

## **CHAPTER - IV**

### **PRESENT AND POTENTIAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**

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#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Koyana basin has large number of tourists attractions. These attraction are divided into six pockets named as Mahabaleshwar, Bamnoli, Koyana, Dhebewadi, Patan and Karad.

Mahabaleshwar, a famous tourist destination lies in the upper Koyana basin. It consists of many tourist attractions. About 47 tourist points are on Mahabaleshwar plateau. Kshetra Mahabaleshwar, Tapola, Pratapgad etc. are worth visiting centres. Bamnoli is administrative headquarter for 76 villages in the upper Koyana basin. It has good tourist potential as scenic beauty, boating in Shivaji Sagar, wild life, Vasota, Nageshwar and Kas. Koyananagar, after construction of dam become significant tourist attraction. Koyana nagar, Ozarda water fall, wild life sanctuary, Jangli Jaygad, Ramghal are important tourist points in this pocket. Patan provides a nodule centre for the surrounding tourist attractions. It provides some infrastructural facilities and the tourist points are within a day range. It consists of wind mill farm, Ghanbi water fall, Dategad, Chalkewadi water fall, Gureghar tourist points. Dhebewadi is also having the central location to the tourist points around. Naikba. Walmiki, Wind mills, Gudhe-Panchagani and Chandoi wild life sanctuary are the major tourist attractions in this pocket. Karad is the oldest town in the region. It has many tourist attraction points. Karad town, Agashiv, Vasantgad, Chafal, Pali are the near by places of tourist's interest.

