CHAPTER 1

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What is investment?

Investment is the employment of funds with the aim of achieving additional income or growth in the value”

The essential quality of an investment is it involves “waiting for a reward. It involves the commitment of resources which have been saved or put away from current consumption in the hope that some benefits will accrue in future. The term investment does not appear to be as simple as it has been defined; investment has been further categorized by financial experts and economists. It has also often been confused with the term speculation.

An investment involves the choice by an individual or an organization such as a pension fund, after some analysis or thought, to place or lend money in a vehicle, instrument or asset, such as property, commodity, stock, bond, financial derivatives (e.g. futures or options), or the foreign asset denominated in foreign currency, that has certain level of risk and provides the possibility of generating returns over a period of time.

When an asset is bought or a given amount of money is invested in the bank, there is anticipation that some return will be received from the investment in the future.

Definition of Investment from different Perspectives:

Investment is a term frequently used in the fields of economics, business management and finance. It can mean savings alone, or savings made through delayed consumption. Investment can be divided into different types according to various theories and principles.
While dealing with the various options of investment, the defining terms of investment need to be kept in mind.

- **Investment in terms of Economics:**

  According to economic theories, *investment* is defined as the per-unit production of goods, which have not been consumed, but will however, be used for the purpose of future production.

  Examples of this type of investment are tangible goods like construction of a factory or bridge and intangible goods like 6 months of on-the-job training.

  In terms of national production and income, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has an essential constituent, known as *gross investment*.

- **Investment in terms of Business Management:**

  According to business management theories, *investment* refers to tangible assets like machinery and equipments and buildings and intangible assets like copyrights or patents and goodwill. The decision for investment is also known as capital budgeting decision, which is regarded as one of the key decisions.

- **Investment in terms of Finance:**

  In finance, *investment* refers to the purchasing of securities or other financial assets from the capital market. It also means buying money market or real properties with high market liquidity. Some examples are gold, silver, real properties, and precious items.
Financial investments are in stocks, bonds, and other types of security investments. Indirect financial investments can also be done with the help of mediators or third parties, such as pension funds, mutual funds, commercial banks, and insurance companies.

- **Investment in terms of Personal Finance:**

  According to personal finance theories, an investment is the implementation of money for buying shares, mutual funds or assets with capital risk.

- **Investment in terms of Real Estate:**

  According to real estate theories, investment is referred to as money utilized for buying property for the purpose of ownership or leasing. This also involves capital risk.

    o COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE: Commercial real estate involves a real estate investment in properties for commercial purposes such as renting.

    RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE: This is the most basic type of real estate investment, which involves buying houses as real estate properties.

**Meaning of Investment:-**

“Investment is the allocation of monetary resources to assets that are expected to yield some gain or positive return over a given period of time. These assets range from safe investment to risky investment. Investments in this form are also called “Financial investment”.”
From the point of view of people who invest their funds, they are suppliers of “capital” and in their view, investment is a commitment of a person’s funds to derive future income in the form of interest, rent premiums, pension benefits or the appreciation of the value of principle capital. To the financial investor it is not important whether money is invested for a productive use or for the purchase of secondhand instruments such as existing shares and stocks listed on the stock exchange most investments are considered to be transfers of financial assets from one person to another.

The nature of investment in the financial sense differs from its use in the economic sense, to the economists; investment means the net additions to the economics capital stock which consists of goods and services that are used in the production of other goods and services, in this context the term investment therefore implies the formation of new productive capital in the form of new construction new producers the durable equipment such as plant and equipment investors and human capital are included in the economist’s definition of investment.

The financial and economic meanings of investment are related to each other because investment is a part of the savings of individuals with flow into the capital market either directly or through institutions, divided in new and secondhand capital financing. Investors as suppliers and investors as users of long term funds find meeting place in the market.

**Importance of Investment:**

Investments are both important and useful in the context of present-day conditions some factors that have made investment decisions increasingly important are:-
A. Long life Expectancy:-

Investment decisions have become significant as most people in India between the age of 55 and 60. Also, that trend shows longer life expectancy. The earnings from employment should, therefore, be calculated in such a manner that a portion should be put away as savings by themselves do not increase wealth, these must be invested in such a way that the principal and income will be adequate for a greater number of retirement years. The importance of investment decisions is further enhanced by the fact that there are an increasing number of women working in organizations. These women will be responsible for planning their own investment during their working life and so that after retirement, they are able to have a stable income. Increase in the working population, proper planning for life span and longevity have ensured the need for balanced investments.

