

PROJECT NOTE

**Proposal of Mahapratap Ropeway Mahabaleshwar to Pratapgad
in Mahabaleshwar Tehsil Satara District**



Being Developed by:

M/s SAIO INFRA.

Geetanjali Bungalow, 246, B-2,

**Nagala Park, Opp. to Vivekanand College,
Kolhapur-416003**

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1. General Information

The proposed Aerial Tourist Ropeway shall be developed at Mahabaleshwar, District Satara, Maharashtra from village Javali to Pratapgad Fort and Village Javali to Lodwick point by M/s SaioInfra. M/s. Saio infra is a Partnership reg. company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 for implementation and operation of proposed project at Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra in order to promote tourism & modal shift to transit and reduction in traffic congestion in the region. The proposed system to be installed will be Monocable Detachable Gondola System. The Project is a 5589 metre long Arial Tourist Ropeway, covering an area of 3.7835 ha including three terminal stations, ropeway corridor and activities and proposed infrastructure. The proposed ropeway shall be developed from Malkhampeth (Mahabaleshwar) to Pratapgad.

The project being an Aerial Ropeway falls under the item 7 (g) of the EIA notification, 2006 (amended to date) the proposed proposal falls under category 'A', as the UTS is at an elevation of 1197 m above MSL and the project lies in Mahabaleshwar which is a notified Eco-Sensitive Area as per MoEF notification for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani dated 17-01-2001 and also project falls within the ESZ of Western Ghats as per draft notification notifying Western Ghats as eco-sensitive areas dated 27-02-2017, hence, general condition is Aerial Ropeway is a system in which men or material are suspended from a rope in cabins, chairs, buckets or cable cars and are hauled by another rope from one point to another. The ropeway system proposed to be installed in this project is Monocable Detachable Gondola System. The ropeway proposed by M/s Saio Infra decided to have a mechanized transportation system also for transporting the construction materials during construction phase. The material ropeway during construction phase shall be used for transportation of construction material i.e. cement, steel reinforcement in cut lengths, steel ribs, aggregates, steel liner etc. and the machinery/ equipment i.e. welding sets, concrete mixtures, concrete placers, drilling equipment etc. in parts. The material ropeway will be constructed for temporary phase i.e. for construction period only and shall be removed during operation phase.

The proposed Mahapratap Arial Tourist Ropeway Project is principally approved by the President, & Joint Secretary (PWD), Mumbai as per letter ow. no. SE/PREC/ASE/ 904/2017 dated 24.03.2017 from the Superintending Engineer (Electrical) & Member Secretary, Arial Ropeway Advisory Board, PWD (Govt. of Maharashtra) Pune. This ropeway system proposed to install monocable detachable gondola system free from noise. Its horizontal length is 5800 Meters. Its caring capacity is 600 to 900 tourist per hour. The ropeway system is world class International CEN standard.

1.1 Land Description

The land for proposed Ropeway comes partly under forest Land 3.7835 ha and partly under Non-forest land 2.052 ha. Thus, 3.7835 of forest land need to be diverted for construction of ropeway. The diversion of forest land will be required for construction of two terminal stations, towers, & ropeway corridor along ropeway alignment. Length of Ropeway Alignment is 5589 m. The total area requirement for the project will be 5.8355 ha.

M/s. Saio Infra, had already procured seven NOC's from some department. The proposal Environment Clearance is submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF), Government of India. After going through our proposal, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC of MoEF) have granted Terms of Reference (TOR) as per letter no F. No. 10-38/2018-IA/III dated 29th August 2018. The proposal for NOC from High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) for Mahabaleshwar & Panchagani (MoEF) also submitted and compliance & correspondence is in progress.

The project site lies in Mahabaleshwar which is a notified Eco-Sensitive Areas as per Notification Dated 17 January 2001. As per this Notification there shall be no felling of trees whether on Forest, Government, Revenue or private lands within the Eco-Sensitive Zone, without the prior permission of the State Government in case of forest land, and the respective District Collector in case of Government, Revenue and private land.

