Chapter - II
PROFILE OF AMRAVATI DISTRICT
Chapter - II

PROFILE OF AMRAVATI DISTRICT

In this chapter light has been thrown on the topography of the Amravati district, population and other demographic characteristics, agriculture and allied activities, land use and cropping pattern, trade commerce & industry, and educational facilities etc.

Amravati district is situated in the north east of Maharashtra state, which is situated in the western side of India (See the maps on the following pages). The profile of the district is being given in the following pages.

Situation:

Amravati district, which happens to be the divisional headquarter also of the Amravati Revenue Division, is situated between 20.32° and 21.46° north latitude and 76.37° and 78.27° east longitude. Northern side of the district is covered by Madhya Pradesh state. On the north west there is Nimad district and on the north and northeast there are Baitul and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh. On the eastern side there are Wardha and Yeotmal districts and on the western side there are Akola and Buldhana districts of Maharashtra state.

Salient Features of the District:

a) Morshi and Warud Talukas are famous for Oranges.

b) Amravati is a big Cine distribution centre.

c) Before nationalisation of the Road Transport, Amravati was supposed to be the biggest Road Transport centre in Asia.

d) Amravati district is biggest cotton centre in India.

e) Amravati is a big educational centre.
Source: http://www.mapsofindia.com

Note: - Maharashtra State is encircled with the blue border.
Source: http://www.mapsofindia.com

Note: - Amravati district is shaded in blue.
Source: http://www.mapsofindia.com
f) 29% land is covered by forests. In Melghat area there is thick forest.

g) Literacy rate is 70.06%. 78.40% males and 61.13% females are literate.

**Geographical Area and Climate:**

Total geographical area of the district is 12,210 square km., out of which 3,180 square km. is covered by forests. The climate is dry and hot. The average rainfall is 1067 mm.

**Rivers:**

Main river of the district is Purna. Pedhi is its major tributary. Chandrabhaga, Shahanur, and Bardi are its tributaries. Wardha and Tapi are the other big rivers flowing through the eastern and north-western boundaries of the district. The tributaries of Wardha- Chudami, Balmund, and Mula; and the tributaries of Tapi- Karda, Kampra, and Sipna flow through the tribal areas of the district.

**Soil:**

Soil of the district is mainly Black Cotton Soil and it is very fertile. Melghat area is covered by the thick forests and hill ranges. Soil of this area is generally arid except some fertile patches.

**Land Use:**

Out of the total area of the land of 1221 thousand hectares, 318 thousand hectares is covered by forests, 57 thousand hectares is non-agricultural land, and 237 thousand hectares is not available for agriculture. Land under agricultural use is 746 thousand hectares.

**Cropping Pattern And Irrigation:**

Basically there is a single crop pattern as agriculture is dependent on monsoon. Out of 746 thousand hectares of agricultural land, on 25 thousand
hectares only two crops are taken, which is just 3.35% of the total agricultural land. Only 109 thousand hectares of land is irrigated one, which is around 14% of the total agricultural land.

Main Crops:

Main crops and land under their cultivation (in Hectares) is as follows:

a) Cereals: Paddy (9331), Jowar (120067), Wheat (15784)

b) Pulses: Tuar (83629), Gram (43863), Moong (46830)

c) Oil Seeds: Ground-nut (9572), Alsi (92180), Til (1840)

d) Other: Cotton (327564)

Economy of the district is basically agrarian. Kharip is main crop season and its main crops are Cotton, Jowar, Groundnut, Tuar and other pulses and Soya been.

Rabbi crop is taken on 69 thousand hectares only, which is 9.24% of the total agricultural land. Its main crops are Wheat, Gram and Kardi.

Cotton is main crop of the district. In Kharip season, it is taken on more than 50% of the agricultural land. Second main crop is Jowar.

Orange is an important horticultural product of the district. This crop is taken on around 33 thousand hectares of land. Orange harvest greatly affects the economy of the district.

