CHAPTER 2

STUDY AREA : JALGAON DISTRICT

2.1 Introduction:

Jalgaon District is located in the Western part of Indian peninsula and Northern side of Maharashtra State. In 1906, the District of Khandesh was divided into two Districts called West and East Khandesh with headquarters at Dhulia and Jalgaon District respectively. After the formation of the Maharashtra State in 1960, the two Districts are named after their headquarters as Dhulia and Jalgaon. Jalgaon District is known to the world, for its Gold market, Banana production, Cotton cultivation and emerging industrial and educational hub for the region. Cotton and Banana are the staple crops of the District.

2.2 History of Jalgaon District:

Jalgaon District is the eastern part of the Khandesh region of the state of Maharashtra. The early name of the Khandesh was Rsika. Under the Yadavs this region constituted as a part of the Seunadesa during 10-12th century. It later became known as Khandesh under Muslim rule. It was divided in 1906 into East Khandesh and West Khandesh under British rule, the District headquarters were Jalgaon and Dhule (Dhulia) respectively. These Districts are renamed as Jalgaon and Dhule Districts after their headquarters in 1960.

The earliest formal reference of Rsika in the Ramayana, where search of Seeta was ordered. Until a few years ago, the prehistory of Jalgaon District was shrouded with obscurity. Recently the Tapi and Girna valley have been brought to light in reference to material culture and the history of man, as a tool using animal since his nomadic state.

Excavation at Bahal and Tekwada villages about 18 miles off north of Chalisgaon on the right and left banks of Girna respectively, have revealed red pottery with black colour painting of Chalcolithic period (1st Millennium B.C.-500 B.C.). Hatched diamond, criss-cross and wavy lines,
ladders etc. are painted on their necks and rims. These excavations also revealed shells and semi-precious stone beads. Copper was scarcely used for artistic work. Excavations at Bahal also produced glass-ware attributed to 4th-3rd century B.C. roughly corresponding to the period of Ashoka, the Mauryan ruler. Punch marked coins are also obtained at this site. Inscriptions at Pithalkhora caves, near north of Chalisgaon and cave number 10th-12th of Ajanta show prevalence of Buddhism in Jalgaon District. Chalcolithic site is also discovered near Vakad near Pahur. Ruling of Satvahanas is indicated by the caves of Pithalkhora during 2nd B.C. to 1st century A.D. then Abhiras or Ahirs are of considerable importance in the history of Jalgaon. Towards the close of 13th century, this region was under the reign of Vakatus, Sendrakas, Rashtrakutas and lastly the Yadavas. Since 1295 up to 1760 it was under domain of Muslims. After Yadavas, the name of this region was changed to ‘Khandesh’ to suit the name of ‘Khan’ given to the Faruqi king Malik II by Ahmad I of Gujrat. Khandesh was under the regime of Peshwas (Maratha period) from 1760 till 1818. Afterwards, it was under the British domain till independence of India.

2.3 Geographical Location and Boundaries of Jalgaon District:

Jalgaon is one of the thirty five Districts of Maharashtra, situated at the northern most border of the state. It is a part of erstwhile region of Bombay Presidency. Jalgaon District lies in the north west part of Maharashtra state lying between 20° And 21° North Latitude And 74° 55' And 76° 28' East Longitude, is located in the Tapi river basin stretching nearly 128 Kms. along the river and varying in the breadth from 112 Kms. to 144 Kms. It covers an area of the Jalgaon District is 11765.00 Sq. Kms. which constitute 3.82% of the total area of the state. Administratively it has 15 Tahsils, viz., Chopda, Yawal, Raver, Muktainagar, Bodvad, Bhusawal, Jalgaon, Erandol, Dharangaon, Amalner, Parola, Bhadgaon, Chalisgaon, Pachora and Jamner.
Fig. 2.1
Along the whole northern frontier, the region is bounded by the Satpuda ranges, a mountain tract of 40 to 60 Kms. wide. It is bordered by Madhya Pradesh state in the north. A major portion of north western boundary is marked by the tributary Aner which Jalgaon District and Dhule District till its junction with Tapi. On the east and south-east a range of low and detached hills and some major streams without any mark of natural boundary separates Jalgaon from Buldhana District in Vidharbha. To the south the Ajantha, Satmala and Chandor ranges roughly to mark the line between Jalgaon and the Marathwada territory. On the west, the region shares its boundary with the Nasik District over a stretch of 40 Kms. and then with the Dhule District for about 80 Kms. the Panjhra river, being the only natural features demarcating it over a major stretch.

