

Bhandara District Profile

Introduction

Bhandara district, situated in the Nagpur division of Maharashtra, covers an area of 3,717 square kilometers and had a population of 1,200,334 according to the 2011 Census, with 605,520 males and 594,814 females. The district has a growth rate of 5.56% and an urban population of 19.48%.

Bhandara features a mixed economy with key sectors including agriculture, industry, and forest resources. It is renowned for its extensive rice production, with Tumsar being a prominent rice market. Bhandara town is famously known as the "Brass City" due to its substantial brass products industry.

The district is home to several notable tourist attractions such as Ambagad Fort, Brahmi, Chinchgad, and Dighori. The Ordnance Factory Bhandara, part of the Ordnance Factories Board, is a significant industrial entity in the region, producing equipment for the Indian Armed Forces. Located in Jawaharnagar colony, this site also hosts the only Kendriya Vidyalaya in the district.

Other key industrial players in Bhandara include Ashok Leyland, which operates a production facility in Gadegaon, and prominent companies like Sunflag Iron & Steel and Shivismangal Ispat Pvt. Ltd.

Administrative Profile

Bhandara is one of the major administrative districts in Maharashtra. The district is enveloped by Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh in the north and Chandrapur in the south, smallest border with Gadchiroli in the southeast while Gondia and Nagpur mark its eastern and western borders respectively. The district is segregated into three sub-divisions, Bhandara, Tumsar and Sakoli, that are further divided into seven talukas, Bhandara sub-division is divided into two talukas: Bhandara and Pauni. Tumsar division have Tumsar and Mohadi. Sakoli sub-division is divided into three talukas: Sakoli, Lakhani and Lakhandur.

Location and Geography



1.21% of Maharashtra's total area.

Bhandara district is located between 20.39° to 21.38° North Latitude and 79.27° to 80.42° East Longitude. It is predominantly situated within the Wainganga basin and is bordered to the north by the Wainganga and Bawanthadi rivers. The district shares its northern boundary with the Seoni and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh and is surrounded by Chandrapur district to the south, Gondia district to the east, and Nagpur district to the west. Covering an area of 3,716.65 square kilometers. Bhandara constitutes approximately

Demographic Profile

According to the 2011 Census of India, Bhandara district has a population of approximately 1,200,334 people, with a gender ratio of 961 females for every 1000 males. Around 80% of the population lives in rural areas, while 20% resides in urban areas. The district has a young population, with a high birth rate reflected by a significant number of children aged 0-6 years. The literacy rate in Bhandara is 83.76%, with male literacy at 90.76% and female literacy at 76.49%.

Climatic Conditions

The weather of Bhandara district is extreme in all seasons, with temperatures in the summer as high as 45 °C and in winter as cool as 8 °C.

Logistic Infrastructure Profile

Bhandara is well-connected by major highways like NH-53, linking it to Nagpur and Raipur, and by well-maintained local roads that ensure accessibility to villages and smaller towns. Bhandara Road station on the Howrah-Nagpur-Mumbai line offers excellent connectivity to major cities, and the railway infrastructure supports significant freight movement for local industries and agriculture. The nearest airport, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur, about 70 kilometers away, handles domestic and international flights and air cargo services.

Natural Resource Profile

Bhandara is rich in natural resources. It has abundant reserves of minerals like manganese and iron ore, which are extensively mined. The district is also known for its dense forests and wildlife, with several forest reserves and wildlife sanctuaries that are home to a variety of flora and fauna. The Mulberry Silk Production is through group of farmers has taken up plantation of Mulberry tree (plant known as Tutti) on 50 acres of land in Pauni taluka of Bhandara district.

Agricultural Profile

The Bhandara district is popular for its large production of rice and popularly referred as the 'Rice Bowl of Maharashtra'. Tumsar, a tahsil town, is a famous rice market. The rice mill cluster of Bhandara is more than 5 decades old and there about 243 rice mills (mostly micro scale) and many rice brokers and agents in the cluster. In fact, many millers are paddy farmers who have now also undertaken rice milling activity.

Major Agriculture and Horticulture Produce of District

Table 0-1: Major Horticulture and Agriculture production data

Sr No	Name of Product	Production in MT (2022- 23)	Area under Production Hector (2022- 23)
1	Rice	540389.24	239779.2
2	Wheat	14478.44	10685.2
3	Sugarcane	12145	3918
4	Soyabean	355.04	364.4
5	Cotton	1176.5	439.05

Source: Horticulture Area Production Information System (HAPIS), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

Industrial Profile

Industrial Scenario of Bhandara District are as mentioned below,

Table 0-2: District Industrial Profile

Sr No	District Industrial Head	Unit	Particulars
1	Industrial Area	No	05
	i. Bhandara MIDC Area	Hectare	142.71
	ii. Lakhandur MIDC Area	Hectare	11.90
	iii. Mohadi MIDC Area	Hectare	10.71
2	Registered Industrial Unit	No	1272
3	Total Industrial Unit	No	1277

