshet, Jaigad, Ambolgad, Purnagad, Malgund, Kasba, Mahipatgad, Govalkot-Govindgad, Rasalgad, Sumargad, Mahipatgad, Ambdav, Bankot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Ade, Ladghar, Kolthare, Karde, Rohile, Tawsal, Madban, Ambolgad, Ganeshgule, Ambolgad, Bhandarpule, Ambet, Warwade, Undi, Malgund, Karambavane (Diva Island)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A] Beaches</td>
<td>Chuna-kolvan, Nivali, Adare, Tivare, SawatSada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B] Waterfalls</td>
<td>Unhavare, Aravali, Rajewadi, Machal, Ambet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Location Map of Potential Tourist Places in Ratnagiri District. (Fig No. 8.1)
2. Asud

Asud village is located on Dapoli – Harnai – Anjarle road, at the distance of 7km from Dapoli. The novel named as 'Garambicha Bapu'; written by Shri. S.N. Pendse, movie and the T.V. Serial based on this novel have made this village more popular. Coconut & bettlenut plantations, Mango & other trees, road between the trees river, wooden bridge (Plate 8.2), Keshavraj temple of Lord Vishnu and Vyagreshwar temple of Lord Shiva; these are the attractions at Asud and will certainly attract the tourists on large number.

The Devsthan committee has built a Bhaktniwas at Vyagreshwar temple; which can accommodate 50 to 60 devotees at a time. Local people provide food on request with reasonable charges. Hotel cum restaurants and 2 lodges are also available at Asud & they provide vegetarian food. There is also facility of Primary health center, medical shop. Asud is on the way, therefore frequent buses; private vehicles from Dapoli are regularly available. There is no any other facility like bank, petrol pump, police station or mobile service.

3. Ladghar/Tamasteerth

Ladghar is also known as Tamas Teerth; which is located on the coast & is 12 km. from Dapoli. Ladghar has marvelous beach of 2 Km by length. Shri. Datta temple and Ancient Veleshwar temple are the tourist important attraction at Ladghar. The calm, clean beach (Plate 8.3) & temples can be the major tourist attraction. Infrastructure facilities are developed here i.e. good condition of road, 10 hotels & 7 lodges having the accommodation capacity of 500 tourists, guest room facility in the houses of local people etc. One scheduled bank, frequent public and Private buses, BSNL mobile service are also available. The facilities like primary health center, police station, petrol pump are not yet developed here.

4. Velneshwar

Velneshwar is another marvelous & beautiful village located on the seacoast. Velneshwar is quiet, clean village which will attract the tourists who are interested in agro tourism. Coconut fringed beach will offer the visitors ideal situation for swimming or relaxing for a while. It has a long isolated unspoiled beach which extends up to 4 Kms.(Plate 8.4). The velneshwar is also famous for the Shiva temple (Plate No. 8.5),
which has been established before 1200 years. Initially it was a small temple but before 400 years ago, in the period of Peshawas, Mr. Gadgil, local resident has renovated it. Mahashivratri is the major festival.

The temple has the facility of Bhakt niwas for the halting of having 60 to 70 tourists. There are 2 hotels and lodges that provide food and halting services. The local people are also providing home hospitality according to requirement of tourists. Good condition of road, post-office, BSNL mobile service, 01 private hospital, 02 dispensaries are developed in Velneshwar, but Police station, Petrol pump facilities, are not developed. However, the place has tremendous potential to develop as a tourist place.

5. Gondhale

Gondhale village is 45Km away from Chiplun and located on the bank of Tambi(Tamrapani) river. The village is surrounded by hills. This place is famous for the Harihareshwar temple and it was built in the period of Peshwas. One big well, having 40 staircases is available near the temple. Small garden & fountain are other attractions. Dharamshala is also built by the trust. The main festival of temple is Mahashivartri. It has few direct buses from Chiplun and well connected by other private vehicles. Hence it can become potential tourist place if the proper planning & management is done.

6. Dadar

Dadar is a village, which has historical background from the 12th century. The Maratha community of the village has contributed lot in the establishment of the kingdom ship of the Mughal king. The king has given 80 villages as a gift to the people for their livelihood. Out of these 80 villages, 13 villages form the foothills of Sahyadri are famous as soldiers villages from hundreds of years. Still today these people are servicing in Indian Army.

The people from 13 villages have constructed a Marvelous temple of Shri Ramvardayani. The temple has 13 pillars, 13 small entrances and 13 small domes. The main authorities are also from 13 villages. This temple is an attraction due to the carving on marble. It has the potential to develop as religious tourist place in nearby years. This temple is 20km away from Chiplun. No halting, lodging facilities but the local people can provide food & do arrangement of halting on request.
7. Turambav

Turambav is a village famous for the goddess Shardadevi & located 32km away from Chiplun. The temple is surrounded by Hills from three sides and the plantation from one side. The temple is also known for its carving on Marble. Navratra is the main festival and is celebrated for 9 days.

There is no halting & food facility at Turambav but at Chiplun or Savarde, 15Km from Turambav tourist can do the halt & the sightseeing.

