

INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN KONKAN REGION (MAHARASHTRA STATE)

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Abstract : Tourism is fast becoming the dominant global activity surpassing even trade in oil and manufactured goods. It is a important factor for regional development. So, Konkan can be developed only through Tourism activity. The Konkan has Geography, History as well as cultural heritage and this is the potential of tourism. The various beaches, forts, temples and waterfalls are main attraction of the tourists' in the Konkan. There is wide scope of development of Tourism. Tourism development may be defined as the creation, provision or addition of facilities, amenities and services to meet the needs of the tourist. The various types of facilities and services required in the process of tourism development. So, the present research paper focus on Important of infrastructure facilities required for development of tourism in Konkan region.

Keywords: Public Private Partnership, Travel Mart .

1 INTRODUCTION

Infrastructural development is necessary to stimulate the development of tourism. It predominantly serves the residential population but is also shared by tourists and is essential for tourism development. Infrastructure consists of all the underground and surface development construction of a region. It comprises transportation terminals (railway lines, parking, air fields and harbors), communication net-works, street highways, health care facilities, security-systems, besides public utilities such as water system, power sources and sewage disposal. Its provision is almost always the responsibility of the government and it is a charge on development. It is one way in which the public sector creates a climate conducive for tourism development.

The infrastructure “ is a condition of all activities in tourism and has to precede the superstructure,” which consists passenger traffic terminals, shopping facilities etc. The provision of infrastructure normally extends over a wide area. It entails heavy investments and capital outlay and with a few exceptions, it is provided by public authorities. The individual facilities within tourist area, which comprise the superstructure in tourism, are commonly planned and provided by individual developers and operators. Airport building terminals, port facilities, railway, bus and coach terminals, car parks are usually planned in conjunction with the related infrastructure. Their location is of crucial importance in tourism planning in order to avoid congestion and environmental effects of tourism.

STUDYAREA :-

The Konkan region is situated in the western part of the Maharashtra State. It is located between the Arabian Sea to the West and Sahyadri Mountain to the East and has 700 km's coastline. Its consist of Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg district. The Konkan division is an administrative sub-division of Maharashtra which comprises all the coastal districts of the state. The ancient sapta-Konkan is a slightly larger region described in the *Sahyadrikhanda* which refers to it as "Parashuramakshetra.

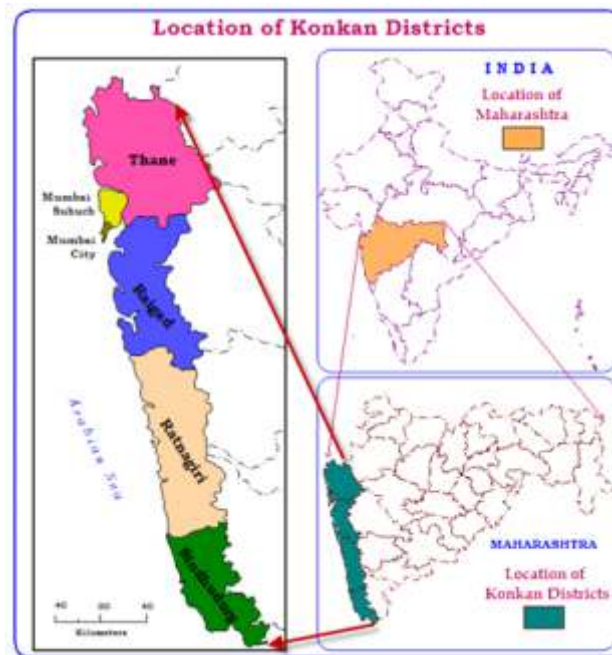


Fig. 1 Location of study area

OBJECTIVES :-

- 1) To study the present infrastructure in Konkan.
- 2) To suggest proper / required infrastructure for tourism development in future.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:-

For the present research work, relevant data were collected from primary and secondary sources. Cartographic methods were used. Most of the research work were based on secondary data i.e. district census handbook, Statistical abstract and other reliable government publications articles, news report prints, journals, etc.. Data collected on different aspects of tourism were processed and given spatial dimensions.

PRESENT INFRASTRUCTURE :

1)Accommodation :

Generally in Konkan region, proper accommodation facilities are available at tahsil, district places and some popular tourist spots i.e. two, three star hotels, motels, private resorts, and M.T.D.C. resorts. The Hotels are so costly, M.T.D.C resorts have limited rooms and services. e.g Amboli, Tarkarli, Alibag, Murud-Janjira, Dapoli etc.

2)Transport :

Konkan railway is backbone of development for konkan region. It's a very nice experience of tourist to travelled by Konkan railway. There is limited flow of Express. Express is not taking halt at all station, alternate halts are given. Reservation is not available in all season. During rainy season some time trains are derailed due to landslide.

Other source that is NH-17 (Mumbai-Goa highway) . It is very narrow road. During peak season its over crowded and main problem is heavy traffic jam.

3)Communication :

Mostly every tourist centre have PO,TO. Tata tele service, Reliance, Vodafone ,BPL, BSNL these companies provides mobile network services. Every tourist centre is not connect by mobile network. Only popular and road side centre's are connected by mobile network.

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4) Health care facilities :

Hospitals are available only at tahsil and district headquarters normally. Dispensary is available at or near by every tourist centers.

