

## **Transport Network and SWOT Analysis of Tourist Destinations in Kolhapur District**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In today's busy, fast stressful life the demand to get away from it all has become a necessity part of life. As a result the number of people opting out for travelling to far away tourist destinations is on the rise. People have a varied purpose throughout their trips like seeing religious places, historical monuments, sightseeing on new locations, entertainment, etc. Thus tourism has become a significant industry, leading to income source for the local population and adding to the per capita income and GDP in general (Matley 1976). Transport and tourism are interrelated to each other and development of tourism as an economic activity always depends upon transport. In transport development accessibility of tourist place is a key factor. There are no accessibility of any tourist place, place is neglected to tourist. In this chapter Importance of transport in tourism will be discussed along with giving prime importance to road transport and tourism. The nature of transport flow, Accessibility of tourist place and shortest route will be determined in this research paper. In these research paper reveals that the SWOT analysis of Tourist Destinations in Kolhapur District. SWOT analysis means, what are the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat of Tourist Destinations. In Kolhapur district tourist destinations are classified in to four categories viz. Religious places, historical places, nature and forest tourism places and water tourism places. The each category of tourist places is different type of strength, weakness, opportunity and threat. The SWOT analysis is useful method for development of tourist destination.

**Key word:** SWOT Analysis, Religious, Historical, Nature and Forest Tourism Places.

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are much of tourist attractions in and about the Kolhapur district. One can find excavated stays dating back to 2<sup>nd</sup> BC to ancient relics of the Buddha, Mahavir era. There are

temples, old caves from the era of Satavahan, Bhoj, Shalivan and Yadavas to the Maratha Dynasty. Forts, temples, stone inscriptions, statues and other relics and signs of the long lost heritage are finding in Kolhapur district. Similarly the Kolhapur district is enriched with a rich biodiversity surviving one of the 35 Biodiversity Hotspots in the world. The region falling in Western Ghats is interspersed with river origins, dams, thick lush forests, national forests and wildlife sanctuaries. As a result one is able to see a variety of peaks, valleys, falls, rivers and vast trees along with all types of biodiversity. Kolhapur is nationally and internationally well known for its ancient temples, religious importance and sacredness. It is also known as “Dakhshin Kashi” and it is one of the three significant holy places. Tirupati Balaji is the richest temple in South India with a huge tourist inflow. Most of the tourists visit Goddess Mahalaxmi in Kolhapur later their visit to the Tirupati temple. Similarly the number of tourists who visit temples at Nursinhawadi, Jyotiba, Vashi, Adampur and twenty three more such places is very high.

