



## TREASURE OF TRIBAL TOURISM AND CULTURE OF AKOLE TAHSIL IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

Scheduled Tribes constitute 8.6% of India's population and they exhibit emulous diversity. Their protection and development require attention. Their ecological setting in which they live along with their unique cultural attributes. This will aid in the preservation and promoting the tribal culture if planned holistically owing to the sheer diversity and the sensitivities in the tribal population of India there can't be one size fits all approach to tribal tourism development India rather it has to be a tailor made approach for tribal regions of tourism potential identified after due diligence monitoring the negative socio-cultural impacts of such from tourism development plans accordingly is very important

**KEY WORDS:** Tribes, Ecological, sensitivities, Tourism, attention.

### INTRODUCTION:

India a myriad land stores wonders in its magical womb from the tranquil seashores and from the pre-historic caves to the heritage temples and places. Tourism is a highly complex phenomena and several academic, discipline are involved in its study. Tourism is a basic and most desirable human activity deserving the praise and encouragement of all people and all governments it is an industry concerned with attracting people to a destination transporting them arrange their housing feeding and entertain them upon arrival and returning them to their homes. It deals for the most part with consumer tourists they money they spend and the people and mean which, Provide them with goods, services products. Tourism is not only an economic activity importance medium of cultural exchanges among nations of the world.

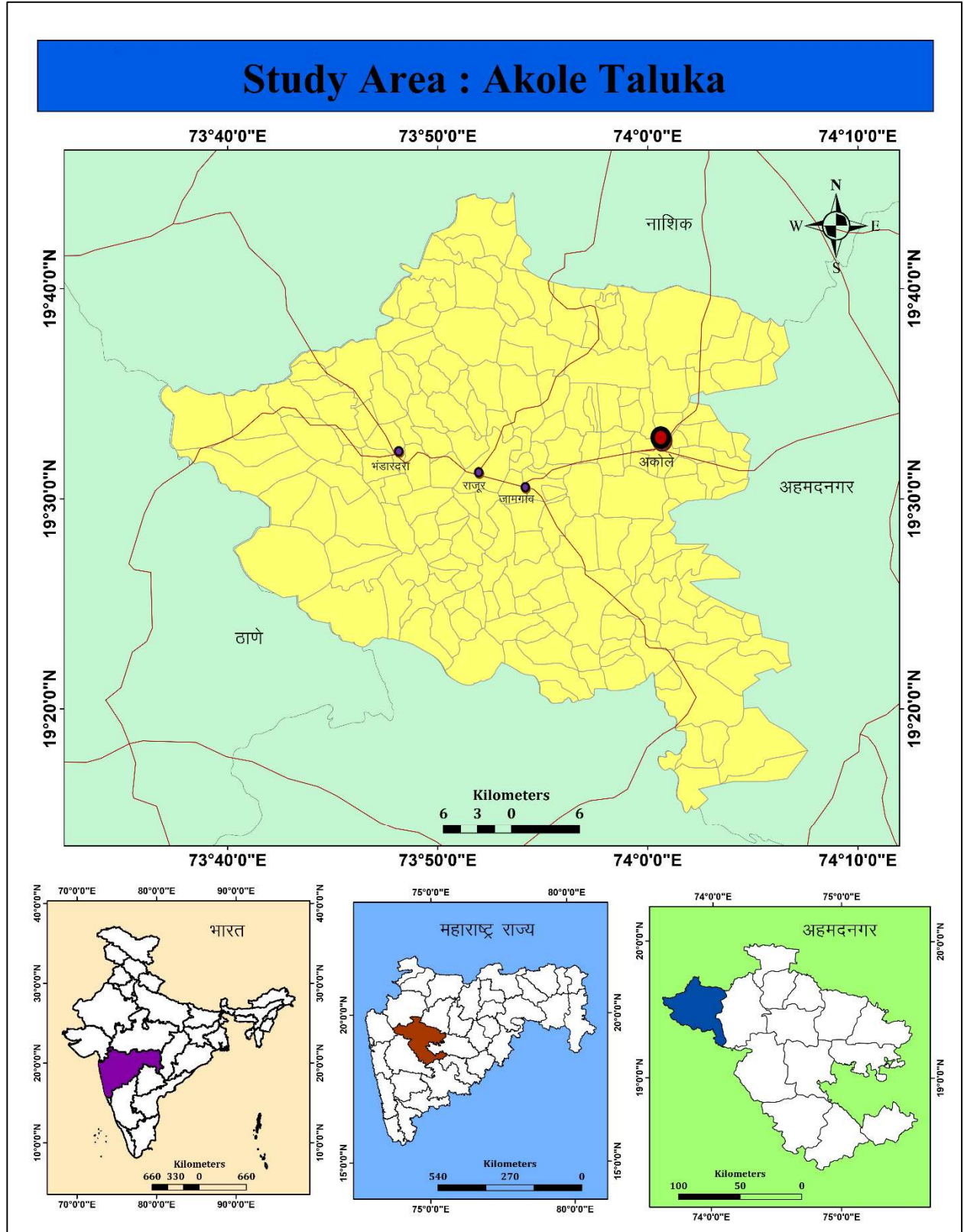
Tourist are temporary exodus population who normally travel to predetermined destination for whatever purpose they consumed tourism products while travelling and return home after a short period independently whether their envisaged purpose is achieved tourists are normally divided into two categories namely Domestic tourist.

