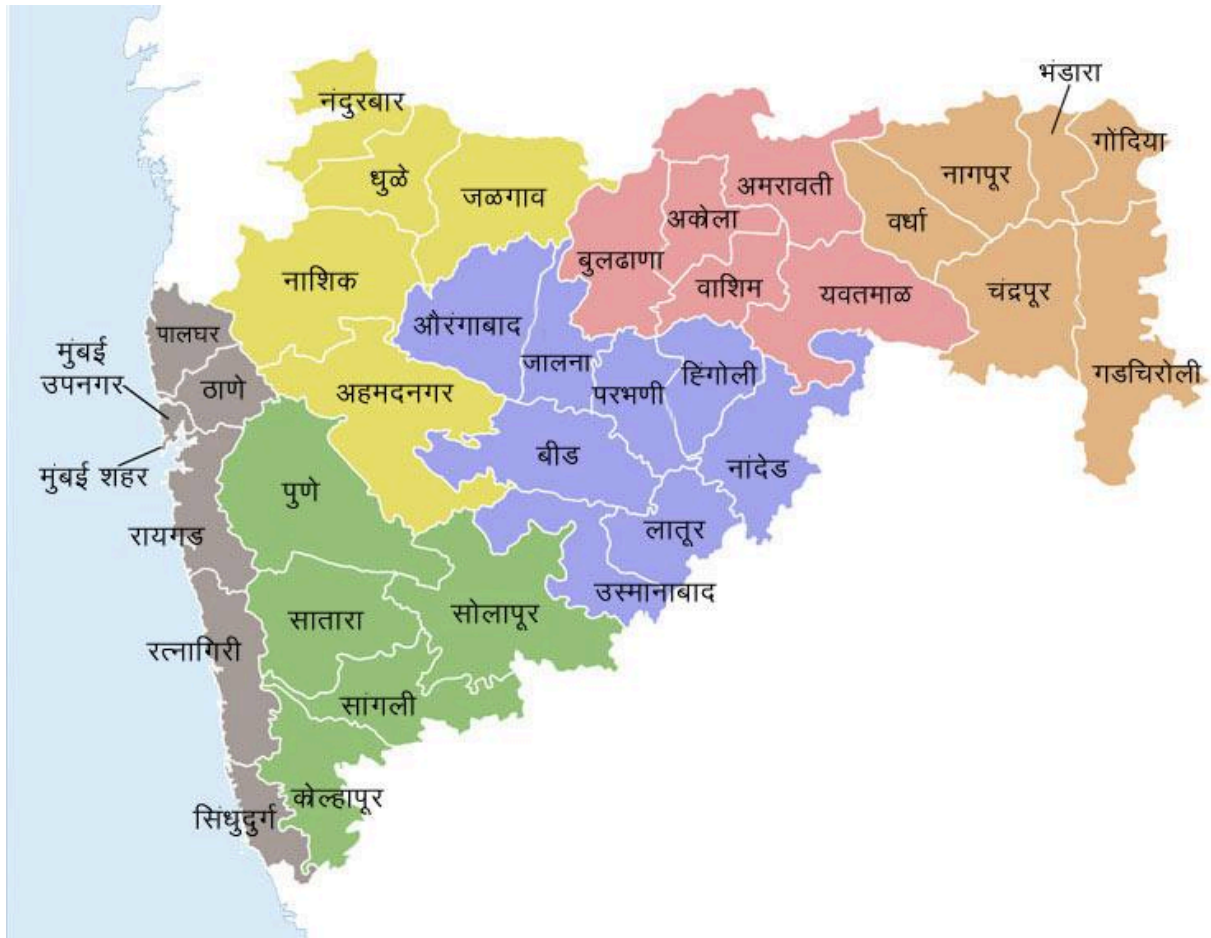# Semester V – Paper VI – Politics of Modern Maharashtra   80 Marks theory + 20 marks project

सेमीस्टर ५ पेपर ६ – आधुनिक महाराष्ट्राचे राजकारण

TYBA

महाराष्ट्र – जिल्हे आणि प्रशासकीय विभाग – मुंबई (कोकण), पुणे (पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र), नाशिक (उत्तर महाराष्ट्र), औरंगाबाद (मराठवाडा), अमरावती, नागपूर (विदर्भ) – सहा विभाग सहा वेगळ्या रंगात दाखवलेले आहेत.

Revised Syllabus

Effective From Academic Year 2018-2019 Politics Paper VI: Political Process In Modern Maharashtra – आधुनिक महाराष्ट्रातील राजकीय प्रक्रिया

Semester V: Politics of Modern Maharashtra Course Code: UAPOL501 आधुनिक

महाराष्ट्राचे राजकारण

Since 2018-19 – Theory 80 marks and Project 20 marks.

Module 1: Historical Background ऐतिहासिक पार्श्वभूमी

1.1 Evolution of the idea of Maharashtra महाराष्ट्र या संकल्पनेचा उदय

1.2 Nationalist Movement and Social Reform Movement राष्ट्रीय चळवळ आणि समाज सुधारणेची चळवळ

1.3 Samyukta Maharashtra Movement संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र चळवळ

Module 2: Sub-regionalism, Regional Disparity and Development

उप-प्रादेशिकतावाद, प्रादेशिक विषमता आणि विकास

2.1 Konkan, Marathwada & Vidarbha कोकण, मराठवाडा आणि विदर्भ

2.2 Dandekar Committee Report दांडेकर समिती अहवाल

2.3 Statutory Development Boards वैधानिक विकास मंडळे

Module 3: Political Institutions in Maharashtra महाराष्ट्रातील राजकीय संस्था

3.1 State Legislature: Composition and Functions राज्य विधिमंडळ – रचना आणि कार्ये

3.2 Chief Minister and Council of Ministers: Role मुख्यमंत्री आणि मंत्रीपारीषद – भूमिका

3.3 High Court and Subordinate Courts उच्च न्यायालय आणि कनिष्ठ न्यायालये

Module 4: Caste and Politics in Maharashtra महाराष्ट्रातील जात आणि राजकारण

4.1 Dominant Caste Politics प्रभूत्वशाली जातीचे राजकारण

4.2 Dalit Politics दलित राजकारण

4.3 OBC Politics ओ. बी. सी. – इतर मागास वर्गांचे राजकारण

Article **27 of Loksatta**

Social Reform Movements in Maharashtra

The social reform movement in Maharashtra has planted the seeds of social justice, equality, and modernity. Indian society in the 19th century was plagued with various problems. Caste disparity, untouchability, secondary status of women, religious superstition and illiteracy were major problems. As a solution to this, many noble persons started the social reform movement in Maharashtra. These movements had a great impact on the social life of Maharashtra, and they continue to inspire. Let us take a detailed look at these movements here.

1. Objectives of Social Movements

The main objective of the social reform movement in Maharashtra was to eradicate caste inequality, gender disparity, illiteracy and superstition in the society. For this, activists from various fields came together to solve the problems of the society and spread modern ideas. He felt it was important to advance Indian culture while preserving it, but improving it.

The Satyashodhak movement, the non-Brahmin movement and the Dalit movement in Maharashtra transformed the social life of Maharashtra by spreading the message of social equality, caste justice, and humanity. These movements stood against inequality, exploitation and injustice in the society and sowed the seeds of social reform. A detailed study of these movements gives an idea of their aims, function and influence.

2. Mahatma Jotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule

Mahatma Jotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule were important pillars of the social reform movement in Maharashtra. He founded the "Truth Seeking Society" and fought against caste discrimination, untouchability and inequality of education. The Phule couple launched a campaign for women's education and started the first girls' school in Pune. He did substantial work for widow remarriage, promotion of widow remarriage, and education of Dalits.

The truth seeker movement

Mahatma Jotiba Phule founded the "Satyashodhak Samaj" movement in 1873, which is considered to be important in the field of social transformation in Maharashtra. The main objective of Satyashodhak movement was to struggle against caste inequality, untouchability, bigotry, and religious superstitions. Through this movement, Phule inspired people from the lower strata of the society to live with self-respect.

Important Objectives:

- To provide equal rights to the oppressed, untouchables and lower strata of the society.

- To provide opportunities for advancement to women and lower castes through education.

- Opposing exploitation in the name of religion.

- Encouraging remarriage of women and widows.

Major work: The Phule couple started a girls' school in Pune, which is believed to be the first school for girls in India. Apart from this he prioritised the problems of widows and promoted remarriage. His wife Savitribai Phule also contributed substantially in the field of women's education.

3. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar fought for the rights of Dalits and the oppressed. He protested against untouchability like "Chavdar Tale Satyagraha" and "Kalaram Mandir Pravesh". His work was instrumental in getting the Dalit community the right to equality. He guaranteed the rights and protection of the oppressed classes by framing the constitution. Ambedkar's ideas broadened the Dalit movement in Maharashtra and led many to freedom and equality.

Dalit movement

The Dalit movement played an important role in the social egalitarian transformation of Maharashtra. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a prominent leader of the Dalit movement, who fought against untouchability and caste exploitation. Babasaheb tried to bring self-respect, education and equality to the lower strata of society.

Important Objectives:

- To provide equal treatment to the Dalits and oppressed classes in the society.

- Abolition of untouchability and opposition to caste discrimination.

- Bringing Dalits into the mainstream of progress through education.

- To protect the rights of Dalits and Backward Classes through the Constitution.

Major Work: Dr. Ambedkar got Dalits access to public water and places of worship through the "Chavdar Tale Satyagraha" and the "Kalaram Mandir Pravesh" satyagraha in 1927. His role in the constitution-making process was significant, as he guaranteed reservation and protection for Dalits. Due to his ideas the Dalit movement spread not only in Maharashtra but all over India.

4. Public interest

The philanthropist Gopal Hari Deshmukh wrote against many superstitions and practices of the society. He discussed social issues through the magazines "Shetkari Mitra" and "Lokhitwadi". The message of equality and brotherhood was imparted by spreading the philosophy of Saint Dnyaneshwar and other saints. This freed them from religious fanaticism and opened the way for humanity.

5. Maharshi Vitthal Ramji Shinde and Untouchability

Maharshi Vitthal Ramji Shinde worked in the field of social reform to end untouchability. He founded the organisation "Depressed Class Mission", which provided education, health, and employment opportunities to the untouchables. The work of Maharshi Shinde created a sense of self-respect in the minds of the untouchables.

6. Women's Education and Widow Remarriage Movement

Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule, Pandita Ramabai, Anandibai Joshi contributed a lot in the women's reform movement in Maharashtra. Savitribai Phule fought for girls' education, while Pandita Ramabai raised her voice for widow remarriage. Anandibai Joshi earned the distinction of being the first woman doctor to pursue medical education. These women gave a new direction to women in the society.