1.2 About Project Developer

M/s. Saio Infra, Kolhapur, has been put together under a broad vision of sustainable Infrastructure development. We just not only seek economic growth, we are equally obliged to conserve the environmental about Project Proponent. Saio Infra has been put together under a broad vision of sustainable Infrastructure development. We just not only seek economic growth, we are equally obliged to conserve the environmental as part of our project area which includes conservation and development of flora & fauna along with local cultural diversity. All future project development is planned and implemented according to this vary principle. Saio infra in a Partnership firm registered under Indian companies act, having its head office at Kolhapur.

2.1 Registered Address

**Geetanjali Niwas, plot no.246 / B-2, Nagala Park,
Opp. To Vivekananda College, Kolhapur 416003. Maharashtra
Mob: 9767914466, 9595960675, 9764383433
E- mail: saioinfrastructure@gmail.com**

2.2 Management of M/s. SAIO INFRA. Kolhapur.

- i) BHARAT B. PATIL
B. Sc. L. L. B. & B.A. (Political Science)
Founder Visionary of the Project, Advisor, to M/S Saio Infra.**
- ii) N. S. CHAVAN,
B. E. (Civil), Executive Engineer. (Retired from Water Resources Dept)
Co- founder & Chief Executive Officer.**

2. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

2.1 About the site

(i) Mahabaleshwar

Mahabaleshwar is small town in Satara district of Maharashtra state. It is hill station with one of few evergreen forests of India. It serves as the summer capital of Bombay provenance during British Raj. **Mahabaleshwar** is located about 125 km southwest of Pune and 290 km from Mumbai. Mahabaleshwar is a vast plateau measuring 150 sq.km, bound by valleys on all sides. It reaches a height of 1,439 m at its highest peak above sea level, known as Wilson/Sunrise Point. The Entire area is in Sahyadri hills and is rich in flora & fauna. Mahabaleshwar is birth place of five Rivers namely Krishna, Koyana, Venna, Gayatri and Savitri. The Temple of five rivers is beautiful location is real mystic place. The High, steep-mountainous and hills are of great attraction for the tourist in India. Mahabaleshwar has been one of the favourite tourist locations in India due to its rich environmental importance, its climate, and scenic beauty of the hills.

(ii) Pratap gad

Pratapgad Fort is a large fort located in Satara district, in the Western Indian state of Maharashtra. Significant as the site of the Battle of Pratapgad in Maratha Empire, the fort is now a popular tourist destination. Located at a distance of 24 kms from Mahabaleshwar. The Pratapgad Fort is the pride of Maratha Empire. The ecstatic monument was built in 1656 is known for the battle between one of finest warriors of their times Afzal Khan and Shivaji. At that point of time the Afzal Khan was the General of Bijapur Empire and was defeated by Chhatrapati Shivaji Raje. The fort is built atop a hill. It houses a Mahadev Temple in its upper fort and a temple dedicated to Goddess Bhavani in its lower fort. It is one of the destinations of Mahabaleshwar. Out of 18 Lakhs tourist visitors of Mahabaleshwar only 5 to 8% of them visit the historic place Pratap gad Fort. Due to its location, approach roads, traffic problems & available infrastructure many of the tourist avoid Pratap gad Fort. Even after its historical importance, the number of tourists visiting Pratap gad Fort is very low.

(iii) Lodwick Point

Lodwick Point is previously known as Sydney Point. At a distance of 4 km from Mahabaleshwar Bus Stand, this point lies at an elevation of 4087 feet above sea level. Lodwick Point area has two site scene, Lodwick Point and Elephant's Head Point. The Lodwick point was rechristened in the honour of General Lodwick, who was the first British officer to climb the hill in April 1824. To honour General Lodwick's achievement, his son erected a memorial pole of about 25 ft. At the base of this monument, the head of the General is sculptured in marble. Elephant's Head Point is the extreme end of the mountain range and lies beyond the Lodwick Point. The extended front part of hill looks

like Elephant Head. Hence, this point is popularly known as Elephant's Head Point. The Lodwick point & Elephant's Head Point renders breath-taking views Koyana River, of the surroundings. In Order to increase the number of tourists to Pratapgad Fort & Lodwick Point and to overcome this situation, Saio Infra is proposing the Maha-Pratap Aerial Tourist Ropeway from village Javali to Lodwick Point at Mahabaleshwar and Village Javali to Pratapgadn Fort.

3. Need of the project

Travel & Tourism, the World Largest industry, is a key driver of economic growth; given the background the development of appropriate infrastructure facilities for promoting tourism would go a long way in developing the State's economy.

Table-1 showing total Forest area required for Mahapratap aerial Tourist ropeway

Sr. No.	Particulars	Forest Compt.	Survey No.	Length X Width (mts)	Area in Forest (ha.)
1)	Malkhampeth (Keshtra M'swar)				
	1) Upper Terminal Station (UTS) in forest	78	206	60 X 18	0.108
	2) Tower – No.1	78	206	10 X 10 (No.01)	0.01
	3) Ropeway corridor	78	206	04 X 10	0.004
2)	Haroshi				
	1) Ropeway corridor in Forest land	101	20	1071 X 10	1.071
	3) Tower in Forest land – No.04	101	20	10 X 10 (No.04)	0.04
3)	Jawali				
	1) Ropeway corridor in Forest land	101	80	50 X 10	0.05
		101	40,41	703 X 10	0.703
	2) Tower in Forest land – No.02	101	40,41	10 X 10 (No.02)	0.02
4)	Kumbharoshi				
	1) Lower Terminal Station (LTS)	96	49	30 X 60	0.18
	2) Ropeway corridor in Forest land	96	49,23	1479 X 10	1.479
	3) Tower in Forest land – No.07	96	49,23	10 X 10 (No.07)	0.07
	6) Approach road	96	49	48.5 X 10	0.0485
Total					3.7835

Table-2 showing total Non-Forest area required for Mahapratap aerial Tourist ropeway

Sr. No.	Particulars	Survey No.	Length X Width (mts)	Area in Private
1)	Haroshi			
	2) Ropeway corridor in Private land	11, 17, 19	506 X 10	0.506
	4) Tower in Private land – No. 01	11, 17, 19	10 X 10 (No. 01)	0.01
2)	Jawali			
	2) Ropeway corridor in Private land	81, 74, 73	301 X 10	0.301
	3) ITS	81, 74, 73	60 X 10	0.06
	4) Tower in Private land – No.03	74	10 X 10 (No.03)	0.03
3)	Kumbharoshi			
	4) Ropeway corridor in Private land	39, 38, 31, 32, 34, 35, 5, 4, 22, 21	1115 X 10	1.115
	5) Tower in Private land – No.03	39, 32, 04	10 X 10 (No.03)	0.03
Total				2.052

M/s. Saio Infra has planned to provide the Tourist, the Rich, Entertaining, Educational, time saving & Historical visit of Pratapgad Fort by Ropeway.

M/s.Saio infra shall develop an aerial tourist ropeway between Village Jawali to Lodwick point at Mahabaleshwar and Village Jawali to Pratapgad Fort in order to promote Eco Tourism in this region. The proposed ropeway shall be developed through Private ownership mode. Pratapgad Fort is about 24 Km (1.30 hrs) away from Mahabaleshwar by road whereas, the aerial distance is about 6 Km from Mahabaleshwar. Aerial distance from Jawali Village to Lodwick point 2.785 km and from Jawali Village to Pratapgad Fort –2.804 km. The Main aim will be to foster tourism growth in the area of Western part of Maharashtra & to collect those Tourist flows that today do not visit the Historic Place Pratapgad.

The project involves the construction of a Ropeway as an alternative to the present bus/car-based transport system. The route will be from Village Jawali to Lodwick Point at Mahabaleshwar and Village Jawali to Pratap gad Fort.