8. Kolisare

Kolisare is a small, beautiful Kokani village having a marvelous temple of Laxmikeshav. Annual festival of the temple is from Kartik Shuddha Dashmi to Pournima. It is 46Km form Ratnagiri. This destination is also prefe

There is no halting or hotel facility; hence this place has its own limitation to develop as a tourist place, but tourists can halt at Ganpati Pule.

9. Kasaba

Kasaba Village is just 4 Kms. away from Sangmeshwar & only 1 Km from the Bombay Goa National highway No. 17. This village has a Karneshwar temple that is known for its wonderful carving & sculpture. The king of Chalukya, Karna has built this temple in the 6th century. The total area of the temple is 400sq. mts. It was carved in a single black stone with the Hemadpanthi style (Plate No. 7.6). It has also famous for the Pandavas. According to myth, Pandav wanted to construct more than 150 temples within a day. It couldn’t happen & they returned back before the morning. The Shastri River is flowing from the temple side. There is one more temple of Lord Ganpati. Mahashivratri is the main festival. It is celebrated from Magh Vadya Dashami to Mahashivratri, nearly one week.

Maratha king Shri. Sambhaji Maharaj was arrested by Mughals at Kasaba. Therefore Kasaba is also known for memorial of Sambaji Maharaj. The village is easily accessible by road. There are 09 hotels & Petrol pump just 3Kms away from temple.

The temple of Sapteshwar is located in the hilly area of Sahydri Mountain is close to Kasba. The king of Suryawanshi has constructed it in 8th Century with Hemadpanthi
style. There is also source of Alaknanda River. The king has built seven temples. A place is known to be Prati Kashi.

10. Ambav

Ambav is a village surrounded by hills & 4 Km. away from Makhajan. This village has the temple named as Suryanarayan temple. It is one of the 5 famous temples in India, receives the early morning sunrays directly on the idol of Suryanarayan. It can be a major attraction for the devotees. Famous Marathi writer Late Shri. Bal Kolhatkar has written his famous drama ‘Denaryache Hat Hajar’ in 3 days only & presented its first show. Rathasaptami is the main festival & the Bramhins named as Ponkshe are the main host of this festival. If the people can get the proper information about Ambav they can visit the place and it will become a tourist place.

11. Adivare

Adivare is a village that has the potential to become the tourist place. Mahakali temple is the main attraction for the tourists; it is the family God of most of southern kokani Hindu people. They worship the Mahakali as like the Mahalaxmi of Kolhapur.

According to the reference of Purana, the temple was constructed before the 1200 years ago. This temple has the record of visits by Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sirkhol Kanhoji Angare, and Samarth Ramdas Swami. There are two temples of two sisters of Mahakali i.e. Shri. Maha Saraswati to north & Shri Mahalaxmi to right. Navratra is the main festival.

The temple is 30 kms from Rajapur and 34 kms from Ratnagiri. It has Bhakt Niwas facility for 100 tourists. Local people provide food & also 3-4 small hotels & restaurants are providing Konkani food. There is no facility of police station, petrol pump. The temple is well carved with pictures related to hindu mythological stories. (Plate No. 8.7. & 8.8)

12. Kasheli

Kesheli is a famous village for the ancient Sun temple. The temple is one of the few temples in India. The idol of Sun has brought up from the place Prabhaspattanam close to Sommnath before 800 years ago. The king of Panhalgad had visited this place in Ashadh shuddh.4 shake 1113. He had gifted the village to the poojari for providing food
to 12 Brahmins each day at Kasheli. The written evidence in the form of Tamrapat is available in temple. Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj had also visited this place. Rathasaptmi is the main festival, which is celebrated for 5 days in the month of January.

A Devsthan committee has constructed a Bhaktniwas that has the capacity of 40 to 50 tourists. The village is well connected with Rajapur which is 35km, as well as Ratnagiri 32kms. by road. One bank is established here. But petrol pumps, police station are not established here. There is no any hotel or restaurant to serve the food facility then also this place has the potential according to the development of tourist center.

13. Tikaleshwar

The place is known for a temple that is situated on the hill of Sahydri range. It is located at a distance of 07Km from Talvade village. On the way to the temple, there are some caves & lakes. From the top of hill one can get the view of Sahyadri ranges. The road towards the temple is very difficult, hence it is attracting place for mountaineers & trekkers. From Sangameshwar it is 15Km & it requires 6 to 7 hours to climb up from Talvade. There are no any facilities of halting or food. Therefore everybody has to carry eatables with them.

14. Burband

Amaneshwar a temple of Lord Shiva is worshiped as Swayambhu temple of Burband. The temple is located on the bank of Gad River. A lake besided temple is also scenic place. Devotees are worshiping four corners of lake as Teertha places. Babasaheb Purandare, a well-known historian mentioned that the roads near the temple might have been constructed in the period of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar. The second Bajirao Peshava also visited the temple. The idol of Amaneshwar is made by gold. While entering the main temple; devotees are falling into certain customs. Mahashivratri & Tripuri Pournima are the main festivals of the temple.

