The highway from Pune to Ahmednagar is an interesting one. Farmers in traditional white Peaked caps zip past you, some in fancy new cars. Signs of prosperity are apparent, although the region battled with severe drought just a couple of years ago. A few kilometers down the highway, beyond the small town of Chikrapur, a left turn reveals the road that leads to our destination the village of Chincholi Morachi Loosely translated.

It means the abode of peacocks and tamarind trees, both of which are in abundance here. For, this quaint little village, almost 60km form Pune, is home to a population of thousand people, as well as equal number of peacocks.

As you interact with people here, its quite evident why the national bird enjoys special status at Chincholi Morachi. In this village, the peacock is not just protected, but also revered so much so that this is one place where its numbers have steadily increased over the years.

Ten years ago, there were almost Six hundred peacocks in our village. Now, the number is more than three times, says Maheshrao Gorade, the village Sarpanch. For most of the villagers, the peacock is not just a bors, it is also a symbol associated with the village deity Khandoba.

The peacock is the Vahan (vehicle) of Khandoba, and is the fore special for us.