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**INTERVIEW  
MATERIAL FOR  
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MAHARASHTRA**





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# UPSC CSE 2022 MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME



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# MAHARASHTRA

## HISTORY

### Historical Background

- The early political history of Maharashtra is traced from the 4th century B. C. There is Mora port on the Karanja Island near Mumbai. It is named after the Mauryan suzerainty over the area. After the decline of Mauryan Empire, the Satavahanas came to power in Deccan, that ruled Maharashtra from Pratisthana, the present Paithan a Tahsil Headquarter in Aurangabad district, which came to an end in the year 218. The Traikutakas came to power in Maharashtra and ruled some of the parts like vidarbha from 250 onwards. After the decline of Traikutkas, the Vakatakas controlled whole of Maharashtra. Subsequently, the Kalacuris and the Chalukyas came to power respectively and ruled Maharashtra up to 1180 A. D. from Badami as their capital, which is in the present state of Karnataka. Dantidurga the first King of Chalukya dynasty conquered the whole Deccan. Krishna, the successor of Dantidurga extended the borders of Maharashtra to the Vindya Mountains in the north to Canjeevaram in the south. As the Vakatakas carved the beautiful cave no. 16, 17 and 19 at the Ajanta caves during their period, the Chalukya King Krishna built the beautiful Kaitas temple at the Ellora caves.
- In the 12th century A. D. the Chalukyan Empire was divided into the three dynasties as the Yadavas, the Hoysalas and the Kakatiyas. The Yadavas ruled from Devgiri i.e., Daulatabad a Taluka Headquarter in present Aurangabad District. The Hoysalas from the area of present Karnataka and the Kakatiyas ruled Talangana, which is one of the important divisions of today's Andhra Pradesh. In the last decade of the Thirteenth Century, Alauddin Khilji reached Devgiri and recovered a huge indemnity from the Devgiri ruler, which made Devgiri a vassal state. The other Maratha warriors, who did not submit to the Muslims, were driven towards Maval, the eastern ranges of Sahyadri. In the second half of the fifteenth century, the Muslim rulers of Deccan became tolerant towards the Hindus. As the result, the Maratha chieftains began to accept services under such Muslim rulers and received attractive rewards for their bravery.
- In the Seventeenth Century, the Maratha in Maval, Konkan, Karad, Pune and Ahmednager regions got independence under the leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji, a great military and political genius, who crowned himself as the Maratha King in 1674.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji infused the national spirit in the Maratha people, which led them to protect themselves from foreign aggression and save their culture and religion from such onslaughts. Chhatrapati Shivaji was a great visionary for which his whole regime was the most important evidence. After the death of Chhatrapati Shivaji, the brutal policies of Aurangzeb led the Marathas to declare the Maratha war of independence, which led to the concentration of the Maratha power in the hands of Peshwas who resided at Pune and increased the Maratha power day after day throughout the country. In the middle of the eighteenth century, several Maratha nobles established themselves firmly at Baroda, Indore, Gwalior, Nagpur and many other places. They also tried to establish the Maratha confederacy at Delhi as the sovereign power of India in place of the Mughal but the Battle of 1761 brought out a complete disaster for them. The Marathas tried to recover themselves under the leadership of Madhavrao but could not receive their former prestige. It was festered with internal disunity and finally, it submitted to the British in 1818.

### Maratha Empire

- The origins of the Maratha Empire can be traced back to a series of rebellions led by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj against the rule of the Bijapur Sultanate and later the Mughal Empire. Based on the principle of *HindawiSwarajya*, he carved out an independent Maratha kingdom with Raigad as the capital.
- In 1674, he was crowned Chhatrapati (sovereign) of the new Maratha Kingdom after successfully defending it from Mughal incursions. At the time of his death, the kingdom was defended by a series of forts and well-equipped naval establishments. By the time of his grandson's rule in the early 18th century, the kingdom had increased its size and transformed into a full-fledged empire.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was succeeded by his eldest son Sambhaji in 1681. He continued the expansion policy of his father defeating the Portuguese and Chikka Deva Raya of Mysore to expand his borders. These

developments were alarming enough for Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to launch an expedition against the Marathas.

- In the 8 years of wars that followed, Shambhu Raje fought Aurangzeb all along the Deccan region, never losing any battle or his forts. Then in 1689, Sambhaji was ambushed by Mughal forces while on his way to meet his commanders at Sangameshwar. He was imprisoned and later executed by Aurangzeb to demoralise the Maratha forces, but they still fought on.
- Aurangzeb later proceeded to occupy the capital of Raigad, holding the family of Chhatrapati Sambhaji hostage. Sambhaji's half-brother Rajaram was crowned Chhatrapati in 1690, the coronation had taken place at Jinji fort in modern-day Tamil Nadu, assuming the regency for the seven-year-old son of Shambhu Raje, Shahu. Aurangzeb continued in his attacks against the Marathas and even caused Jinji fort after three attempts. Chhatrapati Rajaram escaped to Berar and died at Sinhagad in Pune in 1700.
- His widow, Tarabai, then heroically led the Maratha forces against the Mughals, successfully fighting them until they crossed the Narmada River and took Malwa in 1705. This was a crucial victory as the long drawn-out Maratha-Mughal conflict had drained the Mughal treasury and rebellions in other parts of the country had severely weakened it. This marked the beginning of Maratha's ascendancy in the subcontinent.

### Peshwa Era

- During this era, Peshwas belonging to the Bhat family controlled the Maratha Army and later became de facto rulers of the Maratha Empire till 1772. In due course of time, the Maratha Empire dominated most of the Indian subcontinent.
- Shahuji was released from captivity following the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. He proceeded to challenge and defeat Tarabai in a series of battles to regain the Maratha throne. In this way, in 1707, Satara and Kolhapur came into being as two separate principalities. This was confirmed by the Treaty of Varna in 1731.
- The death of Aurangzeb had plunged the Mughal Empire into a state of civil war in which his many sons fought for the throne. Chhatrapati Shahuji supported one of these claimants, Farrukhsiyar. After appointing Balaji Vishwanath as the Peshwa (Prime Minister), the Marathas marched to Delhi and managed to depose Emperor Bahadur Shah and put Farrukhsiyar on the throne. Grateful for Maratha's support, the new sovereign issued a declaration which gave the Marathas the right to collect taxes in the Mughal territory under Maratha control while granting swarajya to the Maratha homeland. Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath also managed to secure the release of Shahuji's mother from Mughal captivity.
- Beginning with Balaji Vishwanath, the Peshwa began a policy of expansion that saw the Marathas reach their greatest extent. Balaji's son Peshwa Baji Rao I further expanded the empire to include much of present-day central and south India. In the meantime, the Mughals were reduced to mere puppets under the protection of the Maratha Chhatrapati.
- The Maratha empire suffered a catastrophic setback when it faced defeat at the hands of the Afghan Durrani Empire in 1761. An entire generation of Maratha leaders lay dead on the battlefield and this caused the Maratha empire to fragment into different holdings under the control of individual Maratha clans. Eventually, the Maratha resurrection was started by Peshwa Madhavrao I and completed by Mahadaji Shinde. But the Maratha Empire would never again operate as a single autonomous unit from this point.

### The decline of the Maratha Empire

- A series of succession struggles in the late 18th century by the individual Maratha chiefs led to British intervention through the East India Company, who themselves were establishing its own power base in India. By supporting a rival claimant to the Maratha throne, the British asked for greater concessions from the new ruler upon his victory, weakening the Maratha Empire further. To prevent this blatant interference of their internal affairs, other Maratha chiefs fought the British in a series of three Anglo-Maratha wars. The first one ended in Maratha victory in 1782, with a restoration of the pre-war status quo.
- The cause of the second Anglo Maratha War ended in a Maratha defeat in which they were forced to sign a treaty acknowledging British paramountcy. The Third Anglo Maratha War from 1817-1818 was a last-ditch effort to regain sovereignty, resulting in the loss of Maratha independence: it left Britain in control of most of India.

- The last Peshwa, Nana Sahib, born as Govind Dhondu Pant, was the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II. He was one of the main leaders of the 1857 revolt against British rule. Though he was defeated in the revolt, his legacy inspired many to continue the struggle in the name of Indian Independence.

## Maratha Confederacy

- Maratha confederacy, an alliance formed in the 18th century after Mughal pressure forced the collapse of Shivaji's kingdom of Maharashtra.

After the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's death, Maratha power was revived under Shivaji's grandson Shahu. He confided power to the Brahman Bhat family, who became hereditary peshwas (chief



ministers). He also decided to expand northward with armies under the Peshwa's control. In Shahu's later years the power of the Peshwa increased. After his death, they became effective rulers. The leading Maratha families – Sindhia, Holkar, Bhonsle, and Gaekwar – extended their conquests in northern and central India and became more independent and difficult to control.

- The effective control of the Peshwa ended with the great defeat of Panipat (1761) at the hands of the Afghans and the death of the young Peshwa Madhav Rao I in 1772. Thereafter the Maratha state was a confederacy of five chiefs under the nominal leadership of the Peshwa at Poona. Though they united on occasion, as against the British (1775–82), more often they quarrelled. After he was defeated by the Holkar dynasty in 1802, the Peshwa Baji Rao II sought protection from the British, whose intervention destroyed the confederacy by 1818. The confederacy expressed a general Maratha nationalist sentiment but was divided bitterly by the jealousies of its chiefs.

## Modern History of Maharashtra

### Political conditions before the British conquest

- The Company's Directors sent Lord Wellesley as the Governor-General of the Company's territories in India, in 1798. He was destined to transform the British Empire in India into British Empire of India before he was recalled in 1805 for charges of 'rapacity, Oppression, cruelty and fraud' and also overstepping the legal limits of the powers delegated to him. He used to system of subsidiary alliances to trap and isolate the powerful Maratha Chiefs.
- The death of Pashwa Madhavrao II (Madhavrao Narayan) in October 1795 without a child had led to the civil war in Maharashtra in 1797. The succession claims to Peshwaship between the adopted son of Raghunathrao (the grandfather of the deceased Peshwa) and Reghunathrao's own son involved the Maratha Sardars-Shindes and Holkar in the dispute.
- Peshwa fled to the Konkan and appealed to Jonathan Duncan, Company's Governor of Bombay. The Peshwa was given the protection by the English East India Company. On December, 31, 1802 the Peshwa concluded a subsidiary treaty with the Company at Bassein. **The Treaty of Bassein** bartered away the independence of the Maratha Country to the Company for Protecting the Peshwa from his hostile sardars.
- The fugitive Peshwa's action was resented by the Maratha Chiefs-Yeshwantrao bitterly remarked "Bajirao has destroyed the Maratha State". They refused to give their accord to the Treaty of Bassein.

