

**SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF TOURISM
POTENTIAL IN IGATPURI TAHSIL, DISTRICT
NASHIK**

**A Dissertation on
M.Phil. (Geography)
Tilak Maharashtra University**

**A Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
Degree of Master of Philosophy**

**By
Uttam Nivrutti Sangale
PRN No. 02212002077**

**Research Guide
Dr. C.M. Nikam
M.S.G. College Malegaon Camp, Malegaon,
District Nashik**

**Research Centre
Department of Geography
Tilak Maharashtra University
Gultekadi, Pune – 411037
2015**

CERTIFICATE

I Certify that the Research Work in M.Phil. Dissertation on “Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Tourism Potential in Igatpuri Tahsil, District Nashik” by research student Uttam Nivrutti Sangale, submitted for M.Phil (Geography) Degree of Tilak Maharashtra University, represents his original work and hard efforts, which was carried by him under my guidance during the period 2012-2015.

I further certify that the foregoing statements made by him in regard to his research work are correct. Information, data and references collected from other sources has been duly acknowledged.

Place: Malegaon

Date :

Dr. C.M. Nikam

Research Guide

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the Dissertation entitled “Spatiotemporal Analysis of Tourism Potential In Igatpuri Tahsil, District Nashik” has not been previously submitted by me or any other person to any other University or Institute for any Degree, Diploma or Publication. This research is based on actual work carried out by me under the guidance of Dr. C.M. Nikam. Any reference to the work done by any other person or institution or any material obtained from other sources has been duly acknowledged and referenced. It is further to state that this work is not submitted anywhere else for any examination.

Place Nashik

Uttam Nivrutti Sangale

Date :

Research Student

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The M.Phil. research work “Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Tourism Potential In Igatpuri Tahsil, District Nashik” was really a challenging job. But due to the perfect guidance and love, I could complete this job. So, it is my duty to express my heartfelt gratitude to my guide Dr. C.M. Nikam, Department of Geography, M.S.G. College, Malegaon. I thank him for encouraging me constantly and supervising my research work with a genuine treachery concern. His precious suggestions and proper direction for this research project gave meaning and significance to the substance. Without his able guidance, this work would have been almost impossible. It has been a great pleasure for me working under his guidance. Words are not really enough to express my feeling of gratitude for him.

My Sincere thanks goes to Hon. Sirchitnis of M.V.P, Nashik, Smt. Nilimatai Pawar, and all the members of executive council, who have always been keen and emphasize on the qualitative improvement of teachers. I thank Dr. V. J. Medhane of K.P.G. College, Igatpuri and former Principal Dr. D. L. Phartale for providing me congenial atmosphere for carrying out my research. I also thanks to Prof. V. K. Pawar, Prof. C.D. Choudhary, Librarian Gulab Thavil of this college for timely help and support in carrying out this research work. I feel extremely thankful to my fellow researchers Prof. R. A. Ahire for constant support and sharing the pangs and joys of research.

I also thank my friend Senior Journalist Prof. Dr. Shelar Balkrishna for his co-operation to the research work. I thanks to all those who directly and indirectly helped me to complete this job.

Lastly, I express my gratitude to all my family members, my father late Nivrutti Ganpat Sangale, my wife Sunanda, my daughter Sayali and son Sahil, father in laws Goverdhan Rakh and all the relatives and friends who enthusiastically encouraged me to complete this work successfully.

Place : Nashik

Uttam Nivrutti Sangale

Date :

Research Student

CONTENTS

PREFACE

LIST OF MAPS

LIST OF TABLES

PHOTO GALLERY

CHAPTER	PARTICULARS	PAGE
I	Introduction	
II	Review of Literature	
III	Tourist Places & Profile of the Study Area	
IV	Problems before Tourism in Igatpuri	
V	Conclusion & Suggestions	
VI	Bibliography	
VII	Questionnaire	
A	For Tourists	
B	For Local People	
C	For Government officials	

PHOTO GALLERY INDEX

Sr. List of Maps

- 1 Location of Maharashtra
- 2 Location of Igatpuri in Nashik District
- 3 Location of Study Area
- 4 Location of Tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka

Sr. List of Photo Plates

A) Kavani

- 1 Way to the temple of Kavnai (Kapildhara Tirth)
- 2 The Temple of Kavani
- 3 Shiva Temple at Kavani
- 4 Kumbhmela Kunda at Kavnai

B) Ghatandevi

- 1 Way to the Ghatandevi Temple
- 2 Bad Road towards Ghatandevi Temple
- 3 Ghatandevi Mata Temple
- 4 Maa Ghatandevi

C) Sarvo Tirtha Taked

- 1 Ram Mandir of Servo Tirth Taked
- 2 Jatayu Kunda of Servo Tirth Taked
- 3 Hamuman Temple of Servo Tirth Taked
- 4 Rice Cultivation at Taked

D) Vaitarna Dam

- 1 Bad Road of Vaitarana Dam
- 2 Vaitarna Dam Guest House
- 3 Vaitarana Dam South Gate
- 4 Vaitarana Dam North Gate

E) Vipassana (Dhammigiri)

- 1 Main Gate of Vipassana (Dhammigiri)
- 2 Way to Vipassana International Academy
- 3 Vipassana (Dhammgiri) Dhyan Mandir
- 4 Vipassana (Dhammgiri) along Sayahadri Mountain

F) Newspaper Cuttings

Sr. List of Tables

Graphical Representation of Data (Year 2008-2014)

- 1 Number of Tourists visited to Vipashanna (Dhammagiri) Centre
- 2 Number of Tourists visited to Vaitarana Dam
- 3 Number of Tourists visited to Servo Tirth Taked
- 4 Number of Tourists visited to Kavani (Kapildhara Tirth)
- 5 Number of Tourists visited to Ghatandevi Temple

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has emerged as a dominant economical factor in India and in International horizon, with all its economic and other advantages. Tourism certainly plays a determining role in the development of poorer economy, which suffers from an adverse balance of payment situation, a high degree of social backwardness, besides the other environmental problems. Tourism planning and evolution is now increasingly attending the attention of researchers from different fields ranging from Geography, History, Sociology, Economics, Commerce, Management and Environmental Science. The word Tourism, although accepted and recognized in common parlance, is nevertheless a term that is subject to a diversity of meanings and interpretations. Tourism is one of the most significant industries in the overhaul of the Indian economy. It is one of the world's fastest growing industries and it plays an important role in accelerating the economic development of the country which is widely recognized. It has generated a number of social and economic benefits. Tourism also supports local handicrafts and ethnic activities in a many developing countries, especially the small states which are mainly dependents upon the tourism.

India is a religious country. It is the country where various castes, religions, civilizations, reside in different parts of the country. Every state has its own culture, traditions and natural beauty. Various festivals, rituals are there. To enjoy these festivals, tourists from the world visits to India. Nashik is known as South Kashi of India. Igatpuri is the gateway of Nashik. The famous Kumbha Mela which takes place after every 12 years at Nashik and Trimbakeshwar, it is the belief that the original place of Kumbha is at Kawnai in Igatpuri. There are other religious important places in and around Igatpuri. There are tourist spots also. World famous Vipyashana Kendra (Dhyan Kendra) formed by Hon. Goenka Guruji is in Igatpuri. So, there is lot of potential in Igatpuri to become well-known Tourist place. But there are lots of shortcomings, absence of basic facilities in this Tahsil.

1.1 Tourist places in Igatpuri:

In Igatpuri there are four famous tourist spots. Ghatan Devi Temple, International Vipyashana Kentra, Kawnai Temple and Sarva Tirtha Taked. Besides this, there are various religious tourist spots like Shri Kapil Mahamuni Ashram where Shree Gajanan Maharaj did Tapsya at Kawanai, Sri Krishna Mandir Mahanubhav

Ashram at Ghoti, Dhanusha Tirtha at Bhavali, Annapurna Devi Devstan at Ghoti, and Sidha Bhairwnath at khed. But these are religious places. There are natural beauty places which one must visit. There are various dams in Igatpuri. Vaitarna Dam which supplies water to Mumbai city, is in this Tahsil. Bhandardara dam is on the border of the Igatpuri thesil. Mukane dam, Darna dam are also tourist places. Trinagalwadi Fort, Alang-Kulang Fort, Tringalwadi fort, Aundhpatta Fort are historical places. World fame Kalsubai Mountain, Randha fall, Unta dari is the places where the real peace of mind can be achieve. Proper Igatpuri is also known as the Cherapunji of Maharashtra due to heavy rainfall. It is also called as the Khandala of Nashik because of its natural beauty and cool weather. Vipasyena International Tirtha is also called Dhamma Giri where Sadhaks from all over the world visits. Ghoti is the business centre of quality rice which is of export quality. Bhagar the food of fast is also produced at bulk quantity in Ghoti. There are other important and many small tourist places also.

So, one can concluded that there is lots of tourism potential in Igatpuri. But the infrastructural facilities, like proper internal road, communication facilities are not adequate. Railway station is there but basic facility is not provided as per expectations. Electricity is not available in every village. Three stars and five stars Hotels are the need of this area. The tourist requires the proper guidance of the area which is not available. Government and local bodies like Igatpuri Nagar Palika, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad are not serious about the basic facilities in Igatpuri. There are MIDC at Gonde and Wadiwarhe. Mumbai-Agra national highway -3 is lifeline of this tehsil. This road and MIDC is the only source of employment for local people.

1.2 Problems of Tourism Development:

Absence of basic facilities, negligence by politicians, ignorance by government and local bodies and the most important thing corruption are the important reasons that has affected the tourism industry in Igatpuri Tahasil. The potential of tourism is not flourished at the fullest level. The roads are not developed in this Taluka. Even in the age of modernization and 4 G technology, effective communication is still not available not in this tehsil but the situation is almost same in the city. Education institutes are also facing many problems. This is the tribal area and people are not interested in politics and even they are not aware about their various rights. They are busy for their day to day activities like bread and butter.

There are various dams in this taluka still People have the problem of drinking water. This is the tragedy of the natives. The leaders once get elected; neither takes care of the people nor performs their duty honestly. The corrupt administration is the main hurdle in the development of the tehsil.

1.3 Data base and Methodology:

This research is based on primary data in nature. Researcher visited various Government offices, tourist spots, contacted the professional, businessmen. He also interviewed the various people who are directly and indirectly related to the tourism. For the research purpose, the researcher collected the information and data through filling the questionnaires survey. He personally visited people related to the tourism like vendors, guides, government officers. He also visited the various libraries for review of literature and referred the websites of tourism like www.nashik.nic.in, Wikipedia, trivago.com etc. Talked to the travel companies. Following ways were used for the research purpose.

1.3.1 Primary Data:

For the research purpose, the researcher interviewed the hotel owners, professionals like tourist guide, auto driver etc., businessmen, local people who are engaged in tourism, government officials. To collect the data, researcher circulated the questionnaires. The face to face interviews also helped to reveal the important information. The researcher could come to the real conclusion due to this data

1.3.2 Secondary Data:

To contribute valuable and reliable information, Secondary Data helps a lot to the researcher. For this project, the researcher collected secondary data from the reference and text book of tourism, handbook related to the tourism, various websites of MTDC, travelling companies, web related to the history of Nashik District, Gazettes etc.

The researcher collected the information by survey method. Questionnaire were filled up by various respondent related to the research.

1.3.3 Universe and Sample Size:

For this research, the researcher collected the sample which represents the population. Igatpuri is the main Railway station and Hill station also. So every year, near about one lac fifty thousand tourists visits Igatpuri Taluka. It includes all class of people which covers religious and other tourist, local tourists etc. The sample of

universe is really high. The researcher selected 100 samples of tourist of various class, 50 samples representing people directly and indirectly to the tourism industry, 20 samples of government officials relating to the tourism. The total sample size is 200 people of various class and categories. The researcher contacted personally to all the samples. For this purpose, he distributed different kinds of questionnaire.

1.4 Research Methodology:

For the primary data, researcher selected 100 samples of tourist of various class, 50 samples representing people directly and indirectly to the tourism industry, 20 samples of government officials relating to the tourism. He interviewed these people, filled up the questionnaire from related people and authorities which helped to collect the important data. He also visited to the government offices in Igatpuri and Nashik. Secondary information is collected from tourist books, special issues on Igatpuri, newspaper clippings, gazettes, reference books. Researcher also visited the various libraries and institutions. He visited all the tourist and religious places in and around Igatpuri.

1.5 Relevance and Importance of the study:

Nashik is the rapidly developing district in Maharashtra. Nashik city is third city which progressing fastly after Mumbai and Pune. Satpur, Ambad, Sinner, Dindori, Malegaon are the important MIDCs in this district. In Igatpuri, Gondi and Waivered MIDCs plays important role in development. These MIDCs are the important source of employment for the local people. Other source of employment is the rice farming. But the most important and reliable source is tourism. There is a lot of tourism potential in Igatpuri. But the infrastructural facilities like proper internal road, communication facility is not available. Railway station is there but basic facility is not provided as per expectations. Electric power is not reached in every village. Three stars and five star Hotels are the need of an hour. The tourist requires the proper guidance which is not available. Government and local body like Igatpuri Naga Palika, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad are not serious about the basic facilities in Igatpuri. Kawnai, Dhammagiri (Vipashyana International Centre), Sarvathirtha Taked, Ghatan Devi Temple and other important tourist places are totally neglected. Basic facilities like communication, power, clean drinking water, roads are not provided at the tourist places. So, this study highlighted on these problems which

gave solutions. This will help local bodies and government to make proper planning and execution. This is the importance and objectives of the research.

1.6 Objectives of the study:

The main aim of the study is to suggest the ways to develop tourism of Igatpuri Taluka equally advance with other Taluka in the district. The other aims and objectives of this research are to highlight the potentials of tourism of Igatpuri, to locate the problems of tourism, to suggest remedies to solve the problems. However, following are the main objectives of the study.

1. To locate the problems before the tourism industry in Igatpuri Tahsil and to highlight the basic infrastructural problems of tourism in Nashik District
2. To know the tourism potential in Igatpuri Tahsil and to study the reasons why the potential of tourism is not flourished at fullest level
3. To highlight the various tourist places which are neglected and unknown to the people
4. To highlight the problems faced by the famous tourist places like Ghatan Devi, Kawnai, Taked and the world fame Dhammagiri and to suggest the solutions to the above problems.
5. To Study up to what extend the tourism potential of Igatpuri is exploited.
6. To assess the socio-cultural impact of tourism & to identify new location having tourism potential and to suggest a strategy for the development of concerned tourist places.

1.7 Scope of the Study:

Nashik District is religious and natural tourist place having natural beauty. Compare to other districts, this district have largest number of Dams. Most of them are in Igatpuri Taluka. Kawanai, Dhammagiri, Sarvathirtha Taked, Ghatan Devi and other religious places are there in Igatpuri. The whole Taluka is beautiful place. There are other religious and natural places in Nashik District. Lacs of tourist visits Igatpuri and other part of the district. The people who visits other tourist places in district, also visits Igatpuri. But this research study is limited to the Igatpuri Taluka only. Sheri Kepi Mahamuni Asram where Shree Gajanan Maharaj did Tapsya at Kawnai, Shrikrishna Mandir Mahanubhav Ashram at Ghoti, Dhanusha Tirtha at Bhavali, Annapurna Devi Devstan at Ghoti, Sidha Bhairwnath at khed, Vaitarna Dam ,

Bhandardara dam, Mukane dam, Darna dam are also tourist places. Trinagalwadi Fort, Alang-Kulang Fort, Tringalwadi fort, Aundhpatta Fort are historical places. World fame Kalsubai Mountain, Randha fall is other tourist places. But the preference is given to Kawnai, Dhammagiri (Vipashyana International Centre), Sarvathirtha Taked, Ghatan Devi Temple.

1.8 Data Period of the study:

The tourism in Igatpuri Taluka is having rich tradition. The tourist is visiting this Taluka since Samrat Ashoka. The famous Chinese tourist Yu Hang Chaung visited to Kawani in Igatpuri. He presented the Chinese bell to this temple which can be seen today. It is the place where the battle of Ravana and Jatau took place. The people all over the world and country visit this place regularly. This Taluka have rich tourism history and tradition. The research study covers the period of five years i. e. 2008 to 2013. To give justice to this subject and enrich the research, the data of 2013-2014 is also covered. This will help to update the research and will give better result.

1.9 Limitation of the study:

This study is important as it highlight the tourism problems and gives solution to overcome the problems. Researcher tried his best to give justice to this study. But like the limitation of other study, there are limitations to this study also. The main limitation is the absence of co -operation of the Government Officials. They always tried to avoid the people and perform their duty. The second limitations are to collect the data required for this study. The local body representatives did not extended their co-operation. The authorities sitting at Nashik were not eager to assist in these important issues.

1.10 Statement of Hypothesis:

- 1 Tourism Potential in Igatpuri Tahsil is not flourished to
The fullest level due to the absence of basic facilities.
- 2 There is a lot of tourism potential in Igatpuri Tahsil.
- 3 The local bodies and government is not honest and
Serious about the infrastructural development in this
Tahsil.
- 4 If provided the all required facilities, tourist industry will
Be boosted & the standard of the living of the people in
The study area can be raised.

1.10 Resume:

In the chapter deals with basic information of the tourism and tourist with research methodology, objective and techniques. Limitiaon of the study area with Statement of Hypothesis.

Chapter 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The M.Phil. Research work ``Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Tourism Potential in Igatpuri Tahsil, District Nashik`` was really a challenging job. There is hardly any special research is undertaken on this subject. This Tahsil is tribal one. So, level of literacy is also low. The higher education institutes have not started their branches at Igatpuri because of this remote area. Despite many difficulties, researcher reviewed the literature. The Researcher tried his best and took the review of literature.

2.1 International & National Level:

In the national as well as in the international level there are many case studies related to the ecotourism and community based ecotourism are published. In India, though it started off late, now days there are many ecotourism ventures which are recognized for the excellent community based management and conservation strategies. Here a few case studies are highlighted.

1. Naik S.D. and Davis N.V observed that the future growth of tourism will largely depend upon the growth of suitable hotel accommodation in the region. Supported with transportation and other infrastructure (Naik S.D and Davis N.V, loc, cit, Growth of Eco-Tourism, May 2011)
2. Pierce (1969) in his book viewed tourist destination from five broad sectors namely attractions, transport, accommodation supporting facilities and infrastructure, He explains that the attractions encourages tourists to visit the location, the accommodation and supporting facilities alike (e.g. Shops, Banks, Restaurants, Hotels) Cater for the tourist's wellbeing during their stay and the infrastructure assures the essential functioning of all the above sectors. The latest trend in the tourism industry is called 'ecotourism' which refers to travel that combines preserving the natural world and sustaining the well-being of the human culture that inhabit it. A systematic approach to tourism development, planning and management is advocated because it can accommodate social and environmental problems, as well as economic factors that have been the focus of previous research (Smith 1996) Furthermost it is argued that the tourism system is an open system in that it responds to change in social natural and economic factors and it is evolving in to an increasing state of complexity. In redistribution of resources to further the amelioration of poverty.

3. One research titled “Developing a Sustainable Eco-Tourism Framework for the Cordillera Region of the Philippines”, July, 2009, by Arthur Joseph Paul D. Alipio clearly mentioned the impact of Natural resources, pollution and physical impacts on Ecotourism. In his project he described the socio-cultural impacts of tourism activities also economic impacts of tourism. In this project the recommendations are given such as Ecological and cultural area based management, Fuel use efficiency development, Integration of Women in decision making and project development, Conflict management through improvement of local ecosystems, prevention of adverse impacts from tourist activities, Community based trail development and recommendations on the development of the trekking route.

4. One of the research paper was published by “Centre for East-West Cultural and Economic Studies”, Bond University (2005) on the “Development of eco-tourism in tribal regions of Orissa: Potential and recommendations” which was written by Nilakantha Panigrahi, NKC Centre for Development Studies, Orissa, India. In this particular research paper it is explained very clearly that the treasure of tourism and the tourist potential in the State of Orissa. It highlights the socio-cultural profile of the tribal communities in general and Primitive Tribal Communities in particular living therein, and the potential for tourism expansion from within the State. By using the paper from empirical sources it explained the potential for ethnic tourism, both from within and outside the India. It analyses the potentialities and prospects of ethnic tourism in Orissa.

5. One of the case studies was published in the, “The Hindu,” (2006) Magazine on the “Periyar tiger reserve and community participation”, which was written by prominent ecologist Ashish Kothari and Neena Pathak. In this particular article it is explained very well how once the local people of the forested area were involved in stealing of the wood and poaching activities and how the local people after being involved in the ecotourism activities as a part of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Eco-development Project helped to control over the cases of poaching and how they were later benefited from the project. Even afterwards they participated in the patrolling of the area, even in the night hours also. Not only that they rejected the advice of some so called local social groups to claim some rights of getting forested land. Finally as the project ended and government took a decisive role to keep going the momentum of the initiatives by the formation of Periyar foundation which is autonomous institute

and provides opportunities for the village community people to involve in decision making. Thus it is an ideal example for the other protected areas and the potential ecotourism destinations to learn some lesson from it.

6. Another article was published by the same author Mr. Asish Kothari in, “The Hindu” Magazine (2007) on the topic- “Tourism, wildlife and communities”, explains how the successful ecotourism ventures are facing threat due to unclear policies. Two successful ecotourism from Uttarakhand and one from the Rajasthan were discussed here. In the case of the Rajasthan the Dera Kumbhalgarh, a Swiss cottage tent was set up with the help of a local NGO Seva Mandir. The plot of the area is very near to the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary and Kumbhalgarh fort, boasting world’s second largest wall. From the nearby nine villages the members of the Maharana Kumbha Common Interest Group were formulated with local people living below poverty line. The charge of the tent they set was Rs. 2500 per Night stay. The tents are though seems simple from outside are quite luxurious from inner side tastily done up with local designs. The project was a great success for the community group and it already earned Rs. 1, 00,000 for the first months. In the other cases the ecotourism initiatives in Chhoti Haldwani village near the Corbett National Park is explained where the forest department has formed one samitee with the local people and thus rely on two community based products-trails, camps and home stay. The forest department also set a stall, where dye and other textile materials area sold which was prepared by the village community. But, now a day, the unplanned pressure of tourism is affecting this area a lot. The the article also explains that how the lack of clear direction from the state is failing to check the pressure. The resort development is the major threat and the local communities near the Chhoti Haldwani are now selling there plots in the fear of swamped from such resort development and other developments. On the other hand, in the nearby areas of Chhoti Haldwani, the increasing number of luxurious resorts hampering the development of the local communities. It is because of the community run visitation can hardly survive in the face of more powerful competition. Thus, the article shows the threats are lingering around the major tourism

7. Another case study published in, “The Hindu”, magazine (2007), titled, “Andaman and Nicobar Islands – dangerous tourism” explains how the unplanned tourism can cause great threat to the biodiversity hotspots and other natural environments.
8. One case study published in “Current Science”, Volume – 95 No. 11 (Dt. 10th Dec, 2008), titled, “Ecotourism in wetlands causes loss of biodiversity” by S. Sandilyan, K. Thiyagesan and R. Nagarajan – explains that wetlands might be adversely affected by ecotourism. Tourist activity such as sun-bathing, collection of molluscan species; and scuba diving can disturb the ecosystem in a variety of ways, including repeated trampling on the soil substratum human trampling directly kills or buries the animals and might provoke asphyxia. Human footsteps can also destroy other burrowing animals. Human disturbance also reduces the time that is available for feeding and may force the birds to select alternate feeding areas. Thus the sources and the case studies highlighted are enough to understand how much important it is to develop a powerful community based sustainable tourism and also how important the role of the forest department or the government mainly plays to keep the ecotourism safe.
9. Case study titled “Remote Sensing and GIS based ecotourism planning-A case study for western Midnapore, West Bengal, India” by U. K. Banerjee (I.I.T., Kharagpur), Smriti Kumari (I.I.T., Kharagpur) and S.K.Paul, S.Sudhakar (RRSSC, Kharagpur). The study shows that the western part of the study area is highly potential for Ecotourism development, most of this part is endowed with lush green forests, wildlife as well as rich cultural heritage. Along with this it also fall under the elephant corridor of Jharkhand and West Bengal. So this area can be developed as an Ecotourism destination by facilitating proper ecotourism infrastructure and services under policy guidelines. This will help to conserve and maintain the biological richness of the areas as well as economic upliftment of the local people by providing employment and opportunities in the field
10. P.K. Dong (Sikkim Tourism, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim (India) carried out one research entitled “Development of Ecotourism in Sikkim: A Case Study”. It focused on the programme for creating public awareness about an importance of the conserving bio-diversity is a continuous process. This should be the part of annual plan of the Forest, Education, Rural Development and Tourism Departments. Physical plans are made for development of tourism facilities and infrastructure but management plans are not prepared or followed. As a result hotels

are constructed but waste management is neglected. Maintenance of hygienic standards, sanitation, signboards, horticulture development around attractions is not given top priority.