## **4.2 TOURIST POCKETS:**

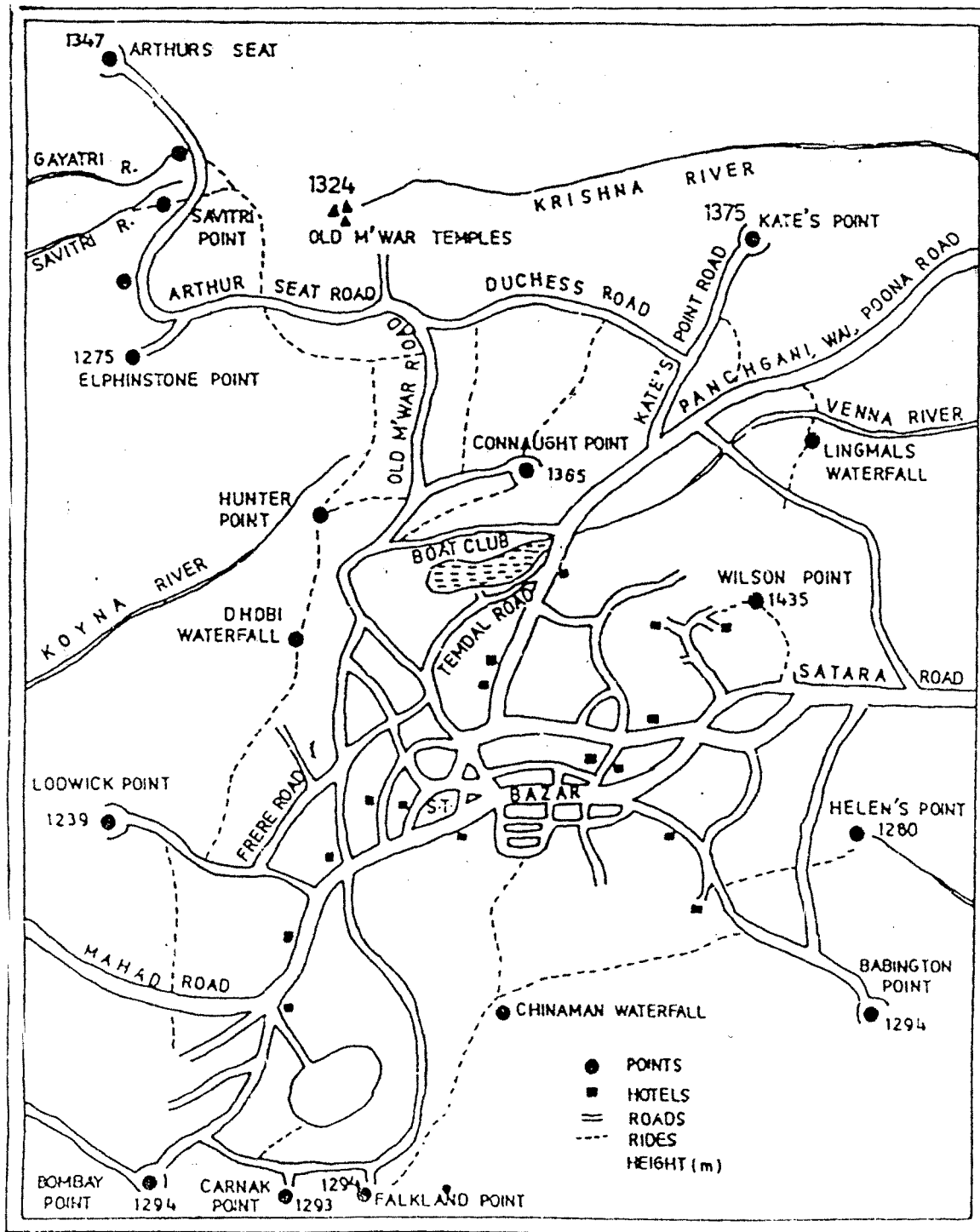
### **4.2.1 MAHABALESHWAR:**

Mahabaleshwar, a hill station had represented as a summer capital of Bombay presidency, located on 17°55'N latitude and 73°35' E longitude, having the average height about 1300 metres from means sea level. The municipal corporation occupies 20 square kms area. Mahabaleshwar is about 273 kms south west from Mumbai 124 kms south from Pune and 53 kms. North west of Satara.

Mahabaleshwar has all the factors of a typical hill station with Malcolmpeth as its commercial nucleus. There are extensively developed roads and foot paths to reach several scenic points. There are 47 scenic points of which 28 are in Mahabaleshwar, 5 in Pratapgad and 5 in Kshetra Mahabaleshwar. It consists of deep valleys, dense forests, huge cliffs, historical forts like Pratapgad, Tableland of Panchagani, Sun rise at Wilson Point, Sunset at Bombay Point, boating at Yenna lake, castle rock, deep fog in valleys in the morning, edge points on broken cliffs, blue valley of solsi, the Kshetra Mahabaleshwar and so on.

The population of the Mahabaleshwar was 10552 persons (1991). The tourist arrivals in the year 1973-74 was 1.3 lakhs, 5.5 lakhs in 1990-91 and reached to 9.4 lakhs in 1999-2000. It shows that the increase is more than seven times. During the peak season from November to May, the tourist pressure is tremendous. It is difficult to cope with this increase of tourists create the imbalance in the provision of infrastructural facilities and other necessary amenities.

