4.1 Introduction:
The profile of North Maharashtra is given in this chapter. North Maharashtra is the region which covers the five districts Nashik, Jalgaon, Dhule, Ahmednagar, and Nandurbar. It covers the information about the geographical coverage, climatic conditions, demographic information about the state of Maharashtra and the districts covered in North Maharashtra region.

4.2 An overview of the State of Maharashtra

In the western region of India Maharashtra is situated. In the population Maharashtra ranks second and in area it ranks third in India. The area covered by this state is 307,713 km², and is bordered by Arabian sea to the west and the Indian states of Goa, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujrat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Maharashtra has got the long seashore nearly 720 km along the Arabian sea, and is in the western and central part of the country. To the west side of Maharashtra ranges of Sahyadri Mountain are spread and to its north Satpuda hills are there. And from its east side natural borders of Bhamragad, Gadchiroli and Gaikhuri ranges are spread. The population of Maharashtra is around 11 crore as per census 2011, which is 9.3% of the total population of India. 45% people residing in urban areas imply that the state is highly urbanized.

There are total 36 districts in the State of Maharashtra. For the administrative purposes they are divided into 6 revenue divisions i.e. Aurangabad, Amravati, Nagpur, Konkan, Pune and Nashik. For local self governance in rural areas, there are 33 Zilla Parishads, 355 Panchayat Samitis and 27,993 Gram Panchayats. The urban areas are governed through 23 Municipal Corporations, 222 Municipal Councils, 4 Nagar Panchayats and 7 Cantonment Boards.
4.2.1 Demand and Supply of Electricity

Because of improvement in the network infrastructure, the capacity addition by various sources, reduction of Transmission & Distribution (T & D) losses and energy conservation measures has been implemented the supply position
of electricity is improved. During 2014-15, the average peak demand of MAHADISCOM was 15,812 MW with load shedding of 420 MW. During 2015-16 up to December, the average peak demand was 15,893 MW with load shedding of 143 MW. The supply & shortfall of electricity at average peak demand is given in Table below-(Table 4.1)

**Table no. 4.2.1: Table showing Supply & shortfall of electricity at average peak demand**

(MW)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average peak demand</th>
<th>Supply</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>14043</td>
<td>12841</td>
<td>1202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>14032</td>
<td>13309</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>14406</td>
<td>13830</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>15812</td>
<td>15392</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>15893</td>
<td>15750</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: MAHADISCOM -Economic survey of Maharashtra 15-16)

4.2.2 Village electrification, network improvement and energy conservation:

Out of total 40,959 inhabited villages (as per census 2011) 40,898 villages are electrified up to December, 2015 in the State. The important schemes undertaken for village electrification, network improvement and energy conservation are given below.

1. Rajeev Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana: Electrification of 4,709 non-electrified villages was completed and free electricity connections were provided to 12,11,041 rural BPL households, under this scheme.

2. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana: GoI has launched the scheme for rural area and sanctioned `2,163.44 crore for the State. Separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders, strengthening & augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas including metering, creation of infrastructure for connecting unconnected rural households including BPL beneficiaries, modernisation & strengthening of infrastructure in villages selected...
under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana are the works covered under this scheme.

3. Remote Village Electrification Programme: Under this programme of GoI and GoM, electrification of 543 villages and 694 hamlets are covered up to 2014-15 by MEDA using renewable energy sources.

4. Separate feeder scheme: Separate feeders for gaotan and agricultural pumps were provided to 17,334 villages up to 2014-15.

5. Energisation of agricultural pumps: Energisation of 1,47,993 agricultural pumps was done during 2014-15 and 83,415 during 2015-16 up to December. The cumulative agricultural pumps energised were 38,96,113 up to December, 2015 which excludes permanently disconnected agriculture connections.

6. Atal Saur Krushi Pump Yojana: The new scheme of providing solar agricultural pumps has been launched in the State during 2015. It is being implemented by MAHADISCOM and MEDA. A target of installation of 7,540 solar agricultural pumps has been set.