Hence preparation and follow up of management plan in and around the places of tourist attractions should be made compulsory. What Sikkirn Tourism needs urgently guides who are specialized in various ecotourism attractions like floriculture, bird watching, butterflies and biodiversity per se? They should be augmented with speaking skills of foreign language like German, French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, etc. We need to create adequate faculty and research facilities for providing orientation programme in ecotourism for local tour operators and

11. One research entitled “Accessible Sustainable Ecotourism: necessary Market Adjustments in a New Age of Travel” By: Anthony Chamy concluded that Information and communication technologies, the Internet, travel guides and other information-diffusing media are ringing about great knowledge that is significantly stimulating our thirst for world discovery. Tourism is about balancing the unknown with the known. While people travel to search for what they lack in their own environments, they also travel to find what they already know and could relate to. When gigabytes of images and texts on beautiful natural and social environments pass through our screens every day, we become knowledgeable and our fear of traveling to the unknown disappears. We no longer need elements from our physical home to feel comfortable when elements from our virtual home are naturally available. This fundamentally explains the accelerated ecotourism market and the new opportunities for new entry local firms. This paper has only scratched the surface of how an innovation model can be developed for finding clear solutions in the tourism industry, specifically through ecotourism. This model will help us better understand the tourism trends and constitutes a base on which emerging enterprises will develop.

12. In research “Impact of the Tourism in India” author H. Lalnunmawia (2010) stated that the tourism industry in India is growing and it has vast potential for generating employment and earning large amount of foreign exchange besides giving a fillip to the country’s overall economic and social development. But much more remains to be done. Eco-tourism needs to be promoted so that tourism in India helps in preserving and sustaining the diversity of the India's natural and cultural environments. Tourism in India should be developed in such a way that it

accommodates and entertains visitors in a way that is minimally intrusive or destructive to the environment and sustains and supports the native cultures in the locations it is operating in. Moreover, since tourism is a multi-dimensional activity, and basically a service industry, it would be necessary that all wings of the Central and State governments, private sector and voluntary organisations become active partners in the endeavor to attain sustainable growth in tourism. If India is to become a world player in the tourism industry. The growth of tourism in India has been rapid in the last five years despite a late start. Tourist arrivals have gone up by more than 25 per cent and foreign exchange earnings has jumped by 40 per cent. (Tourism Policy of Maharashtra – 2006, DTCA).

The World Travel and Tourism Council have rated India as one of the five fastest growing tourism economies in the world. The survey conducted by “Lonely Planet” has also supported this view. The rich heritage, trade, culture, history and growing economy have become major attractions for the tourists. The survey conducted by “Conde Nast Traveller” came out with the finding that India is preferred to many other tourist destinations like France, Singapore and Switzerland. Maharashtra – The domestic tourists visiting Maharashtra doubled during the last decade, from 41.29 lakhs in 1991 to 84.8 lakhs in 2001, whereas the number of foreign tourists visiting Maharashtra increased from 7 million 1991 to 8 million in 2001. (Tourism Policy of Maharashtra) The rapid growth in domestic tourism can be attributed to the ever increasing middle class, increase in disposable income improved facilities, stress on urban families, improved connectivity to tourist destinations, etc. Not all foreign tourists visiting Mumbai visits Maharashtra. Some of these foreign tourists come to Mumbai as an entry point to India and proceed to various other states. There is need and scope to attract these visitors into Maharashtra to the various tourist destinations in our state. Ecotourism in India is already included in the earlier 10th Five year planning of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. As such, the strategy followed for development of ecotourism during the 10th plan included identifying focal locations for ecotourism like the Himalayas, North Eastern States, Western Ghats, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep (Daft, 1999) and providing financial assistance to the State Governments for development of these locations as ecotourism spots. Even in the recent five year plan 2007 – 2012 also ecotourism is included in the report (Report of working group in tourism, Ministry of

Tourism, Chapter 8). Though, the term is frequently repeated in different paper versions, in actual practice, it hardly seen in so called ecotourism spots in India. If we go back in history of ecotourism, in Asia the concept of ecotourism introduced in the 1980's only as the much concern grow over the exploitation of natural resources. Most importantly it is not well established concept and disputes are still going to the existing management practices in the name of ecotourism destinations. Generally the existing protected national parks and sanctuaries are getting most of preference over areas of concern. There is also concern that too many projects are based around viewing tigers, and other aspect of India's wildlife is overlooked (Bharucha, 2003). The things going on in the name of ecotourism in these areas can be best understood in the controversial tiger shows. The question arises on this point are they actually a component of so called ecotourism concept. These are the things which should be really given a deep thought. Even if we see the present well known ecotourism destinations the most of them we can found in ecologically interesting areas such as national parks and sanctuaries. Most principles of genuinely sensitive tourism, developed internationally over the last few years are ignored. This includes carrying out the assessments of ecological impact of tourism and whether it actually benefits the local people or not. (Kothari, 2007)10th Five Year Plan had a salutary effect on the India's tourism. While the foreign tourist arrivals are expected to witness a growth of 78% during the period, growth in the foreign exchange earnings is expected to be of the order of 122%. India's share in world tourism which was 0.37% during 2001 end is likely to increase to 0.53% during 2006. As per the estimates about 12.5 million additional jobs were created directly and in-directly in the tourism sector. India has spectacularly attractive natural and cultural tourist attractions. It has a rich, over 5000-year-old, cultural heritage and thousands of monuments and archaeological sites for tourists to the remains of one of the most ancient river valley civilizations of the world (the Indus Valley civilization) are found in India and Pakistan. The Taj Mahal and 16 other World Heritage Properties and several national heritage sites are in India. The country abounds in attractive and well- reserved historical sites and ancient monuments of architectural grandeur. There is a vast variety of building styles, which chronicle the cultural and historical diversity of their creators. India offers enormous diversity in topography, natural resources and climate. There are land-locked mountainous regions, lush valleys and plains, arid desert regions, white

sandy beaches and islands. Central India has numerous wildlife sanctuaries with countless varieties of flora and fauna. The country has unpatrolled cultural diversity, a kaleidoscope of races, languages, religions, customs and traditions. Indians have embraced almost all the major religions of the world and the country has given rise to five religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and “Tauhid-i-illahi” of Akbar. The geographical diversity of India provides opportunities for a wealth of outdoor and adventure sports activities. There is something for all tastes and interests, from the “soft” adventures to fast-paced thrills, and there is something for every level of experience. The prices are highly competitive. The major adventure tourism activities are trekking and skiing in the Himalayas, river running in the Ganges, water sports in Goa, trout fishing in Himachal Pradesh, heli-skiing in Himachal Pradesh, wind surfing, scuba diving and yachting in Andaman’s and Lakshadweep islands. India has some of the best beaches in the world, many of which are still unexplored, as in the Andaman’s and Lakshadweep. Hospitality to visitors is an ancient Indian tradition. The peoples’ lifestyles are varied. Life is full of culture, fairs and festivals, color and spectacle. India is a land of folk fairs and festivals, some say that there is a fair each day of the year. Some of the important fairs and festivals are the Pushkar fair in Rajasthan, the Crafts Mela at Surajkund, Holi and Diwali in North India, Pongal in Tamilnadu, Onam in Kerala, Baisakhi in Punjab, Bihu in Assam, dance festivals at Khajuraho and Mamallapuram. Tourism in India can be a gastronomic delight. Each region has its culinary specialty and beautifully printed and expertly written cookbooks are on sale. But the best part is to sample the exotic fare in the thousands of restaurants. India has several forms of art and handcrafts. Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Mohiniattam are some of the most popular forms of classical dances which have their origins in various parts of the country. Every dance form has a precise vocabulary of emotions (love, yearning, sorrow etc.) and these are displayed by the dance gestures that involve the body, arms, fingers, face and eyes. India is a treasure-trove of handcrafts. The options available include the gamut of multi-storied shopping plazas, air-conditioned stores selling a hand-picked assortment of crafts from every corner of the country, through to whole streets of shops selling specialty goods, to local fairs, where street stalls, set up overnight, stock a variety of exotica.

2.2 District Level:

1. Special Issue on Tourism on the occasion of birthday of political leader of Igatpuri Naeem Khan, 6th November 2006. Editor-Netawade Rajendra - This special issue covered the historical places as well as religious and natural tourist places in Igatpuri. In this issue, the various problems of tourism are mentioned and the solutions are also given. Special features of Ghatan Devi, Taked, Dhammagiri, Kawani is given the separate article. The unknown tourist places are also highlighted which are as follows- Shri Kapil Mahamuni Asram where Shree Gajanan Maharaj did Tapsya at Kawanai, Srikrihna Mandir Mahanubhav Ashram at Ghoti, Dhanusha Tirtha at Bhavali, Annapurna Devi Devstan at Ghoti, Sidha Bhairwnath at khed, Vaitarna Dam which supplies water to Mumbai city, Bhandardara dam, Mukane dam, Darna dam Trinagalwadi Fort, Alang-Kulang Fort, Tringalwadi fort, Aundhpatta Fort, world fame Kalsubai Mountain, Randha fall, Unta dari etc. This issue is a superb guide for researcher.

2. Interview of President Datta Bahalerao of Travel Agents Association of Nashik. (Maharashtra Times, 12 October 2014) In this interview Mr. Datta Bahalerao explains the problems before tourism in Igatpuri and Nashik district. The prospects, the effects of government policies, present condition and challenges are also discussed in this article.

3. Round Table Tourism Conference held in Daily Divya Marathi, dated 1st June 2014 (A news clipping)-The special features of tourism industry in Nashik district, the problems faced by this industry, government policies and its plus-minus points is discussed in this clipping. The detail data of hotels, lodging, travel agencies, theaters, winery etc is given in this article. The authorities related with tourism represented in this round table conference. They have given various suggestions for the betterment of tourism.

4. Problems of tourism places in Nashik District (Daily Lokmat, dated 19 Novemeber2013) - This article also highlights the famous religious and natural tourist places in Igatpuri and Nashik District. The efforts for the tourism by Tourism Department and Forest as well as problems of tourism are highlighted in this news article. The Trivago online website honoured Nashik as the fastest growing tourism centre. It included Nashik in top 100 cities in India.

5. Special News feature on Prospect of Nashik Tourism, by Girish Takle, Maharashtra Times, dated 29th July 2014- In this news feature, the author has mentioned the challenges before MTDC. Guides, fourths, government efforts, rivers pollution is thoroughly discussed in this news features. The various suggestions are given and special persuasion is made people to give contribution for the betterment of tourism.
6. Conference proceeding on Tourism in Nashik, organized by Maharashtra Times in Nashik on 11th August 2014. In this proceeding, experts in tourism, scholars, and representatives of State Transport etc. participated in the conference and contributed their thoughts which are published in these proceedings. These experts suggested on powerful marketing of tourism, role and contribution of government and private sector, infrastructural facilities needed for tourism etc.
7. Special supplement on Tourism by Sacral papers, Nashik, dated 23rd October 2013. This supplement mentions the expectation in next five years, the economical provisions made by state and central government. Special interview of Minister Chaggan Bhujbal and Divisional Director of MTDC is taken and their views are presented in this supplement.
8. Article on Tourism in Sakal papers dated 23rd October 2013. In this article Agro tourism, religious tourism, health tourism, entertainment tourism etc is discussed. The experts, tourist, citizens, professionals etc have expressed their views in this article. Everyone has expressed his views to solve the problems of tourism industry not in Nashik but also Maharashtra. They have given valuable suggestions also.
9. Special News feature on Religious and Natural tourism in Nashik, Maharashtra Times, dated 28th July 2014. In this article, Agro tourism, religious tourism, health tourism, entertainment tourism etc is discussed. The experts, tourist, citizens, professionals etc have expressed their views in this article. Adventure tourism, Winery tourism, religious tourism and their problems are also discussed in this valuable article. The importance of tourism and important destinations in Igatpuri and district which must be visited in rainy seasons are also mentioned.
10. Tourism Development in Raigad District-A Geographical Analysis, by Hajare Prakash Jagannath, Ph.D, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith, July 2012. –
The tourism problems are almost same in Maharashtra. Raigad and Igatpuri faces the same problems. In this Ph.D research, the researcher highlighted the various problems faced by the tourist, local people, professional, businessmen etc. The main objectives

were to examines the factors responsible for the development of tourism, to assess the transportation and accommodation facilities in the study region, to assess the socio-cultural impact of tourism, to identify new location having tourism potential and to suggest a strategy for the development of concerned tourist places, to explore the major problems of tourist places in the study region and to suggest a remedial measures for the development of tourism in the areas. The features of Raged district are also given. In 3rd chapter distribution of the tourist places are given. In 4th chapter function and behavioral features of tourists are mentioned. Economic, socio-cultural and physical impact of tourism is studied in this thesis. This research is guideline for the other researcher.

2.2 Resume

In the chapters' deals with international, national and state level research with his methodology and use Techniqnies also finding out of the this research.

Chapter 3

Tourist places and Profile of the Study Area

Due to the growing economic significance of tourism, there is a spectacular increase in tourism worldwide. There is an increase in earning of local people. It helps to increase the job opportunities related to tourism sector. Today tourism related infrastructure in various parts of the country has improved the quality of the local people and helped to promote local arts and crafts. Tourism also fetches foreign exchange earnings and employment. India is huge market for tourism for outbound and inbound tourist. Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. World tourism is considered as significant factor in the economy of every nation. Athithi Devo Bhava which means the guest is truly God, are a dictum of hospitality in India. India's glorious traditions and rich cultural heritage are closely related with the development of tourism.

India is a huge market for tourism for outbound and inbound tourists. The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2010 increased to 5.78 million as compared to 5.17 million in 2009. The growth rate in foreign travels arrivals during 2010 over 2009 was 11.8 per cent. India's ranking improved to 40th in 2010, from 41st in 2009. Tourism continues to play an important role as a foreign exchange earner for the nations. In 2010, foreign exchange earnings from tourism were Rs.64889 crores as compared to 54960 in 2009, registering a growth of 18.1 percent. Number of domestic tourist visited India during 2010 were 740.21 million as compared to 668.80 million in 2009. It was 790 in 2011 and 820 million in 2012. It was raised 850 million in 2013 and 880 millions in 2014. Maharashtra is a land of rich culture, traditions and number of festivals and is a major trade and tourist place in India, attracting thousands of tourists from across the world every year. The state government is very much interested to promote tourism activities in all over Maharashtra since 1989.

Nashik is the south Kashi of India. There are 15 tahsils in Nashik District. Malegaon is the largest among it. The hight of Igatpuri from sea level is 599.40 meters. Igatpuri is 45 k.m. away from Nashik city and 120 k.m. away from Mumbai. The total area of Igatpuri is 846.62 sq.km. The area of rural are 828.12 sq.km. There are total 110 villages which included 77 remote areas. There are 2 towns in Igatpuri. This tahsil receives highest rainfall in the state. June to October is the rainy season. The average rainfall is 3442.10 m.m. In 2006 the rainfall was 4720 m.m.

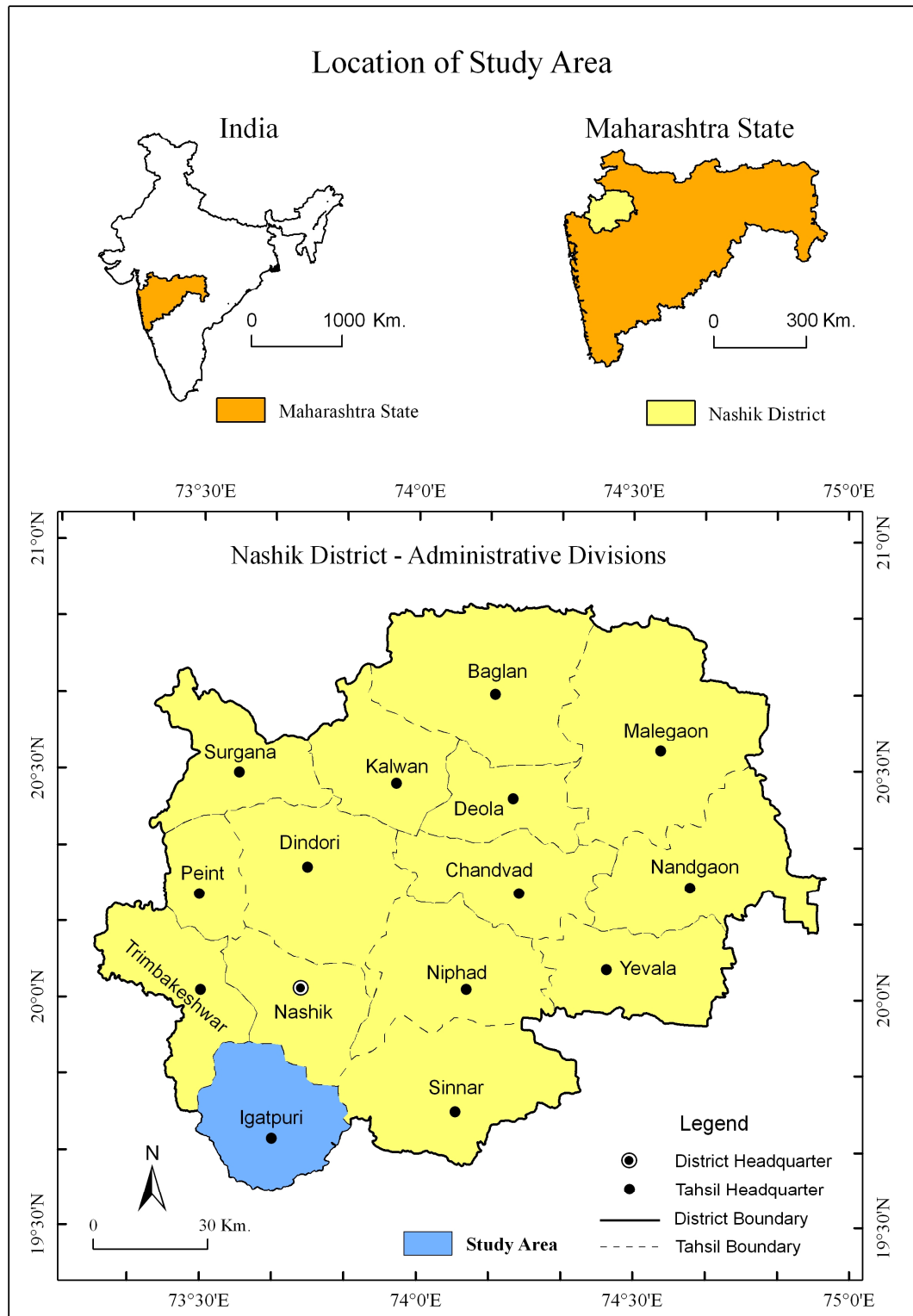
Igatpuri is an important Taluka in Nashik District which is also known as ``Mini Khandala``. It's Head Quarter is Igatpuri town . It belongs to Khandesh and Northern Maharashtra region. It belongs to Nashik Division. It is located 45 Km towards South from District head quarters Nashik. 123 km from State capital Mumbai towards South. Igatpuri is well connected by rail and road. By NH-3 to Agra and by, Central Railway to Mumbai, Howrah, Guwahati, New Delhi, etc. It is a major railway station; As Loco Changes are made here for trains from and to Mumbai.

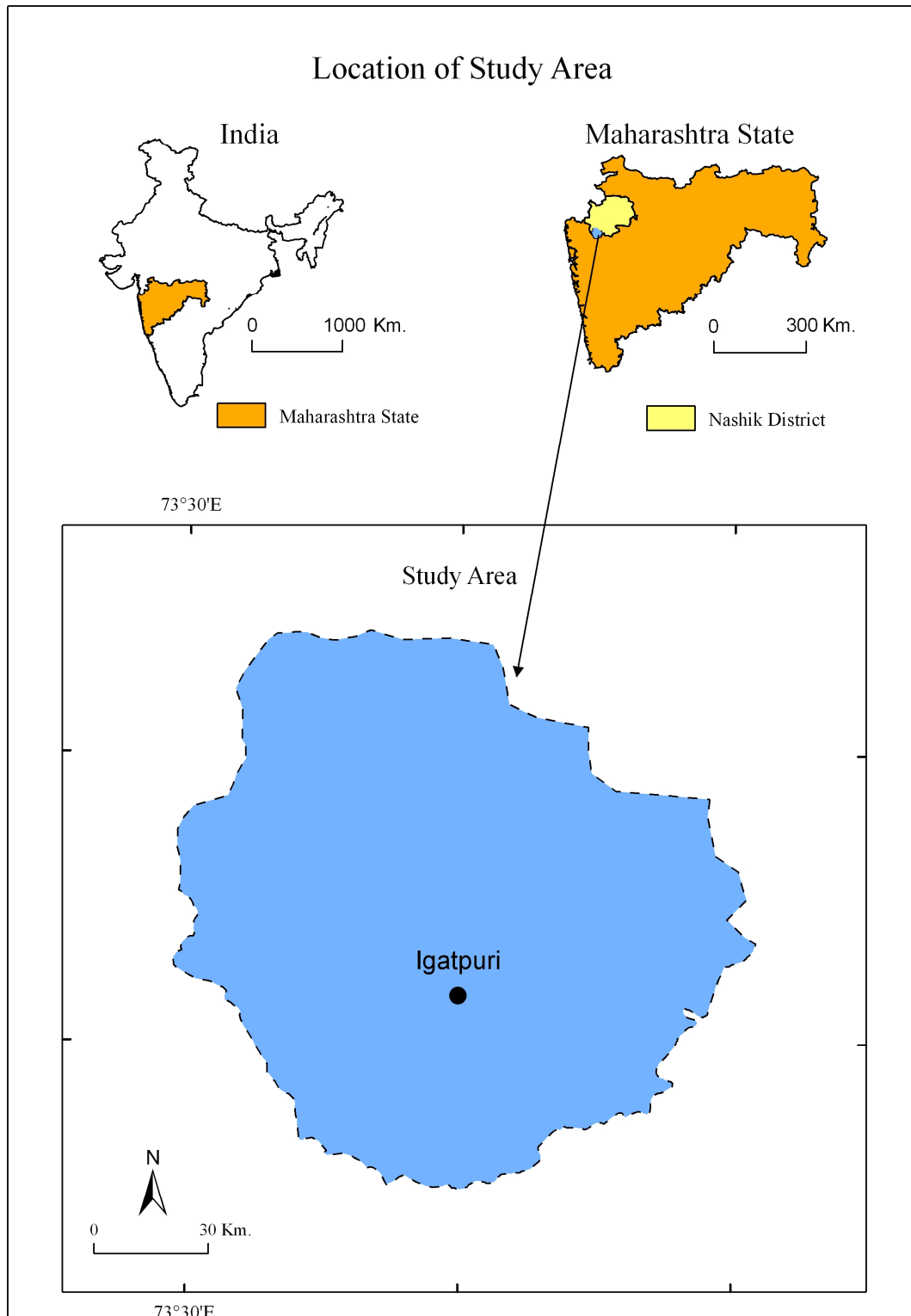
3.1 Tourism in Maharashtra:

Maharashtra is one of the largest and most happenings states of India. This state is the home to numerous attractions, because of which tourists pour into get a glimpse of these awe-inspiring state. The state, with its abundant green milieus, charming hill stations, indigo beaches and affluent wildlife, is surely a nature of aficionado's ecstasy. Additional to this, the abundant historical monuments, rock cut caverns and religious holy places; Maharashtra surely have a multiplicity of reason to make it up to the splendid topography. Mumbai, the capital city of Maharashtra & being the commercial capital of India, is known as the major hub for the glamorous Bollywood. The major tourist attractions of Mumbai are Chow patty, Juhu beach, Mahalaxmi Temple, Marine Drive, Gardens, Siddhivinayak Temple, Gateway of India and Wales Museum. This place is also known for its nightlife, pubs, theatres, beaches and restaurants. And to mention, the famous vada pav, puri bhaji bhel puri and kabab are a sure to try delicacies in Mumbai. Just about 10 kilometers away from the Mumbai shoreline, one can notice the Elephanta Caves. These are on an isle in the Arabian Sea. These caverns were said to be constructed from 450 to 750 AD and depict brilliant statues of Lord Shiva.

