CHAPTER IV

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CHAPTER - IV
PROFILE OF MAHARASHTRA

4.1 INTRODUCTION:

The word Maharashtra comes from the words Maha meaning Great and Rashtra meaning Nation. It is the second most populous and third largest state by area in India. It is most urbanised and industrialized state in India. The State of Maharashtra has the largest economy in the country. The state ranks first in the share of GDP, contributes over 9% (9.4% in 2006-2007). Maharashtra spans an area of 3,08,000sq km (DES, 2009).

The land situated in the north centre of Indian peninsula is bordered by the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa. The Arabian Sea forms the western coast of the state.

The capital city Mumbai, also the biggest city of India is the second largest producer of films in the world. The cosmopolitan style of living of the people makes it a world class city.

The state is highly urbanized - 42 per cent of the population lives in cities - and it is high on literacy with 77 per cent of the population above seven years being literate. Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra is also called as the Business Capital of India is the industrial hub of the state. Major industries of Maharashtra are textiles, automobiles and chemicals etc. Marathi is the official state language. (Mahaonline, 2012)

The State has 35 districts which are divided into six revenue divisions, Konkan, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur for administrative purposes. These 35 districts are further divided into 109 sub-divisions of the districts and 355 talukas. The State has a long tradition of having very powerful bodies for planning at the district / local level. For local self-governance in rural areas, there are 33 Zilla Parishads, 355 Panchayat Samities and 27,993 Gram Panchayat. The urban areas are governed through 23 Municipal Corporations, 222 Municipal Councils, 4 Nagar Panchayat and 7 Cantonment Boards. (MaheBiz, 2012)
Figure 4.1
Map of Maharashtra State
• Maharashtra is the second largest state in India both in terms of population and geographical area, spread over 3.08 lakh sq. km, which is greater than Italy, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

• Mumbai, the capital city of the state, is India's largest city and the financial capital of the nation.

• The State has a long coastline stretching nearly 720 kilometres along the Arabian Sea.

• The State has a long coastline stretching nearly 720 kilometres along the Arabian Sea.

• The State has a population of around 10 Mn (2001 Census) which is 9.4% of the total population of India. Estimated population by 2011 is 115 Mn, which is one third of entire USA population and more than population of Mexico. Only eleven countries of the world have a population greater than Maharashtra

• The State is highly urbanized with 42% people residing in urban areas as compared to 28% at national level.

4.2 HISTORY:

It is believed that the words Marathi and Maharashtra originated from “Maharathi”- meaning "the great charioteer." Maharathis denoted a strong "fighting force" in the ancient Maratha history. Although the region is believed to have gained prominence as early as in 90 A.D., the first inscription of Maharashtra appeared way back in the seventh century. In the sixteenth century, regional Muslim powers ruled the Deccan region, which basically served the Mughal Empire. ShivajiBhosle, born in 1627, was the founder of the Maratha Empire and engaged in a lifelong struggle against the Mughals to establish supremacy of the Maratha kingdom. By 1680, the year of his death, nearly the entire Deccan region belonged to the Marathas.

The name Maharashtra first appeared in a 7th century inscription and in the account of a contemporary Chinese traveller, Hsuan Tsang. According to one view, Maharashtra derives its name from the word "mahrathi" (great chariot driver), which refers to a skilful northern fighting force that migrated southward into the area. The group's language, intermingled with the speech of the earlier
Naga settlers, became Maharashtri, and this by the 8th century developed into Marathi. There was also a continuous influx of people from remote Greece and Central Asia. (MSMS, 2012)

Shivaji Bhosle, the founder of the Maratha Empire, did a lifelong struggle against the Mughals. By 1680, the year of Shivaji’s death, nearly the whole of Deccan belonged to his empire. Shivaji was a great warrior and one of the finest rulers of India, so he holds the highest place in Maratha history. 1680 to 1707 is known as the period of instability in the history of Maharashtra. Balaji Vishwanath (1712-1721), Bajirao Peshwa (1721-1740), Nana Saheb Peshwa (1740-1761), 'Thorale' Madhao Rao Peshwa (1761-1772), Narayanrao Peshwa (1772-1773), 'Sawai' Madhao Rao Peshwa (1774-1795) and 'Second' Bajirao Peshwa - 1795 to 1802 were the other important rulers of Maharashtra.

The fall of Ahmednagar fort in 1803 marked the end of Indian rule and supremacy of British in Deccan. In 1804, General Wellesley proclaimed the Deccan in a state of chaos, established military rule and the Peshwas remained rulers for namesake.