7. Restructured Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme: Towns and cities with population of more than 30,000 are covered under this scheme. It covers establishment of baseline data, fixation of accountability, reduction of AT & C losses, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition / Data Management System control centre. Power Finance Corporation released Rs. 1,400.87 crore to the State and expenditure of Rs. 1,490.26 crore was incurred up to December, 2015.

4.2.3 Agriculture:

In the economy of Maharashtra the agriculture and allied activities sector contributes 12.9%. Maharashtra is showing continuous growth in the production of cash crops like, oilseeds, soybean, cotton, sugarcane, and fruits, onions, vegetables and spices such as turmeric. Grapes, Mangoes, bananas, pomegranates and oranges are the major fruits of Maharashtra. In allied activities sector related to agriculture animal husbandry contributes around 7.8% share.
**Wine Industry of Maharashtra**: Maharashtra is known wine capital of India because it is at the top in the production of wine. At present, out of 62 wineries in India, 58 wineries are functioning in the state. The wine production in India is 22.2 million liter of which 21.1 million liters i.e. 97% is produced in Maharashtra.

Many schemes are being implemented for promoting primary education, because of which literacy rate of Maharashtra state is growing. It is 82.9% in the state as against the literacy rate of India 74% as per Census 2011. At the same time the State is doing very well in higher education also, like engineering, medical and management fields are also at top position. The road connectivity of the state is also widespread, it is around 2.87 lakh km. Government is trying to connect almost all the rural areas with good road connectivity. Connectivity to sea ports and airports has resulted into good transport system. All the above factors are favorable for attracting maximum investments in the state.

The state has good climatic conditions in all the seasons of summer, winter and rainy. The winter in January and February is a winter season followed by March and May summer and the monsoon season is from June and September. Following all the different cultures in the state Maharashtra has succeeded in development of a unique Marathi culture. The state is famous as Land of Saints. This land has given number of spiritual and great personalities to the whole country. Their spiritual contribution has helped to develop the region, as the people here are having spiritual base so they are capable of adjusting with different cultures. Tourism industry has also flourished because of different attractive places of Maharashtra like Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta caves, Gateway of India, Trimbkeshwar, Konkan area. The State is not lacking behind in giving its contribution in social services, sports, arts, literature and research. The film industry, which is popularly known as “Bollywood” is located in the state. All these factors above make Maharashtra as a center of attraction.
4.3 Profile of North Maharashtra

Nashik division which is also known as North Maharashtra is one of the six divisions of state of Maharashtra. The northern part of the Nashik division is covered with historic Khandesh, in the valley of the Tapi River, to its west Konkan division and Gujrat are situated. To its north Madhya Pradesh state, Marathwada and Amravati Division to the east, and Pune Division to the south. Largest city of this division is Nashik. Maharashtra is divided in five districts and 53 talukas.

Table 4.3.2 showing Talukas of each districts in North Maharashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Talukas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahmednagar-14 talukas</td>
<td>Akole, Jamkhed, Karjat, Kopergaon, Nagar, Nevasa, Parner, Pathardi, Rahata, Rahuri, Sangamner, Shemya, Shrigonda and Shrirampur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhule 4 talukas</td>
<td>Dhule, Shirpur, Sindkheda and Sakri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalgaon 14 Talukas</td>
<td>Chopda, Erandol, Pachora, Bodwad, Jamner, Yawal, Chalisgaon, Amalner, Dharangaon, Bhusawal, Raver, Muktainagar, Parola, and Jalgaon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashik 15 Talukas</td>
<td>Nashik, Dindori, Ikatpuri, Trimbkeshwar, Chandwad, Peth, M Baglan(Satana), Malegaon, Surgana, Nandgaon, Niphad, Sinnar, Deola, Kalwan, and Yeola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nandurbar 6 Talukas</td>
<td>Shahada, Nandurbar, Navapur, Taloda, Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: en.m.wikipedia.org)

Up to some extent the north Maharashtra region is been neglected area from the point of view of development. State Government has declared the huge development plan for North Maharashtra recently. Huge amount is being sanctioned by the authorities for the development of all the five districts of the region. The purpose of this is to make certain a balanced and harmonized development of the region. Predominantly an agriculture region, the importance of the development plan has been mainly on irrigation, agriculture, industrial development, roads, river-linking, health and tourism and while, nearly one-third of the total outlay has been kept aside for irrigation and other water needs of the region.
State Income