In Aurangabad, one can see Bibi-ka-Maqbara built by royal monarch Aurangzeb. Also prominent places to stopover are the Darwaazaas and Pan Chakki which illustrate extraordinarily skilled structural designs of the history. Maharashtra houses major three hill stations, namely, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala and Khandala. Pune being the other major city of Maharashtra is bounded with lush green hills and docile lakes and with a wholesome atmosphere, Pune is acknowledged as the "Queen of the Deccan" and "Oxford of the East". These cultural centres of the Maharashtra are amongst the greenest metropolitan areas in India. This places being witnessed the rise and fall of the Maratha Empire and its supreme ruler Shivaji, Pune has lot to

recite regarding its remarkable past. Maharashtra, one of the foremost industrialized states in India, is known all through the world for being home to a large number of IT companies and other financial sectors, hence, is a paradise for people looking out for great careers.





Maharashtra, one of the largest states in India, has an elongated shoreline to brag of. This widespread seashore has produced in the state being sanctified with numerous beaches, which are well-known all through the world for their pallid sands, tranquil locales and dramatic environment. The startling caves located at Maharashtra display

the ancient culture and affluent heritage of the state. Elephanta Caves, Karkla Caves and Bhaja Caves are one of such caves to take pride of stunning rock cut structural design. In contrast, those at Ajanta and Ellora have been decorated with attractive paintings. The state also welcomes for the factor that it is the home of the legendary Sahyadri hill ranges and hence, being gifted with numerous hill stations.

For all the nature lovers, who make it up to India to relish its prosperous natural world, must make a stopover at Maharashtra as well. The state is practically an amusement for those who adore tripping the wildlife shelters and national parks and being a witness to scenic loveliness. The various secluded areas here are dwelling to a broad multiplicity of wildlife. And for all of those who are attracted in exploring the heritage past of Maharashtra, there are no better options to visit than its bravura fortifications. Each and every fort in this state has several tales hidden inside its precincts, tales of bravery, tales of heroism, tales of loyalty, and so on. The Land of the Marathas, Maharashtra is the 2nd most populated and the 3rd largest state in India. The state is bordered by the Arabian Sea and the primary language spoken here is Marathi. Being in the western region of India, Maharashtra has been blessed with an abundant supply of natural resources and the significance of the region has been mentioned in the ancient texts. The state of Maharashtra has a unique location of being situated between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats. This makes the state a biodiversity region rich in flora and fauna. The Krishna, Godavari, Bhima etc. are the rivers that run through Maharashtra. The state is also the richest state in India and contributes 13.3% of the country's GDP and 15% of the country's Industrial output. It is thus a major state in India which has numbers of places and attractions for tourist must explore. Maharashtra is a state in the western region of India and is the nations and also the world's second-most populous sub-national entity. It has over 110 million inhabitants and its capital, Mumbai, has a population of approximately 15.2 million.

The geography of Maharashtra shows evidence of a divine hand. Running north to south, throughout its length are the steeply rising Western Ghats. The foothills sometimes approaching the seashore and sometimes withdrawing 40 or 50 kms away seem to be playing an eternal game with the Arabian Sea.

Nestling shyly in these mountains, some at an altitude of 2000 meters are the hill stations of Maharashtra. These towns offer clean, calm and a thoroughly

refreshing alternative to city life. They are probably the only places in India where you can observe the fall of the land all the way to the shimmering sea. Mumbai, India's commercial capital, and easily the most accessible city in this country, is the perfect gateway to Maharashtra's hill country, with convenient and comfortable links by road, rail, and air.

Important Tourist places In Maharashtra:

1. Ajanta and Ellora caves :

The city of Aurangabad is particularly famous for the heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora. A plethora of 29 rock cut Cave Mountains, these caves stand tall as an important symbol of architectural achievements of the country. The mural paintings in Ajanta and the sculptures in Ellora along with their picturesque location would cast a spellbinding effect on you. The city owes its name to Aurangzeb, the Mughal emperor, who made it a viceregal capital to rule over Deccan. Here, the emperor built Bibi-ka-Maqbara as a tribute to his mother. It is an imitation of the famous Taj Mahal. Pan Chaaki and the Darwazaas are examples of exceptionally skilled architecture of the bygone days. Astonishingly carved into hillside rock in the middle of nowhere are the Ajanta and Ellora caves. There are 34 caves at Ellora dating from between the 6th and 11th centuries AD, and 29 caves at Ajanta dating back to between the 2nd century BC and 6th century AD.

The caves at Ajanta are all Buddhist, while the caves at Ellora are a mixture of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain.

Location:

The caves are in northern Maharashtra, around 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Mumbai. The closest railway stations are in Aurangabad for the Ellora caves (45 minutes away) and Jalgaon for the Ajanta caves (1.5 hours away). There's also an airport in Aurangabad. It's possible to hire a car and drive between the two cave sites. Traveling time is around 2 hours.

2. Shirdi:

Shirdi is a small town in India that's devoted to the popular saint Sai Baba. He preached tolerance towards all religions and equality of all people. Devotees flock to Shirdi, as an important pilgrimage place. Shirdi is located around 300 kilometers from

Mumbai, and 122 kilometers from Nashik, in Maharashtra. It's most popularly accessed from Mumbai. By bus, traveling time is 7-8 hours. It's possible to take a daytime or overnight bus. By train, travel time ranges from 6-12 hours. There are two trains, both of which run overnight.

Sai Baba of Shirdi was an Indian guru. His place and date of birth is unknown, although he passed away on October 15, 1918, and his body has been entombed at the temple complex in Shirdi. His teachings combined elements of Hinduism and Islam. Many Hindu devotees consider him an incarnation of Lord Krishna, while other devotees consider him to be an incarnation of Lord Dattatreya. Many devotees believe that he was a Satguru, an enlightened Sufi Pir, or a Qutub.

If you're coming from somewhere else in India, the nearest airport is at Aurangabad around 125 kilometers away. Alternatively, trains from quite a few cities stop at the railway station in Shirdi. Its name is Sainagar Shirdi (SNSI).

3. Tadoba National Park:

Tadoba is in the northeast of Maharashtra, in the Chandrapur district. Created in 1955, Tadoba National Park is the largest and oldest park in Maharashtra and, although it's growing in popularity, still remains quite off the beaten track. Dominated by teak and bamboo, and with a magical landscape of rugged cliffs, marshes, and lakes, it's full of diverse wildlife and was once favored by shikaras (hunters). Together with the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary, which was formed in 1986, it makes up the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. The best time to see tigers is during the hotter months, from March to May (although summer temperatures are extreme, especially in May). The monsoon season is from June to September, post monsoon (which is also hot) is from October to November. December to February is winter, although temperatures still remain quite warm as the climate there is tropical. Vegetation and insect life come alive with the onset of the monsoon in mid June. However, the growth in foliage can make it difficult to spot animals. The reserve is open daily except Tuesdays for safaris. The reserve has three zones — Moharli, Tadoba, and Kolsa — with numerous entry gates. Moharli and Kolsa are part of the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary. Mohali gate, in Mohali village, provides entry to the Mohali zone.

4. Konkan Coast:

Maharashtra's Konkan Coast, which stretches south along the coast from Mumbai to Goa, is home to some beautiful undeveloped beaches. Alibaug is a very

popular getaway due to its proximity to Mumbai. However, venture further down the coast and you'll find plenty of lesser discovered beaches to explore. Ganpatipule and Tarkarli are two enticing beaches that are becoming hot destinations. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) provides quality beachfront accommodations at both places. The closest hill settlement to Mumbai, Matheran was discovered in 1850 by the British during their occupation of India and subsequently developed into a popular summer retreat. At height of 800 meters (2,625 feet) above sea level, this serene place provides a cooling escape from searing temperatures.

5. Ratnagiri District:

It is a sea port located near the Arabian Sea in the State of Maharashtra. The town has been mentioned prominently in the Hindu mythology and is famous for its Temples. The place contains several different breathtaking natural phenomena like the Rajapur Ganga which is a collection of 14 pools of water which appear almost once in every 3 years. The old palaces and forts are also great places to explore on your trip here. Image Credits Himanshu Sarpotdar

6.Matheran:

Most of us have witnessed breath taking beauty of the hill stations of Maharashtra at least on television, if not in reality. Thanks to Bollywood and Aamir Khan, Khandala has been immortalized through a popular song in the conscience of every Indian. Mahabaleshwar is known as much for a temple as it is for being a renowned spot of honeymoon. The clean air, calm surrounding, placid lake and cascading waterfalls offer a retreat in striking contrast with the bustling cities.

It is located around 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Mumbai, in the state of Maharashtra. Due to its height, Matheran has a cooler and less humid climate than lower surrounding areas such as Mumbai and Pune. In summer, the temperature reaches a top of 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit) while in winter it drops to 15 degrees Celsius (60 degrees Fahrenheit). Heavy monsoon downpours are experienced from June to September. The roads can get very muddy as they're not sealed. As a result, many places close for the monsoon season and the toy train service is suspended. The best time to visit is just after the monsoon.

7.Kolhapur:

The city of **Kolhapur** is located at the banks of the Panchganga River and one of the Princely states of the Marathas. The city is considered to be the heart of the Maratha Empire and is famous for its various historical monuments and cultural heritage of the Marathi people. The climate is pleasant through the year with heavy rainfalls during the monsoons. The best time to visit the city is during any of the major Hindu festivals like Holi, Diwali, Ganesh Chaturthi, Vijaya Dashami and Navaratri. The special 'kolhapuri slippers' and the kolhapuri cuisines are worth trying out.

8.Panchgani:

Surrounded by five hills, Panchgani is a heaven on earth. The place has absolute beauty and picturesque surroundings. This hill station is quite popular among travelers. You will find farm houses of many rich and famous personalities in Panchgani. Another great hill station located at the Western Ghats in the state of Maharashtra, **Matheran** is located at an elevation of approximately 800 meter above the sea level. The city is famous for its cool and less humid climate and is a popular summer retreat for the population of Maharashtra. The British influence on the architecture is pretty evident and is well preserved by the officials. The train ride to Matheran is of special mention as it is a slow ride that will give you ample time to experience the intoxicating surroundings.

9.Khandala:

Located on the Western Ghats, **Khandala** is located between the Deccan Plateau and the Konkan region of Maharashtra. The city is easily accessible and is a popular hiking gateway near the Mumbai. The various trekking locations and viewpoints allow some magnificent views of the entire valley and the Western Ghats. The ancient rock cut caves of Karla and Bhaja are also a must visit along with the Bhushi Lake. The rock formations and cliffs in Khandala have been famous since ages and it is a popular weekend retreat for the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra.

10.Mumbai:

Mumbai, officially named Bombay until 1995, is the financial capital of India and the home of India's Bollywood film industry. Also called India's "maximum city", Mumbai is known for its extreme standards of living, fast paced lifestyle, and the making (or breaking) of dreams. It's a cosmopolitan and increasingly westernized city that's an important base for industry and foreign trade. This Mumbai guide is full of travel information and tips.

Mumbai is the capital city of Maharashtra. The city is known to give shape to dreams of many because of its plentiful resources, this is the reason it is often termed as the 'Dream city of India'. Mumbai is also the financial capital of India. The places worth a view in the city are Gateway of India, Hanging Gardens, Mahalaxmi Temple, Haji Ali Shrine, Marine Drive and beaches of Juhu and Chowpathy. The city of Mumbai is a headquarters of the Bollywood. A drive at the newly opened Bandra-Worli sea link at night is bound to leave you with long lasting memories. Essel World is a most sought after place by the children in the country. The entry ticket varies from children to adult. There is also a discount on the ticket for the senior citizens. A ticket may cost you anywhere from 300-500 on weekdays. However, the prices almost double up during the week-ends.

3.3 Tourism in Nashik District:

Nashik (also spelled as **Nasik**) is a city in the western India in the state of Maharashtra. Nashik is located in the north-west of Maharashtra, 171 km (106 miles) from Mumbai and 210 km (130 mi) from Pune and is the administrative headquarters of the Nashik District and Nashik Division. With a population of 1.5 million, Nashik is the 4th largest city in Maharashtra after Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur. And Nashik district is the eleventh most populous district in India. Mumbai, Pune and Nashik are known as golden triangle in Maharashtra.

Nashik is said to be the abode of Lord Rama during his 14 years in exile. It is located on the banks of the Godavari which originates in the south-west of the city at Trimbakeshwar. It is one of the four places in the world where the Kumbh Mela is held making it one of the holiest Hindu cities. The city is a site for more than 100 ancient temples including the Kalaram Temple and Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple.

Nashik ranks 16th in a global study of fastest developing city conducted by The City Mayors Foundation, an international think tank on urban affairs and have witnessed significant economic progress in the last decade. Nashik is also short listed for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor as an investment region. The city is also known as the Wine Capital of India since it accounts to a large amount of the country's grape export and there are many vineyards in and around Nashik. It also plays an utmost important role in agriculture. Onion, tomatoes and many other vegetables are exported from Nashik to various parts of the world. In addition, Nashik is known for its picturesque surroundings, climate and tourism.

Proximity too many holy temples and sites including the famous pilgrimage centre of Shirdi and a long tryst with India's sacred past, has made Nashik a confluence for the spiritually enlightened. Mythology has it that Rama, the king of Ayodhya, made Nashik his temporary abode during the 14 years of his exile. The poets Rishi Valmiki, Mahakavi Kalidas and Bhavabhooti have paid rich tributes to Nashik in many of their works. In addition, Nashik has always been the epicentre of commerce and trade. Ptolemy, the famous philosopher made a mention of Nashik in 150 BC, leading researchers to believe that it was probably the country's largest market place. Today, Nashik is a bustling township with a blend of the ancient and the modern. Scattered across the city are numerous forts and majestic temples. But it is also the home to many industries. The Security Printing Press of the government, which prints the nation's currency is located herewith is part of the green belt and is renowned for the various fruits and vegetables it produces. In fact the yield of grapes, strawberries and onions in Nashik is amongst the highest in the country.

Ramkund This holy tank is 27 m by 12 m and was built in 1696 by Chitraro Khatarkar. It is believed that Rama and Sita used to bathe in this tank during their exile. It is in this tank of holy water or kund that religious Hindus even today, immerse a dead person's ashes so that the soul of the dead person can attain moksha or liberation. The ashes of numerous personalities such as Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Y B Chavan and others have been immersed at Ramkund.

Muktidham Temple This famous temple is located near the Nashikroad railway station, just 7 kms from the city. The Muktidham Temple is pure white, the colour signifying holiness and peace. White Makrana marble was used to build this temple which has very unusual architecture. Unique to this temple are the 18 chapters of the Gita written on

the walls. A visit to this temple by Hindus is considered as a visit to the 4 dhams or holy centres.**Kalaram Temple**This temple was built in 1794 and is similar in its architectural design to the nearby Trimbakeshwar Temple. The temple is 70 feet in height and was the brainchild of Gopikabai Peshwa. It was built with black stone from the mines of Ramsej Hill. There is a beautiful gold-plated copper peak on the temple. There are icons of Rama, Sita and Laxman lavishly adorned with adornments. The temple is surrounded by several smaller temples such as the Vithal Temple, Ganapati Temple and Maruti Temple.**Pandavleni Caves**

The Pandavleni Caves are located on a tableland on Trirashmi Hill. Built by Jain kings these Caves are around 2000 years old. There are some 24 Caves that were home to Jain saints such as Tirthankara Vrishabdeo, Veer Manibhadraji, and Ambikadevi. There are sculptures of the Buddha and bodhisattvas as well. The cave complex consists of large Caves, which were probably the meeting place of disciples and areas of preaching sermons. There is various water tanks chiseled into the rock.**The Coin Museum** The Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies was established here in 1980. Located in the scenic surroundings of Ajmer Hill, the institute is the only one of its kind in Asia. The museum has a well-documented record of the history of Indian numismatics. Through photographs, articles, line drawings, replicas and real coins, one can study the various currency systems that existed in India down the ages. It has an extensive archive with nearly one hundred thousand cardexes preserved for easy reference. It also holds workshops to promote coin collecting in India. Anjneri itself has had a glorious historical past. Its tryst with destiny has resulted in many ups and downs, under many great rulers including the Bahmanis, Marathas, Mughals and Kolis.**Around Nashik****Trimbakeshwar**The village of Trimbak, 36 kms from Nashik, is famous for the Trimbakeshwar Temple and as the source of the Godavari River. Trimbakeshwar enshrines one of the 12 Jyotrilings dedicated to Shiva and this one is considered to be the main Jyotrilinga. It is the belief that Guatam Rishi performed a rigorous ritual of prayer and penance or tapasya to Shiva on Brahmagiri Hill which rises above the present-day temple. Pleased with this devotion, Shiva is said to have blessed him and brought down to earth from heaven the sacred rivers of Ganga, Gautami and Godavari. Getting there: About 38 kms away from Nashik Road Railway Station, it is connected by bus and taxi service
Dudhasagar WaterfallsThis is one of the more picturesque spots around Nashik.

Cascading 10 meter into the valley at Someshwar are the Dudhasagar Waterfalls. The spumes from the waterfall appear milky white and hence the name dudha or milk. You can reach the waterfall easily as there are steps cut into the rock. This spot is particularly beautiful just after the rains.

Saptashringi Devi Temple The temple of goddess Saptashringi resides 55 kms from Nashik at Wani. As you approach the temple a large rocky hill greets you. This is Saptashringi Hill. The goddess is known to have possessed 18 weapons in 18 hands and is positioned ready to fight the demons. The journey to the temple also has some interesting sights to offer. On the way, you can stop at the Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute (MERI) or at Sitakund at Mhasrul village. This is the site where Sita the wife of Rama used to bathe. This destination is filled with stories and legends connected to the Ramayana. Getting there: It is easily accessible by road from Nashik.

Nandurmadhmeshwar Situated 60 kms from Nashik is a bird-lover's paradise. Aply called Maharashtra's Bharatpur, a wonderful bird sanctuary has been developed here since 1950. Today, Nandurmadhmeshwar is heaven to thousands of beautiful migratory birds. The ideal season to bird watch is from October to March.

Bhandardara Bhandardara is a place which is particularly beautiful after the rains. Located around 70 kms from Nashik, a picturesque and quiet drive will get you there. Built in 1926, the Bhandardara Dam is one of the oldest dams in Asia and is known for its Umbrella Falls - an arresting sight. There is another waterfall known as the Randha Falls which is about 11 kms from the dam. Scaling the well-known Kalsubai Peak, the highest peak of Maharashtra state on the Sahyadri range, standing 1,646 metres above sea level, is a good trek. One of the few tribal kingdoms in Maharashtra, Jawhar, at 518 m, is famous for its vibrant Warli paintings. It invites you to forget your daily grind and all the turmoils that go with it. Jawhar is blessed with exotic dales, rich forests and a wonderful climate. Jai Vilas, the palace of the tribal lords, and the relics of Bhupatgad are worth a visit. The scenic beauty of the Dadar Kopra Falls, the enchanting Hanuman and Sunset Points .all explain why Jawhar is known as the 'Mahabaleshwar of Thane District'. Nearby is Shirpamal, where Shivaji camped on his way to Surat. Getting there: Nasik is the nearest airport. Three convenient railheads are Nasik, Igatpuri and Dahanu. From Mumbai it is 180 kms by road, 80 kms from Nasik, 39 kms from Kasa and 56 kms from Tribakeshwar.

3.4 Tourism Places in Igatpuri (Demographics of Igatpuri):

Though, Igatpuri is the tribal area, Marathi is the Local Language here. People also speaks Hindi, Ahirani And Bhili . Total population of Igatpuri Taluka is 228,208 living in 38,896 Houses, Spread across total 165 villages and 95 panchayats. Males are 117,184 and Females are 111,024 .Total 51,745 people's lives in town and 176,463 lives in Rural. Igatpuri is a picturesque hill station of the Western Ghats. This place is also known for its wada pavas and temples.The milky white waterfalls of Igatpuri are a real treat to the visitors' eyes.This city is located in the Western Ghats. Igatpuri is situated at about 1900 feet above sea level on the Mumbai- Nasik route. It is located at 19.7 N and 73.55 E. Igatpuri is at an elevation of about 586 meters above sea level. It is 12.42 km from Kasara.

In order to reach Igatpuri you will either have to take a long distance by train or take a bus on reaching Kasara. You can avail trains and buses from Mumbai to go to Kasara. Either takes Tapovan Express to Igatpuri or any local train to Kasara from CST. Then take a bus or a taxi from Kasara that will take you to Igatpuri. It takes about 2.5 hrs in train and about 30-40 minutes by road from Kasara to Igatpuri.

3.5 Geography of study area:

Igatpuri is surrounded by the highest peaks of Sahyaadri i.e. Western Ghats, most of them are forts built in Satavahana dynasty. It's heavenly for trekkers and hikers, Most Indian (Hindi) movie outdoor scenes specially songs are shot in Igatpuri region. Igatpuri is a place of significance in terms of Vipasyana meditation. The International Centre for Vipasyana meditation called Dhammagiri, supposedly the largest Vipasyana Center, is located here. This region consists of those mountains which are accessed by trains going from Mumbai CST to Kasara and Igatpuri. Local trains only go up to Kasara, and don't climb the Thal Ghat from Kasara to Igatpuri. Hence to go to Igatpuri, one has to either take a long distance train or reach Kasara by a suburban train and then take a bus uphill. As of 2001 India census Igatpuri had a population of 31,572. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Igatpuri has an average literacy rate of 74%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 80%, and female literacy is 67%. In Igatpuri, 14% of the population is under 6 years of age. People of Agri community can be found in the city, they are also called Patharvat. In Igatpuri 77% people are Hindus, 14% Muslims, 8.6% Buddhists, 1.4% Christians, 2.7% Jains and 0.3% belongs to other cast.

Igatpuri Taluka is bounded by Trimbak Taluka towards North, Mokhada Taluka towards North, Shahapur Taluka towards South, and Nashik Taluka towards North. Nashik City, Sinner City, Ozar City, Gunnar City are the nearby Cities to Igatpuri. Igatpuri consist of 165 Villages and 95 Panchayats . Saturli is the smallest Village and Wadivarhe is the biggest Village. It is in the 589 m elevation (altitude). Igatpuri, Koala, Ratanwadi, Trimbakeshwar, Mahuli Fort are the near by important tourist destinations to see.

Igatpuri is a small but beautiful hill station. Lined with rugged hills and dense forests, Igatpuri is a treat for the eyes. Making it even more appealing, are some ancient temples and lakes. Igatpuri is also the abode of Vipysana International Academy of Meditation, perfect for a peaceful and relieving getaway. The hill station is a different world altogether in the monsoons, with the rain complimenting the lush green forests and the numerous water bodies, making the town appear like a newly-washed green sky.

3.5.1 Igatpuri Climate:

Climate of Igatpuri is very cheerful. If you are taking over the weekend to de-stress from the crowded city life or whether and you simply want to enjoy a quite summer holiday with your spouse and kids, Igatpuri will rejuvenate your senses and leave you wanting for more. Such is the charm of this beautiful little place.

The climate at Igatpuri is majorly pleasant and salubrious throughout the year. The short period of summer can be hot and parched. Travelling is generally avoided during this time. The Monsoons that follow are a welcome change from the heat. During this time, Igatpuri transforms into a green paradise with milky white waterfalls enriching the entire experience of sight-seeing. Winter is also a nice time to visit this place with the temperature being just apt for travelling, trekking and sight-seeing. Igatpuri is truly a rain forest abound with natural beauty, with lush green fields, clouds over the mountains, water-falls and plenty of rains. A must go for those who enjoy being in water (being drenched).

Weather in Igatpuri is generally pleasant throughout the year. Tourists generally enjoy this calm and quite place by walking and climbing the hills. The valleys here will definitely inspire one to fall and roll on them. Many people Visit Igatpuri for trekking to the mountains. The lively waterfalls and streams add to the beauty of the place. Igatpuri is a town and a Hill Station municipal council. Igatpuri

railway station lies in Nashik District between Mumbai and Nashik Road on the Central Railway. Igatpuri is known for Vipassana International Academy, where ancient technique of meditation is taught called Vipassana. Trains on this route usually change locomotives on this stop and also change the guards and drivers. This place is one of the best places to visit in Maharashtra in monsoon. Igatpuri is a major railway station with all trains stopping for 20 minutes as there is a change of locomotive engine owing to the electric current (AC/DC) running the engine. There is a major presence of the Indian Railways within this small town. This is the station from where 25 KV AC traction on OHE begins for CR trains starting from Mumbai CST. The station is famous for its scenic surroundings, wada pao and idlis sold by vendors to commuters traveling in the train. The exit of Igatpuri railway station signals the proximity of Mumbai on down route. Holy Family Convent High School is the oldest English medium school run in the town. Other English school “Wonderland High School & Jr College”. There are an Arts, commerce & Science College of MVP Samaj.

3.5.2 How to reach Igatpuri?

Igatpuri is well known for its ancient, rusty temples. The Ghatandevi Temple is one Temple that one should check out while at Igatpuri. Dedicated to Goddess Ghatandevi – the protector of Ghats – this place of worship provides with a splendid view of the valley below and the many peaks on the lovely Sahayadri Ranges. While you’re there, try and drop in to the Vipassana Centre – a centre that provides a complete course on meditation and how it has been practised over the ages.

If one wishes to travel by air, the Chattrapati Shivaji Airport in Mumbai is the closest International Airport, about 119 km away. The Nashik Domestic Airport is the nearest domestic airport for people flying in from within India. There are regular trains as well that ply from various towns and cities inside and outside Maharashtra. Local trains don’t go beyond Kasara, leaving you with the option of either opting for a bus uphill once you’re there, or taking a long distance train right from the start. By road, you can either drive up the gorgeous ghats to reach this place or take a bus from your city. Driving up those tricky ghats can prove to be quite a challenge, but it is a small price to pay for the thrilling experience you will get in return.

3.5.3 Tourism Places in Igatpuri Tehsil:

Tourism is the most significant segment of the Igatpuri's economy. Following are the places most visited by tourists:

1. Kapildhara Tirtha– This place is also known as Kaunai. Kumbha mela held here every 12 years. It is belief that this is the original place of kumbha due to which kumbha mela takes place.

In 1800 Chinese tourist Huen Tansanga visited this place and gifted a chinese bell which can seen even today. Nonstop water comes out of statue of cow. Before 700 years, Saint Dnyaneshwar made alive a Brahmin by using the water of this Kapildhara Thirtha. It supposed that Samartha Ramdas use to meet here to guide Chatrapati Shivaji. By his order, Shivaji formed Hanuman temple in every village. Shree Gajanan Maharaj also made tapsya for 12 years. Kapila and Godavari meets together here. At this place Prabhu Ramchandra and Laximan lived. Parvati tested the character of Rama here. Mahamuni Kapilji use to reside here. At the same time Sukracharya's Ashram was also here.

2. Sarva Thirtha Taked: This place have special importance not only in the history of Igatpuri but also India. It is written in Valmiki Ramayana that Ravana kidnapped Seeta from Panchavati. When he was going to Lanka, at this place, the bird Jatayu tried to save Sita. The battle took place between Ravana and Jatayu. Jatayu died while fighting. Before it, Jatayu told Rama the whole story. Rama gave water by throwing arrow on earth, at Bhavali village, which also known as Dhanusha Tirtha. At Taked, there is temple of lord Shiva, Jatayu and other God, Godess. Tourist all over the world visits this place. In the month of Sravan and the time of Kumbha Mela, lacks of tourist visits here. There no basic facilities like water, electricity, roads etc.

3. Dhamma Giri Meditation Centre: Founded by S.N.Goenka, Dhammagiri is a center which offers courses in Vipysana (insight meditation) a technique taught by the Buddha in India, 2,500 years ago. The large Golden Pagoda, the central theme of Dhammagiri serves as a landmark for Igatpuri. The math attracts lots of people from various parts of India as well as abroad. Located at the outskirts of the Igatpuri, is a house of saints which is known for 'Vipyasana'- a Buddhist style of meditation. 'Vipysana' has made Igatpuri famous throughout the world, attracting hundreds of tourists. Igatpuri hosts the headquarters of the Vipassana International Academy. Vipassana, India's ancient technique in meditation, was "brought back to India" by

SN Goenka in 1969. By 1975, Dhammagiri, Igatpuri, had come into being as the centre for Vipasana. Through a Buddhist practice, Vipasana ('seeing things as they really are') courses are non-sectarian and are offered to all. The technique of Vipasana is taught in 10-day residential courses in more than 100 centres all over the world. The course requires complete silence from the participant. There is no outside contact and no communicating with fellow participants. No phones and no intoxicants are allowed. There are no charges for the courses - not even for food and accommodation. All expenses are met by donations from people who, having completed a course wish to give others the opportunity to also benefit.

4. Ghatandevi Temple: Just ahead of Igatpuri, after crossing the camel Valley comes across a small road, which leads to the Ghatandevi temple. According to the local's belief, Ghatandevi is the Protector of Ghats. The mountains of Durrar Utvad, Trimak and Harihar form a spectacular backdrop. Behind the temple lies the Tringalwadi Fort. Ghatandevi Mandir, Igatpuri is one of the first things that comes to the mind of many people, while discussing Igatpuri. It's true that there are quite a few other interesting things to see and do too. However, like all other attractions, the Ghatandevi Mandir in Igatpuri also has its own brand of unique charm. In fact, countless visitors just can't stop gushing about the place. In short, rest assures that a trip to Ghatandevi Mandir Igatpuri will leave you with a lifetime of fond memories. Situated about 3 km from Dewdrops Boutique Retreat

5. Vaitarna Dam: It is located on the Vaitarna River near Igatpuri, is an earthfill and gravity dam which was built during the early 1950s. The height of the dam above its lowest foundation is 41 m (135 ft). It is a popular tourist spot as it offers panoramic view of the stony peaks of the Western Ghats. It is the main source of water and electricity for major parts of Mumbai.

3.5.4 Other important Tourism Centres

1. Kalsubai Peak – This peak is 5400 feet. About 35 km from Igatpuri is the highest peak in the Sahyadri ranges. It is the highest peak in Maharashtra which is very beautiful to view. There is temple on the top. Many people and trekkers regularly visit this place. This Peak is situated on the border of Nashik and Ahmednagar District. Highest, though, doesn't mean toughest. **Kalsubai** is a trek for anyone who is reasonably fit. A breathtaking vista of shimmering waters and splendid forts awaits you, and making the trek even more exciting are the iron ladders that lead you up

precarious paths and a series of pinnacles. **Kalsubai**'s trademark is a series of false summits. Huffing and puffing to the top of the ridge, you are crestfallen to find that this is not the summit! About half a kilometre from the top is a small well. From the well, the summit rock is visible and a clear path leads up to an iron ladder that eventually brings you to the top.

2. Amruteshwar Temple: Built in 11th century AD, it is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Constructed in Nashik district Hemadpanti style, the temple is surrounded by lush green fields and Mount Kalsubai the highest mountain in Maharashtra. From here a further excursion leads to the Ratangad Fort. One can access this temple by road or an 8 km boat ride on Arthur Lake.

3. Tringalwadi and other Fort: It is situated at an altitude of 3,000 feet above the sea level. If you happen to be a lover of history and architecture, the Tringalwadi Fort must figure in your list of Sights to see. This majestic fort is at a breathtaking 3,000 feet above sea level and offers a panoramic view of the entire city of Igatpuri below, alongside the captivating beauty of the Sahyadri Ranges. Pay homage to the Hanuman Temple within the fort's premises while you are there. Since it is located very high, the fort offers picturesque scenery of the whole locality, especially Kulang and Kalsubai mountain ranges. The fort attracts trekkers also. The top of the fort is shaped like a Turban. A temple dedicated to lord Hanuman is nearby. An architectural marvel, the fort can be accessed through a narrow pathway, down to the Tringalwadi Lake. Situated about 6 km from Rainforest Resort, Igatpuri. Just a few km away from Tringalwadi Lake is Talegaon Lake formed by the small Talegaon Dam.

About 6 km from Manas Resort is **Tringalwadi Fort** that has been attracting trekkers chiefly during the rains. In the monsoon, the farmers of Tringalwadi grow their crops over what is essentially a rough motorway that leads to the base of the fort. So, in the rains, vehicles cannot travel the last 3-4 km towards the ancient fort. But there is a narrow pathway for a nice, long, wet walk, down to the calm Tringalwadi Lake that looks a trifle more beautiful from the fort. The fort itself is worthy of personal exploration. A few kilometres away from Tringalwadi Lake is Talegaon Lake, created by the small Talegaon Dam. The steps and walls of the 3000 ft high **Tringalwadi Fort** still stand in fine condition. Behind the fort, on the edge, via the secret path is a must see, the Hanuman Temple. The fort offers lovely views of the mountain range from Kumpan to Kalsubai. The peaks of Utvad and Harihar can also be spotted.

Alang-Palang-Kulang forts are 30 k.m. away from Igatpuri. The road is very difficult to reach. Aurvedic medicine plants are found here.

4. Camel Valley: A few metres away from Bhatsa river Valley, on the right are the camel valley. On the other side of the valley is a waterfall formed by the rain waters and one have to walk over and look down to find a slop that falls over 1, 000 ft. The waterfall is the chief attraction of this place.

5. The Five Waterfalls

A little further from Ghatandevi, the rough road leading to the railway line begins. Across the railway line, while climbing down, falling one below the other, are five waterfalls that form which are main attraction for tourists in Igatpuri. Surrounded by the splendorous Western Ghats or the Sahyadri, Igatpuri is a hill station that serves as a perfect getaway from the daily chaos and rush of cities like Mumbai and Nasik. This charming hill station is adorned with beautiful temples, and it is also a popular place among rock climbers and other adventure sports enthusiasts.

Igatpuri is popular for its amazing five waterfalls which are located a little further from Ghatandevi Temple. There is quite a rough road that leads to where the railway line begins. While one is climbing down, he can see the Igatpuri **waterfalls** across the railway line. These waterfalls in Igatpuri are a popular picnic spot for the locals and the tourists alike. Rally around the place and get mesmerized by what the surrounding Western Ghats have to offer.

6. Tringalwadi Lake is a scenic lake which especially attracts a large number of tourists during the monsoons. The lake is one of the many lakes in the Igatpuri Municipality. There is a fort close by known as Tringalwadi Fort from where the view of the surroundings is breathtaking. The lake is also surrounded by the mountains - Kulang and Kalsubai. There is a dam located very close to the lake called the Talegaon Dam. The lake is a good place to head to for trekking, bird watching or simply to enjoy a quiet evening exploring the picturesque scenery.

Arthur Lake: A few km from Igatpuri, lays a huge and placid Arthur Lake, set like a huge jewel amidst the dense greenery. The lake is formed by the waters of the Pravara River in the Bhandardara region. Igatpuri is home to many lakes, namely the lake owned by the municipality - the Railway's Lake and the **Talegaon Lake**. The lake-sides are the best places to spend a peaceful evenings to relax and unwind with good company.

7. Kasara Ghat - It is one of the first things that come to the mind of many people, while discussing Igatpuri. It's true that there are quite a few other interesting things to see and do too. However, like all other attractions, the Kasara Ghat in Igatpuri also has its own brand of unique charm. In fact, countless visitors just can't stop gushing about the place. In short, rest assures that a trip to Kasara Ghat Igatpuri will leave you with a lifetime of fond memories.

8. Bhatsa River Valley-On the way to Igatpuri from Mumbai, less than 3 km from Manas Resort, which has become a landmark, is the Bhatsa River Valley. It's a stunning depth of extremely happy vegetation and rocks that run down a slope off the road, only to rise again majestically far away as proud hills. A river far down below cuts the curve into two to present the perfect cliché of 'a beautiful valley', as though a kid with some talent had devised the whole thing. A few hundred feet before you reach Manas Resort is Ghatandevi Mandir, dedicated to the goddess of the ghats. The mandir will be to your left as you come from Mumbai. To the right of the highway is one of the most spectacular sights in this region - Camel Valley. The Bhatsa River valley is situated at the end of the Thal Ghat, just before entering Igatpuri from Mumbai. Situated about 50 km from Dewdrops Boutique Retreat. The valley lies in the basin of the majestic Bhatsa River. The valley is a picturesque spot with lush vegetation and majestic rocks formed by the river that runs through it. The Walavalkar Museum is a unique museum that depicts Shivaji Maharaj's life and proves to be yet another treat to gorge your eyes on.

3.6 Resume:

In the chapter deals with geographical background of the study area with extent location, climate, soil, natural vegetation, population characteristics, various tourist place in the study area with availability of infrastructure and other facilities

Chapter 4

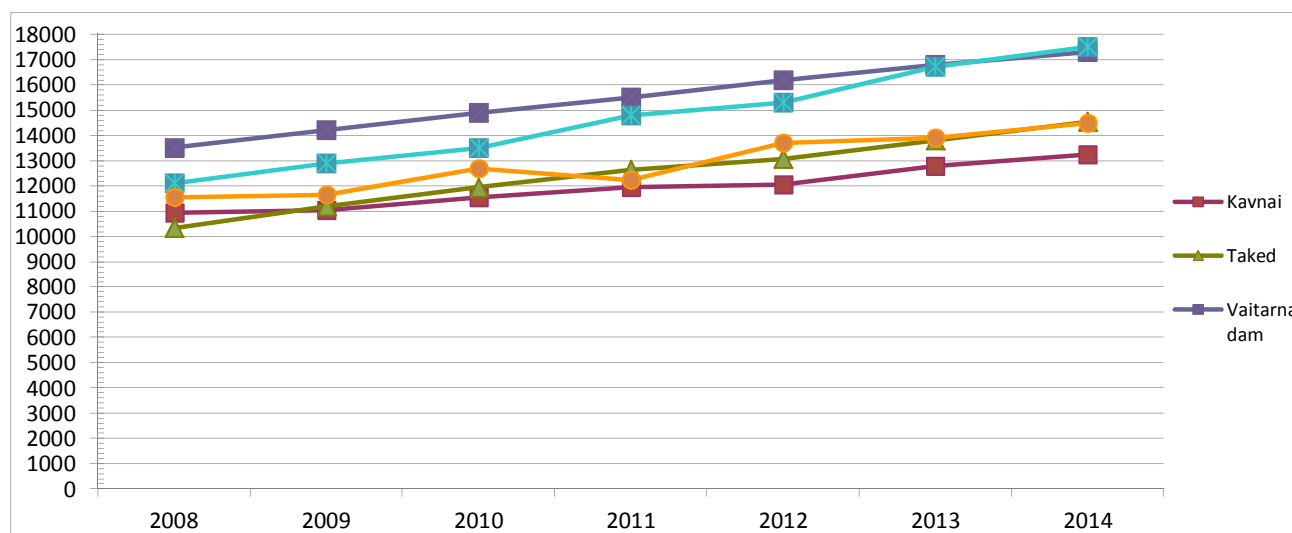
Problems before Tourism in Igatpuri

Tourism certainly plays a determining role in the development of poorer economy which suffers from an adverse balance of payment situation, a high degree of social backwardness, besides the other environmental problems. Igatpuri is totally depending upon tourists. The word Tourism although accepted and recognized in common parlance, is nevertheless a term that is subject to a diversity of meanings and interpretations. Tourism is one of the most important industries in the service of the Indian economy. It is one of the world's fastest growing industries and it plays an important role in accelerating the economic development of the country which is widely recognized. It has generated a number of social and economic benefits. Tourism also supports local handicrafts and cultural activities in many developing countries, particularly the small country which is mainly dependent upon the tourism.

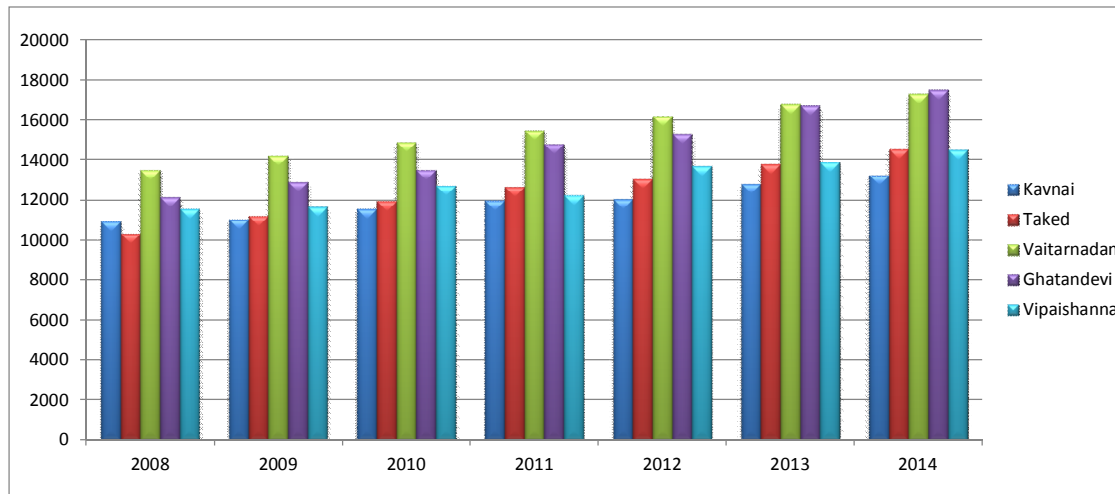
Igatpuri is an important Taluka in Nasik District which is also known as mini khndala. Its Head Quarters is Igatpuri town. It belongs to Khandesh and Northern Maharashtra region. It belongs to Nasik Division. Igatpuri Taluka is facing various problems, which has also affected the tourism industry. Following are the problems before tourism industry in Igatpuri.

No of the tourist visited in following place :

sr.no	Name of Tourist Place	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Kavnai	10943	11052	11563	11964	12050	12800	13251
2	Taked	10330	11200	11948	12651	13070	13800	14555
3	Vaitarnadam	13518	14220	14900	15500	16200	16800	17300
4	Ghatandevi	12123	12900	13500	14800	15300	16730	17500
5	Vipaishanna	11563	11661	12698	12231	13708	13900	14500



sr.no	Name of Tourist Place	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Kavnai	10943	11052	11563	11964	12050	12800	13251
2	Taked	10330	11200	11948	12651	13070	13800	14555
3	Vaitarnadam	13518	14220	14900	15500	16200	16800	17300
4	Ghatandevi	12123	12900	13500	14800	15300	16730	17500
5	Vipaishanna	11563	11661	12698	12231	13708	13900	14500



4.1 Problems of tourist place:

1) Absence of Effective Marketing

In this era of globalization and free competition, marketing plays important role. Nor the state government nor the local body is trying its best for the marketing of tourism places in Igatpuri. To provide basic facilities is the only duty performed by the local body. There is no proper advertising of tourism spots like Ghatandevi temple, Sarvatirtha Taked, Kawanai, Kalsubai. Dhammagiri is the international centre which offers courses in Vipasana (insight meditation) a technique taught by the Buddha in India, 2,500 years ago.

2) No Infrastructural Facilities

Igatpuri is the important taluka in Nasik which is on Mumbai- Agra Highway. 80% travelers take haul at Igatpuri. Ghoti is the renowned market place in the country which is 5 k.m. away from Igatpuri city. Lots of tourist visits tourist places in this Taluka on holidays. But due to absence of basic facilities like roads, communications, hostelling, health, tourist hesitate to go these beautiful places. Only at the time of Kumbhamela (which take place after every 12 years), the roads and other facilities are developed. The internal roads are damaged very badly.

3) No Guidance system:

There is no guidance system established in this Taluka for the tourist. The international tourists face acute problems. Even the local tourist also face this problem. There is no such centre which can guide properly. There is no trained guidance and also there are no training courses in taluka to prepare skilled guides.

4) No Innovative Ideas to attract tourist:

To encourage the tourists or to fetch more tourists to the Igatpuri, innovative ideas are not used by the local or state government. In Aurangabad, Eldora Caves Mahatosav is held every year. This has attracted the tourist all over the world. This idea can be applied to the Igatpuri Taluka also.

5) No Special Fund:

Igatpuri is the tribal area. It is also well known tourism centre. It requires the special attention. But nor the state nor the central Government provides special funds is not allotted. For the development of tourists spots additional fund is required. But no provision is made in local or state budget.

6) Corruption in Administration:

Igatpuri is tribal area. Development schemes are introduced by the state and central government, funds is also allotted but no actual work take place, if it took place, quality is compromised. This happens because of the corruption in administration. Same is the case of tourism.

7) Special Bus Requirements:

Nashik Darshan Bus is started by the State Transport. It travels the visitors to the important religious and Natural tourist places in and around Nashik. In Igatpuri taluka, there are no bus service at remote areas and tourist places. If such Bus service is made available to the Igatpuri, then it will gian to the tourist, at the same time it will add revenue to the government and boost the tourism.

8) Poor Conditions of Tourist Spots:

There are poor conditions of the forts and other tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka. There are fourts like Alang, Kulang, Tringalwadi forts, Ghatan devi, Sarvatirtha Taked, Kawanai temple, Dugar wadi waterfall, Dhanusha Tirtha etc. The physical conditions of these tourist places are not good. There is no maintained by the authority.

9) Security and Safety of The Tourist:

Almost all the tourist places in Igatpuri are far away from each other. As it is tribal and hilly area, security and safety measurement are required. Tourist hesitates to go the remote area for the enjoyment. No special police station or guard is appointed for the safety of the tourist. No regular patrolling is arranged by the police.

10) Tourism Training School, Courses:

Dhammagiri is the famous International Vipysana (Meditation) Centre. International and national tourist visits regularly to this centre. Tourist from various parts of the country also visits other important tourist places in this Taluka. Language is the main barrier of communication before them. They also require guides for tourism. If Tourism and Soft skill Schools or programs are arranged for local youths, it will be beneficial for the tourist. It will also provide job opportunities.

11) Tour Package Not Available:

Beside Igatpuri, there are tourist places in Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, Kalwan, Niphad, and Sinnar. Shirdi is an important tourist place near the Nashik. Nadurmadhmeshwar is the bird sanctuary in Niphad. Trimbakeshwar is the Joytirlinga place, Nashik is

known as south Kashi. Saptshringi is the religious tourist place in Kalwan in Nashik district. All these places are not far away from Igatpuri. If the tour package like Ashtavinayak is given to the tourist, they will happily give response.

12) No Tourism Status:

Igatpuri and Trimbakeshwar Taluka are attached to each other. Trimbakeshwar is the Jotirlinga place. So, government is going to give tourism status to Trimbakeshwar. There are more tourist places in Igatpuri and they are having natural beauty. This Taluka is on two national highways. So, Igatpuri also requires tourism status.

13) Heavy Load shading:

There is heavy load shading in Igatpuri Taluka. In remote places, there is no power supply. Besides this, Internet connection is another problem. Few Mobile towers are there which create barriers in communication. So, tourists are upset due to non-availability of these basic facilities.

14) Absence of Qualitative Hotels:

Hotel Shagun, Hotel Grand Ashwin, Hotel Golden Resort are the good hotels in Igatpuri, but they are not qualitative one. Food quality on various Dhabas and restaurant is not as per expectation. Tourist is ready to pay high price for accommodation and food. Unfortunately, it is not available. Hotel owner's demands oneness in all taxes.

15) Water Shortage in All Season:

Igatpuri is the highest rainfall area in the state. There is highest number of Dams in this Taluka. Bhavli, Kadwa, Darna, Mukne, Vaitarna, Appar Kadwa are important Dams. Vaitarna provides water to Mumbai. But there is no irrigation system not pipeline in this taluka. So, there is always shortage of water in all season. Tourist has to face this problem.

16) No Tourist Hub:

Nashik is South Kashi. There are important tourist places in Igatpuri, Trimbak, Kalwan, Niphad and other Talukas. Hub is the place where all facilities are provided to all related factors for the encouragement of the industry. For the development of tourism there is no tourist hub in the district. Igatpuri highly requires Tourist Hub.

17) Negligence of Leaders and Administrators:

People of Igatpuri gave up their lands for MIDCs, Dams, Military, National Highways, and Oil Pipeline. But still they are not given proper reward or jobs. This

negligence of Administration and Leaders is percolated at all level. When the question of tourism comes, these factors are not performing their duty efficiently. If they do so, tourism industry will be benefited. People will avail employment, tourist will get facilities, and tourist places will be well developed.