7. Shahu Maharaj and Social Justice

Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj made many reforms to bring justice to the weaker sections of the society. He promoted and disseminated education, introduced the concept of reservation, and provided government funds for the underprivileged to have access to education. His work strengthened the concept of social justice in Maharashtra.

Non-Brahmin movement

A caste-based non-Brahmin movement emerged in Maharashtra in the late 19th century. The aim of this movement was to challenge the hegemony of the Brahmin community, as well as to provide opportunities for advancement to the people of other castes. Leaders like Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and Gopal Balkrishna Wagh played an important role in this movement.

Important Objectives:

- To provide education, employment, and social equality to non-Brahmins.

- To provide opportunities to people of non-Brahmin community in educational and social spheres.

- Opposing caste exploitation and notions of superiority and inferiority.

Major Work: Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj introduced the concept of reservation in education and employment during his rule, which proved to be very revolutionary. He provided educational opportunities to the non-Brahmin community. Shahu Maharaj tried to give social equality to other castes, which led to the rise of non-Brahmin society in Maharashtra.

8. Social reform in the freedom movement

During the freedom movement, there was a boom in the work of social reform. The message of truth and non-violence took root through the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi. He promoted the abolition of untouchability and the use of khadi. During this period, Tilak united the society in the name of religion and gave the message of national unity.

9. Prayer Society

Prarthana Samaj was established in 1867 in Bombay. The purpose of the prayer society was to destroy superstitions, rituals and social inequality. Through this movement society got the recognition of modernity. Its founder Dr. Atmaram Pandurang was, and later Mahadeva Govind Ranade, R. G. Thinkers like Bhandarkar, Keshav Chandra Sen participated in this movement. He held libertarian views on God, religion, and ritual, and promoted monotheism, women's education, and social equality.

10. Mahadev Govind Ranade and Social Reforms

Mahadev Gobind Ranade played a very important role in the work of enlightenment. He emphasised the reduction of religious rituals, the education of women and the recognition of remarriage. He made people understand the importance of taking modern education seriously and spreading science. Ranade opposed women's education, women's reform, widow remarriage and rituals in Brahmin society.

11. Arya Samaj

Arya Samaj was founded in 1875 by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The aim of the Arya Samaj was to propagate Vedic ideas, as well as to oppose superstitions and rituals. This movement promoted monotheism and modern education, opposing the ritualistic and excessive rituals of Brahmanism. The ideas of the Arya Samaj also reached the Brahmin community of Maharashtra, from which religious superstitions and rituals began to decline.

12. Widow Remarriage Movement

The Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1856, and this act was made possible by the efforts of reformers like Keshav Chandra Sen, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. This Act allowed remarriage for widows of the Brahmin community. However, this law was initially opposed in the society. The reformers then campaigned to persuade people to vote in favour of the law.

13. Women's education and women's reform

Many reformers contributed to the women's education movement in the Brahmin community. Women scholars like Pandita Ramabai made special efforts for the education of women. He emphasised on education and self-reliance of widows. So women realised freedom through education, and they got a new direction. Women like Anandibai Joshi created role models for women in the society by taking medical education.

14. Reforms in Brahmin society against caste inequality

The reformers of Brahmin society made various efforts to achieve equality with other sections of the society. Some Brahmins tried to educate the untouchables, as well as to help them by keeping in touch with them. This helped to create a new social order transcending untouchability and casteism.

Effectiveness of social reform

The social reform movements in Maharashtra achieved social consciousness and ideological transformation. There were improvements in caste disparity, equality between men and women, educational reforms and elimination of superstitions. The ideas of these activists of social reform led to the construction of modern Maharashtra, the influence of which continues even today.

The social reform movement in Maharashtra played an important role in bringing about transformation in the Indian society. These movements gave modern thought to the society, and inculcated the values of social justice, equality, and fraternity. The basic sentiment behind these movements was that the society should adopt the path of progress by keeping these ideals in mind.

National Movement in Maharashtra

The history of the national movement in Maharashtra is the story of a glorious period in India's freedom struggle. Maharashtra played an important role in the freedom movement, which included various ideologies, militant leaders, and numerous freedom fighters. The national movement in Maharashtra awakened the feeling of patriotism among the Indian people and mounted a solid fight against the British.

1. Beginning of National Movement and 'Uprising of 1857'

The first freedom struggle in 1857 is considered to be the beginning of India's national movement. The first spark of armed revolution in Maharashtra fell in this uprising. Nana Saheb was prominently involved in Peshwa's sons. He fought alongside Rani Laxmibai and Tatya Tope and fought the first battle of Indian independence. After this the British imposed strict laws to suppress the revolutionaries in Maharashtra, which made the way for further movements more difficult.

2. Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the Non-Cooperation Movement

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a prominent name in the national movement in Maharashtra. His slogan "Swaraj is my birthright and I will get it" is still inspiring today. He started 'Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav' and 'Shiva Jayanti' along with Lokmanya Keshav Chandra Sen, which instilled a sense of self-respect and patriotism in the people. He voiced Indian discontent through newspapers 'Kesari' and 'Maratha'. He played an important role in the movement against the partition of Bengal in 1905.

Major Movements: The Swadeshi Movement, the Holi of Exotic Textiles, and the Non-Cooperation Movement took off in Maharashtra under the leadership of Tilak. He took a

strong stand against the atrocities of the British and brought together the youth of the society.

3. Revolutionary movement of Chapekar brothers

Chafekar brothers - Damodar, Balwant and Vasudev killed the British officer Rand and Lt. Iris and started the revolutionary movement in Maharashtra. In 1897, the Chafekar brothers did this act against the injustice done to the people during the plague epidemic in Pune. He inculcated revolutionary ideas among the youth of Maharashtra, which inspired many young revolutionaries.

4. Ghadar movement

The Ghadar movement was one of the important movements of revolutionaries in Maharashtra. Many youths of Maharashtra participated in this movement, in which Vitthal Laxman Pingle and his colleagues played an important role. This movement showed open opposition against the British and made the Indian people aware against the British rulers.

5. Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement

The people of Maharashtra actively participated in the non-cooperation movement started in 1920 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The movement included satyagraha, boycott of schools, colleges, and foreign clothes. Maharashtra leaders Yusuf Mehr Ali, Jamnalal Bajaj, Senapati Bapat, and Vinoba Bhave played an important role in this movement.

Important Contribution: Under Gandhiji's influence, the farmers and artisans of Maharashtra adopted indigenous textiles and abandoned foreign textiles. The people of Maharashtra set the ideal of giving up many educational institutions and government jobs to take the path of social service.

6. Influence of Bhagat Singh and Hindustan Republican Association

Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, and their associates were influencing the youth of Maharashtra with revolutionary ideas. His work of "Hindustan Republican Association" (HRA) turned the youth of Maharashtra towards armed revolution. This organisation inspired the armed revolution to gain independence.

7. Quit India Movement (1942)

In 1942, Mahatma Gandhi called for the 'Quit India' movement, and this movement gained momentum in Maharashtra as well. The movement started from Mumbai in Maharashtra, and within a short time its influence spread across the state. Thousands of young and old revolted against the British with the slogan *"Karenge Ya Marenge"* . Yusuf Mehr Ali coined the slogan 'Quit India'. The leaders of Maharashtra who participated in this movement made great sacrifices.

8. Relationship between social reform and nationalism

The national movement in Maharashtra got support from the movement of social reformers. Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Shahu Maharaj created awareness in the society through the work of social reform. He raised his voice against casteism, untouchability, and misogyny. These reforms had an impact on the national movement. The work of Phule and Shahu Maharaj inspired the Dalits, the oppressed, and women to come into the mainstream of society, leading to the unity of the people against the British.

9. Literary and cultural contribution

Literature and poets of Maharashtra also contributed a lot in the national movement. Govindagraj, Vishnushastri Chiplunkar, Lokmanya Tilak, Sane Guruji proclaimed freedom through their writings. This created a sense of patriotism among the people. Literary writers of Maharashtra made the people aware that India's freedom struggle was not only a political struggle but also a cultural and psychological struggle.

The National Movement in Maharashtra is a historical and inspiring story of the fight for freedom, equality and justice. This movement challenged the tyrannical rule of the British and brought the Indian people together. Tilak, Phule, Ambedkar, Chafekar brothers, Gandhiji and countless other heroes showed the light of freedom to Maharashtra. Due to the influence of this movement, Maharashtra is still at the forefront of social and cultural progress in India.

Contribution of Swatantraveer Savarkar

Veer Savarkar, freedom hero Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, was a leading revolutionary in the Maharashtra national movement. Savarkar's thoughts, his determination and revolutionary role proved valuable in India's freedom struggle. His revolutionary work posed a serious challenge to the British power and his contribution to the history of Indian independence is very important. Here is a detailed review of his contribution to the national movement.

1. The seed of revolutionary thought and inspiration of the freedom struggle

Savarkar was a freedom lover from childhood. In his childhood, he was greatly influenced by the heroic stories of Indian history and the inspiring stories of the freedom struggle. Thoughts of independence were also rooted in his family. While at *Fergusson College,* Pune , he founded a secret organisation called "Mitra Mela", which inculcated the idea of independence among the youth.

2. Revolutionary Work in England

In 1906, Savarkar went to England for education and there too he continued to work for the Indian freedom struggle. Founded *India House* in London , where Indian revolutionaries

used to meet. Savarkar formed a secret movement based on the ideas of *Mazzini* , an Italian revolutionary in London, which inspired many Indian youths to fight against British rule.

Major Work: While in England, Savarkar wrote the book *Freedom Struggle of 1857* . In this book, he called the struggle of 1857 "Indian Freedom Struggle" and emphasised the importance of his struggle to the Indian people. The book was banned by the British, but it reached India secretly and created a feeling of nationalism among the people.

3. Absolutely revolutionary writing

Savarkar was an accomplished writer, who wrote many poems, essays and speeches to create nationalist sentiment against the British. His writings were equally poignant and inspiring. He instilled a sense of patriotism among the people with poems like "Ne Majasi Ne Pharta Mathrubhumi La". Through his book "Hindutva" he awakened the Hindu identity, out of which he wanted to create a self-respecting society.

4. Punishment of black water in Andaman

In 1909, Savarkar was arrested due to his involvement in the activities of Madanlal Dhingra. Later he was sentenced to black water in Andaman. They were subjected to unbearable torture in *the cellular jail* in Andaman . But he did not give up even while suffering this punishment. He composed many revolutionary poetry and writings in prison, which inspired Indian revolutionaries. In prison, he continued to spread his ideas and awakened revolutionary thoughts among the prisoners.