This place is 35Km. from Chiplun, 24 Km. away from Sangmeshwar & 8 Km. from Araval railway station. Cleaned and spacious Dharmashala with minimum charges; is available at this place for halting. This place can become as a tourist place due to accessibility by road & railway, halting facility, scenic view, religious value & ancient temple of Hindu civilization.
15. Hatis

Hatis is located in Ratnagiri tehsil and just 12 k.ms. away from Ratnagiri city. It is an ideal place of Hindu – Muslim integration, surrounded by scenic view. The temple of Peer Baber Shaikh is the main attraction for both religions and in the month of *Magh shudh Poornima* annual fair or oorus is celebrated every year and thousands of his followers are coming to worship the Peer baba from all over Maharashtra. This place can become an important tourist place for its unique feature.

16. Chinchkhari

Shri. Datta temple of Chinchkhari is important attraction and this temple has been constructed by Shri. Gajanan Maharaj in the year 1931. The temple is just 10km. from Ratnagiri city and is located on the bank of the Rajiwada creek. For crossing the creek small boats are available. Regular bus service and auto rickshaws are available throughout the day. The tourists can enjoy half day tour and have a fun of boating.

17. Bharane

It is a small village located on Mumbai –Goa National Highway No.66 and is famous for temple of Shri. Kalika temple. Structural design of temple itself attracts ongoing tourists. The temple is famous in local region and Khed tehsil. People visit this temple frequently to worship the goddess. Navratra is the main festival. Temple is situated on highway as a result it is accessible by road transport and by train also. Lodging facilities are available at Bharne and Khed which is tehsil head quarter. Temple management has planned to construct Bhakta-Niwas and said project will began very shortly.

8.3.2 Potential Historical Places

1 Harnei

Harnai is an ancient port famous for trade & traveling. Just now it is not used as a port but famous for fishing activity. Daily auction of fresh fishes at seashore is an extraordinary experience to watch. The Suvarndurga fort in the sea (Plate No. 5.14) and Kanakdurga on the seashore are the signs of its history. It was one of the important naval base centers of the Maratha army. The Suwarnadurga fort is constructed on the rock in
the Arabian Sea. Sweet water well in the fort is the wonder of nature. The Sun set and beautiful scenery can be observed from the top of the fort.

2. Kanakdurg

Fort is located on the seashore of Harnei. It was an important Military base camp since ancient time. Here one can watch landforms on the rocks of the fort due to the erosion work of the sea waves.

A ferryboat journey is also available on demand. Post office, Banks, S.T. Bus Stand, 05 Hotels & restaurants, 2 Lodges, BSNL mobile service, 03 dispensaries, medical shops are the other available facilities at Harnei. Police station, Primary health center, petrol pump, ATM facilities are not existed in Harnai but tourists can visit this place on the way of Anjarle.

3. Panhale Kaji Caves

Panhale Kaji caves are located at 35 kms away from Dapoli. The ancient caves of Panhalekaji are also known as Pranalurg. From the name of the King Pranal, they are named as Pranalurg. There are 29 caves and these caves are situated at the place where Kotjai & Dhakti Rivers meet. The caves are the best samples of ancient sculptures. Artists like, Bodhivihar, Vajrayal Linyal & Nag-Panthiya have carved them in big stones in various periods. The disciples of Buddha started making them in the third century. Many centuries these disciples meditated here. The working of Shiva & Ganapatya caves was started later in 11th century by their followers.

In 14th century, the Nagpanthiyas started making 84 sculptures of Gorakhanath & Machindranath. The biggest cave is 8 mts. by length & the smallest cave is one & half mt. in length. There are idols of Ganapati, Saraswati and there is a Shivpindi, Budhavihar, and incomplete ‘Stupa’, which are its main attractions. There are pictures of horse riders, soldiers, Shri Krishna, Shankar, Natraj, Durgadevi, Shravan & Hanuman, epic of Ramayana, Buddha.

At Panhale Kazi there are no any facilities of food & halting. Frequency of transportation is also not satisfactory. There is no any petrol pump, police station, Bank & medical facility. It has great potential to develop the site with the help of modern
means and amenities. This place is suitable to organize half-day tour before or after lunch. It is also suitable to schools & colleges for their study tour.

4. Mahipatgad

Mahipatgad is an important fort in Sahyadri belt & is 30 km. away from Khed. This fort was built in 15th Century in the period of Vijapurkar & in 1661, Chattrapati Shivaji has concord it. He also built temples. The fort is located on the flat top of the hill and spread up in 120 acres land. Steep slope from all the sides was the main reason why the Shivaji had selected this location of fort. There is sweet water well in fort.

The direct bus is not available, but the S.T. Bus service is available upto Dahivali, Jaitapur & Wadgaon. One can reach the fort after walking 7 to 8 kms. The temple is used for halt & there are few pots kept in the temple that are used to prepare food for all persons & after lunch or dinner clean pots are kept there only. The trekking is generally good in the months of November to February due to good climate, clean & sufficient drinking water.

