



## A STUDY OF POTENTIAL OF TOURISM CIRCUITS IN CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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### Abstract:

**Tourism is an important form of human life that brings joy. Tourism is known as a rapidly growing business in the world. Different tourists like to enjoy different types of tourism. Along with the traditional tourism sectors of nature tourism, historical tourism, religious tourism, new tourism types like wildlife tourism, industrial tourism, educational tourism, cultural tourism, sports tourism, health tourism, etc. are developing rapidly. Some tourists want to do different types of tourism at the same time. For this, tourist circuits are created and tourists are provided with the opportunity to visit different types of tourist places.**

**Chandrapur district has various geographical, historical, religious, cultural and industrial factors for tourism. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is world famous for nature tourism and wildlife tourism. Lakhs of tourists visit Chandrapur district every year for geographical, religious and cultural tourism. It is necessary to study the potential available to create a tourism circuit by connecting various tourist places to develop the tourism sector in Chandrapur district. This study has been done to help develop the tourism sector by creating a tourism circuit in Chandrapur district.**

**Keywords: Tourism Circuit, Potential of tourism, Increasing tourist number.**

### Introduction:

In the 21st century, tourism will be the world's number one service industry, this prediction made by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) is going to become true by growing tourism. In 2019, the industry had a

global turnover of about 2.9 trillion US \$.<sup>1</sup> In 2019 the total number of international tourists was 1.5 billion.<sup>2</sup>

Along with the expansion of the tourism sector, new concepts of tourism are being developed. The curiosity in the human mind and the desire to explore unknown places are the main motivations behind tourism. That is why humans have been traveling from place to place for thousands of years. In the early days, tourism was taking place due to the beauty of nature, religious things, trade, etc. But today the nature of tourism is changing rapidly. Vacations, to have a fresh air, spending time in close proximity to nature to relieve the stresses of routine life, educational studies, honeymoon for newlyweds, nature therapy, space sightings, wildlife sightings, etc. can be considered as the inspiration behind tourism. From this, new branches of tourism like medical tourism, space tourism, adventure tourism, eco-tourism, wildlife tourism have emerged.

Chandrapur district is one of the ancient districts of Maharashtra state. About 500 years ago, a Gond king named Khandakya Ballalshah built a fort in Chandrapur i.e. Chandagad and established a human settlement.<sup>3</sup> This district, which is blessed with geographical features and situated in the valleys of the rivers Wardha, Wainganga, Uma, Irai and Andhari, is very rich in natural features. Chandrapur district has complementary conditions for religious,

<sup>1</sup> S. Lock, 9 Dec 2020, [statista.com/topics/962/global-tourism](https://www.statista.com/topics/962/global-tourism)

<sup>2</sup> First comprehensive report on tourism, united Nations World Tourism Organization, 20 Jan 2020

<sup>3</sup> A. J. Rajurkar, Chandrapur cha Etahas, 1956, Mahakali Prakashan Chandrapur

historical, geographical, industrial and cultural tourism. If this tourism potential is studied properly and planned properly, it is possible to develop the tourism sector on a large scale.

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is an international wildlife and Eco-tourism destination in Chandrapur district. More than 2 Lakhs tourists from home and abroad come here for tourism every year. Thousands of followers visit Mahakali Yatra and Deekshabhumi in Chandrapur city. If all these tourists are provided with information about other tourist centres in Chandrapur district and encouraged to visit, there is a possibility of increasing the number of tourists in Chandrapur district to a large extent. For this, it is necessary to study how to create a tourist circuit in Chandrapur district. By creating a tourist circuit, tourists visiting Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve at various entrances will also be able to take advantage of other tourism available in Chandrapur district.

#### **Study Area:**

Chandrapur district is located in the extreme east of Maharashtra and its geographical location and extension are 78° 48' East to 80° 55' East longitude and 18° 41' North to 20° 51' North latitude. The altitude of Chandrapur district above sea level is 262 meters.