5. Hindu organisation and Hinduism

Savarkar propounded Hindutva as a comprehensive philosophy, which aimed to create unity and strength of Hindu society. He emphasised Hindu organisation, which would lead to self-reliance and empowerment in Hindu society, he asserted. His Hinduism was not limited to religion but was a way of social, cultural and political awareness.

6. Propaganda of armed revolution

Savarkar believed that British rule could not be ended by peaceful means alone. He considered armed revolution as an effective solution. Savarkar encouraged the youth to take arms training. In England he gave lessons in weaponry and training to the youth. His ideas became an inspiration to revolutionaries, and revolutionary organisations in India were strengthened.

7. Contribution after Independence

Even after the independence of India, Savarkar continued the work of social reforms in the society. He became the president of the Hindu Mahasabha and continued to work for the unity of the Hindu community. He worked for abolition of untouchability and gender equality. His thoughts continue to inspire the youth of the society and the next generations.

Thoughts and Significance of Savarkar

Savarkar's thoughts were based on independence and national identity. He said that freedom is the birthright of every Indian. He inspired to sacrifice for the country. His conception of armed revolution and firm thinking became a guide for the Indian revolutionaries. His ideas influenced the Indian national movement and the revolutionaries and created a major challenge to British power.

Veer Savarkar's contribution to the national movement of Maharashtra and India is unique and invaluable. He shook the British power with his bold ideas and revolutionary actions. He did not just create an ideology but did actual revolutionary work based on those ideas. His place in the history of the Indian freedom struggle is unshakable, and his inspiring thoughts have inspired generations to fight for patriotism and freedom.

Emergence of Maharashtra concept

The emergence of the concept of Maharashtra is an important social and cultural event in Indian history. The concept of emergence of Maharashtra arose out of historical, cultural, and linguistic integration. The concept took centuries to evolve, and was shaped by various saints, social reformers, revolutionaries, and political leaders in Maharashtra. The concept of Maharashtra emerged on the basis of Marathi linguistic identity, cultural integration, and political consciousness.

1. Historical background

The history of Maharashtra has been under various rulers since the first century AD. The Satavahanas, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Yadavas, and later Bahmani and Mughal rulers established their dominance over the region. However, Marathi culture and language survived even during all these rulers. The region incorporated different castes, religions, and traditions, from which a strong cultural concept began to develop.

2. Influence of Saint Tradition

The saint tradition in Maharashtra brought about social and cultural awareness in the state. Saints like *Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Tukaram, Sant Eknath, Sant Namdev,* and *Sant*

Chokhamela gave messages of equality, brotherhood, and humanity in the society through their Abhangavani and kirtan. The thoughts of these saints strengthened the sense of unity in the minds of the Marathi people and gave the region a cultural identity. The message of humanity and social reform given by the saints became the pillar of Maharashtra's unity.

3. Shivaji Maharaj and Swarajya Concept

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj brought the Marathi people together and created the concept of Swarajya. In the 17th century, Shivaji Maharaj challenged the Mughal Empire and created an independent Marathi state, which instilled a sense of self-respect and unity among the people of Maharashtra. Shivaji Maharaj organised the Marathi people and under his leadership a strong and independent state was created in Maharashtra. The concept of Swarajya awakened Marathi identity and self-esteem.

The people of Maharashtra gained political consciousness due to Shivaji Maharaj's Swaraj. He was not only a statesman, but also a social reformer. He forgot religion, caste and class and gave equal justice to all in his state. This work gave a stronger foundation to the concept of Maharashtra.

4. Peshwa's period and subsequent status

After the death of Shivaji Maharaj, the Maratha Empire expanded under the leadership of the Peshwas. Maharashtra was effectively ruled by the Peshwas and the boundaries of the state reached north India. This strengthened the Marathi identity. However, in 1818, the British defeated the Marathas and ended their dominance. After the fall of the Peshwas, the British established their rule in Maharashtra, but the Marathi identity still survived.

5. Contribution of social reformers

In the second half of the 19th century, a social and religious reform movement started in Maharashtra. *Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule, Savitribai Phule,* Social reformers such as *populist Gopal Hari Deshmukh,* and *Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj* worked on issues such as caste inequality, untouchability, and gender equality. He awakened the society and inculcated the spirit of social equality in the concept of Maharashtra.

These social reformers convinced the Marathi people of the importance of education, social equality, and self-respect. He mainstreamed the oppressed, deprived, and Dalit sections of the society and established their rights. This strengthened the society in Maharashtra and gave the concept of Maharashtra a wider social base.

6. National Movement and Maharashtra Integration

During the freedom struggle, the leaders of Maharashtra raised Marathi identity while fighting against the British. *Lokmanya Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Senapati Bapat,* and *Dr. Leaders like Babasaheb Ambedkar* played an important role in the freedom struggle. Tilak's declaration of Swarajya and Ambedkar's ideas of social justice created a new vigour and sense of unity among the Marathi masses.

7. Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement

In the 1950s, the linguistic unity of Maharashtra was strengthened through the Sanyukta Maharashtra movement. The state of Maharashtra was formed on 1 May 1960, incorporating the entire Marathi-speaking areas, including Mumbai. Due to this movement, the people of Maharashtra became proud of Marathi identity and cultural unity. In this movement, many leaders embodied the Marathi identity as a state through their leadership.

The emergence of the concept of Maharashtra is a journey of cultural, social, and political integration. The tradition of saints, the Swaraj of Shivaji Maharaj, the work of social reformers, contributions to the national movement, and the Sanyukta Maharashtra movement have all shaped the concept of Maharashtra. Rooted in Marathi identity, integration, and social reforms, this concept has given Maharashtra a strong identity that continues to inspire the people of Maharashtra even today.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra currently has a total of 36 districts , divided into six administrative divisions namely Konkan , Pune , Nashik , Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar , Amravati and Nagpur . [1] Geographically the state has 5 major regions Vidarbha , Marathwada , Khandesh , Konkan and West Maharashtra . In terms of area, Ahilyanagar district is the largest and Mumbai city is the smallest district. As Mumbai City and Mumbai suburbs are 100 percent urban districts, those districts do not have Zilla Parishads . Although there are 36 districts in Maharashtra, there are 34 Zilla Parishads in total.

Geographically, historically, and politically, Maharashtra is divided into five regions.

- **Vidarbha** - (*Nagpur Division and Amravati Division*)

- **Marathwada** - (*Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Division*)

- **Khandesh and North Maharashtra Division** - (*Nashik Division*)

- **Konkan** - (*Konkan Division*)

- **West Maharashtra** - (*Pune Division*)

The state of Maharashtra is divided into six administrative divisions. [1] Division wise list of districts is given below.

No.	Department Name	Headquarters	area	Number of Districts	districts
1	Amravati Division	Amravati	Vidarbha	5	Akola , Amravati , Buldhana , Yavatmal , Washim

2	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Division (Aurangabad)	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar	Marathwada	8	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad), Beed , Jalna , Dharashiv (Osmanabad), Latur , Nanded , Hingoli , Parbhani
3	Konkan Division	Mumbai	Konkan	7	Mumbai City District , Mumbai Suburbs , Thane , Palghar , Raigad , Ratnagiri , Sindhudurg
4	Nagpur Division	Nagpur	Vidarbha	6	Nagpur , Wardha , Bhandara , Gondia , Chandrapur , Gadchiroli
5	Nashik Division	Nashik	Khandesh	5	Nashik , Dhule , Nandurbar , Jalgaon , Ahilya Devi Nagar (Ahmadnagar)

6	Pune Division	Pune	Western Maharashtra	5	Pune , Satara , Sangli , Solapur , Kolhapur

From Wikipedia

Konkan and Western Maharashtra

Konkan and West Maharashtra are two major geographical divisions of Maharashtra. Both these divisions have different geographical, cultural and economic characteristics, and they contribute greatly to the prosperity of Maharashtra. Let's take a detailed look at these parts along with the list of districts that fall under these divisions.

Konkan Division

Konkan Division is a part of the western coastal state of Maharashtra. Bordering the Arabian Sea, the region is known for its natural beauty, beaches, villages, hilly terrain, coconut groves, and Konkani language and culture. This area is very rainy during the monsoon season, and this has a major impact on the agriculture here.

Characteristics of Konkan Division

- **Geographical structure:** Arabian Sea to the west, Sahyadri mountain ranges to the east. As the Konkan coast is adjacent to the Arabian Sea, the coastal area has many ports, bays, beaches, and islets.

- **Economy:** The economy of the Konkan region is mainly dependent on agriculture, fishing, tourism, and orchards. Coconut, pofli, rice, cashew, mango (especially Hapus mango) and other fruits are cultivated here.

- **Tourism:** Alibaug, Ratnagiri, Ganapatipule, Sindhudurg, Murud, Malvan etc. are famous tourist destinations on the Konkan coast. There are many forts in the Sahyadri mountain range, which attracts a lot of tourists.

Districts of Konkan Division

1. **Mumbai City:** Capital of Maharashtra, financial and cultural hub. 2. **Mumbai Suburbs:** Part of Mumbai's expansion, major financial and industrial projects are located here. 3. **Thane:** A commercial, industrial and bustling city; Famous forts and beaches. 4. **Palghar:**

Separated from Thane district in 2014. There are tourist places like Wada, Jawar, Dahanu etc. 5. **Raigad:** Known as the capital of Shivaji Maharaj. Raigad Fort, Murud Janjira, Alibaug are famous tourist places. 6. **Ratnagiri:** Famous for Hapus Mangoes; Ganapatipule Temple, Thiba Palace, and Ratnadurg Fort are tourist attractions. 7. **Sindhudurg:** Sindhudurg Fort built by Maharaja, Malvan Coast, Amboli Ghat, Tarkarli are famous places.

West Maharashtra Division

West Maharashtra Division is considered to be one of the prosperous and highly developed divisions of Maharashtra. The area has a significant imprint of agriculture, industry, education, and cultural traditions. Extending from the peaks of the Sahyadri mountain range to the river valleys, this region includes the prosperous districts of Pune, Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur.

Characteristics of Western Maharashtra Division

- **Economy:** Western Maharashtra is considered to be a major hub in the economy of Maharashtra. A sugar industry based on sugarcane production has developed in this area, making the area known as the "Sugar Belt". Apart from this, crops like dairy, cotton, vegetables, grapes, pomegranate, and soybeans are cultivated on a large scale.

- **Educational Centre:** Pune in western Maharashtra is an important educational centre in the state. There are many universities, colleges, and research institutes, which makes the city of Pune also known as the "Oxford of the East".

