



## A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION IN SINDHUDURG DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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**Abstract-** Sindhudurg District has been declared as a 'Tourism District' on 30th April 1997. The natural resources, coastal lines, waterfalls, hot springs, temples, historical forts, caves, wild-life, hill ranges, scenery and amenable climate are very important resources of tourist attraction.

The various facilities available to the domestic and foreign tourists in Sindhudurg district. These include natural resources, transportation, infrastructure, hospitality resources and major tourist attractions.

For the research work Sindhudurg District is selected. This district has at East Kolhapur district, at south Belgaum and Goa state at North Ratnagiri district and at west Arabian Sea. It is smallest district in Maharashtra state. It's area is 5207 sq.kms. Its geographical Location of Sindhudurg is 15° 36' to 16° 40' North latitudes as 73° 19' to 74° 18' East longitude. As per 2001 census it has 743 inhabited villages and 5 towns.

The object of study region is, to highlight the attractive tourist destinations and religious places in the region. This study based on primary and secondary data. Tourist attractions in the district as is, natural beauty, waterfall, umala, caves, temples, beaches, ports, forts, mini garden, rock garden, tracking, rock climbing, boating, valley crossing, wild life, festival's fairs, arts, handicrafts, creeks, lakes etc. places.

To the stay of tourist, which requires natural resources, infrastructural and transportation facilities, accommodation, food, recreation, sight seeing, shopping and variety of facilities and services for use and enjoyments. The source of tourism depends on all these facilities.

**Keywords-** Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra, Tourism, natural resources

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### Introduction

Sindhudurg District has been declared as a 'Turisum District' on 30th April 1997. The natural resources, coastal lines, waterfalls, hot springs, temples, historical forts, caves, wild-life, hill ranges, scenery and amenable climate are very important resources of tourist attraction. Sindhudurg has a number of spots of scenic beauty and a healthy clean environment along its coastline is dotted with beautiful virgin beaches and the sea. It's coast is also rich with a variety of marine species.

Some important tourist places in the district includes, Amboli hill station, Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg Ocean forts, Kunkeshwar temple, Osargaon and Dhamapur Talav, Moti Talav at Sawantwadi and virgin beaches at Tarkarli, Nivati, Achara, Malvan, Deobag and Mithbav etc.

The various facilities available to the domestic and foreign tourists in Sindhudurg district. These include natural resources, transportation, infrastructure, hospitality resources and major tourist attractions along with ropeway and boating etc.

Natural resources includes climate, Natural beauty, wild life, hills,

lakes, ponds, rivers, waterfalls and hot springs in Sindhudurg district. In infrastructural facilities like water supply system, accommodation, electricity and power supply system, communication system etc. are the basic requirements of Sindhudurg to achieve the goal of tourism. Transportation includes surface transport, Railways and aviation services etc.

The various facilities available to the domestic and foreign tourists in Sindhudurg district. These include natural resources, transportation, infrastructure, hospitality resources and major tourist attractions along with ropeways, boating etc.

### Study Region

Southern part of Konkan which spreads to borderline of Goa state is called 'Sindhudurg district'. The district has at east Kolhapur district, at South Belgaum and Goa state at north Ratnagiri district and at west Arabian Sea. It is the smallest district in Maharashtra sate. Its area is 5207 sq.kms. It is just 1.69% of Maharashtra's area. The Geographical ocation of Sindhudurg district is 15° 36' to 16° 40' North Latitudes as 73° 19' to 74° 18' East longitudes. The freshy eye pleasing sea share, high mountains, hills, rare flat lands and Sa-

Sindhudurg mountain ranges [Fig-1]. Sindhudurg district is made up of green forest, heart catching varied fruit and flowers. This is the region of coconut, Jackfruit and all of world famous Alphonso Mango.



Fig. 1- Map of Sindhudurg district (Study area)

Development of Sindhudurg district through tourism is the main object of Maharashtra Government. Government of Maharashtra declared that, Sindhudurg district is a 'Tourism District' in Maharashtra in the year 1997. Today every country in the world is looking to tourism as an important factor in the growth of national prosperity.

The territory is almost hilly area with altitudes ranging between 50-60 meters above the mean sea level (MSL). As per 2001 census it has 743 inhabited villages and 5 towns. The name of the district has been adopted from the famous ocean fort named Sindhudurg.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the study were as follows

- To study the profile of Sindhudurg district.
- To highlight places in study region.
- To review the progress of tourism related works in the study region.

### Hypothesis

Tourism can generate employment opportunities especially in the interior and coastal areas of the district.

### Research Methodology

The present study is based on the primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected from visits to various tourist centers, taken photographs, interviews and sample tourists.

Secondary resources were made for tracing the history of tourism development in Sindhudurg district. Secondary data was collected from reference books review, periodicals, booklets, news papers, magazines, research report, internet, thesis etc.

### Tourist Attractions in the District

Tahasilwise some important tourist centers in the Sindhudurg district are explained as follows:

#### Vaibhavwadi Taluka

##### Napane Waterfall

This waterfall is 13 kms away from Talere and 11 kms from Vaibhavwadi. This place is recognized as a novel tourist spot, birds resting zones. Napane (Sharpe) waterfall, a place of natural showers. There are providing tourist facilities like a water park, boating, water sports and Children Park etc. [Fig-2].



