



livelihoods

today and tomorrow

May 2018

‘Kshetram’

Khandesh Region

In India, there are 29 diverse states and around more than 100 regions with vibrant cultures, beautiful languages and people; Maharashtra is one of the states. It is the third largest state by size and the second largest populated among all the Indian states. In Maharashtra, there are five regions; Khandesh is at the North-West, extending between 20°8' and 22°7' North Latitude and 73°42' and 76°28' East Longitude. This region is one of the least developed places in the country, bordered on the North-West by the states of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, and on the East and South by Buldhana district of Vidarbha region, Aurangabad district of Marathwada region and Nasik district of Maharashtra. Khandesh comprises of three districts i.e. Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar. It can be divided into Western Khandesh and Eastern Khandesh. Western Khandesh has two districts Dhule and Nandurbar, while Jalgaon is in the Eastern.



In India, there are 29 diverse states and around more than 100 regions with vibrant cultures, beautiful languages and people; Maharashtra is one of the states. It is the third largest state by size and the second largest populated among all the Indian states. In Maharashtra, there are five regions; Khandesh is at the North-West, extending between 20°8' and 22°7' North Latitude and 73° 42' and 76°28' East Longitude. In olden days, Khandesh was known as Khanha Desh, which means Lord Shreekrishna's Desh. This region is one of the least developed places in the country, bordered on the North-West by the states of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, and on the East and



South by Buldhana district of Vidarbha region, Aurangabad district of Marathwada region and Nasik district of Maharashtra. Khandesh comprises of three districts Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar. In the year 1906, Khandesh was divided into East Khandesh and West Khandesh. Western Khandesh has two districts Dhule and Nandurbar, while Jalgaon is in the Eastern.

Khandesh is a well-known region for its prehistoric significance and rich heritage with Marathi as its official language. Ahirani and Gurjar are spoken in Western Khandesh while Khaneshi is spoken in the Eastern part of Khandesh. It was the terminal territorial part under the rule of Faruqi Dynasty of Mughals. The start of Deccan region was demarcated by its boundary. The total population of the region is around 80 lakhs. In this region, the total working population is 56.35%, while almost 75% is below 40 years with a literacy rate of 85.7%.

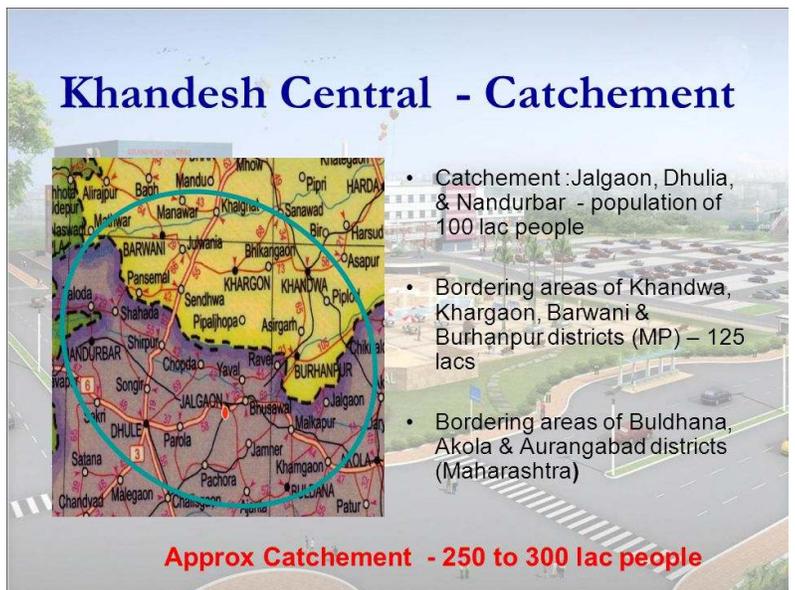
The physiography of the districts is made up of high hill ranges on the North-Western side, alluvium in the centre and low hill ranges to the South-East. The main river Tapti and its tributaries drain in the west into Arabian Sea. It is bounded to the north by the Satpura Range, to the east by Berar (Vidarbha) region, to the south by the Ajantha Hills and to the west by the Western Ghats and beyond them the coastal plains of Gujarat. It has one of the most forested districts during Bombay Presidency, and today has the Yawal Wildlife reserve. In this regions, there are many tribal pockets; such as Bhils as well as non-tribal Ahirs.

Climate can be conveniently divided into seasons i.e. winter season from December to February, summer season from March to May and rainy season from June to September and post-monsoon season from October to November. About 81% of the rainfall is received during monsoon in this region, with highest rainfall in July month.

Tribals reside in hilly forest area of Satpura Mountain and extended ranges of Sahyadri, and very few tribal communities such as Bhil and Vanjara have migrated and settled in plain areas. Each tribe has its own language, customs, rites, ceremonies, and beliefs. Approximately half of the tribal population belongs to Nandurbar district of Khandesh. Tribal communities usually have small landholdings and they more dependent on forest and agro forestry. Most of the tribal communities reside in hamlets or small villages.

