

## Development status of Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra

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### Abstract

Jainism is an ancient religion in India. This country holds the precious teachings of Jainism in its opulent Jain Temples located in different areas. Jain temples and tirtha (pilgrimage sites) are present throughout the Indian subcontinent, many of which were built several hundred years ago. Many of these temples are classified according to Jain sects. Idols of tirthankaras are present in these temples. Maharashtra ranks fifth for Jain pilgrimage centers in India. Near about 21 important Jain temples are exists in Maharashtra. These all distributed in all over Maharashtra. All these destinations are located on isolated hills near to villages only 2 are located in well-developed cities and they are restricted only with the Jain pilgrimage and Jain ritual that's why not much developed but few which are established in city or near to city are developed therefore to find out the development status here development index calculated with seven parameters which shows that Gajpanth and Bahubali are highly developed because both are near to main cities like Nasik and Kolhapur. From these 21 about 13 are coming in moderate development and six are come under averagely developed category.

**Keywords:** Pilgrimage, tourism, development index, geographical, tourist

### Introduction

India is a country of all religions. So all pilgrimage people are celebrating their pilgrimage ceremony and processes in India therefore all pilgrimage people has established their special pilgrimage centre in India for e.g. Ajmer for Muslim, Dakshin Kashi and Uttar Kashi for Hindu, Bihar Bodhgaya for Buddhist Jharkhand Madhuban for Jain. Just like this in Maharashtra also number of destinations are became cultural hub for specific religion such as haji ali for Muslim, Nasik Trambekeshwer, Bhimashankar, Mahalaxmi and Tuljapur for Hindu and Mangitungi, Kunthalgiri, Bahubali for Jain. All these destinations are purely religious and famous for specific religious rituals and festivals. These locations are also established on unique locations which can help them to develop as famous tourists destinations but few are developed others are remain isolated therefore here attempt has been made to calculate the development index of jain pilgrimage centers of Maharashtra to find out status of these destinations.

### Objective

- 1) To know the status of Jain pilgrimage centers of Maharashtra.
- 2) To calculate the development index of Jain pilgrimage centers of Maharashtra.
- 3) To suggest some suggestions for the development of these centres.

### Methodology

The development index or a composite index is combination of equities or indexes intended to measure the overall pilgrimage performance over time. A development index may also be used in the natural or social sciences to summarize complex or multidimensional data or redundant measures. The above factors are logical. The few anomalies do occur in some factor or the other. Therefore, all the factors have been

considered simultaneously for each pilgrimage center and composite picture of each has been drawn up. This is possible by giving weights to each factor and adding all the weights to determine the pilgrimage centers.

The centrality of a pilgrimage center has been measured as follows:

$$C_i = \frac{O_s}{M_s} \times 100$$

Where,

$C_i$  = Centrality index

$O_s$  = Observed score or weight of a pilgrimage center

$M_s$  = Maximum possible score / weight

The weight age scheme is given in Table. 4.1. The table includes all the relevant parameters and their respective weights.

### Study Region

The state Maharashtra lies between 16° 4' to 22° 1' North latitude and 72°6' to 80°9' East longitude. The state extends about 750 km. from north to south and 800 km. in east to west orientation. Administratively the whole region has been divided into six divisions at here namely Mumbai, Pune, Nasik, Marathwada, Amravati and Nagpur divisions and which have totally thirty five districts. Maharashtra is located at the western part of India and covers the entire Deccan region. Maharashtra covers an area approximately 308,000 sq km (119,000 sq miles), and also it covers the total coastal length of 720 kms. Of the Arabian Sea. According to census 2011 maximum number of Jain population live in Maharashtra. As compare to total population only 1.25% populations from Jain population lives in Maharashtra, It is highest as compare to other states. From 1.25% Jain population in Maharashtra about 80% population lives in urban areas.

**Development Index**

A study of the parameters which affect the Development structure of the Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra it is a necessary preface to a discussion of the technique adopted to determine the development. Some distinguished features effect on development structure of the Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra. These features have used to determine the development. In present work researcher has differentiate the Jain pilgrimage centers in the broad classes based on Development size of Jain pilgrimage centers. It is need to analysis the parameters which affect the order of Pilgrimage centers. The importance of the Jain pilgrimage centers depend on the Village Population, number of Pilgrims in Year, Occupancy Capacity (In Rooms), Road Distance By Near Place In Km, Railway Station Distance, Regular Shops, Seasonal Shops and other elements which determine the class of jain pilgrimage centers of Maharashtra.