After Independence, Bombay continued as one state consisting of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Under the Bombay Re-organization Act, 1960 Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed into separate states on May 1, 1960, Maharashtra retaining the old capital Bombay (now renamed as Mumbai).

4.3 GEOGRAPHY:

Maharashtra is the third-largest state of India, both in area and population. Its coastline is 330 miles (530 km) long along the Arabian Sea. Rice is the dominant crop of the state, but cashews, mangoes, vegetable cotton, oilseeds, and tobacco are also important. Forests comprising only 17% of the state area cover the eastern region and the Sahyadri Range.

Maharashtra consists of two major relief divisions. The plateau is a part of the Deccan tableland and the Konkan coastal strip adjoining on the Arabian Sea. The coastal strip, about 720 km long. The Sahyadris or the Western Ghats running almost parallel to the sea coast edge the Konkan on its east. Maharashtra has five main regions: Vidarbha (Nagpur and Amravati divisions),
Marathwada (Aurangabad Division), Kandesh and Northern Maharashtra (Nashik Division), Desh or Western Maharashtra (Pune division), and Konkan (Konkan Division).  (GoM, 2012)

Table 4.1
Geological Profile of Maharsashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Maharashtra has typical monsoon climate, with hot, rainy and cold weather seasons. Summer (March to May), Monsoon (June-September), Post Monsoon (October-November), Winter (January-March)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural resources</td>
<td>The various mineral resources found in the state include manganese, coal, iron ore, limestone, copper, bauxite, silica sand, and common salt. Districts like Yavatmal, Nagpur, and Chandrapur are rich in coal deposits. The undersea oil deposits were discovered near Bombay High oil field in 1970.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Geographic features | • Maharashtra is divided into Deccan plateau, which is separated from the Konkan coastline by 'Ghats'. The Ghats are a succession of steep hills, periodically bisected by narrow roads. Sahyadri range with an elevation of 1000 meters is known for its crowning plateaus.  
  • 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 These ranges also serve as natural limits to the state. |
| Major Rivers | • Godavari River, Krishna River, Tapi River are the three major rivers in the state. |
| Flora & Fauna | The forests are mainly evergreen. Majority of the forests are in the eastern and Sahyadri regions of the state. Maharashtra has five national parks, three game reserves, and 24 wildlife/bird sanctuaries. Different kinds of animals found are tigers, panthers, bison, deer and antelopes, wild boars, bears and blue bull. |

Source: www.mahaebiz.com (Govt. of Maharashtra)
4.4 CLIMATE:

The state enjoys a tropical monsoon climate; the hot scorching summer from March onwards yields to the rainy monsoon in early June. The rich green cover of the monsoon season persists during the mild winter that follows through an unpleasant October transition, but turns into a dusty, barren brown as the summer sets in again. The seasonal rains from the western sea-clouds are very heavy and the rainfall is over 400 cm, on the Sahyadrian crests. The Konkan on the windward side is also endowed with heavy rainfall, declining northwards. East of the Sahyadri, the rainfall diminishes to a meagre 70 cm. in the western plateau districts, with Solapur-Ahmednagar lying in the heart of the dry zone. The rains increase slightly, later in the season, eastwards in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. (MahaWeb, 2012)

4.5 DEMOGRAPHICS:

The recently concluded 'Indian Census 2011' showed that the population of India has crossed the 1 billion mark and the population of Maharashtra is somewhere around the 110 million. Considered to be one of India's leading states in terms of revenue and contribution to the GDP, the Maharashtra Census 2011 bore some interesting results. Mumbai, a city that is considered to be the financial capital of India is part of the state of Maharashtra and has a population of over 100 million, making it the country's most populous city. Maharashtra also has other cities like Pune, Nashik and Nagpur which are more densely populated than other areas. People from different parts of India over the years have shifted to Maharashtra in general and Mumbai in particular in search of livelihood. Mumbai is one of the major metro cities in India with a widely cosmopolitan culture and a vibrant way of life.

The Maharashtra census 2011 showed that the population of the state is growing by about 16% each year which is slightly below the national average of about 17%. The state of Maharashtra is the third largest state in the country with an area of about .3 million Sq. Km. The state is located in western India and has a long coastline to its west. The state has many places of national importance and some of the prime airports and ports in the country. Maharashtra borders the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. The state has a sex ratio of
about 940 which is fairly equal to the national average. The state has a literacy rate of over 80% which puts it among the top states in terms of literacy.

The Maharashtra census 2011 shows that the state is doing well in terms of literacy rate and sex ratio and continues its march towards being one of the leading states in the country.

