

STATE
FORMED
1 MAY 1960

STATE PROFILE · REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Maharashtra

India's largest state economy and financial capital, forged from the Maratha Empire and the Samyukta Maharashtra movement — home to Bollywood, the Bombay Stock Exchange, and 36 districts spanning the Konkan coast to the Deccan plateau.

11.24 Cr

POPULATION (2011 CENSUS)

36

DISTRICTS

₹42.7 L Cr

GSDP, 2024-25 — LARGEST OF ANY STATE

#1

LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO INDIA'S GDP

Compiled July 2026 · Sources: Census of India, NITI Aayog, RBI, NFHS-5, PRS Legislative Research, state government records

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At a Glance

Maharashtra is India's largest state economy, its financial and entertainment capital, and the direct successor to the Maratha Empire founded by Chhatrapati Shivaji in 1674. Forged as a linguistic state on 1 May 1960 after the bruising Samyukta Maharashtra movement, it stretches from the Konkan coast across the Sahyadri hills to the cotton plains of Vidarbha — a geography that maps almost exactly onto its sharpest fault line: a booming Mumbai-Pune corridor beside a chronically underdeveloped Vidarbha and Marathwada.

Mumbai

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY

1 May 1960

STATE FORMATION (FROM BOMBAY STATE)

3,07,713 km²

TOTAL AREA — INDIA'S 3RD-LARGEST STATE

₹42.7 lakh Cr

GSDP, 2024-25 — LARGEST OF ANY STATE

13-14%

SHARE OF INDIA'S NATIONAL GDP

36 districts

ACROSS 6 REVENUE DIVISIONS

“Maharashtra's GSDP lead over the next-largest state economy, Tamil Nadu, is roughly ₹11 lakh crore — a gap wider than the entire economy of most other Indian states.

— Business Standard; Angel One, citing 2024-25 state GSDP data

Snapshot

Maharashtra is governed as a standard Indian state, but is one of only six with a bicameral legislature (a 288-seat Vidhan Sabha and a 78-seat Vidhan Parishad). Geographically and economically it splits into a prosperous Konkan-Pune corridor anchored by Mumbai's financial and entertainment industries, and a lagging interior of Vidarbha's cotton belt and Marathwada's drought-prone plains, where farmer distress remains acute. Maharashtra is known nationally for being home to Mumbai (India's financial capital and the heart of the Hindi film industry), the Bombay Stock Exchange, the Maratha fort network built under Shivaji, classical Lavani and Tamasha performance traditions, Ganesh Chaturthi's mass public celebrations, and India's largest Buddhist population, a legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 1956 mass conversion at Nagpur.

History

From Satavahana-era trade capitals to the Maratha Empire that briefly dominated the subcontinent, to a 14-year linguistic movement that carved the modern state out of British Bombay — Maharashtra's history is a long argument over who controls the Deccan, resolved only in living memory.

- **c. 230 BCE - 225 CE**
The Satavahana dynasty rules the Deccan from Pratishthana (Paithan), the region's earliest well-documented major power.
- **250-525 CE**
The Vakataka dynasty governs the Vidarbha region from Nandivardhana and Vatsagulma, patronising the Ajanta Caves.
- **543-753 CE**
The (Western) Chalukyas control the region, followed by the Rashtrakuta Dynasty (753–982 CE) from Manyakheta.
- **1187-1317**
The Yadava (Seuna) Dynasty rules from Devagiri (Daulatabad); Marathi becomes the court language, and in 1290 the saint-poet Dnyaneshwar composes the *Dnyaneshwari*.
- **1327**
Muhammad bin Tughluq of the Delhi Sultanate shifts his capital to Daulatabad, briefly making it the seat of an empire spanning much of India.
- **1347-1636**
The Bahmani Sultanate, then the Ahmadnagar Sultanate, rule the Deccan until Mughal absorption.
- **6 June 1674**
Shivaji's Rajyabhishek (coronation) at Raigad Fort, before over 50,000 people, establishes him as the first Chhatrapati of the Maratha Empire.
- **18th century**
The Peshwa era: Pune-based Peshwas become the de facto rulers of the Maratha Confederacy, extending Maratha power across much of the Indian subcontinent.
- **1817-1818**
The Third Anglo-Maratha War: a British East India Company force of over 110,000 troops decisively ends Maratha power; the Peshwa's territories are absorbed into the Bombay Presidency.

1818-1947

The Bombay Presidency governs the region under British colonial administration, with Bombay city developing into a major trading and industrial port.

1946-1960

The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement, led by the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti under S.A. Dange, agitates for a unified Marathi-speaking state against a proposed bilingual Bombay State; 106 people die in the agitation.

1 May 1960

Bombay State is bifurcated: the State of Maharashtra (Marathi-speaking regions, capital Mumbai) is formed simultaneously with the State of Gujarat — commemorated annually as Maharashtra Din.

14 Oct 1956

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar leads a mass conversion of roughly 400,000–800,000 followers to Navayana Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur — the event underlying Maharashtra's status as home to India's largest Buddhist population.

2023

Aurangabad is officially renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and Osmanabad becomes Dharashiv — part of a broader renaming of Mughal/Nizam-era place names to Maratha-era ones.

“Shivaji's 1674 coronation at Raigad Fort was conducted by a Brahmin priest brought specially from Varanasi to legitimise a Maratha claim to sovereign, Kshatriya kingship — a deliberate break from centuries of Deccan sultanate rule.

— India.com; Wikipedia, Shivaji

Government, Politics & Administration

Maharashtra is one of just six Indian states with a bicameral legislature, and hosts one of India's three original Presidency High Courts — institutional weight that mirrors its status as India's largest state economy.

288 (29 SC + 25 ST)

VIDHAN SABHA SEATS & RESERVED BREAKDOWN

78

VIDHAN PARISHAD (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) SEATS

48 + 19

LOK SABHA + RAJYA SABHA SEATS

94 sanctioned

BOMBAY HIGH COURT JUDGE STRENGTH

Maharashtra's Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) has 288 directly elected members serving five-year terms, with 29 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and 25 for Scheduled Tribes. The Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council) has 78 members on staggered six-year terms: 30 elected by the Assembly, 22 by local authorities, 12 nominated by the Governor, and 7 each from graduates' and teachers' constituencies. Maharashtra sends 48 members to the Lok Sabha (39 general, 5 SC, 4 ST) — second only to Uttar Pradesh's 80 — and 19 to the Rajya Sabha. Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister on 5 December 2024, heading a Mahayuti coalition government with Eknath Shinde among the Deputy Chief Ministers.

Judiciary: The Bombay High Court was established by Letters Patent from Queen Victoria and inaugurated on 14 August 1862, one of the three original Presidency High Courts alongside Calcutta and Madras. Its principal seat is in Mumbai, with jurisdiction extending over Maharashtra, Goa, and the union territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and benches at Nagpur (sitting since 1956), Aurangabad (established 1982), and Panaji, Goa (1982). Its sanctioned strength of 94 judges (71 permanent, 23 additional) is among the largest of any Indian High Court.

Panchayati Raj: Following the Balwantrai Mehta Committee's recommendations and the state's own Vasant Rao Naik Committee (1961), the Maharashtra Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Act, 1961 established a three-tier system — Zilla Parishad at district level, Panchayat Samiti at block

level, and Gram Panchayat at village level — that became functional on 1 May 1962, making Maharashtra the ninth Indian state to adopt Panchayati Raj.

“The Bombay High Court's sanctioned strength of 94 judges makes it one of the largest in India by bench size — a direct institutional legacy of Bombay's 19th-century role as a Presidency capital alongside Calcutta and Madras.

— Drishti Judiciary; Bombay High Court official history

Geography & Districts

Maharashtra's geography runs in three long north-south bands — a narrow, wet Konkan coast, the Sahyadri escarpment, and the vast Deccan plateau behind it — and its 36 districts, grouped into 6 revenue divisions, trace an economic gradient from Mumbai's wealth down to Vidarbha and Marathwada's chronic distress.

3,07,713 km²

TOTAL AREA — INDIA'S 3RD-LARGEST STATE

720 km

SAHYADRI (WESTERN GHATS) RANGE WITHIN THE STATE

6

REVENUE DIVISIONS

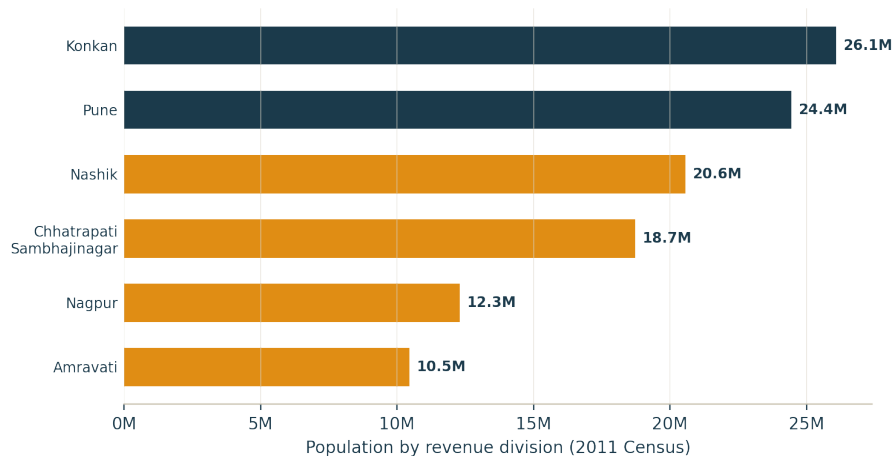
36

DISTRICTS (PALGHAR THE NEWEST, CREATED 2014)

The **Konkan** coastal strip runs 50–80 km wide along the Arabian Sea with laterite soils and 200–300 cm of annual monsoon rainfall. Behind it rises the **Sahyadri range (Western Ghats)**, a UNESCO World Heritage biodiversity corridor averaging roughly 1,200 metres in elevation, forming both the state's major watershed and its sharpest climatic divide. East of the Ghats spreads the **Deccan Plateau**, built from basaltic Deccan Trap lava flows and covering the bulk of the state's area, drained by the Godavari, Krishna, Bhima and Tapi river systems across six major river basins. Climate ranges from humid-tropical on the coast to semi-arid on the plateau interior, with the rain-shadow belt east of the Ghats — including much of Marathwada — chronically drought-prone.

Administrative Structure

Maharashtra's 36 districts are grouped into 6 revenue divisions — Konkan, Pune, Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Marathwada), Amravati (Vidarbha) and Nagpur (Vidarbha) — each headed by an IAS Divisional Commissioner. Palghar, carved from Thane in 2014, is the newest district. In 2023 Aurangabad was renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Osmanabad became Dharashiv, part of a wider renaming of Mughal/Nizam-era place names.



Population by revenue division, 2011 Census. Konkan (dominated by Mumbai/Thane) and Pune together hold nearly half the state's population on a small share of its land area.

All 36 Districts

Grouped by revenue division, with 2011 Census population, area, and defining characteristic.

Konkan Division

Mumbai City

HQ: Mumbai · Pop 30,85,411 · 157 km²
Financial capital's historic core; highest urban density

Mumbai Suburban

HQ: Mumbai · Pop 93,56,962 · 446 km²
India's most densely populated district (~21,000/km²)

Thane

HQ: Thane · Pop 1,10,60,148 · 4,214 km²
Chemicals & pharma hub; core of the MMR

Palghar

HQ: Palghar · Pop 29,90,116 · 4,697 km²
Newest district (2014); tribal population, MIDC belt

Raigad

HQ: Alibag · Pop 26,35,394 · 7,148 km²
Shivaji's Raigad Fort capital; chemical & port industries

Ratnagiri

HQ: Ratnagiri · Pop 16,15,069 · 8,208 km²
Alphonso (Hapus) mangoes, cashew, fishing

Sindhudurg

HQ: Oros · Pop 8,49,651 · 5,207 km²
Coastal tourism; Sindhudurg Fort; kokum & cashew

Pune Division

Pune

HQ: Pune · Pop 94,29,408 · 15,643 km²
IT/auto hub; “Oxford of the East”

Satara

HQ: Satara · Pop 30,03,741 · 10,480 km²
Former Maratha capital; Kaas Plateau hill station

Sangli

HQ: Sangli · Pop 28,22,143 · 8,572 km²
“Turmeric City” of Asia; grapes and raisins

Solapur

HQ: Solapur · Pop 43,17,756 · 14,895 km²
Solapuri chadars (GI-tagged textiles); tobacco

Kolhapur

HQ: Kolhapur · Pop 38,76,001 · 7,685 km²
Kolhapuri chappals, jaggery, Marathi film industry

Nashik Division

Nashik

HQ: Nashik · Pop 61,09,052 · 15,530 km²
“Wine capital of India”; Kumbh Mela site

Dhule

HQ: Dhule · Pop 20,48,781 · 7,195 km²
Edible oil & power-loom textile cluster

Jalgaon

HQ: Jalgaon · Pop 42,29,917 · 11,765 km²
“Banana City” of India

Ahilyanagar (Ahmednagar)

HQ: Ahilyanagar · Pop 45,43,159 · 17,048 km²
Historic 15th-c. city; sugar cooperatives

Nandurbar

HQ: Nandurbar · Pop 16,48,295 · 5,955 km²
Tribal-majority (~69% ST); cotton & jowar

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Division (Marathwada)

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

HQ: Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar · Pop 37,01,282 · 10,100 km²
Ajanta-Ellora gateway; historic Mughal-era city

Jalna

HQ: Jalna · Pop 19,59,046 · 7,687 km²
Steel & seeds industry

Beed

HQ: Beed · Pop 25,85,049 · 10,693 km²
Jowar/bajra agriculture; Parli thermal power plant

Latur

HQ: Latur · Pop 24,54,196 · 7,157 km²
Sugar belt; soybean trade; “Latur Pattern” education

Dharashiv (Osmanabad)

HQ: Dharashiv · Pop 16,57,576 · 7,512 km²
Ancient 6th-8th c. rock-cut caves

Nanded

HQ: Nanded · Pop 33,61,292 · 10,502 km²
Sikh pilgrimage site, Hazur Sahib Gurdwara

Parbhani

HQ: Parbhani · Pop 18,36,086 · 6,214 km²
Cotton ginning; agricultural university (1972)

Hingoli

HQ: Hingoli · Pop 11,77,345 · 4,526 km²
Former Nizam military base; agriculture-dependent

Amravati Division (Vidarbha)

Amravati

HQ: Amravati · Pop 28,88,445 · 12,210 km²

Cotton & orange trade; Ambadevi Temple

Akola

HQ: Akola · Pop 18,13,906 · 5,428 km²
“Cotton City”; former Berar Province centre

Yavatmal

HQ: Yavatmal · Pop 27,72,348 · 13,582 km²

Cotton-growing; 78% rural; high farmer-distress toll

Buldhana

HQ: Buldhana · Pop 25,86,258 · 9,661 km²

Cotton/soybean trade towns near Ajanta Caves

Washim

HQ: Washim · Pop 11,97,160 · 5,150 km²

Agriculture-based economy; temple town

Nagpur Division (Vidarbha)