B. Increasing Rate of Taxation:-

Taxation is one of the crucial factors in any country which introduce an element of compulsion in a person’s savings. There are various forms of saving outlets in our country in the form of investments which help in bringing down the tax level by offering deduction in personal income. In India, some available investment media which are offering the benefits in tax accrue are unit trust certificates, unit linked insurance plan, life insurance national saving certificates, Development Bonds, post office cumulative Deposits Schemes, etc.

C. Interest Rates:-

Another aspect which is necessary for a sound investment plan is the level of interest rates. Interest rates ran freely between one
investment and another. These may vary between risky and safe investment, they may also differ due to different benefits schemes offered by the investments. These aspects must be considered before actually allocating any amount the high rate of interests may not be the only factor favoring the outlet for investment. The investor has to include in his port folio several kinds of investment stability of interest is important as receiving a high rate of interest.

D. Inflation:-

Inflation has become a continuous problem since the last decade. In the year of rising prices several problems are associated with a falling standard of living before funds are invested erosion of the resources that will have to be carefully considered in order to make the right choice of investments. The investor will try and search an outlet which would give him a high rate of return in the form of interest to go to any degree due to inflation. He will also have to judge whether the interest or return will be continuous or there is a likelihood of irregularity. Besides high rate of interest and safety of principle an investor also has to keep in mind the taxation angle. The interest earned through investment should not unduly increase his taxation burden, otherwise, the benefit derived from interest will be outset by an increase in taxation.

E. Income:-

Another reason why investment decisions have assumed importance is the General increase in employment opportunities in income after independence, with the stages of development in the country a number of new organizations and services were formed. The banking recruitment services, Indian administrative services, public
sector enterprises, the expansion in the private corporate sector, establishing of financial institutions, tourism, hotels, education are some examples. The employment opportunities give rise to both male and female working, earning more income and more revenues of investment have led to the ability and standard of working people to save and invest their funds.

F. Investment for channels:-

The growth and development of the country leading to greater economic activity has led to the introduction of vast array of investment outlets. A part from putting aside savings in savings bank where interest is low, investors have the choice of a variety of instruments. The question to reason out is the most suitable channel? Which media will give a balanced growth, and stability of return to reap the benefits of both some of the instruments available are corporate stock provident fund, life insurance fixed deposits in the corporate sector, unit trust schemes and so on.

Factors Favourable:-

The investment market should have a favorable environment to be able to function effectively in India where a business activity are marked by social, economic are favorable, Generally there are four basic considerations which foster an growth and bring opportunities for investment. These are:-

1. Legal Safeguards.
3. Existence of Financial institutions to encourage savings.
4. Form of Business organization.
1. Legal Safeguard:-

Stable governments which frame adequate legal safeguards encourage accumulation of savings and investments. Investors will be willing to invest their funds if they have the assurance of protection of their contractual and property rights.

In India, the investors have the dual advantage of free enterprise and government control. Freedom, efficiency and growth are ensured from the competitive forces of private enterprise on the other hand, being a mixed economy government control exerts discipline and curtails some elements of freedom. The combination of the public sector controlled by the government and private sector left free to operate, hopes to achieve the benefits of both of socialistic and capitalist forms of government without their disadvantages, in India, the political climate in conducive to investment as government control lends stabling of the capital market.

2. A Stable currency:-

A well organized and monitor system with its definite planning and a proper policy is a necessary pre requisite to an investment market. Most of the investments such as bank deposits, life insurance and the shares are payable in a fixed amount of the currency of the country a proper monetary policy will give direction to the investment outlets. As far as possible the monetary policy should neither promote acute inflationary pressures nor prepare for deflation model. Neither condition is satisfactory.

Price inflation destroys the purchasing power of her investment. Tariffs is also penalized when the net interest after taxes received by the investors is less than the rise in the price level, leaving the investors with less total purchasing power then he had at the time of saving.
Inflation occurs generally in unstable conditions like war or floods but in the last decade, it is also discernible in peace conditions especially in developing countries because of huge government deficit financial by bank credit. Deflation is equally disastrous because the nominal values of inventories, plant and for Machineries and land & building tend to shrink. An example of the evil effects of the deflation can be cited for the period 1929-933 in the united state when the shrinkages in nominal values came to a point of producing wholesale bankruptcy.