- As per the advance estimates of real (at constant 2011-12 prices) Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2016-17, the State economy is expected to grow by 9.4% over the previous year.
- The ‘Agriculture & Allied Activities’ sector is expected to grow by 12.5% while, ‘Industry’ and ‘Services’ sectors are expected to grow at 6.7% and 10.8% respectively over the previous year.
- As per advance estimates real GSDP for 2016-17 is expected to be 18,15,498 crore. The Indian economy is expected to grow by 7.1 per cent during 2016-17.
- As per the first revised estimates, real GSDP is ` 16,59,776 crore for 2015-16 as against ` 15,30,211 crore for 2014-15 showing an increase of 8.5 per cent.
- Nominal GSDP (at current prices) for 2015-16 is ` 20,01,223 crore as against ` 17,73,744 crore for the previous year.
- Per Capita State Income is ` 1,47,399 for 2015-16 as against ` 1,32,341 for the previous year.

4.3.1 Sector wise District Income in North Maharashtra:

District Income of Primary Sector in North Maharashtra at Current Prices is shown below:

Table 4.3.3 showing Gross District Value added at Current Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nahik</td>
<td>55,085</td>
<td>66249</td>
<td>77097</td>
<td>78322</td>
<td>85126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhule</td>
<td>14,446</td>
<td>16287</td>
<td>18824</td>
<td>20955</td>
<td>22517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadurbar</td>
<td>7,959</td>
<td>8934</td>
<td>10362</td>
<td>10011</td>
<td>11335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalgoan</td>
<td>29,424</td>
<td>31659</td>
<td>37223</td>
<td>40452</td>
<td>43245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmednagar</td>
<td>36,843</td>
<td>39799</td>
<td>46723</td>
<td>51854</td>
<td>57283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>143778</strong></td>
<td><strong>162927</strong></td>
<td><strong>190229</strong></td>
<td><strong>201594</strong></td>
<td><strong>219505</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Economic and Social Survey 2016-17)

The above table shows that there is continuous growth in gross District Value added at current prices in all the districts in North Maharashtra.
Table 4.3.4 showing Per Capita District value at Current Prices (Amount shown in Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nahik</td>
<td>89593</td>
<td>106514</td>
<td>122532</td>
<td>123052</td>
<td>132207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhule</td>
<td>70131</td>
<td>78182</td>
<td>89476</td>
<td>98624</td>
<td>104935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadurbar</td>
<td>48046</td>
<td>53467</td>
<td>61483</td>
<td>58891</td>
<td>66110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalgoan</td>
<td>69143</td>
<td>73632</td>
<td>85686</td>
<td>92162</td>
<td>97515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmednagar</td>
<td>80672</td>
<td>86362</td>
<td>100480</td>
<td>110519</td>
<td>121000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>357545</td>
<td>398157</td>
<td>459657</td>
<td>483248</td>
<td>521767</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Economic and Social Survey 2016-17)

The above table shows the continuous growth in per capita district value in current prices of all the districts of North Maharashtra except Nandurbar which has shown down trend in the year 2014-15, but again it has increased in the year 2015-16.

Table no. 4.3.5 Topography of the North Maharashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Nandurbar District</th>
<th>Dhule District</th>
<th>Jalgoan District</th>
<th>AhmedNagar District</th>
<th>Nashik District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (Sq. Kms)</td>
<td>5034 (8.8)</td>
<td>8063 (14.0)</td>
<td>11765 (20.5)</td>
<td>17020 (29.6)</td>
<td>15530 (27.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Area (Thousands Hectares)</td>
<td>104 (11.3)</td>
<td>209 (22.6)</td>
<td>218 (23.6)</td>
<td>132 (14.3)</td>
<td>260 (28.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Total (In '000's) (2011)</td>
<td>1646 (8.9)</td>
<td>2048 (11.0)</td>
<td>4224 (22.7)</td>
<td>4543 (24.5)</td>
<td>6109 (32.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density (Per Sq. Km)</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Literacy (Per cent 2011)</td>
<td>63.04</td>
<td>74.61</td>
<td>79.73</td>
<td>80.22</td>
<td>80.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio (Per cent, 2011)</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: www.msmedimumbai.gov.in)

Note: Figures in bracket show per cent to total

Total area covered by the North Maharashtra 57412 square kilo meters.