18) Special Trains requires:

Igatpuri railway station is established in 1865. It is on the way to Mumbai. All the important trains are not given halt at Igatpuri. No special train like Matheran is started. Local trains of Mumbai runs up to the Kasara which near Igatpuri. If the local trains are extended to the Igatpuri, more tourists may come in this Taluka.

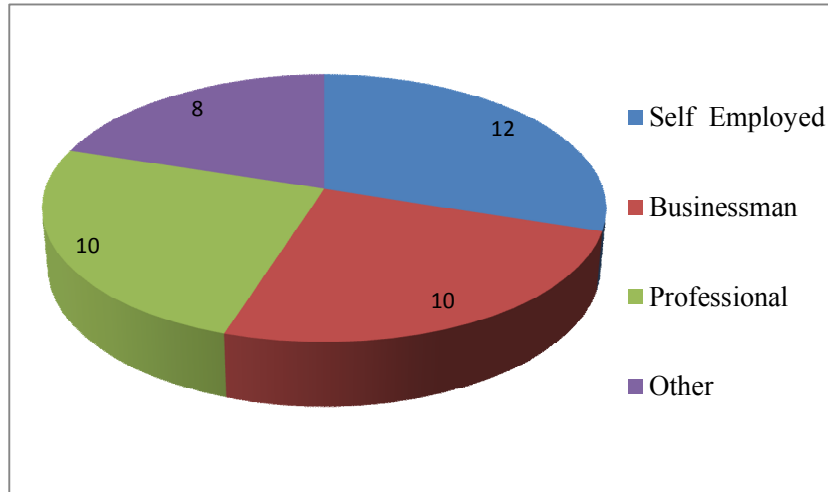
4.2

sr no	Name of Tourist place	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Kavanai	18.71%	18.10%	17.89%	17.81%	17.13%	17.29%	17.18 %
2	Takad	17.66%	18.35%	18.49%	18.84%	18.58%	18.64%	18.87 %
3	Vaitarnadam	23.11%	23.29%	23.06%	23.08%	23.03%	22.69%	22.43 %
4	Ghatandevi	20.73%	21.13%	20.89%	22.04%	21.75%	22.59 %	22.69 %
5	Vipaishanna	19.77%	19.10%	19.65%	18.21%	19.49%	18.77 %	18.80

Villager's Analysis of the Questionnaire:

1. Sources of Income.

Sr. No		Total	Percentage
1	Self Employed	12	30
2	Businessman	10	25
3	Professional	10	25
4	Other	08	20



2. Period of residence in Igatpuri.

Sr No		Total	Percentage
1	5 Years	05	12.5
2	10years	15	37.5
3	More Than 10 Years	20	50

In the most of the people in Igatpuri are residence is around more than 20 years.

3. Depending Upon Tourism Industry.

Sr No.		Total	Percentage
1	Partially	20	50
2	Totally	08	12
3	Not At All	12	30

In the study area depending upon tourism industry identifies partially around 50 percentage people.

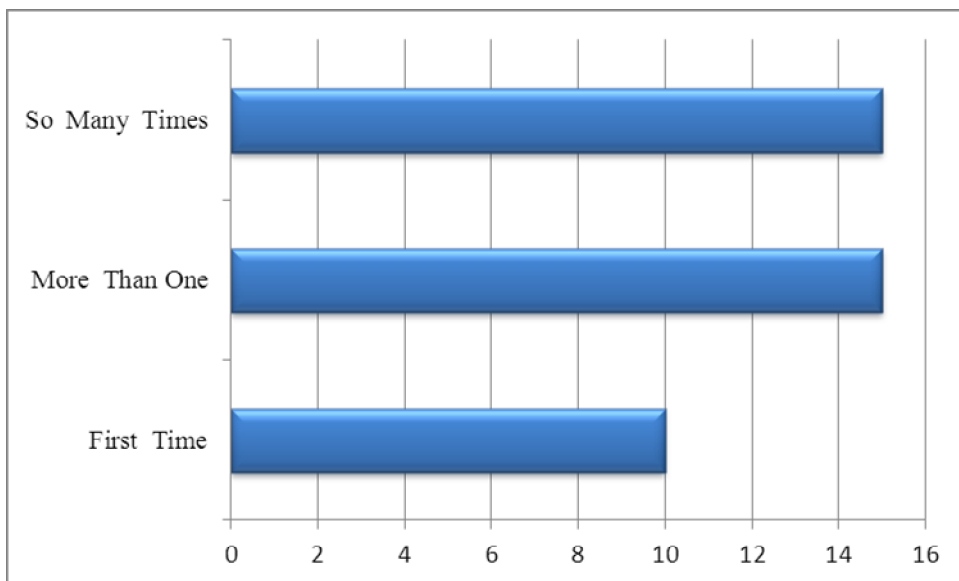
4. Visit Tourist Places in Igatpuri Taluka.

SR.no.		Total	Percentage
1	Regularly	12	30
2	frequently	28	70

All the around in the study area tourist visited in most of the frequently and 70 percentage due to this place are all infrastructure facilities availability.

5. Times visited tourist places in Igatpuri.

Sr No		Total	Percentage
1.	First Time	10	25
2.	More Than One	15	37.5
3.	So Many Times	15	37.5



6. Basic facilities provided at tourist places.

sr.no		total	percentage
1.	Yes	10	25
2.	no	30	75

8. Standard of road network in Igatpuri Taluka.

Sr. No		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	28	70
2.	Good	07	17.5
3.	Better	05	12.5

In study area of road network few road facilities and around 30 percentages are to connection of the tourist place.

9. Barrier of communication.

Sr. No		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	15	37.5
2.	No	25	62.5

And around of the 62.5 percentage no any barrier of communication of the people by various road, telecommunication, rail etc.

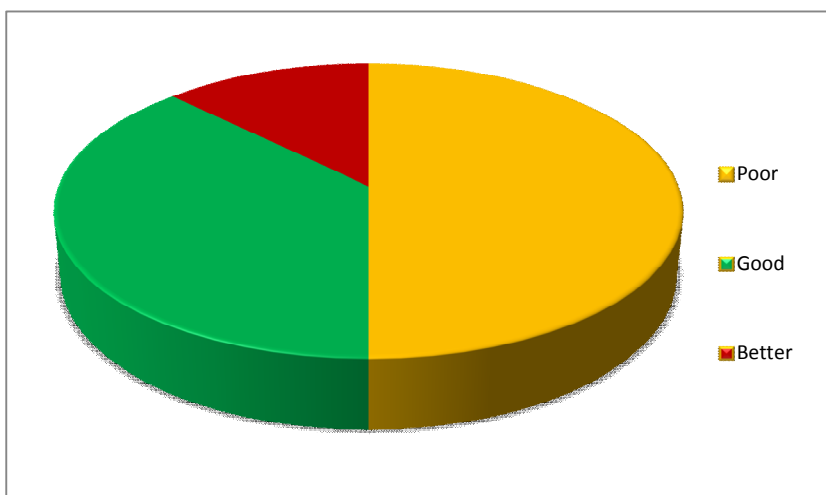
10. Law and order situation in Igatpuri.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	20	50
2.	Good	15	37.5
3.	Better	05	12.5

In the study area about 50 percentage poor law and order situation in the study area.

11. Standard of Hotels in Igatpuri.

Sr. No		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	20	50
2.	Good	15	37.5
3.	Better	05	12.5



12. Standards of Hoteling and food.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	25	62.5
2.	Good	10	25
3.	Better	05	12.5

In the study area no any standards and food facilities very few availability. Due no developments of hoteling in area.

13. Standards of road and communication.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	28	70
2.	Good	10	25
3.	Better	02	05

14. Guides available for tourism.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	05	12.5
2.	No	35	87.5

In the tourist place no any govt.of Maharashtra licensed not available. Due to tourist are daily not come in the place.

15. Proper guidance is provided to tourists or not.

sr. no.		Total	percentage
1.	Yes	10	25
2.	No	30	75

No proper guidance is provided in the tourist place. Some villeges are given some information of people of the tourist place

16. Any infrastructural facility available at the tourist places.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	15	37.5
2.	No	25	62.5

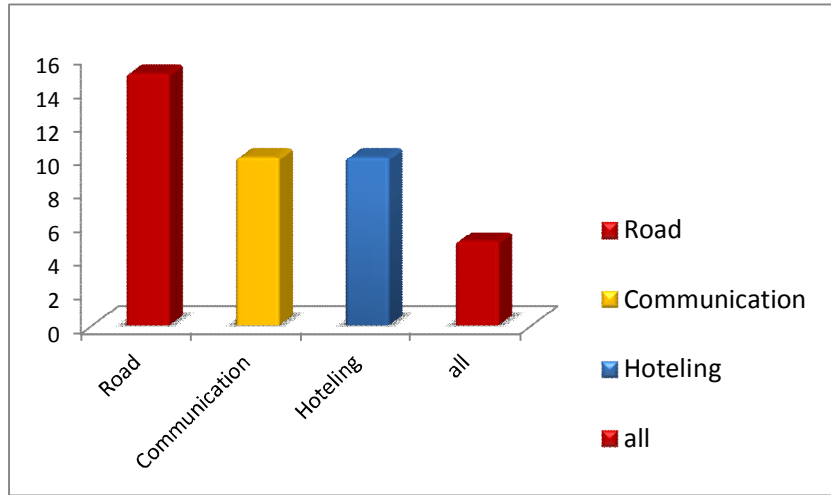
No very good facility available in the tourist place in the study area.

17. Attitude of the Govt. Auth. related to the Tourism.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Positive	10	25
2.	Negative	20	50
3.	Can't say	10	25

18. Facilities in Igatpuri should be strengthen.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Road	15	37.5
2.	Communication	10	25
3.	Hoteling	10	25
4.	all	05	12.5



19. Any chance to raise the infrastructural facilities.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	20	50
2.	No	20	50

So the people raised the infrastructural facilities in the study area due to road network and other infrastructure facilities.

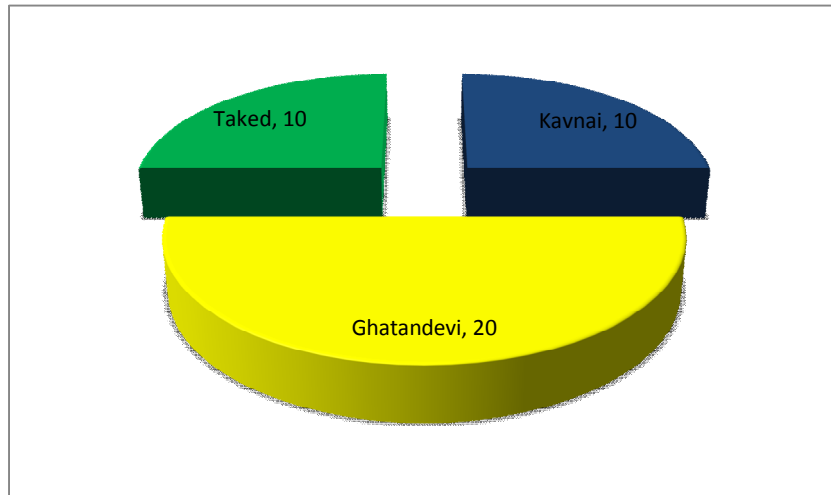
20. Any scope to the tourism industry in Igatpuri.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	30	70
2.	No	10	30

In the study area tourism of the development are scoped like increased the road connected and infrastructure facilities. Agro based tourism centre are developed in the study area.

21. Favorite tourists place in Igatpuri Taluka.

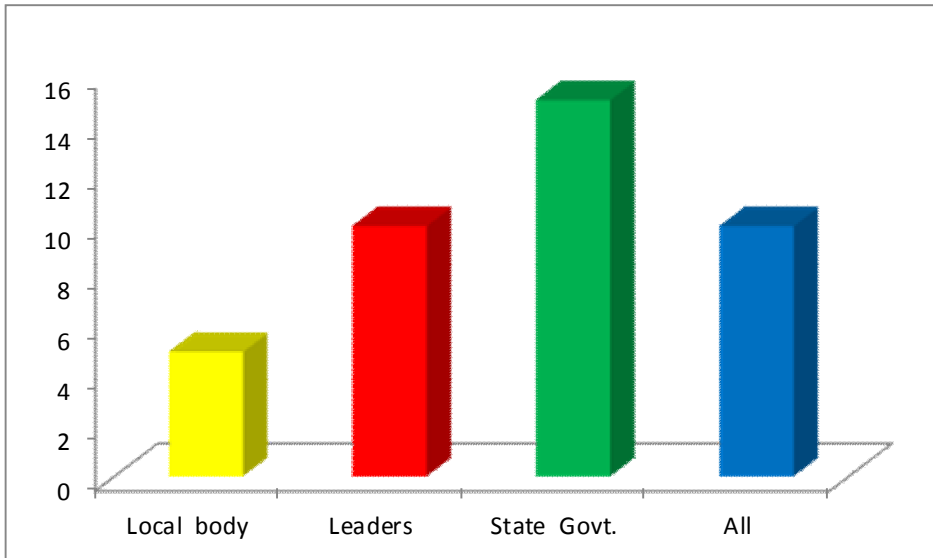
sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Kavnai	10	25
2.	Ghatandevi	20	50
3.	Taked	10	25



In the study area these are the tourists place but tourist attracted in ghatandevi, due to this hill area. This natural beauty attraction of the people the study area.

22. Responsible for Degradation of Igatpuri Taluka.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Local body	05	12.5
2.	Leaders	10	25
3.	State Govt.	15	37.5
4.	All	10	25



Questionnaire - A [For tourists]

Are you Amateur Tourists?

Sr. No.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	20	50
2.	No	20	50

So many people are 50 percentages of amateur tourists. Due seasonal tourism.

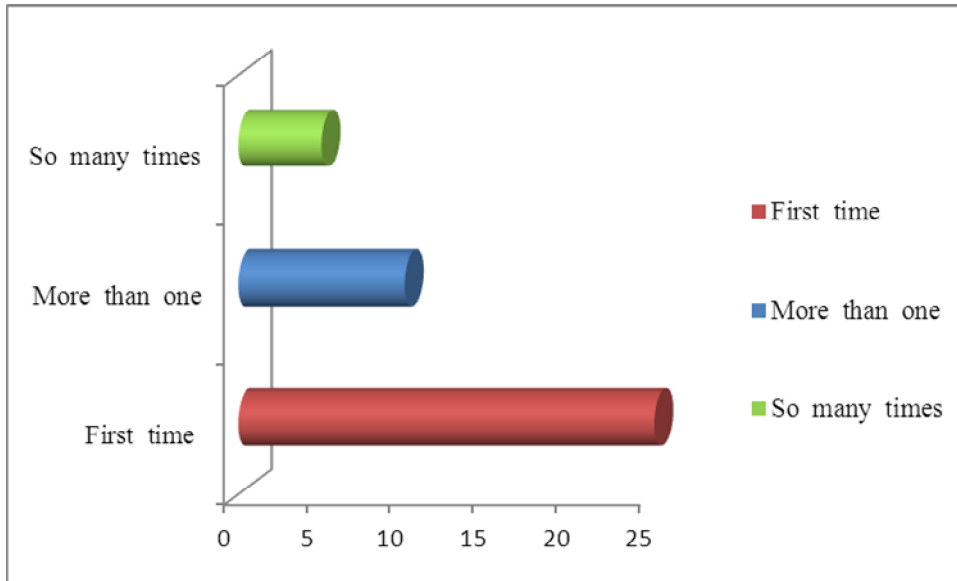
Visit Tourists places in Igatpuri Taluka.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Regularly	15	37.5
2.	Frequently	25	62.5

In study area visited of tourist in frequently of Igatpuri Taluka due to so many people seasonal tourism in study area and around 65.5 percentage people attracted in the tourist place.

Times visited Tourists places in Igatpuri.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	First time	25	62.5
2.	More than one	10	25
3.	So many times	05	12.5



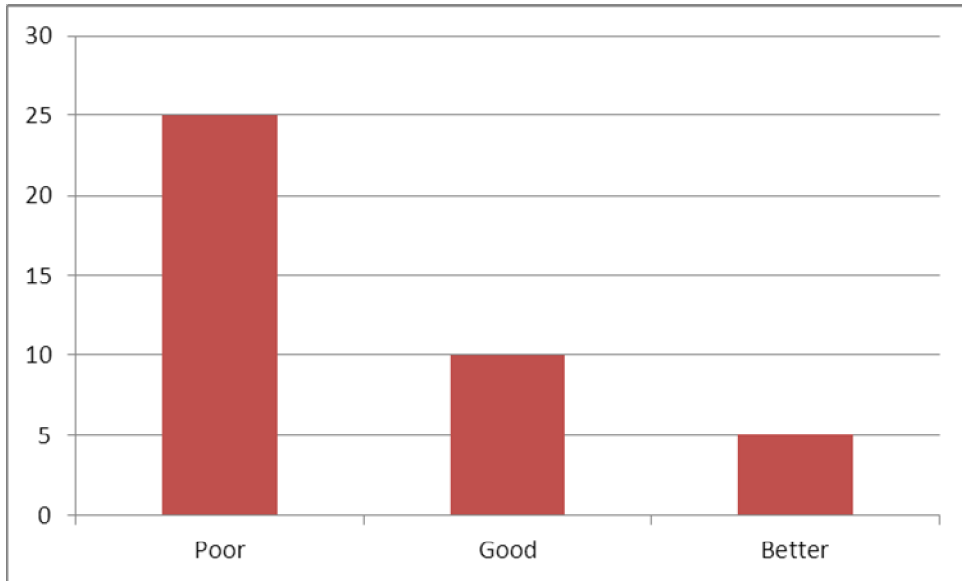
5. Basic Facilities provided at tourists places.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	10	25
2.	No	30	75

In all tourist places in the study area basic facilities at the tourist place for example health, hostel and recreational facilities

6. Standard of Road network in Igatpuri Taluka.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	25	62.5
2.	Good	10	25
3.	Better	05	12.5



7. Any Barrier of Mobiles and Network communication.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	15	62.5
2.	No	25	37.5

In the tourist place mainly hill area that why so many obstacle in the study region and around 62.5 percentage people opinion are barrier of mobiles and network communication in the around area.

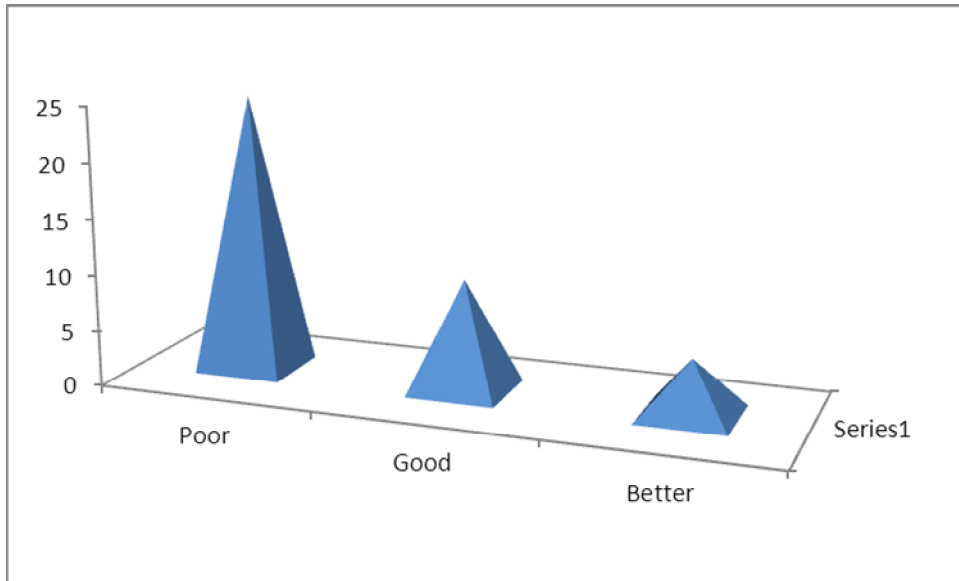
8. The Law and order situation in Igatpuri Taluka.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	15	37.5
2.	Good	20	50
3.	Better	05	12.5

On the behalf of opinion people of tourist on study area is good law and order situation an around 50 percentage. And 37.5 percentage people are opinion is poor situation of law and order in study area.

9. Standard of Hotels in Igatpuri.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	25	62.5
2.	Good	10	25
3.	Better	05	12.5



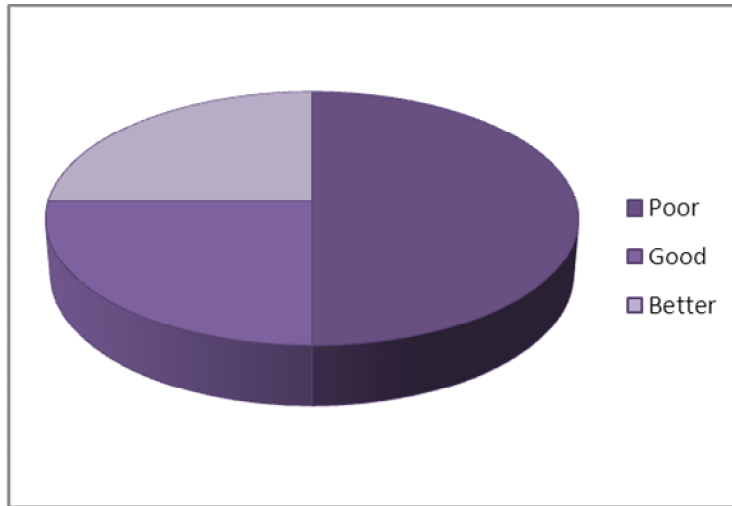
10. The standard of food.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	15	37.5
2.	Good	15	37.5
3.	Better	10	25

In the study area of standard of food is poor and good is 37.5 percentages and better of 25 percentage.

11. The standard of Road and communication.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	20	50
2.	Good	10	25
3.	Better	10	25



12. Guides are available at tourism places in Igatpuri Taluka.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	10	25
2.	No	30	75

In the tourist place are not available facilities of the guides to not give information of the details of tourist place.

13. Proper Guidance is provided or not.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	12	30
2.	No	28	70

And about 30 percentage of opinion not proper guidance in the tourist of place.

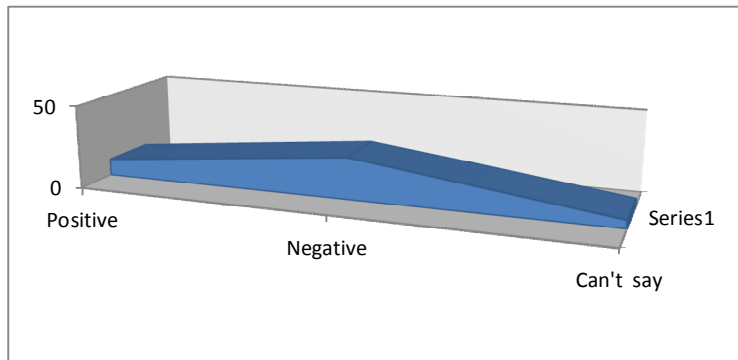
14. Any infrastructural facility available at tourist places.

sr. no		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	11	27.5
2.	No	29	72.5

In the study area no any infrastructural facility at tourist places.