5. Sumargad

It is situated to southern side of Mahipatgad. The fort is 25Km away from Khed. The fort is constructed on the top of mountain hence it is very difficult to climb. The steep cliffs are used as a natural safety of the fort. There are two temples in fort named as Shri. Bhairi & Shri. Shiva. From the top of the fort you can see the natural beauty of surrounding region. This fort is not suitable for halt, one-day trek is possible only.

6. Rasalgad

Rasalgad is 20 Km away from Khed. The bus service is available up to the place Nimanichi wadi & there after within 2 hours we can reach on the top of fort. This fort is easy to climb. The temple of Shri. Zolai-Waghjai & a lake for drinking water are situated in the fort. In the southern side of fort, there is one ancient cave, which has four pillars, & Ganesh statue is carved on the pillars. There is also a water tank in this cave. The motorable road surrounded by Forest (Plate No.5.17) to reach top of the hill and an opportunity to observe wild life and birds are the major features of Fort Rasalgad. Wild life tourism can be an additional potential of tourism at Rasalgad.
7. **Paldurg**

Paldurg is 28Km from Khed & 10 Km from Shirgaon village. This fort is also not easy to climb. There are few lakes but the fort is not in good condition. After rainy season trekking is possible. It is an ideal place for trekkers only in the sub ranges of Sahyadri hill.

8. **Govalkot**

Govalkot is just 3km from Chiplun & is famous for two temples & the remains of the fort Govindgad. The temple of Shridev Someshwar & Shreedevi Karanjeshwari are constructed at the foot of Govalkot fort on the bank of Vashisthi River. The temple of Godess Shridevi Karanjeshwari is famous since the 8th Century.

This place can become famous for backwater tourism due to its ideal location. The place is close to Chiplun & hence the halting & food facilities are available at Chiplun. The place is accessible by road & railway station, auto rickshaws are easily available. Peaceful nature & beautiful surroundings are the major reasons of this place, which can be helpful for the development of tourist place.

9. **Diva Island/ Karambvane**

This place is ideal for the nature lovers & trekkers. This island is situated in Dabhol creek. This island has historical remains of fort and there are 6 water tanks, caves, carved stones and tunnels.

Backwater tourism may be an important activity at this place & This place is on the way of Govalkot Dabhol ferryboat route. There are 4 islands, out of these 3 are covered by forest. People do agricultural activity in some part of island. There are general shop stores but lack of hotels & halting facility. It is well connected by bus service & also has the ferry boat facility.

The place is historic as well as picnic point for the people & it can attract the tourists who want to enjoy the scenery & ferry boat experience after rainy reason. Scooter boating and cycle boating may be additional feature at this places if provided in safe manner. Tourist may carry fishing activities also. Marin biodiversity is an additional opportunity at Diva.
10. **Purnagad**

Purnagad is a famous historic place due to the Purnagad fort, which is situated at the mouth of Muchkundi River. The fort is spread over 22 acres of land. From the top of fort one can enjoy the beautiful scenery of Arabian Sea.

Like other places, Purnagad has also not having halting & food facilities. But it is well connected by road and is 22 kms. from Ratnagiri, 4 kms from Pawas. Hence it will be an enjoyable one-day trip of Pawas- Purnagad & Ganeshgule.

Undi & Warvade are the other two places, which are located on the seacoast & have beautiful beaches. These two villages are very calm & quiet & they have the potential of developing tourist place for whole year.

11. **Jaigad**

Jaigad is a village near the fort of the same name, at the entrance to Shastri or Sangmeshwar River. Jaigad was also famous port from the ancient period. Jaigad or Fort victory, with an area of four acres, stands close to the sea and gently rising ground not more than 200 feet above the sea. This fort is built in the sixteenth century by the Bijapur kings. It had 20 bastions. A fort is ruined now, but perfect place to have a picnic (Plate No.5.18). Jaigad beach is fairly safe for swimming. The temple of Karhateshwar is constructed to the west side of fort in the village, Nandivade & is an ancient temple. There is also a reservoir of very pure water. Jaigad is an ideal place for the boating & other water games i.e. speed boating, scuba diving, scorn lings etc. The local authorities are waiting for all these water games and this will be helpful to an excellent water sport center in Ratnagiri district. It is located 40km. away from Ratnagiri. But at Jaigad there is no facility of halting. The hotels cum restaurants are there to provide breakfast items only. BSNL, Airtel service is available.

12. **Gopalgad**

Anjanvel or the Gopalgad fort is located on the bank of Dabhol creek where Vashishthi River meets the Arabian Sea. This region was under the power of Muslim rulers from the year 1312 to 1650 years. The king of Vijapur built this strong fort & after 1660 Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj won it. The Angare soldiers developed Ajanvel or Gopalgad as an important port. It was the tehsil place from 16th Century up to the 1898
years. But again at the end of 19th century it was concord by British Carnal Kenedi & Anjanvel had lost its importance.

Gopalgad is 15 kms. from Guhagar and is situated on the hill of Anjanvel village. The fort is established in an area of 8 acres. The fort is in good condition. The safety walls are protecting the fort from the sea waves. There is fresh water well inside the fort, just away 10 to 15 feet from the sea. There is one lighthouse to watch but prior permission is required. From the tower of lighthouse one can watch the beautiful, scenic view of surroundings. Talkeshwar temple of Shiva is also an ancient temple, which will be a main attraction for tourists. This temple has constructed in the period of Peshwas. There is a deep valley that is situated in two hills of fort and the sea waves are continuously attacking in this valley. It is the most thrilling & exciting experience according to the tourists.

The fort is accessible by road. There is S. T. bus service from early morning to evening 5 PM only. Private vehicles are also available. But no facilities of halting & other required things. Gopalgad will be the main attraction of trekkers & researchers if it is properly developed.

13. Palshet

Palshet a village, surrounded by coconut, bettlenut & Mango plantation, is situated on the coast. This village became well known due to the archeological evidence, which was found before few years. According to that research survey Palshet was the ancient port, located on the sea route & the main thing, which will attract the number of tourists, is that the ancient cave of human being. The cave is located 2km away from sea at the height of 85 mts. from the sea level & in the area of Susrondi near the Sundar river’s source. After crossing the plateau of Jambha(Laterite) rock one can reach there and a natural flow of water which falls in the form of waterfall from the height of 4.5 mts approximately. The cave is just close to this waterfall. The survey of Archeologist Dr. Ashok Marathe, Pune, indicates that the human being who was living in this cave was from Homo-erectus category & he was living before 90,000 years ago. Near about 54 different types of tools have been discovered in this cave.
The cave is in rectangular shape & having length of 1.5 mts & height 2.5 mts. This cave will be great attraction not only for researchers, geographers but also for all the tourists.

Palshet had been important port from the second century up to the 16th Century. One Greek sailor has written the book named as ‘Periplus Moris Eriegrayer’ depending upon his travel experience, given the reference of Palshet port. After the 16th century this port has lost its importance due to the sand deposition. There are also some evidences of ancient sea route (named as Sagari Mahamarg) parallel to coast for the travelers with having the facility of drinking water. There are also temples of Shri. Datta, Shri Kashi Vishweshwar, Shri Laxminarayan.

In Palshet quality hotels & lodging facilities are not available, but it is well connected with Guhagar by road. Frequent bus service & private vehicles are also available. Tourists can visit this place during the daytime & go back to Guhagar for halt. All existing natural & historical evidences will make Palshet an important tourist place if it is properly explored.

14. Mahipatgad/Mahimangad

Mahipatgad & Tikaleshwar can become favourable places of trekkers Mahipatgad is 22kms away from Devrulk via Hativ-Kundi and via Harpude –Nigudwadi it is 18 Km away. Shri Shivaji Maharaj built the fort for halting & resting purpose to his soldiers. There is a big cave where 500 soldiers can rest, but now it is not in good condition. There are 4 lakes, 3 temples located on the fort. It is easy to climb after the rainy season & during the daytime only.

15. Dabhol

Dabhol is an important port from the ancient time. Large size boats can come & dock here. After the confluence of the rivers Vashisthi & Jagbudi, Dabhol creek is flowing towards the Arabian Sea. Boat riding facility in the backwater of Dabhol creek can be developed to promote the tourism activity. Ancient Shrine, Seashore is the additional features of Dabhol. The facility of ferryboat for the transportation of heavy vehicles including buses and motorcars & passengers from Dhopave to Dabhol is
encouraging factor to the promotion of tourism. The availability of ferryboat has reduced
90 km. road distance from Dapoli to Guhagar

Dabhol has also one famous temple of Chandikadevi; which is located in the deep
black stoned cave. The devotees have to get down few staircases in the dark. There is no
permission to use any kind of artificial light to go down. Only one can see the goddess in
lighted oil lamps. This thrilling experience & other things can make this place as a tourist
destination. Navratra is the main festival of Devi Chandika temple. An ancient anda
masjid is sign of Mughal Empire at Dabhol (Plate No.5.19). It is an important historical
monument to the researchers.

Dabhol is located 27 Kms. away from Dapoli. Frequent bus service & private
vehicles are available. Two schedule banks, BSNL network availability, medical shops,
and dispensaries are existed at Dabhol. But narrow roads with ghat section as well as non
availability of Petrol pump, Police station, Primary health center are the major hurdles in
the development of Dabhol as tourist destination. Two lodges &. Hotel/ restaurants are
established here & also one Agro tourism Sankul is developed at Vanoshi on the way of
Dapoli –Dabhol road.

Enron project is one more tourist point near Dabhol, which is located at Ranvi-
Veldur village. The project site & its location is an important tourist place for the
students & researchers from various fields.

8.3.3 Potential Natural Places

A] Beaches

Beaches are famous tourist places at worldwide. Ratnagiri is a coastal district.
Certain beaches of district are already known as popular destinations. There are some
incredible coastal lines that are undeveloped and can be a significant sources of beach
tourism it they are enriched by infrastructure and marketed properly. Such potential
beaches of district are as under.