Fig. 2- Napane Waterfall

#### Dajipur Wild Life

Dajipur wild life sanctuary is an ideal place for film and adventure shooting. It is situated at the altitude of 1200 meters having cool, calm and pleasant climate throughout the year. Jungle is very thick and it is sprawling about 376 sq.kms. There are so many spectacular birds. The natural beauty, greenery, scenery and serene views around the huge ranges of the Sahyadri [Fig-3].



Fig. 3- Dajipur wild life sanctuary



### Devgad Taluka

#### Kunkeshwar Temple

This temple is 19 km away from Deogad. The nature has bestowed beauty to placing this temple on the bank of Arabian Sea. Main annual event of this temple is Mahashivratri festival, where people gather in thousands to worship lord Shiva. This temple is built around A.D. 1100 by the yadava rulers [Fig-4].

Kunkeshwar in Devgataluka is an important Pilgrim Center in Konkan region and is famous for its fine and silver sand beach.



Fig. 4- Kunkeshwar Temple

### Kankavli Taluka

#### Bhalchandra Maharaj Math

The people of Kankavli town adore this script as a supreme being. Whose memorial lies inside the math. Datta, Hanuman, Kashivishweshwar temples are also pilgrim places around this math [Fig-5].



Fig. 5- Shree Paramhans Bhalchandra Maharaj and Bhalchandra Maharaj Math

### Gopuri Ashram



Fig. 6- Konkan Gandhi's Gopuri Ashram

This Ashram 2 km away from Kankavli. Konkan Gandhi's Gopuri Ashram is situated at Wagade. This Ashram established in 1948 situated on Mumbai-Kankavli-Goa highway on the bank of Gad River. This place is also prominent for the Ashram of Appasaheb Patwardhan, a spiritual leader who influenced on entire generation of Konkan [Fig-6].

### Kudal Taluka

#### Rawool Maharaj Math

This math is 3.5 km away from Kudal town. Rawoolmaharaj was a potent saint of Kankon who sacrificed himself for the welfare of the society. Later he self immolated himself at Pinguli, where math stands in him name [Fig-7].



Fig. 7- Rawool Maharaj Math

### Malvan Taluka

#### Sindhudurg Fort (Ocean Fort )

This fort is said to be a pride of Maratha glory. The Sindhudurg Fort, also Known as the ocean fort [Fig-8]. On a rocky island just off the Malvan coast lies Sindhudurg. The ocean Fort, constructed by Chhatrapati Shivaji in 1664 AD impressions of Shivaji's palm and foot print preserved on dry lime stone.

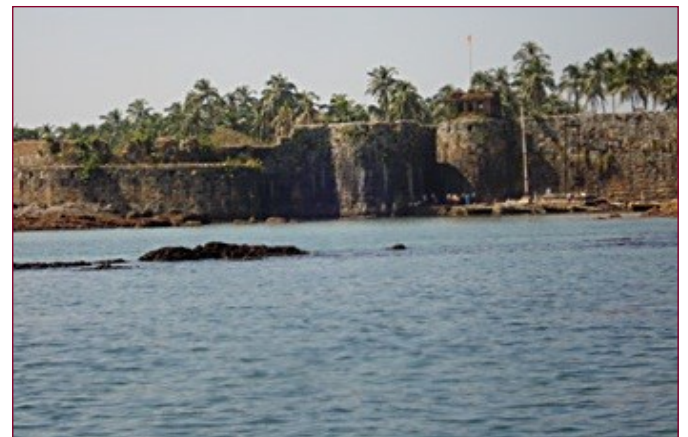


Fig. 8- Sindhudurg Fort (Ocean Fort )

### Vengurla Taluka

#### Nivati Beach

Just 25 km away from Vengurla. On this beach fishermen's seen launching their traditional boats and nets daily into the sea is an interesting feature to watch on this beach. First five star cottage in Sindhudurg district [Fig-9].





Fig. 9- Nivati Beach

### Sawantwadi Taluka

#### The Palace of Maharaja

The Oldest ruling family in Konkan are the Sawant Bhosale's of Sawantwadi. The Kingdom was established in the 1627 by Khem-Sawant-I. In 1692 Khem Sawant-II established Sawantwadi [Fig-10].



Fig. 10- The Palace of Maharaja Sawant Bhosale's of Sawantwadi

#### Wooden toys of Sawantwadi

This town is well known for its wooden crafts, wooden toys, bamboo crafts, pottery art and tradition arts of painting [Fig-11].



Fig. 11- Woodan toys of Sawantwadi

### Dodamarg Taluka

#### Boating Sport

At present Sindhudurg Soldier School and Colonels academy for adventure and aero-sports, sport camps, camps of tracking, rock-climbing, Rappelling, Navigation and Valley crossing.



Fig. 12- Boating Sport at Dodamarg Taluka

#### Summery

To the stay of tourist for several days. Which requires natural resources, infrastructural and transportation facilities, accommodation, fort, recreation, sight seeing, shopping and variety of facilities and services for use and enjoyments. The success of tourism depends on all these facilities.

Talukawise various tourist attractions in the district consisting of temples, forts, ports, festivals, fairs, art and handicraft, waterfall, caves, creeks, beaches, lakes, hill-stations etc. Week-long dream journey of Deccan odyssey and royal facilities provided to tourist.

The tourism activity generates employment opportunities in various part of study region.

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