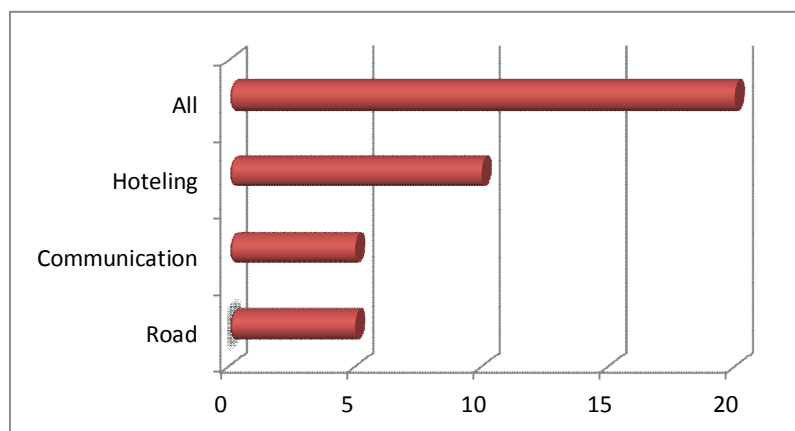
15. Attitude of Government Authorities related to the Tourism

Sr. no		Total	Percentage
1.	Positive	10	25
2.	Negative	25	62.5
3.	Can't say	05	12.5



16. Facilities in Igatpuri should be strengthening.

sr. no		Total	Percentage
1.	Road	05	12.5
2.	Communication	05	12.5
3.	Hoteling	10	25
4.	All	20	50



17. Any chance to raise the infrastructural Facilities.

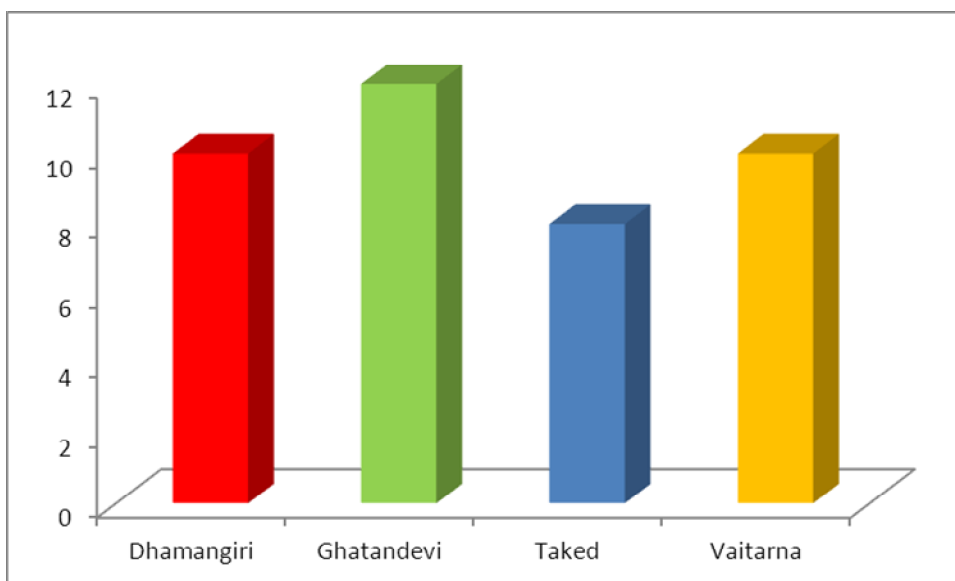
sr. no		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	28	70
2.	No	12	30

18. Any Scope to the tourism industry in Igatpuri Taluka.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	30	75
2.	No	10	25

19. Favourite tourist place in Igatpuri Taluka.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Dhamangiri	10	25
2.	Ghatandevi	12	30
3.	Taked	08	20
4.	Vaitarna	10	25



Questionnaire - A [For Govt. Office]

1. Nature of Office.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Local body	10	50
2.	State Gov.	02	10
3.	Other	08	40

2. Designation.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Class one	03	15
2.	Class two	07	35
3.	Class three	10	50

3. Many tourists visit tourist places in every year.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Up to 1000	10	50
2.	Up to 2000	05	25
3.	More than	05	25

4. The category of tourist.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Indian	15	75
2.	Foreners	03	15
3.	Local	02	10

6. The basic facilities provided at tourist places.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	10	50
2.	No	10	50

9. The standard of Road network in Igatpuri Taluka.

sr. no.		Totals	Percentage
1.	Poor	10	50
2.	Good	05	25
3.	Better	05	25

10. The barrier of communication.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Telephone	10	50
2.	Internet	05	25
3.	Post office	05	25
4.	Other	00	00

11. The In charge of Tourist places.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	trustee	15	
2.	Administrators	05	

12. The standard of hotels.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	18	
2.	Good	02	
3.	Better	00	

13. The standard of Hoteling and food.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	15	75
2.	Good	03	15
3.	Better	02	10

14. The standard of Road and Communication.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Poor	15	75
2.	Good	05	25
3.	Better	00	00

15. The Guides available for communication.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	05	25
2.	No	15	75

16. Proper guidance is provided to tourists or not.

sr. no		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	04	20
2.	No	16	80

17. Any infrastructural facility available at tourists places.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	05	25
2.	No	15	75

18. The attitude of Government Authorities related to the Tourism.

Sr. no		Total	Percentage
1.	Positive	05	25
2.	Negative	10	50
3.	Can't say	05	25

19. Facilities in Igatpuri should be strengthened.

sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Road	05	25
2.	Communication	05	25
3.	Hoteling	05	25
4.	Other	05	25

20. There any chance to raise the infrastructural facility.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Yes	10	50
2.	No	10	50

22. Weakness of this tourist places.

Sr. no.		Total	Percentage
1.	Not	05	25
2.	Leaders	05	25
3.	All	10	50
4.	Others	00	00

Chapter 5

Conclusion and Suggestions

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries and it plays important role in accelerating the economic development of the country. Tourism is one of the most important industry in the service of the Indian economy. In the development of Igatpuri, tourism plays important role. The economy of this Taluka is very poor. Social backwardness, environmental problems are the main reason. Igatpuri is totally depending upon tourists. Which is widely recognized? Tourism has generated a number of social and economic benefits in Igatpuri. Local handicrafts and cultural activities are boosted. For the betterment of economy of Igatpuri, tourism industry must be strengthened. Following are the suggestion derived from the respondents

5.1

1) Need of an Effective Marketing:

Marketing plays important role in today's age of cut throat competition. Local & state government nor the local body is trying it's best for the marketing of tourism places in Igatpuri. All the tourism places in this Taluka are waiting for the publicity. If effective marketing takes place at the concerned level, tourism industry will make progress rapidly in Igatpuri. 72% respondent agreed with this point, while 18% did not agree. Remaining 10% did not answer.

2) Infrastructural Facilities to be provided:

Igatpuri is the tribal and hilly area. Ghoti is the important national agri product market like rice. Mumbai- Agra, Mumbai-Pune Highway passes through this taluka. Almost all travelers take halt at Igatpuri especially at Ghoti and Ghatan Devi Temple. International tourist comes at Dhammagiri Meditation Centre. 92 % respondent said that basic facilities like roads, communications, hotelling, health, be provided. 8% respondent emphasis on other facility like railway and internet, they said that railway station keep clean and superfast train must given halt.

3) Soft Skill program for guides:

Skilled guides are not available in Igatpuri. Local people at various tourist places can't communicate with outsider tourists effectively. International tourist and tourist from other part of the country don't understand local language. Soft skill program

must be started, special training be given to the guides and youth. 84% respondent agreed with this, while 12% did not agree. Remaining 4% avoided the question.

4) Schemes to attract tourist:

More and more tourist should visited to Igatpuri is the wish of businessmen and local people. For this purpose innovative ideas must be used by the local body. Music festival, competitions can be arranged every year. This will make publicity and attract the tourist all over the country. New ideas like this are the Sneed of hour says 85% respondent while 12% respondent don't agree. 3% did not answer.

5) Special Economical Provision:

Kaunai is the original place of Kumbha mela. Only after every 12 years, development work is undertaken at this place. Same is the case of Sarvatirtha Taked tourist place. Most of the tourist visits these places. Economical provision is necessary. It requires special attention. 87% respondent said that State Government must provide special funds. 11 % respondent said that Central Government should give package. 2% respondent did not understand the importance of the question. But they said that the development of tourist's spots, additional fund is required.

6) Minimize the Corruption:

Except Igatpuri and Ghoti town, other area is tribal one. The people from this area don't have seen the development schemes of state and center government. They only know that there is fund for development work. They also know that fund allotted is not used for actual work, if it is allotted, quality work is not done. 92% respond agreed with this point. Remaining 8% respondents did not agree. These respondents are mostly from government bodies like local and state government offices. Corruption in the administration must be deleted is the demand of people.

7) Igatpuri Darshan Travel Scheme:

Like Nashik Darshan Bus, Igatpuri Darshan travel bus scheme should be started says the local people. State Transport bus does not operate in remote area of Igatpuri. It travels the visitors to an important religious and Natural tourist places in Igatpuri and in around Nashik. In Igatpuri taluka, there are no bus service at remote areas and tourist places. If such Bus service is made available to the Igatpuri, then it will gian to the tourist, at the same time it will add revenue to the government and boost the tourism. 81% respondent said such scheme will help for tourism. 10% respondent did not agree while 9% did not answer.

8) New Look to tourist spots:

There are poor conditions of forts and other tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka. There are forts like Alang, Kulang, Tringalwadi forts, Ghatan Devi, Sarvatirtha Taked, Kawanai temple, Dugar wadi waterfall, Dhanusha Tirtha etc. The physical conditions of these tourist places are not good. They are not maintained by the authority. 78% people said there is no regular clinic and proper maintenance at Alang, Kulang, Tringalwadi forts as well as Ghatan Devi, Sarvatirtha Taked temple. 15% respondent said that physical conditions of these tourist places are good. 7% refused to answer.

9) Security and Safety Measures:

Almost all the tourist places in Igatpuri are far away from each other. As it is a tribal and hilly area, security and safety measures are required. Tourists hesitate to go to the remote area for the enjoyment. No special police station or guard is appointed for the safety of tourists. No regular patrolling is arranged by the police. Population is not dense. Security measures are necessary, said 77% respondent. 14% said that it is difficult to set up a police station in hilly areas. 2% respondent felt that police can do corruption. 7% people did not answer.

10) Special Courses for Tourism:

To help tourism and make prosperity in personal life, people should look upon tourism as a career. They require special training. Dhammagiri is the famous International Vipasyana (Meditation) Centre. International and national tourists visit regularly to this centre. Tourists from various parts of the country also visit other important tourist places in this Taluka. Language is the main barrier of communication for them. They also require guides for tourism. If Tourism and Soft skill Schools or programs are arranged for local youths, it will be beneficial for the tourists. It will also provide job opportunities. 67% respondent expressed the need for soft skill schools or training programs for local youths. 22% respondent said that tourists don't need such a program as people from Maharashtra visit these places in bulk numbers. 11% respondents did not give an answer.

11) Extra Efforts Required:

Special tour packages by the State Transport, more mobile towers and BSNL phone lines, special concessions in taxes to hotel owners, no load shedding, sufficient and clean drinking water are some important requirements. Besides Igatpuri, there are tourist places in Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, Kalwan, Niphad, and Sinnar. Shirdi is

important tourist place near Nashik. Nadurmadhmeshwar is the bird sanctuary in Niphad. Trimbakeshwar is the Joytirilinga place, Nashik is known as south Kahi. Saptshringi is the religious tourist place in Kalwan in Nashik district. All these places are not far away from Igatpuri. If the tour package like Ashtavinayak is given to the tourist, they will happily give response. As per the opinion of 86% respondent said special efforts for these purpose at government level is essential. Tour package like Ashtavinyak is given to the tourist, they will happily give response. While 12% respondent did not agreed with this. 2% were unable to answer.

12) Special Tourism Status:

Igatpuri is as important as Trimbakeshwar taluka. Government has given more importance to Trimbakeshwar. Igatpuri and Trimbakeshwar talukas are attached to each other. Trimbakeshwar is the Jotirlinga place. So, government is going to give tourism status to Timbakeshwar. There are more tourist places in Igatpuri than Trimbakeshwar and they are having natural beauty. This taluka is on two national higways. So, Igatpuri also requires tourism status. When asked to the respondents, 77% agreed that the special tourism status may make difference. 13 % respondent said that it will not make difference. 10% respondent did not answer.

13) Serious Attention of Administration require:

In the development process, government and their officials play an important role. Same is the case of tourism industry in Igatpuri and Nashik. People of Igatpuri gave up their lands for MIDCs, Dams, Military, National Highways, and Oil Pipeline. But still they are not given proper reward or jobs. This negligence of Administration and Leaders is percolated at all level. When the question of tourism comes, these factors are not performing their duty efficiently. If they do so, tourism industry will be benefited. People will avail employment, tourist will get facilities, and tourist places will be well developed. So, government departments must consider seriously and try for the tourism industry. 92% respondent agreed with this point, while 8% did not agree with this.

14) Need more effective role of MTDC:

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) can play important role in the development of tourism centers in Igatpuri. It can force the government department to provide basic facilities at tourist places and make other measurements. 71% respondents said that MTDC can play important role in the development of

tourism industry, while 14% respondent did not agree. 15% respondent did not answer.

15) Role of Peoples Representatives:

Peoples Representatives like M.P., M.L.A., Z.P. members, Panchayat Samiti Members should bear the responsibility for the non development of tourist spots in Igatpuri. If all these people would have performed their duties seriously and honestly, the picture would have been positive. 82% respondent held these people responsible, while 12% respondent did not agree. 6 % respondent did not answer.

16) Tourism Potential not used fully:

There is great tourism potential in Igatpuri Tahsil. Tourism potential in Igatpuri Tahsil is not used fully. The local bodies and government is not honest and serious about the infrastructural development in this Tahsil. If provided all the required facilities, tourist industry will be boosted and the standard of living of people in the study area can be raised. 89% respondent agreed on this point while 11 % respondent did not agree.

5.2 Other Important Observations

Heavy Load shading:

There is heavy load shedding in Igatpuri Taluka. In remote places, there is no power supply. Besides this, Internet connection is another problem. Few Mobile towers are there which create barriers in communication. So, tourists are upset due to non-availability of these basic facilities.

Absence of Qualitative Hotels:

Hotel Shagun, Hotel Grand Ashwin, Hotel Golden Resort are the good hotels in Igatpuri, but they are not qualitative one. Food quality on various Dhabas and restaurant is not as per expectation. Tourist is ready to pay high price for accomodation and food. Unfortunately, it is not available. Hotel owners demands oneness in all taxes.

Water Shortage:

Igatpuri is the highest rainfall area in the state. There is highest number of Dams in this taluka. Bhavli, Kadwa, Darna, Mukne, Vaitarna, Appar Kadwa are important Dams. Vaitarna provides water to Mumbai. But there is neither irrigation system nor pipeline in this taluka. So, there is always shortage of water in all season. Tourist has to face this problem.

No Tourist Hub:

Nashik is South Kashi. There are important tourist places in Igatpuri, Trimbak, Kalwan, Niphad and other Talukas. Hub is the place where all facilities are provided to all related factors for the encouragement of the industry. For the development of tourism there is no tourist hub in the district. Igatpuri highly requires Tourist Hub.

Special Trains requirement:

Igatpuri railway station is established in 1865. It is on the way to Mumbai. All the important trains are not given hauls at Igatpuri. No special train like Matheran is started. Local trains of Mumbai runs upto the Kasara which near Igatpuri. If the local trains are extended to the Igatpuri, more tourist may come in this taluka.

Reference

- A Geography of Tourism: Robinson H. (1996)
- Dynamics of Tourism: Kaul R. N., Sterline publisher Ltd.
- Geography of Tourism and Recreation: S. N. Singh (1985)
- Geography of Travel and Tourism : Hudman L. E.
- Geography of Tourism : S. B. Shinde, Phadke prakashan ,Kolhapur.
- India : A tourists Paradise : Manoj Das.Successsful Tourism Management :
- Seth P. N. (1985) Sterling Publisher Ltd., New Delhi.
- Tourism Development, Principles and Practices : Bhatia A. K., Sterling Publisher Ltd., New Delhi.
- Tourism Today : An Indian Perspectives : Maneet Kumar.
- Tourism Today : Graphical Analysis : Douglas Pearce (1987)
- Tourism : Economic Physical and Social Impact: Mathiseson A. and Wall C, Logman, U. K.
- Tourism Analysis : Smith S. L. J.
- Tourism in Indian : Gupta V. K.
- Additional Reference Book
- Brown Percy, Indian Architecture (Buddhist and Hindu), Bombay
- Brown Percy, Indian Architecture (Islamic period) , Bombay.
- Davies, Philip, Monuments of India, Vol. II., London.
- Dixit, M and sheela, C. Tourism Products (New Royal Book 2001)
- Grewal, Bikram (ed) : Indian Wildlife.
- Gupta, SP , Lal, K, Bhattacharya, M. Cultural Tourism in India (DK Print 2002)
- Hawkins. R.E., Encyclopaedia of Indian Natural History.
- Jain, Jyotindra & Arti, Aggrawala: National Handlooms Museum.
- Mehta. R. J.: Handicrafts & Industrial Arts of Indian, New York.
- Michell, George, Monuments of India, Vol. 1. London
- Mitra, Devla, Buddhist Architecture, Calcutta.
- Mode. H. & Chandra. S.: Indian Folk Art, Bombay.

- Oki Morihiro, Fairs and Festivals, World Friendship Association, Tokyo, 1988.
- Swami, Prauaganand, History of Indian Music.
- Vatsayana, Kapila, Indian Classical Dance, New Delhi.
- Bhatia A.K.: International Tourism
- Bhatia A.K.: Tourism Development
- Dev Monoj : Indian - A Tourist paradise
- Dhar Pramath : Development of Tourism and Travel Industry
- Gupta V.N.: Tourism in India
- Negi Jagmohan : Tourism Development and Resource Conservation
- Pearce Douglas : Tourism Development
- Robinson R. : Geography of Tourism
- Sharma K. C. : Tourism : Policy, Planning Strategy
- Seth Pran : Endless Tourism Management 19
- Sinha P. C. : Tourism Marketing
- Singh Shwani : Principles of Indian Tourism
- Singh S. N. : Geography of tourism and Recreation
- Singh Ratandeeep : Tourism Today Vol. 1
- Tourism Today Vol. 2
- Tourism Today Vol. 3
- -F' kans , i-Ch- % I; ZVu Hkwksy
kkjiqjs Ogh- Vh- % I; Zvu Hkwksy] faiGkiqjs vWUM
- iCyh'klz] ukxiwj] 2003
- Geography of Tourism - Distance Education Department,
- Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

a) Trustee b) Administrator c) Other

12. Which is the standard of Hotels?

a) Poor b) Good c) Better

13. What is the standard of Hoteling and food ?

a) Poor b) Good c) Better

14. What is the standard of road and communication?

a) Poor b) Good c) Better

15. Are the guides available for tourism?

Yes / No

16. Whether Proper guidance is provided to tourists or not

Yes / No

17. Is there any infrastructural facility available at tourist places?

Yes / No

18. How is the attitude of Government Authorities related to the Tourism?

a) Positive b) Negative c) Can't say

19. Which facilities in Igatpuri should be strengthen?

a) Road b) Communication c) Hoteling d) other

20. Is there any chance to raise the infrastructural facilities?

Yes / No

21. What is your opinion to development of tourist places?

22. Which are weakness of this tourist places?

a) Non availability of funds b) Leaders 3) All 4) other

Signature _____

Name _____

Mobile No. _____

Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith, Pune
Questionnaire – A (For TOURIST)
Research Student (M.Phil, Geography) : Prof. Sangale U.N.
Igatpuri College, Igatpuri Dist. Nashik (Mob.: 9604009002)

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT

Name _____ Education _____
Age _____ Male / Female

1. **Are you Amateur Tourist?**
Yes / No
2. **Do you visit tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka?**
Regularly / Frequently
3. **How many times have you visited Tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka?**
a) first time b) more than one c) So many times
4. **Name the top five tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka that you visited**
a) b) c) d)
e)
5. **Are the Basic facilities provided at tourist palaces?**
Yes / No
6. **What is the standard of Road network in Igatpuri Taluka?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
7. **Is there any barrier of Mobile & Network Communication?**
Yes / NO
8. **How is the Law & order situation In Igatpuri Taluka?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
9. **What is the standard of Hotels in Igatpuri?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
10. **What is the standard of food ?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better

Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith, Pune
Questionnaire – A (For VILLEGERS)
Research Student (M.Phil, Geography) : Prof. Sangale U.N.
Igatpuri College, Igatpuri Dist. Nashik (Mob.: 9604009002)

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT

Name _____ Education _____
Age _____ Male / Female

1. **What is your source of income?**
a) Self employed b) Businessman c) Professional d) Other
2. **Period of residence in Igatpuri**
a) 5 years b) 10 years c) More than 10 years
3. **Are you depending upon tourism industry?**
a) Partially b) Totally c) Not at all
4. **Do you visit tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka?**
Regularly / frequently
5. **How many times have you visited Tourist places in Igatpuri?**
a) first time b) more than one c) So many times
6. **Name the top five tourist places in Igatpuri Taluka**
a) _____ b) _____ c) _____
d) _____ e) _____
7. **Are the basic facilities provided at tourist palaces?**
Yes / No
8. **What is the standard of Road network in Igatpuri Taluka?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
9. **Is there any barrier of Communication?**
Yes / No
10. **How is the Law & order situation In Igatpuri?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
11. **What is the standard of Hotels in Igatpuri?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better

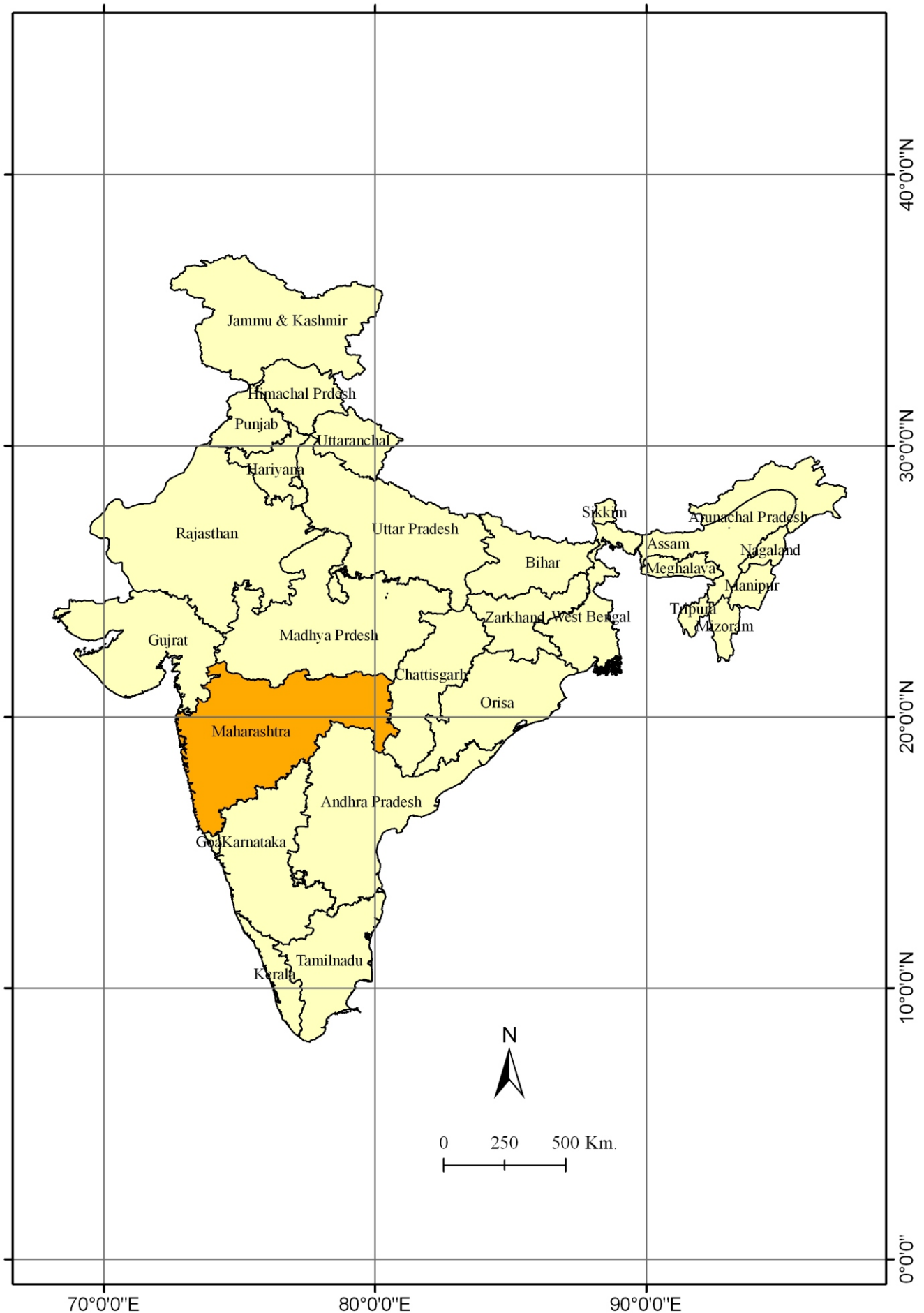
12. **What is the standard of Hoteling and food ?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
13. **What is the standard of road and communication?**
a) Poor b) Good c) Better
14. **Are the guides available for tourism?**
Yes / No
15. **Whether Proper guidance is provided to tourists or not.**
Yes / No
16. **Is there any infrastructural facility available at the tourist places?**
Yes / No
17. **How is the attitude of the Govt. Auth. related to the Tourism?**
a) Postivie b) Negative c) Can't say
18. **Which facilities in Igatpuri should be strengthened?**
a) Road b) Communication c) Hoteling d) All
19. **Is there any chance to raise the infrastructural facilities?**
Yes / No
20. **Is there any scope to the tourism industry in Igatpuri?**
Yes / No
21. **Which is your favorite tourist place in Igatpuri Taluka?**
- 22) **Who is responsible for degradation of Igatpuri Taluka?**
a) Local body b) Leaders 3) State government 4) All
23. **Give your valuable suggestions for the betterment of tourism industry in Igatpuri in five line.**