The total geographical area of Chandrapur district is 11443 Sq. km. and 3.72% of the total area of the state is in Chandrapur district. Out of which 880 sq. km. residential area, 4870 sq. km. agricultural area, 32.34 sq. km. industrial area, 3810 sq. km. forest area, 550 sq. km. fallow land area and 1306.66 sq. km. area are divided into water bodies.

#### **Methodology:**

This research is based on primary and secondary data. The researcher himself has visited various tourist destinations and created a tourist circuit based on that. Assuming that Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district is the most visited tourist destination, a tourist circuit has been created according to the entrance of that tourist destination. The potential tourist circuit in the district has been shown through a map.

#### **Result And Conclusion:**

Chandrapur district has other important tourist destinations along with the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Every year, thousands of devotees from Maharashtra and Telangana

come to the Mahakali Devi Yatra in Chandrapur city. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar initiated Buddhism in Chandrapur on October 16, 1956, so every year lakhs of followers from all over Vidarbha visit this initiation site. Chandrapur district is known as the birthplace of national saint Tukadoji Maharaj, Veer Baburao Shedmake, GramGeetacharya Tukaram Dada, Baba Amte. Thermal power generation projects and coal mines in Chandrapur district can also be an attraction for tourists. There are many other tourist destinations near Tadoba. If they are developed and small tourist circuits are created, tourists coming for wildlife tourism in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve will have many options like other tourist destinations in Chandrapur district like religious, natural, historical, water tourism, inspirational tourist destinations, industrial tourism. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve has entry for tourism in the morning or afternoon. Therefore, if a tour package is provided including other tourist destinations near the entrance gate along with jungle safari, it can have a positive impact on tourist growth.

The following tourist circuits can be created by studying the tourist destinations with tourism potential adjacent to Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Creating this tourist circuit can increase the attraction of tourists. Along with this, since tourists can visit more tourist destinations in a single travel cost, their satisfaction level can also increase.

#### **1. Mahakali Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the following tourist sites: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Mohurli Entrance) - Chandrapur Thermal Power Station - Chandrapur Dikshabhoomi - Mahakali Temple - Samadhi of Gond Kings.**

Chandrapur Thermal Power Station is the second largest thermal power generation station in Asia located in Urjanagar. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar held the second Dhamma Diksha ceremony in Chandrapur on October 16, 1956. This place is an important place of inspiration for Buddhists. Lakhs of people visit here every year on the occasion of Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Day. Mahakali Temple is a major religious place in Chandrapur city. Many devotees from Marathwada and Vidarbha visit here regularly. Every year, a yatra is held here in the month of March. The Samadhi of Gond Kings in Chandrapur city is famous as a historical place.

**2. Coal Mines Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the following tourist places: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Mohurli Entrance) - Coal Mines - Abdul Kalam Park - Sainik School.**

Chandrapur district is famous for coal production. There are many coal mines near Chandrapur city. They are known as coal mines. There are both underground and open mines. These coal mines attract many tourists visiting Chandrapur. Abdul Kalam Park on Chandrapur-Ballarpur Road is especially famous for child tourists. Various flowers, medicinal plants and adventure sports equipment are available. Rashtriya Sainik School established in Chandrapur is among the first five national Sainik schools in the country. Tourists also visit here in large numbers.

**3. Bhadravati Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the historical and religious tourist places of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Khutwanda Entrance) - Parshwanath Jain Temple - Bhadravati Temple - Vijasana Caves.**

Shri Parshwanath Jain Temple located in Bhadravati is a very sacred place for Jain people. Tourists from all over the country come here for religious tourism. Bhadravati is an ancient temple and it is also a historically important place. There are ancient Buddhist caves at Vijasana Hill. Tourists come to all these tourist places throughout the year.