The following parameters have been chosen to determine the development of Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra within study region.

**Parameter for Development Index**

**Village Population**

Total population of the Jain pilgrimage center is the host population which can be source for the development and which established some of the business related to tourism at that destinations. Therefore here host population also considered one of the major element.

**Number of Pilgrims in Year**

The popularity of pilgrimage center depend the how much of pilgrims are visited to particular Jain pilgrimage center. If the popularity and facilities of pilgrimage centers is high the proportion of visiting pilgrim’s population is also high.

**Jain Pilgrimage Centers in Maharashtra: Centrality Value Scheme**

**Table 1:** Jain Pilgrimage Centers In Maharashtra: Centrality Value Scheme

S.No	Parameter	Class of Parameter	Weightage
1	Village Population	Below 10000	0.25
		10000 To 20000	0.5
		20000 To 40000	0.75
		Above 40000	1
2	Number of Pilgrims in Year	Less Than 1 Lakh	Less Than 1 Lakh
		1 To 2 Lakh	1 To 2 Lakh
		2 To 4 Lakh	2 To 4 Lakh
		Above 4 Lakh	Above 4 Lakh
3	occupancy capacity (in rooms)	Below 250	0.25
		251 To 500	0.5
		501 To 750	0.75
		Above 750	1
4	Road Distance Near By The Place In Km	Less Than 3 Km	1
		4 To 6	0.75
		7 To 9	0.5
		Above 10	0.25
5	Railway station distance	Below 25	1
		26 To 50	0.75
		51 To 75	0.5
		Above 75	0.25
6	Regular Shops	Less Than 5	0.25
		6 To 10	0.5
		11 To 20	0.75
		Above 20	1
7	Seasonal Shops	Below 50	0.25
		51 To 100	0.5
		101 To 200	0.75
		Above 200	1

Source: Compiled By Researcher.

**Occupancy Capacity (In Rooms)**

The development of capacity of occupancy is depends on popularity of pilgrimage center and location of pilgrimage center. If the pilgrimage centers located on hilly areas the no of occupancy facilities are mostly available at that place due to pilgrims preferred to stay at pilgrimage center.

**Road Distance Near By the Place in Km**

Without a good transport network, no pilgrimage center can develop its existing level of pilgrims and pilgrimage center. Road transport is more relevant and essential to pilgrimage center development. If the pilgrimage center well connected to road network the proportion of pilgrims visiting is more.

**Railway Station Distance**

Rail transport is good for long distance journey. Hence with the additional benefit of a railway station, the most of pilgrims those are come from out of state or travel in long journey they give preference to rail transportation.

**Regular Shops**

Pilgrims come to visit pilgrimage center for their faith. Also pilgrim wants to some fun and enjoyment also they like shopping at pilgrimage place if shops are available there for shopping, it also affects the development of pilgrimage center. If the permanent shops are more in the pilgrimage center facilities of shopping will be greater.

**Seasonal Shops**

As per above information the shopping status also affects the development of pilgrimage center. At the time of pilgrimage the number of seasonal shops are constructed and facilities of shopping increases that’s why most of pilgrims visit to pilgrimage centers at the time of pilgrimage.

**Table 2:** Elements of Development

S. no	Pilgrimage place	village population	No. of Pilgrims in Year	Occupancy capacity (in rooms)	Road Distance Near By The Place In Km	Railway station distance	Regular Shops	Seasonal Shops
1	Mangitungi	1469	800,000	1000	11	100	15	250
2	Gajpanth	1486053	250,000	1000	5	15	9	120
3	Bahubali	14544	210,000	400	6	6	27	150
4	Kunthugiri	11006	90,000	1000	5	5	5	100
5	Kunthalgiri	1192	110000	2000	2	75	6	120
6	Aashta kasar	6190	25000	250	5	65	7	50
7	Sawargaon	780	20000	500	7	35	11	80
8	Ter	12479	30000	250	1	14	3	60
9	Kachner	2015	800,000	1,200	10	35	24	90
10	Ellora cave	6978	210,000	200	1	30	25	100
11	Jatwada	2454	80000	300	9	16	3	40
12	Paithan	347973	90000	400	1	50	10	70
13	Kundal	18287	25,000	260	1	4	7	80
14	Dahigaon	1683	50000	100	6	40	3	70
15	Antriksha Parshvanath	16890	50000	700	1	30	8	65
16	Karanja	67907	110000	100	1	35	6	50
17	Ramtek	158643	10000	70	3	5	7	60
18	Podanpur	418	70000	200	4	4	4	35
19	Bhatukuli Jain	40096	80000	500	1	20	8	40
20	Nawagarh	3369	50000	500	7	3	3	40
21	Jintur	44291	130000	500	3	43	6	90