Health Care service is not sufficient for tourist.

5)Coastal (Tourist) Highways :

It is very important for tourist and excellent experience to travel along the coast. It's started from Alibag to Vengurla. Very few centres are providing the facility of petrol pump, Garage services, Hotels, Motels. Emergency services are not available.

REQUIRED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN FUTURE :-

A)TRAINING FACILITY :-

1) Tourism Training Institute :

To develop Tourism industry in Konkan extent Human resource is needed and youngsters of Konkan region should get jobs in tourism industry. Tourism Training institute should be established and branches of the institutes should be established in Thane, Raigad and Sindhudurg. To establish such institute financial arrangement needed.

2) Publicity and Entrepreneurship development campaign :

To develop tourism industry in Konkan region, we have to change Psychology tourism and hotel professionals. There should be Professionalism in food, Hospitality, Lodging and Boarding etc. facilities should be improved at great level. Small seminars and workshops should be arranged to change Psychology of tourism professionals in Konkan region.

B)BASIC FACILITIES :-

1) Konkan Tourist Centre :

Tourist centre should be started on the basis of Public Private Partnership (P.P.P) at Coastal Highway Alibag to Vengurla at every Particular distance. Every centre should provide breakfast and food made by Kokani style, Rest room, petrol pump and CNG gas, ATM centre, tourism information centre.

2) Studio For Film Making :

Excellent locations are available at Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg in Konkan region for film making. Shooting is possible but basic facilities are not available. At least one studio should be available in every district with all the advance facilities.

3)Water Tourism Campaign :

With support of govt. of Maharashtra Tarkarli, Ganpatipule, Harihareshwar at this places water tourism centers are developed. At Tarkarli Snorkeling, Scuba diving etc. facilities are available and getting excellent response from tourist.

4) Backwater Tourism Centers :

In Konkan region, potential of backwater parks are available at Tarkarli, Aronda , Vijaydurg, Jaygadh, Dabhol, Vasai Creek etc. So, It is necessary to open backwater tourism centre in each place. At all places Resorts, House Boat, Water Transport in creeks, water sports, parasailing etc. facilities should be made available for the tourist.

5)Problem of electricity :

There is major problem of electricity in Konkan region. From Dahanu to Vengurla on Konkan region No. of tourist are increasing constantly in this area. Load shading should be stopped because local professionals cannot afford expenses of generator and diesel.

6) Tax benefits :

Tourism is a backbone of Konkan region. For next 10 years Tourism industry should be free from Taxes like VAT, Luxury Tax etc. It will increase investment in Tourism industry.

7) NH-17 extend in four line ways :

There is always problem of Traffic jam specially during peak season. So, there is need to convert highway in four lane ways like Mumbai-Pune Highway.

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8) Coastal Highway :

From Alibag to Vengurla , all tourist centers are situated near coastal Highways. Where coastal highway cannot be reach , there fairy service should be started on P.P.P basis. Every tourist center provides breakfast, Konkani food, standard restaurant, clean dormitories, develop store for Konkani product, tourist information center, Photo exhibition of surrounding area, rest room for driver, petrol pump, CNG Gas and A.T.M. center at every stations.

9) Lack of Accommodation :

Near every tourist spot Lodging & Boarding facility should be available. Maharashtra govt. should provide basic requirement and subsidy for Hotel industry specially for Konkan. Local governing council create awareness among the local people who have ample space to provide accommodation facilities to tourist.

10) Lack of Security :

Security is very important for tourist. There should be arrangement for Tourist police specially at every Beaches. When tourist have been physically assaulted, robbed and sexually harassed, its created negative image of particular spot.

11) Parking facilities :

Generally during peak season and on the fair days, there is a problem of parking and traffic jam. Local govt.bodies, Trust consider the flow of tourist and arrange the proper way of parking.

C) PUBLICITY :

1) Global Konkan Celebration :

Every year in the capital of India (Mumbai), one international Celebration of Konkan should be arranged. Konkan Pratishthan has already organise this activity every year with the help of Maharashtra government.

2) Konkan Travel Mart :

Maharashtra state show the strength of Konkan tourism to tourist. For this achievement Konkan Travel Mart should be arranged in Nagpur, Aurangabad, Pune, Mumbai and Nashik.

3) To Participate in exhibition of Tourism at National level :

Every year (I.T.M.) and (T.T.F) institute arrange exhibition on Travel and Tourism. Konkan Tourism should be promoted in this exhibition Like Mumbai, Madras, Kolkatta, Haidrabad, Bangalore, Delhi etc. Konkan Tourism pavilion should be arranged and should be promoted all over India.

CONCLUSION :

Tourism development is thus a composite subject and does not necessarily mean the development of only the tourism facilities like hotels, restaurants, recreational activities will be meaningful only if the area has the minimum basic amenities and infrastructure like road, water, electricity, sewerage, telecom facilities etc. Tourism is an information intensive industry and Information and Communication Technology is a key driver for developing countries in organizing and marketing their tourism products. With the help of ICT applications, tourists can view information regarding a destination, book accommodation and reserve tickets for train, flight or other forms of transport and at the same time pay for all these without leaving their homes. This aspect was given importance in the Tourism 'Synergy' programme. Subsequently the State Governments are requested to prepare Master Plans for development of Tourism based on the same concept.

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