**4. Anandavan Ramdegi Circuit:**

**This tourist circuit includes the following tourist places: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Navegaon Entrance) - Balaji Temple at Krantibhoomi Chimur - Doma - Ramdegi - Bhatala Temple Group - Anandavan.**

The Balaji Temple at Chimur is famous for horse riding. The waterfall falling from a high mountain at Doma is also an inspiring place for the Muktai Devi Mana tribe and a large number of tourists visit here during the monsoon. Ramdegi is an ancient cave, a place of worship for Buddhist worshippers and a nature tourism destination. There is also a legend that Rama touched his feet here. Bhatala ancient temple group is famous for the Hemadpanthi style of construction of the temple and there is a large ancient temple of Mahadev with a Shivling here. Anandavan is the Karmabhoomi of Smritishesha Baba Amte. There is a leprosy

prevention center here. This is an inspiring tourist place.

**5. Ghodazari-Adyal Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the following tourist sites: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Kolara Entrance) - Ghodazari Lake - Sat Bahini Mountain - Adyal Hill - Avalgaon Triveni Sangam.**

Ghodazari Lake is a famous water tourism center in Chandrapur district. This lake was built in 1923 during the British era. Tourists come here in large numbers throughout the year for boating. This place is located eight kilometres from Ghodazari Lake near the village of Sonapuri and is known as the highest mountain in Chandrapur district. This place is completely surrounded by natural forests and has a seven sisters and a Shiva temple. Many tourists come here for nature tourism. Adyal Hill is a place built by his followers, Hon. Tukaram Dada, under the guidance of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj. Sant Tukadoji Maharaj used to come here to meditate. The Triveni Sangam is formed by the confluence of the rivers Wainganga and Khobragadi at Avalgaon in Brahmapuri taluka.

**6. Somnath Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the following tourist sites: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Pangdi Entrance) - Naleshwar Lake - Kolsur Fort - Gaimukh - Asolamendha Lake - Somnath Project.**

Naleshwar is a water tourism centre. Kolsur is an ancient fort located in Gadbori. Gaimukh is a famous religious tourist destination. Asolamendha Lake is the largest water source in Chandrapur district. This lake is 20 km from Sindewahi. This lake was created in 1918 during the British era for irrigation. Many migratory birds come to this place in winter. Somnath is another rehabilitation project started by Baba Amte for leprosy patients. There is also a waterfall and a temple here. There is a large crowd of tourists here throughout the year, especially during the monsoon.

**7. Markanda Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the following tourist places: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Jhari Entrance) - Dhamma Ajay Vipassana Center - Jhopla Maruti Temple - Markanda Devasthan.**

Dhamma Ajay is a Vipassana Center in Ajaypur and many people visit it regularly. Jhopla Maruti is a tourist place located on the banks of

the Andhari River on the Ajaypur - Keljar route. A beautiful garden has been created here by the Forest Department. Markanda Devasthan is known as the Kashi of Vidarbha. This place is located on the banks of the Wainganga River in Gadchiroli district, bordering Chandrapur district. There is an ancient Hemadpanthi Shiva temple here. A big pilgrimage is held here every year on Mahashivratri. Tourists are found visiting all these places regularly.