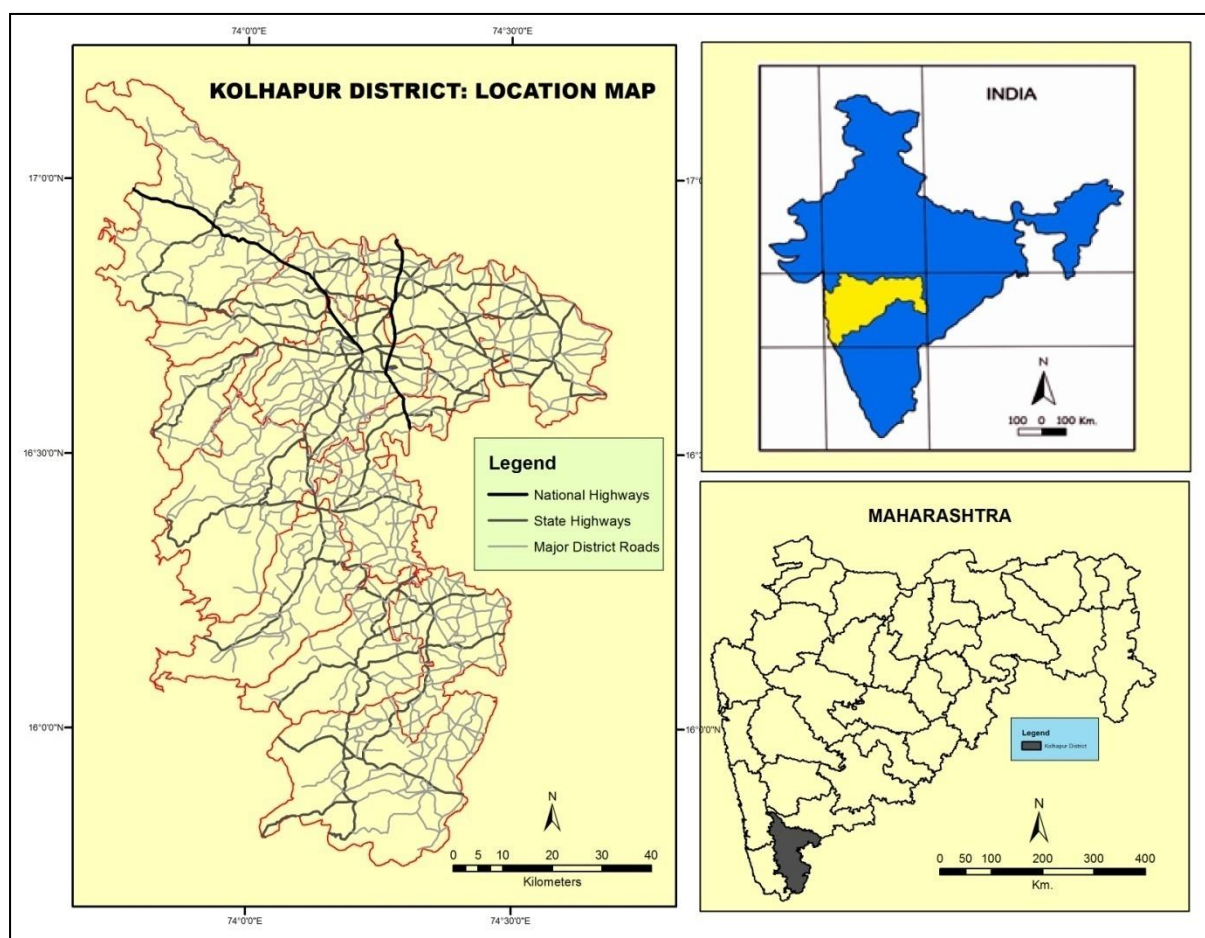
Tourists from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Goa visit Kolhapur in large numbers and also tourists from other parts of Maharashtra. Transport is available through air, railways, state transport and other buses. The cities of Hyderabad, Tirupati, Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Gondia, Nagpur, are well linked by rail. People from other parts can make use of these stations for their travel to Kolhapur. Historical places have a special importance as heritage places. These places are an evidence of social status, changes, social make up of those times. They are also means of research for today. Hence it is essential to conserve them for their future studies and these places can become a major part of the tourist attractions. Existence of Kolhapur can be seen from 200 BC, It has ancient and historical importance. Maharani Tararani has established her capital in Kolhapur. After 1949 this Kolhapur state is declared as district as per the Indian Constitution.

#### **STUDY AREA:**

Kolhapur district is situated in the extreme southern part of Maharashtra State. It lies between 15° 43' and 17° 17' north latitudes and 73° 40' and 74° 42' east longitudes. It is surrounded by Sangli district to the north, Karnataka State to the east and south and Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to the west. The Sahyadri ranges to the west and Varna River to the north form the natural boundaries. The shape of district is triangular; base of triangular is west side and two edges from north-east and south-east direction. District north and south side are narrow but western side is so wide. The district has an area of 7,685.00 sq km and a

population of 3876001 populations as per census 2011. While the geographical area of the district accounts for 2.5 percent of the total area out of the Maharashtra State.

