

DISTRICT INDEX (MAHARASHTRA)

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Area: 1074 Sq. Kms. Population: 2,21,016. Density of Population: 209 per sq. km. Literacy: 54.49%. Main language spoken: Marathi. PRICE: Rs. Fifteen.

DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES

AKOLA

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AKOLA MAHARASHTRA

NATIONAL ATLAS AND THEMATIC MAPPING ORGANISATION

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AKOLA DISTRICT

The district lies between 19°51' and 21°16' N latitude and 76°38' and 77°44' E longitude and is bounded by the districts of Amravati to the north, Amravati and Yavatmal in the east, Parvati and Yavatmal in the south and Buldana in the west. It extends over an area of 1074 km².

The river Purua traverses this district from east to west. In ancient days Rishi and Sages used to live on the banks of the river. During those days Great Rishi Vasishta lived here in Washim. So this place was known as Vasishtipura. In the recent past this area was part of Dandakaranya. In 1953 the East India Company took back the assignment of lease for Bear from Nizam of Hyderabad. In 1957 this part was again restored to the Nizam and Bear was reconstituted into two districts. East Bear with headquarters at Amravati and West Bear with headquarters at Akola. In 1963 the administration of Bear was transferred from Hyderabad to the Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces. Prior to reorganisation of states in 1956 this district was part of Madhya Pradesh. And since 1st May 1956 the district is a part of the state of Maharashtra. As per 1981 census the district comprised of 6 taluhs which included 9 towns and 156 inhabited villages. In 1991 the number of taluhs has gone upto 13 while only one town (Risod) has come up.

Most of the area of the district is occupied by Deccan Trap formations. They generally tend to form steep hills giving rise to plateaus. Thick deposits of alluvial sediments comprising of clay, silt, sand and gravel are found to occur in the major river valley sections.

From physiographic point of view the district exhibits two units viz. hills and plains. The Caveland hills (1178 m), an extension of the Satpura hill system, are spread over the northern part of the district. The southern part of the district is also hilly. These are the ranges of the Akola hills. The Balalghat plateau (550 m) is a low plateau. It is a plain area as the watershed between the west-flowing Tap System and the east-flowing Godavari System. The plains, which form the district, consist of the most fertile plain.

The district experiences, in general, a hot summer with relative dryness throughout the year except during the South-West Monsoon season. May is the hottest month (42.4°C). The normal annual rainfall over the district ranges from 750 mm to 1000 mm.

The forest in the district is of Dry Deciduous Type and appears mainly in Patur, Bara Takli and Kurnool taluhs on the Balalghat plateau. Teak, the dominant species, are found to occur in association with other species like Babul, Acacia, Bamboo and Sandalwood.

The soils of the district are broadly divided into three major categories viz. Coarse Shallow soil occurring on hilly areas in the north, Medium Black soil occurring on the plains and Deep Black soil occurring mainly in the valley regions. As the soils are primarily derived from the trap rocks and reworked largely by the rivers, are fertile.

Akola district is predominantly agricultural with about 80 per cent of its total working population engaged in agricultural pursuits. Among the food crops cotton stands first in rank and is followed by wheat and rice. Among the non-food crops cotton ranks first. Cotton, cotton-groundnut, tur, and mung are the principal kharif crops, while wheat and gram form the main Rabi crops. About 75 per cent of the total geographical area of the district is ploughed of which about 10 per cent is irrigated. The chief source of irrigation is wells.

The district is well connected with Bombay, Pune and Nagpur by National Highway No. 6. The Bombay-Nagpur Calcutta trunk railway and Acharya Kirtipalgarh-trunk light railway pass through Akola. All these offer good infrastructural facilities not only for the development of agriculture, but for agro-based and other industries also. Canning and preserving factories are the most important among the agro-based industries. Textiles, hydro-generated oil (Vanaraj) etc. units constitute the large-scale manufacturing industries. Other small scale establishments are distilleries, oil presses, soap making, glass, paper and tool dies engineering etc.

Raw cotton, which is called White Gold forms the most important article of export in addition to cotton-wed, oil-seeds, oil-cake, lower etc. Almost all the towns and large settlements serve as the centre of trade and commerce for the agricultural produce grown in the district.

REFERENCES

Boundaries: state, district, taluhs
reserved forest
Name of headquarters; district, taluhs
Names of other important places, village, forest species
Roads, metalled according to importance
unmetalled, Cart-track
Bridges: railway road
Railways: broad gauge, metre gauge
Main power line
Rivers: perennial, non-perennial, Canal
Lake, Tank, Well, Tube well
Settlements: urban, rural
Cultivated land
Forest: Scrub
Waste land
Reserved Forest
Post office, Post & Telegraph office
Police station
Bungalows: dak or travellers, inspection
Rest house, Circuit house
Hospital, Dispensary
Temple, Mosque
Places of tourist interest, market
College, Higher Secondary School

