Maharashtra predominantly ranks fourth in per capita income amongst the States of India. The first three positions being held by the smaller States of Punjab, Goa and Haryana despite the fact that Maharashtra leads rest of India in industrial investment as well as employment.

The economic development of Maharashtra reveals wide regional disparities in terms of income and industries. Barring Greater Bombay/Thane and Pune, and a few fortunate districts of Western Maharashtra, the rest of the State has been left high and dry by the State's planning process. Therefore most of the districts of the State are backward even after five decades of planning.

Sindhudurg with an area of 5087.64 Sq.km is the smallest of four districts in the Konkan region of the State. It has nearly 8.5 lakh population and is overwhelmingly "rural". Barely 8 percent of it resides in an area characterised as urban. A part of its population belonging to working age group migrates to urban centres like Bombay, Thane, Pune, Belgaum, Goa and Kolhapur. It is because lack of work opportunities locally. The depleted manpower resource is partly responsible for backwardness.

It is apparent from the Census data of 1971 and 1981 that the migration trend remained the same. However, figures for 1991 show a downward trend in migration due to Horticultural and other activities within the Sindhudurg.
It has a long coastline (120 Km) endowed with large continental shelves which abound in many marine resources.

Its most mineral resources are still unexploited and has a potential to develop if explored.

The land is ideal for the growth of thick forests due to abundant rainfall. The beaches, historical seaports and picturesque Sahyadri slopes make Sindhudurg a tourist paradise.

Unfortunately, with diverse natural resources of commercial value, still development awaits for it needs a beginning towards the development of industry and allied activities. It is against this background a systematic study to assess the overall economic and eco-development, is being taken up to assess the self-sustained potential.

Sindhudurg is an ecologically sensitive region. Due to an accelerated development with the ecological balance is under stress and strain and needs a development of an ecosystem prospective to ensure that no further damage is inflicted for very often the process of development has adversely affected the environment leading to ecological imbalance for short term gains. Therefore it becomes imperative to consider out the various activities by conserving its resources, ecology and the rich socio-cultural environment reflected in its way of life.

The present study underlines the need for a comprehensive integrated planning of the district for a comprehensive development in every sphere.