The density of population is 504 persons per sq km Among the 35 districts of the State, the district ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in terms of area as per 2011 census. The headquarters of the district is at Kolhapur, a city with a population of 549236 (2011) Census. Kolhapur was the capital of the former Kolhapur State, a premier State of the Deccan and was also the seat of the Residency for Deccan States.



**Fig. No 1**

It derives its importance from its past political connections and its present position as a great commercial, religious, cultural and educational centre. It is well linked both by road as well as by rail. The district has an area of 7,685.00 sq km and a population of 2989507 (1991), 3523162 (2001) and 3876001 population as per census 1991, 2001 and 2011. While the geographical area of the district accounts for 2.5 percent of the total area out of the Maharashtra State.

## **OBJECTIVE**

1. To examine transport network and tourist development in Kolhapur district.
2. To study SWOT analysis of tourist destinations in Kolhapur district.

## **DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:**

In present research paper is based on secondary data which is collected from Socio Economic Abstract of Kolhapur District, Kolhapur District Tourism Plan and District census handbook 2011. GIS mapping techniques is used for distribution of road network. Besides this, few information and secondary data regarding the present research work have been collected from the books, journals, reports, miscellaneous sources, published, and unpublished sources. The SWOT analysis is useful method for development of tourist destination. SWOT analysis means, what are the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat of Tourist Destinations. In Kolhapur district tourist destinations are classified in to four categories viz. Religious places, historical places, nature and forest tourism places and water tourism places. The each category of tourist places is different type of strength, weakness, opportunity and threat.

## **ANLYTICAL DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

### **SWOT Analysis of Tourist Destinations in Kolhapur District**

Table no 1 to 4 revels that the SWOT analysis of Tourist Destinations in Kolhapur District. SWOT analysis means, what are the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat of Tourist Destinations. In Kolhapur district tourist destinations are classified in to four categories viz. Religious places, historical places, nature and forest tourism places and water tourism places. The each category of tourist places is different type of strength, weakness, opportunity and threat. The SWOT analysis is useful method for development of tourist destination. In Kolhapur district there are 10 fort Viz. Vishalgad (Shahuwadi), Pawangad, Panhala (Panhala), Shivgad (Radhanagari), Rangana (Bhudargad) Samangad (Gadhinglaj), Pargad, Gandharvagad, Kalanidhigad, Mahipalgad (Chandgad). These forts are connected to road network but less frequency of modes of transport at hence those place are neglected by tourist. In natural tourist destination all forest tourism places are facing road connectivity problem. In religious tourist place viz. Udgiri, Dhopeswar, Ramling, Kuntugiri, Gagangiri,

Vishalgad Darga and other menay places are located in hilly area. These religious places are limited road connectivity and mode of frequency.

### **Religious Tourism**

The district of Kolhapur is well known for its temples, Mahalaxmi and Jyotiba are important places of pilgrimage. Apart from them there are various other temples like Jain mandir, caves from Budha era, etc. The temple of Mahalaxmi was built in 7th century while other temples at Khidrapur, sangshi, Beed-Aare, Vithal Mandir belong to parallel era.

**Table No: 1**  
**Pilgrimage / Religious Places in Kolhapur District**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Threat</b>
Udgiri	ancient, scenic	Remote, Limitations for communication	Nature, Forest tourism	Fog- Rain
Yelwanjugai	ancient, scenic	Remote, Limitations for communication	Nature, Forest tourism	Fog- Rain
Vishalgad Dargah	Historic, scenic	Remote, Limitations for communication	Nature, Forest tourism	Fog- Rain
Jotiba	ancient, scenic	Crowd	Nature tourism	Crowd
Ambabai Kolhapur	ancient, sculpture	Crowd	-	Crowd
Aarewadi	ancient, sculpture	Neglected, limitations for communications	-	
Allamprabhu, Ramling	Famous, scenic	Remote, Limitations for communication	Nature tourism	
Bahubali	Famous	Crowd		
Kunthugiri	Famous, scenic	Neglected	Nature Tourism	
Nrusinhawadi	Famous	Crowd	Water tourism	crowd
Khidrapur	Famous, sculpture	Neglected, Limitations for communication	Water tourism	
Gaganbawada	Historic, scenic	Crowd	Nature, Forest tourism	Fog- Rain
Sangashi	ancient , scenic	Neglected, Limitation for Communication	Nature, Forest tourism	Fog- Rain
Durgamanwad	Famous, scenic	Remote, Limitations for communication	Nature, Forest tourism	Fog- Rain
Tarale	Famous	Crowd	Agro Tourism	
Gudal	Famous	crowd	Agricultural Tourism	
Gaibi	Famous, scenic	Crowd	Nature, Forest tourism	