The reasonable stable price level which is produced by wise monetary and fiscal management contributes towards proper control, good government, economic well-being and a well disciplined growth oriented investment market and protection to the investor.

3. Existence of Financial Institutions to Encourage Savings:

The presence of financial institutions which encourage savings and direct them to productive uses helps the investment market to grow. The financial institutions generally in existence in most countries are commercial banks life insurance companies and investment companies. In addition, in the United States, there are investment bankers and mortgage bankers. Investment bankers are merchants of securities. They buy bonds and stocks of corporations and government bodies for resale to investors. The investment bankers are distinguished from security brokers who act as agents in buying and selling already issued securities for commission mortgage bankers sometimes act as merchants and sometime as agents on mortgage loans generally on residential properties. They serve as middlemen between investor and borrowers and perform collateral services in connection with loans. Commercial banks and financial institutions also act as mortgage bankers in giving mortgage loans and servicing the loans.
In India, the presence of a large number of financial institutions under central government and state government and rural bodies has encouraged the growth of saving and investment. To mention a few, there are the Life Insurance Corporation and unit trust of India. They offer a wide variety of schemes for saving and give tax benefits also. Apart from these, there is well organized network of development banks such as the industrial Development bank of India (IDBI). Industrial credit investment corporation of India (ICICI) and industrial financial corporation of India (IFCI). At the state level; there are state financial corporations, for rural areas and agriculture, the national Bank of agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). These financial institutions and development banks offer a wide variety of policies for encouraging saving and investment. These institutions lend an element of strength to the capital market and promote discipline while encouraging growth.

4. Form of Business Organization:

The form of business organization which is permanent in existence aide’s savings and investment the public limited companies have been said to be the best form of organization. The three characteristics of the corporations which have been very useful for investors are limited liabilities of shareholders, perpetual life and transferability and divisibility of stocks and shares. The public limited company with the ability to continue to its business irrespective of members comprising it gives longevity and soundness to its business activity. In contrast to a public limited company where shareholder have limited liability, the sole proprietor or a partner in a partnership firm is liable for all the debts of the firm to the full extent of his personal wealth in these conditions, investors are hesitant to raise their savings.
in these forms of organizations. Beside unlimited liability, the partnership and proprietor also suffer from short life of the organization. With the death or retirement of any of the partners, a partnership firm is dissolved similarly a sole proprietor carries on business only during his lifetime in these unstable and unsure conditions; investors would not like to make their investment. Finally, public limited company lends an element of liquidity to its shares by transferability of shares. In contrast partnership restricts stability and transferability freely from person to person. The public limited company, therefore, is a popular form for investment as the investors benefit from liquidity convenience and longevity. After deciding that the best form of business organization is a limited company, the investor would like to know the media or range investment so that he can use his discretion and save in those investments which will give him both security and stable return.

**Introduction to Maharashtra:-**

Maharashtra one of the most industrialized states of India, it occupies the western and central parts of the country and extends over the Sahyadri mountains; a vast stretch of 720 kilometers of the Arabian sea coast providing it a beautiful backdrop. The present state of Maharashtra was formed on May 1, 1960 on uni-lingual principle by carving it out of the erstwhile Mumbai State, Hyderabad as well as the Central Province and Berar.

**Geography of Maharashtra:-**

Maharashtra is located in the northern center of peninsular India, surrounded by the Arabian sea in the west, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on the north, Madhya Pradesh in the east and Karnataka and
Andhra Pradesh on the south. The state extends between the latitudes 15.6º North and 22.1º north and longitudes 72.6º East and 80.9º East.

As far as the geography of Maharashtra goes, much of the state consists of the high Deccan plateau, which is separated from the straight Konkan coastline by ‘Ghats’. The Ghats are a succession of steep hills, periodically bisected by narrow roads, and which are often crowned by medieval forts. Given their altitude, it is not surprising that the Ghats are home to the state’s hill stations. One of the three major regions of the state is the Sahyadri range with an elevation of 1000 meters.