- **Tourism:** The area has historical sites, forts, religious places, river valleys, and Sahyadri mountain range as tourist attractions. Thousands of tourists visit places like Pandharpur, Mahabaleshwar, Satara, Kolhapur, Bhima-Koregaon every year.

Districts of Western Maharashtra

1. **Pune:** Educational and Industrial Centre. Sinhagad, Parvati, Shaniwarwada, and Aga Khan Palace are major tourist spots. 2. **Satara:** A place with historical forts, Mahabaleshwar, Kaas Plateau, Sajjangarh, etc. 3. **Sangli:** Famous for sugar factories, sweet rivers and grape production. Krishna Ghat on the banks of Krishna River is the major attraction. 4. **Solapur:** Famous for textile industry and religious places. Vithoba temple in Pandharpur is the most religious place. 5. **Kolhapur:** Famous for Mahalakshmi Temple, New Palace, Panhala Fort; Sugar industry and dairy business are also flourishing here.

---

conclusion

The Konkan and Western Maharashtra divisions are major components of Maharashtra's economic, cultural, and geographical wealth. Konkan region is blessed with natural beauty and achieves economic growth through tourism, fishing and orchards. Western Maharashtra, on the other hand, is a leader in industrial, educational and agricultural production and plays an important role in the economic development of the state. Both these divisions symbolise Maharashtra's diversity, cultural richness, and progress.

Political History of Konkan and Western Maharashtra

The political history of the Konkan and Western Maharashtra regions is important in the unity and development of Maharashtra. Both these departments have contributed a lot in the politics of Maharashtra. While the Konkan region has preserved the importance of the country in its ancient history, western Maharashtra has shaped the political movements of modern times. Let us review the political history of both these divisions below.

Political History of Konkan Division

The history of Konkan region has witnessed many dynasties. Konkan was ruled by Satavahana, Shilahara, Yadava, Mughal, Adilshahi, and Maratha dynasties. Shivaji Maharaj established Swaraj by building forts like Sindhudurg, Ratnadurg, and Raigad in the Konkan region. Therefore, Konkan has played a major role in the political history of the Maratha Empire.

1. Influence of Shivaji Maharaj in Konkan

Shivaji Maharaj built a number of forts in the Konkan region and gave the region a protected geographical base. He built Sindhudurg fort and established supremacy over the sea. The forts of Ratnagiri, Raigad, and Sindhudurg in Konkan provided a major support to the defence of the Maratha Empire. His war policy gave the Marathi people in Konkan a strong political and cultural unity.

2. Konkan under British rule

The British defeated the Maratha Empire and occupied the Konkan region. During the British period, the condition of the peasants in Konkan became miserable, and many farmers formed movements due to this. The British developed ports in the region for trade and administration, creating a mercantile economy in Konkan. But the exploitation of peasants led to discontent in Konkan, which led many to participate in the freedom struggle.

3. Politics in the Post-Independence Era

After independence, the influence of the National Congress in politics in Konkan increased. The influence of socialist ideas also increased in this region. Leaders from the Konkan

region participated in the Sanyukta Maharashtra movement in the 1950s. Leaders from Ratnagiri, Raigad, and Sindhudurga worked extensively in this movement.

4. Shiv Sena and Maharashtrian Ideology

The Shiv Sena emerged in the 1960s . Balasaheb Thackeray raised his voice for the Marathi identity and the rights of the Marathi people. Shiv Sena's influence grew in the Konkan, and Marathi identity gained new political strength in the region. The Shiv Sena focused on the problems and issues of the people of Konkan, which gave the party popularity in the region.

5. Nationalist and environmental movements

In the 1990s, the NCP emerged under the leadership of Sharad Pawar. The NCP gave voice to the concerns of farmers, workers, and fishermen in Konkan. Besides, environmental issues arose in the name of industrialization in Konkan, which led to the emergence of several environmental movements. *The Jaitapur nuclear power plant* and *farmers, fishermen movements* are some prominent examples.

Political History of Western Maharashtra

The history of Western Maharashtra is considered to be very rich and influential. This region has played a decisive role in the politics of Maharashtra. From the establishment of the Maratha Empire to the struggle for independence, and the subsequent socialist circles, the political position of western Maharashtra has been important.

1. Shivaji Maharaj and the Concept of Swarajya

Shivaji Maharaj implemented the concept of self-government from the Sahyadri mountain range and established forts like Raigad, Pratapgad, Sinhagad. By implementing political and military policies in the area of Sahyadri, he laid the solid foundation of the Maratha Empire. This created a strong political consciousness in western Maharashtra.

2. Expansion of Peshwa and Maratha Empire

The development of western Maharashtra increased during the Peshwa period. Satara became the centre of the Maratha Empire, and it was from here that the Peshwas expanded the Maratha Empire into northern India. The Peshwa carried out social reforms, construction of forts, and watershed management in western Maharashtra. By the end of the Peshwas, the British defeated the Marathas and established dominance over the entire Maharashtra.

3. Role in freedom struggle

Pune in western Maharashtra is considered to be the centre of the national movement. Leaders like Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Agarkar, and Senapati Bapat led the fight against the British from Pune. Farmers, workers, and students of this region participated in the freedom struggle in large numbers. Also, Bal Gangadhar Tilak raised the slogan of Swaraj from Pune, which increased political and social awareness in the region.

4. Socialist influence after independence

After independence, the influence of socialist ideas increased in western Maharashtra. *Yashwantrao Chavan* became the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra and worked on industrialization, cooperative movement, and educational development. Co-operative sugar mills and co-operative banks in the area improved the economy. Western Maharashtra also achieved progress in the agricultural sector through the cooperative movement, which brought economic stability to the farmers here.

5. Influence of NCP and Sharad Pawar

Sharad Pawar founded NCP in 1999. The NCP grew in influence among farmers, workers, and traders in western Maharashtra. NCP has made important contributions in the fields of cooperative sugar factories, dairying, and agriculture. Sharad Pawar focused on farmers' welfare and rural development in this area.

6. Political Struggle in Modern Times

The conflict between socialist and nationalist ideologies is more visible in the politics of western Maharashtra. The political climate here is always heated due to political interference in the cooperative movement, educational institutions, and sugar mills. The influence of political parties, alliances, and the importance of local leaders are special features of politics in this region.

The political history of Konkan and Western Maharashtra has been decisive for the progress of Maharashtra. Konkan played a role in the building of the Maratha Empire, independence movements, and environmental movements. Whereas western Maharashtra has played an important role in the co-operative movement, freedom struggle, and the ideology of socialism. The political contributions of both these divisions boosted the social, economic, and cultural development of Maharashtra.

Marathwada Division

Marathwada Division is one of the six administrative divisions of Maharashtra. Located in the south-eastern part of the state, this division has its history, cultural traditions, and economic characteristics that give a distinct identity to the affluence of Maharashtra. Marathwada is a region considered to be important from a traditional, historical and political point of view. Here the geographical, historical, political and economic information of Marathwada is given in detail.

Geographical description

Marathwada is a division located in the south-eastern part of Maharashtra, the geographical location of this division is mainly near the area of Godavari river and its tributaries.

- **Location:** Marathwada Division is situated in the south-eastern part of Maharashtra. It is bordered by Vidarbha to the north, other districts of Marathwada division to the west, Karnataka state to the south, and Telangana state to the east.

- **Rivers:** The Godavari River is the major river in Marathwada, flowing through the northern part of the division. Tributaries of the Godavari, such as the Manjra, Seena, Aurangabad, Latur, Parbhani, and Beed provide water resources.

- **Climate:** Marathwada has a hot and dry climate. Rainfall in the area is mainly from June to September, but the region is prone to frequent droughts, depending on agricultural conditions.

Historical background

The history of Marathwada has witnessed the reigns of various empires. The area has been influenced by the Yadava, Mughal, Nizam, and Maratha empires.

- **Yadava Empire:** During the 12th and 13th centuries, Devagiri (present-day Daulatabad) was the centre of the Yadava dynasty. Yadav kings developed various temples and forts in this area.

- **Mughal Empire:** Mughal emperors conquered Marathwada in the 16th century. Aurangabad was a major centre of the Mughal Empire. Aurangzeb established his influence in Aurangabad and the city of Aurangabad flourished during his time.

- **Nizam Rule:** After the fall of the Mughal Empire, the region came under the control of the Nizams of Hyderabad. During the Nizams, there was social, economic and religious tension in Marathwada.

- **Contribution to India's Freedom Struggle:** After India's independence, Marathwada was refused to merge with India by the Nizam of Hyderabad. But Hyderabad was annexed by police action and Marathwada joined India in 1948.

---

political colour

The political history of Marathwada division is important in the unity and development of Maharashtra. The contribution of social reforms in the politics of this region is great.

- **Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement:** In the 1950s, leaders from Marathwada participated extensively in the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement. After the formation of Maharashtra state on 1 May 1960, Marathwada division became part of Maharashtra.

- **Works of Babasaheb Ambedkar:** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's work was significant in terms of social equality, education and social justice in Marathwada. He raised his voice for the rights of the Dalit and oppressed communities of this region.

- **Influence of political parties:** Political parties like Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena, Bharatiya Janata Party, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi have influence in Marathwada. Leaders of these parties are active in cooperatives, education, and agriculture.

- **Work of Social Reforms:** Thoughts of saints like Sant Gorobakaka, Sant Eknath, and Sant Janabai brought about social awareness in Marathwada. His thoughts have inspired social movements in this area.

Financial status

The economy of Marathwada is mainly based on agriculture. The economy of this region is dependent on rainfall and faces constant challenges due to drought.

- **Agriculture:** Crops like cotton, soybean, millet, maize, tur, udid are widely cultivated in Marathwada. Although irrigation facilities are available to some extent for sugarcane cultivation, agriculture in the district is mainly rain-fed.

- **Drought and water problems:** Marathwada is prone to frequent droughts, making water scarcity a perennial problem. Because of this, there is a great need for water conservation, water conservation, and irrigation facilities in this area. Schemes like Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan have improved the water problem to some extent.

- **Industrial Development:** Aurangabad is the major industrial centre of Marathwada. Industrial estates here produce automobiles, electronics,

pharmaceuticals, and machinery. The Shendra-Bidkin industrial area has been included, and this is likely to provide opportunities for industrial development in the future.

- **Tourism:** Famous tourist spots like Ajantha-Verul Caves in Marathwada, Daulatabad Fort, Bibi Ka Tomb, Panchakki in Aurangabad, and Vithoba Temple in Pandharpur have boosted the tourism business.