Source: Compiled by Researcher

There are 2675 temples under the jurisdiction of the Devasthan Samiti today, which have been constructed in different time periods. The strength of religious places of Kolhapur district is most of places are ancient, historical and sculpture. According to road network most of religious places are located in remote area and those places are not connected to road network. Mahalaxmi and Jotiba temples are facing crowd problem because of these places are connected to well road and railway network.

### **Historical and Ancient Monuments Tourism**

In Kolhapur district many places are fall in this category viz. Vishalgad fort, Bhudargad fort, Rangana fort, Masai Caves, Mahadev temple at Aare, birth place of Chh. Shahu Maharaj Laxmi Vilas Palace, Ramchandrapant Amatya Samadhi and Bajiprabhu-Phulajiprabhu memorials in Panahala are under Ancient Monuments department of state of Maharashtra. In Karveer Juna Rajwada (Old Palace), Nava Rajwada (New Palace), Shalini Palace, Town Hall, Bindu chowk tatbandhi, Dhunyachya chavya at Rankala, Panyacha Khajina at Kalamba, Sathmari, Jaiyprabha Studio, Keshavrao Bhosale Natyagruha, Khasbag Kusti Maidan, Panchaganga ghat, Radhakrishna temple, Walivade camp and Bramhapur. Panahala, Pavangad, Masai caves, Panhala-Pavankhinda marg (road), Vishalgad, Bhattali War Memorial, Bawada fort from Gaganbawada, Sangshi, Palsamba temple, dam and Hathimahal builing at Radhanagari, Maunimath at Bhudargad, Pargad at Chandgad, Gandharvagad, Kalanidhigad, Memorial at Nesri, Samangad at Gadhinglaj, Shivgad at Radhanagri, etc. The strength of historical places of Kolhapur district is most of places are ancient, historical. According to road network most of historical places are located in hilly area but those places are well connected to road network. Only few places are not connected to road network which are Masai leni, Pawangad, Palasamba and Kalanidhigad. In historical tourist places only Panhala Vishalgad and Kolhapur those are not only connected to road network but also good transport frequency of MSRTC. In the district other places are connected to road network but less frequency of modes of transport at hence those place are neglected by tourist.