Jalgaon District – It is formally known as East Khandesh district and has 11765 km² of area. This district is divided into the 15 tehsils, and there a total 1519 villages in the district. As per the 2011 census, the total population of the district was 42,24,442; of which, male were 21,97,835 and female were 20,26,607. The urban population of the district was 31.80%; literacy rate of the district was 79.73%. Jalgaon district is an important trading and distribution centre for tea, gold, pulses, and agricultural produce in North Maharashtra. The total forest area is 1972 sq.km which covers 25.08% of the geographical area of Jalgaon district which is 218 hectare. Raver, Chopda, Yavel tehsils comes under forest area. Jalgaon is a major junction on the Mumbai-Howrah main railway line. Jalgaon has

exceptionally diverse climate with temperature reaching as highest 45 Degree Celsius in summer. It receives rain fall about 700 mm during monsoon followed by pleasant temperature in winter. Generally soil in Jalgaon is black fertile, medium fertile, forest oriented and murum. There is no major mineral deposits in the district. However sand, maron, stone, mica and clay are available in abundance, which can be suitably use for construction of roads and buildings. Total cattle as per 19th livestock census – 2012 of Jalgaon is approximately 18 lakhs which includes cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry. Poultry and cows comprising the highest percentage of the total livestock. The total number of register manufacturing units in the district is 4276 which includes micro and small enterprises and artisan units. Out of 4276, 857 are food and beverages followed by chemicals and chemicals products and other service activities.



Dhule District – It is formally known as West Khandesh district and it lies in the upper Tapti basin in the North West corner of Maharashtra state. In 1998, Dhule district was partitioned as Dhule and Nandurbar districts. Dhule district has 8063 km² of area. The district was divided into four tehsils. The district is surrounded by Madhya Pradesh on the North, Nandurbar District and Gujarat State on the West, Nashik district on the South and Jalgaon district towards the East.

As per 2011 census, the total population of district was 20,48,781; male were 10,55,669 and female were 9,93,112. The district literacy rate is 74.61%. The total forest area 2671.19sq.km, which is 28.5% of the total area that is 733 thousand hectares. The forest in the district many species of trees such as Teak, Sadad, Khair, and Shasm from the economy point of view are important. The major forest produce of the district are fuel wood, teak wood, bamboo, grass, tendu patta and mahua flowers. The climate of the district generally dry except in Monsoon and winter seasons. However, monsoon humidity in the weather rises during the rainy season. The temperature attained in the summer and winter seasons are extremes, i.e. 45 degree Celsius and 6 degree Celsius. The average rainfall of Dhule district is 593 mm and its not uniform allover the parts of the district. Out four tehsils Shirpur and Shindkheda blocks of Dhule district fall under Tapi river basin having good irrigation facilities. The soil of the districts is broadly classified into three zones i.e. Deep Black type, Medium type and Light type. Approximately 50% of the total area is light type soil, 30% of soil medium black type and 20% of soil deep black type. The light black type soil is very good for kharif crops such as Bajra, jowar, groundnut and cotton cultivation. They are nine important rivers flowing in the districts, Panzara being the largest. Minerals such as sand, murum and stone are available abundance. Livestock in the district has total of 2049 according to livestock census 2012 out of which poultry birds constitutes 1084 followed by goats and sheep. The total number of register manufacturing units in the district is 1845. It includes micro and small enterprises and artisan units. Out of 1845, 219 are service activities followed by textiles, food and beverages.

The total working population is 9.36 lakh, out of which 25.54% are farmers, 45.87% are agricultural laborers, 2.2% are household workers and 26.38% are engaged in other activities. District income comes majorly from agriculture, forests, fishery, mines, industries, construction, etc.

Nandurbar District – This district is have strong mythological background. It is an administrative district in the northwest corner of Khandesh Region. It is divided into the six tehsils. The total population of district was 16,46,177; male were 8,34,866 and female were 8,11,311. Literacy rate of the district was 63.04%. The district is surrounded by

Madhya Pradesh state on the North, Dhule district on the East, Gujarat state in the West Nashik on the South. The district has a total area of 5034.23 sq. km. The forest area is 2194 sq.km, which is 20.78% of the total area of the district. The forest produces includes custard apple, fuel wood, grass, gum, tendu leaves, bamboo, etc. The district has dry climate general. The temperature in the district ranges from 42.8 degrees Celsius to 10.6 degree Celsius in winter. The average rainfall in the district is about 888 mm and it is not uniform in all parts of the district. The soil can be divided into three zones. The zones consists of light shallow and sandy soil which is good for kharif crop, the medium quality soil which is useful for minor irrigation, the black cotton soil which has good water holding capacity and is suitable long duration crops. The principal river is Tapi. There are no major minerals of economical value in the district. However, the mud is use for making bricks, sand and metal stone are used for construction work. The total livestock of the district constitutes cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep and poultry birds. The total number of register manufacturing units in the district is 520. It includes micro and small enterprises and artisan units. Out of 520, 251 are business related units and 90 are textiles manufacturing units.