2.4 Physiography of Jalgaon District:

Jalgaon District belongs to the Deccan uplands of the Maharashtra state; it is distinguished from the rest of the upland District by westward drainage. The Tapi river passes through the centre of the District from east to west. The rest of the upland region is drained by major river to the east. The Tapi and its tributaries drain the Jalgaon region to the west towards Arabian Sea. The landscape is typically that of the Deccan lavas with residual hill ranges and broad valley, with trap dykes introducing sharp local contrast as small chains of hillocks. Thus the region includes varied topographical features and landscapes consisting of wild hills, barren plain, low lying rocky hills and bad land topography near major river banks.

Regionally, at parallel with the Tapi, there are three well marked belts.

i) The Northern Hilly Region of Satpuda.

ii) The Central Tapi Valley Region.

iii) Southern Ajantha Hilly Region.
Fig. 2.3
i. **The Northern Hilly Region of Satpuda:**

In the northern side, the entire study area bordered by the Satpuda ranges, which run in east to west direction and covers the northern tehsils of the District. The Satpuda is a broad belt of mountain land stretching along the north bank of the Tapi and rises from the first range of hills, ridge behind ridge.

The Satpuda have hills of considerable heights. Some are about Panch Pandu and Mondhiamal in the East which rise to over 1000 meters above mean sea level. In the western part of Satpuda region, the altitude of the central crest is about 600 meters high above mean sea level. Intense erosion is predominant in Satpuda region. Much of this region is under forest cover; although severe depletion of forest is much in evidence.

ii. **The Central Tapi Valley Region:**

The main river of the District is the westward flowing Tapi which flows for about 125 Kms. within the District. The whole Tapi valley from this District is flat and well tilled. The Tapi valley region is divided into two parts i.e. northern part of the Tapi and southern part of the Tapi. Spurs of the Satpuda from the north, stretch close to the river bank and on the South rise some low barren hill ranges. The Tapi banks are high and bare. Tapi valley consists of a vast alluvial plain. The ravine and gully erosion are remarkable on some area of the northern bank of the river. It is also noticeable on the southern flank in the immediate vicinity of the Girna and Waghure rivers.

On the north of the Tapi, the whole rich alluvial plain is bounded by steep southern face of the Satpuda and belt of mountain land from 30 to 45 Kms. broad. The southern margins of the basin are more even and fertile while northern once are rather sandy and dissected.

iii. **Southern Ajanta Hilly Region:**

**Satmala:** Ajanta hill range forms a divide between the Tapi-Purna and Godavari basins. The hill ranges of east of the Satmala are Ajanta hill ranges.
The Ajanta range covers the southern part of the District for a distance for a distance of about 120 Kms.

The altitude in the west ranges from 600 to 900 meters. The altitude of much of the central and eastern part of the region is between 300 to 450 meters. The slope of the region becomes very steep in the west. However, in the central and eastern parts, the slope is very gentle. South of the rich Tapi basin, the region is more varied than either in the centre or in the north.

The Hatti hills range bounding the Purna river valley on the east runs North-West and South-East of the region and for about 32 Kms. pass through the South-East margin of Jalgaon District. Hatti hills are mainly located in Muktainagar tahsil. These ranges are covered with brushwood and timber at some places.

The area which is on the further west of the District is drained by the Waghur river, the Girna river and Bori river. It has wide stony and thorny plains and rise in low broad topped Basaltic ridges or sink in rich well cultivated valleys.

The Satmala hills covering about 120 Kms. of the southern parts of the District have some vertical spurs at many places. They are of great height and length with bare rounded sides and flat tops.

The Shirsoli ranges bound the South-Eastern part and at some places of the southern part of the region. Many of the Shirsoli hills in the southern part are scattered. Generally they run west to east.

### 2.5 Geology of Jalgaon District:

No systematic geological work has been carried out in the study region. The information available on the geology of the region is meagre.