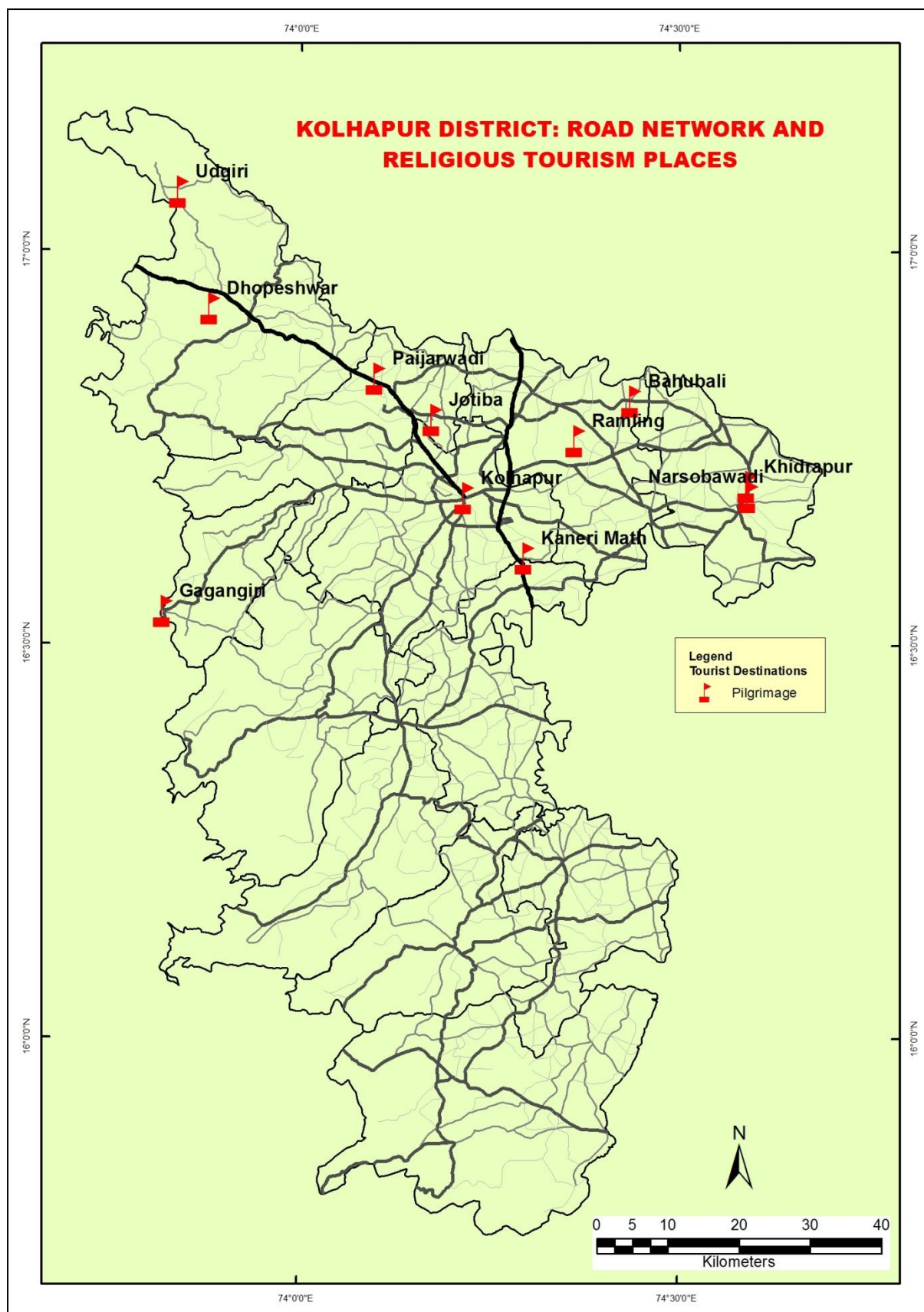


Fig No: 2

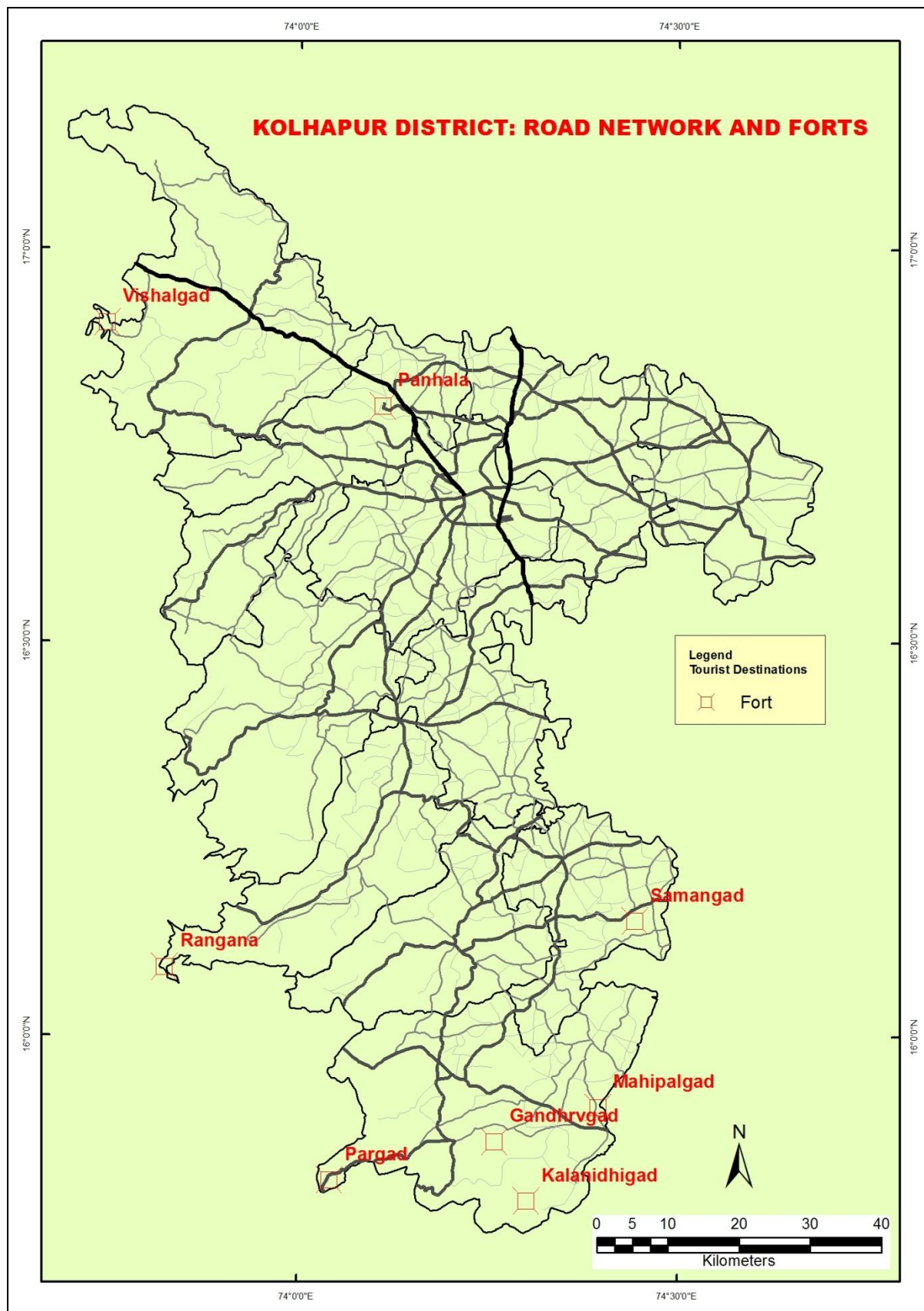


Fig No: 3



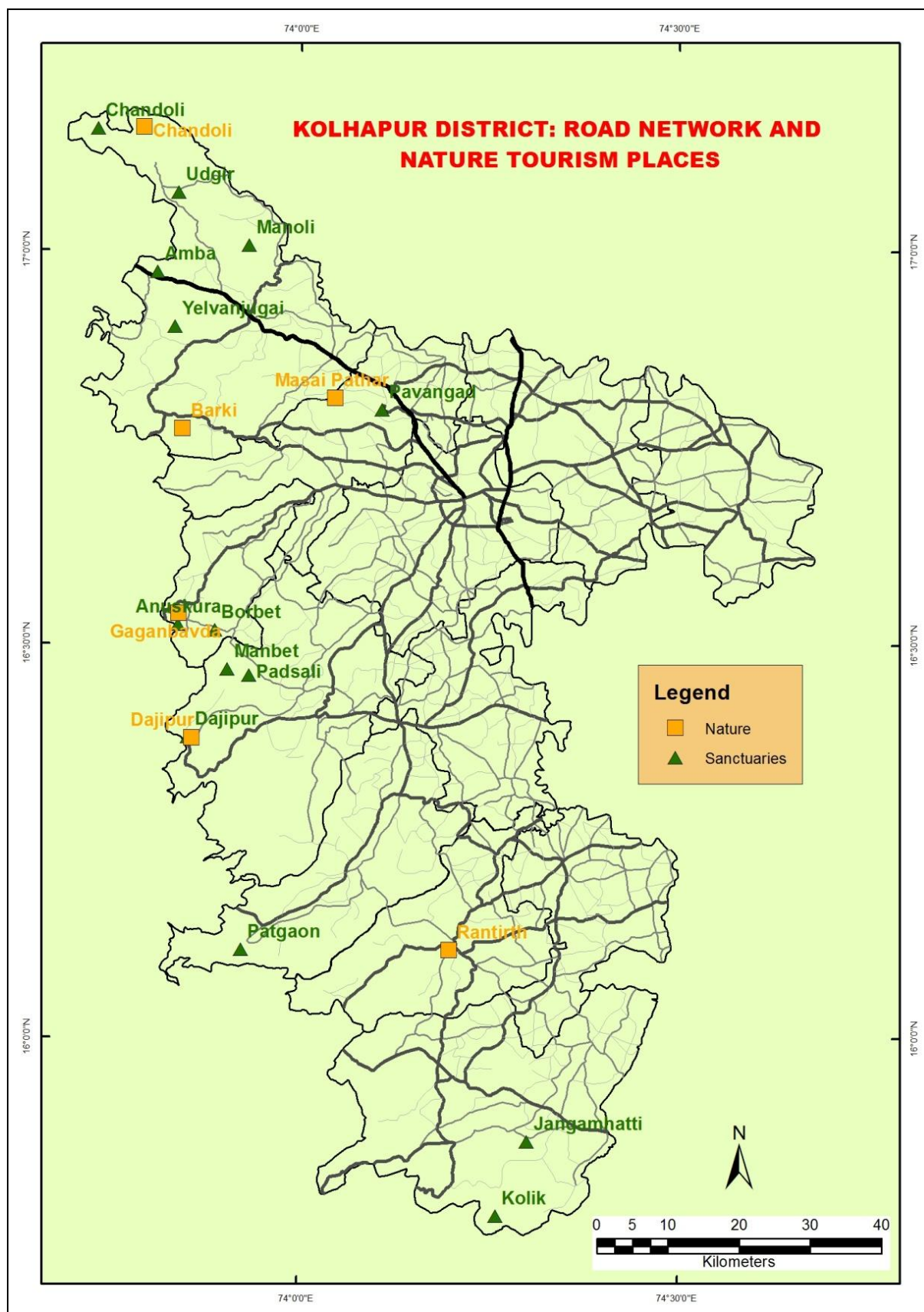


Fig No: 4

**Table No: 2**

**Historical Places in Kolhapur District**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Threat</b>
Vishalgad	Connected	Water / Shelter	Shelter- Rope way maintenance	Fog- Rain
Pawankhind	Connected	--	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	Fog- Rain
Masai leni		Neglected, Road	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	Fog- Rain
Panhalagad	Connected	Planning, Management	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Pawangad		Neglected, Road	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Pohale leni	Connected	--	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Palasamba		Neglected	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	Fog- Rain
Gaganbawadagad	Connected	--	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Mahipalgad	Connected	Neglected	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Bhudargad	Connected	Neglected	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Samangad	Connected	--	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	
Nesari Battle field memorial	Connected	--		
Kalanidhigad	Connected	Road walking	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	Fog- Rain
Paargad	Connected	Neglected	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	Fog- Rain
Gandharvagad	Connected	Neglected	Nature-jungle Tourism, Trek	Fog- Rain