## Company rule

- At the beginning of the 17th century, the East India Company controlled Bombay (now Mumbai) and used it as one of their main trading posts. The Company slowly expanded areas under its rule. With the defeat of Peshwa Bajirao II in the Third Anglo-Maratha War, the triumph of Maharashtra was completed in 1818.

## British rule

The final victory of the East India company was a foregone conclusion as the Maratha Chiefs at Nagpur, Baroda, Indore and Gwalior had already accepted the subsidiary alliance with the company. After the fall of Marathas, the East India co. gained a lot of territory. They became powerful and gradually became active in administrative affairs of the Maharashtra (i.e. in Bombay Presidency). They introduced several changes from time to time.

1. **Law and Administration:** The Hindu Law books based on Manu-smriti provided for unequal justice but the Panchayat system had drawn the attention of Mountstuart Elphinstone. The inequality of justice in the Hindu Community was based on caste-considerations but the prevalent laws in England were equally bad and as severe as the criminal law of the Muslim rulers.
2. **Code Elphinstone:** Mountstuart Elphinstone when he was a commissioner for Deccan had come across many difficulties in the administration of the revenue system and administration. When he became the Governor in 1819 he wanted to establish "Rule of Law", the proud legacy of Englishman, in the foreign land under his charge that is Maharashtra. He wanted to check the power of money and high birth. Under the influence of Cornwallis Code the collectors were relieved of judicial duties and the civil courts were placed under District Judge. City courts and District Courts were established each presided over by an English Judge to deal with civil and revenue matters.
3. **Christian Missions:** Early Christian Missionaries came to India along with foreign invaders i.e. Portuguese, British, French, Dutch to fulfil their religious needs. When they perceived the miserable condition of downtrodden in India, their missionary zeal could not remain quiet. They started helping needy and poor people in the society. They improved the condition of masses through education and health services. They criticised Sati system, child marriage, infanticide, and other bad practices prevailed in the society. They started number of schools and provided useful knowledge. These were the general reforms of the missions. The Jesuits had propagated Catholicism and were satisfied once the people accepted their religion. The Protestant Missionaries could not do much in the territories ruled by the East India Company. William Carey who came to Bengal in 1793 was a member of the Baptist Missionary Society; Although he did not go to Maharashtra for his missionary work his influence was felt in Maharashtra because he had become a model for missionaries who came to Bombay Presidency in later years.

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Standardization of Marathi Language- Through the effort of the Christian missionary William Carey, the British Raj saw the standardization of Marathi Grammar. William Carey published the first Marathi dictionary in Devanagari script. In 1831, Captain James Thomas Molesworth and Major Thomas Candy compiled the most comprehensive Marathi-English dictionary, which is still in print nearly after two centuries. James Thomas Molesworth also worked on the standardization of Marathi. For this task, he used the Brahmins of Pune. He adopted the Sanskrit-dominated dialect spoken by Brahmins in the city as the standard dialect for Marathi.

#### REFORMS AND RESISTANCE: Reform from within

- Bal Gangadhar Shastri Jambhekar-** Like his contemporaries Dadoba Pandurang and Bhau Mahajan he was educated at the Elphinstone Institute. As he began to learn more and more about Englishmen and their civilization he was inspired to advocate social reforms, like his counterpart in Bengal Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Soon he came to be regarded as the Father of Modern Marathi and the Pioneer of the Renaissance in Western India. The reforms that he attempted were three-pronged 1) **Religious**, 2) **Social** and 3) **Humanitarian**. In the religious field he had attempted to instil rational approach among the priestly community. The social reforms that he attempted were by advocating widow- remarriage and better treatment to women. The humanitarian activities contemplated by him were of the nature of providing asylum to the socially condemned women. Jambhekar was not a revolutionary and his attempts in these three directions were not successful. He wanted to accomplish something to improve the existing condition of the people of Maharashtra. The effective instrument for bringing about the change was his weekly "Darpan" and the monthly magazine "Digdarshan". Jambhekar was intensely aware of the importance of new education. He was a distinguished educator. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Mathematics in Elphinstone College in Bombay and later an educational inspector in south Maharashtra.
- Bhaskar Pandurang Tarkhadkar -** Bhaskar was younger brother of Dadoba Pandurang which came to be known from a reference in the auto biography of D.P. Tarkhadkar. He was educated at the Elphinstone Institute like his brothers Dadoba and Dr. Atmaram. He examined the different claims made by the Company and scrutinized various aspects of the Company's government. He exposed the ugly features of their political and economic policies and trade practices.
- Bhau Mahajan's Intellectual Resistance to British Rule -** He was influenced by the ideas of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. Bhau Mahajan along with Bhaskar Tarkhadkar and Ramakrishna Vishwanath were in fact the fore- runners of the Drain Theory- developed by Dadabhai Naoroji in the 1870 s. Bhau Mahajan had thrown light on the financial aspect of the unnecessary Afghan War (1830-40) and how Lord Auckland was responsible for the drain of India's wealth. That was one instance of bad government which resulted in the sufferings of the Indian people.
- Dadoba Pandurang -** He founded the Association of Religion of Mankind (Manava Dharmasabha) in 1844. In his book 'Dharma Vivechana published in 1843 he had expressed his ideas about God and religion. The Association represented a universalism in religion and social life. This new religion was given a broad base of rationalism. This Association could hardly survive after the departure of Dadoba from Surat in 1846.
- Paramahansa Sabha-** In Maharashtra, the nineteenth century witnessed the development of social and religious societies and movements all driven by the motive to reform the society and religion. The Paramahansa Sabha, the Prarthana Samaj, the Arya Samaj and the Theosophical Society appeared on the scene. Acting strictly in secret, members of the Sabha or Mandal sought in their closed door gathering to change social and outdated practices, specially to bring about "the abolition of caste, the introduction of widow remarriage, and the renunciation of idolatry". ' These early social reformers, like political revolutionaries, were compelled to conduct their activities in secret because they were apprehensive of persecution by social conservatives and caste leaders".

## Non-Brahmin Politics

- At the beginning of the 20th -century, the non-Brahmin Hindu castes of Maharashtra started organizing with the blessings of Shahu of Kolhapur. Under the leadership of Keshavrao Jedhe and BaburaoJavalkar, the campaign took off in the early 1920s. Both belonged to the non-brahmin party.
- Their early goal was to capture the Ganpati and Shiv Jayanti festival from the domination of Brahmins. The party's aim combined nationalism with anti-casteism.
- With the merge of the non-Brahmin party with the Congress party in the 1930s by Jedhe, Congress changed into a more broadly based party but also a Maratha-dominated party.

## Reforms by B. R. Ambedkar

- B. R. Ambedkar was another notable Marathi social reformer. He led the campaign for the rights of Dalits. He disagreed with mainstream leaders like Gandhi on issues including untouchability, the partition of India, and the government system.
- Ambedkar initiated the Dalit Buddhist movement. He created a new school of Buddhism called Navayana.
- B. R. Ambedkar was the first Law and Justice Minister. He played an important role in writing the constitution of India. He is considered the Father of the Indian Constitution.

## Marathi Leaders in National Movement

- In 1942, the Quit India movement was started in Mumbai, which resulted in the transfer of power and independence of India in 1947.
- Leaders from Maharashtra like Raosaheb and Achutrao Patwardhan, Yeshwantrao Chavan, Shreedhar Mahadev Joshi, Nanasaheb Gore, Swami Ramanand Bharti, Nana Patil, V. S. Page, DhulappaNavale, Dhondiram Mali, Vasant Patil, Aruna Asif Ali, Ashfaqulla Khan, and many others.

## Industrialism in Maharashtra

- Originally, the British used India as a source of raw materials for the factories of England. By the end of the 19th-century, the modern manufacturing industry was developing in the city of Mumbai.
- The main product was cotton and the bulk of the workforce in these cotton mills was from Western Maharashtra, especially from the coastal Konkan region.

## Post-Independence history

### Creation of Maharashtra

- Many Indian states observe their formation day on 1 November, the day on which in the year 1956, Indian states were reorganised on a linguistic basis. The present state of Maharashtra on the other hand is four years younger to several of its peers - it was carved out on 1 May 1960, along with Gujarat.
- The Bombay Presidency, the administrative subdivision in the British era, has a colourful history. The British first settled in Surat on the West Coast when the Mughal Emperor Jahangir let them start a factory in 1618. The British called their first acquisitions Western Presidency. When half a century later the British got control of the islands, which form the modern day Mumbai city, the capital was moved. Thus came about the Bombay Presidency in 1687. In effect, this was also the capital of the East India Company (EIC), which leased these islands from the British Crown. Until 1753, Bombay was the de facto EIC capital, after which the control transferred to Calcutta for almost a century and a half.
- Through this period and up until 1935, the Bombay Presidency continued to expand territorially. When the British started to cede some political and administrative control to the Indians in the mid 1930s, the Bombay Presidency included the following modern day areas - Konkan extending till Kasargod, Western Maharashtra, North Karnataka, all of Gujarat east of Ahmadabad, parts of Rajasthan, all of Sindh province of Pakistan, and some parts of Yemen and Oman.
- The restructuring which started in 1935 took better part of the next 25 years to complete.
- Yemen, Oman and Sindh were the first to go. But when India became independent in 1947, then Bombay state still extended from modern day southern Rajasthan to northern Kerala. Several princely states, which accepted the



British suzerainty before Independence or on joining the Indian federation around 1947, also kept getting added to the Bombay state, making it a large discontinuous mass of land in 1947.