**Table 3:** Weightages for Elements of Development

S. No.	pilgrimage place	village population	No. of Pilgrims in Year	Occupancy capacity (in rooms)	Road distance Near By The Place In Km	Railway distance	Regular Shops	Seasonal Shops	Mean	Index
1	Mangitungi	0.25	1.00	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.75	1.00	4.50	0.64
2	Gajpanth	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.50	0.75	5.75	0.82
3	Bahubali	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	0.75	5.50	0.79
4	Kunthugiri	0.50	0.25	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.25	0.50	4.25	0.61
5	Kunthalgiri	0.25	0.50	1.00	1	0.50	0.50	0.75	4.50	0.64
6	Aashta kasar	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.50	0.50	0.25	2.75	0.39
7	Sawargaon	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.5	0.75	0.75	0.50	3.50	0.50
8	Ter	0.50	0.25	0.25	1	1.00	0.25	0.50	3.75	0.54
9	Kachner	0.25	1.00	1.00	0.25	0.75	1.00	0.50	4.75	0.68
10	Ellora cave	0.25	0.75	0.25	1	0.75	1.00	0.50	4.50	0.64
11	Jatwada	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.5	1.00	0.25	0.25	3.00	0.43
12	Paithan	1.00	0.25	0.50	1	0.75	0.50	0.50	4.50	0.64
13	Kundal	0.50	0.25	0.50	1	1.00	0.50	0.50	4.25	0.61
14	Dahigaon	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.50	3.00	0.43
15	Antriksha Parshvanath	0.50	0.25	0.75	1	0.75	0.50	0.50	4.25	0.61
16	Karanja	0.75	0.50	0.25	1	0.75	0.50	0.25	4.00	0.57
17	Ramtek	1.00	0.25	0.25	1	1.00	0.50	0.50	4.50	0.64
18	Podanpur	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	1.00	0.25	0.25	3.00	0.43
19	Bhatukuli Jain	1.00	0.25	0.50	1	1.00	0.50	0.25	4.50	0.64
20	Nawagarh	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.5	1.00	0.25	0.25	3.00	0.43
21	Jintur	1.00	0.50	0.50	1	0.75	0.50	0.50	4.75	0.68

