

livelihoods

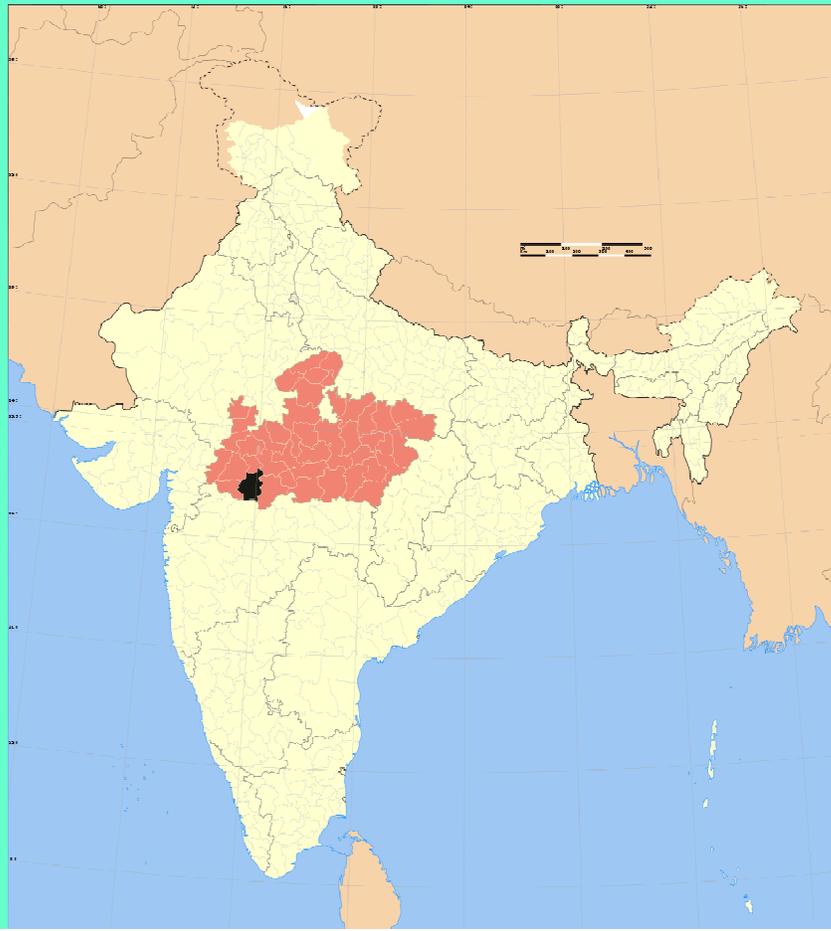
today and tomorrow

March 2018

‘Kshetram’

Nimar Region

Nestled in south of Vindhya ranges and consisting of two river valley portions; Narmada and Tapti, lies a region named “Nimar.” The region is further separated by a 24 km stretch of Satpura range. It is located in Madhya Pradesh (MP) state, in west-central India. Nimar formed a district of colonial India in Nerbudda Division (ND) of central province, with its administrative headquarters at Khandwa. The region was formerly a part of the princely state of Indore.



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For centuries, Nimar region has been chief highway connecting North India and Deccan area in south. Located on Satpura range, the famous fort Asirgarh has been the pass and is therefore known as “Key to the Deccan.” It stands on the highest peak of about 800 ft (244 m) above the plain and 1800 ft (549 m) above sea-level. Post-Independence, the district was divided into West Nimar, East Nimar districts. West Nimar was further split into Barwani and Khargone districts. On similar lines, East Nimar was split into Khandwa and Burhanpur districts.

Nimar region comprises of four districts; Barwani, Burhanpur, Khandwa and Khargone districts. The region is home to Nimadi language, related to Malvi language of Malwa region as well to other Rajasthani languages. District of Khandwa, also known as East Nimar, has presence of lower valley of Narmada river. It covers an area of 6206 km². Narmada forms part of the northern boundary, and on south, Satpura range covers the district.

Barwani district was created on 25 May 1998. It covers an area of 3,665 km² and lies in south-western corner of Madhya Pradesh (MP). The district is bordered by state of Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat on west, Dhar district towards north and Khargone district on the east.