- The central India territory continued to reorganise between 1947 and 1956. By 1956, the Marathwada part of the Hyderabad state and the Vidarbha part of the erstwhile Madhya Bharat state were merged into the Bombay state. The state also ceded the Abu Road teshsil to Rajasthan and most importantly the four districts - Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad and North Kanara - were transferred to the State of Mysore. Effectively on 1 November, 1956, all of the modern day Maharashtra and large parts of Gujarat constituted the Bombay state. While there was a one to one correspondence between a language and a state at this point, the Bombay state was the only bilingual state in India.
- This Bombay state came into existence on the recommendations of the State Reorganization Commission (SRC), which had been established in December 1953. This commission was headed by the retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Syed Fazal Ali with HridaynathKunzru and K M Panikker as its members, overseen by Govind Vallabh Pant, who later became the home minister of India.
- A Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad had been active since 1946, canvassing for the creation of a larger Marathi speaking state. The initial SRC recommendation was to have a bilingual state which included all of Gujarat and Western Maharashtra, but not Vidarbha and included ceding territory to Mysore. This plan was rejected by then Congress leadership including prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who did not like this idea. Veteran Congress leader S K Patil, meanwhile, wanted to keep the Bombay city out of the larger state, and riding on the Congress view, the Nehru government proposed a trifurcation which involved a Maharashtra including Vidarbha, a Gujarat as it is today, but the Bombay city a separate entity. The Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad found both the ideas bad.
- This trifurcation recommendation sparked riots in the city. In January 1955, there were widespread morchas and rioting in Bombay. Police firing left a few people dead and the Congress leadership in the region was split. The Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad was dissolved, unable to attain the political objective or control the riots. But as the trifurcation plan continued to be on the table, the need was felt for an organisation to champion the Marathi speaking state cause. The socialist leader Shreedhar Mahadev or S M Joshi convened a meeting of intellectuals and freedom fighters in Pune in February 1956, where the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti was born under the chairmanship of Keshavrao Jedhe and Joshi as the General Secretary.
- Meanwhile, there was also a demand for a larger Gujarati speaking state, and riots and demonstrations continued in Bombay as well as Ahmedabad.
- The trifurcation plan was buried in the Parliament in August 1955, but with this, the creation of two different states was also buried as collateral damage. The government proposal then moved to the SRC recommendation of a bilingual state. The main reason was that while all parties agreed on potential creation of a Maharashtra and a Gujarat state, the ownership of the Bombay city was contested. Activists in both the states wanted the city. The government wasn't able or willing to honour either claim. But since, Bombay could not be an independent state either; the plan reverted to a single bilingual state.
- By now, the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti was taking a view of a larger Maharashtra state including all areas of potential language link with Bombay as the capital. The bilingual plan led to a big demonstration in Bombay on 21 November 1955. In the ensuing police firing, more than 100 demonstrators were killed. Then chief minister of the Bombay state, Morarji Desai, was replaced by Yashwantrao Chavan for his inability to manage the situation well. Today's Flora Fountain or Hutatma Chowk is located at the site of this police firing.
- Meanwhile, prime minister Nehru continued to disagree with the SRC recommendations, but was unable to decide on Bombay in his trifurcation plan. His finance minister C D Deshmukh resigned in January 1956 protesting this indecision on Bombay. He and several other Congress leaders of the region threw their weight behind the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti. Through 1956, the Samiti continued to lobby for a single Marathi speaking state.
- This is when a remarkable period of 42 months began, which then generation of Maharashtra terms as almost a second independence movement. Several leaders - cutting across political ideologies - continued to work for a Marathi speaking state and rejecting Bombay as a bilingual state.
- The Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti movement included leaders like Acharya Atre, BapuChandrasenKambl, Comarade Shripad Dange, MahadevraoBagal, PrabodhankarThakare, and Walchand Kothari among others.

- This diverse political, caste, and ideological leadership was blessed by the freedom fighter Pandurang Bapat, popularly known as Senapati Bapat, Shankarrao Deo and Bhausahab Hire who were the founder of the 1946 Parishad, and S M Joshi. The involvement of Yashwantrao Chavan was critical as it kept the Delhi Congress leadership on toes, giving a political legitimacy to the Samiti, although it was not designed to be a political party.
- The efforts of the Samiti yielded results when on 1 May 1960 when Maharashtra and Gujarat were set up in their present shape. In cities of Mumbai and Pune, roads named after these 'second set of freedom fighters' continue to remind of the tumultuous 42 month period between the SRC act coming into force and the creation of the modern day state of Maharashtra.
- But there was a southern twist to this story. A Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti was functioning from Belgaum since 1948, which wanted to ensure that the four districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad and North Kanara stayed with Maharashtra. That was not to be from November 1956 onwards.
- The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) became a political outfit, lobbying for Belgaum to be included in Maharashtra. It continued to have political clout in the city of Belgaum and hence a good grip on the city's local bodies.

### Son of Soil Movement & Shiv Sena Politics

- 'Son of the soil' also known as Bhumiputra movement is a concept under which the individual to have some kind of benefits, rights and responsibilities in his/her birthplace which the others may not have. In other words, the benefits should be provided to those who are the main linguistic group of the particular place, ie, local residents or 'Son of the soil'. It means people who migrated or live in the city for a longer period of time will not have benefits given to the 'Son of the soil'. For example - Tamilians want to get first preference in their state as compared to others or Marathis to have first preference in terms of opportunities in Maharashtra before others. The 'Son of the soil' movements in India insist on various issues which were:
- This movement to give preference to the minority ethnic group rather than migrants who came to the city but are from the same country.
- The minority ethnic group thinks that this is their homeland and it belongs to their ancestors so they consider it as their rights to acquire certain benefits against those who are not from this region.
- To provide opportunities to the "sons of the soil" in the field of jobs, educational quotas, government services, or natural resources.
- In 1960 Bal Thackeray, a Bombay-based cartoonist, began publishing the satirical cartoon weekly Marmik. Through this publication, he started disseminating anti-migrant sentiments. On 19 June 1966, Thackeray founded the Shiv Sena as a political organisation.
- The Shiv Sena attracted many unemployed Marathi youth, who were attracted by Thackeray's charged anti-migrant oratory. Shiv Sena cadres became involved in various attacks against the South Indian communities, vandalizing South Indian restaurants and pressuring employers to hire Marathis.
- The Sena started placing more weight on the Hindutva ideology in the 1970s as the 'sons of the soil' cause was weakening.

### Culture

- Around 80% of Maharashtra are Hindus, and there are significant Muslim, Christian and Buddhist minorities. The Maharashtrian culture consists of people from most religions. Due to it being a huge area-wise, many sub-regional cultures also exist in Maharashtra. The sub-region of Vidarbha was earlier a part of Central Provinces and Berar, hence it has that influence on its culture. The Marathas are 32% in Western Maharashtra and the Kunbis were 7%, whereas the Other Backward Class population (other than the Kunbi) was 27%. The other castes in the intermediate category include Gujjars and Rajputs who migrated centuries ago to Maharashtra from northern India - and settled in north Maharashtra. The population of the Mahars was 8%.

### Art and Architecture

- Maharashtra is famous for its caves and rock-cut architecture. It is said that the varieties found in Maharashtra are wider than the caves and rock-cut architectures found in the rock-cut areas of Egypt, Assyria, Persia, and Greece. The Buddhist monks first started these caves in the 2nd century BC, in search of a serene and peaceful environment for meditation, and they found these caves on the hillsides.

- Later, Hindu cave temples at Ellora and Ajanta became the finest designs of human art. Some of India's oldest wall paintings can be seen here. Maharashtra's famous rock-cut caves have several distinct design elements; even though sculptures of the time are regarded to be so stiff and unmoving. The Buddhist caves particularly the older ones are either temples (Chaityas) or monasteries (Viharas).

### Cave Architecture

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### Rock Cut Architecture

- Elephanta and Ellora are the best examples of cave architecture. The famous 6<sup>th</sup>-century shrine of Shiva Mahadeva at Elephanta was made by cutting a huge giant rock that gathered over half a million cubic feet of rock. Kailash Temple at Ellora is another marvellous work of human rock-cut art. It was not made by carving down into the face of a cliff and creating underground halls, but by setting aside all convention and creating a full temple, identical in every detail to a structural built-up by carving vertically down into the living rock.

### Paintings

- **Frescos of Ajanta:** Inside many of the caves of Ajanta are frescos. Frescoes are paintings which are done on wet plaster in which colours become fixed as the plaster dries after some time. These paintings found on the walls and ceilings of Ajanta reflect different phases of Indian culture from Buddha's birth to Mahaparinirvana in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. Natural colours like white, green, yellow, brown, black and a wonderful colour of blue are found.
- **Warli Paintings:** These are decorative paintings found on floors and walls of 'gond' and 'kol' tribes' homes and places of worship. These paintings are made mostly by women as part of their routine at auspicious celebrations. Warli paintings are traditionally practised on mud walls with white paste. This white paste is rice, water, and gum that acts as a critical catalyst. Other bamboo sticks, chewed at the end, act as a paintbrush. They usually carry a close resemblance to prehistoric cave paintings.

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## Music

- Although music in Maharashtra like Marathi literature has an ancient tradition, the popularity of classical music in Maharashtra began through Gwalior. Miraj town of Sangli district is known as the 'town of music'. The world-famous Indian musical instrument the Sitar is made in this town.

## Folk Music

- Lavani and Povada are the most popular folk songs that entertain the village folks in Maharashtra. Bhaleri, a folk-song is sung to cheer the farmers working in the field. They also sing special songs during harvesting time.

## Natya Sangeet

- Natya Sangeet is very popular in Maharashtra. It is a sort of stage music that performs on the stage. It derives from the classical form of Indian music and is presented on a semi-classical style.
- **Poets of Maharashtra**
- Jnandev, popularly known as Jnaneshwara, his sister Muktabai and his two brothers were all poet-saints. His great work, the Jnaneshwari is a monumental verse commentary on the Bhagavad Gita. He also wrote Anubhavamrita. Then came Namdev, who wrote in Hindi as well as in Marathi.

## Language

- Marathi is an Indo-Aryan language predominantly spoken by Marathi people in the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the official language of Maharashtra and an additional official language in the state of Goa. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India, with 83 million speakers as of 2011. Marathi ranks 11th in the list of languages with the most native speakers in the world. Marathi has the third largest number of native speakers in India, after Hindi and Bengali. The language has some of the oldest literature of all modern Indian languages. The major dialects of Marathi are Standard Marathi and the Varhadi dialect.