The capital city which is also the largest city in the state of Maharashtra is Mumbai. The languages spoken in the Maharashtra state includes Marathi. In total Maharashtra (MH) state comprises 35 districts. The ISO CODE assigned by International Organization for Standardization for Maharashtra state is MH. *(Census2011, 2012)*

**4.6 INDUSTRY :**

Maharashtra is India's leading industrial state contributing 13% of national industrial output. 64.14% of the people are employed in agriculture and allied activities. Almost 46% of the GSDP is contributed by industry. Maharashtra has had an immense tradition in textiles and Mumbai city was the original home of India's textile mills. Other centres of weaving have come up like Malegaon and Bhiwandi.

Sugar Industry has made considerable progress especially in the co-operative sector. Maharashtra is well-known for the development of sugar industry on co-operative lines in which the farmers acquire a share in the sugar mills. Pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, heavy chemicals, electronics, automobiles, engineering, food processing, and plastics are some of the major industries of the state. Maharashtra is renowned for the production of 3 wheelers, jeeps, commercial vehicles and cars, synthetic fibres, cold rolled products and industrial alcohol. Small scale industries have also come up in a big way in the state. The state capital Mumbai is called as an industrial city. Industrial development in the state is largely concentrated in Mumbai. The six important industries in the district are cotton textiles, chemicals, machinery, electrical, transport and metallurgy.
4.7 AGRICULTURE:

Although Maharashtra is a highly industrialized state of India, agriculture continues to be the main occupation of the state. Principal crops include rice, jowar, bajra, wheat, pulses, turmeric, onions, cotton, sugarcane and several oil seeds including groundnut, sunflower and soyabean. The state has huge areas, under fruit cultivation of which mangoes, bananas, grapes, and oranges are the main ones. Irrigation facilities are being extended so that agriculture could be made less dependent upon rain water. The net irrigated area totals 33,500 square kilometres.

Maharashtra state takes immense pride for having one of the most efficient irrigation systems in the country. Farmers in Maharashtra use canals pump irrigation, seepage lakes, tube-wells, lakes and drip irrigation to irrigate their farm lands. As matter a fact today Maharashtra is a frontrunner state in drip irrigation – a irrigation method that saves huge quantity of water.

To further enhance and improve Maharashtra’s irrigation system, Maharashtra government has also established 5 Irrigation Development Corporations in the State whose primary responsibility is to supervise and ensure completion of irrigation projects. The names of these 5 irrigation Development Corporations are as follows:

- Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC).
- Godavari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (GMIDC).
- Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC).
- Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation (TIDC).
- Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation (KIDC).

4.8 ECONOMY:

Industry is the backbone of Maharashtra’s economy. The state alone accounts for 23% of country’s entire income. Mumbai, the capital is the hub of the country’s textile mills. Other notable centres of weaving are Malegaon & Bhiwandi.

The State of Maharashtra has the largest economy in the country. Its Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices stood at `3,71,877Crore in the year
2004-05. The State roughly accounted for 13 per cent of the national income. It had the fifth highest per capita income in the country at `36,423. (CMIE, 2010)

With such formidable industrial & agricultural base and rich human capital, Maharashtra has managed to outshine other Indian states in various important economic areas. Some of the major economic achievements of Maharashtra state are as follows (MaharashtraOnline, 2012):

- Over 41% of the S&P CNX 500 conglomerates have corporate offices in Maharashtra.
- Today Maharashtra is second largest exporter of software products with annual exports of 18000 crore.
- Maharashtra is also one of the largest exporters of wine today. Nashik Wine Park located in Nashik city of Maharashtra is hub of wine manufacturing in India.
- Maharashtra is hub of automobile production. Leading automobile manufacturing companies like Tata motors, Bajaj motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have their manufacturing units in Maharashtra.
- Today Maharashtra is top contributor to booming biotechnology sector with 35.04% share of the total biotech revenue.
- Today Maharashtra has 3,139 pharmaceutical manufacturing units which have immensely contributed in making India one of the leading manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.
- Maharashtra contributes to about 10.4% to India’s textile and apparel output. It also has largest area under cultivation for cotton.
- MIDC has built 227 industrial complexes with 1,30,000 acres of land which have contributed immensely to growth of India.
- Maharashtra is one of leading states to have Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for IT, gems &jewelry, wine, textile, leather and other important industries.
- Maharashtra is credited for developing sugar industry on cooperative lines in which farmers acquire direct share in sugar mill’s profit.
- Maharashtra’s average annual contribution to country’s total export is 30%, which is highest amongst all Indian states.
References:


