

Washim District Profile

Introduction

Washim was once known as Vatsagulma, the capital of the Vatsagulma line of Vakataka dynasty. The Vatsagulma branch was founded by Sarvasena, the second son of Pravarasena I after his death. King Sarvasena made Vatsagulma, the present day Washim in Washim district of Maharashtra his capital. The territory ruled by this branch was between the Sahyadri Range and the Godavari River. They patronized some of the Buddhist caves at Ajanta. Washim district was formed on 1 July 1998. In the year 1905 during the period of the British Raj Washim district was bifurcated into two separate districts, namely, Akola District and Yavatmal District. Then Washim was part of Akola district and depends on Akola district for its governance. It again became a district in 1998 when Akola district want to separate Wasim for its development.

Administrative Profile

This district is divided into three sub-divisions, namely, Washim, Mangrulpir and Karanja. These are further divided into six talukas (tehsils). The talukas are Malegaon, Mangrulpir, Karanja, Manora, Washim and Risod. Presently, there are three Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) constituencies in this district. These are Karanja, Risod and Washim. While, Risod is part of Akola Lok Sabha constituency, Karanja and Washim are part of Yavatmal-Washim Lok Sabha constituency.

Location and Geography

Washim district is located in the western region of Vidarbha (20.1390° N, 77.1025° E). Akola lies to its north, Amravati lies to its north-east, Hingoli lies to its south, Buldhana lies to its west, Yavatmal lies to its east. River Penganga is the main river of the district. It flows through the Tehsil of Risod. Later it flows through the boundary of Washim and Hingoli districts. River Kas is the main tributary of Penganga. River Kas meets Penganga about 1 km from the village of Shegaon Rajgure. River Arunavati and its tributaries originates in the Tehsil of Washim and then flows through the tehsils of Mangrul Pir and Manora into the district of Yavatmal. River Katepurna originates in the hilly areas of the district and flows northwards through the tehsil of Malegaon and enters the Akola district. There are hilly ranges extending from through the tehsils of Malegaon, Washim, Mangrul Pir and Manora. There is plain region in the basins of River Penganga in the Risod Tehsil. The important cities are Washim, Risod, Karanja, Malegaon, Mangrul Pir, Manora and Shirpur. Washim is the largest city in the district. There are many well-known hospitals, Schools, Colleges and Banks in Washim City. It is especially famous for its Balaji Temple. It also has a railway junction. By railway is connected to Akola, Purna, Nanded and Khandwa. Karanja is another city. It has another railway junction. There are some parts covered by the forests. There are mainly two regions. Both the regions are protected under Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary and Karanja Sohol Wildlife Sanctuary respectively.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2011 census Washim district has a population of 11,97,160. This gives it a ranking of 398th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 244 inhabitants per square kilometers (630/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 17.23%. Washim has a sex ratio of 926 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 81.7%. At the time of the 2011 Census of India, 75.88% of the population in the district spoke Marathi, 14.88% Hindi, 8.26% Urdu and 0.56% Telugu as their first language.

Logistic Infrastructure Profile

- ▶ The nearby Port includes JNCH & ICD Nagpur / Borkhedi.
- ▶ Nagpur ICD is a dry port which is situated about 352 Kms from Washim. It takes 5 Hrs. 25 Min hrs. to reach to the port.

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

Road Transport

Washim is connected by State Highways to all the important cities of Maharashtra. Important Roads include Washim-Mangrulpir-Karanja-Ner-Yavatmal, Washim-Karanja-Amravati- Nagpur, Washim-Malegaon-Akola, Washim-Risod-Lonar-Sindhkhed Raja-Jalna-Aurangabad- Ahmednagar-Pune-Mumbai, Washim-Pankanergaon-Hingoli-Nanded and Washim-Pusad.

► 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 Washim – Pune Bus services to cities like Nagpur, Amravati, Yavatmal, Mumbai, Pune, Akola, Nanded, Aurangabad, Jalna, Parbhani, Solapur, Hyderabad, and Kolhapur are also available .

Rail Transport

- Washim railway station is a small railway station in Washim district, in Vidarbha region of the Maharashtra. Its code is WHM. It serves Washim city. The station consists of three platforms. The platforms are well sheltered. It lacks many facilities including water and sanitation.
- The station lies on Purna–Khandwa section of South-Central Railway. It was in Hyderabad railway division of SCR and now is in Nanded railway division after bifurcation of Hyderabad railway division. Washim was connected to the broad-gauge railway network in 2008 when tracks were extended from Purna to Akola.

Air Transport

To reach Washim, tourists can board flights to Nanded Airport, the nearest airport. It is situated at a distance of around 106 km.