Structurally most of the area of the District is covered by Deccan traps. The Deccan traps are made up principally of the most rocks of basaltic and doleritic composition. These traps are the results of out pouring of enormous lava flows which data back to the Mesozoic era. These are spread out in the form of horizontal sheets of beds. The hill ranges on the south of the
Tapi are covered with dark basalt. A few strips of thick alluvium covered land on both sides of the Tapi and its tributaries which probably caused by faulting, it consists of brownish, yellowish, coloured clay and silt with pebbles, gravels and fine drained sand.

The trap gives rise to deep black soil. Such belts of soil are observed in northern parts of Amalner, Muktainagar, Jalgaon, Bhusawal and Erandol tahsils. The sandstone and limestone are also found in the north western portion of Satpuda ranges.

2.6 Drainage System of Jalgaon District:

Drainage includes surface as well as underground flow of natural water. It is related to cloudiness, insolation, humidity, precipitation, wind velocity, wind direction, surface flow, and also related to nature of topography, vegetation, soil cover and its human utilization pattern.

Tapi is the main river in the Jalgaon District. It drains about 120 Kms. of surface. The Tapi receives many tributaries from both sides. On the right bank of Tapi the tributaries are Bhokar, Suki, Mor, Manki, Guli, Hadki and Aner while Purna, Bhogawati, Vaghur, Girna, Panzara and Bori tributaries are join the Tapi river on its left bank.

The right bank tributaries of the Tapi river originate from Satpudas on its southern slope and of little use for irrigation purpose.

The left bank tributaries of Tapi flow the south and emanate from Sahyadris except for Purna and Vaghur. The Purna, Girna, Panjharara drain much wider tracks. The Purna entering from the south-east flows in this District for 40 Kms. and meets the Tapi near Changdeo in Muktainagar tahsil. The Girna river rising from Nasik District and flowing 120 Kms. to Jalgaon District, joins to Tapi near village Nanded in Amalner tahsil. The Vaghur river flows from Ajanta hills and meets to Tapi near Shelgaon in Jalgaon tahsil. The river Bori rises in Nasik District near Malegaon and joins the Tapi near village Bohore in the District. During the raining season all these tributaries flow with significant volume of water and become almost dry during summer season. Hence they are
not useful for agriculture in summer season. There are no river is navigable in this District.

2.7 Climate of Jalgaon District:

The climate of the Jalgaon District is generally dry except in monsoon. Normally, a year can be subdivided into four seasons. The winter from December to February, summer from March to May and monsoon from June to September and post monsoon in the months of October and November. December is the coldest month while May is the hottest month of the year in the District. The climate of Jalgaon District is affected by its location and relief.

In the summer season the dust storm and hot winds are experienced. The temperature also rises up to 46° C. There are a number of important elements of the climate condition. They are as given below.

The climatic factors that appear to be of greatest importance are as, Temperature, Rainfall, Humidity, Wind etc.

2.8 Temperature of Jalgaon District:

Temperature rises steadily from March. May is the hottest month of the year; the mean daily maximum temperature reaches to 42.5 degree Celsius. With the onset of the monsoon the temperature drops. With the withdrawal of the monsoon, by the end of September, the day temperature rises a little and then both day and night temperature begins to drops rapidly by November.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Jalgaon was 47.8° C on 21st May 1947. The monsoon is generally pleasant having 33° C temperature on an average.

Cold waves which pass over northern India, sometimes affect the region and minimum temperature may sometimes drops down and may be reach up to the freezing point.
2.9 Rainfall of Jalgaon District:

At study region about more than 90% of the annual rainfall in the study region is receiving during the south-west monsoon season, the rainiest month being July and August and get heaviest rainfall. The monsoon period in Jalgaon District covers the period from mid-June to end of September.

In the District quite a major part of the rainfall is receiving during the four months and District receives a rainfall between 600mm to 800mm.

2.10 Soil:

The Jalgaon District belongs to the deccan uplands of Maharashtra. The variety of soil of the study region are essentially derived from under lying basalt, though older alluvium soil has a deep cover all along the broad Tapi valley. The fertility of these types of soil largely depends on their position vis-a-vis relief and their nearness to stream courses.