## Folk Dances

1. **Lavani:** Lavani comprises the weather of both, a standard song, and folk dance. The dance was performed to the beats of 'Dholak', a drum-like instrument, mainly by women. Within the earliest days, the dance form was to highlight the various aspects of the society like religion, politics, romance, etc. within the 18th and 19th centuries, it came to perform to entertain and also as motivate the tired soldiers of Maratha battle.
2. **Koli Dance:** Koli Dance, as the name suggests, was performed by the fishermen of Maharashtra – referred to as Kolis. Their colourful attire, cheerful personality, and distinct identity are considerably reflected in their dance form too. The participants of this dance comprise both men and ladies, who were divided into two separate groups.
3. **DhangariGaja:** Dhangars, the community of shepherds belonging to the Sholapur district of Maharashtra, is known for performing the DhangariGaja dance. Since their life mainly revolves around nature and its various forms, the poetry on which the dance is predicated reflects the same. It is made up of couplets, several of which contain the tales of the birth of their God 'Biruba' and are understood as 'Ovi'. The motive behind the performance of this dance is to appease the Gods. The dancers in DhangariGaja are men, wearing Dhoti, Angarakha, Pheta and colourful handkerchiefs, performing to the beats of drums.
4. **Povadas Dance:** Povadas is especially a form of a ballad, which revolves around the incidents surrounding the life of the great Maharashtrian leader, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The good ruler has always held a reverential position in the hearts of the Marathi people and even through these ballads; they seek to remember the great leader and his glorious life.
5. **Tamasha:** The dance form seems to possess influenced by several dance forms. Some scholars also believe it to reflect "Prahana" and "Bhana" sorts of Sanskrit drama. Tamasha especially performed on love songs known as 'Lavanis'.
6. **Dindi:** Dindi is another folk dance of Maharashtra, which is performed on the Ekadashi day of the Hindu month of Kartik. The dance is predicated on Lord Krishna and his naughty, playful nature. It is basically a devotional dance, performed to the beats of Dindi, a little drum. Dancers surround the musicians while performing the dance steps.

7. **Kala:** Another dance form that is devoted to Lord Krishna is Kala. It is also based on the mischievous and teasing attitude of the Lord. Dancers also make use of a prop while dancing, which is nothing but a pot. This pot is believed to symbolize fertility. The beat and therefore the rhythm of the Kala dance are what attract viewers to its performance.

## Fairs and Festivals

1. **Banganga Festival:** It is a two-day music festival celebrated annually in the month of January in Malabar Hills, Mumbai, conducted jointly by MTDC ((Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation) and Indian Heritage Society Mumbai, to protect the cultural heritage of the country. The festival owes its name to the Banganga tank, a holy tank located in the complex of Walkeshwar temple in Malabar hills. The festival witnesses the performances of well-known artists like Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Veena Sahasrabudhe, Ustad Zaakir Husain etc.
2. **Elephanta Festival:** Organized by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), Elephant Festival is one of the renowned and celebrated festivals in Mumbai. It is held at Elephanta Island in Mumbai, right next to Elephanta Caves, and promotes tourism and culture. It commemorates the heritage of dance, art, and sculpture in India. Initially called Gharapuri, meaning 'peaceful living place of Lord Shiva, the name 'Elephanta caves' was given by the Portuguese after they found a carved elephant on Elephanta Island.
3. **Ellora Festival:** The Ellora Festival is commonly regarded as the Ellora Ajanta Festival and is organized by Maharashtra Tourism Development (MTDC). Presently held at the Soneri Mahal in Aurangabad, it attracts a lot of people from around and across the country. The emphasis of the entire festival is on promoting the historic sites in Aurangabad, like Kailash Temple and Bibi-ka-Maqbara along with displaying the Indian classical form of art. It is celebrated every year in the month of October or January for three days.
4. **Ganesh Chaturthi:** The celebration began under the rule of the Maratha king, Chhatrapati Shivaji, and expanded among the Peshwas, who revered Lord Ganesha as their deity. The festival commences with the installation of Ganesha statues. The statues may be installed on podiums as well as homes.
5. **Gudi Padwa:** It is celebrated, marking the arrival of spring while coinciding with Marathi and Konkani Hindus' New Year. 'Gudi' means the Brahma flag hoisted on this auspicious day, while 'Padwa' means the first day of the moon's bright face. Maharashtrians hoist the Brahmadvaj on the day of Gudi Padwa to mark and celebrate the victory of good over evil. Hence, it is also called Marathi New Year.
6. **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival:** Every year on February's first Saturday, Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is held in Mumbai. It is an iconic art and craft gathering of Asia, organized by the Kala Ghoda Association, a non-profit organization. The festival is a gathering that reflects plenty of events under the theme of history, art, and craft. The objective of celebrating the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is to refurbish and preserve the arts district of Mumbai - Kala Ghoda. In addition, many sponsors and local authorities are clustered together to spread multicultural awareness through unique events for those who don't have many opportunities to be exposed to culture.
7. **Navroz Festival:** Navroz is the Iranian New Year, widely known as the Persian New Year, and is celebrated worldwide by some religious groups. The festival is celebrated on the first of the Farvardin - Zoroastrian calendar's first month and the onset of spring. The festival commences at the vernal equinox stroke, the time when the sun passes through the equator. Although the date of the Navroz Festival falls in March worldwide, India celebrates it in August.
8. **Sawai Gandharva Sangeet Mahotsav:** The festival made a very humble beginning way back in the year 1953 and it has come a long way since then to emerge as one of the most prestigious music festivals not only in the state of Maharashtra but also in India. The festival also has a well-known tradition of delicately poising vocal music and instrumental music.

## Handicrafts

1. **Bidri Craft:** Bidriware mainly made in Aurangabad is an ancient craft of the region. As raw materials, zinc and copper are required. It usually involves adroitness and intricate workmanship of pure silver, etched, overlaid, or inlaid on the metal surface. In the past, bidri items were used as hookahs or paandaans but now these are used as mementoes.
2. **Lacquer Craft:** For lacquerware, hale and pangora wood are used and it is usually done in Savantvadi in the Ratnagiri district. The traditional lacquer craftsmen were known as chittorees. In Savantvadi, making toys and

dolls is also an ancient craft, which is still in practice. Some of the wooden toys are lacquered and have a local essence, which distinguishes them from other toys. The toys are basically depicting human beings in standing or sitting postures. They also make wooden imitation fruits and vegetables.

3. **Kolhapuri Chappals:** Maharashtra is famous for the Kolhapur chappals from Kolhapur. These are handmade leather chappals or sandals. The chappals are in huge demand not only inside the country but outside as well because they are simple in design, gorgeous in look and durable in quality.
4. **Weaving Craft:** Saree weaving is a craft, which has been passed on for generations. The art of weaving the Paiyhani saree is very old. The yarn used is pure silk and the Zari or gold threads, are drawn from pure gold. It takes nearly six months to weave a heavily brocaded Paithani sari. A traditional Maharashtrian sari from around Sholapur, the Narayan Peth is another variety. It is beautifully woven in silk with a contrasting Zari border, generally with 'rudraksha' motifs.  
Tussar Silk produced here is known by the Sanskrit name kosa. The other varieties of tussar silk are mothachoukada, a design in big squares, lahanchoukada, a design in small squares, gunja salai, diagonal designs on cloth along with coloured lines at regular intervals in green, blue or orange, teen dharichoukada, the three-square pattern, and rastachoukada, square pattern with horizontal lines running through.
5. **Ganjifa Cards:** Ganjifa Cards are circular playing cards made from paper that is covered with a mixture of tamarind seed powder and oil, painted and coated with lac. Out of them, Darbari cards have decorative borders and Bazaar cards are without borders. It used to be a popular pastime at the ancient Indian courts.
6. **Silver Crafts:** Silver artefacts form an integral part of Maharashtrian religious ceremonies and have now evolved into a flourishing trade. Silver jewellery is an ancient craft of Hupri. Silversmiths at Hupri specialize in making oxidized jewellery embellished with meenakari. Silver crafts of the region are known for their delicate patterns imitating peepal tree, champak, babul, aonla flowers and ambi (mango).
7. **Banjara Embroidery:** The nomadic Tribal people form the banjara community who trace their origins in Rajasthan and often settle in Maharashtra for a living. they create beautiful embroideries on cloth. Banjara women, called Lamani make symmetrical embroidery by lifting the wrapped thread of the fabric with a fine needle and making triangles, diamonds and lozenges, parallel to the weft thread, giving the effect of an extra weft weave.



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## GEOGRAPHY

Maharashtra is the third largest state (in the area) in India after Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. It covers an area of 307,713 km<sup>2</sup> and is bordered by the states of Madhya Pradesh to the north, Chhattisgarh to the east, Telangana to the southeast, Karnataka to the south and Goa to the southwest. The state of Gujarat lies to the northwest, with the Union