The unique feature of this region is a series of crowning plateau. Lying between the Arabian Sea and the Sahyadri Range, Konkan is narrow coastal lowland, just 50 km wide and with an elevation below 200 meters. The third important region is the satpura hills along the northern border, and the Bhamragad-Chiroli-Gaikhuri ranges on the eastern border form physical barriers preventing easy movement. These ranges also serve as natural limits to the state.

**Brief History of Maharashtra:-**

Jorwe in the Ahmadnagar district provide many evidences of ancient civilization in Maharashtra. The Chinese traveler Hiun Tsang, who visited this region in 640-641 BC, was quite appreciative of the prosperity of the region in his writings. During third and fourth centuries BC, the region of Konkan remained under the control of the Mauryans, whose policies led to great advancements in the fields of trade and Buddhist learning in the region. After the disintegration of the Mauryan Empir, the Satwahanas (230 BC – AD 225) came to rule this region. Pratishthan or modern Paithan was their capital. This great
empire crumbled because of internal feuds in the ranks of vassals. In succession came the great rulers of the Vakataka, Chalukya, and Rashtrakuta empires making Maharashtra a great center of culture and art.

Yadavas were the last of these kingdoms that lost their power in the early 12th century and a long period of Muslim rule started in Maharashtra. Allauddin Khilji was the first ruler to understand the value of the Deccan as the key to extending influence over south India and consecutive rulers from Delhi till the 17th century tried their best to keep this region under their control. From the middle of the 17th century, a new group of warrior people came to dominate the scene in Maharashtra and elsewhere in India called Marathas.

The origin of Marathas is still debatable, but what is known is that they stole the limelight from the great Mughals. It was only after defeating the Marathas that the English could establish their hegemony on India. Shivaji was the first great ruler of Marathas and it was he who paved the way for future Maratha influence on India. The heroism and greatness of shivaji is still remembered by the people of this country and his stories are now part of the great Indian folklores.

**Districts of Maharashtra:-**

Maharashtra state is made up of 35 districts, which are grouped into six divisions. Amravati Division: Akola, Amravati, buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal

Aurangabad Division (Marathwad): Aurangbad Beed, Hingoli, Jalna Lature, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani.
Konkan Division: Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban Raiga, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Thane Nashik Division: Ahmednagar, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar and Nashik

Nagpur Division: Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondiya, Nagpur and Wardha,

Pune Division: Kolhapur, Pune, Sangli, Satara and Solapur

Economy in Maharashtra:-

The industrial powerhouse of India, Maharashtra occupies a prominent place in the country’s economy. Mumbai, the commercial capital of the country, has the presence of all the leading industrial/corporate houses of the country. The state is the major producer of oilseeds, groundnut, sunflower, soyabean etc. the state also produces cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, turmeric and vegetables. The state also has a vast area under horticulture cultivation.

Education in Maharashtra:-

Maharashtra is a state, which is known for its higher educational institutions. Mumbai is the best place to have a better education in any field. Apart from Mumbai the state has number of famous institutes in other places like Thane, Nasik, Pune, Ahmednagar, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Sangli, Osmanabad, Vasai, Jalgaon, Dombivli, Kolhapur and Karad districts.

Schools in Maharashtra are either run by the municipal corporation or privately by trusts and individuals. Private school are preferred by those living in the cities, because of better facilities and the use of English language as the medium of instruction. All private schools are
affiliated either with the Maharashtra state SSC board or the all-India Indian certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and CBSE boards.

The state is equally good for the fields like engineering, medical, management and other professional course. There are large numbers of institutes for the above fields. The State of Maharashtra has 39 Universities spread across 31 districts. These universities are either central, state or deemed universities.

**Investment Opportunities**

Maharashtra has always led the country's industrial development scenario and continues to attract the largest quantum of investments, both domestic and foreign. The State has established strengths in every sector including engineering, automobiles and auto components, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, textiles, information technology and biotechnology. It offers the finest infrastructure, excellent educational facilities, quality trained manpower, a professional work ethic and a conducive business environment. A wide variety of horticultural crops are also grown in the State, making it a major producer of oilseeds, rice, cotton, sugarcane, etc. In addition, the rich heritage, trade, culture, history and growing economy of the State are the major tourist attractions.