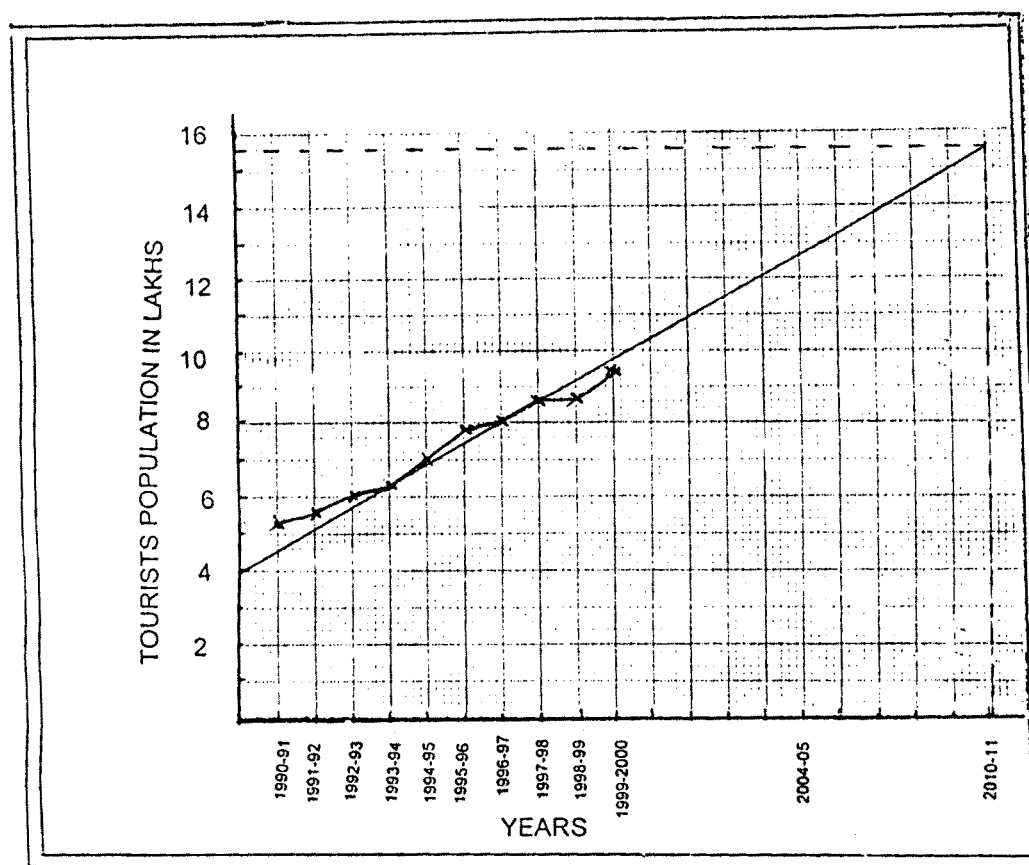
# MAHABALESHWAR DARSHAN



Scenic places in and around Mahabaleshwar.

MAP NO. 6

FIG. 1 TOURIST TREND AT MAHABALESHWAR (1990-2011)



Source: Nagar parishad Mahabaleshwar.

Fig No.1 reveals the trend analysis of the tourist population. From 1990-91 to 1999-2000. It reveals that there is continuous increase in tourists population in Mahabaleshwar and shows ascending trend. In the year 1993-94 number of tourists increased to 6.5 lakhs (actual increase was 6.32 lakhs) and in the year 1999-2000 it reached to 9.75 lakhs (actual increase was 9.4 lakhs), about 1.5 times more than the 1993-94 and 1.9 times more than the year 1990-91. On this basis the prediction for the year 2010-11, the number of tourists may increase by 15.7 lakhs

and it may be 3 times more than the year 1990-91. This may create heavy strain on the infrastructural facilities and other amenities.

It is, therefore, necessary to overcome the problems and maintain the status of the hill station, need exists to see some alternatives. There are many tourist attractions in the environs of the Mahabaleshwar but here TAPOLA is evaluated for the development through tourist point of view. Tapola is considered and suggested as an alternative to reduce the pressure on Mahabaleshwar.

#### **1. Tapola:**

Tapola, located on 17°45'43" N latitude and 73°44'28" E longitude, at the confluence of river Koyana and Solsi, on an altitude of 668 metres at the edge of Vanavali spur of Mahabaleshwar plateau. It is surrounded by huge Koyana lake reservoir by three sides with steep slope of the narrow valley and covered with evergreen thick forests. Tapola is connected to Mahabaleshwar by well tar road passing through dense semi evergreen forests on Vanavali spur. The tourists can experience the beauty of Koyana valley and Solsi blue valley. The place is advertised as "MINI KASHMIR". Boating facility is also available for the tourists to enjoy boating and to observed the natural wealth of Koyana basin and the tourist points such as Chilimiri point, Island point, Garden point, Shooting point, Triveni Sangam, Dutta Mandir, Koyana Abhayaranya, Nageshwar Cave, Vasota fort and Koyana dam. If proper infrastructure is provided, definitely, the flow of tourists may increase

towards Tapola. Accommodation, food and drinking water, sufficient transport are necessary to provide this centre.

The tourist arrivals at Tapola before 1980 was very limited. In 1980 the road from Mahabaleshwar was constructed and tourist traffic began to increase steadily. But flow increased rapidly since 1987, as two co-operative boat clubs were established. From 1995 the tourists arrivals was increased from 94536 to 194976 in the year 2000 (up to July). The trend reflects that there will be increase in number of tourists at Tapola but many problems are there to solve. The provision of drinking water supply, accomodiation, parking, recreational facilities etc. are necessary to improve to increase tourist arrivals, hence the need exists to solve them either by private sector or public sector or by the Maharashtra government. It indicates that there is great potential to develop Tapola as Satellite tourist centre to reduce the over pressure on Mahabaleshwar hill station.

## **2. Pratapgad:**

Pratapgad, located on 17°55'N latitude and 73°35' E longitude having the height of 1080 metres from the mean sea level. It lies on northern Crestline to west of Mahabaleshwar, about 7 kms distance. The fort consists of seven scenic points in which stateau of Chhatrapati Shivaji, Bhavani temple and Pratap Singh Udyan are the major attraction.



Road transport facility from Mahabaleshwar is available. Accommodation and food is also available at limited extent. The tourists who visit Mahabaleshwar, never forget to visit Pratapgad.