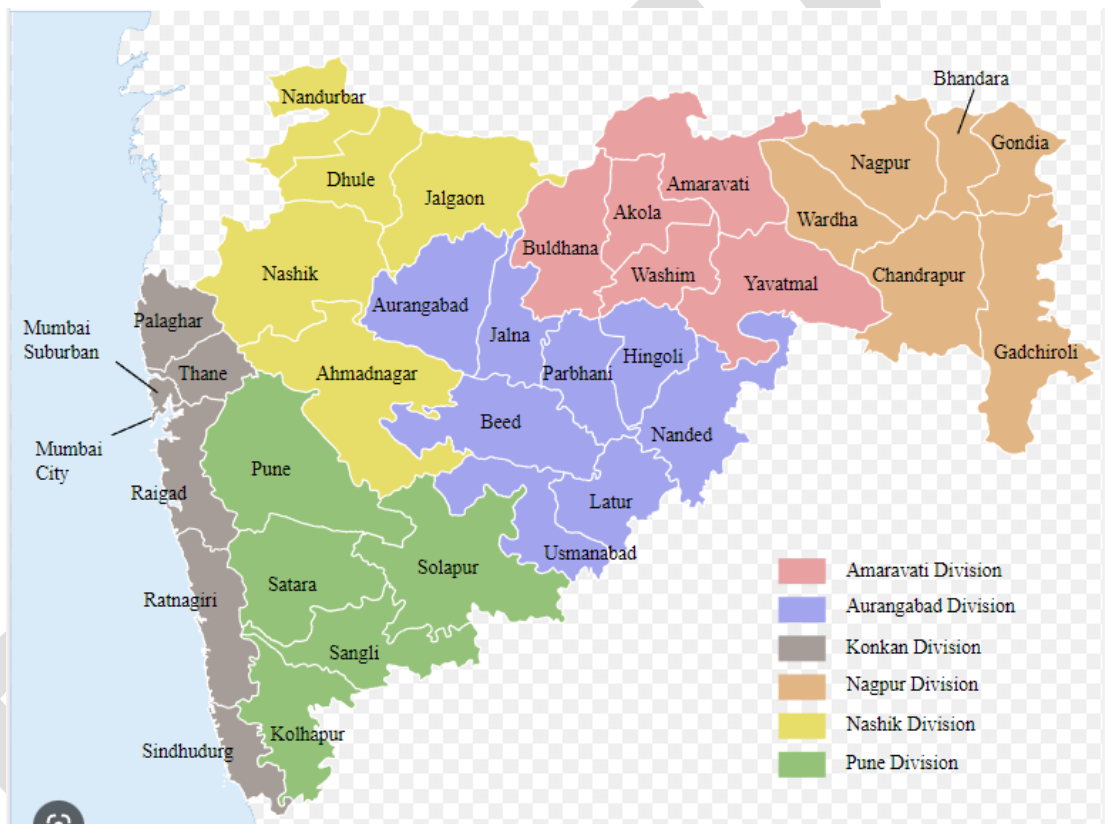
territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli sandwiched between the borders. The Arabian Sea makes up Maharashtra's west coast. Maharashtra consists of two major relief divisions. The plateau is a part of the Deccan tableland and the Konkan coastal strip abutting the Arabian Sea.

## Climate

- The state enjoys a tropical monsoon climate; the hot scorching summer (40 to 48 degrees Celsius) from March onwards yields 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 75 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.

## Political Geography

- Maharashtra was formed on 1 May 1960 with 26 initial districts. Since then, 10 additional districts have been created, and the state currently has 36 districts. These districts are grouped into six administrative divisions:
1. Pune Division
  2. Amaravati Division
  3. Aurangabad Division
  4. Nagpur Division
  5. Nashik Division
  6. Konkan Division



## Topographic Divisions

- The Western Ghats:** The Western Ghats form the most dominating structure in Maharashtra. It is also known as the Sahyadri Range in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and the Malabar region. The Sahyadri range forms the backbone of the state. The altitudes of the ranges are higher in the northern parts of the state, namely, Mahabaleshwar (1438 m). Desh is the name that has been given to the foothill regions of the Western Ghats. It is a very important part of the physiology of the state because it blocks the monsoon-bearing winds and causes rainfall in the eastern part. The ranges form the most important drainage basin for the river systems of western and central India.
- The Deccan Plateau:** it covers most of the peninsular part of India, and is bordered by the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats in the west and the east respectively. The major cities of Maharashtra which fall in the Deccan region are Pune, Nagpur, and Solapur. The rocks of this region are mainly basalt and granite. Most of the northern part of the Deccan is covered by Maharashtra. Formed by volcanic activities the rocks are of igneous types. The altitude of the plateau may vary from 450 - 750 m.

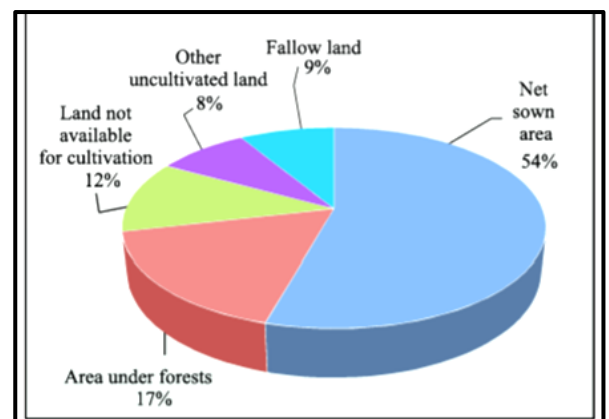
- **The Hills:** the main hills and ranges of the region include the Satpura range and the Tamhini, Varandha and Sawantwadi Ghats, which are the divisions of the Western Ghats. The Satpura Ranges originate in the eastern part of Gujarat and pass through the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Even though the range was formerly covered with heavy forests, these have been cleared for inhabitation. The Satpuda Range and the Bhamragad-Chiroli-Gaikhuri ranges form a chain of mountain ranges in the eastern part of the state.

## Soil Types

- There are different types of soil in Maharashtra. More than 80% of Maharashtra is composed of basalt rock. As a result, Maharashtra has a large amount of black soil formed from basalt rock. The following types of soils are generally found in Maharashtra
1. **Black Soil:** This soil is also called 'lava soil' or 'regur soil'. This soil is formed from the fissures of igneous rock called basalt. The black colour of the soil is due to the presence of Titaniferous magnetite. These soils have a high moisture retention capacity. Therefore, many crops can be grown in this soil with the help of irrigation. The main reason why black soil retains water is that it has high lime content. In Maharashtra, this soil is found in the basins of the Godavari and Bhima-Krishna rivers. This soil is found in all the districts of Marathwada and also in Yavatmal, Akola, Washim, Amravati districts in west Vidarbha. This soil is very useful for cotton. Apart from cotton, sorghum, tur, bajra, wheat, sugarcane etc. are grown in this soil.
  2. **Laterite Soil:** The word laterite has been derived from the Latin word that means brick. This soil is formed by the long-term processing of *jambha*. These soils are rich in iron so they get a 'red' or 'yellow' colour. These soils are very low in Nitrogen, Potassium and Organic matter. Therefore, the soil is less fertile for agriculture. But this soil is very useful for orchards. This soil cannot retain moisture, so it is unsuitable for irrigation. This soil is found in the southern part of the Sahyadri Mountains as well as in the eastern part of the hilly region as well as in the eastern part of the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts, and also in the western part of the Satara and Kolhapur districts. Cashews and mango are important crops in this soil.
  3. **Red Soil:** This soil is formed from ancient Archean, Vindhyan and Kadappa-type rocks. This soil is found in high-rainfall areas. Due to the high content of iron (iron peroxide) this soil has got red colour. These soils are low in Potassium, Phosphorus, Calcium and Organic matter. It improves drainage and responds quickly to chemical fertilizers. This soil is less useful for agriculture. This soil is found in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra as well as in Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli districts. Saga forests are found mainly in this soil.
  4. **Alluvial Soil:** This soil is formed due to sedimentation in river basins. Alluvial soils are found on river banks and coastal areas. Sandy loam soils are rich in organic matter and humus. This soil has a high moisture retention capacity, so it is fertile. It has low potash content. The colour of this soil is pale yellow. This soil is found in the basins of the Godavari, Krishna, Bhima, Panchganga, and Tapi rivers. Sandy loam soils are also found along the Konkan coast. In this soil rice, nachani, *pophali* as well as sugarcane, wheat, and vegetables are grown.
  5. **Clay Soil:** Due to the high sediment content in this soil, water does not seep easily. This soil retains water for a longer period of time; hence it is called 'Clay soil'. This soil is fertile as it does not drain quickly. This soil is found in the northern part of Nagpur, Gondia, Gadchiroli, and Chandrapur districts. This soil is good for rice crops. Other crops like wheat, sorghum, and sugarcane are also grown.

## Land Utilisation Pattern

- The land utilisation statistics for 2019-20 depict that of the total 307.58 lakh ha geographical area of the State, the gross cropped area was 235.70 lakh ha while the net sown area was 167.22 lakh ha (about 54.4 per cent).



## Types of Forests

Rainfall variations in both spatial and time are the main criteria for the classification of forests in Maharashtra. Other factors include topography, soil, and temperature.

1. **Tropical Evergreen Forests:** Tropical Evergreen forests exist in a hot and humid climate where the annual precipitation is



around 2000 mm and the average temperature stays beyond 22°C. These evergreen forests can be seen in the Sawantwadi area of the Sindhudurg district at the foot of the Sahyadri in the Konkan region. The height of dense forest cover trees is about 45 to 60 m. Tropical evergreen forests are always evergreen and dense. The trees of this type of forest have a lot of leaves and branches at the top and overlap each other. The trees are densely and continuously grown. The species located in Tropical Evergreen forests include Ebony, Aini, Rosewood, Mahogany, etc.