Signature _____

Name _____

Mobile No. _____

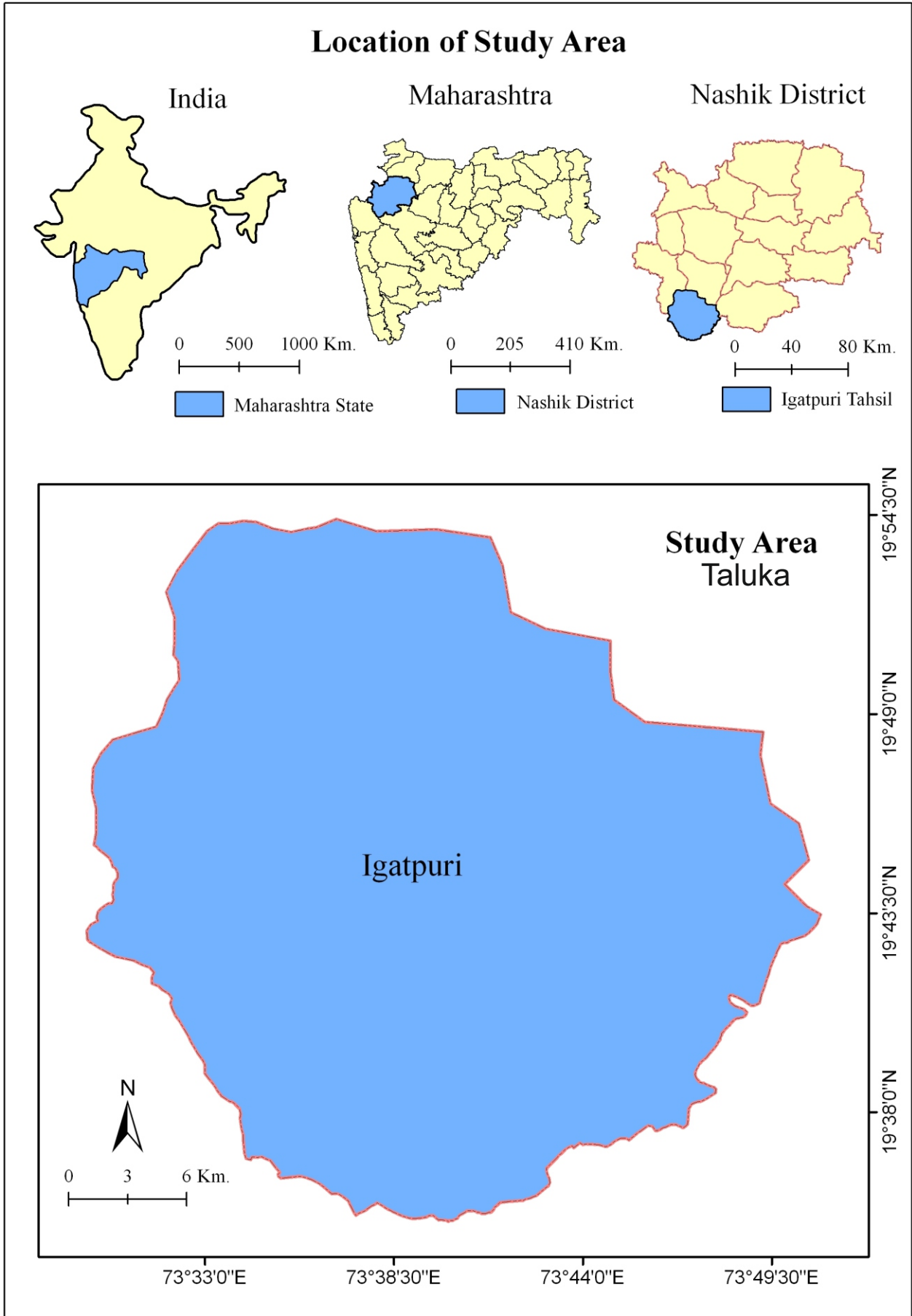
1. Location of Maharashtra



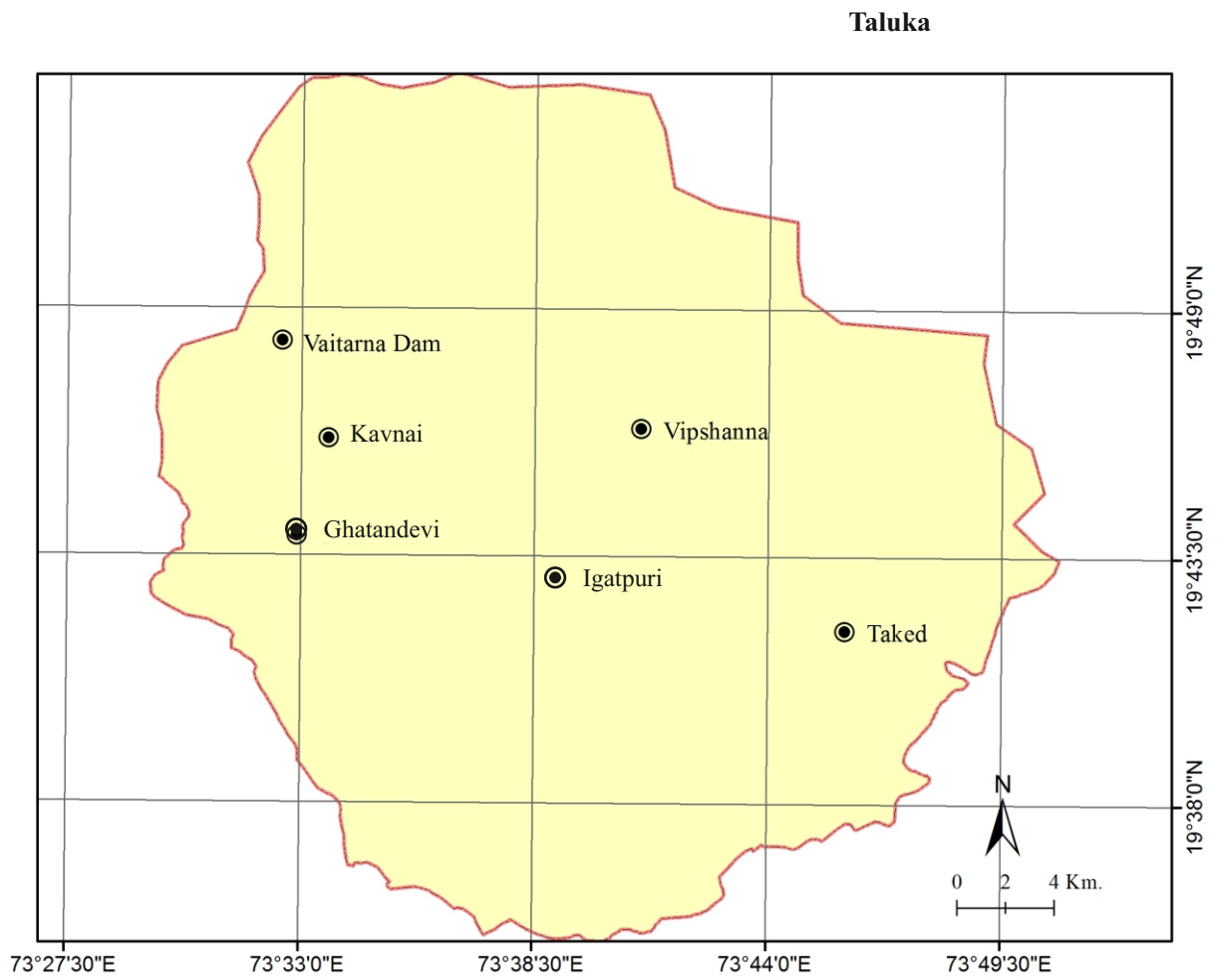
2. Location of Study Area Taluka in Nashik District



3.



4. Location of Tourist Places in Igatpuri Taluka



कावनईत ध्वजारोहण

(पान १ वरून)

प्रारंभी साधू-महंतांची व ध्वजाची परिसरातून सवाद्य मिरवणूक काढण्यात आली. रस्त्याच्या दुतर्फा भगव्या ध्वजधारी महिला, मिरवणुकीच्या अग्रभागी कलशधारी महिला होत्या. ग्यानदास महाराज आणि नरेंद्र महाराज यांच्या हस्ते मंत्रोच्चाराने आरोहण करण्यात आले. या सोहळ्यानंतर सर्व साधू-महंतांनी कपिलधारा कुंडावर विधिवत जलपूजन केले.

यावेळी आयोजित सोहळ्यात नरेंद्र महाराज यांनी कुंभमेळ्याचे पवित्र स्थान म्हणून कावनईचे महत्त्व असल्याचे सांगितले. कावनई पुण्यभूमीत अमृतकुंभातील एक थेंब पडल्याने ही भूमी पावन झाली आहे. मोक्ष हे मानवी जीवनाचे ध्येय आहे आणि कुंभस्थाने या महाराष्ट्रात असल्याने मानवी जीवनाचे सार्थक झाले आहे, असे यावेळी नरेंद्र महाराज म्हणाले.

कावनई हे पवित्र क्षेत्र असून, देशातील दहा कुंभस्नान चौकीपैकी एक असल्याचे महंत ग्यानदास महाराज यांनी सांगितले. कपिलधारा येथे स्नान केल्याने कुंभमेळ्यात स्नान केल्याचे भाग्य लाभते, असेही ते म्हणाले.

यावेळी महंत रामनारायणदास फलाहारी महाराज यांनी सोहळ्यास उपस्थित साधू-

महंतांचे स्वागत केले. कुंभमेळा या कल्याणकारी सोहळ्याचे मूळ स्थान असलेल्या कावनई येथे स्नान केल्यास कुंभपर्ककाळातील पुण्य लाभते, असे सांगितले. तिन्ही अनी आखाड्यांचे महंत, साधू या ठिकाणी आल्याने या स्थानाचे महत्त्व अयोरहित झाल्याचेही ते म्हणाले.

ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्यास खासदार हेमंत गोडसे, माजी मंत्री बबन घोलप, माजी आमदार शिवराम झोले, जिल्हा परिषद अध्यक्ष विजयश्री चुंभळे, जिल्हा परिषद सदस्य संदीप गुळवे, गोरख बोडके, अलका जाधव, पंचायत समिती सभापती गोपाळ लहांगे यांच्यासह पंच दिवांबर आखाड्याचे महंत कृष्णदास महाराज, महंत रामकिशोरदास महाराज, महंत धरदास महाराज, निर्मोही आखाड्याचे महंत अयोध्यादास महाराज, महंत राजेंद्रदास महाराज, चतुःसंप्रदाय आखाड्याचे महंत

- ◆ कालपास्तूच भाविकांचे कपिलधारा तीर्थ येथे आगमन झाले होते. पहाटेही असंख्य भाविक कावनईत दाखल झाले होते.
- ◆ कपिलधारा तीर्थ येथे ध्वजस्तंभ उभारण्यात आला होता. सुमारे ५१ फूट उंचीच्या ध्वजस्तंभाभोवती रांगोळी काढण्यात आली होती. परिसर सजविण्यात आला होता.
- ◆ कपिलधारा तीर्थाला पांढरे वस्त्र परिधान केलेल्या स्वयंसेवकांचे संरक्षण कडे करण्यात आले होते. संपूर्ण परिसरात भगवे ध्वज लावण्यात आले होते.
- ◆ परिसरातील शाळेतील विद्यार्थी हा ध्वजारोहण सोहळा पाहण्यासाठी आले होते.
- ◆ ध्वजारोहण मिरवणुकीपूर्वी सुरु झालेल्या रिमझिम पावसामुळे परिसरात चैतन्यमय वातावरण निर्माण झाले होते.
- ◆ कपिलधारा तीर्थावर साहसी खेळांची प्रात्यक्षिक करण्यात आले.



कावनई येथे सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळा ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याप्रसंगी आखाडा परिषदेचे अध्यक्ष महंत ग्यानदास महाराज, श्री स्वरूप संप्रदायाचे नरेंद्र महाराज, महंत रामनारायणदास फलाहारी, महंत भवित्चरणदास, माजी आमदार बबनराव घोलप आदिंसह भवतगण.

कावनईत ध्वजारोहण

कुंभपर्ष : शोभायात्रेने सिंहस्थ सोहळ्यास प्रारंभ

संदीप भालेराव • नाशिक

प्रभू श्रीरामचंद्र की जय, सियावर रामचंद्र की जय असा जयजयकार करीत ब्रह्मनादात कपिल महामुनींच्या भूमीत मंगलमय वातावरणात ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याने कुंभपर्षास प्रारंभ झाला. कपिलधारा तीर्थावर पंचरंगी ध्वजा फडकली आणि भाविकांनी टाळ्यांच्या कडकडाटात प्रभू रामाचा जयजयकार केला.

इगतपुरी तालुक्यातील कावनई येथील कपिलधारा तीर्थावर ध्वजारोहण आणि

जलपूजनाने सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्यास प्रारंभ झाला. सकाळी ११ वाजून सात मिनिटांनी श्री स्वरूप संप्रदायाचे नरेंद्र महाराज व अखिल भारतीय आखाडा परिषदेचे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्रीमहंत ग्यानदास महाराज यांच्या हस्ते पंचरंगी ध्वजाचे ध्वजारोहण करण्यात आले. तिन्ही अनी आखाड्यांचे साधू-महंत, राजकीय नेते आणि हजारो भविकांच्या उपस्थितीत आणि वरुणराजाच्या साक्षीने जय सियारामच्या जयघोषात ध्वजारोहण आणि जलपूजन करण्यात आले. (पान ७ वर)

नाशिक मधील पहिल्या व एकमेव
172 रो-बंगलांची टाऊनशीप...

पल्लो पार्क

एक्सलो पॉईंटजवळ, अंबड, नाशिक

स्वरा करा..

फक्त थोडेच रो-बंगला उपलब्ध

कुडीरवाडी रोड 0253-6420340

पल्लो रेसिडेन्सी 9890933116

www.pearlresidency.net

कामे संथगतीने : भाविकांची गैरसोय होण्याची शक्यता

कावनईत गुरुवारी ध्वजारोहण

एस.टी.चे नियोजन नसल्याने अवैध प्रवासी वाहतुकीचे फावणार

घोटी : सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याचे मुख्यस्थान अशी ओळख असलेल्या इगतपुरी तालुक्यातील कावनई येथे कुंभमेळ्याच्या आरंभाला अवघे तीन दिवस शिल्लक राहिलेले असताना, कपिलधारा तीर्थावरील अनेक कामे संथगतीने होत असल्याने येथ्या १६ ताखेला होणाऱ्या ध्वजारोहणास भाविकांची आणि साधू-महंतांची मोठी गैरसोय होणार असल्याने नाराजी व्यक्त होत आहे. दरम्यान, ही कामे जलदगतीने पूर्ण करण्यासाठी प्रशासनाने ठोस पावले उचलवावीत, अशी मागणी कुलदीपसिंह चौधरी यांनी खासदार हेमंत गोडसे यांच्याकडे केली.

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याच्या पारवैभूमीवर कावनई येथील कपिलधारा तीर्थावरील कामांची पाहणी रविवारी खासदार गोडसे यांनी केली. यावेळी कुलदीप चौधरी यांनी या कुंभमेळ्यात कावनई तीर्थक्षेत्राला शासनाकडून उपेक्षित ठेवण्यात आले असल्याचे खासदार गोडसे यांच्या निदर्शनास



कपिलधारा तीर्थाच्या विकासकामांची पाहणी करताना खासदार हेमंत गोडसे, कुलदीप चौधरी, सहायक पोलीस निरीक्षक सुरेश मनोर आदि.

आणून दिले.

शासनाने या ठिकाणी जी कामे मंजूर केली त्यातील अनेक कामे संथगतीने चालू असून बरीच अपूर्ण आहेत, तर अनेक आवश्यक कामे मंजूरच झालेली नसल्याची गोभीर

बाब त्यांच्या निदर्शनास आणून दिली.

यावेळी खासदार गोडसे यांनी संथगतीने चाललेली कामे जलदगतीने पूर्ण करण्याच्या सूचना अधिकाऱ्यांना दिल्या.

इगतपुरी रेल्वेस्थानकापासून वीस व घोटीपासून आठ किलोमीटर अंतरावर असलेल्या या धार्मिक स्थळावर राज्यभरातून पर्यटनी आणि शाहंस्नानासाठी येणाऱ्या भाविकांना या ठिकाणी येण्यासाठी कोणत्याही उपाययोजना अथवा नियोजन न केल्याने येथे येणाऱ्या भाविकांना खासगी प्रवासी वाहनांचा आधार घ्यावा लागणार आहे.

नरेंद्र महाराज यांच्या हस्ते ध्वजारोहण?

या ठिकाणचे कुंभमेळा आरंभ आणि ध्वजारोहण श्री स्वरूप सोमदायाचे नरेंद्र महाराज यांच्या हस्ते व्हावे यासाठी प्रयत्नशील असल्याचे समजते.

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याच्या आरंभाला अवघे चार दिवस शिल्लक असतानाही इगतपुरी तालुक्यातील कावनई येथील कपिलधारा तीर्थाच्या विकासाबाबत शासन उदासीनता

दाखवित असल्याने या धार्मिक ठिकाणी अनेक कामे अपूर्णवस्थेत असल्याने येथ्या ध्वजारोहणाला या ठिकाणी मोठ्या संख्येने येणाऱ्या भाविकां आणि साधू-महंतांना गैरसोयीचा सामना करावा लागणार आहे. याबाबत प्रशासनाकडे अनेकदा पाठपुरावा करूनही दखल घेतली जात नसल्याने भाविकांनी नाराजी व्यक्त केली आहे.

भासिकांचे स्नान अधिकमासाच्या पारवैभूमीवर रविवारी कमला एकादशीच्या पारवैभूमीवर कावनई येथील कपिलधारा तीर्थावर जिल्हातील भाविकांनी एकच गर्दी केली होती.

संरक्षक पंत कोसळ्ळी कपिलधारा तीर्थाच्या वरील बाजूला शासनाच्या वतीने मातीचा भराव खच्चू नवे यासाठी संरक्षक पंत बांधण्यात आली होती; मात्र ही पंत दोन दिवसांपूर्वी कोसळल्याने या ठिकाणी होणाऱ्या कामाच्या गुणवत्तेबाबत प्रश्नचिन्ह उपस्थित होत आहे. (वाताहर)

आखाडा परिषदेलाच सर्वाधिकार प्राप्त

नरेंद्र महाराज यांचे प्रतिपादन

नाशिक : रामानंद, जगदगुरु, योगाचार्य, शंकराचार्य, योगाचार्य या पदव्या बहाल करण्याचे अधिकार अखिल भारतीय आखाडा परिषदेलाच असल्याने त्यांनी बहाल केलेली महंताई महत्याची मानली जाते असे प्रतिपादन नरेंद्र महाराज यांनी केले.

इगतपुरी तालुक्यातील कावनई येथील कपीलतीर्थ धारा येथे सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळा ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. या सोहळ्यासाठी उपस्थित असलेले नरेंद्र महाराज यांनी पत्रकारांशी संवाद साधला. सर्वाधिकार हो आखाडा परिषदेलाच असून आखाड्यांमध्ये कोणतेही मतभेद नसल्याचेही ते म्हणाले.

आखाडा परिषदेकडून संताना अनेक पदव्या बहाल करण्यात आलेल्या आहेत. त्यांनाच तो अधिकार असल्याने आखाड्यांमध्ये कोणताही वाद नाही हे नाशिक आणि कपीलतीर्थ धारा येथील ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्यावरून दिसून येते. येथे सर्व आखाड्यांचे प्रमुख उपस्थित आहेत. बंधूभाव,प्रेम आणि सद्भावना हाच आखाड्यांचा संदेश आहे. हाच संदेश या कुंभमेळ्यात आखाड्यांकडून दिला जात आहे.

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्यासाठी जिल्हा प्रशासनाने मोठे काम केले आहे. त्यांच्या कामाविषयी आम्ही समाधानी आहोत, शहरात जी काही विकासकामे झालेली आहेत. ती सुस्थितीतील आहेत असेही नरेंद्र महाराज यांनी पत्रकार परिषदेत सांगितले. (प्रतिनिधी)



साहसी खेळ :

कावनई येथे सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्यानिमित्त आयोजित ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याप्रसंगी साहसी खेळांचे प्रात्यक्षिक सादर करण्यात आली. येथील प्राम्ख्यांनी अनेक साहसी खेळ सादर केले. विद्याची आणि वयोवृद्धांनी देखील साहसी खेळांकर सादर करून सवचि लक्ष वेचून घेतले.

बसेस नसल्याने भाविकांची गैरसोय

नाशिक : कावनई येथील कपीलधारा तीर्थ येथे आयोजित ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्यासाठी येणाऱ्या भाविकांसाठी चार बसेस सोडण्याचे आश्वासन एस.टी. महामंडळाने दिले होते. मात्र बसेस न दिल्यामुळे भाविकांना सुमारे सात किलोमीटर पायपीट करावी लागली.

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्यासाठी कावनई येथे ध्वजारोहण सोहळा आणि जलपूजन कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. या सोहळ्यासाठी येणाऱ्या भाविकांसाठी चार बसेस सोडण्यात येतील असे राज्य परिवहन महामंडळाने जाहिर केले होते. प्रत्यक्षात या ठिकाणी एकही बस आली नाही. त्यामुळे सोहळ्यानंतर परतण्या भाविकांना घोटी पर्यंत पायपीट करावी लागली. रिमझिम पाऊस सुरु असल्याने भाविकांना कावनई ते घोटी असा पायी प्रवास करावा लागला.

महामंडळाकडून दुर्लक्ष करण्यात आल्यामुळे देवस्थानाच्यावतीने तीर्थ नाराजी व्यक्त करण्यात आली असून याप्रकरणी तक्रार नोंदविण्यात येणार आहे. (प्रतिनिधी)

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळा : कावनईत सोहळ्याची सज्जता पूर्णत्वाला

कपिलधारातीर्थावर आज ध्वजारोहण



घाघ कुंडात होणार सिंहस्थाचे शाहीस्नान.

नाशिक-ओढा विशेष रेल्वे

◆ सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळाच्या पारश्वभूमीवर मध्य रेल्वेने इगतपुरी-ओढा ही नवीन स्पेशल रेल्वे सुरू केली असल्याने या ठिकाणी येणाऱ्या भाविकांची नैसर्गिक दूर होणार आहे.

अखेर बसेस मिळाल्या नाहींत

◆ सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळासाठी इगतपुरी, कावनई यासाठी राज्य परिवहन मंडळाने चार अतिरिक्त बसेसची मागणी करण्यात आली होती. बस मंजूर केल्या होत्या. मात्र त्या अध्यापपर्यंत इगतपुरीत न पोहचल्याने आस्पर्च व्यक्त करण्यात येत आहे. दरम्यान, यामुळे खासगी प्रवासी वाहतुकीचे फावणार आहे.

घाटी : सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळाचे मूळ स्थान समजल्या जाणाऱ्या इगतपुरी तालुक्यातील कावनई येथे गुरुवारापासून सुरु होत असलेल्या कुंभमेळाच्या पारश्वभूमीवर प्रशासनाची सर्व तयारी पूर्ण झाली आहे. सकाळी अकरा वाजता श्री स्वरुप सांप्रदायाचे नरेंद्र महाराज व आखाडा परिषदेचे अध्यक्ष यानदास महाराज यांच्या हस्ते व साधू-महंतांच्या उपस्थितीत होत असलेल्या ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याने या कुंभमेळाच्या आरंभ होत आहे.