1. Karde

Karde is closely located to Murud in Dapoli tehsil. A beach at Karde is 2 km. by
length. A Karde village has other features that can attract the tourists. Local houses are
available at Karde for halting. Three hotels with lodging facilities are already at Karde
beach. These hotels are deluxe category and providing continental food with quality accommodations.

The e is only one Road and that is too narrow. Other recreational facilities are to be developed at Karde beach. BSNL service, Post office and Primary school etc. facilities are available. Shortage of drinking water is the main problem in summer season.

2. Kolthare

Kolthare a small village has its identity as a potential tourist center. There is a safe, virgin beach of 3 Km, a heritage home, agro tourism including organic farming, medicinal plants, Agom Medicine factory, canning factory which will give full satisfaction to the tourists. The tourists can enjoy homely hospitality while living in farmer’s house. Surrounded with coconut & bettlenut plantation, vegetarian Kokani food served on banana leaves, bullock cart safari & all other development will helpful to develop Kolthare as a tourist place. It is 17Km. away from Dapoli.

Condition of road should be improved, private & Govt. bus transportation is yet limited 02 Lodges, family hospitality, and medical shop, 2 dispensaries are established here. But there are no facilities of petrol pump, police station and mobile network and banking etc.

3. Ade

Ade is beautiful village located on the seacoast & closer to newly constructed Maha Sagari Marg. It is 21 kms away from Dapoli. The village has heritage home, having coconut & bettlenut plantation, safe & straight beach of 3 km by length are the major factors, which can be helpful to develop this place as tourist destination.

Some private companies including tourist agencies have purchased 100 acres and more land in Ade for tourist related activities. Amusement park proposed in Ade under FDI. This destination needs to establish hotels, lodges & amusement parks as a part of basic amenities to bring tourists from urban centers. Ade will be important tourist destination under tourist circuit in between Velas and Dapoli. Infrastructural facilities are absent at present in Ade. Fishing & agriculture are the major economic but seasonal activities in Ade at present. Tourism can develop as permanent & sustainable source of income in Ade.
4. Tavsal

Tavsal is another beautiful village, which is located on the seacoast. It is the last village of Guhagar tehsil and the Shastri River meets the Arabian Sea & this river is known as Jaigad creek. Here Backwater tourism will be the main attraction for tourists. Fishing with small boat can be enjoyed here.

An ancient fort Vijaygad is located on the border of Tavsal village, which has the history from 14th century. But now there are only the remains of this fort. The two temples i.e. Ganapati & Hanuman are built one side of village and surrounded by coconut & mango plantation. Also there is the plantation of Palm trees on the coast which extends up to 1.5 Km in length. This beach is very calm, strait, unspoiled & isolated; hence it has the capacity to attract the tourists.

But this place has no facility of halting. The local people can provide food according to the demand. This village has a great potential of water sports i.e. pedal boat scooter boat due to its ideal location. The Government authorities or local authorities should consider all these things & take initiative for the minimum required infrastructure. Tavsal is ideal for ferryboats & local people already started daily routine trips from Tavsal to Jaigad. This ferryboat service reduces the distance (more than 100 kms) by road from Guhagar to Ratnagiri for two wheelers. It will also helpful for the tourists who want to go Ganpatipule & Ratnagiri.

5. Rohile

Rohile is the smallest village of Guhagar tehsil having only 16 acres area. It has also a small but spectacular beach of only 0.5 kms and covered by forest from three sides. A small river meets to sea here hence the boating, fishing are the main attractions to the tourists. Tourists can maintain their privacy and can enjoy swimming at clean & beautiful beach. This place is also suitable to enjoy peaceful holiday.

Rohile is easily accessible by road but does not have other facilities. But scenic view of coast & privacy are the strong points for the development of tourist place

6. Ganeshgule

Ganeshgule is a village famous for beautiful beach and Ganesh temple. The village is situated on beautiful strip of green hills. The beach is 1.5Km in length &
famous for the white sand. The coconut plantation is also an important feature of the village. Hence it is also known as Madbangule. This place is located away from the main road and quite unknown for the most of tourists. A village is close to Pawas. It is just 3 kms away from Pawas. Hence it can become popular among the tourists who visit Pawas.

There is one myth about the Ganesh temple of Madbangule. The God Ganesh has left the village and went to Ganpatipule in the ancient period, but the people of Madbangule are still worshiping the stone as a Ganesh; that is 12 feet in height. This temple is known as Swaymbhu Ganesh Temple. Halting & food facilities are absent in Madbangule. Local villagers may provide this facility if communicated in advance only. This place has tourism potential but basic amenities need to be developed on priority basis.

7. Bhandarpule

Bhandarpule a marvelous village is just 2kms away from Ganpatipule. The beautiful beach is the major attraction here for the tourists but maximum tourists are visiting to Ganpatipule and this place is not getting proper importance. It comes under the grampanchayat of Nevare village. The village is established in the period of Shri Shivaji Maharaj & developed in the Peshava period. The coconut plantations, hilly surroundings, sandy beach, the sunset from the top of hill are major tourist attractions. Here one hotel having 3 stars and other small hotels & restaurants are already existed. Good connectivity by road, easy accessibility, and mobile service of BSNL & Reliance, frequency of buses is well developed here. Hence it will helpful to give Bhandarpule as a separate identity.

