

Akola District Profile

Introduction

Akola district is situated in the middle east of Maharashtra state. This district is situated between North 20.17 to 21.16 latitude and East 76.7 to 77.4 longitude. There are ranges of Gavilgad hills on the north of the district. Anjangaon, Daryapur and Nandgaon Khandeshwar tehsils of Amravati district and Karanja tehsil of Washim district are on the east. Washim district is on the south side and Buldhana district on the west. Total area of Akola district is 5428 sq. Km. Which is 1.76% of the total area of the state. In the district area wise largest tahsil is Akola tahasil. It consists area of 1134.13 sq.km. Telhara tehsil has the lowest area of 628 sq. Km. There are 7 tehsils in Akola District Akola, Balapur, Patur, Barshitakali, Murtizapur, Akot and Telhara. Washim district was formed by dividing the district in 1998. Akola city corporation was established on 1 October 2001. There is 1 Municipal corporation, 5 Municipal councils, 1 Nagar panchayat in district. The headquarter of the district is at Akola and the divisional headquarter is in Amravati. The city's quality of education attracts students from all over Vidarbha. The most spoken language in Akola is Marathi.

Administrative Profile

There are 7 tehsils in Akola District Akola, Balapur, Patur, Barshitakali, Murtizapur, Akot and Telhara. Washim district was formed by dividing the district in 1998. Akola city corporation was established on 1 October 2001. There is 1 Municipal corporation, 5 Municipal councils, 1 Nagar panchayat in district. The headquarter of the district is at Akola and the divisional headquarter is in Amravati.

Location and Geography

Akola district is in Amravati division. The area of the district 5428 km². The district have seven talukas comprising Akot, Telhara, Murtizapur, Barshitakli, Balapur, Patur and Akola city is the district headquarter. The district boundary latitude are 20.7000° N and longitude are 77.0142° E.

The climate of the Akola district is tropical. Akola district mainly features Tropical Savannah Climate. But the Northern parts of the district consisting of hills and mountains that are raised to about 950 to 1000 meters shows a subtropical climate featuring cool winters. The summers are extremely hot while the winters are dry and mild to cool as the temperature may drop to or below 2 °C. The district has recorded a minimum temperature of 2 °C while a maximum of 47.7 °C. Akola has recorded a minimum temperature of 11.9 °C in the month of May which is the hottest month in the state of Maharashtra. Rivers and tributaries in the district are as mentioned below,

- ▶ The Purna River forms the part of north boundary of the district.
- ▶ The Vaan River forms the part of northwest boundary of the district after entering from the Amravati district.
- ▶ The Mun River drains the southwestern portion of the district, Morna River drains the midsouth portion of the district, while the southeast is drained by the Katepurna River and Uma River

Demographic Profile

According to the 2011 census Akola district has a population of 18,13,906. The district has a population density of 321 inhabitants per square kilometre (830/sq. mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 11.6%. Akola has a sex ratio of 942 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 88.05%. The major religion of the district are Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist. The district also has Jain, Christian and Sikh minority religion. The major spoken languages are Marathi, Hindi and Urdu.

Logistic Infrastructure Profile

- ▶ The nearby Port includes JNCH and ICD Nagpur / Borkhedi.
- ▶ Nagpur ICD is a dry port which is situated about 247 Kms from Akola. It takes 4.30 hrs. to reach to the port.

The logistic infrastructure profile of the district is as mentioned below,

Road Transport

Akola city is well connected to major cities by road. The NH6 runs through Akola from Hazira (Surat) to Kolkata. NH6 is a part of Asian Highway 46. The National Highway 161 (new) starts in Akola connecting

Nanded and then Sangareddy (Telangana). The government has declared a new National Highway 161A National Highway 161A (new) connecting Akot, Akola to Mangrulpir, Mahur, and Mudkhed. Major state highways of Akola districts are Akola-Jalgaon-Akot-Daryapur road, Akot-Daryapur Section, Akot-Hiwarkhed Section, Chikhli-Khamgaon-Shegaon-Deori-Road, Akola-Mangrulpir section and Akola-Hingoli.