4. Brief Description

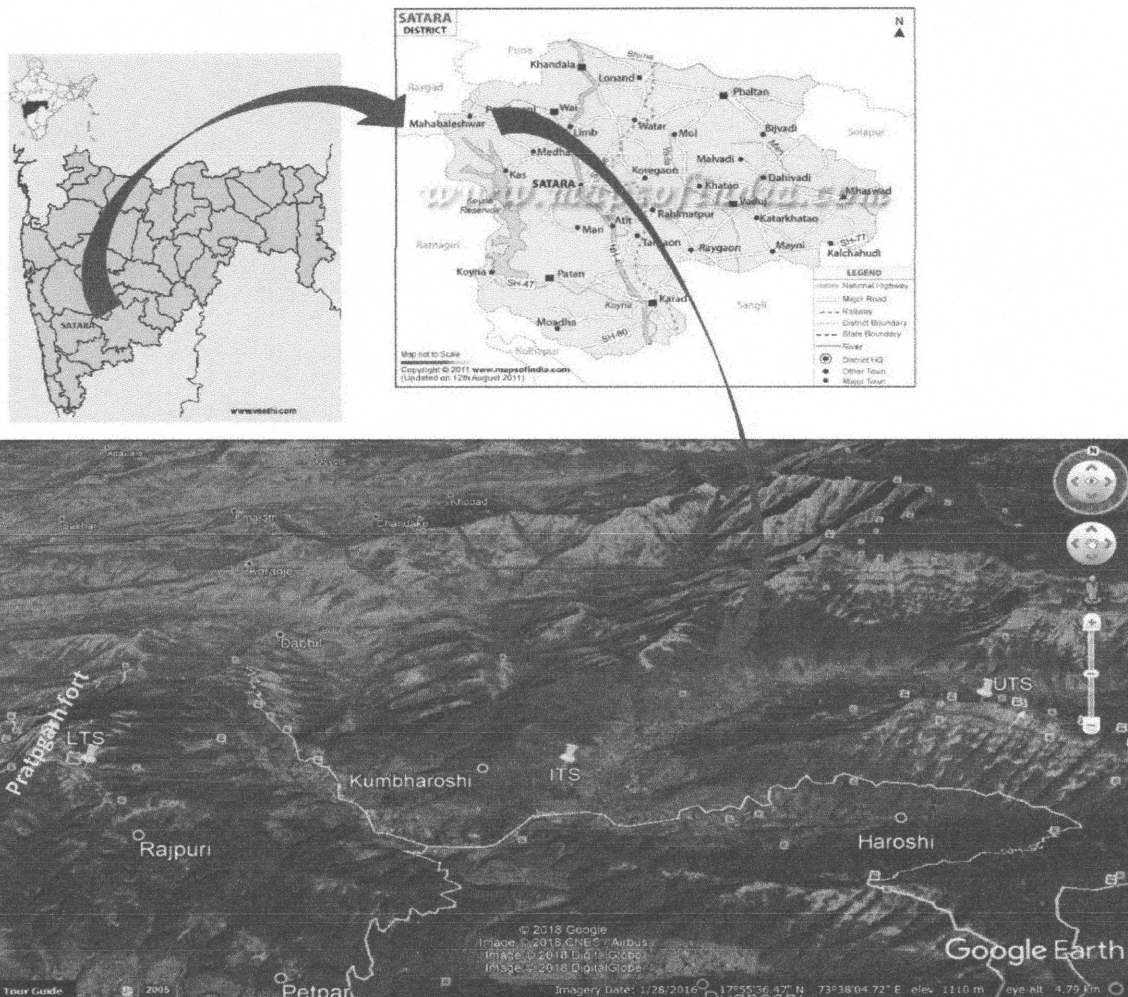
The Project is a 5589 m long ropeway, covering a land area of 5.8355 ha (including Lower Terminal Station (LTS), Upper Terminal Station (UTS), ropeway towers & ropeway corridor).

4.1 Location Details

The project is a 5589 m long alignment which stretches from Malkhampeth to Pratapgad.