The types of soil in the region are classified in to three broad groups.

i. Deep Black Soil.

ii. Medium Black Soil.

iii. Course Shallow Soil.

i. Deep Black Soil:

This type of soils is grey black and dark brown coloured. They are highly sticky. This type of soil is suitable for growing the crops like cotton, banana, wheat, jawar etc.

Deep black soil is found in the northern parts of Amalner, Muktainagar, Jalgaon and Bhusawal tahsils.

ii. Medium Black Soil:

These are similar to medium black soils of Deccan. They are clay loam to clay, brownish black in colour and the depth of it is 1 to 2 meters. This type of soil cover a large portion of the District and are found in the belt running in the east-west District in northern parts of the region between the
foothills of Satpuda and the Tapi river. It includes most of the cultivated area in southern parts of Raver, Yawal and Chopda tahsils. Another belt in the southern parts in the region running in the east–west direction lies between the Ajanta range and south of the Tapi valley. The type of soil of Chalisgaon, Erandol, Bhusawal, Jalgaon and Bhadgaon tahsils belong to this type.

iii. **Course Shallow Soil:**

   It includes different sub types of soil.

   a) **Loamy Soil:**

      These are deep grey in colour and respond well to irrigation. They consist mainly of deposits of river silt. This type of soil is very fertile and observed on the banks of river Girna and Purna. They occur in a continuous strip in the southern most portion of Amalner, Erandol, Jalgaon, Bhusawal and Muktainagar tahsils. Cotton, jawar and banana are the crops which are grown in this soil.

   b) **Sandy Soil:**

      The colour of this soil is reddish or yellowish red and depth varying from few centimetres to 0.45 meters. Sandy soil occurs in large patches on the slopes of the Satpuda ranges and near the southern hillocks in Chalisgaon, Pachora, Jamner, Bhusawal, Parola, Erandol and Bhadgaon tahsils.

   c) **Forest Soil:**

      These types of soil are black in colour, 5 to 15 centimetres in depth and rich in organic matter. These soils occur on the northern portion of Raver, Yawal and Chopda tahsils. They occupy the slopes of Satpuda ranges of hills but no erosion on account of forest cover exists.

2.11 **Natural Vegetation:**

The natural covering of the land surface of the earth is natural vegetation. Natural vegetation is important because the soil erosion and soil fertility totally depends on it. The occurrence and proportion of rainfall depends upon availability of proportion of natural vegetation.
**Forest area in Jalgaon District:**

Forest areas in a study region can be grouped as follows.

i. Forests in Satpuda ranges.

ii. Forests in Middle East, east and south-east.

iii. Forests in south and south-west.

Product wise forests in the region can be grouped as follows.

i. Teak timber areas in northern slopes of Satpudas.

ii. Teak pole areas in forest of Chopda, Yawal, Chalisgaon and Muktainagar on flat or undulating areas.

iii. Babul areas on the banks of river Sur and Purna with species like Babul, Khair, Hiwar, Yelatur, Apta etc.

iv. Scrub forest are scattered throughout the region on the south of Tapi valley.

v. Inaccessible forests are situated in the hearts of Satpuda hills and Satmala ranges in Chalisgaon tahsil.

Every tahsil has forest cover but proportion of forest cover varies from one tahsil to another tahsil.

**2.12 Population of Jalgaon District:**

According to the 2001 Census, Jalgaon District had 36,82,690 population which was 3.80% of the total population of Maharashtra. It had 4,55,288 Muslim population, which constituted 12.36% of the total population of Jalgaon District. The total population of the District was distributed among 13 Statutory Towns, 2 Census Towns and 1491 number of villages. Jalgaon District has fifteen tehsils. As per 2001 Census, the population of tehsils of Jalgaon District was as follows, Chopda had 2,71,863 population, Yawal 2,48,596, Raver 2,85,236, Muktainagar 1,37,753, Bodvad 79,126, Bhusawal 3,25,527 Jalgaon 5,53,725, Erandol 1,48,114, Dharangaon 1,60,622, Amalner 2,62,522, Parola 1,69,919, Bhadgaon 1,42,168, Chalisgaon 3,56,808, Pachora 2,51,907 and Jamner had 2,88,804 population. Jalgaon District had 28.59% urban Population.
References:
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