Gadag is a new district in Karnataka state carved out of the former district of Dharwad in northern part of the state. The district lies on 15.15° and 15.45° North latitude and 75.20° and 75.47° East longitude. The district is bordered by Bagalkot district on the north, Dharwad district on the west, Haveri district on the south and Koppal district on the eastern side. There are 5 talukas in the district- Gadag, Ron, Mundargi, Shirhatti and Nargund with 307 villages and 9 towns.

**Geographical Area:**

The total geographical area of Gadag district is 4657 square Kilometers (4,65,715 hectares) accounting for 2.21 percent area of the Karnataka state. The district has black soil mixed with some red and sandy soil. The cultivable area of the district is 4,36,296 hectares of which 31,450 hectares consists of red soil. The total irrigated area is 65913 hectares.

**Climate and Rainfall:**

The district is largely dry and the temperature is in the range of 20° and 39° Celsius with maximum temperature of 39° Celsius in summer and 11° Celsius in winter.
The rainfall in the district has been 581.8mm, 689.7mm and 456 mm in 1997, 1998 and 1999. The rainfall in the year 2000 was 592.7mm. The usual rainy season is between the months of June and October.

**Cultivation and Irrigation:**

The major part of the district is dependent on rains for its agriculture and crops are patterned to suit the rainfall. The district has Malaprabha and Tungabhadra rivers flowing through it, though no major irrigation projects have been initiated. The canal irrigation facilities have been provided to 30,600 hectares of areas in Nargund and Ron talukas. The farmers have been using 3380 tractors and 165 modern equipments for cultivation. Use of harvesting machines is very common in the district.

**Major Crops:**

The major crops grown in the district are jowar, hybrid jowar, wheat sunflower, ground nut and green gram. The area of food grains has been increasing due to decline in demand for oil seeds which is caused by import of pamolin oil in the country.

Major commercial crops grown in the district are cotton, onion and chillies. Horticultural crops like mango, coconut, sapota and flowers are cultivated on a moderate scale in the district. Spices like chillies, tamarind, dhaniya and garlic are also grown in the district.
**Dairy and Poultry:**

There are natural advantages in the district for the development of dairy and poultry due to suitable climate and availability of cattle feed. It is estimated that there are 12170 cows and 68767 she-buffalows. There is all the scope for development of milk processing and milk powder manufacturing units in the district. The district is suitable for establishment of large scale dairy units.

There are 9 poultry farms in the district with 85000 birds. It is estimated that there are more than 5000 birds in 2 of these 9 poultry farms. There are 14 broiler poultry units in the district. The district produces 58000 eggs per day and the demand for the eggs in the district is estimated to be 4.24 lakhs. Hence eggs are imported from Bellary and Andra Pradesh.

**Sericulture:**

Sericulture is developing fast in Gadag district in recent years. The total area where silkworms are raised is 166 hectares. A new silk yarn producing complex has been set up in Sirhatti for helping the farmers to develop their sericulture and to provide market for the rawsilk. The annual production of silk is 30 tonnes with an yield of 1.80 quintal per hectare. The area of sericulture is 26 percent in Sirhatti and 35 percent in Mundargi taluka.
Rural Artisans:

There are 17991 village artisans in the district which number includes carpenters, blacksmiths, cane workers, weavers, cobblers, rope makers, tailors and workers engaged in pottery etc. Among the rural artisans weavers account for the maximum number and goldsmiths are minimum. There are 2753 weavers in Gadag taluka. 1680 in Sirhatti and 1013 in Ron. There are 53 cooperative societies of rural artisans in the district of which 9 belong to carpenters, 4 blacksmiths and 33 belong to weavers.

Infrastructure Facilities in Gadag District:

The district is well served by some basic infrastructure facilities helping the agricultural and industrial development. The following facilities are noteworthy.

1. There are a good number of bank branches serving the varied interests of farmers and small industrial units in the district. There are a total number of 46 commercial bank branches, 108 regional rural banks and other bank branches operating in the district.

2. There is a 'Krishi Vignan Kendra' in Hulkoti village which is set up with the help of Central Government. It provides improved varieties of seeds and plants and gives information to farmers about modern methods of farming.

3. The department of agriculture provides good quality manures, pesticides and seeds to farmers.
4. The Regulated Market Committee at Gadag has been helping the farmers in obtaining a fair price for their produce. Large quantities of cotton, chillies, green gram, ground nuts and sunflower are traded at the APMC Gadag.