### STUDY AREA:

Akole Tahsil is situated in the northern part of Ahmednagar district. It lies approximately between 19.65° to 19.95° North latitude and 73.45° to 73.75° East longitude. The tahsil is bordered by the Pune district to the west, Nashik district to the north, Sangamner tahsil to the east, and Rahata tahsil to the south. The landscape of Akole Tahsil is characterized by hilly terrain, as it falls within the foothills of the Western Ghats. The region is known for its scenic beauty, with lush greenery, forests, and rivers. Akole Tahsil is situated in the western part of Maharashtra, nestled in the Sahyadri mountain range. Its geographical landscape is characterized by hills, valleys, and plateaus, making it a picturesque region. The Sahyadri range lends itself to



stunning natural beauty, with lush greenery, waterfalls, and dense forests. The region is blessed with several rivers and streams, including the Pravara River, which flows through the tahsil, adding to its scenic charm.



**AIM'S AND OBJECTIVE:**

1. To study the tribal population and tourism culture of the village in
2. To Study the tourism development in Akole Tahsil as per Geographic analysis.

**HYPOTHESIS:**

Tourism can raise awareness about the important of conserving Harishchandra Gad, Kalsubai & Bhandardara natural & cultural heritage.

**Literature Review: -**

Native American communities can greatly benefit economically from tribal tourism. These areas stand to gain more revenue from the sale of handicrafts, cultural events, and guided tours when they draw tourists. Studies show that tribal tourism could raise living standards, lessen poverty, and open up job prospects in tribal places (Smith, 2019)<sup>11</sup>. Tribal tourism can generate income both directly and indirectly. Sales of tickets, admission fees, and payments for extras like guided tours and cultural events are examples of direct income. Sales of regional cuisine, lodging, and crafts provide indirect income. For example, traditional craft sales have aided in the preservation of cultural heritage in addition to generating revenue (Williams & Smith, 2017)<sup>12</sup>

**CULTURAL TOURISM IN AKOLE TAHSIL:**

Cultural Tourism is the subset of tourism concerned with a country or region's culture especially its art's It generally focuses on traditional communities who have diverse customs unique forms of art and distinct social practices ,which basically distinguishes it from other .By Promoted the reason is simple enough the members of the tribes in spite of being in the best position to manage and showcase their culture in an authentic and undiluted manner which do not have the required additional skills and knowledge to do just that .Hence in the following sections of paper start with a clearly defining cultural tourism and capacity building .Then the discussion shifts to the various issues concerning capacity building's would scan other possible avenues along with the cultural tourism and at same time would depict the possibility of ICT integration for promoting cultural tourism in the region.

**Table No-1  
Religious Tourist places in Akole Tahsil**

Village Name	Religious Location	Yearly Number of Domestic tourists visited
Kalsubai	Kalsubai Temple	Above-300000
Ratangad	Amruteshwar Temple	150000
Bhairoba wadi	Bairoba Temple	50000
Akole	Agasti Aashram	100000
Parkhatpur	Bhairavnath	50000
Kotul	Kotaleshwar	40000
Waghpur	Aubai	20000
Tahkari	Jagdamb	25000
MulaRiver	Lingeshwar Lingdev	50000
Aambhol	Aamleshwar	100000

(Source: Primary data collection from researcher)



**Cultural Heritage:** Akole Tahsil boasts a rich cultural tapestry that is deeply rooted in Maharashtra's history and traditions. The predominant culture here is Maharashtrian, with influences from the various communities residing in the region.