Total forest area covered by North Maharashtra is 260000 hectares.

The total area covered by North Maharashtra is 57,412 Sq. Kms out of which largest geographical area is covered by Ahmednagar district with 17,020 Sq. Kms which stands at 29.6 per cent of the total area. 15,530 Sq. Kms with 27
per cent of the total area is covered by Nashik. On the third place according to area is Jalgoan and then Dhule. The smallest district is Nandurbar with 5,034 Sq. Kms with 8.8 per cent of the total area. The largest forest cover with 2,60,000 Hectares which is 28.2 per cent of the total forest area in North Maharashtra is by Nashik, and Nandurbar has 1,04,000 Hectares, which is 11.3 per cent of the total forest area in North Maharashtra is the smallest forest area.

The population of North Maharashtra is as follows:

i. Nashik district - 6107000
ii. Ahmednagar district- 4543000
iii. Jalgaon district- 4230000
iv. Dhule district- 2051000
v. Nandurbar district- 1648000

From the above ranking Nashik is most populated with 32.9% and Nandurbar is smallest with 24.5% of total population of North Maharashtra.

Literacy rate of districts of North Maharashtra is as follows-

i. Nashik- 82.3%
ii. Ahmednagar- 79.1%
iii. Jalgaon- 78.2%
iv. Dhule- 72.8%
v. Nandurbar- 64.4%

Administrative Set up in North Maharashtra (2011-2012)

Table no. 4.3.6 showing Administrative set up of North Maharashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Nandurbar</th>
<th>Dhule</th>
<th>Jalgaon</th>
<th>A.Nagar</th>
<th>Nashik</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tehsils</td>
<td>54 (100)</td>
<td>6 (11.1)</td>
<td>4 (7.4)</td>
<td>15 (27.8)</td>
<td>14 (25.9)</td>
<td>15 (27.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchayat Sanities</td>
<td>54 (100)</td>
<td>6 (11.1)</td>
<td>4 (7.4)</td>
<td>15 (27.8)</td>
<td>14 (25.9)</td>
<td>15 (27.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Corporations</td>
<td>5 (100)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>1 (20)</td>
<td>2 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagar Parishad</td>
<td>36 (100)</td>
<td>4 (11)</td>
<td>2 (6)</td>
<td>14 (39)</td>
<td>8 (22)</td>
<td>8 (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram Panchayat</td>
<td>4886 (100)</td>
<td>501 (10.3)</td>
<td>551 (11.3)</td>
<td>1150 (23.5)</td>
<td>1311 (26.8)</td>
<td>1373 (28.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: www.msmedimumbai.gov.in)
The above table shows the administrative structure of North Maharashtra in terms of number of Municipal Corporations, Nagar Parishad, Gram panchayat and Panchayat Samities of all the five districts and their total number.

**Industrial Scenario of North Maharashtra**

Out of 20 Industrial Estates from North Maharashtra Nashik district is at top rank with 6 industrial estates, Ahmednagar district have 5 industrial estates. Dhule and Jalgaon have 4 industrial estates each and at last Nandurbar district is with only one industrial estate.

For the development of trade and industry in Nashik division, the state cabinet has further decided to set up a terminal market at the cost of Rs 60 crore, set up a farm pack houses, multi product processing project in Nashik, Nandurbar and Dhule districts. And this is not all, 250 hectares of land has been acquired for the expansion of Jalgaon airport, and another 400 hectares will be acquired for an airport at Shirdi. The North Maharashtra comprises of the 5 districts i.e. Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar and Ahmednagar. Brief background of these districts is given below as it is related with the present study.