Source: Compiled by Researcher

**Table 4:** Order of Jain Pilgrimage Centers

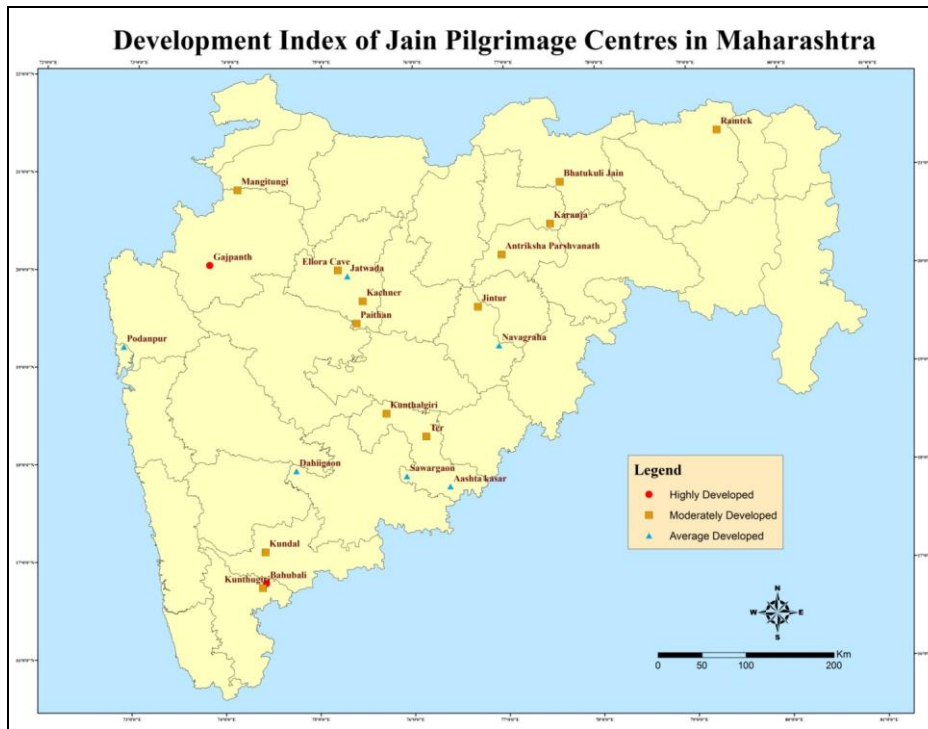
S. No	Centrality Index	No of Jain Pilgrimage centers	Order of Jain pilgrimage centers	Name of the Jain Pilgrimage centers
1	Above 76	2	Highly developed	Gajpanth, Bahubali
2	0.51 to 0.75	13	Moderately developed	Mangitungi, Kunthugiri Kunthalgiri, Ter, Kachner, Ellora Cave, Paithan, Kundal, Antriksha Parshvanath, Karanja, Ramtek, Bhatukli Jain, Jintur.
3	0.26 to 0.50	6	Average Developed	Aashta Kasar, Sawargaon, Jatwada, Dahigaon, Podanpur, Navagarah
4	Below 0.25	0	Low Developed	

Source: Compiled By Researcher

**Development of Destinations as Pilgrimage Destination**

The dominant functions with some specific advantages have been affecting the development of the Jain pilgrimage centers. The population of village and pilgrims also affect the

Development of the Jain pilgrimage centers. Also capacity of occupancy, Road and railway accessibility, regular shops and seasonal shops affect the development of the Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra.



**Highly Developed Jain Pilgrimage Centers**

**Table 5:** Highly developed Jain pilgrimage centers

S. No.	Name of Jain pilgrimage center	Development Index
1	Gajpanth	0.82
2	Bahubali	0.79

Source: Compiled By researcher.

Above table shows that highly developed Jain pilgrimage centers of Maharashtra are calculated with the help of Development index method. These destinations come under above 0.75 centrality index in first category. These two Jain pilgrimage centers are full of developed because all facilities are available there. As we have selected for this Development index.

Gajpanth Jain pilgrimage center is located in Nasik district. It is 5 km away from Nasik city, and located on plain and hilly region. Due to very old Jain temple of Lord Mahaveer and other than five temples, Most of local and outside pilgrims visited to these Jain pilgrimage center. Nasik railway station and main city bus stop was only 5 km away from this pilgrimage center. Due to high density of pilgrim’s permanent and seasonal shops are available for pilgrims. This place is located on hilly region most of pilgrims like to one day Holt at that place and for that accommodation facility also good at that place. Due to all those criteria this place is one of the highly developed Jain pilgrimage center in Maharashtra.

Bahubali Jain pilgrimage center is located in Kolhapur district, Maharashtra. About Sixty six small and big Jain temples are existed in Bahubali, some are at bottom of the hill and some are top of the hill. This district is known as most populated Jain population district of all over India and that’s why most of pilgrims visited to this pilgrimage center. This place is very accessible due to Hatkanangale Teshil bus stop and railway station. Its only 6 km away from this Jain pilgrimage center. Lots of daily and seasonal shops also exist at this pilgrimage center like Nasik Bahubali, also located on hilly region. The

good accommodation facility is available for pilgrimage at Bahubali. That’s why this pilgrimage center also one of most highly developed Jain pilgrimage center in Maharashtra.

**Moderatly Developed Jain Pilgrimage Centers**

**Table 6:** Moderately developed Jain pilgrimage centers

S. No	Name of Jain pilgrimage center	Development Index
1	Kachner	0.68
2	Jintur	0.68
3	Mangitungi	0.64
4	Kunthalgiri	0.64
5	Ellora cave	0.64
6	Paithan	0.64
7	Ramtek	0.64
8	Bahtukli Jain	0.64
9	Kunthugiri	0.61
10	Kundal	0.61
11	Antriksha Parshvanath	0.61
12	Karanja	0.57
13	Ter	0.54

Source: Compiled By researcher.