Khargone district, formerly known as West Nimar (WN) district, is part of Indore division and covers 8030 km². It is surrounded by Dhar, Indore and Dewas in north, state of Maharashtra in south, Burhanpur and Khandwa in east and Barwani in west. Burhanpur district was created on 15 August 2003. River Tapti flows through the district from east to west. District is divided from Khandwa on the north by Satpura range. Burhanpur is one of the most prominent places for the people of Dawoodi Bohra community and houses one of the holiest and largest dargahs of the community. Demographics of the region with variations are given in Table below. On the population front, district of Khargone has a high population, followed by Barwani, Khandwa and Burhanpur districts. Barwani district has high population density, followed by Khargone, Burhanpur and Khandwa districts. Population growth rate for the decade 2001-2011 has been highest in Barwani district, followed by Khargone, Khandwa and Burhanpur districts.

Name of the District	Population (2011 Census)	Population Density Per Sq. km	Growth Rate (2001-2011)	Sex Ratio (for 1000 males)
Khandwa	1,309,443	178	21.44%	944
Barwani	1,385,659	256	27.55%	981
Khargone	1,872,413	233	22.81%	963
Burhanpur	7, 56,993	221	19.23%	900

Ideal sex ratio is between 950-970 girls per 1000 males (2011 Census). In Nimar region, Burhanpur has poor sex ratio of 900, followed by Khandwa at 944. The remaining districts of Barwani & Khargone have relatively fair sex ratios. The poor sex ratio is largely due to underlying social, economic and cultural patterns of the society in different ways.

Literacy rates in the districts of Nimar region are as follows; 67.53% in Khandwa, 50.23% Barwani, 63.98% in Khargone and 64.36% in Burhanpur district. Barwani district has average literacy rate compared to other districts. Literacy is an important social characteristic, having positive lasting effects towards better attainment of health and nutrition and impacts overall socio-economic development milieu.

Climate of the region is tropical. In Khandwa, summers are much rainier than the winters. Average rainfall in the district is 932 mm. Average annual temperature is 26.6°C. Burhanpur district and Barwani district have a local

steppe climate. Rainfall is less; averaging 812 mm in Burhanpur and 676 mm in Bawarni district. Average annual temperature is 27.2°C. Khargone district has a transitional climate; tropical wet and dry climate and also a humid sub-tropical climate. Summers are extremely hot and dry. The region during summers becomes very hot and dry with hot winds blowing, widely affecting the local ecology. The district receives 914 mm of rainfall. Rainy season is humid, and this district is commonly affected by the flooding of river Kunda that flows from outskirts of the city.

Nimar region falls under tropical dry deciduous forest, and is drained by Narmada, Tapti, Kunda, Deba, Veda, Abna, Gohan, Chota Tava and Machak. Dense forest vegetation is found in Bijargarh, Katkut, Barwah, Asirgarh, Bawangaja. Vegetation forest of Nimar is classified into teak forest and mixed forest. The region also has unique types of aquatic flora as it has numerous ponds, rivers, tanks, lakes and ditches. Common aquatic plants are Eichornia crassipes, Lemna minor, Pistia stratiotes, Spirodella polyrhiza, Hydrilla verticillata, Nymphaeae nouchalli, Nymphoides hydrophylla, Potamogeton crispus, Sagittaria sagittifolia, Ceratophyllum demersum, Utricularia aurea, Trapa natan.

Nimar region is home to various tribes such as Gonds, Bhils, Korku, Kol, Sahariya and Baiga. Bhil tribe has the highest population in Barwan district. In Khandwa district, Kol, Korku, Sahariya and Baiga have registered higher population. Barwani district has a total forest area of 1,83,000 ha. The district has limited forest wealth. Large sects of tribal population earn their livelihoods from available forest products, such as Tendu leaves, firewood etc. There are two forest divisions in the district i.e., Barwani and Sendhwa.

ANALYSIS OF VEGETATION AND FLORAL DIVERSITY OF NIMAR REGION, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA (PDF Download Available). Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272182225_ANALYSIS_OF_VEGETATION_AND_FLORAL_DIVERSITY_OF_NIMAR_REGION_MADHYA_PRADESH_INDIA [accessed Feb 07 2018].