2. **Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests:** These areas are drier than tropical wet evergreen forests. In Maharashtra, the tropical semi-evergreen forests are distributed in Konkan on the west coast. Similarly, some plants are also found on the ghats in the western part of Sahyadri mountain. Especially in the area of Amboli, Lonavla, and Igatpuri there are semi-evergreen forests in Maharashtra. Trees are shorter in height than trees in the evergreen forest type. The height of the trees is usually 20 to 30 m. This type of forest does not grow in a continuous belt but in a short form. The leaves of all trees do not fall at the same time. They are shed at certain intervals. Kindal, Ranphanas, Nana, Kadamba, Shisam, Bibla etc. trees are found in the semi-evergreen forest. There are few bamboo forests.
3. **Subtropical Evergreen Forests:** These forests are located in regions with more than 2500 mm of rainfall in the Sahyadri Mountains. Matheran and Bhimashankar areas have subtropical evergreen forests. These forests are also found on the Gavilgarh hills in North Maharashtra. The wood of the tree is soft. There are many types of trees, vines and bushes in this area. The variety of trees is high in this place. Jambhala, Manjan, Hirda, Mango, Bheda, Karvi etc. are important trees.
4. **Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests or Tropical Monsoon Forests:** These are found in areas with annual rainfall in the range of 1200 to 1600 mm. In Maharashtra, the forests are mainly located on the Chiroli and Navegaon hills in the eastern part of the Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts. It also includes parts of Bhandara and Gondia district, Gavilgad hills (Melghat) in the Satpura range. Humid deciduous forests can be found in North Konkan hill ranges as well as Sahyadri Ghatmatha, rain shadow region, Shambhu Mahadev Hill Range Harishchandra-Balaghat and Satmala Hill Range. Kolhapur, Nashik, Thane, Pusay and Nandurbar districts have deciduous forests. The predominant vegetation in the moist deciduous forest is teak. Apart from this, Ain, Hirda, Bibla, Lendi, Yerul, Kindle, Kusum, Amla, Shisam, Cirrus etc. trees are found. Bamboo forests can also be seen.
5. **Tropical Deciduous Forests:** Deciduous forests are found in the region where rainfall is between 800 and 1200 mm. These are found in the Satpura range and the Ajantha range. These forests can also be seen on the lower hills along the foothills to the east of Ghatmathya. These forests are very sparse. Trees have thorns. Medium height and found in the form of bushes. The trees of this forest are found at a certain distance. Forest trees shed their leaves at the beginning of summer. The tropical deciduous forest consists of teak, dhavana, shisam, tendu, palas, bel, Kher, Anjan etc. trees.
6. **Tropical Thorn Forests:** These forests are found in areas with rainfall less than 800 mm. On the Deccan Plateau in Madhya Maharashtra, thorn trees are found on hill ranges and low-elevation plateaus in the cultivated areas of river valleys. Pune, Satara, Sangli and eastern parts of Ahmednagar, as well as Solapur, Marathwada and Vidarbha regions also have thorn forests on the hills. The branches of the trees in this forest type have thorns. The roots of trees go deep into the ground in search of water. These trees and vines can withstand even the dry season. Acacia, Khair, and Hivar trees are found everywhere in the thorn forest. A lemon tree can be seen in many places.
7. **Coastal Mangrove Forest:** Bays are formed between tidal water levels at the mouths of rivers along the west coast of Maharashtra. Mangrove forests are found in the marshy Khajan areas of these creeks. The mangroves of the Maharashtra coast extend all along the 6 coastal districts: Raigarh, Mumbai & Mumbai sub-urban, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Thane and Palghar. These types of forests are dense and intergrown. These structures are raised from swampy areas. The trunk of the tree has a large number of secondary roots, so the trunk of the tree has great support. The trees are not very tall. Kandal is widely found on the shores of Achara Bay in Sindhudurg. Hence these forests are called Kandal forests. Chippi, Ambeti, Kajala, Marandi, Kandal, and Tivar are the types of trees found.

## Flora

- The national parks of Maharashtra are full of variety of plant species that include Jamun, Palas, Shisham, Kate sawar, Neem, Teak, Dhawada, Kalam, Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Kadamba, Moha, etc.

## Fauna

- Some of the exclusive wildlife species of the various national parks include giant Indian squirrel, spotted deer, sambhar, Blackbuck, tiger, wild dog, butterflies, python, barking deer, flying fox, Rhesus macaque, crocodile, wolves, Indian antelope, nilgai, hyena, fishes, Bonnet Macaque, Black napped hare, migratory species and many more.

## Protected Areas

National Parks	Wetlands
Chandoli NP	Lonar Lake
Gugamal NP	
Nawegaon NP	NandurMadhameshwar
Pench NP	
Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) NP	Thane Creek
Tadoba NP	

# ECONOMY

## Demographic Profile

- As per the Population Census 2011, the population of the State was 11.24 crore, which was 9.3 per cent of the All-India population. The projected population of the State as on 1st March 2022 as per population projections released by the National Commission on Population, GoI is 12.54 crore. The State was the second largest populous State in India after Uttar Pradesh. The State had a population density of 365 per sq km. The decadal growth rate of the population of the State was 16.0 per cent as against 17.7 per cent for All-India.

## Sex Ratio

- The sex ratio in the State as per Census 1961 was 936 and it was 929 as per Census 2011. The sex ratio in rural areas of the State remained higher than that for the urban areas throughout all six decades.

## Maharashtra fact file

GSDP		India	Maharashtra
1	GSDP as a percentage of all states' GSDP	100	13.7
2	GSDP growth rate (%)	9.2	17.9
Social Indicators			
1	Literacy	73	82.3
2	Birth Rate	20	15.3
Industrial Infrastructure			
1	Operational PPP Projects	1824	219
2	Operational SEZs	268	37
Physical Infrastructure			
1	Installed Power Capacity	405,773 MW	43,750 MW
2	National Highway Length (Kms)	140,995	18,317
3	Airports	129	10
Investments			
1	Cumulative FDI equity inflow (million USD)	158,879	44,405

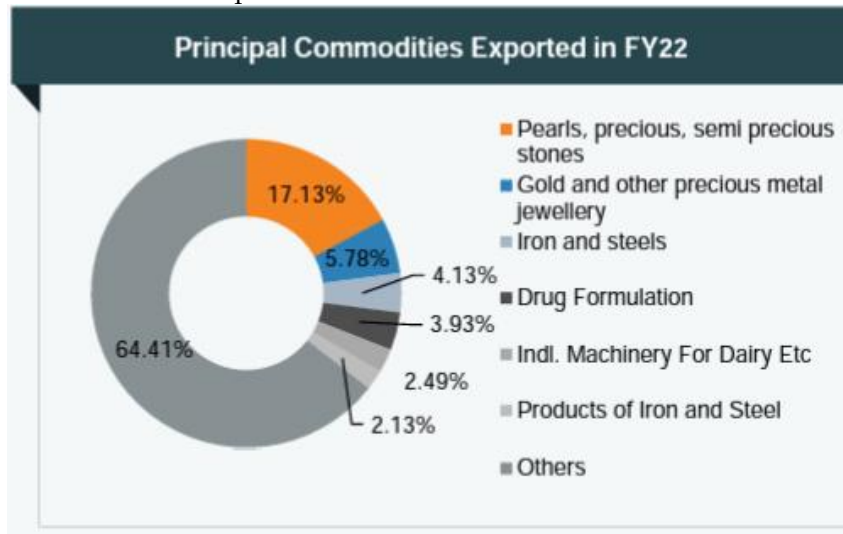
## FDI inflow & investments

- According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), between October 2019-June 2022, FDI inflow in Maharashtra stood at US \$44,405.66 million, accounting for ~27.94% of the total FDI inflow in India. Maharashtra ranks second after Gujarat for the highest FDI reception in 2020. During Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 in June 2020, the state attracted investment proposals of Rs.1.13 lakh crore with expected employment > 2.50 lakh. In 2021, under the Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 initiative, the Maharashtra Industrial

Development Corporation (MIDC), facilitated investment commitments worth Rs.129,439 crore between June 2020 and June 2021.

## Export Trends

- The value of exports from Maharashtra stood at Rs 3.47 lakh crore in 2021-22 as against India's Rs 19.47 crore.



- As per Industrial Policy, 2019, GoM has set up Maharashtra Export Promotion Council to facilitate export promotion.
- GoM has set up District Export Promotion Councils to make every district an emerging export hub.

## Physical Infrastructure

- Roads:** The state is well connected to its six neighbouring states and other parts of India through 18 national highways. The 94.5 km long Mumbai-Pune expressway is India's 1<sup>st</sup> 6-lane, concrete, high-speed, tolled expressway, which connects the state capital & financial hub, Mumbai, with the neighbouring industrial hub, Pune. Under the State Budget 2022-23, the government plans to spend Rs. 20,133 crores on roads and bridges.
- Railways:** The state is well-connected to other parts of the country with a railway network spanning 6,209.98 km (including 378 km of Konkan Railway). The Government has passed a resolution to form Maharashtra Railway Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (MRIDC), being a partnership between the state Government & Railway Ministry. Under the State Budget 2021-22, the government has approved the construction of the Pune-Nashik medium high-speed railway line with a proposed length of 235kms; Nashik Metro Neo Project, a total length of 33kms; Metro lite system in Thane city and Pimpri Chinchwad to Nigdi Corridor 1 project.
- Airports:** There are seven domestic and four international airports functioning in Maharashtra. Domestic flights operate from Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Juhu and Nanded, whereas international flights operate from Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad. In April 2018, the Government of Maharashtra announced plans to formulate a comprehensive civil aviation policy for the next 10 years which will boost regional connectivity by allowing public-private partnerships for the construction of airports and helipads. The Airport Authority of India and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation signed an MoU in 2019 to start the operations at Ratnagiri Airport under the UDAN scheme.
- Ports:** Along a coastline of 720 km, there are two principal ports: Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). In addition, there are 48 minor ports. Steps have been taken by the Government of Maharashtra for the development of Rewasport, Vijaydurgport, Rediport, Vadhavanport, Trombay port and Karanjaport through private sector participation. 13 port projects have been sanctioned under Sagarmala for Maharashtra. The non-major ports of Maharashtra collectively handled traffic of about 1,728.05 lakh MT in 2020-21. Major ports collectively handled 1,436.59 lakh MT of traffic in 2020-21.

## Social Infrastructure

- Education:** In 2020-21, Maharashtra had a total of 9,700 AICTE-approved institutes and has allocated 17.2% of its education budget, which is higher than the average budget (15.8%) allocated by states to education (using 2020-21

BE). Rs. 74,830 crores have been allocated to the education, sports, arts, and culture sectors. Of this, Rs. 24,159 crore has been allocated for assistance to non-government secondary schools and junior colleges and Rs. 1,425 crore to the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. The state government has taken numerous initiatives to upgrade the education system such as slashing of school fees by 15% for 2021-22, planning on recruiting 3,064 professors in the state and allotting 1% of education and job quota to COVID orphans.

- Health:** As per the State Budget 2022-23, an outlay of Rs. 22,536 crore has been proposed for the health and family welfare sector. Out of this Rs 3,034 crore has been allocated to the National Rural Health Mission. In December 2020, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), in Mumbai, developed the indigenous 'Ruthenium 106 Plaque', a therapy for eye cancer, to treat ocular tumours. The Ministry of AYUSH is taking proactive measures to promote the cultivation of herbs in line with its goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India). In December 2020, the Ministry of AYUSH announced plans to establish a 'Nisarg Gram' campus in the upcoming campus of the upcoming new campus of National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) at Pune. In October 2020, AYUSH Minister inaugurated the Tribal Unit of the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) at Gohe Budruk in Pune. In October 2020, the Ministry of AYUSH setup the regional facilitation centre for the medicinal plants sector at Pune.