**Advantage Maharashtra**

Capacity addition in power generation
Responsive administrative set up
Abundance of minerals
Strong agricultural and industrial base
Educated and professional workforce
Excellent R & D facilities
Well-connected transportation system
Home to world-class educational and IT institutions
Efficient power supply system and telecommunication network
Large consumer market
Maharashtra is the largest economy in the country, with a high per capita income
The most industrialised state with a strong presence of petrochemicals, automobiles, financial services, IT/ITES and textile industries
One of the most attractive investment destinations in the country, accounting for 27 per cent of exports
Large network of professional education institutions, the presence of reputed R & D centres and superior support infrastructure
High literacy rate of 77 per cent
Network of educational institutions
12 per cent of country’s universities
17 per cent of medical colleges
13 per cent of engineering colleges (344)
19 per cent of management institutions

Produces 169,000 technocrats every year

**Biotechnology**

Maharashtra is a leader in biotechnology because of its diverse strengths such as superior human resources, excellent private and public institutions, superb infrastructure and proactive Government policies. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC); Indian Institute of Technology (IIT); Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR); National Chemical Laboratory (NCL); National Centre For Cell Science
(NCCS); National Institute of Virology (NIV); National AIDS Research Institute (NARI); Agharkar Research Institute (ARI); National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI); etc. are some of the leading institutions in Mumbai and Pune doing pioneering research work in the field of biotechnology. In addition, some defence research establishments in the State are conducting cutting edge research in biomedicals, bioinformatics and biotechnology.

The core competence and strengths of the biotech industries of Maharashtra are:

- Handling fermentation-based products;
- Use of plant and animal parts for extracting value added products of high purity;
- Use of cell/microbial culture techniques;
- Plant breeding techniques;
- Plant cell/tissue culture; etc.

Information Technology (IT)

Maharashtra accounts for more than 30 percent of the country's software exports, with over 1,200 software units based in the State, thus providing a familiar and friendly environment for the IT companies. The Government of Maharashtra has recognised IT industry as an important thrust area in the State. It is largely focusing on providing IT related infrastructure, fiscal incentives to IT units, IT in governance and institutional framework for the IT sector. These initiatives have enabled the IT industry of the State to establish a firm foundation for itself in the country. The whole State has been connected through an Optical Fibre Cable Network and a Statewide network of competent training
institutions have been established for building a pool of world-class IT professionals, in order to provide strength and support to the IT industry in the State. Besides, the State Government has framed an IT policy so as to make Maharashtra the most favoured destination for investments in the IT and ITES industry.

In order to provide further impetus to the IT industry, Government of Maharashtra has set up several state-of-the-art IT parks within the State. These IT parks provide a perfect base of operations for the best international and national IT houses. The most prominent Information Technology Parks in Maharashtra are:-

- Talawade IT Park, Dehu-Moshi Road, Pune.
- Millennium Business Park (MBP), Navi Mumbai
- Hinjewadi IT Park Phase I, Hinjewadi, Pune
- Hinjewadi IT Park Phase II, Hinjewadi, Pune
- Kolhapur IT Park, Kolhapur
- Sangli IT Park, Vishrambag, Sangli
- Nagpur IT Park, Nagpur
- Deogiri Infotech Park, Aurangabad
- Kharadi IT Park, Kharadi, Pune

Besides, the Mumbai-Pune Knowledge Corridor is fast emerging as the IT hub of the country. It is a six lane, dual carriage expressway built to link the two cities of Mumbai and Pune. These two cities provide the best infrastructure in terms of housing, education, transport and power, making them the perfect hosts for the IT industry.
Agriculture and Horticulture

Maharashtra is a leading State in agriculture. Principal crops grown in the State are rice, jowar, bajra, wheat, tur, mung, urad, gram and other pulses. The State is a major producer of oilseeds. Groundnut, sunflower, soyabean are the major oil seed crops. The important cash crops are cotton, sugarcane, turmeric and vegetables. State is pioneer in onion production in the country. It is today emerging as an important horticultural State in the country. Different types of soil, diverse agro climatic conditions, adequate technical manpower, well developed communication facilities, increasing trend in drip irrigation, greenhouse, use of cool chain facilities and vibrant farmer organisation offer wide opportunities to grow different horticultural crops in the State. Best quality grapes produced in the State are now exported to other countries. Mango, particularly 'Alphanso', grown in Konkan, has already established name in the international market. The State has an area of 13.66 lakh hectares under various fruit crops like mango, banana, orange, grape, cashewnut, etc.