Districts of Marathwada Division

There are total 8 districts in Marathwada Division:

1. **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad):** Famous for historical fort, Bibi Ka Tomb, Ajantha-Verul Caves and industrial area. Marathwada University which is now Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University is located in this city. The district was once a centre of Dalit movement. Aurangzeb died here so this district was named after him. It has been renamed recently. This district is the main centre of Marathwada administrative division.

2. **Latur:** Agricultural District; Although drought-prone, cultivation of grapes and sugarcane is important. Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh's district.

3. **Seed:** Crops like cotton, soybean, millet are mainly cultivated; A district prone to frequent droughts. Sugarcane cutting factories district. The district where the foundation of Namdar Gopinath Munde's politics was laid.

4. **Parbhani:** Known as the land of saints. Sugarcane and soybeans are widely cultivated here. 5. **Nanded:** District famous for Hemadpanthi temples. Sachkhand Gurdwara Nanded Sahib is a major religious site for Sikhs. "Takht Sachkhand Sri Huzur Abchalnagar Sahib is the main gurudwara of Nanded and is one of the five highest places under Sikh rule. This is the place where Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji breathed his last. The Gurdwara was built between 1830 and 1891 by Maharaj Ranjit Singh, the great ruler of Punjab. Inside the gurdwara, which houses the mortal remains of the 10th Guru, various types of weapons are displayed." [1]Shankarao Chavan and Ashok Chavan are the two Chief Ministers of this district. This district of Swami Ramanand Tirtha. A university named after him has been established here.

6. **Jalna:** A centre of industrial and agricultural development, soybean and millet crops were grown here.

7. **Hingoli:** Agricultural district; Crops like tur, udid, and soybeans are cultivated here.

8. **Osmanabad:** Production of pulses, and religious places such as Tuljapur famous for the Tulja Bhavani temple.

The Marathwada division is considered important in the cultural, social, and political history of Maharashtra. The tradition of saints, contribution to the freedom struggle, and social reform work have given this region a historical significance. People of Marathwada are engaged in agriculture, tourism, and small industries. Promotion of water conservation, irrigation, and industrial development is essential for the development of this sector.

Dandekar Committee Report

High Level Committee on Regional Imbalance in Maharashtra. Regional inequality and the economic, social and political issues arising from it are constantly being discussed on various media and platforms. Efforts are being made at different levels from global to local level to solve those questions. In fact, it is now widely accepted that it is an unwanted, unnecessary and incomprehensible aspect of the development process. Each region's historical background, natural resource endowment, financial resources, opportunities available for economic development and the region's ability to take advantage of them all have an impact on regional disparities.

In order to eliminate the regional economic disparity and imbalance in Maharashtra, the Government of Maharashtra Vs. m. A high level committee was constituted on 29th July 1983 under the chairmanship of Dandekar and the Planning Department of Maharashtra Government dated 3rd August 1983 no. 1082/CR-38/PR-38/PRG 14, the necessary orders regarding the establishment of this committee were issued. This committee is called Truth Finding Committee on Regional Imbalance in Maharashtra.

The government has appointed a state-level fact-finding committee of experts for the purpose of bringing about balanced development of all the departments and conducting a scientific and thorough study of the departmental imbalance in development. Also, based on the report of the Satyasodhan Committee, the government also decided to set up 4 separate committees for Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan and the rest of Maharashtra to suggest measures and concrete programs to remove the imbalance in the districts of Maharashtra.

The Satyashodhan Committee in its report has discussed the historical background behind the establishment of this committee. It has discussed the major developments since the linguistic restructuring of the states. Nagpur Accord, Restructuring Commission Report, Creation and Constitutional Amendment of Article 371 (2) of the Constitution of India, Five Year Plan and its provisions for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra, Private Bills proposing amendments to Article 371 to make the provisions of Article 371 constitutionally binding (Vasantrao) Sathe and Vaishampayan; but not discussed in Lok Sabha) all these are elaborated by Uhapoh Committee.

Terms of Committee:

Determining Indicators to Estimate Developmental Imbalances.

To determine the district-wise imbalance in development with respect to the average development of Maharashtra in 1960 based on the first condition and in the latest year for which latest information is available. For this, to get the information about how much has been spent for development work district wise and how much has been implemented since 1960 till the time when the latest information is available. To consider the financial assistance provided by the Government of Maharashtra, Central Government and organisations under their purview for assistance in the private industrial sector.

Limiting what actual action the government can take on which of those viewers.

To suggest measures to eliminate the identified imbalance and to suggest far-reaching measures to prevent the same decision from reoccurring.

Role and Research Methodology: Satyasodhan Committee has considered the regional imbalance by considering the district as the basic unit. The Committee feels that this is in line with the policy adopted by the State Government since 1972. In its proposal for the formation of the District Planning Board, the government has said that the district should be considered as the basic unit for planning and a long-term realistic plan should be prepared for each district. Also, the committee has consulted some other reports and discussed in detail whether the regional development and the imbalance should be considered at the regional level, district level or development block level. It mainly mentions the National Committee appointed for backward areas, Chakraborty Committee and Pandey Committee.

Benchmarks in development: The government entrusted the high level committee with the responsibility of determining the basic benchmarks for measuring imbalances and disparities in development. Before examining how much and where there is inequality with respect to each component of development, the committee treated some of the parameters of overall development: (1) per capita income, (2) per capita consumption value, (4) per capita output from agriculture and allied industries, (4) registered Per capita output from manufacturing industries, (5) Proportion of urban population, (7) Proportion of people engaged in occupations other than agriculture, mining, animal husbandry, fishing, hunting, forest-based livelihoods, orchards, etc., (7) Per capita consumption of electricity, (8) per capita ratio of bank deposits and bank credit supply/deposits, (9) male and female literacy rate and (10) proportion of Scheduled Castes-Tribes, Neo-Buddhists, Nomads and Free Castes and agricultural labourers in the population.

Roads, Irrigation and Electrification were selected by the Fact Finding Committee to address the disparities found in the districts in respect of each component of development. According

to the committee, all the above three items are provided by the government machinery by spending public money. Therefore, it is essential to reduce the disparity in their development. Districts whose development is below the state average in these three respects were measured by the committee using appropriate criteria. Apart from this, general education, technical education, supply of drinking water etc. were covered to check the development of some social amenities and disparity in the districts. While measuring the disparity and backlog, the committee did not take into account the facilities provided through private and voluntary organisations. According to the committee, the committee studied all the aspects whether the services provided from public money are available to the people equally in all the districts and if there is any inequality and how much the backlog needs to be filled, based on the criteria and criteria that are suitable for that aspect of development, the committee studied all the issues. Apart from this, the Dandekar Committee has also considered the extent to which the then government policies and supplementary schemes exist at the root of the inequality of development in the fields of industry, agriculture, animal husbandry and cooperation and whether they are being implemented properly. The committee has focused more on how much development has taken place in physical form rather than how much money has been spent on development. So backlog is seen to be measured in both monetary and physical form.

Backlog : The High Level Committee has selected the suitable standards for a total of 28 sectors-sub-sectors/plan-programmes and fixed the backlog of the districts which are below the state average on the test of these selected standards. The backlog Dandekar Committee has measured the tangible reality of that district by the extent to which the district falls below the state average in a disadvantaged area-sub-area. By first measuring the backlog in concrete terms, the committee estimated the cost of filling up the backlog, i.e. the cost of bringing it up to the district state average. The committee has separately estimated the capital and running financial expenditure out of the expenditure to be incurred for clearing the backlog where necessary. Separate estimates have been made including Greater Mumbai and excluding Greater Mumbai while tracking the backlog of various sectors-sub-sectors. The total estimated expenditure (for backlog clearing) at the overall state level excluding Brihanmumbai is Rs. 3,177.07 crore was estimated.

Region wise breakdown table of backlog

A. No.   Region in Rs crores

1   Konkan 295.62

2   West Maharashtra   884.45

3   Marathwada   750.86

4   Vidarbha   1,246.54

Division wise per capita value table of backlog

A. No.	Territory	in Rupees Crores
1	Konkan	425.96
2	West Maharashtra	375.88
3	Marathwada	771.79
4	Vidarbha	869.08

Process and mechanism for filling up the backlog: According to the committee, in those areas and aspects where the level of development is very high, analysis will have to be done at the taluka and block level. Also, we have to find out which are the backward talukas and development blocks that are below the state average and focus resources on their development. An estimate of the cost of clearing the backlog is essential in order to take actual action. The action to fill the backlog has to start with provision of money. It will not only be possible to provide money, but it is necessary to prepare a proper plan and implement it; But the committee refused to go into details of what the plan should be and how it should be carried out; Because this detail does not fit in the working room of the committee, he said.

The committee was of the view that it would be appropriate to suggest measures within the framework of planning and development adopted by the state for clearing the backlog. State Government schemes are divided into (1) State level and (2) District level schemes.

As per the recommendation of the committee, 85 percent of the funds at the state level should be earmarked for filling up the outstanding backlog and 15 per cent should be reserved at the state level for (a) completion of certain ongoing works and projects not related to the filling up of the outstanding backlog and (b) meeting natural growth requirements. . The distribution of this 15 percent amount should be decided by the government on some objective basis. The amount reserved for B (in respect of A) should be apportioned to both non-backward and backward districts in proportion to the population of the district.

The Committee categorised the proposed provisions in the 1983-84 Maximum Scheme into three categories. (a) State Level Schemes, (b) District Level Schemes included in the State Level Consolidated Fund and (c) Other District Level Schemes. The committee analysed the various schemes and suggested that the expenditure provisions of such schemes should be pooled and funded at the state level to meet the discretionary backlog.

In 1973, the state government, while framing the five-year plan, decided on a formula for planning at the district level. It was changed in 1975. The committee has mentioned both these formulas in its report and mentioned 11 factors in them. According to the committee, generally 40 percent of the amount is spent on district level schemes and it is divided among 11 components in percentages given by the formula.

The committee divided the backlogged areas-sub-sectors into two parts in order to distribute 85 percent of the state-level funds for filling up the outstanding backlog on a district-wise basis (1) such areas-sub-sectors that the entire backlog in their case will be filled during the Seventh Plan and by fixing a somewhat higher focus to all the districts can be brought (2) Such sectors-sub-sectors in respect of which the existing backlog can be partially filled during the Seventh Plan period. If all the districts are ranked in descending order according to the parameters for allocation of funds, some districts will be above the state average and others below. The following districts of the state are backward districts. If the provision under the scheme is not sufficient, the committee suggested that the estimate to bring the bottommost districts at par with the second from the bottom districts should be approximated and provision should be made accordingly; But as the committee did not find the above method feasible and desirable, instead the process of filling up the backlog should be started in all the districts with backlog and the state level provision for filling up the backlog should be distributed to all the districts with backlog every year in proportion to their backlog. In this system, districts with a high backlog will receive more amount in proportion to the backlog.