TABLE-3: GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF PROJECT SITE

Station	Elevation (above MSL)	Latitude	Longitude
UTS - Lodwick point	1197 m	17°56'0.23"N	73°34'51.46"E
LTS – Pratapgad Fort	972 m 17°56	17°56'24.44"N	73°37'59.08"E



4.2 Approach to site

Pratapgad Fort is usually visited as a day trip from Mahabaleshwar hill station that is 24 kilometres away. One can also take a ST bus from Panavel

to Poladpur at night and wait at Poladpur ST stand for the first ST to WADA (Kumbaroshi village) bus that comes around 7am. From WADA village, a 4 – wheeler can be hired to the base of the Pratap gad fort.

Another fantastic trekking road can be taken that is less evident. If one travel by the main road, one can easily find the arrows on the road indicating the exact path that lead to the old rock stairs. The Maharashtra Government had constructed the main approach road in year 1957, when the bronze statue of Shivaji Maharaj was mounted in the Pratapgad Fort. This fort is well-accessed by cabs and buses.

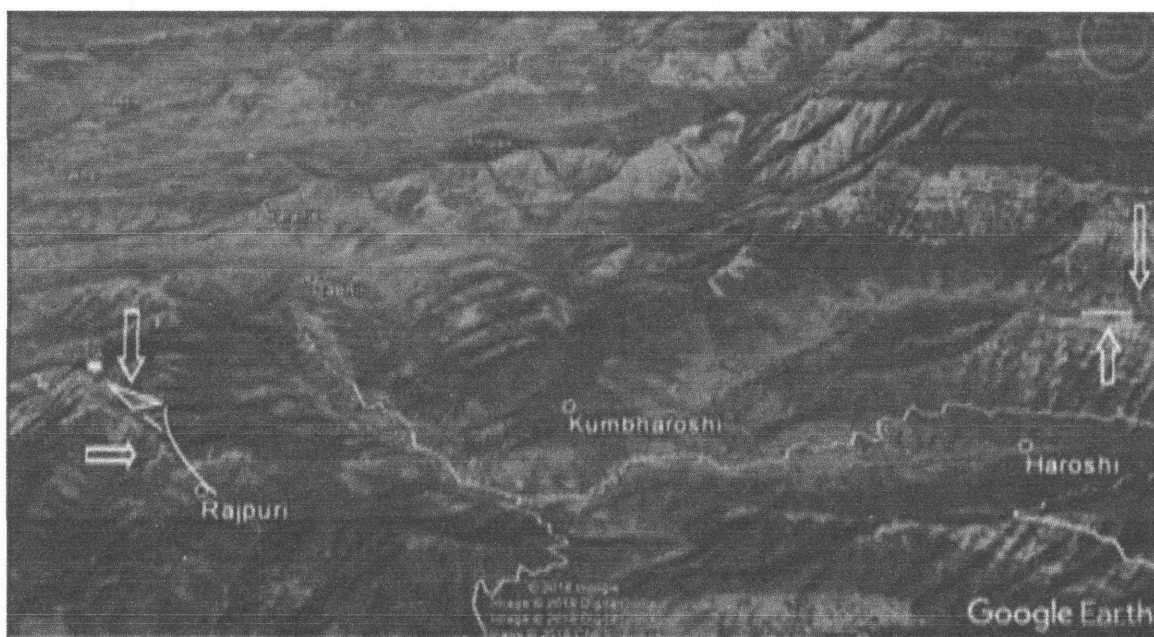
Satara Railway Station situated near the city centre is the nearest railway station to Pratapgad Fort. From Mumbai one can reach Pratapgad by train or road.

Connectivity:

Nearest Railway Station : Divan Khavati Rly Station: 55 Km. by road

Nearest Airport : Pune Airport: 145 Km.

Nearest Highway : SH-72– 0.42 Km S ITS (Poladpur to Mahabaleswar)



5. Technical Description

The proposed ropeway to be installed at Project site is a **Monocable Detachable Gondola System** which is most suitable system for tourist ropeway both from technical as well as economical point of view. The system is designed to transport tourists' upside and downside at a constant speed which can be selected by operator(s) within the minimum and maximum range. Total length of the ropeway from lower to upper station is 5589 m.