Dairy:

Government Milk Scheme was started in the year 1962. its processing and storing capacity is 50 thousand litres per day. There are 334 cooperative milk producer’s societies in the district. There are four cold stores at Chandur Railway, Morshi, Paratwada and Semadoh of 5000 litres capacity each.
Tribal Areas:

Two Talukas of the district- Chikhaldara and Dharni come under tribal areas. In this area there are Satpuda mountain ranges. The area is covered by forests. This area is known as Melghat. The average height of the mountains is 1000 meters. Korku and Gond tribes are the main inhabitants of this area.


- Rural population: 1483
- Urban population: 717
- Total population: 2200
- Density of population: 180
- Female population: 1064
- Male population: 1136
- Scheduled Castes: 384
- Scheduled Tribes: 316
- Percentage of Scheduled Castes and Tribes: 31.47
- Literacy rate: 70.06
- Male literacy rate: 78.40
- Female literacy rate: 61.13

According to the 1991 Census, population of the district is 22.60 lakh. 67% is rural population and 33% is urban population. Sex ratio is 937 females per thousand of males, which is slightly better than the state’s sex ratio of 934 females per thousand of males.
Religion wise Classification Of Population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boudha</td>
<td>1552</td>
<td>1460</td>
<td>3012</td>
<td>13.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>8302</td>
<td>7765</td>
<td>16067</td>
<td>73.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jain</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>1310</td>
<td>2710</td>
<td>12.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikh</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion Not Indicated</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Occupational Distribution Of Population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1775</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>20.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Labour</td>
<td>4187</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>4655</td>
<td>47.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Husbandry, Forest Work, Fishing, Horticulture</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarries (Gitti, Bolder)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture, Service, Cottage Industry</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industries Other Than Cottage Industries</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, Warehousing, Telecommunication</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>8.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Of Those Normally Working</td>
<td>6775</td>
<td>2104</td>
<td>8879</td>
<td>90.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginally Working</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>9.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Of Working Population</td>
<td>7571</td>
<td>2196</td>
<td>9767</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The workforce in agriculture and allied activities constitute at about 77% of the total workforce in the district. Total workforce is 44.44% of population, it means that 55.60% of population is not-working population.

**Live Stock:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Breed Cows</td>
<td>12842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Cows</td>
<td>181553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullocks</td>
<td>214606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffaloes</td>
<td>81458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>23947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>320727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Birds</td>
<td>348320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Set Up:**

There are 14 Talukas and 14 Development Blocks in the district. Names of these Talukas and Blocks are- Achalpur, Amravati, Anjangaon Surji, Bhatkuli, Chandur Bazar, Chandur Railway, Chikhaldara, Daryapur, Dharni, Morshi, Nandgaon Khandeshwar, Teosa and Warud. There are 10 towns and 1 city in the district. At Amravati there is a Municipal Corporation and there are Municipal Councils at Achalpur, Anjangaon Surji, Chandur Bazar, Chandur Railway, Chikhaldara, Daryapur, Dhamangaon Railway, Morshi, Shendurjana Ghat and Warud.

Total number of villages in the district is 1996, of which 1681 villages are inhabited and 315 are uninhabited. There are 834 Gram Panchayats.
Number of police stations in the district is 37 having 17 outposts.

**Cooperative Societies:**

Cooperative movement is quite popular in the district. There are 2413 cooperative societies in the district; of which 680 are primary agricultural credit cooperative societies and 334 are milk producers’ cooperatives.

**BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE:**

**Electrification:**

Electrification in the district is almost 100%. Out of 1681 villages 1669 villages are electrified. There are 80887 electric pump sets in the district.

**Roads & Communication:**

Amravati district is well knit with the roads and railway lines. Total length of roads is 7221 km., and that of railway is 195 km. Almost all the villages have also been connected with the perennial approach roads. There are 447 Post Offices and 102 telegraph offices in the district. At the end of the year 1999, there were 41881 telephone connections in the district.

**Public Health:**

There are 43 hospitals, 125 dispensaries and 56 Primary Health Centres in the district.