The region has presence of both minor and major minerals. Calcite is a major mineral found in Barwani district. Minor minerals such as stone, murmum and sand are found in Khandwa, Barwani and Khargone districts. Gitti, a minor mineral, is found in Barwani, while Dolomite is found in Khargone district.

Economy of the region is distinct. Agriculture and allied sectors dominate the region, followed by industries. Agriculture crops cultivated are cotton, soya bean, chilly, wheat, pigeon pea, paddy and maize. Various horticulture crops grown are mangoes, oranges, sweet lime, lemon, grapes, pomegranate, custard apple, papaya and others. Burhanpur district is the largest producer of bananas.

Apart from agriculture and horticulture, vegetables are also grown. Tomato, Potato, Lady's Finger, Brinjal, Green Peas, Cauliflower, Onion, Garlic, Ajwain, Leafy Vegetables are also grown. Rearing of livestock is an important activity. Various livestock reared by populations are Goat, Sheep, Camel, Pig, Yak, non-descriptive cattle, local low yielding Buffaloes and backyard poultry.

Livelihoods of local populations in the region are centered on farming and allied activities. The region is also home to cotton ginning industries and local populations work as daily wage labour in the industries. Barwani district is famous for its cotton ginning industry. Sendhwa Teshil is the centre. The town of Anjad is home to many cotton factories, providing employment to local populations.

In Khargone district, economy revolves around agriculture. Simultaneously, it has several other industries employing local populations. The district has the distinction of India's biggest cotton-producing regions. It is home to various cotton processing units in both co-operative sector and as well in private sector.

Khandwa district is famous for its wheat variety "Khandwa 2", known for its aroma, colour and quality. The district is famous for its local variety of cotton grown here and also a variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables grown. The district is home to famous pilgrimage (Omkareshwar). This tourist destination also provides local livelihoods to the local population residing near by. Earlier, cannabis was grown in this district under government supervision. The

district has lack of irrigation means and as a result is monsoon dependent for agriculture production.

Burhanpur district is famous for textile industries, and is a hub for power loom industry. There are various manufacturing units located in the region providing employment to local populations. Manufacturing of pipes and agriculture equipment are done here. The district also has several cotton and oil mills. The district has a huge market for unani medicines.

The region is also home to many micro and small enterprises and artisan units. They are primarily Agro-based, cotton textile, wooden, silk, artificial thread based clothes, jute, jute based, readymade garments and embroidery, paper and paper products, leather, chemical, rubber, plastic, petro based, mineral, metal based, engineering units, electricity machinery, repairing, servicing and others. These various small enterprises and artisan units provide livelihoods.

Nimar region situated in the south western part of Madhya Pradesh and lie between 210 -05'N Latitude and 740 – 25' to 760-14'E Longitude. The region has a very rich floral diversity. It is also a treasure of valuable natural resources.

Climate of Nimar is arid and dry, maximum-minimum temperature ranges between 22 C to 48 C. Average rainfall of the area is between 83 mm to 11000 mm. Maximum humidity of the region is around 70%.

Soils of the region are covered by black cotton soil. Major rivers flowing in the region are Narmada, Tapti, Kunda, Chhota-Twa, Machak, providing varied ecological habitats.

Rich pocket of vegetation and dense forests are found in Kalibith, Nagalwadi, Asirgarh, Pipaljhopa and Sirvel. The region is home to both teak and mixed forests.

The region has potential for service industry in areas of cycle repairing, book binding, electric rewinding, workshop service centre and others. There is huge scope for new agro-based enterprises such as dal mills, floor mills, food processing, cattle feed and soya extraction plant.

The region is home to natural resource base and over the decades, new enterprises have emerged as alternative livelihoods for both urban-rural populations. Developing these enterprises is important in the region as it would significantly contribute to household income and employment. Development of enterprises will provide income earning avenues to both landless, women and also to marginal/small landholding families. Needs of the community can be prioritized in enhancing their livelihoods. ❖