अनेक वर्षांपूर्वी नाशिक व त्र्यंबकेश्वरला कुंभमेळा भरण्यापूर्वी धार्मिक वारसा लाभलेल्या कावनई येथे भरत असे. कालांतराने तो नाशिक व त्र्यंबकेश्वरला भरविण्यात येऊ लागला. कपिल महासुनीचे वास्तव्य लाभलेल्या या पुण्यभूमिचे कुंभमेळा आयोजनाची परंपरा अबाधित ठेवण्यात आली आहे. या वर्षी होत असलेल्या कुंभमेळाच्या पारश्वभूमीवर प्रशासनाच्या वतीने सर्व तयारी पूर्ण झाली आहे.

समारंभाने कुंभमेळापर्वाला आरंभ होत आहे. समारंभास श्री स्वरुप सांप्रदायाचे जगत्पुरु रामायणाचार्य नरेंद्र महाराज यांच्यासह अखिल भारतीय आखाडा परिषदेचे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष महंत यानदास महाराज, रामायणाचार्य श्री. हंस देवाचार्य महाराज, मंगलपीठेश्वर महंत माधवबाबाजी महाराज, अखिल भारतीय पंच



५१ फूट उंच पंचरंगी ध्वज

कपिलधारातीर्थावरील ध्वजारोहणासाठी उभारण्यात आलेला खोब हा ५१ फूट उंचीचा आहे. ध्वज पंचरंगी आहे. रंढी अडीच फूट असून, ध्वजाच्या मध्यभागी संकटसोचण हनुमानजीचे चित्र विजयाचे प्रतीक आहे. रामानंदाचार्य, निवारकाचार्य, शंकराचार्य, माधवाचार्य, विष्णूसवामी या पाच संप्रदायांचे प्रतीक म्हणून त्याला संबोधल्या जाते. या पाच संप्रदायांची, माया, जीव, ब्रह्म, ईश्वर असे पाच प्रतीके आहेत. कुंभमेळादरम्यानच या ध्वजाची उभारणी केली जाते म्हणून या ध्वजाचे अनन्य साधारण महत्त्व आहे.

आठवण...

◆ गत सिंहस्थकाळात निसर्गरम्य कपिलधारातीर्थावरील कुंभमेळादरम्यान ध्वजारोहणासाठी वैधानिक विकास मंडळाने तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष अहोरा पवार व विधानसभा अध्यक्ष अरुणभाई गुजराथी यांच्या हस्ते गंगापूजन व ध्वजारोहण सोहळा मोठ्या उत्साहात पार पडला होता. त्याप्रसंगी वसंत पवार, बबनराव घोलप, अॅड. नितीन ठाकरे, शिवराम झोले, महंत रामनारायणदासजी फलहारी बाबा व जनसमुदाय मोठ्या संख्येने उपस्थित होते.



निर्वाणी अनी आखाड्याचे महंत महंत कृष्णचरणदास महाराज, जगन्नाथदास महाराज, अखिल पंचमुखी हनुमानमंदिर आखाडा भारतीय पंच निर्मोही अनी परिषदेचे महंत भक्तिचरणदास आखाड्याचे महंत आयोधादास महाराज यांच्यासह पालकमंत्री महाराज, श्री. महंत राजेंद्रदास गिरीश महंजन, खासदार हरिश्चंद्र महाराज, चतुःसंप्रदाय आखाड्याचे चव्हाण, हेमंत गोडसे, आमदार



कावनई येथील ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याप्रसंगी आयोजित सभेप्रसंगी बोलताना नरेंद्र महाराज, व्यासपीठावर महंत धरमदास महाराज, महंत रामकिशोर शास्त्री, कृष्णचरणदा महाराज, महंत प्यानदास महाराज, आयोद्वाददास महाराज, संजयदास महाराज, बबनराव घोषण, हेमंत गोहसे, कावनईचे फलाहरी महाराज आविहस साधू-महंत.



◆ ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्यानंतर उपस्थित भाविकांनी ध्वजस्तंभाकडे धाव घेतली. यावेळी अनेक महिला भाविकांनी ध्वजस्तंभावरील फुलांच्या हाराचे मनोभावे दर्शन घेतले. तर काही महिलांनी ध्वजस्तंभाजवळ पडलेले फुले गोळा केली. यावेळी महिलांची फुले गोळा करण्यासाठी गर्दी झाली होती.

कावनईकडे भाजपा नेत्यांची पाठ

कपिल तीर्थ : ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याप्रसंगी सेना-भाजपाचे दुहीचे दर्शन

नाशिक : सिंहस्थाने साधू-महंतांमधील मतभेद गाजत असतानाच श्रेयवादावरून भाजपा-सेनेमधील घुसफूसही लपून राहिलेली नाही. नाशिकमधील सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्यात दिसून आलेला सेना-भाजपांमधील विरोध कावनई येथील ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याप्रसंगीही प्रकट होऊ लागला. सेनेने नाशिकमध्ये स्वतंत्र चूल मांडली होती, तर कावनईकडे पाठ फिरवून भाजपा नेत्यांनी सेना विरोधाची पताका झळकाविली.

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळा सोहळ्यातील अस्तित्व आणि श्रेयवादाच्या मुद्द्यावरून दोन्ही पक्ष आमने-सामने आले आहेत. संपूर्ण कुंभमेळ्यावर भाजपाचे वर्चस्व निर्माण झाल्याने व भाजपाकडून विचारले जात नसल्याने या मेगा इव्हेंटमध्ये मागे पडल्याची भावना सेनेच्या नेत्यांमध्ये निर्माण झाली आहे. नाशिकमधील सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याच्या ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याप्रसंगी मुख्यमंत्र्यांसह भाजपाचे अनेक मंत्री व्यासपीठावर असताना सेना नेत्यांना मात्र कुठेही स्थान नव्हते. याउलट शिवसेनेने कार्याध्यक्ष उद्धव ठाकरे यांच्या उपस्थितीत साधुग्राममधील हिमालयबाबा यांच्या मंडपात धर्मन्यात प्रवृत्तिले करीत सवतासुभा मांडला. त्यानंतर झालेल्या पत्रकार परिषदेत कुंभमेळ्याचे पावित्र्य



पदरात पाडून घेताना कुणी दुखावणार नाही ना याची काळजी घेतली तरच पुण्य पदरात पडेल, असा टोला

ठाकरे यांनी भाजपा नेत्यांना लगावला होता. या घटनेमुळे दोन्ही पक्षांमधील मतभेद समोर आल्यानंतर 'पंचअप'साठी नेते सरसावतील, असे वाटत असतानाच सेनेच्या वर्चस्वाखाली होणाऱ्या कावनई येथील ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याकडे भाजपाच्या नेत्यांनी पाठ फिरविली. विशेष म्हणजे कुंभमेळा मंत्री गिरीश महाजन, आमदार वाळासाहेब सानप, देवयानी फरंदे, सीमा हिरे यांना आमंत्रित करण्यात आले होते. ही सर्व मंडळी देखील गैरहजर राहिली. खासदार हरिश्चंद्र चव्हाण यांनीदेखील हरसूलचे करण पुढे करीत कार्यक्रमास येण्यास असमर्थता दर्शविली. कावनई येथील ध्वजारोहणाचे रीतसर निमंत्रण भाजपाच्या नेत्यांना देण्यात आले होते. परंतु या संपूर्ण कार्यक्रमावर माजी आमदार बबनराव घोषण आणि खासदार हेमंत गोडसे यांचे वर्चस्व असल्याने भाजपा नेत्यांनी येणे टाळले असे स्पष्टपणे जाणवले. महंत प्यानदास यांनीदेखील शिवसेनेचा उल्लेख करीत सेनेच्या नेते आणि कार्यकर्त्यांचे आभार मानले. केवळ वर्चस्ववादातून दोन्ही पक्षांचे नेते समोरासमोर येत नसल्याने सिंहस्थ पर्वणीत साधू-महंत आणि भाजपा-सेनेच्या वादाच्या आखाड्याचे दर्शन नाशिककरांना घडत आहे. (प्रतिनिधी)



◆ ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्यानंतर आयोजित कार्यक्रमात महंत प्यानदास महाराज यांनी भाविकांना कपिल तीर्थ कुंडात स्नान करण्याचे आवाहन करताच, हॉल मधील उपस्थित भाविकांनी कुंडाकडे धाव घेतली.

आयडीसी : राज्य सरकारकडून

सकारात्मक प्रतिसाद

इगतपुरी : शहर व तालुक्याचा विकास व्हावा म्हणून स्थापन झालेल्या इगतपुरी डेव्हलपमेंट कमिटी (आयडीसी)च्या प्रयत्नांना सकारात्मक प्रतिसाद मिळाला आहे. शहर व तालुका पर्यटन क्षेत्र म्हणून जाहीर करावे, अशी मागणी आयडीसीकडून महसूलमंत्री एकनाथ खडसे, पर्यटन राज्यमंत्री राम शिंदे, आदिवासी विकासमंत्री विष्णू सावरा व महाराष्ट्र राज्य पर्यटन विकास महामंडळाचे व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक परग जैन यांच्याकडे करण्यात आली होती.

सदर मागणी मान्य झाली आहे. यासंदर्भात सरकारकडून लवकरच घोषणा होणार असून, मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांच्या हस्ते इगतपुरीतील सर्व पर्यटन स्थळांची माहिती असणाऱ्या पुस्तिकेचेही प्रकाशन होणार असल्याची माहिती समितीचे अध्यक्ष महेश श्रीश्रीमाळ यांनी दिली. शहरात २४ तास वीज, पाणी, सर्व सोयीयुक्त दवाखाने, चांगले स्ते, पायाभूत सोयी उपलब्ध करून द्याव्यात,

इगतपुरीला लवकरच पर्यटनाचा दर्जा



◆ डेव्हलपमेंट ऑडिसी ही पर्यटकांसाठीची विशेष रेल्वे नारिकळून इगतपुरीमार्गे मुंबईला जाते. तिला इगतपुरी स्थानकात थांबा द्यावा, विश्व विपरयना विद्यापीठ व कावर्नाई किंवा टाकेंद तीर्थ पर्यटकांना वाखविण्यात यावे, त्रिगलवाडीसाहित तालुक्यातील दुर्लक्षित किल्ल्यांचा विकास व्हावा, आदिवासी टुरिझमसाठी चालना मिळावी, अश्या मागण्या करण्यात आल्या आहेत.

ऑनलाइन तसेच महाराष्ट्र राज्य पर्यटन विकास महामंडळाच्या वेबसाइटवर इगतपुरीच्या प्रेक्षणीय स्थळांची यादी व माहिती प्रसिद्ध करण्यात यावी, पब्लिक प्रायव्हेट पार्टनरशिप (पीपीपी) मधील प्रोजेक्ट्सना मंजुरी देण्यात यावी, अडव्हेचर टुरिझम प्रोजेक्ट यावेत, इगतपुरीतील नगरपालिका तलाब, तळेगाव तलाव व बाहुली धरण या ठिकाणी पीपीपीमध्ये हाडसबाँट चालवण्याकरिता मंजुरी मिळावी, इको-टुरिझम प्रोजेक्ट्स मिळावे, आदिवासींना आर्ट व क्राफ्ट बनवण्यासाठी विशेष प्रशिक्षण देऊन राजगाराच्या संधी उपलब्ध करून

देण्यासाठी सरकारकडून योग्य मदत मिळावी, मधुमक्षिका पालनासाठी येथील वातावरण अत्यंत पोषक आहे, त्यासाठी प्रयत्न केल्यास राजगाराच्या संधी उपलब्ध होतील. दरम्यान, आयडीसीच्या प्रयत्नांना यश आले आहे. पर्यटन विकास व्हावा, यासाठी याआगोदर बरेच प्रयोगसुद्धा झाले होते. परंतु शासनदरबारी पाठपुराव्याच्या अभावामुळे व आदिवासी भाग असल्याने राजकीय उदासीनतेमुळे आजपर्यंत ही मागणी प्रलंबित होती. (वाताहिर)

लोकसत

3-92-2094

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळा : कावनईत सोहळ्याची सज्जता पूर्णत्वाला कपिलधारातीर्थाविर आज ध्वजारोहण



घोटी : सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याचे मूळ स्थान समजल्या जाणाऱ्या इगतपुरी तालुक्यातील कावनई येथे गुरुश्रापासून सुरु होत असलेल्या कुंभमेळ्याच्या पारवभूमीवर प्रशासनाची सर्व तयारी पूर्ण झाली आहे. सकाळी अकरा वाजता श्री स्वरूप सांप्रदायाचे नॅट्र महाराज व आखाडा परिषदेचे अध्यक्ष ग्यानदास महाराज यांच्या हस्ते व साधू-महंतांच्या उपस्थितीत होत असलेल्या ध्वजारोहण सोहळ्याने या कुंभमेळ्याच्या आरंभ होत आहे.

अनेक वर्षांपूर्वी नाशिक व त्र्यंबकेश्वरला कुंभमेळा भरण्यापूर्वी धार्मिक वारसा लाभलेल्या कावनई येथे भरत असे. कालांतराने तो नाशिक व त्र्यंबकेश्वरला भरविण्यात येऊ लागला. कपील महामुनीचे वास्तव्य लाभलेल्या या पुण्यभूमित कुंभमेळा आयोजनाची परंपरा अबाधित ठेवण्यात आली आहे. या वर्षी होत असलेल्या कुंभमेळ्याच्या पारवभूमीवर प्रशासनाच्या वतीने सर्व तयारी पूर्ण झाली आहे.

ध्वजारोहण समारंभाने कुंभमेळापूर्वाला आरंभ होत आहे. समाप्तस श्री स्वरूप सांप्रदायाचे जगतगुरु रामायणाचार्य नॅट्र महाराज यांच्यासह अखिल भारतीय आखाडा परिषदेचे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष महंत ग्यानदास महाराज, रामायणाचार्य श्री. हंस देवाचार्य महाराज, मंगलपीठाश्वर महंत माधवरायजी महाराज, अखिल भारतीय पंच

नाशिक-ओढा विशेष रेल्वे

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याच्या पारवभूमीवर मध्य रेल्वेने इगतपुरी-ओढा ही नवीन स्पेशल रेल्वे सुरु केली असल्याने या ठिकाणी येणाऱ्या भाविकांची येसोय दूर होणार आहे.

अश्वर बसेस मिळाल्या नाहात

सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्यासाठी इगतपुरी, कावनई यासाठी राज्य परिवहन मंडळाने चार अतिरिक्त बसेसची मागणी करण्यात आली होती. बस मंजूर केल्या होत्या. मात्र त्या अद्यापपर्यंत इगतपुरीत न पोहचल्याने आश्चर्य व्यक्त करण्यात येत आहे. दरम्यान, यामुळे खासगी प्रवासी वाहतुकीचे फावणार आहे.



५१ फूट उंच पंचरांगी ध्वज

कपिलधारातीर्थावरील ध्वजारोहणासाठी उभारण्यात आलेला खंब हा ५१ फूट उंचीचा आहे. ध्वज पंक्ती आहे. रूवी अडाच फूट अखेर, ध्वजाच्या मध्यभागी संकटमोचण हनुमानाचीचित्र विजयाचे प्रतीक आहे. रामानंदाचार्य, निंबारकाचार्य, शंकराचार्य, माधवाचार्य, विष्णूस्वामी या पाच संप्रदायाचे प्रतीक म्हणून त्याला संबोधल्या जाते. या पाच राममध्य शंती, माया, जीव, ब्रह्म, ईश्वर असे पाच प्रतीके आहेत. कुंभमेळारयानच या ध्वजाची उभारणी केली जाते म्हणून या ध्वजाचे अनन्य साधारण महत्त्व आहे.

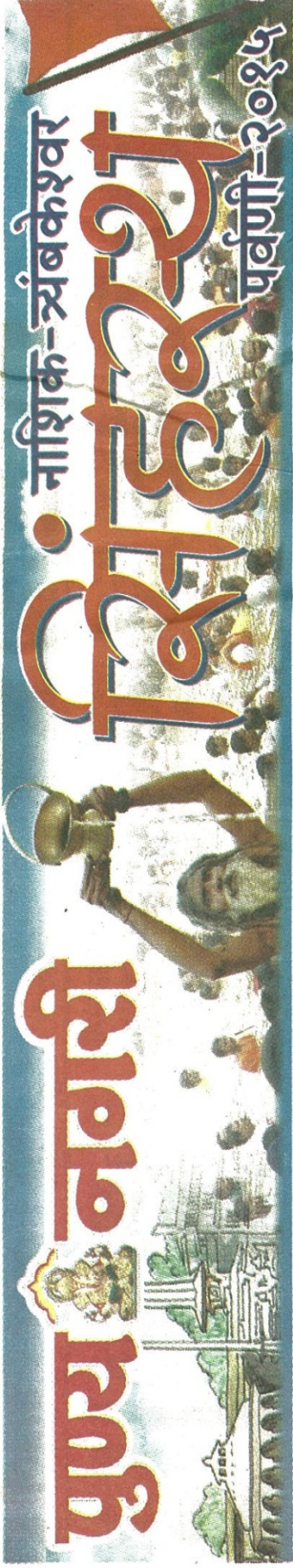


आठवण...

गत सिंहस्थकाळात निसर्गरम्य कपिलधारातीर्थावरील कुंभमेळ्यादरम्यान ध्वजारोहणासाठी वैधानिक विकास महामंडळाचे तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष उल्हास पवार व विधानसभा अध्यक्ष अरुणभाई पुजरावी यांच्या हस्ते गंगापूजन व ध्वजारोहण सोहळा मोठ्या उत्साहात पार पडला होता. त्याप्रसंगी वसंत पवार, बबनराव घोलेप, अंड नितीन ठाकरे, शिवसाम झोले, महंत रामनारायणदासजी फलहारी बाबा व जनसमुदाय मोठ्या संख्येने उपस्थित होता.

निर्वाणी अनी आखाड्याचे महंत महंत कृष्णचरणदास महाराज, जगन्नाथदास महाराज, अखिल भारतीय पंच निर्मोही अनी आखाड्याचे महंत आयोध्यादास महाराज, श्री. महंत राजेंद्रदास महाराज, चतुःसंप्रदाय आखाड्याचे महंत पंचमुखी हनुमानमंदिर आखाडा महंत भक्तिचरणदास महाराज यांच्यासह पालकमंत्री निरीश महाजन, खासदार हरिचंद्र चव्हाण, हेमंत गोडसे, आमदार

24 जून् 2014



सर्वतीर्थ टाकेद : भाविकांचे श्रद्धास्थान

बेलागव कुठे, दि. २४ (प्रतिनिधी) - सह्याद्री पर्वतरांगांच्या कुशीत महाराष्ट्रातील सर्वात उंच कळसूबाई शिखराच्या पायथ्याशी श्रीप्रभू रामचंद्रांच्या आणि श्री साईबाबा यांच्या पदस्यशानि पुनित झालेल्या या विलोभनीय निसर्गरम्य परिसरात श्री सर्वतीर्थ टाकेद हे गाव वसलेले आहे. इगतपुरीपासून अक्वथा २३ कि.मी.अंतरावर व स्वातंत्र्यवीर सावरकरांचे जन्मगाव असलेल्या भगुरपासून २५ कि.मी. दक्षिणेस 'सर्वतीर्थ टाकेद' हे ८५०० लोकरांखेले भाविकांचे श्रद्धास्थान आहे.

आख्यायिका अशी: लंकाधिपती रावण पंचवटीतून सीतामाईचे अपहरण करून आकाश मार्ग घेऊन जात असताना सीतामाई 'श्रीराम, श्रीराम' असा आक्रोश करीत होती. दरम्यान जटापू हे दशरथ राजाचे मित्र होते. त्यांनी युद्धात मदत केली होती. त्यांनी हा आवाज ऐकताच ते रावणाला सामोरे गेले. दोघामध्ये दुंबळ युद्ध झाले, दोघेही घायाळ झाले. रावणाने जटापूचे दोन्ही पंख ताडून तोडले. त्याक्षणी जटापू जमिनीवर कोसळले, ते ठिकाण म्हणजेच सर्वतीर्थ टाकेद होय. रावण सीतामाईस घेऊन पळून



सर्वतीर्थ टाकेद येथील प्रभू रामचंद्रांचे मंदिर व शेजारील छयाचित्रात रामभक्त जटापूचे मंदिर.

गेला. इकडे पंचवटीतून प्रभू रामचंद्र व लक्ष्मण, सीतामाईच्या शोधासाठी निघाले. शोधत असताना त्यांच्या कानावर 'श्रीराम श्रीराम' असा आवाज आला. ते त्या ठिकाणी

गेले तर पंख छोटलेल्या व घायाळ स्थितीतील जटापू महाराज इट्टीस पडले. जटापूंनी सर्व घडलेली हकिगत सांगितली. प्रभू रामचंद्रांनी जटापूस जीवदान देण्याचे ठरविले;

परंतु जटापू म्हणाले, तुमच्या चरणाजवळ मला मरण येणार आहे. असा योग पुन्हा येणार नाही. आज मला सर्वतीर्थांचे तीर्थ पाजा की, ज्यामुळे मला मोक्ष मिळेल.

प्रभू रामचंद्रांनी येथेच जमिनीत बाण मारून सर्व तीर्थांना बोलावले व सर्व तीर्थांचे प्राशन करून जटापूंनी देहत्याग केला व मोक्ष मिळविला. म्हणून या ठिकाणचे

नाव 'सर्वतीर्थ टाकेद' असे पडले आहे. आजही येथे अनेक भाविक दर्शनासाठी येत असतात व सर्वतीर्थांत स्नान करून पवित्र होत आहेत. सध्या या ठिकाणी नाथ महाराजांनी स्थापन केलेले श्रीदत्त मंदिर आहे. सत्य साईचे मंदिर, प्रभू रामचंद्र, सीतामाई, लक्ष्मण यांचे भव्य मंदिर आहे. त्याचबरोबर शिवशंकर व हनुमानजीचेही मंदिर आहे. याठिकाणी सर्वतीर्थांचे जल गाव मुखातून वाहत आहे. ते उन्हाळा पावसाळा हिवाळा अशा पद्धतीने प्रत्येक ऋतूमध्ये कावम वाहत आहे. येथे महाशिवरात्रीला मोठी यात्रा भरते. तालुक्यातूनच नव्हे, तर जिल्हाभरातून व शेजारील ठाणे, नगर जिल्ह्यातूनदेखील भाविक मोठ्या संख्येने येतात.

सिंहस्थ काळात तर मोठी पर्वणीच येथील भाविकांना अनुभवयास मिळते. सिंहस्थ कुंभमेळ्याच्या पार्वभूमीवर येथेही वेगवेगळ्या संप्रदायातील साधूंचे आगमन होणार आहे. त्यामुळे इगतपुरी तालुक्यासह जिल्हाभरातील भाविकांना सिंहस्थ शाहीस्नानाचे वेध लागले आहेत.

A) Kavani

Photo Gallery



Way to Temple of Kavnai (Kapildhara)

1



Temple of Kavnai (Kapildhara)

2



Shiv Temple (Shiv Ling)

3



Kumbhmela Place (Kund) of Kavnai

4

E) Vipassana (Dhammagiri)



Main Gate of Vipassana (Dhammagiri)

1



Way to Vipassana International Academy

2



Vipassana Dhayan Mandir

3



Vipassana (Dhammagiri) along Sayahadri Mountain

4

B) Ghatandevi



Way to Ghatandevi Mata Temple

1



Bad Road towards Ghatandevi Temple

2



Ghatandevi Mata Temple

3



4

Maa Ghatandevi

C) Sarvo Tirth Taked



Ram Mandir of Sarvo Tirth Taked

1



Jatiyu Kund of Sarvo Tirth Taked

2



3

Hanuman Temple of Servo Tirth Taked



Rice Cultivation in Servo Tirth Taked

4

D) Vaitrana Dam



Bad Road of Vaitarna Dam

1



Vaitarna Dam Guest House

2



Vaitarna Dam South Gate

3



Vaitarna Dam North Gate

4