Agricultural Profile

Climate here is extremely hot and dry, with temperatures ranging from more than 45 degree C in the summer to less than 10 degree C in the winter. Large area of the district lies in the Painganga River basin, which is the district's principal river. This river enters Washim from neighboring Buldhana district in Risod taluka and joins the southern boundary of Washim. Other important rivers include Kaas, Chandrabhaga, Arunavati, Adan, Pus, Katepurna and Bembala. Karanja, Mangarulpir and Washim talukas have a large number of wells, and most of the district's irrigation is through wells and rivers. Adan located at Pimpri-Barhata in Karanja taluka is the district's largest irrigation project. Other medium and small-scale irrigation projects in the district are Ekburji in Washim, Motsangavi in Mangarulpir, Giroli in Manora and Sonal and Adol in Malegaon talukas.

Cotton is the most important cash crop with the largest area under cultivation, followed by sorghum. Within the district, Washim taluka has the largest area under cotton cultivation. Washim is the largest producer of sorghum along with Malegaon and Mangarulpir. Risod, Washim and Manora talukas are also wheat producers. Green Chickpea is also cultivated on a large scale in Mangarulpir. Other crops include sugarcane, oranges and betel leaf. Washim, Risod and Karanja have orange orchards. The area under cultivation of sugarcane is also growing in the district.

Table 1-1 Major Horticulture and Agriculture production data

| Sr No | Name of Product | Production in MT (2021-22) | Area under Production Hectare (2021-22) |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Oranges | 24,377 | 2,566 |
| 2 | Pomegranate | 306 | 31 |
| 3 | Cotton | 11,577 | 19,240 |

| | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 4 | Toor | 45,922 | 54,510 |
| 5 | Soyabean | 5,29,022 | 3,00,410 |

Industrial Profile

- ▶ The district being a producer of cotton, industrial activity is largely cotton-based, like the handloom industry which dates back to ancient times. In Mangarulpi, the cloth industry uses hand spun thread to make khadi. The only sugar factory in the district, Shri Balaji Cooperative Sugar Factory, is situated at Masalpen in Risod. There is a chemical fertilizer factory in Washim. Dhanaj in Karanja has a domestic LPG gas filling unit. Almost every taluka in the district has ginning-pressing mills. Other industries include leather-goods, toys and other products from wood, nylon rope, silk thread production, dal mills and oil mills. Agriculture is the main activity in this region. Some of the main crops that are grown in this very place include jowar, cotton, bajra, wheat, rice, tur and mango. Cotton, bajra, tur, wheat, jowar, mango, sugarcane and rice are the main crops of Washim District. foods are among the most popular brands in district.
- ▶ **Industrial Areas in Washim District are as mentioned below,**

| MIDC Name | Area in Hectare |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Washim MIDC | 174.69 |
| Mangrulpur MIDC | 7.81 |
| Malegaon MIDC | 20.8 |
| Risod MIDC | 11.49 |
| Manora MIDC | 14.77 |

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

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

Table 1-2 - Industries & Employment Generation Data

| Sr No | Category | No. of Enterprises | | | Employment Generation | | |
|-------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Mfg. | Service | Total | Mfg. | Service | Total |
| | Udyam registration | | | | | | |
| 1 | Micro | 2674 | 11069 | 13743 | 12816 | 31673 | 44469 |
| 2 | Small | 51 | 186 | 237 | 549 | 990 | 1539 |
| 3 | Medium | 7 | 13 | 20 | 110 | 92 | 202 |
| | Total | 2731 | 11268 | 14000 | 13475 | 32735 | 46210 |

Source: DIC Washim Udyam registration (01/07/2020 to 31/03/2023)

Service Sector Profile

There are above 110 service enterprises registered in service sector with employment near about 3200 and the investment of Rs 140 Crores. 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 Washim industrial areas

▶ Roads

The area is connected internally by multiple lane 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

Electricity is provided by MSEDCL department to MIDC's in Washim District.

▶ Water

Water is made available by the water supply division to the industries, water is sourced mainly from Penganga River.

Industrial Association of the District

- ▶ MIDC Industries Association, Washim
- ▶ Federation of Industrial Association, Washim

Banking Facilities

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

Strengths and Opportunities for Washim District

- ▶ The district has emerged as major **Agriculture, Agro & food processing and Textile** production hub of Maharashtra.
- ▶ The district has emerged as commercial hub for **Soyabean, Soyabean products and Cotton related products** due to high availability of sector specific infrastructure and manpower resources.
- ▶ **Investment opportunities in district are in following sectors:**
 - **Oil Mill, Milk and Milk products and Textile and Garments etc**

- ▶ **Agro and food processing** – Narmada Solvex Private Limited, Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd., Kaluram Food Products Pvt Ltd, C B Agrotech Pvt Ltd, Shri Damodar Ginning and Pressing Industries
- ▶ **Textile** – Spintech Textile Industries, Maharashtra Cotton Mktg. fed. Employees