

Culture-Nature Journey, Exploring the Complexities of Human Relationships with Natural and Cultural Places

Wari: A traditional movement in Maharashtra with a Culture-Nature response

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Abstract:

Introduction

Nature-Culture journey for many people is interaction with their natural surroundings, sometimes as participants in the functioning of ecosystems, protection of sacred natural sites; other times shaping landscapes, agriculture, fishing and other occupation.

Region

Nature-Culture journey can be looked in context to Maharashtra. The main characteristic feature of the region is great mountain ranges which enclose it on two sides - the Sahyadri range, running from north to south, and the Satpura and the Vindhya ranges running from east to west. The other minor ranges break out in rugged outline from the mountain chains and from the watersheds of many rivers eventually falling into the Godavari and into the Krishna.

This is an attempt to look at Maharashtra as a regional identity. The region is differentiated more along topography, geology, hydrology, vegetation, climate, occupation (agriculture), language, culture, social relations and conventions. Geographical aspects have greatly influenced the life of the people of Maharashtra, and accordingly have shaped the social and cultural arrangements of the region.

Case

This typical characteristic of the state has resulted into many traditions and cultural impacts as one travels from north to south of Maharashtra. One such traditional movement is seen along Bhima River basin called Bhakti Movement. After the basic agricultural proceedings are over, one tries to meet Vithoba - the abode of Maharashtra, in a group or procession along with palhki of Sant Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram.

Groups of pilgrims visit thousand year old Vithal temple periodically terming such a pilgrimage as Wari. Around the 12th century, The Warkari Movement (followers of Bhagwat Dharm- a

reformed religion) began to gather force, attracting devotees to the temple especially on the eleventh day (ekadashi) of the waxing and waning moon of the Hindu lunar calendar, roughly June and November, are auspicious. **The Wari brings pilgrims of all castes, communities, gender and ages together in a religious fervor spreading a message of peace and harmony.** With increasing urbanization, the sanctity and uniqueness of the Wari lost. Thus reducing its significance.

Aim

This paper focuses on socio-religious interactions, devotion and social equality, which forms the Culture Part. Geography of the procession route along the Bhima river basin; the topography, vegetation, agriculture / cropping, landmarks (Heritage and Culture), forming the Nature part.

Objective

To evaluate the role of Palkhi procession in the development of Warkari cult in Maharashtra, to assess the local pilgrims profile determining the influencing area of Palkhi procession.

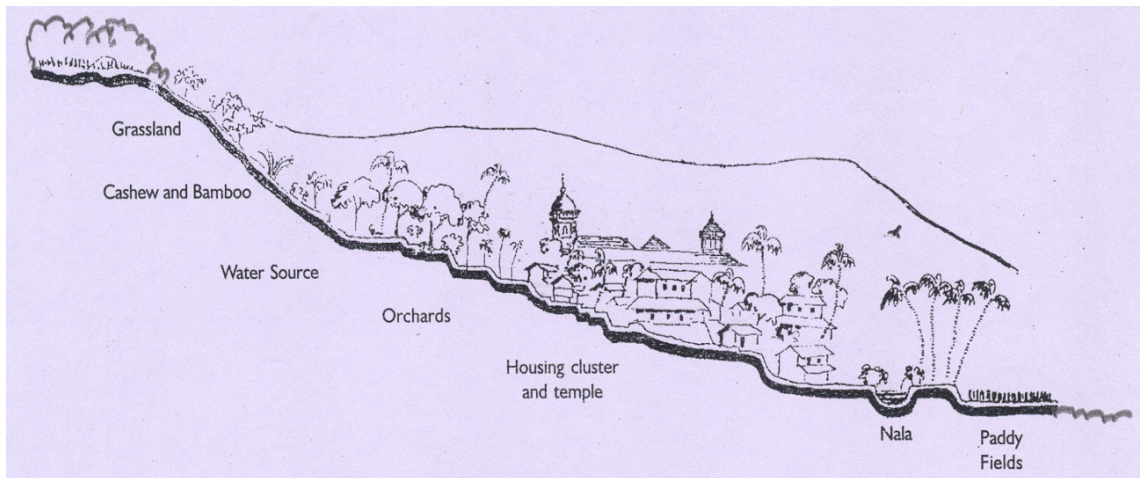
Assess Nature - Cultural impact of Palkhi procession on the route region.

To propose Cultural Landscape Management Plan for above mentioned objectives

Table 1: Details of major Dindis from Pune district

Name of dindi	Saint Tukaram Dindi	Saint Dnyaneshwar Dindi
<i>Origin Schedule span</i>	Originates from Dehu in Pune district Total 22 days walking detailed schedule	Originates from Alankapuri- Alandi Total 22 days 250 km walking detailed schedule in span between Jeshta Vadya 8 to Aashad Shudha 15
<i>Route of walkway</i>	Dehu, Akurdi, Pune , Yawat, Vasvand, Baramati, Indapur, Akluj, Wakhari, Pandharpur	Alandi, Pune ,Saswad, Jejuri, Valhe, Lonand , Taradgao, Phalthan, Basad , Natepute, Malshiras, Velapur, Bhandi Shegao,Vakhari Pandhrpur
	Total 200,000 dindis & 43 palkhis are registered in total. Saint Tukaram , Dnyaneshwar palkhi , meets at Pune & then divert & re-meet at Natepute/ wakhari	
<i>Catchment devotees</i>	Devotees from 2 districts i.e. Solapur, Pune	Devotees from 3 districts i.e. Solapur, Pune, Satara. Devotees take bath in Nira river.
<i>Special Attractions Ringan</i>	4 Gol Ringans (Belawadi Indapur,Akluj, Bajirao Vihir) 3 Ubhi Ringans (Malinagar, Bajirao Vihir, Mendhi Ringan Baramati)	4 Gol Ringans (Sadashivnagar,Lonand,Natepute,bhandishega o,Vakhari) 3 Ubhi Ringans (Malinagar, Bajirao Vihir, Lonand)
<i>Organizers</i>	Sant tukaram trust Dehu	Dnyaneshwar sanshan comitee Palkhi Sohala 1936

Profile Section:



Note: The nature and settlement respond to the terrain, which governs the occupation of the people evolving into the culture
 Reference: Article 'Geo – look'

Table 2:

Map Layers:	
<p>Map 1: Maharashtra Administrative</p>	<p>Map 2: Maharashtra Physical</p>
<p>Map 3: Maharashtra Sub Basin</p>	<p>Map 4: Bhima River Basin</p>

Glimpses of Wari



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