Nagpur

HQ: Nagpur · Pop 46,53,570 · 9,892 km²

“Orange City”; winter capital; Zero Mile Marker

Wardha

HQ: Wardha · Pop 13,00,774 · 6,309 km²

Cotton/soybean; Gandhi's Sevagram Ashram

Bhandara

HQ: Bhandara · Pop 12,00,334 · 4,087 km²

“District of Lakes”; rice bowl of Maharashtra

Gondia

HQ: Gondia · Pop 13,22,507 · 5,234 km²

“Rice City”; ~250 rice mills

Chandrapur

HQ: Chandrapur · Pop 22,04,307 · 11,443 km²

Coal mining & cement; heavy industry

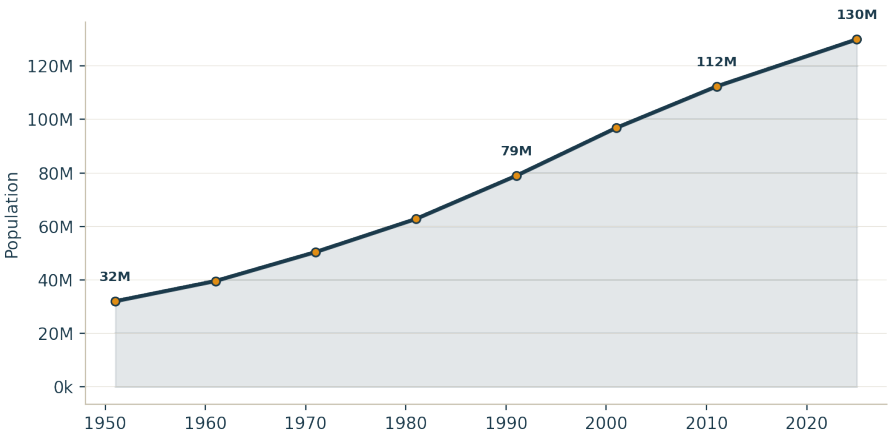
Gadchiroli

HQ: Gadchiroli · Pop 10,72,942 · 14,412 km²

Teak forests; tribal-majority; least industrialised district

Population & Demographics

Maharashtra is India's second-most-populous state and one of its most urbanised, with a religious composition shaped by an 18th-century Vaishnavite past and a 20th-century mass conversion that gave it India's largest Buddhist population.



Population growth, 1951–2025 (Census of India; 2025 figure is a projection, since no full census has been held since 2011).

365/km²

POPULATION DENSITY (VS. 382 NATIONAL)

929

SEX RATIO (FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES)

82.3%

LITERACY RATE, 2011 (MALE 88.4%, FEMALE 75.9%)

45.2% / 54.8%

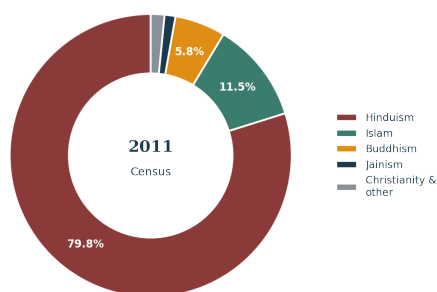
URBAN / RURAL SPLIT

11.8% / 9.4%

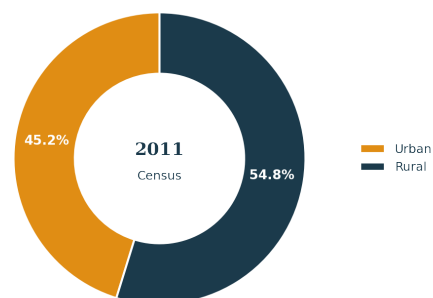
SC / ST POPULATION SHARE

5.81%

BUDDHIST POPULATION — LARGEST OF ANY INDIAN STATE



Religion, 2011 Census. Maharashtra's 6.53 million Buddhists represent roughly 77% of all Indian Buddhists.



Urban/rural split, 2011 Census — among India's most urbanised major states, after Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Hinduism accounts for 79.83% of the population and Islam 11.54%. Maharashtra's 5.81% Buddhist share (6.53 million people) is the highest of any Indian state, rooted in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's mass conversion of an estimated 400,000–800,000 followers to Navayana Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, on 14 October 1956 — overwhelmingly drawn from the Mahar Scheduled Caste community, which makes up 60.3% of the state's SC population. Maharashtra also holds India's largest Jain population (1.25%).

Language: Marathi, the sole official language, has some 83 million mother-tongue speakers statewide — India's third-largest language by speaker count — with regional dialects including Varhadi and Powari in Vidarbha and Khandeshi in the north. Konkani (Malvani dialect) is spoken along the Konkan coast. Mumbai's cosmopolitan migrant population means the city itself is far more linguistically mixed than the state at large: Marathi (35.9%), Hindi (23.1%), Urdu (13.5%) and Gujarati (11.3%) are its leading first languages.

“68.9% of Maharashtra's children under five are anemic, and 37% are stunted — sobering nutrition indicators for a state that generates 13-14% of India's entire GDP.

— National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019–21

Culture, Festivals & Cuisine

Maharashtra's cultural year turns on Ganesh Chaturthi's mass public devotion, a 700-year-old walking pilgrimage to Pandharpur, and performance traditions — Lavani, Tamasha, Warli painting — that reach back through the Peshwa era to the tribal Sahyadri hills.