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## Industry

- Navi Mumbai Special Economic Zone (NMSEZ) is the agency responsible for the supervision and execution of SEZs in the state. As of October 2020, the state had 37 exporting SEZs across diversified sectors including textiles and apparel, food processing, footwear and leather products, multi-product, pharma and ITSEZs. In addition to operational SEZs, as of October 2020, Maharashtra had 12 SEZs with valid in-principle approvals, 51 SEZs with formal approvals and 45 SEZs with notified approvals. In 2019, around 15 Biotechnology SEZs have been proposed under the public sector with an investment of Rs. 4,968 crore. This project is expected to generate employment opportunities of about 7.7 lakh.

## Mumbai as Financial Hub

- Mumbai is the capital of the state of Maharashtra and the financial capital of India. Mumbai is home to 3 stock exchanges (BSE, NSE and MSE) and 3 commodity exchanges (ICEX, MCX, NCDEX). The market capitalisation of the BSE and NSE in FY 22 stood at Rs. 257.74 trillion and Rs. 253.69 trillion, respectively. The Government has completed the master planning of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the preliminary engineering of Phase-I has been undertaken. Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC), is being developed on 10,000 acres of land as a well-planned and Greenfield smart industrial city which is a part of DIMC. Preliminary work is in progress for

the Mumbai Trans-Harbour link and Multi-Modal Corridor from Virar to Alibaug. Work on the projects commenced in 2011 & 2010 and is expected to be completed by 2021 & 2019, respectively.

## IT/ITES and electronics

- IT is one of the top-notch sectors in the state, with maximum thrust, development, and investment. The Government of Maharashtra is focusing on providing IT-related infrastructure, fiscal incentives to IT units and an institutional framework for the IT sector. The prime IT/ITeS clusters are in Greater Mumbai, Pune, Thane, and Nasik. Pune is the leader in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services.

## Textiles

- Maharashtra contributes about 10.4% to India's textiles and apparels output. The state contributes about 25% of India's cotton production. The textile industry is the largest employer in Maharashtra and contributes around 28% to India's total exports. Textile parks, aimed to provide world-class infrastructural components for the textile sector and enhance productive capacity, are being setup in Maharashtra to maintain its leadership position in textile exports and production. Some of the textile parks are the Nardhana Textile Park in Dhule, Butibori (Nagpur) Textile Park and Ambernath Textile Park. The State Government approved a new textile policy for a tenure of 2018-23 with an aim to attract investment of Rs. 36,000 crore and increase employment.

## Auto and Auto Components

- Maharashtra accounts for ~35.1% of the country's output of automobiles by value. Pune is the largest auto hub of India with over 4,000 manufacturing units in the Pimpri-Chinchwad region alone. The Government of Maharashtra is finalising a policy to encourage the manufacturing of electric vehicles. Manufacturing of one hundred thousand electric vehicles per year in the next 3 to 5 years has been envisaged under the policy. Incentives offered may include a 15% subsidy to buyers, which is expected to boost demand, and refunding of SGST to manufacturers. The Vehicle Scrappage Policy, a government-funded programme, was launched in August 2021 to replace old vehicles with modern & new vehicles on Indian roads. The state of Maharashtra is outlining SOPs (that will be soon rolled out) for setting up digitised scrapping centres.

## Tourism

- Maharashtra is a major trade and tourist destination in India, attracting thousands of tourists from across the world every year. It is the fourth most visited state in India. There are many temples in Maharashtra, some of them being hundreds of years old, constructed in a fusion of architectural styles borrowed from the north and south India. Maharashtra has its own folk music. Folk musical programmes, such as Gondhal, Lavani, Bharud and Powada, are popular, especially in rural areas. The state is home to the Hindi film industry Bollywood, which produces the largest number of films globally. Maharashtra has a score of pilgrimage destinations, ranging from the ones that revolve around mythology (e.g., Nasik; Warkarand Pune) and those celebrating the achievements of religious leaders and reformers (Shirdi, Haji Ali shrine) to new age pilgrimage destinations such as the Osho Commune at Pune. The state announced the Beach Shack Policy in August 2020 and Agro Tourism Policy in September 2020 to promote the tourism industry.

## Famous Personalities

- Anna Hazare:** Kisan Baburao Hazare, popularly known as Anna Hazare, was born in 1937 in Bhingar near Ahmednagar and is a famous leader and social activist in India. He led the way for several anti-corruption movements and protests to foster rural development and improve government functioning in India. His 9-day long hunger strike in 2011 at Jantar Mantar compelled the government to introduce the institution of an 'ombudsman' to curb corruption in public sectors. He has also largely contributed to the development of the role model village Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra, for which he received the 'Padma Bhushan' award in 1992. Recently, a national daily newspaper ranked Hazare as the 'Most Influential person in Mumbai'.
- Savitribai Phule:** Savitribai Phule was a social reformer, educator, and poet from Maharashtra. She was born on the 3rd of January, in the year 1831. She was a pivotal figure in advancing female rights and education in India. She is officially acknowledged as India's first female teacher. She founded Mahila Seva Mandali to educate

women about child marriage, female foeticide, and the sati system. She passed away on March 10, in the year 1897. Her life and accomplishments in Indian society are monuments to social transformation and female empowerment. She is still an inspiration to many women's rights advocates today.

3. **Lata Mangeshkar:** On September 28, 1929, Lata Mangeshkar, popularly known as the "Nightingale of India," was born. She is among the most famous personality in Maharashtra. She was a playback singer and is widely regarded as one of the nation's most talented vocalists. In 1974, Lata Mangeshkar sang at the Royal Albert Hall, the first time any Indian sang there. She won three National Film Awards, two Filmfare Special Awards, the 'Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award', the Padma Vibhushan Award, and plenty of other honours. Her most recent recorded song, a homage to the Indian soldiers and the nation, was released in March 2019. Mangeshkar died on February 6, 2022, at the age of 92, from multi-organ dysfunction syndrome.
4. **Sachin Tendulkar:** Born on April 24, 1973, Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar is widely known as one of the best batsmen in cricket history. He became India's youngest test cricketer at the age of 16 when he made his debut against Pakistan. He was awarded the 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award' for his exemplary performance in 1998. He also received prestigious awards like the 'Padma Shri' (1999) and 'Padma Vibhushan' (2008) for his exceptional achievements in the field of sports. Sachin declared his retirement from cricket on October 10, 2013. Sachin Tendulkar is one of Maharashtra's most popular personalities, and he continues to make the state and the country proud.
5. **Homi Jehangir Bhabha:** Born in a Parsi family in Mumbai, Homi Jehangir Bhabha was an Indian nuclear physicist. He was the founding director and professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). Bhabha is often referred to as the father of the Indian nuclear programme. He also founded the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) which was renamed to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre after his death. Bhabha received the Padma Bhushan in 1954. He was also nominated for the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1951 and 1953-1956.
6. **Nanaji Deshmukh:** Born in a Marathi-speaking household in Parbhani district, Hyderabad state (present-day Maharashtra), Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh, fondly called Nanaji Deshmukh, was a social reformer and politician. He worked in the fields of education and health and was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1999. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2019.
7. **Sunil Gavaskar:** Born in Mumbai to a Marathi family, Sunil Gavaskar is a former Indian cricketer widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in test cricket history. He was also part of the team that won the cricket world cup in 1983. He set several records during his cricketing career, including the most test runs and most test centuries scored by a batsman. He was the first person to score centuries in both innings of a test match three times. He was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009 and has received the Padma Shri as well as the Padma Bhushan.
8. **Yashwantrao Chavan:** Born into a Kunbi Maratha family in Satara district of Maharashtra, Yashwantrao Chavan was an Indian politician. He was the first chief minister of Maharashtra and the last chief minister of Bombay state. He is often regarded as the architect of modern Maharashtra and held several significant posts until his death in 1984, including that of the 5th Deputy Prime Minister in India.
9. **Bal Keshav Thackeray:** Born in Pune, Maharashtra, Bal Keshav Thackeray was one of the most prominent leaders in Maharashtra in Independent India. He was the founder of Shiv Sena, an ethnocentric party that is currently in power in the Maharashtra state government. Fondly called the Hindu Hriday Samrat, which means Emperor of the Hindu Hearts, Bal Thackeray was greatly adored by his followers.

### State Symbols

State Animal	Indian Giant Squirrel
State Bird	Yellow-Footed Green Pigeon
State Fish	Rohu
State Flower	Giant crape-myrtle/Jarul
State Tree	Mango Tree
State Fruit	Mango
State Butterfly	Blue Mormon
State Sport	Kabaddi

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- Ajanta Caves:** Ajanta Caves are a group of 30 rock-cut caves known for their murals. Carved between the 2nd century BCE through CE 650, these caves feature magnificent paintings depicting the birth of Buddha and various stories from the Jataka tales. In addition, these caves also showcase different Buddhist traditions from Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist cultures.
- Ellora Caves:** Ellora Caves is a collection of about 100 Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain caves. Only 34 of these rock-cut caves are open to the public. Interestingly, they were created by carving the rocks from top to bottom. These caves date back to the 9th and 10th centuries. These Hindu caves had a two-phase construction which now stands as an architectural marvel. The two most significant excavations are Cave 15, which showcases Lord Vishnu's Dashavatar (10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu), and Cave 16, the world's largest monolith and features the Kailash Temple.
- Elephanta Caves:** Elephanta Caves are the architectural ruins on Elephanta Island near Mumbai. It is otherwise known as Gharapurichi Leni and is spread across 60000 sq ft. This rock-cut cave has a central chamber and several subsidiaries. There are a total of seven caves inside the complex. There are rock carvings and colossal sculptures of the Hindu God Shiva and his different forms dominated by the 20 ft high sculpture of Trimurti, present at the entrance of Cave 1. The smaller caves have Buddhist architecture and sculptures.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSTM) is the famous train station terminal in Mumbai that you often see in movies. This historical building was constructed to commemorate half a decade of Queen Victoria's rule and hence was previously known as Victoria Terminus. It was designed by the famous architect Frederick William Stevens in the Italian Gothic style. This historic railway terminus was declared a World Heritage Site in 2004. It is one of the most famous monuments and tourist spots in Mumbai.
- Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai:** Declared a World Heritage Site in 2018, Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai is a collection of public buildings. These buildings were initially made in the Victorian Gothic style and later in the Indian Art Deco style. This stretch of buildings now houses public offices, cinema halls, residential buildings, and famous landmarks of Mumbai.