#### 4.2.2 BAMNOLI:

The village Bamnoli is located at  $17^{\circ}55'50''$  N latitude to  $73^{\circ}45'10''$  E longitude, having the height of 660 m from mean sea level. It is about 40 kms to the north west of Satara. The village is at left bank of Koyana with 5.1 sq.kms. area and populated by 600 persons (2000, counted by author). It is circle head quarter for 76 villages in upper Koyana basin. At the beginning, Bamnoli was administrative and market centre of upper Koyana basin. It was the gateway to Konkan through Kandati valley till the Koyana dam construction. After 1961 the village is rehabilitated above the Shivaji sagar and reduced its importance. The population decreased from 1036 (1951) to 600 (2000) but administrative importance still maintained. The village is surrounded by Shivaji sagar to west and Bamnoli spur to the east. Bamnoli is having greater tourist potential as scenic beauty and now has become a gateway to the wildlife sanctuary since 1986.

Bamnoli is well connected to Satara by Maharashtra state transport service and the four buses run every day. The private vehicles are also available to reach Bamnoli. It has forest office, wild life office and one rest-house of forest department. It has a circle headquarter and market centre for remote and water locked villages. Infrastructural

facilities are available. Provisional general stores, post office, telephone office, health centre, banks, tap water, S.T.D. Centre fast food centres are available here.

As Bamnoli is a potential tourist centre needs to make provision of accommodation and food facility. The tourists can stay at night and visit the wildlife sanctuary and other scenic places leisurely. The other recreational facilities may increase to attract the tourists.

### **1. Shivaji Sagar:**

The Shivaji Sagar (Koyana Reservoir) is parallel to main Sahyadri and about 60 kms from it. It covered the area of 115 sq.kms. with wide surface which can be used for boating. Here boating facility is provided by Shivaji sagar Co-operative Boat Club and Tapola boat Club.

The clubs have varieties of boats such as motor boat, speed boat, pedal boat, rohing boat and water scooter. Tourists can experience the beauty of Koyana valley and observe the natural beauty of Island point, Dutt Mandir (Math), Koyana wildlife sanctuary, Vasota fort, Nageshwar, Chackdev and some other minor points.

### **2. Math (Datt Mandir):**

Math is situated at the left bank of Shivaji sagar, about four kms to the south of Bamnoli. It is the Ashram of Narayan Swami of Narayanpur (Purandhar, Pune). A shrine of Datt is established here. The place is included in the limits of village Shembdi, so it is called as Shembdi Math. Here a beautiful octagonal temple is built. The Shivaji sagar to the west

and Bamnoli spur to east, provide natural beauty. A 'mela' is held on 5<sup>th</sup> of Kartika (November). The people from surrounding and outside the district attend the mela. The place is becoming pilgrimage centre and worth to visit in any season.

Math is connected to Bamnoli by road and water way. Seasonal bus and boat (launch) service is available. There is no accommodation facility but provision of stay is available in Ashram. The infrastructural facilities are not available. Tap water is available. The place has natural and cultural tourist potentials. It may become significant attraction provided accommodation and food made available.

### **3. Wildlife Sanctuary:**

The Koyana wild life sanctuary was declared in 1985. The wildlife sanctuary is located at the heartland of Koyana basin. It extends from 17°23'N to 17°44'N latitude and 73°34' E to 73°51' E longitude, with an area of 423.35 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is surrounded by natural boundry of main Sahyadri to west (Ratnagiri district), Kandati river to north, Koyana river and Bimnoli spur to east and Karad Chiplun road to south. The steep side valleys with dense evergreen forests, the Crestline with Konkani kadas, the forts of Jangli-Jaygad and Vasota, half cut hill of Nageshwar, Shivaji sagar and Koyana project are the attractive points. The sanctuary is famous for its landforms, biodiversity and Koyana project. The Shekuru Bibtya, Asval, Gava are the wild animals found here. Gavas found every where in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is full of reptiles,

birds and orchids. The flowering of Karvi patches attributing the valley flower phenomena. The climate of the sanctuary is pleasant throughout the year except heavy rainy days. Tourists are encouraged to enjoy beauty by using the foot paths. The stay in sanctuary is only at day time.

Koyananagar, Bamnoli and Tapola are the entrance ways of sanctuary. The permission of forest officer is necessary. The office of assistance forest officer and range forest officer are at Koyana. Bamnoli has a office of range forest officers. From Tapola and Bamnoli it needs to cross Shivaji Sagar. While from Koyananagar by road up to Dicholi village and then by foot path.