Source: DIC Bhandara

► Industries and Employment Generation in Bhandara District

The below mentioned illustrates industries and employment generation of the district:

Table 1-3: Industries and Employment Generation

Type of Industries	Total Units	Investment (in INR Crore)	Employment	Products
Large Scale Industries	22	6945	7300	--
Micro Industries	26407	552.25	112667	--
Small Industries	260			
Medium Industries	10			
Major Industries in Bhandara District				
Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd (at Mohadi)	--	795.35	1216	Sponge, iron, Power Generation, Rolling Mill cold
Ashok Layland Ltd. (at MIDC, Gadegaon)	--	480	734	Truck Chasis, Axle, Gear Box
Maharashtra Metal Powders Ltd (at Maregaon)	--	20.81	215	Aluminum powder/paste
Hindustan Composites Ltd. (at MIDC Gadegaon)	--	10.64	293	Clutch facings, Break, Linings
Ellora Paper Mills Ltd. (at Mohadi)	--	25.07	182	Newsprints, Wrapping paper, Writing paper

Source: DIC Bhandara (Upto March 2024)

Industrial Infrastructure Profile

The details of industrial infrastructure provided by MIDC is given below:

Bhandara Industrial Area:

MIDC has acquired 241.06 hectares of land for its Industrial area.

- ▶ **Infrastructure:** The area has good security. All internal roads have streetlights and water supply distribution network. The area also has a Post & Telegraph office, Telephone Exchange, Telex-Fax-ISD/ STD facility, City Transport, Hotels, Police Chowki, Canteen, Banks and Hospitals. The area has water supply of 4500 cubic meter a day.
- ▶ **Electricity:** The area is powered by a 132 KV MSEB substation.

Source: MIDC

Service Sector Profile

The Service Sector Enterprises comprise 286 units, providing employment to 737 individuals, with an investment of Rs. 171.20 lakhs and a production capacity of Rs. 319.00 lakhs. Some of the major services which are provided in the district are as listed below:

- ▶ **Potential Areas for Service Industry:** Existing units include repair shops for electronic appliances, automobiles, and beauty parlours. Considering the current scenario, activities such as goods transport, repairing rice mill machinery, and repairing heavy and medium goods transport vehicles have significant potential in the district.
- ▶ **Potential for New MSMEs:** With expanding irrigation facilities and changing cultivation trends, the district holds substantial potential for new MSMEs in areas such as jaggery production, rice byproducts, milk and milk products, and preserved vegetables.

Source: Bhandara District Profile

Industrial Association of the District

- ▶ Bhandara Industrial Co. Op Estate Limited
- ▶ Metal Manufacturing Association Co. Op. Limited
- ▶ Rice Miller's and Rice Bran Oil Cluster Association
- ▶ Bhandara Zila Laghu Udyojak Sanstha
- ▶ Udyog Bharati Bhandara

Source: DIC, Bhandara

Banking Facilities

Bhandara district has a strong banking network, including 98 commercial bank branches, 21 branches of Vidarbha Konkan Gramin Bank, 46 branches of Bhandara DCCB, and 368 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS), totaling 165 branches. Of these, 69% are situated in rural areas, leading to a per-branch population coverage of 2,282, which is significantly better than the state average of 7,343. In Bhandara district, the Central Cooperative Bank has implemented a Core Banking Solutions (CBS) platform connecting all 46 branches to the Head Office. The bank now offers RTGS and NEFT services and has installed 20 ATMs. Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna (PMMY), banks in the district have disbursed ₹132.79 crore in Mudra loans to 10,505 beneficiaries, supporting SMEs.

Source: NABARD Potential Linked Credit Plan 2022-23

Bhandara district strengths and opportunities

- ▶ Known as 'Rice Bowl of Maharashtra'
- ▶ The rice mill cluster of Bhandara is more than 5 decades old and there are 240+ mills in the cluster
- ▶ Falls on NH-6, and good connectivity to major cities like Nagpur, Mumbai, Raipur, etc.
- ▶ Presence of 5 Industrial Association - Bhandara Industrial Co. Op. Estate Limited, Metal Manufacturing Association Co. Op. Limited, Rice Miller's and Rice Bran Oil Cluster Association, Bhandara Zila Laghu Udyojak Sanstha, and Udyog Bharati Bhandara
- ▶ Presence of National Dairy Research Institute in Bhandara. Potential for Dairy product export.
- ▶ Presence of mineral Oils in good amount. Potential for mineral ores exports like Manganese oxide, Ferro manganese etc.
- ▶ Potential for export of fresh and processed vegetables.
- ▶ Potential for export of jaggery. Presence of jaggery cluster in the district with around 60 small scale units.