



WARDHA DISTRICT

Wardha district having an area of 6,309 sq km is situated between latitudes 20° 18' N and 21° 21' N and longitudes 76° 30' E and 79° 15' E in the eastern part of Maharashtra state. Administratively, the district is subdivided into eight talukas or development blocks viz. Ashti, Karanja, Arvi, Seloo, Wardha, Deoli, Hinganghat and Samudrapur.

Geomorphologically, it is a part of Wardha Penganga-Wanganga plain lying at the foot of the Satpura hills. A spur of the Satpura range enters the district and covers a large portion of Arvi taluka. This spur of the Satpura range attains a height between 300 and 600m, whereas in the south and southeast, the altitude is below 300m. The hill ranges and intervening valleys are having a NW-SE trend. River Wardha is the main drainage channel. It forms the northern and the western boundaries of the district. Other important rivers are Wurna and its tributaries Dhotra, Bor and Dham. The Wurna river joins the Wardha river at the southeast corner of the district. Geologically Wardha is composed of Upper Cretaceous-Eocene basalt. Deccan traps with patches of intertrappeous beds. There are small pockets of alluvium in the southwestern part. The district possesses no economic mineral resources worth mentioning.

The climate is tropical monsoon type characterised by hot summer and general dryness of weather for most part of the year, excepting the monsoon season. Southwest monsoon rain commences in the middle of June and ends in September. The normal annual rainfall ranges between 900-1400mm, increasing from northwest to southeast. At Wardha town, the mean monthly temperature is highest in May (31°C) and lowest in the end of December (21°C). Maximum rainfall is recorded in August (345 mm).

The soil of the Wardha valley is deep black in colour. Medium black soil is found in the eastern part of the district. In the northern upland soil is coarse and shallow. Reddish brown soil is found in patches in the catchment area of the Wurna river. The natural vegetation is dry mixed deciduous type. About 14 per cent of the total geographical area of the district is under forest cover mostly lying in the uplands of Arvi taluka. About 65 per cent of the total area is cultivated. Major kharif crops as assessed from sown area, are cotton, jowar, tur, groundnut, oilseeds, rice, pulses other than tur and bajra. Major rabi crops are wheat, gram and oilseeds. Prominent tree crops are orange, mango, banana, ber and guava. The sources of irrigation are canals and wells.

The total population of the district was 10,67,357 persons in 1991 with an overall density of 166 persons per sq km in the Arvi upland. The density varies from 103 persons per sq km to 112 persons per sq km in the Arvi upland. About 78 per cent of the total population live in rural areas.

Manufacturing industries are confined to medium and small scale establishments, like the textile mills at Hinganghat and Jam, sugar factory at Jambhi, cotton oil mills at Wardha, Arvi and Pulgaon, explosive factory at Selcho, turmeric production unit at Waigaon and tissue culture centre near Hinganghat. Wardha and Seloo towns are famous for a variety of crafts including metal ware, pottery, leather work, glass, agartai and wood work.

Wardha is linked to Mumbai, Nagpur and Warangal by broad gauge railway. It is an important railway junction of Central Railway for Nagpur-Mumbai and Nagpur-Warangal branches. NH 6 links up Wardha town with Nagpur and Mumbai. NH 7 connects Hinganghat town with Nagpur and Hyderabad. In addition, quite a few state highways, numbering 74, 81, 82, 83 and 94 serve this district. Cotton, foosgarins, fruits, turmeric, pulses, oilseeds and handicrafts are the chief products. It is served by 62 commercial banks and 45 co-operative banks. In addition, there are 43 agricultural societies and 400 mini co-operative banks. Wardha town is a renowned tourist spot having ashrams and other memorials in the names of great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Baba Saheb B. R. Ambedkar and others.

REFERENCES

Boundaries: district, taluka/block	.....
Reserved forest boundary	.....
Names of headquarters: district, block	.....
Names: town other than headquarters, village	.....
Name of forest species	.....
Railway with station: broad gauge	.....
Road: national highway, state highway	.....
Other roads	.....
Bridges: road, railway	.....
Main power line, Telephone line	.....
Rivers: perennial, non-perennial	.....
Embankment, Canal	.....
Well, Tubwell, Tank	.....
Settlement: urban, rural	.....
Cultivated land, Scrubs	.....
Forest: reserved, others	.....
Culturable wasteland (guiliedland)	.....
Post office, Post and Telegraph office	.....
Police station, Inspection bungalow	.....
Rest house, Circuit house	.....
Hospital, Dispensary, Veterinary hospital	.....
College, Temple, Mosque	.....
Bank: commercial, co-operative, Market	.....
Places of tourist interest	.....