The sanctuary is well connected by good road ways and Maharashtra state transport network. More than 30 buses run via Koyananagar from Konkan and Desh. There are limited buses from Satara to Bamnoli but from Mahabaleshwar frequency is more. The tourist traffic to wild life sanctuary is at present, very limited as it is not popular beyond the districts of Mumbai, Pune, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur. To increase the number of tourists in wild life sanctuary, it is necessary to make provision of infrastructural facilities at Tapola and Bamnoi. Watch towers at suitable locations are necessary. By providing necessities, the place can be a good tourist attraction in the region.

#### **4. Vasota Fort:**

Vasota is well known historic fort, about 12 kms to the south west of Bamnoli. It is situated on 17°39'58" N latitude and 73°41'50" E

longitude having the height about 1102 metres from mean sea level and at the edge of the Sahyadri Crestline. It is a flat topped hill, with steep sides, crowned by greenery on Crestline, nearly oval shape with 300 m x 150 m. dimensions and about 445 m above the Koyana valley to east. The Konkan side is steep with 1050 Metre shear drop in Vashishti valley to west. The first clear drop is about 460 metres is one of the shearest of the Sahyadris. To the south of the fort about one half km., old Vasota is situated with the height of 1174 metres from mean sea level. A deep and narrow valley between these two forts and a shear scarp of Babukada provide forbidding beauty of the fort. A half cut conical hill of Nageshwari is crowned on the crestline at just one km north of Vasota. The luxuriant evergreen vegetation on the mellow slope of Koyana valley forms a green band emerging on the bank of Shivaji sagar (Plate 3, Photo 1). The Konkan side scarp is covered with the patches of evergreen shrubby vegetation (Plate 1, Photo 1). The fort top is covered with dense semi evergreen forest. Because of its height and vegetation cover climate is agreeable through out the year, except rainy days. The rainy season provides herb flowering in the months of August and September attribute the solmon beauty (Plate 1, Photo 1 and Plate 2, photo 2).

There are two fresh water tanks on the fort. Historically the fort was a jewellery of Maratha empire. Besides these historic attractions, fort has scenic wonder of Sahyadris. The Babukada, Konkan darshan, Koyana darshan, Nageshwar darshan are the main attractions. The place has great potential for adventure tourism.

There are no infrastructural facilities. Transport facilities are also very weak, no provision of stay and food. From Bamnoli as well as Tapola tourists have to travel by launch through Shivaji Sagar.

It is, therefore, necessary to make provision of stay and food on fort to increase the number of tourists. Sufficient launch services should be provided to cross the Shivaji Sagar. It is also possible to connect old Vasota and New Vasota by rope way. It may strengthen the tourism activity.

#### **5. Nageshwar:**

It is a Shivling in natural cave of Nageshwar hill, lies about 1 km north to the Vasota fort, on 1036 metres from mean sea level. The vertical cut of the hill to Konkan side rocks like Nag Fana (Plate 1, Photo 2) hence the name is Nageshwar. A beautiful Shivling carved on two metres high platform in the cave and water drops regularly on the Shivling from the roof. Konkan, Vasota fort and Koyana valley are seen from this place. The place is also pilgrimage centre and visited by the surrounding people. Annual fair held at Mahashivaratri in February.

The place has attributed a lot of scenic beauty, the Koyana valley, the Crestline forts, the roaring wind from Konkan, the sun rise in Koyana valley and sunset in Konkan provide exciting experience. The place has natural and pilgrimage importance.

## **6. Kas Lake:**

Kas lake is about 35 kms. to the north-west of Satara and five kms to the east of Bamnoli. It lies on 17°44' N Latitude and 73°50' E longitude having the height about 996 metres above mean sea level. The lake is constructed on Urmodi river by British governor to supply gravitational water to the Satara city. It is a saucer like basin on lateritic plateau of Kas on Bamnoli spur. The lake is surrounded by evergreen shrubby vegetation. Because of the height the climate is agreeable throughout the year.

Kas is on the Satara-Bamnoli road, Connected by bus from Satara and Bamnoli. The private vehicles are also available from Satara. The seasonal boating is available. The place has natural beauty and popular in the surrounding districts. It can be developed as a good natural tourist centre on providing infrastructural facilities.

### **4.2.3 KOYANANAGAR:**

Koyananagar is famous for its hydroelectric project. The town is situated at 17°25' N latitude and 73°44'E longitude having the height of 660 metres from mean sea level. The place is lying in main Sahyadri having good vegetal cover. The average maximum temperature is 30°C and the annual rainfall is 6080 mms. The climate of the place is quite good. The place is surrounded by scenic points like Ozarda water fall, Ramghal water fall, Kumbharli ghat, deep Koyana valley with dense vegetal cover, the wild life sanctuary and the fort of Jangli Jaygad. The

place has many cultural wonders like Koyana dam, Navja tunnel, Navja tower, Lake tapping point, Hydrel projects of Pophali, Alora and Kolkewadi and beautiful Nehru udyan.