Removal of regional disparities is a continuous process and the Committee has suggested that Article 371 (2) empowers the President to confer special responsibility on the Governor in respect of three matters. (1) Establishing separate Development Corporations for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra, (2) allocating funds for the development of these three regions in an economical manner keeping in view the needs of the State as a whole and within that limit, and (3) providing these three divisions with adequate provision for technical education and vocational training. To provide funds in a cost-effective manner.

The Committee has not given a limited program to fill up specific backlogs, but has expressed the hope that as this process accelerates, an alternative path of development will be made available, rather it is a continuous effort to reduce the disparity that is continuously created in the course of development.

Statutory Development Boards

Statutory Development Boards are official bodies established by the Government of Maharashtra to address regional imbalances in the state. Development in Maharashtra has an economic, social, and industrial imbalance between the regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Western Maharashtra. To reduce this imbalance and achieve balanced development of all sectors, the Government established *Statutory Development Boards* in 1994 . These mandals are known by different names for all the three major divisions of the state and are given special powers in their functions.

Establishment of Statutory Development Boards

In 1994, the Government of Maharashtra established separate Statutory Development Boards for the regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Western Maharashtra. The main objective of these boards is to equalise development in the state, reduce economic imbalances, and ensure that every region gets development.

Statutory Development Boards and their names

1. **Vidarbha Development Board** 2. **Marathwada Development Board** 3. **West Maharashtra Development Board**

Each board has a separate office and area of operation. These boards are encouraged to implement various development schemes by providing financial incentives.

Objectives of Statutory Development Boards

1. Reducing regional imbalances

The development of Maharashtra shows an economic imbalance between the regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Western Maharashtra. The main objective of the Statutory Development Boards is to reduce the imbalance, so that every section can develop and improve the economic, social condition.

2. Promotion of industrial development

Each board is encouraged to promote local industries, small scale industries, and agro-based industries. Tax rebates, grants, and credit facilities are provided for industrial development, especially in backward areas.

3. Irrigation and Water Conservation Projects

Vidarbha and Marathwada are drought prone regions. For this, statutory development boards have emphasised on starting irrigation facilities and water conservation schemes. Due to this, the Board focuses on increasing agricultural production and improving the condition of farmers.

4. Improving education and health facilities

Each circle promotes the establishment of educational institutions, clinics, and primary health centres at the local level. This helps the citizens of these regions to get better education and health facilities.

5. Local employment generation

These boards aim to promote small scale industries, handicrafts, and agro-processing industries at the local level for employment generation. The aim behind this is to provide economic stability to the local youth by providing employment opportunities.

Functions and Role of Statutory Development Boards

1. Creating a plan

Statutory Development Boards prepare development plans for their areas, which include infrastructure, irrigation projects, industrial estates, and establishment of education and health centres.

2. Fund Management

Each circle is given a separate fund, which is used for development projects. Mandals emphasis on proper management of funds and effective utilisation thereof.

3. Advising Govt

The boards advise the state government on various development schemes and guide them on how to implement them. Boards play an important role in planning according to local level needs.

4. Review of progress

Statutory Development Boards regularly review progress in their areas. Evaluates the implementation of various projects and analyses their impact, and informs the government if improvements are necessary.

Problems and Limitations of Statutory Development Boards

- **Funding Constraints:** Many projects remain incomplete due to lack of timely availability of sufficient funds for development projects.

- **Political interference:** Political pressure sometimes hampers the functioning of boards, which affects development work.

- **Delay in implementation:** Many projects are delayed in implementation and the expected results are not achieved.

- **Local problems:** Each department has different problems and to deal with them, the boards need a lot of cooperation.

Statutory Development Boards are an important institution in addressing regional imbalances in Maharashtra. The work of these boards is important for achieving development and socio-economic reforms in the regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Western Maharashtra. The implementation of the recommendations and schemes of these boards is expected to improve the situation in the backward sections.

Statutory Development Boards were established in 1994 for balanced development of Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra. However, after the expiry of the tenure of these boards on April 30, 2020, they have not yet been reconstituted or extended. Therefore these circles do not exist at present.

The state government decided to reconstitute these boards on September 27, 2022 and sent the same proposal to the central government. However, it has not yet received approval from the central government. On this issue, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar had promised to follow up with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in December 2023.

Despite the non-existence of mandals, the allocation of funds to Vidarbha and Marathwada divisions during 2020-21 to 2023-24 has exceeded the prescribed formula. For example, between 2013-14 and 2020-21, 27.97% of funds were disbursed for Vidarbha and 19.31% for Marathwada, which is more than the prescribed amount.

However, the non-existence of statutory development boards has affected processes such as the up-to-date assessment of the development backlog of these departments and the allocation of special funds. Therefore, the need for reorganisation of these boards is highlighted.

Article in Loksatta

Analysis: When will the statutory development boards be reconstituted?

The term of all the three Development Boards ended on 30 April 2020. It has been four years now. Now the central government's decision is awaited.

On October 28, 2022, the Governor sent a semi-official letter to the Union Home Minister to reorganise the Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra Development Boards and call them Statutory Development Boards. It has not been decided yet. The term of all the three Development Boards ended on 30 April 2020. It will be three years now. Now the central government's decision is awaited.

Why Establishment of Development Boards?

Under Article 371 (2) of the Constitution of India, if the State Government is neglecting the development of a backward section in any state, there is a provision to constitute a Statutory Development Board for that backward section. In such a development board, there are some expert-members in various fields of development, and a chairman, who should carefully discuss the development of the relevant department and send their proposals to the governor of the state, and the governor gives orders to the chief minister of that state to implement those proposals. In 1994, three Statutory Development Boards were established for the three regions of Marathwada, Vidarbha, and the rest of Maharashtra.

Why is the reorganisation of development boards stalled?

The term of office of all the three boards was five years each. After the completion of five years of these boards for the first time, all the three boards were reconstituted for another five years. Thereafter, each time after the completion of the five-year term, all the three statutory development boards were reconstituted for the next five years. The term of these three Statutory Development Boards ended for the fifth time on 30th April 2020. However, since the state government of Maharashtra did not send the proposal to the central government to extend the term of these statutory development boards, the development boards could not be reconstituted as usual.

What is the responsibility of the Governor?

It is the exclusive responsibility of the Governors to allocate funds for development expenditure in a balanced manner among the areas of Development Boards. The allocation of funds by the governor has to be shown in the annual return. Government cannot divert funds. It is the responsibility of the government to prepare a statement of region-wise allocation and expenditure of development expenditure for all sectors. This statement has to give the details of direct amount, revised cost and direct cost of the previous financial year.

What is the status of backlog in irrigation sector?

The Index and Backlog Committee determined the region-wise backlog based on the 1994 situation in the irrigation sector. The financial backlog drawn at that time was 7 thousand 418 crores. In 2000, it was revised to 6,618 crores taking into account prevailing economic parameters. Since 2001, the Governor has issued directives every year with the main objective of filling this backlog. As of March 2011, the financial backlog in all districts has been cleared, but the physical backlog in four districts, namely Amravati, Akola, Washim and Buldhana, has not yet been cleared from the 1994 level.

What decision has the state government taken?

Region wise backlog has not been cleared after 2000 in the state. After the reorganisation of Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of the Maharashtra development boards, a committee will be established to find out the imbalance in the various regions and areas of the state and to suggest ways for balanced regional development, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced in the third session of the legislature on 29 December 2022.

How is the allocation of funds in the area of Development Boards?

According to the provisions of Article 371 (2) of the Constitution of India, the Governor is entrusted with the special responsibility of allocating funds for development expenditure in all the three sectors in a balanced manner, taking into account the needs of the entire state. The divisible funds in the Annual Plan are distributed as per the formula

prescribed by the Governor. 23.03 per cent for Vidarbha, 18.75 per cent for Marathwada and 58.23 per cent for the remaining Maharashtra Development Board areas.

What is the status of special funds?

As per the directions of the Governor, the special funds provided to all the three development boards have been stopped from 2011-12. Exceptionally, during the years 2014-15 and 2019-20, with the approval of the Governor, special funds were given to Development Boards in view of the increase in Human Development Index in 125 talukas and 45 'C' class municipal areas of the state.

Legislature of Maharashtra

The legislature of Maharashtra is bicameral, i.e. it has two houses: **Vidhansa** (lower house) and **Legislative Council** (upper house). The function of this legislative assembly is to make laws for the state of Maharashtra, discuss various policies of the state, and hold the government accountable. The legislature of Maharashtra functions under the Constitution of India and its powers and limitations are set out in the Constitution.

---

1. Composition of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

The Legislative Assembly is the lower house of the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra, consisting of members elected by the direct representatives of the people of Maharashtra.

- **Total Members:** The Legislative Assembly has a total of 288 members.

- **Election Process:** Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected directly by the people, and their tenure is 5 years.

- **Speaker and Deputy Speaker:** The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly presides over the meeting, while the Deputy Speaker handles his duties in the absence of the Speaker.

- **Special Member:** Sometimes the Governor can appoint a member to represent the Anglo-Indian community in the state (this special power has now been abolished).

---

2. Composition of Maharashtra Legislative Council

The Legislative Council is the upper house of the state legislature, with members elected from various sources.

- **Total Membership:** The Legislative Council consists of 78 members.

-

- **Speaker and Deputy Speaker:** The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, who preside over the meeting.

Functions of Maharashtra Legislature

The main functions of the Maharashtra Legislature are to oversee the administration of the state, make laws, regulate financial matters and discuss matters of public interest.

1. Making laws

The main function of the Maharashtra Legislature is to make laws. A bill is introduced in the assembly and after discussion it is voted on. After the Bill is passed by the Assembly, it goes to the Legislative Council for approval. After approval by both Houses, it is sent to the Governor for his signature. Once signed by the Governor, it becomes a law.

2. Financial Authority

The Legislative Assembly has the power to control financial matters. **The annual budget** is presented in the Legislative Assembly, where it is discussed and funds are sanctioned to various departments. The Legislative Council has the right to discuss the budget, but it cannot approve the budget. A Finance Bill can be introduced only in the Legislative Assembly.

3. Overseeing governance

The Legislature has the power to supervise the government. Members of the Vidhan Sabha can ask questions to the state government on various subjects in the question-answer session, through which the accountability of the administration is determined. Apart from this, the functioning of the government can also be checked through debates, requests, and resolutions in the House.