**Industries:**

As the land is very fertile, agriculture itself is the main occupation here in the district. Therefore, industries in the district are mainly agro-based ones, like ginning and pressing, pulses, and oil mills etc.
There are 1789 registered industries of which 1573 are running. Apart from these there are 1991 registered small-scale industries in the district.

Primary requisite for the development of industries is the existence of industrial estates. There are two industrial estates in Amravati city- one is of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation consisting of 210 industrial plots and the other one is Cooperative Industrial Estate, having 176 industrial plots. There is one small industrial estate in Achalpur also. Small industrial estates are proposed at Chandur Railway, Dhamangaon Railway, Morshi, Teosa and Warud.

Industrial activity in Amravati district is very negligible. Quarry Industry, Manufacturing Industry, and Construction Industry taken together are generating only 6.15% (0.04%+4.30%+1.81%) employment, while agriculture and allied activities account for about 77% of the total employment in the district.

No minerals and ores are found in the district. Earth for tiles and bricks and the Murum and Bolder for the construction industries are the only products excavated from within the earth.

**Network Of Banks And Life Insurance:**

There is a good network of commercial and cooperative banks in the district. Even in the remote areas of Melghat also bank branches are there. There are 149 branches of commercial banks, 89 branches of The Amravati District Central Cooperative Bank, 14 branches of Land Development Bank, and 22 branches of other cooperative banks.

Network of banks is quite satisfactory and it can do wonders for the industrial and commercial development of the district if the development plans are properly designed and executed with the political will.

There are six branches of Life Insurance Corporation Of India in the district.
Educational Facilities:

Amravati is a good educational centre. It is the head quarter of Amravati Division. There is one Divisional Board of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary And Higher Secondary Education at Amravati. There is one University also which is known as Amravati University, Amravati.

There is good network of all the types of schools, training institutes, and colleges in the district in general and at Amravati in particular. Educational network is spread through the width and breadth of the district. There is at least one Junior College and one Senior College at each Taluka place. At Amravati proper, there are the institutes right from the Gramsevak Training School to, Polytechnics, Law, Engineering, Ayurved, Homeopathy, and Medical colleges apart from a good network of colleges running the traditional courses in the faculties of Arts & Social Science, Commerce and Science. The famous Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal catering to the varied educational needs of the region and the nation in the fields of general education, physical education, naturopathy, Ayurved, computer science, and engineering is situated at Amravati. The list of these facilities is as follows.

- Primary Schools: 1871
- Secondary Schools: 508
- Higher Secondary School: 186
- Colleges: 78
- I. T. I.s: 17
- Technical Schools: 6
- D. Ed. Schools: 8
- Law College: 1
- Medical College: 1
- Ayurved Colleges: 2
There are 21 Post Graduate Teaching Departments in the Amravati University, viz., Home Science, Applied Electronics, Management, Computer Science, Physical Education, Library and Information science, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Sociology, Statistics, Maths, Microbiology, Marathi, Hindi, Education, Biotechnology, Chemical Technology, and Law.

**SWOT ANALYSIS:**

**Strengths:**

a) Orange and cotton are the cash crops, which are taken at a very large scale.

b) 29% land is covered by the forests.

c) Cent per cent electrification and supply is also more or less regular except some load shedding during the summer.

d) Literacy rate is 70%.

**Weaknesses:**

a) Low irrigation potential, only 14% land has irrigation facility.

b) Backward and forward linkages are miserably lacking in the district.

c) Industrially very backward.

d) People in general, are complacent.

e) There is lack of conviction and political will in the political leadership of the Vidarbha region.
Opportunities:

a) Can be developed as a Professional Growth Centre due to better facilities of education.

b) Melghat can be developed as one of the best tourist attractions.

c) There are bright chances of growth in the industrial sector for small and cottage industries.

Threats:

a) A considerable belt of land is saline and cannot be brought under irrigation.

b) Water Table in the district is fast reducing due to overutilisation of the underground water for the irrigation of orange gardens.