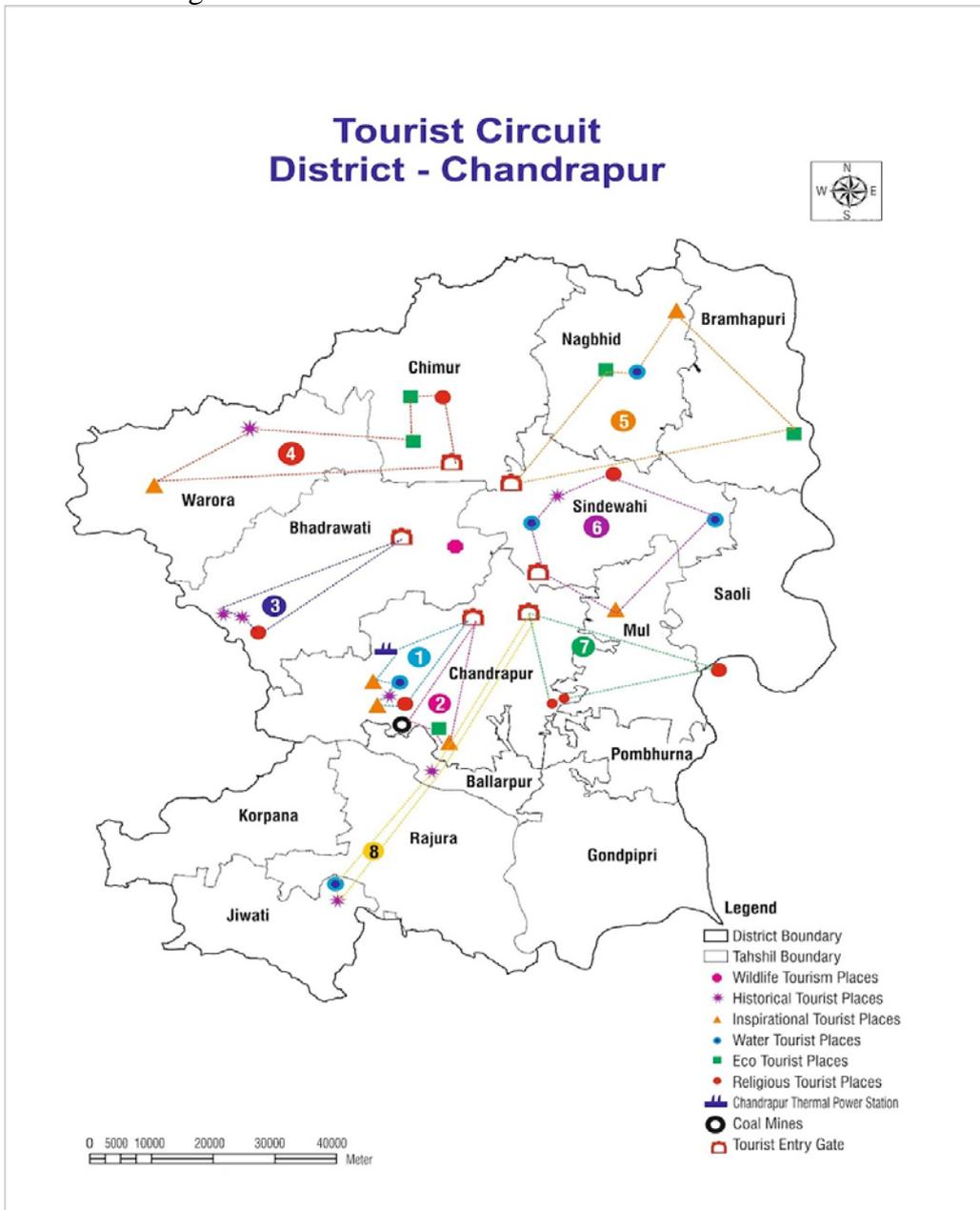
**8. Manikgad Tourism Circuit:**

**This tourism circuit includes the following tourist places: Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Jhari Entrance) - Ballarpur Fort - Amlanala Project - Manikgad Fort.**

The fort at Ballarpur is known as the first capital of the Gond kingdom. There is also a

paper manufacturing factory built here. Amlanala is a lake. It is an important tourist place with natural beauty at the foot of the Chandur hills. Manikgad Fort was built when the Mana tribe ruled the Chandrapur area. There is an ancient well on the fort and a famous Vishnu temple is at the foot.

State and national highways and transport facilities are available to visit all these tourist places. There are some necessary infrastructure facilities. After visiting all these places, they are at a convenient distance from where one can reach Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve for a night stay. If these tourist places are developed and advertised properly, the number of tourists can increase to a large extent.



**Conclusion:**

By utilizing the geographical, historical, social, religious, industrial and cultural elements of Chandrapur district, 8 tourism circuits can be created in Chandrapur district as mentioned above. Due to this tourism circuit, tourists coming to Chandrapur district can visit many tourist places at the same time and enjoy various types of tourism. This can increase the satisfaction level of tourists and contribute to the positive publicity of tourist places in Chandrapur district, thereby increasing the number of tourists to a large extent.

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