6. PROJECT BENEFITS

Aerial Ropeway is fast emerging technology of providing not only tourist experience but an urban transportation means especially for hilly and tough terrains. It is totally environment friendly with least generation of any type of pollutants. The land requirement is minimal as the transportation happens aerially thereby reducing any impact on the surface flora and fauna of the region.

Pratapgad Fort is about 24 Km (1.15 hrs) away from Mahabaleshwar by road whereas, the aerial distance is about 6 Km from Mahabaleshwar. Aerial distance from Javali Village (ITS) to Lodwick point (UTS) is 2.785 km and from Javali Village (ITS) to Pratapgad Fort (LTS) is 2.804 km. Travel time from Javali village to Pratapgad fort is 9 min and Javali village to Lodwick point is 9.5 min by ropeway.

At Present nearly 16 - 18 lakh tourists per year visit the Hill station Mahabaleshwar. Hardly 5% to 8% of the above Tourist visits the Pratapgad Fort. The Main aim will be to foster tourism growth in the area of Western part of Maharashtra & to collect those Tourist flows that today do not visit the Historic Place Pratapgad. There are various stakeholders to this ropeway project who stand to benefit from its operations. The project design and service offerings are in line with the key interests and needs of the stakeholders.

TOURISTS

- Save time & energy,
- Convenient to children, old, ladies, infirm.
- Tedious climb reduces efficiency for a week
- Physical fatigue distracts from basic aim

LOCAL COMMUNITY:

- Increased income for tourism sector.
- Development of transportation and civic amenities.
- Direct & indirect employment.
- Benefit from company CER activities

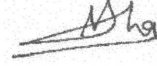
Other benefits from the project include:

- **Safety & Comfort:** Ropeways with approved international code of practice provides a safer and more comfortable journey.
- **Monitoring:** With the ropeway in place, the concerned officials would be able to take up monitoring of the environment and weather

conditions in the surroundings more frequently and at regular intervals with ease.

- **Traffic Regulation:** The area being less visited due to less infrastructure availability is likely to increase no. of visitors with the introduction of this Ropeway alignment. Hence even in the peak season and traffic concentration/dispersion in different times of the year, the aerial ropeway will overcome these constraints efficiently and cost-effectively. The proposed ropeway will provide better transportation means without requiring much space for stations/terminals.
- **Corridor Pollution:** Ropeway provides a stable and consistent alternative to road & combination transport and thus, there will be reduced pollution. With the ropeway in place, human intervention would be restricted to terminal stations only and the corridor would remain largely undisturbed and unpolluted.
- **Infrastructure development** or facilities like toilets, drinking water, sewage treatment, solid waste management, medical facilities, etc. will be helpful in maintaining the beauty as well as ecology of such alluring place.
- **Socio-Economic benefits:** The Proposed Project will increase the Socio-economic scenario of the area. With increased tourist traffic, more economic activity will follow thus leading to direct & indirect income for locals.
- The project will help to fulfil one of the main objectives of Govt of Maharashtra / Municipal Council which is to develop high quality tourism amenities.
- Will reduce the road traffic from Pratap gad Fort to Lodwick point at Mahabaleshwar and thereby reduce carbon emissions. Hence will be Eco friendly.
- Will generate Direct Indirect employment in this area.
- Direct / indirect increase in the revenue of Govt of Maharashtra.
- Since it will increase the no of visitors to Pratapgad Fort & Lodwick point thereby increasing the income of the Villagers / business in these areas.
- Will have a view of scenic beauty of the flora & fauna of the Sahyadri Hills and will be useful for the various educational & scientific research in this area.
- Since only one project i.e. at Raigad is working in Maharashtra, The project will a mile stone in History of Maharashtra Tourism.
- Construction / widening / maintaining of road in hilly mountainous region requires substantial funding and can significantly affect the environment and budget of the Government.

- Additional Avenue for revenue in form of revenue share from the operator of ropeway.



(N.S. Chavan)
Chief Executive Officer
Saio Infra, Kolhapur

Date : 27/04/2021
Place : Kolhapur