Koyananagar is well connected by bus to Karad and Chiplun. More than 20 buses run through Koyananagar. The infrastructural facilities are available. The Koyana project guest house provides good lodging and boarding facility. M.T.D.C. has built a tourist resort at Hambaroli. Resort includes six suits with site view galary and beautiful garden. The areal view of Koyana dam, Shivaji Sagar, wild life sanctuary, deep Koyana valley and Nehru Udyan is visible from here.

#### **1. Koyana Dam:**

Koyana dam is about 1 km to the north east of Koyananagar, constructed on Koyana river in 1962, having 115 square kms surface area and named as Shivaji Sagar. It provides a vast platform for boating and entry to the wildlife sanctuary. The deep Koyana valley below the dam towards the south and huge Shivaji Sagar surrounded with dense vegetation to the north is worth seeing beauty of Koyana dam (Plate 3, Photo 4).

#### **2. Nehru Udyan:**

Nehru Udyan is a beautiful garden developed on a hill of 700 metres above mean sea level, about one km to the north of Koyananagar. The hill sides are ideally used for various flowering plants. Springs are developed at different points. The garden is a memory of



Chacha Nehru. From here Koyana dam, Shivaji Sagar, Wild life sanctuary are seen. The garden is worth scenic place (Plate 3, Photo 4). The entry fee is Rs. 5/- to visit the garden.

The garden is well connected by road to Koyananagar. The fast food stalls are available here.

### **3. Ozarda fall:**

Ozarda water fall is about 4 kms North west to Koyananagar. It lies on 17°25' N latitude and 73°54' E longitude and is about 231 metres deep single step water fall. A drop of 991 to 760 metre is a shear zone captured by ozarda stream. Stream is perennial and tourists can enjoy beauty throughout the year. Rainy season is the worth visit [Plate-1, Photo-4].

The site is connected by well tar road of Koyananagar-Navaja.

### **4. Navaja:**

Navaja is about 6 kms to the north of Koyananagar. It is a old village in upper Koyana basin lies on 17°27'N. Latitude and 73°43' E longitude having the height about 700 m. from man sea level. The village is covered by evergreen dense forest to the west and south and by Shivaji sagar to the north and east. The summer maximum temperature rises up to 32°C, and the annual rainfall is 5819 mm. The place has highest rainfall in the Koyana basin. The climate is healthy through-out the year.

The intake tower of Pophali tunnel, Lake tapping, Navja-Alore road tunnel, the Sanctuary, the Shivaji sagar, Jangli Jaygad, Rāmban Tirth are the scenic points at Navja. The village is included in Koyana wild life Sanctuary. Navja is connected with Koyananagar by bus service. The site is beautiful and worth seeing.

## **5. Jangli Jaygad:**

Jangli Jaygad is well known historic fort, about 12 kms north west of Koyananagar. The fort is situated on  $17^{\circ}27'30''$  N. Latitude and  $73^{\circ}42'$  E Longitude, having the height about 965 metres from mean sea level. The fort is lying on the spur of Sahyadri projected towards Konkan. It is oblong in shape coverings 140 m x 170 m area. The western end drop is very sudden for about 30 metres descend to Konkan is very steep. The Koyana side slope is gentle and mature is covered with dense forests. Because of the height and forest cover the climate is agreeable. The name Jangli Jaygad is given as it covered by dense forest. A good many ruined buildings and two tanks are on the fort. The fort has scenic beauty and greater tourists potential such as historic monument, Konkan darshan, areal view of Alore and Kolkewadi dam sites. Wild life Sanctuary and Shivaji sagar which make it a worth visit.

The fort Jangli Jaygad is connected by road up to Navja tunnel from Koyananagar. Then tourists have to walk for 5 kms in the dense forest. About one and half kms. Sahyadri edge way is through dense bamboo forest. The repair of the path is necessary.

## **6. Ramghal waterfall:**

Ramghal is about 12 kms to the south of Koyananagar across the Helwak stream. The water fall is about 60 metres deep falling in two steps. Ramghal cave is developed in the cliff. The place has greater tourist potentials, as the cave, the water fall, the dense forest and other minor scenic points available. The place is less visited. There is no good road. The road construction and other facilities like food and stay are necessary to develop as a tourist centre.