Signature Festivals

Ganesh Chaturthi is Maharashtra's marquee festival: Mumbai alone hosts over 10,000 public pandals and 200,000+ home idols, with five major mandals — led by Lalbaugcha Raja, established in 1934 — each drawing over a million devotees daily during the ten-day celebration before Visarjan (idol immersion). **Gudi Padwa**, the Marathi New Year, is marked by raising a gudi (flag) outside homes. **Ashadhi Ekadashi and the Pandharpur Wari** represent Maharashtra's most enduring devotional tradition: for over 700 years, palkhis (palanquins) carrying the padukas of saint-poets Sant Dnyaneshwar (from Alandi) and Tukaram Maharaj (from Dehu) have led a 21-day, roughly 250 km walking pilgrimage to the Vitthal temple at Pandharpur, joined by hundreds of thousands of Warkari pilgrims.

Performing Arts & Craft

Lavani, a folk dance-and-song tradition tracing to the 1560s and flourishing under the 18th–19th century Peshwas, is performed to dholki drumbeats and takes its name from the Marathi/Sanskrit "lavanya" (beauty). **Tamasha**, Maharashtra's traditional folk theatre with roots possibly reaching the 8th–9th centuries, was reshaped in the 1870s by poet-performer Ram Joshi, who fused Lavani singing into its format; Marathi theatre more broadly is one of India's oldest regional stage traditions, still commercially active in Mumbai and Pune today. **Warli painting**, practised by the Warli tribal community of the northern Sahyadri hills with origins dated to 2500–3000 BCE, uses white rice-paste pigment on mud walls to render geometric scenes of agrarian and ceremonial life — recognised in 2011 as a protected intangible cultural art form.

Cuisine

Vada pav — a spiced potato fritter in a bread bun, created as a Mumbai street snack by Ashok Vaidya — is Maharashtra's most famous export, often called the state's "burger." Misal pav pairs a sprouted-moth-bean curry with bread across regional variants in Mumbai, Pune, Nashik and Kolhapur. Puran poli, a sweet flatbread stuffed with a chana dal-jaggery filling, and modak, a steamed rice-flour dumpling filled with coconut and jaggery and offered during Ganesh Chaturthi, round out the state's festive sweets. Kolhapuri cuisine is known for its fiery rassa curries, while Malvani coastal cuisine along the Konkan builds on Bombay duck, pomfret, kingfish and crab in coconut- and kokum-based masalas.

“The Pandharpur Wari has run continuously for over 700 years — pilgrims still walk roughly 250 km on foot behind the palkhis of Sant Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram Maharaj, one of the longest-running mass pilgrimage traditions anywhere in India.

— StayVista Journal; Warkari tradition sources

Education & Research Institutions

Maharashtra hosts one of India's oldest universities, the country's third-ranked IIT nationally, and the institute that seeded India's entire atomic-energy programme — a research base built over 165 years of continuous investment.

82.3%

LITERACY (MALE 88.4%, FEMALE 75.9%, 2011)

1857

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI
FOUNDED — ONE OF INDIA'S
FIRST THREE MODERN
UNIVERSITIES

3rd

IIT BOMBAY'S OVERALL NIRF
2025 RANK NATIONALLY

92nd / 91st

MUMBAI UNIVERSITY / SPPU NIRF 2025 OVERALL RANK

The **University of Mumbai**, founded in 1857, was one of India's first three modern universities (alongside Calcutta and Madras) and re-entered the NIRF overall top 100 in 2025 at 92nd.

Savitribai Phule Pune University (established 1949, formerly the University of Pune) ranked 91st overall in the same list. **IIT Bombay**, established in 1958 as India's second IIT, ranked 3rd overall nationally in NIRF 2025 — the state's flagship technical institution. **IIM Nagpur**, established in 2015 under IIM Ahmedabad's mentorship, ranked 25th nationally in the Management category. The state's technical-education base is rounded out by VNIT Nagpur (an NIT) and the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, a specialised chemical-engineering institute with a long research pedigree.

Research institutions: The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), inaugurated on 1 June 1945 in Bombay by Dr. Homi Bhabha with Tata Group backing, seeded India's entire atomic-energy programme and led directly to the founding of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The National Chemical Laboratory in Pune is a premier CSIR institute for chemistry and materials research, part of a broader Pune research cluster that also includes major automotive and defence R&D centres, reflecting the city's dual identity as both an education and applied-research hub.

“TIFR's 1945 founding in Bombay, seeded by Tata Group funding before India's independence, set in motion the institutional chain that produced BARC and India's atomic-energy programme — a research legacy that predates the state of Maharashtra itself by 15 years.