1. **Festivals and Celebrations:** The people of Akole Tahsil enthusiastically celebrate festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Navratri, and Gudi Padwa. These festivals are marked by vibrant processions, traditional rituals, music, and dance, showcasing the cultural vibrancy of the region. Villages in the Sahyadri region which belong to Akole Tahsil, is known for its firefly festivals, which celebrate the millions of fireflies that light up the night sky in the pre-monsoon season. The popular festival held in the Bhandardara, section of the Kalsubai-Harishchandragad Wildlife Sanctuary. The festival takes place in the Valley of Shadows and Semrad Village, where fireflies create a natural light show. Some say the best time to visit is before the monsoon, when there are fewer tourists and the fireflies are more visible.
2. **Fireflies Camping:** -A scenic camping spot in the forest, surrounded by hills and surrounded by fireflies. Some say it's a great picnic spot for nature lovers. Other firefly festivals in Maharashtra include: Rajmachi Fireflies Festival, Bhima Shankar Fireflies Festival, Sandhan Valley Fireflies Festival, and Aadrai Fireflies Festival.
3. **Cuisine and Local Delicacies:** Maharashtrian cuisine, known for its spicy and flavorful dishes, is prominent in Akole Tahsil. Staple foods include bhakri (a type of bread), pithla (a gram flour-based curry), and varan bhat (dal rice). Local specialties might vary based on seasonal produce and community preferences.
4. **Arts and Crafts:** The region is known for its traditional arts and crafts, including Warli painting, pottery, and handloom weaving. These artistic expressions reflect the cultural heritage and skills passed down through generations. Tribal is known for its skilled artisans and traditional handicrafts. The local communities engage in crafts such as Grass and woodwork, pottery, and handloom weaving. Tourists interested in cultural tourism can visit the artisan villages, interact with the craftsmen, and witness the intricate craftsmanship that goes into producing these traditional artifacts. Additionally, tourists have the opportunity to purchase these unique handicrafts as souvenirs, supporting local artisans and promoting their traditional skills.
5. **Music and Dance:** Folk music and dance are integral parts of the cultural fabric of Akole Tahsil. Traditional music like Lavani, Koli, Kambad & Bohada dance as well as Tamasha are some of the traditional dance forms that are performed during festivals and social gatherings, adding to the festive atmosphere. Tourists have the opportunity to witness the colorful processions, traditional dances, music performances, and religious ceremonies associated with these festivals. Participating in these festivals allows tourists to fully experience and appreciate the cultural richness of the region.
6. **Religious Sites:** Akole Tahsil is home to several temples, shrines, and pilgrimage sites revered by locals and visitors alike. The Amba Bhavani Temple, located near the Pravara River, is one such significant religious site frequented by devotees seeking blessings.



7. **Language and Literature:** Marathi is the primary language spoken in Akole Tahsil. The region has contributed significantly to Marathi literature, with renowned poets, writers, and scholars emerging from the area. Specially belong to Thakari tribes use thakari language.
8. **Preservation and Conservation Efforts:** Cultural tourism in the tribal area goes beyond experiencing the local culture and traditions. It also emphasizes the importance of preserving and conserving the rich cultural heritage of the region. Efforts are being made to raise awareness about the cultural significance of region and promote sustainable tourism practices. The involvement of local communities, government organizations, and NGOs plays a crucial role in preserving the cultural aspects of region, ensuring that future generations can continue to experience its cultural richness.

### Conclusion:

Cultural tourism in Akole Tahsil offers a unique and enriching experience for tourists who wish to explore the rich heritage, customs, and traditions of the region. The indigenous tribes, historical sites, traditional festivals, handicrafts, local cuisine, and conservation efforts all contribute to making a fascinating cultural tourism destination. By engaging with the local communities and experiencing the unique cultural aspects of Akole, tourists not only gain a deeper understanding of the region but also contribute to the preservation and promotion of its cultural heritage. Overall, Akole Tahsil is a blend of scenic beauty, cultural diversity, and historical significance, making it a fascinating destination for travelers and a cherished home for its residents.

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