4. A motion of confidence

The Legislature has the power to pass resolutions of confidence or no confidence in the government. The Assembly can pass a no-confidence motion against the government. If such a resolution is passed, the Chief Minister and his cabinet have to resign. This power has been given to the legislature to maintain the proper functioning of the government.

5. Discussion on topics of public interest

Various matters of public interest in the state are raised and discussed in the legislature. These include social, economic, educational, health, and rural development issues, among other important issues. Constructive discussion helps in taking the right decision.

6. Commissions and Committees

Committees are formed in the Legislature on various subjects, such as the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee, and the Non-Government Bills Committee. These committees make a thorough study of the relevant subjects and submit reports to the legislature.

Relations between the Governor and the Legislature

The governor is the head of the legislature. The Governor has certain special powers, such as:

- **Approval of the Bill:** The Bill goes to the Governor for approval, and the Governor has the power to approve it or send it to the Central Government for advice.

- **Convening of Session:** The Governor can convene a session of the Legislature, a new session must be convened within 6 months of the end of the next session.

- **Sending back a bill for reconsideration:** The Governor has the power to send back a bill for reconsideration.

The legislature of Maharashtra is an effective institution for the administration of the state. Its main functions are to make laws, control finances, and oversee governance. Due to the bicameral structure, various issues are discussed in depth and decisions useful for the development of the state are taken.

Bombay High Court

The Bombay High Court is a premier court in India, whose jurisdiction extends to Maharashtra, Goa, Daman, Diu, and Dadra-Nagar Haveli. Established in 1862, this court is one of the three oldest High Courts in India. The Bombay High Court has its headquarters in Mumbai, and has benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad, and Panaji (Goa).

from *Bombay to Mumbai* in 1995 , the court as an institution did not follow suit and retained the name Bombay High Court. However, the Bombay High Court Naming Bill was approved by the Union Cabinet on 5 July 2016 to rename the Calcutta High Court and the Madras High Court as the Calcutta High Court and the Chennai High Court respectively. It is pending before the Parliament of India for approval but will not be implemented for some time.

1. Composition of Bombay High Court

The composition of Bombay High Court consists of a Chief Justice and the appointment of other judges. The number of judges in the court is determined by the approval and appointment of the Chief Justice.

- **Chief Justice:** Heads the High Court and has to manage the affairs of the court.

- **Judges:** The number of judges depends on the requirement of the state. Each judge is tasked with deciding judicial and legislative matters within the constitution.

- **Benches:** Apart from headquarters in Mumbai, there are benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad, and Goa. This makes court services easily accessible to the people of these areas.

---

2. Functions of Bombay High Court

The functions of the Bombay High Court are based on various statutes, equitable decisions, and judicial review.

1. Function of Appellate Bench

The Appellate Bench of the Bombay High Court reviews the decisions of other lower courts. This court hears appeals in criminal, civil, and miscellaneous legal matters.

2. A principled decision

The main function of the High Court is to give principled decisions considering the principles of law. This court works to consider the complexities of the cases and give just decisions.

3. Protection of Fundamental Rights

The Bombay High Court protects the fundamental rights of citizens as per the Constitution of India. If the rights of citizens have been violated by the state government or other persons, the High Court gives justice to it.

4. Judicial review

The Bombay High Court has the power of judicial review, which examines the constitutionality of any law, government order, or administrative decision.

5. Resolution of State and Central Government Acts

The High Court resolves complaints, suits, and questions on laws of the State Government and the Central Government. This keeps proper functioning in the governance system.

---

3. Jurisdiction of Bombay High Court

The Bombay High Court is empowered by the Constitution of India, which mainly includes issuing decrees, judicial review, hearing appeals, and enforcing the Constitution.

1. Issuance of Writ (Writ Jurisdiction)

The High Court has the power to issue writs under Article 226 of the Constitution. Under this the court can issue five types of writs namely *habeas corpus* , *mandamus* , *prohibition* , *quo warranto* , and *certiorari* .

- **Habeas Corpus:** Order for immediate judicial investigation of any person arrested illegally.

- **Mandamus:** Any public officer is ordered to perform his duty.

- **Prohibition:** To prevent a lower court or authority from dealing with an incompetent case.

- **Quo warranto:** To disqualify any person from his office and question his authority.

- **Certiorari:** To review the decision of a lower court and to set aside that decision.

2. Judicial Review

The High Court has the power of judicial review, which enables it to examine the constitutionality of any law or order. If the law is contrary to the constitution, it can be repealed.

3. Appellate Jurisdiction

The High Court has jurisdiction to decide appellate cases from other courts. The High Court gives final decisions on appellate cases from the Sessions Court, District Court, and other lower courts.

4. Protection of Fundamental Rights

The Bombay High Court has exclusive powers to protect the fundamental rights of citizens. If a person's fundamental right is violated by the state or central government, the High Court can decide on it and make arrangements to restore that person's rights.

The Bombay High Court is the judicial centre for the Union Territories of Daman, Diu, and Dadra-Nagar Haveli, along with Maharashtra and Goa. It is composed by the Chief Justice and other judges. This court functions to resolve legal issues in the state, protect fundamental rights, and provide judicial review. Major powers of the Bombay High Court include issuing writs, judicial review, and acting as an appellate court. This keeps the judicial process in the state smooth and fair.

Article in Loksatta

In this article, we will learn about the structure of the High Court, appointment of judges, their qualifications, their salary and their tenure. The High Courts are the apex body of the judiciary of the state. Article 214 to 231 of Part VI of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment, independence, jurisdiction and procedure of the High Court. Article 214 provides for one High Court in each state. A total of 25 High Courts are functioning in India at present.

Background to the establishment of the High Court

During the British period AD. In 1882, High Courts were established at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Further in 1886, the fourth High Court was established at Allahabad. Within a few years after that, a High Court was established in every

state of British India. Further, after the independence of India in 1950, the existing courts were declared as High Courts of respective states. Further in 1956 the Seventh Amendment Act empowered the Parliament to establish a common High Court for two or more States, as well as Union Territories.

Composition of the High Court

Every High Court in India has a Chief Justice and other Judges. The constitution does not mention the strength of other judges. The number of judges is determined by the President from time to time. This number varies from state to state.

Appointment of High Court Judges

The Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Governor of the concerned State. Other judges are also appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court in the Second Judges case of 1993 ruled that the appointment of the Chief Justice cannot be made without the concurrence of the Chief Justice. However, in the Third Judges case held in 1998, the court opined that two more senior judges should be consulted to reverse its decision. Apart from that, the National Judicial Appointment Commission was established in 2014 by changing the collegium system for appointment of judges. However, the

Supreme Court held that the commission was unconstitutional and continued the earlier collegium system. (The National Judicial Appointments Commission was established by the 99th Amendment Act.)

Eligibility for High Court Judges

In order to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court the person concerned must fulfil the following qualifications.

- 1) He should be a citizen of India.

- 2) He should have held a judicial office within the territory of India for 10 years.

- 3) He should have practised as an advocate in one or more High Courts for at least 10 years.

One thing is clear from all the above three terms and that is that no age limit has been laid down in the Constitution for appointment as High Court judge.

Oath and Salary of High Court Judges

High Court Judges are administered oaths by the Governor of the concerned State or a person appointed by him. At this time the judges take an oath to have faith and loyalty to the Constitution of India, to protect the Constitution and to perform their duties honestly, fearlessly and impartially. The salaries and allowances of High Court Judges are fixed by Parliament from time to time. It cannot be changed except in case of financial emergency.

Tenure of High Court Judges

The Constitution of India does not fix the tenure of High Court Judges. However, they can hold office till they attain the age of 62 years. Before that he can resign from his post to the President. Also, the President can remove him from office after the recommendation of the Parliament. Along with that, after being appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court, he has to leave his post.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra

How is the Chief Minister appointed? What is their salary and tenure?

The Governor is the head of state; The Chief Minister is the head of government. The post of Chief Minister in a state is similar to the post of Prime Minister at the Centre. No such provision has been made in the Constitution regarding the appointment of the Chief Minister. Article 164 of the Constitution deals with the appointment of the Chief Minister. In this article, it is mentioned that the Governor will appoint the Chief Minister. But, this means that the Governor cannot appoint any person as Chief Minister. As per the general indication, the Governor appoints the leader of the party having majority in the Legislative Assembly as the Chief Minister. Such a person needs to prove majority in the assembly in the next one month.

The Chief Minister can be a member of either House of the Legislature. Also a person who is not a member of any House can be appointed as Chief Minister. However, the person appointed as chief minister must be elected to the legislature within the next six months; Otherwise, his post as chief minister ends.

How long is the tenure of the Chief Minister?

According to the Constitution, the tenure of the Chief Minister is not fixed. They can remain in office as long as the Governor wishes. However, despite this, the Governor cannot remove the Chief Minister from office at any time. As long as that person has a majority in the Legislative Assembly, that person can continue as Chief Minister. But, if he loses the confidence of the assembly, he has to resign or the governor removes him from office.

Eligibility for Chief Minister post?

According to the Constitution, the following qualifications must be fulfilled to be eligible for the post of Chief Minister. 1) He should be a citizen of India, 2) He should be a member of the State Legislature, 3) He should have completed 25 years of age. A person who fulfils this qualification can be appointed as Chief Minister.

Who administers the oath to the Chief Minister?

A Chief Minister is required to take an oath of office and secrecy before assuming office. This oath is given to them by the Governor. On this occasion, the Chief Minister takes an

oath to have faith and loyalty to the Constitution of India, to protect the integrity of India, and to give equal justice to all without being partial to anyone.

What is the salary of the Chief Minister?

The salary and allowances of the Chief Minister are decided by the legislature. The chief minister is paid the same salary as the members of the state legislature. Apart from that, private expenditure allowance, free accommodation and medical allowance are also given.

Powers of the Chief Minister

The Chief Minister's powers and functions can be classified into four parts. Let us have a detailed look at these powers: 1) Cabinet related powers, 2) Governor related powers, 3) State Legislature related powers and 4) Other powers.

1) Powers of the Chief Minister in relation to the Cabinet:

As the head of the state cabinet, the chief minister has certain powers in relation to the cabinet. The Governor appoints the Ministers in the Cabinet only on the advice of the Chief Minister. Also, the Chief Minister allocates accounts to ministers or changes their accounts. Apart from this, he can also ask the minister to resign. The Chief Minister guides all the ministers in their work. Also controls their work. If a minister resigns or dies, the Chief Minister can appoint another person as minister. Importantly, the Chief Minister

can dissolve the entire Cabinet by resigning or the Cabinet automatically dissolves if the Chief Minister dies.

