



### BULDANA DISTRICT

Buldana the westernmost district of the Amravati division of the state of Maharashtra, lies between 19°51' and 21°17' north latitude and 75°56' and 76°42' east longitude. It covers an area of 9,561 sq km comprising 3.14 per cent of the total area of Maharashtra. The name of the district is derived from the district headquarters Buldana, which probably is a corrupt form of Bhill Thane - the place of Bhill.

The early history of the district is obscure. Being a part of the north-west Deccan right from the time of the Marathas, it was under various Hindu dynasties down to 1296 A.D. It remained in the hands of various Muhammadan dynasties from 1318 to 1595 and Mughal empire from 1596 to 1720. After an intermediate period of Maratha rule and the rule of the Nizams, it finally passed under the British rule in 1853. The district was named as Buldana in 1867 and after independence, it remained as a part of the Central Provinces till 1956, when it was transferred to the state of Bombay. In 1960, Buldana district became a part of the newly created state of Maharashtra and at present it is comprised of thirteen talukas.

The district falls into three distinct physical structural divisions well demarcated by two fault planes. To the north, lies a narrow strip of Satpuda hills. These hills are markedly developed with high level buttes, mesas and present sheer cliffs which overlook the Purna plains in the south. Involves of a fault plain. The Buldana plateau, forming a part of the Ahera range constitutes the southern part of the district. This is a rolling upland sloping gently to the southeast with high level mesas on its flat top. Its northern edge has formed an escarpment, which is also believed by the geologists to be a fault scarp. Both the scarps are well dissected by gully erosion and has formed ravines. The Purganath of Purna plains in the middle, is an alluvium filled valley sloping towards the west. This valley is believed to have developed as a result of step faulting covered with alluvium with thickness exceeding 400 metres in places. The two main rivers of the district are the Purganath and Purna. The other but less important rivers are the Nalganga, South Purna, Bawa and Ghan.

The greater part of the district is covered by the trap rocks of volcanic origin and it is not endowed with significant economic mineral deposits. The Lonar, a brackish water lake formed in a caldera-like depression surrounded by a fairly steep ringlike wall of 10m to 15m high, is an unique occurrence. The mode of formation of the lake is a matter of considerable geological controversy, due to its remarkable shape, size and lone occurrence in the entire basaltic province of India.

The district experiences tropical semi-arid type of climate. Summer is severe in the northern part particularly in the Purganath plain whereas the southern half with a comparatively higher elevation has a milder summer. With the onset of monsoon in the month of June, the weather becomes pleasant. Nearly 85 per cent of total rainfall is received during the monsoon. May is the hottest and December is generally the coldest month of the year.

The soils of the district are of three main categories. Shukhal or very fine textured deep black soils are found in the plain and are highly retentive of moisture. Medium or black cotton soils are moderately deep, open, and more open, while Bared is the shallow soil generally occupy the higher lands. The forests of the district belong to the southern tropical dry deciduous type and cover only about twelve per cent of the total geographical area. The forest stock comprises dominant species like babool, palas, teak, arjun, mahua, shiwa, tendu and so on. Teak is the main species and the main forest products are timber and firewood. Some wild animals and birds like Nilgai, Chital, Wild boar, Peafowl, Teal, varieties of partridge and Quail are commonly found in these forests.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the people in the district and is the mainstay of the rural economy. Cotton is the principal crop, while pears, tur, gram, mung etc. are the main food crops grown here. The district is industrially backward. The substantial availability of raw cotton has led to the establishment of a number of cotton spinning and pressing factories. Oil mills, cotton weaving (handloom), light engineering saw mills etc. are other industrial units of importance. The district is well served by railway and road communication. The Bombay - Nagpur Calcutta trunk railway and road have passed through the district. Though Buldana is the administrative headquarters, Khambgaon has developed as the principal commercial centre of the district. Lonar is famous for its picturesque situated group of temples and is visited by many pilgrims.