8. Malgund

Malgund is also just 2kms away from Ganpatipule & have a beautiful beach with 3km. length. This beach has palm, coconut plantation & silver colour sand which will attract the tourists more. But due the impact of Ganpatipule the tourists are not turning towards Malgund on a large scale. Like Bhandarpule, Malgund has also its own identity. It is famous for Omkareshwar temple of the Peshave Period. Shree Chandikadevi and Shree Mahalakshmi temples are also important. Malgund is also known all over in
Maharashtra for the great Marathi poet, Keshavsut. It is the birthplace of Keshavsut. The old house of Keshavsut is developed as a Museum of poet.

All infrastructural facilities are developed here. But this place demands responsible tourism and such attitude need to be developed among tourist also. Marketing, Advertising & effective communication with tourists are essential for the betterment of the place

9. Ambolgad

Ambolgad, a name of fort & village is also famous for spectacular beach. There are only remains of fort. The village has tremendous potential to attract the tourists due to its coastal location. A calm & quiet scenic beach of Ambolgad is very beautiful with clean & golden sand. This place is suitable to relax, to swim & to enjoy holidays with family members with any rush and traffic. The monastery of Gagangiri Maharaj is also located here. But lack of various facilities, this place is not developed till today. Natural scenic beauty and peaceful environment are the main reasons to become this place as a tourist destination. Halting & food facilities these minimum facilities can change the present economic scenario of this place. Ambolgad beach is very safe to swim as a result; water sports like boating, speed boating, parachuting can be developed here through proper planning & management. Some private parties are coming forward to take initiatives & purchasing lands for various purposes. It will change the scenario of the village within few years. Ambolgad is 40 Km from Rajapur and 42km from Ratnagiri.

10. Madban

Madban is a village, having scenic view of palm plantations & beach. The clean & unspoiled beach which extends, 2km will be the major attraction to the tourists. It is located 36kms away from Rajapur. The beach is known for white sand & has the potential to develop as a tourist place. Infrastructure facilities are not developed but the local authority or NGO's have to take initiative for the basic requirements of the tourists.

11. Vetye

A temple of Goddess Mahakali is religious tourist attraction in Vetye. It is coastal village and that has tourism prosperity. Palm plantation besides the beach and surrounded to village may encourage nature lovers to stay stress free. Tourist may guard tends; that
can be provided local level. Separate tourist huts can be made available especially in summer. Some tourists are visiting this place occasionally. Creek at Vetye is also safe for boating, backwater tourism as well as for swimming & fishing. This place is easily accessible by road from Ratnagiri. Villagers may entertain tourist by folk dance and folk-art; which they represents on occasion of religious festivals at local level.

**B) Waterfalls**

Mountains and hills are important land forms of Ratnagiri district. Heavy rain fall i.e. an average 3700 mm. per year is also important feature of the district. In the monsoon, numbers of waterfalls are observed in valleys and mountain strip in all over district. Some of them are already known as important tourist destinations like Marleshwar waterfall, Tiware water fall, Nivali waterfall etc. Other waterfalls are quite in remote areas and are not explored even they have large tourism potential. According to study researchers has observed following places as potential tourism places.

**1 Chuna-kolvan**

Chuna Kolvan is located near the Oni village of Rajapur tehsil. Its distance from Rajapur is 25 km by road. This village has great potential to attract the tourists due to the waterfall named as Sawatkada. It is marvelous and beautiful to see the wonder of nature in Rainy season. This has the capacity to attract the tourists at least 4 to 5 months from June to October – November. It has to develop by the local authority & other NGO’S. This place is easily accessible by road, but do not have other infrastructure facilities.

**2 Sawatsada**

Sawatsada is a place located on Mumbai-Goa highway No. 17/66 near Chiplun it is marvelous and scenic place surrounded by forest and Sahyadri ranges. This place can become tourist place due to its natural scenery & the hotels, which have established now in nearby areas. Birds and wild life are also observed nearby waterfall. This waterfall can be developed as seasonal tourism place especially as monsoon tourism. Tourists are visiting this place; but lack of safety measures is the major issue at this place. Parking issue may be serious at this location in future; visitors are parking their vehicles on the both side of national highway No.66. Pay parking facility in a private land can develop as a source of income for local people.
3 Tiware

A big waterfall originating from Sahyadri hills are the major attraction in Tiware village. This water fall is falling down from the height of 200 feets. This destination is also famous for its cool & pleasant climate. This waterfall is the origin of Shastri River. Even in summer there is plenty of water supply to this waterfall & as a result it can become next important tourist destination for the nature lovers. This waterfall is 15Kms from Sangameshwar. Prachitgad, a trekker’s paradise is also closer to Tiware waterfall.