### **4.2.4 PATAN:**

Patan is nodal place for the surrounding tourist attractions. The attractions around the Patan are within a days range, hence useful to provide infrastructural facilities to tourists.

#### **1. Wind mill farm:**

The wind mills are located on Bamnoli spur on the height of 1150 metres from mean sea level. From Ghanbi to Chalkewadi, about 25 kms long and 2 kms wide belt spread in north-south direction and consists of 450 wind mills producing 175 m.w. electricity. [Plate-3, Photo-5] This region is approachable from Patan and Satara by road.

#### **2. Ghanbi:**

The village ghanbi is situated on the south end of Bamnoli spur, about 17 kms north-south of Patan and having 98 metres height from mean sea level. The village occupies about 10 km<sup>2</sup> area with 573 persons. This is the southern gate way of wind mills farm A beautiful

waterfall of 50 metres height is near to the village. The village has greater tourist potential. It has favorable conditions of relief, soil, climate, water availability for fruit gardening like strawberry, malbery, Rosbery mango and Cashew nuts. The village has great tourist potential to develop.

### **3. Dategad:**

The fort Dategad is hidden tourist place about 12 kms to the west of Patan by road having the height of 1027 metres from mean sea level. It is the southern end of Bamnoli spur. The fort is oblong in shape with 60 metres width and 200 metres length having about two hectare area. The side scarps are about 10 metres, naturally protects the fort. The entrance is at the centre of the west side. A perennial fresh water well is on the fort. The areal view of river Koyana and Kera landscape is scenic.

### **4. Chalkewadi water fall:**

The village Chalkewadi is located in Tarali river valley at about 950 metres height from mean sea level. It is situated on 17°40' N. latitude and 73°52' E longitude, about 38 kms North of Patan. A beautiful waterfall of 173 metres is developed here. It is the Northern Gate way of windmill zone. The place is well connected to Satara and Patan. Transport facility is available. Place has greater tourist potential.

### **5. Urul-River Capture:**

The village Urul lies on the water device of Koyana and Krishna, having the height of 610 metres from mean sea level. The village is

about 18 kms North – West to Karad and 16 Kms. North-East to Patan. Village is situated near river capture point. A tributary of Krishna is captured by Urul stream of Koyana. The place is Geomorphologically interesting. The village is on Patan and Umbraj road. It is well connected by state transport to Patan and Umbraj.

Gureghar, Nivakane, Dhareshwar Divshi, Bhar Sakale Dev-rai Atoli Panchagani are the other minor tourist points around the Patan town.

#### **4.2.5 DHEBEWADI:**

The village Dhebewadi is situated on 17°14' N latitude and 73°57'40" E longitude, having the height of 600 metres from mean sea level. It is at 30 kms west to Karad and 36 km S.E to Patan by Ghat route. The village is located in Wang valley at the foot of Walmiki plateau. The village is the market and transport centre for surrounding area. It has less infrastructural facilities of Market, medicine, hotels and lodgings, transport and communication. Dhebewadi is well connected with the surrounding tourist potential centres. The places of interest around the Dhebewadi are as below.

##### **1. Naikaba:**

God Naikaba, a form of Shiv, is a pilgrimage centre, for about 5 kms N.E of Dhebewadi. It is located on 17°30' N latitude and 74°30' E longitude having the height of 890 metres from mean sea level. The settlement is at middle spur plain. A rock boulder is worshipping. [Photo plate III No. 8] The ling has a silver mask. which is carried in procession

in fair days. on fifth of Chaitra and the tenth of Ashvina. The fair is attended by the people of south Maharashtra and North west Karnataka states. More than 1.5 lakhs people attended the Chaitra fair. Every Sunday pilgrims visit the place.

The centre has lower level facilities of hoteling. There is no lodging facility. The place is well connected by transport network, have pilgrimage tourist centre.

## **2. Walmiki Temple:**

Walmiki Temple is located at the source of river Wang on Walmiki plateau. It is situated on 17°15' N Latitude and 73°49'38" E. Longitude, having the height of 1000 metres from mean sea level. The temple is in good condition and in the dense forest. The place is well connected with the surrounding area by good metaled road. It is about 15 kms from Dhebewadi. The S.T. transport service is provided on the fair occasion in February. There is no provision for food and stay. The place has greater tourist potential as thick forest, agreeable climate, tableland and Chandoli wildlife sanctuary.

## **3. Wind Mill Farm:**

The wind mills are established on the southern spur of the region. The nearest wind mills from Dhebewadi are at Jadhav wadi about 5 km. to south. In this zone three wind mills farms are developed. The area has scenic points like Chandoli wild life sanctuary, Marath-wadi project, Ghotil forest and Chandoli Lake view.