Above table shows that moderately developed Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra they are calculated with the help of composite index method. This destination comes under 0.51 to 0.75 centrality index in second category. About thirteen Jain pilgrimage centers are moderately developed in Maharashtra. They are Mangitungi, Kunthugiri, Kunthalgiri, Ter, Kachner, Ellora cave, Paithan, Kundal, Antriksha Parshvanath, Karanja, Ramtek, Bahtukli Jain, and Jintur etc.

All above thirteen Jain pilgrimages have developed good facilities are available for pilgrims as per above selected seven criteria. But due to any kind of single facilities are not well available at those places and that’s why these destinations are coming in to moderately developed Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra.

Kachner Jain pilgrimage center is located in Aurangabad district 35 km away from Aurangabad. All kind of facilities are available for pilgrims. But due to very less local population and distance of major city or road is high that’s why this destination is come in moderately developed Jain pilgrimage center of Maharashtra.

Mangitungi pilgrimage center is located in Nasik district. Because of very low local population and located in tribal area. The Nearest railway station is 100 km away from this place. Only this region of Mangitungi Jain pilgrimage center is come under moderately developed Jain pilgrimage center in Maharashtra. All other facilities are available for pilgrims. It is known as Sammed Shikharji of south India.

As per above information about Kachner and Mangitungi pilgrimage center remaining all pilgrimage centers are Kunthugiri, Kunthalgiri, Ter, Ellora cave, Paithan, Kundal, Antriksha Parshvanath, Karanja, Ramtek, Bahtukli Jain, and Jintur jain places are well availability of selected criteria but due to a single reason they are come in to moderately developed class.

**Average Developed Jain Pilgrimage Centers**

**Table 7:** Averagely developed Jain pilgrimage centers

S. No	Name of Jain pilgrimage center	Development Index
1	Sawargaon	0.50
2	Dahigaon	0.43
3	Jatwada	0.43
4	Podanpur	0.43
5	Nawagarh	0.43
6	Aashta kasar	0.39

*Source:* Compiled By researcher.

The above table shows that average developed Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra calculated with the help of development index method. These destinations are come under 26 to 50 centrality index in third category. From these seven criteria are we selected for calculate development index all of those facilities are averagely available at Sawargaon, Dahigaon, Jatwada, Podanpur, Nawagarh, and Aashta kasar Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra. That’s why above Jain pilgrimage centers are come in average development of Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra.

**Low Developed Jain Pilgrimage Centers**

Maharashtra has various Jain pilgrimage centers. As per above criteria all of the Jain pilgrimage centers have highly, moderately and averagely developed. Due to all of criteria’s have available in all of those Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra. That’s why no one Jain pilgrimage center is come in fourth order of low developed Jain pilgrimage center in Maharashtra.

**Conclusion**

Maharashtra ranks fifth for Jain pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra. Near about 21 important Jain temples are available in Maharashtra. These all distributed in all over Maharashtra. In these Jain temples important Jain temples are located on the hills. Very few are located on plateau and plain such as Antrix Parshwanath, Dahigaon, Kachaner, Bhatukali Jain, Nawagadh, Asht Kasar and Ter. Therefore these 21 centres are selected for study. As per development index two

are developed these are Gajpanth and Bahubali because both are near to main cities like Nashik and Kolhapur. Therefore more number of tourists are coming here. Bahubali is famous because of statue similar to Shravanbelgol. From these 21 about 13 are coming in moderate development these are Mangutungi, Kuntalgi, kunthugiri, Kachner, ellora, Paithan, Kundal, antarix pshwarnath and others these are popular mostly but doesn’t have facilities and neglected by government and people therefore not much developed. These destinations are in process of development because these are popular and people now started to come here frequently for some religious procession. Remaining others are undeveloped. These centres don’t have facilities and even not much popular mostly they are isolated.

**Suggestions**

- 1) Except Bahubali and Kunthugiri no one Jain pilgrimage center have developed gardening, so gardens have to develop at pilgrimage centers for pilgrims.
- 2) Wide publicity for all destinations is necessary.
- 3) The other entertainment facilities or some meditational facilities should be developed at some destination it will help to stay more to the pilgrims at these destinations.
- 4) All destinations should be linked with each other which will make convince to the pilgrims and will help to develop all destinations.
- 5) The pilgrims from other religions should attract more at these destinations.

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