Source: Compiled by Researcher

**Forest Tourism**

Chandoli Tiger Project in the district of Shahuwadi, Bison Sanctuary at Radhanagri, (both international tourist attractions) and forest areas of Amba, Udgiri, Manoli, Anuskura, Palsamba, Bawada Borbet, Padmasatti, Wacighol, Barki, Tilari, Rangana, Patgaon, Bhudargad, Samangad, Kolic, etc. The strength of forest places of Kolhapur district is most of places are under ecological sensitive zone. In Kolhapur district Chandoli Tiger Project, Radhanagari sanctuary and Borbet are under the world heritage. According to road network all forest tourism places are facing road connectivity problem because of in ecological

sensitive zone area there is no permission of road construction. In this forest are well opportunity for safari and trekking.

**Table No: 3**  
**Nature and Forest Tourism Places in Kolhapur District**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Weakness</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Threat</b>
Chandoli Tiger project	World heritage	Shelter, connectivity problems	Safari, Shelter, trek	Pollution, fire
Udgiri	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	connectivity problems	Trek	Pollution, fire
Amba	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	Crowd	Safari, shelter, trek	Pollution, fire
Manoli	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	connectivity problems	Safari, shelter, trek	Pollution, fire
Yelwqanjugai	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	connectivity problems	Safari, trek	Pollution, fire
Gelawade	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	connectivity problems	Safari, trek	Pollution, fire
Pawangad	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	connectivity problems	Safari, trek	Pollution, fire
Giroli	Forest area	Neglected	Safari, trek	Pollution, fire
Narande	Forest area	Neglected	Trek	Pollution, fire
Palasamba	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	connectivity problems	Trek	Pollution, fire
Borbet	World heritage	connectivity problems	Shelter, Trek	Pollution, fire
Radhanagari sanctuary	World heritage	Shelter, connectivity problems	Safari, shelter, trek	Pollution, fire
Wakighol	Forest area	connectivity problems	Trek	Pollution, fire
Bhudargad	Forest area	connectivity problems	Trek	Pollution, fire
Pali	Forest area	connectivity problems	Trek	Pollution, fire
Rangana	Forest, ecological sensitive zone	Shelter connectivity problems	Safari, trek	Pollution, fire
Tilari	Forest area	Shelter, connectivity problems	Safari, shelter, trek	Pollution, fire
Kolik	Forest area	connectivity problems	Safari, trek	Pollution, fire

Source: Compiled by Researcher

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Kolhapur is nationally and internationally well known for its ancient temples, religious importance and sacredness. It is also known as “Dakhshin Kashi” and it is one of the three significant holy places. The number of tourists who visit temples at Nursinhawadi, Jyotiba, Vashi, Adampur and twenty three more such places is very high. In religious tourist place viz. Udgiri, Dhopeswar, Ramling, Kuntugiri,

Gangangiri, Vishalgad Darga and other many places are located in hilly area. These religious places are limited road connectivity and mode of frequency.

2. In Kolhapur district there are 10 fort Viz. Vishalgad (Shahuwadi), Pawangad, Panhala (Panhala), Shivgad (Radhanagari), Rangana (Bhudargad) Samangad (Gadhinglaj), Pargad, Gandharvagad, Kalanidhigad, Mahipalgad (Chandgad). These forts are connected to road network but less frequency of modes of transport at hence those place are neglected by tourist. Kolhapur district is rich historical heritage and while implementing the tourism development plan, the government needs to pay special attention to the conservation of forts as a matter of priority.
3. Chandoli Project tiger in the district of Shahuwadi, Bison Sanctuary at Radhanagri, (both international tourist attractions) and forest areas of Amba, Ud giri, Manoli, Anuskura, Palsamba, Bawada Borbet, Padmasatti, Wacighol, Barki, Tilari, Rangana, Patgaon, Bhudargad, Samangad, Kolic. Forest tourism places are facing road connectivity problem because of restriction on construction of roads in forested areas. It is necessary to arrange safari through the forest department for trekking in the reserved forests.

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