► **Intercity Transport**

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) provides transport services for intercity and interstate travel. Many private operators also ply on the highly travelled Akola – Pune and Akola – Indore route. Bus services to cities like Nagpur, Yavatmal, Bhopal, Harda, Indore, Raipur, Jabalpur, Mumbai, Pune, Akola, Dharni, Nanded, Aurangabad, Jalna, Burhanpur, Parbhani, Solapur, Khandwa, Gondia, Shirdi, Hyderabad, Paratwada (Achalpur) and Kolhapur are also available.

► **Intracity Transport**

Akola city bus service is run by the Akola Municipal Corporation. Private auto rickshaws and cycle rickshaws are also popular.

Rail Transport

Akola District railway stations:

- Some of the major railway stations are Paras, Gaigaon, Akola Junction (AK), Murtijapur Junction (MZR) and are under Bhusawal-Badnera Section of Bhusawal Railway Division of Central Railway.
- The other stations under meter gauge are Hiwarkhed, Adgaon Buzurg, Akot, Patsul, Ugwe, Akola Junction, Shivani Shivpur, Barshitakli, Lohogad, Amna Vadi, Jaulka are under Purna - Khandwa Section of South-Central Railway.
- Akola, situated on both the Howrah-Nagpur-Mumbai line and the Kacheguda-Jaipur line, is an important junction for passengers from North and South India and for freight trains. The Kacheguda-Jaipur line is being recently converted to broad gauge and the number of trains connecting to Hyderabad has increased since then.
- Broad gauging of the Akola Junction-Purna railway line has recently been completed and passenger trains have started running on this route. The work of gauge conversion (meter gauge-broad gauge) of Akola Junction - Indore Junction MG and Indore Junction MG - Ratlam railway line of SCR zone has started and is projected to be completed in a few years.
- Akola has good railway connectivity with direct trains to Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Okha, Surat, Nanded, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Ajmer, Kolhapur, Pune, Kamakhya, Indore, Mhow, Ujjain, Khandwa, Ratlam, Bhopal, Chittorgarh, Nagpur, Bilaspur, Howrah, Hatia, Puri, Chennai, Hingoli, Purna, Parli, Tirupati, Ganganagar, Secunderabad, and many more important railway stations in the country.

Air Transport

Akola airport aka Shioni airport it was built by the British authorities in 1940s would send flights to Mumbai regularly. Now it is non-functional has one runway (4000×145 ft). The expansion and functioning of the airport have been delayed as it is unable to get land. It is one of the oldest Airport of India.

Agricultural Profile

The economy of the district is basically agrarian. The major crops cultivated includes cotton, soya bean, jawar and the cereals (Tur, Mung, Chana, Urid). The oil and dal mills are rampant in district because of crop taken. The textile mills are also increasing to support cotton growing industry. The banana is major agriculture produce which is cultivated in Akot tahsil.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.-1 Major Horticulture and Agriculture production data

Sr No	Name of Product	Production in MT (2022-23)	Area under Production Hecter (2022-23)
1.	Banana	93,790	2,570
2.	Oranges	71,050	5,075
3.	Lime and Lemon	28,650	2,870
4.	Cotton	61,623	1,49,869
5.	Toor	42,268	55,836
6.	Soyabean	3,87,650	2,42,755

Source: <http://aps.dac.gov.in/> & Agriculture department

Industrial Profile

- ▶ **Industrial Areas in Akola District are as mentioned below,**

Sr No	Name of the industrial area	Total Area (Hectare)
1.	Akola MIDC	913.13
2.	Murtijapur MIDC	180.60
3.	Akot MIDC	10.71
4.	Patur MIDC	15.78
5.	Balapur MIDC	10.85
6.	Telhara MIDC	12.48

Sources: DIC

- ▶ **Specialized industrial Cluster in Akola**

- ▶ Sangha Textile Cluster, Borgaon Manju
- ▶ Akolawala food processing cluster

- ▶ **Industries and Employment Generation in Akola District**

Table 1-2 Industries & Employment Generation Data

Sr No	Category	No. of Enterprises			Employment Generation		
		Mfg.	Service	Total	Mfg.	Service	Total
	Udyog Aadhar						
1.	Micro	4148	8531	12679	16874	18577	35451
2.	Small	614	676	1290	7446	4002	11448
3.	Medium	15	10	25	1380	304	1684
	Total	4777	9217	13994	25700	22883	48583