2) Powers of the Chief Minister vis-à-vis the Governor

The Chief Minister acts as a link between the Governor and the Cabinet. They submit the decisions of the state cabinet and legislative proposals to the governor. Also, they give the information to the governor that the governor asks for. Apart from this, if the decision taken by a minister has not been discussed in the cabinet, the governor, if deemed necessary, submits it to the cabinet for consideration. Along with this, he advises the Governor while appointing the State Attorney General, State Service Commission Chairman, State Election Commissioner.

3) Powers of the Chief Minister in relation to the State Legislature

The Chief Minister can advise the Governor on convening and adjourning the session of the State Legislature. Apart from this, they can also advise the governor to dissolve the assembly.

4) Other powers of Chief Minister

Apart from the Legislature, the Cabinet and the Governor, the Chief Minister also has to perform other powers and functions. The chief minister is the chief spokesperson of the state. He meets many as the leader of the state, knows their problems and solves them. Apart from this, the Chief Minister is also the Chairman of the State Planning Board and the Inter-State Council chaired by the Prime Minister as well as the NITI

Aayog. Overall, the Chief Minister plays a very important role in the administration of the state.

Following is the list of Chief Ministers of Maharashtra State since its inception till date:

serial number	Chief Minister	Tenure	the party
1	Yashwantrao Chavan	1 May 1960 – 19 November 1962	Indian National Congress

2	Marotrao Kannamwar	20 November 1962 – 24 November 1963	Indian National Congress
3	P. K. Savant	25 November 1963 – 4 December 1963	Indian National Congress
4	Vasantrao Naik	5 December 1963 – 20 February 1975	Indian National Congress
5	Shankarao Chavan	21 February 1975 – 16 May 1977	Indian National Congress
6	Vasantdada Patil	17 May 1977 – 18 July 1978	Indian National Congress
7	Sharad Pawar	18 July 1978 – 17 February 1980	Indian Congress (Socialist)

8	Abdul Rehman Antule	9 June 1980 – 12 January 1982	Indian National Congress
9	Babasaheb Bhosale	21 January 1982 – 1 February 1983	Indian National Congress
10	Vasantdada Patil	2 February 1983 – 1 June 1985	Indian National Congress
11	Shivajirao Nilangekar Patil	3 June 1985 – 6 March 1986	Indian National Congress
12	Shankarao Chavan	12 March 1986 – 26 June 1988	Indian National Congress
13	Sharad Pawar	26 June 1988 – 25 June 1991	Indian National Congress

14	Sudhakarrao Naik	25 June 1991 – 22 February 1993	Indian National Congress
15	Sharad Pawar	6 March 1993 – 14 March 1995	Indian National Congress
16	Manohar Joshi	14 March 1995 – 31 January 1999	Shiv Sena
17	Narayan Rane	1 February 1999 – 17 October 1999	Shiv Sena
18	Vilasrao Deshmukh	18 October 1999 – 16 January 2003	Indian National Congress
19	Sushil Kumar Shinde	18 January 2003 – 4 November 2004	Indian National Congress

20	Vilasrao Deshmukh	1 November 2004 – 5 December 2008	Indian National Congress
21	Ashok Chavan	8 December 2008 – 9 November 2010	Indian National Congress
22	Prithviraj Chavan	11 November 2010 – 26 September 2014	Indian National Congress
23	Devendra Fadnavis	31 October 2014 – 8 November 2019	Bharatiya Janata Party
24	Uddhav Thackeray	28 November 2019 – 29 June 2022	Shiv Sena
25	Eknath Shinde	30 June 2022 – Present	Shiv Sena

Note: Above information is updated till 5th November 2024.

Tenure of Chief Minister Vasantrao Naik

Vasantrao Phul Singh Naik was the fourth Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and his tenure was long (11 years) from 1963 to 1975. Vasantrao Naik's tenure is considered very important in the political and social history of Maharashtra, as he laid a strong foundation for the development of the state. He made substantial contributions especially in the field of agricultural reform, irrigation projects, and rural development.

1. Early life and political career

Vasantrao Naik was born on 1 July 1913 in village Gahuli in Pusad taluka of Yavatmal district. Naik studied from Nagpur University and later entered politics. His uncle passed on the legacy of being a freedom fighter and political leader, which influenced Vasantrao Naik's thinking.

2. Oath and Tenure of Chief Minister (1963 - 1975)

Vasantrao Naik took oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 5th December 1963. During his long tenure, he took many important decisions, which accelerated the overall development of the state of Maharashtra.

1. Agrarian Reform and Green Revolution

Vasantrao Naik's greatest contribution was the reform of the agricultural sector in Maharashtra. He started the Green Revolution in the state and provided farmers with improved seeds, fertilisers, and irrigation facilities. This led to a huge increase in agricultural production in Maharashtra.

- **Farmer Education Scheme:** Farmer training scheme was started to impart knowledge of new farming technology to the farmers.
- **Water Management:** He emphasised on ensuring water supply for agriculture by promoting irrigation projects in Maharashtra.

2. Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act

Vasantrao Naik enacted the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act to regulate the market system of agricultural produce and ensure that farmers get a fair price for their produce. This act reduced the exploitation of farmers and allowed them to sell their produce directly in the market.

3. Industrial development

Vasantrao Naik also promoted industrial development in the state. He established various industrial sectors and also encouraged small scale industries. Industrialization created employment opportunities in cities like Nagpur, Pune, Aurangabad, and Kolhapur.

4. Irrigation projects

Vasantrao Naik did substantial work in the field of irrigation. He increased water supply to agriculture by implementing irrigation projects in Yavatmal, Akola, Amravati, Osmanabad, Latur districts. Thanks to them, irrigation facilities were available to farmers in Marathwada, Vidarbha, and other areas.

5. Efforts for development of Marathwada and Vidarbha

Vasantrao Naik made special efforts for the development of the backward areas of Marathwada and Vidarbha. He emphasised on building schools, roads, and health facilities in these areas. Implemented special schemes for the problems of tribals and backward classes in Vidarbha and Marathwada.

6. Dalit and tribal welfare

Vasantrao Naik started special welfare schemes for Dalits, tribals, and backward classes. Due to them, SC-ST children received educational concessions and efforts were made to bring them into the mainstream. He implemented various schemes to promote social justice.

Impact of Vasantrao Naik's tenure

1. **Agricultural Development:** Farmers got financial stability by participating in the Maharashtra Green Revolution. 2. **Industrialization:** The development of the industrial sector created employment opportunities, and boosted economic growth. 3. **RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Infrastructural facilities were built in rural areas, which led to overall development of the state.

Vasantrao Naik's contribution to the development of Maharashtra is invaluable. During his reign, agricultural, industrial, and rural development was greatly promoted. His vision and political stability accelerated the progress of Maharashtra. Vasantrao Naik's name is known in the history of Maharashtra as the "Father of the Green Revolution", and even today his work is reflected in various schemes in the state.

Read these articles to get information about other Chief Ministers of Maharashtra -

Scan this QR code to go to this page.

Politics of Other Backward Castes in Maharashtra

Other Backward Class or **OBC** (English: **Other Backward Class** / *OBC*) is a socially and educationally backward category (society). In India, the majority of the

society is backward (backward class) and the forward class (forward class) is a minority. Out of this majority backward community, the one who is most backward is considered as 'major backward'. It is called Scheduled Caste-Tribe . The sections of the society which are less backward than these main backward are defined as 'other backward'. 41% to 52% of India's population is OBC.

The Mandal Commission has recorded the number of OBC castes in Maharashtra as 360, while the number of OBC castes in the country is 3,744. The National Commission for Other Backward Classes has released a list of 2,171 prominent OBCs. This number can increase even more if the sub castes are included.

Kunbi , Sali , Koshti , Teli , Bhavsar , Vani , Shimpi , Nabhik , Parit , Gurav , Gawli , Jangam , Panchal , Phulari , Rangari , Sutar , Kasar , Dhangar , Bhandari , Tandel , Tambat , Momin , Ghadshi , Weaver , Agri , Many castes like potters , goldsmiths , blacksmiths , blacksmiths , tailors , gardeners , Banjaras , Marathas fall into this.

A total of 52% reservation is given for backward classes in educational institutions and government jobs in Maharashtra. In which OBC 19%+ DNT (A) 3%+ NT(B) 2.5%+ NT(C) 3.5% + NT(D) 2%+ SBC 2% together 32% reservation has been given to Scheduled Castes. And 7 percent reservation has been given to Scheduled Tribes. 52% of the total.

Economically Backward Classes have 10% EWS reservation . Maharashtra government has implemented 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs in the state.

OBCs include 37 castes among Muslims. [1]

During the preparation of the Constitution, the member of the Constituent Assembly T.T. Krishnamachari Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar asked 'What exactly is a backward class?' Such a question was asked. In response Dr. Ambedkar said, " Apart from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, there are sections in many states which are as backward as they are. But they are not included in the Scheduled Castes-Tribes."

Dalit politics

During the lifetime of Babasaheb Ambedkar and after him till the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement, Dalit voters would loyally vote for the Republican Party or the leader. Dalits were very angry with Congress at that time. There was resentment of oppression. It was a festival of democracy. The meetings of the Republican leaders who supported the Congress were

disrupted by the Dalit community. The Ambedkar community then took extreme positions, from boycotting those who associated with the Congress to severing ties with them. Further in 1967-68, Dadasaheb Gaikwad formed Congress-Republican alliance and Dalit activists got real power from here. Over time, the Republican leaders played beggar politics to get a position for themselves and take the Dalit vote to the Congress party. Elections were forgotten and basically, the result of the compromise politics of the election of the leaders was that the Dalit voters also lost their values. Respectful speech of the leaders ended. This situation continues even today.

Voting for political parties is done by loyal activists. Republican leaders do not have such loyal activists. Because leaders got MPs and MLAs for themselves. A few happy Hujjas were funded, but the lower workers were constantly neglected. The grassroots workers did not participate in power. To turn workers behind themselves; They used to make them shout slogans like Zindabad, Murdabad, Vijay; Handing out posters, pamphlets, and letting his children run wild became the norm of Republican politics. The worker then also started adopting better ways to light the hearth. On the whole, the party which does not have a cadre base, the party which does not value the workers, even the workers who claim a favourable relationship with the party then make bargaining compromises according to their convenience at the local level in the elections.[2]

---

[1] From Nanded district website

[2] https://divyamarathi.bhaskar.com/news/edt-dalit-vote-and-politics-4308949-nor.html