**4.4 Nashik:**

Nashik is an ancient city in the northwest region of Maharashtra at India. Nashik is known for its pleasant weather conditions, centre of pilgrimage and also as wine capital of the east.

Kumbhmela is held in Trimbakeshwar and Nashik every 12 years. About 100 million people attend this mega event over a course of the year.
Map 4.4.1
Map of Nashik District

Total area covered by Nashik district is 15,530 sq.km., indicating third largest district in Maharashtra. There are 1,919 villages, 15 talukas in Nashik district. As per the census of India, 2011 Nashik had a population of 14,86,053 which is fourth largest city in Maharashtra.

Nashik, once a holy and religious place now appears on the industrial map of India and has emerged as an important industrial centre. It is a pilgrim city having mythological background. In the Panchavati Lord Rama lived during his Vanvas. Rishi Agasti did his Tapasys in Nashik. Trimbakeshwar is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas. All most 200 well known personalities are from Nashik like V. V. Shirwadkar (Kusumagraj), Veer Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar, Anant Kanhere, Dadasaheb Potnis, Vasnat Kanetkar etc. Nashik is also known as Mini Maharashtra, because the climate and soil conditions of Surgana, Peth, Igatpuri resembles with Konkan, Niphad, Sinnar, Dindori, Baglan blocks are like Virdarbha Region. Nashik, Malegaon, Manmad, Igatpuri are some of the big cities situated in the Nashik District. Out of fifteen blocks in the District, eight blocks are tribal blocks they are - Peth, Surgana, Baglan, Igatpuri, Dindori, Kalwan, Trimbakeshwar and Nashik. The district also identified as tribal by the State Government. Holy river Godavari which is also known as Ganga has its origin in Trimbakeshwar-Nashik. Many other
important rivers of Maharashtra originate in this district, named as Girna, Darna, Mosam, Aram, Vaitarna, Manyad and Kadwa.

The location of Nashik district is between 18.33 degree and 20.53 degree North Latitude and between 73.16 degree and 75.16 degree East Longitude at Northwest part of the Maharashtra State, at 565 meters above mean sea level. Nashik is one of the fastest growing industrial cities in the country.

**Climate in Nashik District:**
Nashik district has a very good and healthy climate. The two extremes are within the range of 42°C and the lowest is 0.6°C. It receives average rainfall which varies between 2600 to 3000 mm annually. Maximum rainfall is received from June to September. The weather is very humid with 43 to 62 percent humidity. Industrialization and deforestation has shown its adverse effects on environment by decrease in rainfall and growing temperatures. Occasional cold waves can dip temperatures. Still because of comparatively less population, better weather conditions and increasing developments people like to stay here. Nashik is famous for the grapes, onion mainly and along with that the other crops which are grown in the region are Jowar, Cotton, Sugarcane, Wheat, Rice, Banana, Nagli, Chillies and Pomegranate.

Nashik is having very good climatic conditions, road, rail and air connectivity is also very good and improving day by day, then it has advantage of equidistant from Mumbai, Surat and Pune, skilled manpower is available, educational institutes are also growing very fast and agriculture and allied activities are also improving and increasing rapidly. All these factors are contributing towards the industrial development of Nashik district.

Nashik is also selected in the list of smart cities. It is getting booster form central Government after Nasik being projected as a major development centre in Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) with influential region of 150 kms on either side of the track. Add to this six-laning of NH-3 Mumbai Agra Highway passing through Nashik, Completion of Nashik Engineering Cluster (NEC) under Industries Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) by the central Government, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developed at Sinner, 30
kms from Nashik that made Nasik as the most happening district in the country. The industrial areas of Nashik district are Ambad, Satpur, Sinnar, Igatpuri, Vinchur Gavli, and Dindori. The world famous Hindustan Aeronautics Limited aircraft manufacturing plant is in the same district. Indian currency and Government stamp papers are printed at The Currency Note Press and India Security Press which are at Nashik Road, respectively.

4.5 Jalgaon:

Jalgaon is located in the north-west region of the state of Maharashtra and is bounded by Satpuda mountain ranges in the north, Ajanta mountain ranges in the south. Jalgaon was known as East Khandesh until 21 October 1960. It has an area of 11,765 sq.km. and a population of 42,24,442 as per the 2011 census.