Resources and Livelihoods of the Khandesh Region

The major livelihood of the people here is Agriculture. They cultivate cereals, millets, pulses, cotton, sugarcane, vegetables etc. The region is rich in Flora. In this region, staple food are Jawar, bajra, wheat, maize, rice, pulses (black gram, horsegram, pigeon pea) etc.

Cultural and historical places in Khandesh region are the living flag posts of Indian culture. Their preservation and conservation is the need of the hour. The deteriorating frescoes and caves of Pitalkhore near Chalisgaon, Shendurni of Sindurasur; fort of Parola- the home place of freedom fighter Rani Lakshmibai; Akrani Mahal of Dhadgaon; Hemadpant style temple of Mudhaladevi at Vaghali; Padmalaya near Erandol; Swinging tower of Farkande, Erandol; Hot water spring at Unapdev near Chopada; collection of articles used by Sane Guruji placed in Pratap College, Amalner; Internationally famous art gallery of Keki Moose at Chalisgaon; Wooden house of Bahinaabai Chaudhari at Asoda village etc are the living legends of rich cultural heritage of the region. This rich cultural heritage of national importance has opened up a livelihood potential for the region.

Rich culture has always had folk arts as an important component. Likewise, Khandesh is also a region of numerous folk arts. Large groups of Mahar and Mang communities inherit the inborn spirit of traditional arts. It is aptly said in Khandesh- "Singing and dancing (is found) at Mahar's house and reading, writing at Brahmin's". This mixture of heritage and arts has opened up the livelihoods for the people which is evident with Mang and Mahar communities exhibiting singing, dancing, music playing, acting, through different folk arts such as folk plays, Tamashas (traditional stage acts), orchestra, band party and banjo groups. This fact is reflected from the existing well-known groups of Bhika Bhima Sangvikar and Anand Loknatya Mandal.

Due to its scenic landscape and weather conditions, it has been developed as a tourist destination over the years. The popular spots include Unapdev hot water springs, Avchit Hanuman temple, Padmalaya, Manudevi and Patnadevi temples; Rameswaram temple, situated at the confluence of Tapi and Purna rivers; Pal Forest & Hill Station; Girna & Waghur Dams; Shirsoli & Mehrun lakes etc. Government of Japan has invested 500 crore for promoting tourism in Ajantha.

The region has different types of medicinal plants, with most of the species located in the Satpura ranges of Westren Khandesh. The tribals of this region depend on the forests for traditional medicines; moreover, it is deep rooted in their culture. Traditionally, they use various plants for number of ailments including snake bites. A total of 75 Angiospermic species belonging to 61 genera and 34 families have been found with potential aromatic plants. Tree and herbaceous species constitute a major segment of aromatic flora in the region. Of these, 27 species are exotic, either naturalized or found under cultivation for various purposes. Totally, 57 species are being cultivated providing livelihoods to the farmers.

This region is very famous for its rich diet and food varieties including Puran Poli, Bharit-Bhakri, Fojdari Dal, Thali Peeth, Chakli Chat, Ptondyachi Bhaji, Ambadyachi Bhaji, Oli Chatni, Bibdya, Papad, Shev Bhaji, Pithle Bhakri, Godshev, Gavhachi Labhshi, Sanjori, Bajri Khichadi, Kadhi, Rasoi, Gul Jalebi, Moong Wade, Avla Sarbat, Sabudana Khichadi, Keli Gulabjam, Keli Laddu, Khandoli Bhaji Bhakri, Edni, Dal Batti, Chicken Biryani, Chapati Bhakri, Mutton Soup, Mutton Korma and Mutton Biryani amongst key attractions. The wide range of food items are a clear indication of there existing diverse food based industries including FMCGs, nutrition based Bio-tech Companies.

Khandesh has its livelihood opportunities distributed across major large scale sectors which include Irrigation Systems, Textiles, construction etc., and MSMEs including agro-based processing units like agro-polymers, floral extraction units, Oil processing units, Papad making units etc. Major exportable products include Mango, Banana, Guava etc., and Pulp Powder. The region also provides livelihoods across service sectors including hotels and computer training.

With major export products as Mango, Banana and Sugarcane, there is a very high potential to generate livelihoods by setting up of different processing units like Banana based foods like chips, Bio – coal Briquettes from the Banana and Sugarcane farm wastes, Sugar processing industries, Oil processing units etc.

The region has a big advantage in its higher literacy percentage. With time, the area has seen changes in the marketing. The entrepreneurs are continuously adopting new updated technologies. The percentage of e-commerce is getting higher and more online retailers are entering in the market in this region. The past few years have seen a rise in the number of organizations embracing electronic technologies and use of Internet in their business. ❖