— Wikipedia, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Cities & Urban Areas

Maharashtra's urban geography radiates outward from Mumbai's financial gravity through an industrial and IT belt in Pune, to a distinct "second capital" identity in Nagpur — with an entire metropolitan region built to absorb Mumbai's overflow.

MU Mumbai — the capital

India's financial capital, contributing over 6% of national GDP and roughly 70% of India's capital-market transaction volume. Home to the Reserve Bank of India, the Bombay Stock Exchange (founded 1875, Asia's oldest exchange) and the National Stock Exchange, plus most major corporate headquarters concentrated around the Bandra-Kurla Complex. Over 80% of Hindi-language films are shot in the state, centred on Mumbai's Film City. Dharavi, one of the world's most densely populated urban settlements, covers roughly 2.4 km² and houses close to a million people.

MM Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)

An urban agglomeration of 6,328 km² with a projected 2026 population of roughly 27.8 million — India's second-largest urban region after Delhi. MMR comprises 9 municipal corporations (Greater Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivali, Navi Mumbai, Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi-Nizampur, Vasai-Virar, Mira-Bhayandar, Panvel) plus 9 municipal councils across Thane, Raigad and Palghar districts, functioning as a single integrated labour market and transit network.

PN Pune

Population approaching 7.5 million (2025); India's third-largest IT hub after Bengaluru and Hyderabad, hosting over 360 Global Capability Centres employing 80,000+ people across the Hinjewadi, Kharadi and Magarpatta tech parks. The Chakan-Talegaon corridor hosts over 4,000 automotive manufacturing and ancillary units — anchored by Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto and Mahindra — contributing 15-20% of India's automobile production. Also a major education hub with 12 universities and 160 engineering colleges.

NG Nagpur

Maharashtra's "winter capital," hosting the state assembly's annual winter session, and nicknamed the Orange City for its citrus trade. Marks the geographic centre of India (Zero Mile Stone) and is headquarters to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The state's third-largest city and Vidarbha's administrative and industrial hub.

NS Nashik

Population around 2.2 million; branded the "Wine Capital of India," home to over half the country's vineyards and producing 90%+ of India's wine, anchored by Sula Vineyards (founded 1999, now 1,800 acres). One of four sites hosting the Kumbh Mela, drawing tens of millions of pilgrims every twelve years.

CS Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Renamed from Aurangabad in 2023; population 1,175,116, the largest city in the Marathwada region and gateway to the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites inscribed in 1983.

KL Kolhapur

Known for GI-tagged Kolhapuri chappals and Kolhapur jaggery, exported to the UK, US and Dubai; the nearby textile town of Ichalkaranji, the "Manchester of Maharashtra," hosts roughly 5,000 textile factories.

TN Thane & Navi Mumbai

Thane city (population ~2.69 million) and the planned satellite city of Navi Mumbai (~1.69 million) are core industrial and residential nodes of the MMR, absorbing much of Mumbai's population and commercial overflow.

The Economy

Maharashtra is India's largest state economy by a wide margin, but its growth rate now trails Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu — making it the slowest-growing of India's "big four" state economies even as it remains the largest in absolute terms.

₹42.7 lakh Cr

GSDP, 2024-25 — LARGEST OF ANY STATE

7.9%

PROJECTED GROWTH, 2025-26

~148%

PER-CAPITA INCOME VS. NATIONAL AVERAGE

3.1%

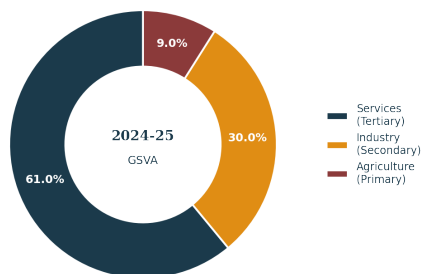
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2022-23

2.88%

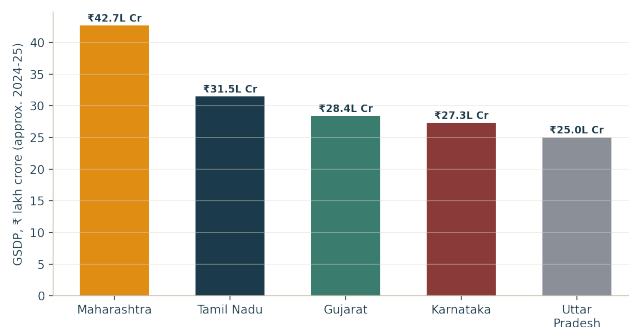
FISCAL DEFICIT, % OF GSDP (WITHIN FRBM CAP)

13-14%

SHARE OF INDIA'S NATIONAL GDP



Sectoral composition of GSVA, approx. 2024-25. Services dominate, but agriculture still sustains a large rural population.



