

"Dissemination of Education for Knowledge, Science and Culture"

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## ECOTOURISM IN SOLAPUR

### Ecotourism in Solapur

Solapur is regarded as an important district of Maharashtra. It is situated between 17° 10' N and 18° 32' N latitude and between 74° 42' E and 76° 0' E longitude. (1) Though this stretched over a large area today, it was not so in the medieval times.

### Importance of the Environment Solapur District

The study of the history of the Solapur district is invariably linked with its geographical background. From this point of view, it is worthwhile to study the native and the migratory animal and bird life of this region. The "Kambarlake" of this district is aptly described as the "Lily Tank". In winter it becomes the haven for as many as 65 rare species of birds as also wild ducks who migrate from about 40 countries. The Kambarlake and the migratory birds therein are indeed a unique phenomenon. The wild ducks seen here come all the way from Asia, Siberia, China and Europe. This thousand year old lake is the home for violet or white neck hens, and river water fishes like - Dhoke, Dhivra and Kanher. One can also see various kind of the migratory wild ducks here. Of these, the cottonhill, Gargony, Swan, Pintail, Shoveled, Vaishnavi and Lalasavi are quite common. This wealth is definite asset in the geographical environment of Solapur.

The Indian bustard of Nanaj of this region has taken the natural and geographical importance of Solapur to International Level. This bird which is considered an endangered species has survived well in Solapur. It is indeed the most valuable gift of nature. This bird with a height 90cm, and weight of 25 to lbs. Is a rain bird. It is a bird of the heates The gravel and Rocky land of Nanaj therefore proves the perfect place for its sustenance. Due to his treasure the Solapur district though barren has to be given credit for its contribution in terms of environment. This district also abounds in some rare species of Fox, Wolves, Hukked, Deer etc. The environmental significance of Solapur district has thus been proven for many factors right from the medieval ages to modern times. (2)

### Medicinal Plants of Solapur

While determining the geographical significance of Solapur city and district one has to take into account the medicinal plants of this region. In spite of scanty rainfall Solapur city boasts of many medicinal plants. It has plenty of grazing lands, forests, meadows and cultivated jungles of tamarind, babul and berries. Many medicinal plants grown in different seasons in the Solapur Fort. They attract many students of medicines. Since all such medicinal plants grow in this land fort, there is reason to believe that they grow elsewhere in the district as well the fort was a place of dwelling and defence in the medieval ages. It was therefore considered important to stack medicinal plants along with other amenities. (3)

About 8 different types of medicinal plants are found in Solapur fort. A plant called "Gangwari" that grows in the open ground inside the fort is considered to be effective in the treatment of piles. It has strong scent like comphor and long lives. It is walls of the fort shaped like a half moon it grows red flowers. It is considered to be cure jaundice, diarrhoea and mumps. A plant called 'Panamava' grows in the sandy soil of the fort. It has reddish branches and violet flowers. The ubiquitous trifolia (nirghudi) plant with its bled like leaves is found usefull in the treatment of oedema, rheumatism and scrofula. The "Mayurshifa" found at the bottom of the bastion of the fort has leaves in the shape of peacock feathers. This is considered to be an antidote on poison. Is is a plant of wellness. The "Harimanjiri" found in the fort grows about 30-35cm It leaves 1"-2" long, broad and indented add the apes. The plant called "LaxmanPutranjani" grows near the

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water bodies in the fort. the plant called "Agnimantra" or "Takali" grows around the statues of martyrs. It is considered usefull for Ailments due to gastric problems.

Thus many medicinal plants seem to thrive in the surroundings of the fort. The medicinal plants are a proof of the significance of the natural resources of this district. Research need to be conducted on all these medicinal plants.

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