## GI Tags

Solapur Chaddar	Solapur Terry Towel	Puneri Pagadi	Nashik Valley Wine
Paithani Saares and fabrics	Mahabaleshwar Strawberry	Nashik Grapes	Kolhapur Jaggery
Ajara Ghansal Rice	Mangalwedha Jowar	Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Kokum	Sangli Turmeric
Alphonso	Karvath Kati Sarees and Fabrics	Marathwada Kesar mango	Bhiwapur Chilli
Jalgaon Banana	Dahanu Gholvad Chikoo	Solapur Pomegranate	Beed Custard Apple
Jalna Sweet Orange	Waigaon Turmeric	Purandar Fing	Ambemohar Rice
Waghya Ghevada	Navapur Tur Dal	Vengurla Cashew	Lasalgaon Onion
Sangli Onions			

## State Government Schemes

- Magel Tyala Shettale Farm Pond Subsidy Scheme:** The objective of the scheme is that each and every farmer in the state gets a permanent source of water. The state government has allocated Rs. 204 crores in its budget to implement the scheme. The benefit of the Magel Tyala Shettale scheme will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers for 51,369 farm ponds. According to the notification, the eligible farmer will get Rs. 50,000 directly in their bank accounts to construct a pond on their farmland.
- Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Hostel Maintenance Allowance Scheme:** According to this scheme, a hostel maintenance allowance for students with annual income less than 8,00,000: Rs. 3000 per year for Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad and Rs. 2000 per year for other locations (for 10 months in an academic year) will be given. Hostel maintenance allowance for students whose parents are Apathudharakshetkari / Registered Labourers: Rs. 30,000 per year for Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Aurangabad and Rs. 20,000 per year for other locations (for 10 months in an academic year).

3. **Mahaswayam Employment Registration:** All those people who are looking for jobs in Maharashtra can register online at Mahaswayam portal. Accordingly, RojgarMahaswayam registration will provide easy access to jobs to job seekers as specified by various employers.
4. **Shravan Bal Seva Rajya Nivruttivetan Yojana:** This is a state-sponsored pension scheme for destitute persons above the age of 65 years who belongs to a BPL family or with family income less than Rs. 21,000 p.a. People from both the below poverty line (BPL) category and non-BPL category can avail of benefits of the Shravan Bal Yojana. In this scheme, Rs. 600 per month would be given to each beneficiary.
5. **Nav Tejaswini Yojana:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) will implement Nav Tejaswini Scheme for which Rs. 523 crores will be granted to MahilaBachat Gat or women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This programme focuses on women's development through women's self-help groups which are an effective means of improving the living conditions of poor households.
6. **Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana:** Aam Admi Bima Yojana is an ambitious insurance and scholarship scheme which is run by the Maharashtra state government. Social Justice and Special Assistance (SJSA) department are responsible for the successful implementation of the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. **Adani Properties wins Dharavi redevelopment project rights with Rs 5,069cr bid:** Adani Properties, a real estate development company owned by Gautam Adani-led Adani Group, has bagged the rights to redevelop Asia's biggest slum, Dharavi, spread over 600 acres of prime land in the heart of the country's commercial capital, Mumbai. Adani Properties' bid of Rs 5,069 crore emerged as the highest, while DLF's bid amount was Rs 2,025 crore. SVR Srinivas, CEO, Dharavi Redevelopment Project.
2. **Centre approves Maharashtra's first Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Ranjangaon, Pune:** As part of its objective to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem in India, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has approved the greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) with the project cost of Rs 492.85 crores to be set up in Ranjangaon Phase III, near Pune in Maharashtra. Now 97% of all mobile phones used by Indian customers were domestically manufactured.
3. **ADB clears USD 350 million loans to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra:** Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 350 million (about Rs 2,900 crore) loan to improve the road connectivity of key economic areas in Maharashtra. It will build on the Maharashtra State Road Improvement Project approved by ADB in April 2020 to upgrade state highways and major district roads.
4. **REC signs Rs 30,483 Cr agreement for 9 metro projects in Mumbai Region:** The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with REC Limited, a central government undertaking, for the funding of '30,483 crores for the ongoing nine lines of Metro projects in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The MMRDA has said that the funding, which has been raised from REC, is at the rate of 7.59%.
5. **Maharashtra's Daulatabad Fort to be renamed as 'Dev giri' Fort:** The Maharashtra government will rename the Daulatabad fort located near Aurangabad city to its old name 'Dev giri', state Tourism Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha has said. The fort was renamed Daulatabad by Mohammed Tughlaq in the 14th Century who understood its importance as a base for military operations in southern India.
6. **India's first floating LNG terminal likely to operationalise in H2 2022:** India's first floating terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) 18 aircraft at Jaigarh in Maharashtra is expected to be operational in the second half of 2022. H Energy Gateway's floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) at Jaigarh and the Swan Energy terminal at Jafrabad are cumulatively expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity.
7. **Western Railways opens its longest skywalk connecting Mumbai's Bandra Terminus to Khar station:** The Western Railway's (WR) longest skywalk from the Khar Road railway station to the nearby Bandra Terminus has been opened for the passengers to reach the platforms to board trains easily. The skywalk spans 314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide. Skywalk will allow passengers to reach Bandra (T) directly by deboarding at Khar station & taking the south Foot Over Bridge.
8. **Mumbai's CSMT becomes the first station to have an augmented reality experience:** The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai has become the first railway station in India to be equipped with augmented reality



screens. The futuristic technology will allow passengers at the station to get a real-time digitised timetable with a dedicated scrolling screen and railway information for an engaging experience.

9. **Maharashtra Government Approves Name Change For Aurangabad As Sambhajinagar, Osmanabad As Dharashiv:** Maharashtra State government cabinet took some important decisions -Approval to rename Navi Mumbai International Airport as late DB Patil International Airport was made. -Implement turmeric research and processing policy for the state. In Hingoli district, Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Turmeric Research and Training Center will be set up.
10. **Maharashtra's Tourism Minister inaugurates India's 1st bus service with 'Tap In, Tap Out' or fully digital ticketing facility:** Maharashtra's Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray inaugurated India's first bus service with 'Tap In, Tap Out' or the fully digital ticketing facility. The service was inaugurated on one of the BEST buses plying on the Gateway of India to Churchgate route, with plans afoot to expand the facility on all 438 routes in the near future.
11. **Maharashtra launches scheme to offer personal loans for prisoners:** Maharashtra government has launched a scheme to provide personal loans for prisoners with the aim to improve the living standard of the families of the inmates. The Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank will give loans under the scheme up to Rs 50,000 at an interest rate of 7 per cent. The scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis at Yerawada Central Jail, Pune.
12. **Maharashtra's Health Minister announces "Hope Express" will be launched to prevent cancer:** Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer. This is the first such machine in India. The State Health Minister also promised to take initiative to start Hope Express in every district of the state through district planning.
13. **India's first water taxi service inaugurated in Mumbai:** The long-awaited water taxi services connecting the twin cities, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, the first of its kind in India, was flagged off by Union Shipping Minister Sarbanan Minister Udhav Thackeray. da Sonowal in the presence of Chief The services will commence the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will connect the nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island & JNPT.

## Border Disputes

### Belgavi Border Dispute

- Belgavi or Belgavi is currently part of Karnataka but is claimed by Maharashtra.

#### Background

- In 1957, slighted by the implementation of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Maharashtra demanded readjustment of its border with Karnataka.
- Maharashtra invoked Section 21 (2) (b) of the Act and submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs stating its objection to Marathi-speaking areas being added to Karnataka.
- It claimed an area of 2,806 square miles that involved 814 villages, and three urban settlements of Belgavi, Karwar and Nippani with a total population of about 6.7 lakh, all part of the Mumbai Presidency before independence.
- The villages are spread across Belgavi and Uttar Kannada in north-western Karnataka, and Bidar and Gulbarga districts in north-eastern Karnataka – all bordering Maharashtra.
- Later, when a four-member committee was formed by both States, Maharashtra expressed willingness to transfer predominantly Kannada-speaking 260 villages with a population of about 3.25 lakh and total area of 1,160 square miles.

#### Basis of Maharashtra's Claim

- Maharashtra's claim to seek the readjustment of its border was on the basis of contiguity, relative linguistic majority and wishes of the people. If the claim over Belgavi and surrounding areas was based on Marathi-speaking people and linguistic homogeneity, it laid its claim over Karwar and Supa where Konkani is spoken by citing Konkani as a dialect of Marathi.
- Its argument was based on the theory of villages being the unit for calculation and enumerated linguistic population in each village. Maharashtra also points out the historical fact that the revenue records in these Marathi-speaking areas are also kept in Marathi.

#### Karnataka's Position

- Karnataka has argued that the settlement of boundaries as per the States Reorganisation Act is final.

- The boundary of the State was neither tentative nor flexible. The State argues that the issue would reopen border issues that have not been contemplated under the Act, and that such a demand should not be permitted.

#### Response of Union Government

- The central government constituted the Mahajan Committee in 1966 to assess the situation. Representatives from both sides, Maharashtra and the then Mysore state were part of the committee.
- In 1967, the committee recommended that some villages in Karwar, Haliyal and Suparna talukas of Karnataka be given to Maharashtra but left Belagavi with the southern state.

#### Water Dispute:

1. **Krishna Water Dispute:** In 1969, the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) was set up under the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956, and presented its report in 1973.
2. At the same time, it was stipulated that the KWDT order may be reviewed or revised by a competent authority or tribunal any time after 31st May, 2000.
3. The second KWDT was instituted in 2004. It delivered its report in 2010, which made allocations of the Krishna water at 65 % dependability and for surplus flows as follows: 81 TMC for Maharashtra, 177 TMC for Karnataka, and 190 TMC for Andhra Pradesh.

#### Krishna River

- It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra. It is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- Drainage: It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Tributaries:** Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

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