Floriculture

Maharashtra is a major producer of floriculture products with more than 4000 hectares of area under various flowers. The major traditional flowers grown in Maharashtra are rose, chrysanthemum, marigold, jasmine and tuberose. Whereas, gladioluses, aster, zinnia, Stacie, lilies, gerberas and carnations are grown among the non-traditional flowers. Maharashtra has emerged as a leading State for production, export and consumption of flowers in the country. The most important features of floriculture development in the State is setting up of large number of Export Oriented Units with foreign collaboration and investment. The
climate of Pune and Nashik region, facilitate the setting up of such units without heavy investment on environment control. Maharashtra is offering state of the art infrastructure for floriculture industry to grow. Also, peaceful and non-hazardous environment is responsible for successful operation of these units. Besides, the State Government is promoting a Floriculture Park at Talegaon near Pune.

**Food Processing**

Food processing industries in Maharashtra consists of very basic processing. The main processing industries in the State are in the sectors of sugar, milk, poultry, rice mill, flour mill, meat, edible oil, vanaspati, fruit and vegetable units, milk processing units etc. There exist immense opportunities for modernising food processing units in the State. Rice, wheat, soyabean, jawar, grapes, pomegranates and mangoes are the main crops that are available in the State for primary and secondary process. Similarly, there is a vast potential for development and setting up processing units for tomatoes, onion, cabbage, okra and cauliflower. In particular, fruit juice pulp and concentrated units, winery, distillery, pickles, rice mill, flour mill, dal mill, soyabean extraction and refining units etc. can be set up in the industrial areas of the State.

**Automobiles**

The Auto sector has played a key role in the industrialization of the State. Every single segment of the sector including two and three wheelers, passenger cars and commercial vehicles is represented in the State. The major automobile centres in the State include Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad and Nagpur. Pune is a home to large players like Bajaj Auto Ltd, Daimler Chrysler Ltd, TELCO, etc. While, Nashik is a home
of India's largest multi-utility vehicle manufacturer, Mahindra & Mahindra.

The State accounts for approximately 38 per cent of the country's output of automobiles by value. Around 40 per cent of the workforce engaged in the automobile industry is employed in the State. The key competitive strength of the State in the automobiles and auto components industries is the presence of established manufacturers. Besides, the strong presence of the engineering sector is an additional advantage to the State, along with its large skilled labour base. The good transport infrastructure in the State is also a positive factor for the logistics-intensive auto industry.

Textiles

Maharashtra has an excellent infrastructure to play a key role in the growth of the textiles industry. It accounts for about 65 million kg of cotton production which is 25% of the country's total. The textile industry of the State holds a strategic importance in the country as it is the single largest employer and contributes around 27% of India's total exports. It also holds immense future potential in global markets, particularly in value added segments like garments and ready-to-wear goods. Besides, the textile parks are being set up in Maharashtra in order to maintain its leadership position in textile exports and production. These Textile Parks are aimed to provide world class infrastructural components for textile sector and enhance its productive capacity.
Tourism

Tourism is well recognised as a major growth engine of the State. Maharashtra abounds in numerous tourist attractions ranging from ancient caves, temples, beaches, palaces, ancient forts and monuments, forests and wildlife, unique hill stations, pilgrimage centres, and a rich tradition of festivals, art and culture. Some important tourist centres are: Ajanta, Ellora, Elephanta, Kanheri and Karla caves, Mahabaleshwar, Matheran and Panchgani, Jawhar, Malshejghat, Amboli, Chikaldara, Panhala Hill stations and religious places at Pandharpur, Nasik, Shirdi, Jyotirlingas, Nanded, Audhanagnath, Trimbakeshwar, Tuljapur, Ganpatipule, Bhimashanker, Harihareshwar, Shegaon, Kolhapur, Jejuri and Ambajogai. Also, the world famous Prince of Wales Museum houses an exquisite collection of Rajput and Mughal miniatures, as well as rare pieces of Tibetan, Japanese and Chinese art.

The State's coastal region is endowed with creeks, rivers, beaches and water fronts that could be developed for tourism and water sports activities. The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, with its dense forests, is home to several wild life sanctuaries and nature parks. Mumbai is famous for its hindi film industry, known as Bollywood, which is a major attraction of the State. However, in places like Pune, Wai, Satara, Nashik, Palshi and Paithan, there are Wadas (havelis) full of excellent wood carvings.