PROFILE OF PARBHANI DISTRICT
CHAPTER: IV
PROFILE OF PARBHANI DISTRICT

4.1 History

Parbhani, earlier also known as "Prabhavatinagar", is one of the Eight districts in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. This entire Marathwada region, a district geographical region, was a part of the erstwhile Nizam State; later a part of Hyderabad State; after reorganization of states in 1956 it became a part of the then Bombay state; and from 1960 onwards it is part of the present Maharashtra state. Parbhani district lies between 18.45 and 20.10 North Latitudes and 76.13 and 77.39 East Longitude. The district is bounded on the north by Hingoli district; on the east by Nanded district, on the South by Latur and on the West by Beed and Jalana districts. The state capital of Mumbai is to the west; Parbhani is well connected by road to other major towns in Maharashtra and also in the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh.

Parbhani district is a region of Marathwada the soil of the district on an average is good but the proportion of most fertile soil is spread over comparatively lesser area. Fortunately the district has better river flows and wide basis's with considerable quality of salty clayey deposits fanned our along the banks for one to two kilometers at places, the depth of the black cotton soil is moderate in average and that is probably prior to Yadav period the area adequate vegetation. Now much of the area is barren.

4.2 Culture

Notable temples in Parbhani include Shree Motha Maruti (at Deshmukh Galli) (a temple of Lord Hanuman) which is famous in the city, Shree Supari Hanuman Mandir, Jabreshwar (at Wadgalli). Ashtbhuja Mandir is at Gandhi Park, Pardeshwar Temple and Beleshwar Mahadev Temple are known for the worship of Lord Mahadev (also known as Bhagwan Shankar). The Naag Temple is also present in Parbhani, near the Temple of Lord Shani. Shri
Siddhivinayak Ganpati Temple at Vidyanagar is one of the important and famous temple in the City. Recently temple of Goddess Maata Hingulambika'S temple is constructed by Bhavsar community behind Shri Datta Dham on Vasmath Road. Originally the temple of Maa Hingulambika'S is at Baluchistan in Pakistan, and the pilgrim knows her as Nani-Maa there.

The Dargah of Hazarat Turabul Haq Shah (Turatpir) is located in Parbhani Town. The Dargah consists of the tomb of Hazarat Turabul Haq Shah, a Muslim saint who lived here during the last days of his life. The Dargah is famous for a fair Urs of Shah Turabul Haq is an important festival where people of all religions come together and celebrate for a week (usually start from 2nd Feb to 10th Feb). In Pathri tehsil of Parbhani district there are three important places: Sai Baba of Shirdi temple in Pathri, Datta temple in Gunj (khurd) and Renuka Devi temple at Pedgaon. During Namantar Andolan Parbhani district and its villages faced cultural animosities which brought civil rights revolution in Marathwada region. Nearly 90 per cent of the total working population in Parbhani depends on agriculture to derive livelihood (cultivators: 45.5 per cent and agriculture labour (44.2 per cent) and only one per cent of the labour force is engaged as household workers.

4.3 Location

Location of Parbhani district is at the centre of Marathwada. It is one of the eight districts in Marathwada region. It is situated at 408 m above mean sea level. The district lies between 18.45°C and 20.17°C north latitude and 76.13°C and 77.29 east longitude. The total area of district is 7847 sq.km after separation of Hingoli; administratively it is divided in to two sub-divisions. The district has 9 tehsils viz. Parbhani, Jintur, Gangakhed, Pathri, Purna, Palam, Selu, Sonpeth, and Manwat. It is surrounded by Nanded district in the East, Beed district in the South, Beed and Jalana district in the West and Hingoli in the North.
4.4 Soil

The Parbhani district is situated in the Godavari river basin. The Godavari itself drains the southern portion of the district and is forming fertile valley in taluka of Pathri, Parbhani and Gangakhed. Jintur taluka is drained by the Purna river. The soil varies both in texture and depth. On the northern portion of the district, it is shallow and relatively poor in the south. It becomes deep and fairly rich in Godavari valley, especially along with bank of Godavari River.

4.5 Climate and rainfall

The climate of Parbhani district is tropical. The year may be divided into three seasons.

Moderately warm wet season from June to September.
Cool dry season from October to January.
Hot dry season from February to May.

Climate in general is dry throughout the district except during the Southwest monsoon season. The rainy season which starts from June and prevails up to September, during the rainy season the temperature normally ranges between 21°C to 31°C. The winter seasons is comparatively dry and starts from October and ends in January. January is the coldest month of the year. The hot dry season starts in February and lasts up to May. The maximum temperature is in the month of May which rises even as high as 45°C hot dry winds prevailing occasionally in April and November. During the summer the days are hot and night is fairly cool. The temperature normally varies between 41.5°C and 14.6°C during the year. This district comes in assured rainfall zone. The district receives rainfall through the North-East monsoon. The normal rainfall of the district is 827mm. all the parts of district do not receive uniform rains.
4.6 Rivers

Godavari is the main river. Dudhana, Purna and Penganga are other important river. Beside there are Asana, Kayadhu and Indrayani river which are of note.

4.7 Transportation

Nearest airport is at Aurangabad. (Parbhani Airport under progress at National High Way No. 222) Parbhani is well connected by railway to New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Secundrabad, Aurangabad, Ahmadabad, Nagpur, Sachkhand, Agra, and Bhopal. It’s a junction connecting Manmad-Secunderbad line to Parbhani-Parli-Latur line. Like most other district places, MSRTC connects Parbhani to other major cities in the Maharashtra state

4.8 Natural vegetation forest

About 37700 hectares land is under forest. The more forest is found in Jintur taluka. But forest is common, similar to other parts of Marathwada and has teak in very less proportion, Ain, Dhanda, Neem, Babhul, etc.

4.9 Population

According to 2001 census total population of Parbhani district is 14,91,109 of which 77.49 per cent is rural population and 22.512 per cent urban population. There are in all 1451 villages in 9 talukas of Parbhani district. Literacy percentage is 67.04 per cent; whereas the male literacy is 80.58 per cent, while female literacy is 52.98 per cent. The majority of people are depending on agriculture.

4.10 Demographic Features

According to the 2001 census, the demographic features in Parbhani district are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Talathi Sajja</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>No. of Literates</th>
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Source: department of economics and statistics, district Parbhani
4.11 Labour

The total workers in the district 5.60 lakh and its percentage to total population was 36.65 per cent as per the 2001 census. Out of which 24247 were farmers, 46362 were farm labours, and 7023 people engaged in trade and industries and remaining 1,41,089 were other workers.

4.12 Cropping pattern

Parbhani district has total geographical area of 6.51 lakh hectares in which net cultivated area is 5.20 lakh hectares. The gross cropped area is 7.80 lakh hectares. This district has proportional area under various major crops like sugarcane (1.67 per cent), kharip food grains (33.93 per cent), oil seed (3.05 per cent), cotton (25.90 per cent), rabi food grain (28.80 per cent), rabi oil seed (5.99 per cent), summer crops (0.62 per cent) and other crops (0.04 per cent). Kharip food grain includes cereals like kharip jowar and pulses like pigeon pea, green gram, and black gram. Kharip oil seed includes sunflower and soybean. Similarly rabi food grain includes cereals like rabi jowar and wheat and pulses like gram. Summer crop includes maize, groundnut, and sunflower.
Fig. 4.1 Map of Parbhani District