The below mentioned illustrates industries and employment generation of the district,
Source: DIC Akola Udyog Aadhar Data (From September 2015 to June 2020)

Table 1-3 Industries & Employment Generation Data

Sr No	Category	No. of Enterprises			Employment Generation		
		Mfg.	Service	Total	Mfg.	Service	Total
	Udyog Aadhar						
1.	Micro	8141	24423	32564	37426	73407	110833
2.	Small	302	266	568	3235	2476	5711
3.	Medium	25	21	46	446	561	1007
	Total	8468	24710	33178	41107	76444	117551

The below mentioned illustrates industries and employment generation of the district,
Source: DIC Akola Udyam data

Service Sector Profile

There are above 9,217 service enterprises registered in service sector with employment near about 22,883. Some of the major services which are provided in the district are as follows:

- ▶ Hotel and Tourism related services
- ▶ Healthcare services including services by nurses, physiotherapist and paramedical personals
- ▶ Accounting / Auditing and bookkeeping services
- ▶ Entertainment services including audio visual services
- ▶ Environment services
- ▶ Educational services
- ▶ Consultancy services
- ▶ Distribution services
- ▶ Advertisement services
- ▶ Marketing research and Public opinion services
- ▶ Printing and Publication services
- ▶ Lab Testing facility
- ▶ Transport and Logistics services
- ▶ Legal services etc.

Industrial Infrastructure Profile

Below mentioned infrastructure facilities provided by MIDC in Akola industrial areas

- ▶ **Roads**
The area is connected internally by multiple lane roads of international standards. The width of the main road is 30 meters and that of internal roads are 20 to 25 meters. The roads are constructed using modern techniques.
- ▶ **Electricity**
The district has Paras Thermal Power Plant having installed capacity of 500 MW operated by the mahagenco.
- ▶ **Water**
MIDC has already constructed a purification Plant at Akola Industrial Area. The scheme is sourced from the Wan Dam.
- ▶ Akola district has state- and privately-owned cold storage facilities available

Industrial Association of the District

- ▶ Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Akola
- ▶ Akola Industries Association, Akola

Banking Facilities

All leading Private and Public sector banks have their branches in Akola District; SBI, HDFC, ICICI etc. Also, Akola district have branches of NBFC namely Bajaj Finance, Shriram Transport Finance, India Bulls Housing Finance etc. Proper network of Banking facilities in Akola District is available

Akola District Strength and Opportunities

Akola Districts strength and opportunities are as follows,

- ▶ The district has emerged as major **Agriculture and Horticulture, Pharmaceutical, Chemicals, Textile and Garment, Agro & food processing, and Engineering** production hub of Maharashtra.
- ▶ The district is emerged as commercial hub for **Pulses (Dal) and Cotton related products** due to high availability of sector specific infrastructure and manpower resources. This industry can attract a good investment opportunity.
- ▶ The district is known for it's well connectivity. 2 major National Highways, **NH-53 and NH-161A** passes through the district. **NH6** development work should be expedite for better connectivity.
- ▶ **Air Cargo facility and other Airport** facility should be made functional at Shioni airport Akola.
- ▶ **Samruddhi Maha Marg** is near Akola district, this will reduce the transport time for exports through JNPT.
- ▶ **Top Investment opportunities for Akola district** are in the following sector:
 - ▶ Textile & Garment, Cotton Ginning & Pressing, Dal Mill, Oil Mill, Pharmaceutical, Chemical, package food products etc
- ▶ **Pharmaceutical** - Leben Laboratories Private Limited
- ▶ **Chemical** - Akola Chemicals (I) Ltd., Maharashtra Insecticide's Ltd., Rallis India Ltd.
- ▶ **Textile and Garment** – Ruhatiya Spinners Pvt. Ltd., J J Finespun Pvt Ltd
- ▶ **Agro and food processing** - Ambika Solvex Ltd., Gujarat Ambhuja Exports Ltd.,