C) Hot springs-

Konkan and especially Ratnagiri district is the land of natural wonders. Hot springs are observed at distinct places in Ratnagiri district. Two hot springs out of seven may develop as tourist destinations. Basic infrastructure are available at these places therefore tourist are visiting these sites. But, at present these locations are not much popular. Other hot springs are ignored at local level also. Locations of these two hot springs are the major factor in their popularity. These places are discussed as under.

1. Unhavare

Unhavare is a village having the natural gift of hot springs. The village is 35 Kms. away from Dapoli. There are two separate Kundas or tanks for the bathing of male & female separately. The temperature of water is 70 0C to 80oC. This hot water is having sulphur contents; therefore people come here to bath or to remove their skin disease. Only landline phone service is available at Unhavare. No any other facilities are yet developed properly here. Water tanks i.e. Kundas and Bathrooms are needed to be clean and reconstruct. Other recreational facilities should be developed.

2. Aravali-

Aravali is another village having the natural gift of hot springs. This place is located just a few meters away from the Bombay Goa National highway No. 17. The River Shastri is very close to the Hot spring Kunds; it has religious value. The hot water of the Kunds is available throughout the year. Separately constructed rooms for males & females are available here therefore it is important to have a bath. Generally Rainy &
winter season can attract tourists more in numbers due to its access from highway. It is only 2km away from Aravali station of Konkan railway.

D] Hill station

1. Machal

Machal, a hill station is located on the height of 4000 feet above the sea level and 25km. away from Lanja. Nearest railway station is Adavli, which is 9km away. In the morning there are few buses up to Salpe road, from there by rickshaw up to Salpe and by walking to Machal. This place is also known for trekking. The cave of Muchikundi sage can be observed here. No hotels at Machal, but the local people can do arrangement of halting & food after request. This place can be developed for the trekkers & for nature lovers after rainy season.

2. Ambet

Ambet is a small village located on a top of hill. The climate is very pleasant & the hill is surrounded by forest. The temple of Durgadevi & a stream, which flows throughout the year, are the attractions at Ambet.

This place can become important for the school trips & trekkers. There is no motorable road hence people have to go either by walking from Tural village or from Makhjan. It is 3km from Makhjan bus stand. Tourists can visit Ambet & nearby places by halting at Makhjan. There is scope to develop accommodation facilities i.e. domestic lodging and boarding in Makhjan.

Mavalange is another potential place which is 5 Kms away from Makhajan. It is located on a hill and known as a native place of Late Shri. Dadasaheb Mavalkar, the first speaker of the Parliament of India. The place has also historical background. The Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has visited this place and started an observatory center here to keep control on surrounding region. There is a temple of Narsihma and the artificial lake constructed by Makhajan Grampanchayat, it will be great attraction to the tourists if the boating facility will be made available.

Remains of Chalukya’s period are 01 km. away from Mavalange. Bamankada waterfall of Dhamapur is 5kms away from this place. All these factors have created tourism opportunities in this place.
8.5 Conclusion

Tourism in Ratnagiri district is multidimensional; regional culture, natural beauty, religious and historical resources as well as emerging trends of health, weekend tourism & eco-tourism has offered new employment sources to local people vice-versa an entertainment sources to visitors. Each and every village of south Konkan has tourism potential that need to be explored and preference should be given to conserve the available resources in the age of modernisation; otherwise these places may loss their tourism prospects if tourist dose not experienced place wise differences. New destinations need to be marketed properly as well as professional & technical assistance need to provide local tourism operators for development their entrepreneurship development.
Photo Plates of Potential Tourist Places in Ratnagiri District

(Plate-8.1)

A Calm & Clean view of Anjarle beach, Anjarle, Tehsil Dapoli

(Plate-8.2)

A Traditional Wooden Bridge on the way of Shri. Keshavraj Temple - Asud, Dapoli
A long view of Ladghar beach, Ladghar, Tehsil Dapoli

A view of sandy & rocky beach of Velneshwar, Tehsil Guhagar
A Temple of Lord Shiva, Velneshwar, Tehsil Guhagar

Hemadpanthi Temple of Karneshwar, Kasba, Tehsil Sangameshwar
A spiritual image of Devi Kalika Mata, Adivare, Tehsil Rajapur

Wooden Carving in Mahakali Temple, Adivare
Sea Fort, Suwarnadurg, Harnei, Tehsil Dapoli

A view of Harnei Port & Light House, Harnei, Tehsil Dapoli
A view of ancient cave, Panhale Kazi, Tehsil Dapoli

A way to jungle trail, Fort Rasalgad, Tehsil Khed
A Sea view from Jaigad Fort, Jaigad, Tehsil Ratnagiri

Anda Masjid, An Ancient Monument at Dabhol Port, Tehsil Dabhol
Tourist Riding Boat at Dabhol Backwater, Tehsil Dapoli

A traditional Temple of Lord Vishnu, Ade-Utamber village, Tehsil Dapoli
A high tide view of Rohile beach, Rohile, Tehsil Guhagar

An evening at Malgund beach, Malgund, Tehsil Ratnagiri
An untamed beach of Ambolgad, Tehsil Rajapur

Hedvi Beach Rocky & Natural Fountain