Map 4.5.1
Map of Jalgaon District

(Source: www.districtjalgaon.com)

The new Municipal Corporation of Jalgaon added new dimensions to the developing city. The city is having large industrial area, educational institutes and good hospitals. Mumbai, Nagpur, Surat and Delhi are connected through the Jalgaon railway junction. The city is developing with good infrastructure in communication and transport.
Climate in Jalgaon:
Jalgaon has got pretty diverse climate. It is very hot and dry during summer with maximum temperature up to 45 degrees Celsius. Rainfall is about 700 mm during monsoons, after which pleasant winter is there. The main crops produced here are banana, cotton, groundnut, lime, millet, sugarcane and wheat.

The soil which is found in Jalgaon is well suited for cotton production. It is very famous for the production of Banana’s in the country also known as banana capital of the country. Jalgaon is also famous for gold. It is a major business centre for tea, gold, pulses, cotton and bananas due to which the city is developing rapidly. The famous, Jain irrigation systems producing solar product is situated in Jalgaon. The other different types of industries like coal products, chemical products, metal products and parts, food products, dairy products, gold and silver, silk, sugar, cotton, irrigation instruments, pipes and many more are helping in the development of the city. There are total 63 large scale 128 medium scale and 3303 small scale industries in Jalgaon.

Religious temples and cultural establishments are found in Jalgaon district like Manudevi, Patnadevi and Padmalaya. The world famous Ajanta and Ellora caves are the major tourist attractions from Jalgaon district. Hot water springs at Unapdev in Taluka are also the point of attraction for the tourist. The district is having excellent road and rail connectivity. Tea, gold, pulses, and mats being major trade commodities.

4.6 Dhule:
The Dhule district was then bifurcated on 1 July 1998 into two separate districts now known as Dhule and Nandurbar, the later comprising the tribal region. Agriculture is the main occupation of the population in this district. Total area covered by Dhule is 7195 sq.km. and according to 2011 census population of the district is 20,50,862.
Map 4.6.1
Map of Dhule District

In the year 1906 Khandesh was divided into 2 parts called as West Khandesh and East Khandesh for administrative purposes, Dhule remained a part of the former. It became the part of Maharashtra State in 1960 from old Bombay State. It lies between the latitudes of 20 degree 38 minutes and 21 degrees 61 minutes north and the longitudes of 73 degrees 50 minutes and 75 degrees 11 minutes east. To the North-west of Dhule district there is district of Nandurbar, its south Nashik and to its east Jalgaon district is situated. It is situated at the crossing of three National Highways namely NH-6 i.e. Surat to Nagpur, NH-3 i.e. Mumbai to Agra and NH-211 i.e. Dhule to Solapur.

Climate in Dhule:
Dhule district has extreme dry climatic conditions except in winter and monsoon seasons. During summer season the temperature is very hot which goes up to 46 degrees Celsius and in winter it goes down up to 6 degrees Celsius, which are typical of tropical temperature zones. The rainfall of Dhule district is not uniform all over the parts of the district. Overall rainfall is not very good. Irrigation facilities are better in Shirpur and Shindhkeda blocks which fall in the Tapi river basin.

Agriculture is the main source of income of maximum population in the Dhule district. People are mostly dependent on agriculture and allied activities as
their source of livelihood. Migration of people to the nearby districts and states like Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh is seen due to drought conditions of the district and absence of major industrial growth. It is famous for the production of pure milk. Milk cattle used to be fed with cotton pend (cattle feed made by using cotton extract), which would produce rich quality milk. It is also famous for production and market of chilies. The uniqueness of producing glucose, sugar and other products from maize is found in Dondaicha in Dhule district.

There are total 412 industries in Dhule. It is mainly popular as edible oil producing region. It has better prospects for food processing industries for milk, oil, and grapes, it has good raw material for paper mills, cotton mills and readymade garment industries. National highways connectivity is to Surat, Agra, Kolkata, Aurangabad and Mumbai.