5. The Department of Watershed has been helping the farmers in developing watersheds and land development.

6. There are a large number of submersible pumpsets and motors in the district for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

7. There are 5 farms for horticultural purposes producing 0.55 lakh plants and 0.15 lakh grafted buds.

8. The district produces 9000 tonnes of fruits and 2000 tonnes of flowers. However, cold storage facilities for these produce is almost nil.

9. There are 6 veterinary hospitals, 15 veterinary clinics, 45 primary veterinary centers, 11 subcentres and 1 poly clinic in the district.

10. There are 3 milk pasturization centers in the district with a capacity of 60,000 litres of milk per day.

11. There are 5 Agricultural Produce Market Committees in Gadag district in addition to 16 sub APMCs.

12. There are 24 primary health centres in the district. The district has 7 Government hospitals and 26 private hospitals.
Human Resources and Education:

The literacy rate of 48.9 percent in the district is less than the State's average literacy rate of 56.4 percent. There are 701 primary school's, 165 high schools, 36 colleges, 12 ITIs, 4 polytechnics, 2 engineering colleges and 4 Ayurvedic colleges.

A total number of 38575 students have registered themselves in 165 secondary schools of which male and female students ratio is 1000/766. There are 36 junior colleges with 9134 students. The total student strength in ITI is 1806.

Roads and Railways:

The total road length in the district is 4465kms of which 36 km is national highway and 249kms is state highway. The rural road length is 941kms out of the total road length of the district.

The district has 42kms of broad gauge and 49kms of meter gauge railway lines. Broad gauge railway line links Gadag with Bangalore, Miraj, Goa and Bellary. The meter gauge connects Gadag with Bijapur.

Communication:

There are 45 telephone centers in the district. There are 114 telegraph and 170 post offices in the district. There are 10483 telephones in the district. Radio and television facilities have also been available for the commercial, social and cultural purposes in the district.

Industrial Estates:

The Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation has established 3 Industrial Estates in the district of which 2 are in Gadag and one in
Ron. In addition to these there are 2 Industrial Estates in Gadag in cooperative sector. There are 48 sheds and 81 plots in the 2 Industrial Estates set up in Cooperative sector in Gadag while the sheds in the Industrial Estates set up by KSSIDC have been allocated to small industries entrepreneurs. There are 8 stalls in Ron Industrial Estate which are allocated to small industrial entrepreneurs. The KSSIDC is developing ‘mini growth center’ in Narasapur in Gadag taluka in an area of 155 acres. The work relating to development of Industrial Estates in Mundaragi, Laxmeshwar, Gajendragad is in progress.

**Electricity:**

The Karnataka Electricity Board has its divisional office in each taluka place. The 200 KVA distribution centre is working in Gadag with 14 sub distribution centres.

Electricity is distributed to all the areas from Gadag main distribution centre except to Laxmeshwar and Nargund. A total amount of 251 lakh units of electricity is used out of a total available 281 lakh units. Industries in the district consume 33 lakh units of electricity. The Kappatgudd wind mill electricity centre is producing 7.8 MW electricity.

**Small Scale Industries in Gadag District:**

The district has a large number of small scale industries. Maximum number of small scale industries are in the category of cotton based industries followed by agro based and food based industries, leather based, wood based, general engineering, chemicals, printing and writing materials, glass and ceramics, repairing and services units etc.
Cotton related units comprise of handlooms, ready made garments, reeling units and others.

Agro based and food based industries include oil mills, rava mills, floor mills, chilies powder and spices, cotton ginning, vermicelli, bakeries etc.

Leather based industries are shoe making, leather tanning, leather fancy goods and others.

Wood based units comprise of saw mills, wood planing, furniture making, agricultural implements etc.

General engineering industries include fabrications, sheet metals and others.

Chemical industries include soaps and detergents, incense sticks, chemicals and others.

Printing and writing materials industries comprise of printing and offset printing, note book manufacturing etc.

Glass and ceramics industries include bricks and hollow bricks, pottery etc.

Other small scale industrial units found in Gadag district are service units, electrical and electronic units, metal based units like aluminum wares, cold drinks and aerated water etc.

**Potentials for Starting New Industrial Units in Gadag District**

The District Industries Centre Gadag has identified the potentials for starting the following new industrial units in the district.


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