#### 4. Gudhe –Panchgani:

Actually Gudhe-panchagani are the twin villages located on Kalgaon Spur included in Sangli district, but of 15 kms from Dhebewadi and connected by roads. The villages, situated on Basalt sheets and having agreeable climate. The area is developing as hill station. The Chandoli wild life sanctuary, the Chandoli dam and wind mill farms are the major attractions near this place. The place has greater tourist potentials but yet not developed. There is no provision of stay and food. Transport facility is provided by state transport department from Karad and Dhabewadi.

##### 4.2.6 KARAD:

Karad is oldest town in the region. It is situated on 17°15' N. Latitude and 74°10' E. Longitude having the height of 558 metres from mean sea level. The town occupies 2.54 km<sup>2</sup> area with the population of fifty six thousand (1991). The town is located on the confluence of Koyana and Krishana named as the '*PRITI SANGAM*'. Karad is well connected by roads, railways and occasionally by air ways. Poona-Banglore N.H.4 is passing in N. S. direction through the town. A historic road of Bijapur – Guhager is passing in E–W direction through the town.

The town has infrastructural facilities of Market, education, medicals, transport and communication, banks, lodging and boarding. It is well connected with Satara, Kolhapur, Pandharpur, Chiplun and Mahabaleshwar. The climate is good and agreeable throughout the year.

The town has some natural, cultural and religious places, being visited by thousands of visitors per year. Priti Sangam, Agashiv caves, Yeshwantrao Chavan Samadhi, Town hall, Two minars, ancient Ghats, the fort, Gur market, medical college, vidyanagri are the places of attraction. Town has great tourist potentials with surrounding scenic places.

### **1. Agashiv Caves:**

Agashiv hill is situated on  $17^{\circ}13'$  N to  $17^{\circ}15'$  N latitude and  $74^{\circ}8'$  E to  $74^{\circ}10'$  E Longitude with the height of 830 metres from mean sea level. The hill is important for the ancient Budhists caves sculptures carved in the 1<sup>st</sup> A.D. century. The caves are in three series – the southern group of 23 near the village Jakhanwadi. South east cave group of nineteen caves and the north cave group of 22 facing the Koyana valley. The other caves are small; some are newly excavated. The caves are in the primitive form of Chaityas. A temple of Shiva is at the peak within the hill. The roads from both the sides are up to foot hill. The place has greater tourist potential and is visited by the surrounding people occasionally.

### **2. Vasantgad:**

It is situated on  $17^{\circ}19'30''$  latitude and  $74^{\circ}6'$  E longitude, having 1000 metres height from mean sea level. It lies at about 9 kms N.W. of Karad, on Jalu-Vasantgad spur. It is about 300 metres high from the Koyana plain. The village Vasantgad is at south foot. The fort has



historic monuments and a temple of Chandoba deity, a fair is held on 11<sup>th</sup> of bright moon in Chaitra.

The good transport network is established up to foot. The fort has greater tourist potentials but needed to develop some infrastructural facilities on the fort.

### **3. Chafal:**

The village chafal is situated on 17°20' N latitude and 74°00' E longitude, having 625 metres height from mean sea level. It lies on the left and right bank of river Mand; to the 25 kms N.W. of Karad.

The place is closely associated with Samarth Ramdas Swami, contemporary and spiritual adviser of Chhatrapati Shivaji, Ramdas Swami was lived here and made it a centre of his spiritual activity. He placed Ram's Paduka here and also found three Maruti images. Recently a beautiful temple of Shri Ram, Sita and Laxman is built here. The place has lodging and boarding facilities and site is well connected by roads. The place is becoming the religious center and visited by thousands of people. The place has beautiful natural site with greater tourist potentials.

### **4. Pali (Rajapur):**

The village Pali is situated on 17°45' N latitude 74°20' E Longitude, having the height of 610 metres from mean sea level. The village, originally called Rajapur. It lies on the both sides of the Tarali. It is about 25 kms N.W. of Karad, and about 5 kms from Kashil, the village on

N.H.4. The village is mainly recognizing for a temple of KANDOBA deity. A yearly fair is held in December. The fair is attended by more than one lakh people. This is a pilgrimage centre. The temple is old and acquire 140' x 80' area. The image of Khandoba is a ling. The temple sculpture is good and scenic. A huge bull, Deepmala are very precious. The place has hotels and market centre, lodging facility can be available in temple Dharmsala. The place is well connected by road to the surrounding towns.

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