4.7 Nandurbar:
Dhule was bifurcated as two separate districts on 1st July 1998 now known as Dhule and Nandurbar. The district headquarter is located at Nandurbar city. In the region of North Maharashtra Nandurbar is the smallest city occupying the area of 5034 km and has the population of 1,64,61,77 of which 15.45% is urban (census 2011). Dhule is to the south and south east of Nandurbar district, Gujarat state is to the west and north of the Nandurbar district, to the north and north east is the state of Madhya Pradesh. Narmada river flows from the northern boundary of the district.
Earlier Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon districts together were known as Khandesh district. Nandurbar was part of the larger Dhule district before 1st of July 1998. Jalgaon and Dhule were known as the east khandesh and west Khandesh respectively. Therefore there are similarities in the history of Nandurbar as compared to Khandesh and Dhule. Nandurbar is a tribal district. 6 Tehsils i.e. Akrani, Akkalkuwa, Taloda, Shahada, Nandurbar and Nawapur are included in Nandurbar district.

**Climate in Nandurbar:**

The district is famous for its dry climate, and the typical tropical zone temperature found. In summer season from March to June the unbearable hot temperature is found. The temperature goes up to 46 degrees Celsius in summer and goes down to 10 degrees Celsius in winter. Rainfall is not uniform in all the parts of the district, average rainfall is about 888 mm.

The main agricultural products are wheat, tur, groundnuts, rice, chilly and jowar while annual crops include cotton and sugarcane. The chilly from Nandurbar is very famous. As the district is a tribal district, people of this district are aware about the medicinal herbs available there. They make use of these herbs in Ayurved-based medicines and in food processing industries with the help of skilled manpower.
Current site for the construction and operation of the world’s largest wind farm in Tilahi and Mandal having an output of 1000 MW is just 30 km away from Nandurbar city. This project is being undertaken by Suzlon Energy. Suzlon also has local manufacturing units at this site for making tower and blades. There are total 346 registered factories, 2 spinning mills, 3 Cooperative Sugar Factories, 392 Cooperative Milk Societies in the district.

4.8 Ahmednagar:
Area wise Ahmednagar is the largest district of Maharashtra State. In western Maharashtra Ahmednagar is centrally located between Pune and Aurangabad on road line and between Manmad and Daund on railway line. In Ahmednagar district there are 14 talukas and 1,581 villages and 1,308 gram sabhas. Total area covered by Ahmednagar is 17,413 sq.km. and according to 2011 census population of the district is 45,43,159 and literacy rate is 90.22%.

Map 4.8.1
Map of Ahmednagar District

(Source: www.districtahmadnagar.com)

Climate in Ahmednagar:
The climatic conditions are hot and dry in general. The western zone of the district have comparatively cooler climate. In winter season the climate is very pleasant. From last few years heavy rainfall is being observed in Ahmednagar district.
The district has a rich artistic heritage and historic background. The antic and very beautiful age old monuments of Mughal architecture are found in historical places. It is an important religious place for the Muslim Community. The Ahmednagar fort is very famous where many freedom fighters including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were imprisoned during Indian Freedom movement. The world famous book “Discovery of India” is written by him by sitting in Ahmednagar Fort.

Ahmednagar district has a variety of large scale and small scale industries. There are total 3,015 Cooperative industries, 12,186 Public Agricultural and Non-Agricultural industries, and 1,52,084 Private Agricultural and Non-Agricultural industries in the district. (District Social and Economic Analysis, Year 2008). Ahmednagar district is on the front position in cooperative movement in the country. There are 16 Sugar factories, distilleries, spinning mills, paper mills, milk federation, dairy etc. in cooperative sector and a few cooperative industrial estates.

There are total 5,226 Small Scale Industrial units and 42 Large Scale Industrial units in Ahmednagar district as per the District Industries Centre record. Because of centralized location of Ahmednagar district it is having good road network connecting it to all the mega markets in the country. It is the ‘Gatway’ of Marathwada and Vidarbha to Mumbai. Plenty water resources are available to the north belt of the district because of Godavari and Pravara rivers. Except Shrirampur and Parner the south belt is dry.
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