GSDP comparison, approx. 2024-25. Maharashtra's lead over Tamil Nadu is roughly ₹11 lakh crore.

Maharashtra's GSDP is projected at roughly ₹42.7 lakh crore for 2024-25, heading toward ₹51 lakh crore per the state's own Economic Survey — contributing 13-14% of national GDP, the largest share of any state, ahead of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka by ₹11-15 lakh crore in absolute terms. Growth is projected at 7.9% for 2025-26, up from 7.3% the prior year, but this still trails Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu's cumulative growth over 2021-25 (~43%), making Maharashtra the slowest-growing of India's four largest state economies even while remaining the largest in absolute size. Services account for roughly 61% of GSVA, industry 30% (automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, chemicals) and agriculture 9%, though agriculture still sustains a disproportionately large share of the rural workforce.

Fiscal position: Maharashtra's fiscal deficit of 2.88% of GSDP sits within the FRBM Act's 3% cap, with a revenue deficit of just 0.37% of GSDP. Outstanding debt is estimated at ₹9.32 lakh crore for 2025-26 — a debt-to-GSDP ratio considered healthier than Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh or Telangana, reflecting the cushioning effect of the state's sheer economic scale.

Mumbai's financial role: the city houses the RBI, BSE and NSE headquarters, most major corporate headquarters, and the Bandra Kurla Complex financial district, together handling roughly 70% of India's capital-market transaction volume — the single largest concentration of financial activity in the country.

“Maharashtra's own economic advisers say hitting the state's \$1 trillion target by 2028 would require sustained growth well above 15% a year — roughly double its current trend rate.

— Economic Advisory Committee chaired by N. Chandrasekaran, Tata Sons; eGov analysis

Industries & What Drives Them

Maharashtra's industrial base runs from colonial-era cotton mills and Asia's oldest stock exchange to a modern automotive and diamond-trading complex — each anchored in a specific accident of geography, port access, or policy.

1 Financial Services MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India, the Bombay Stock Exchange (founded 1875, Asia's oldest exchange) and the National Stock Exchange are all headquartered in Mumbai, alongside the Bandra Kurla Complex financial district. Driver: colonial-era trading-port infrastructure and the post-independence concentration of banking and capital markets in a single natural harbour city.

2 Bollywood & Entertainment ~₹16,000 CR REVENUE

Roughly ₹16,000 crore (~\$1.9B) in industry revenue including OTT (2022), producing 1,500-2,000 films a year across languages, with over 80% of Hindi films shot in the state, centred on Mumbai's Film City. Driver: an early-20th-century studio system that took root in Bombay and never relocated, plus decades of accumulated talent and production infrastructure.

3 IT / ITES PUNE & MUMBAI

Pune is India's third-largest IT hub, hosting over 360 Global Capability Centres and 80,000+ employees across Hinjewadi, Kharadi and Magarpatta tech parks; the state's overall IT market is estimated at \$48 billion (2024), roughly 19% of India's total. Driver: a strong engineering-education base combined with dedicated IT-park and SEZ policy.

4 Automobile Manufacturing 15-20% OF INDIA'S OUTPUT

The Chakan-Talegaon corridor near Pune hosts over 4,000 manufacturing and ancillary units — Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto and Mahindra among them — contributing 15-20% of India's automobile production by value. Driver: historic industrial policy, a skilled labour pool, and proximity to Mumbai's port for component and vehicle exports.

5 Petrochemicals & Refining **PORT-LINKED**

Reliance Industries operates major petrochemical complexes at Nagothane (including a 1.2-million-tonne PVC plant) and Patalganga (a roughly \$660 million investment). Driver: direct port access for crude and feedstock imports and finished-product exports.

6 Textiles **HISTORIC**

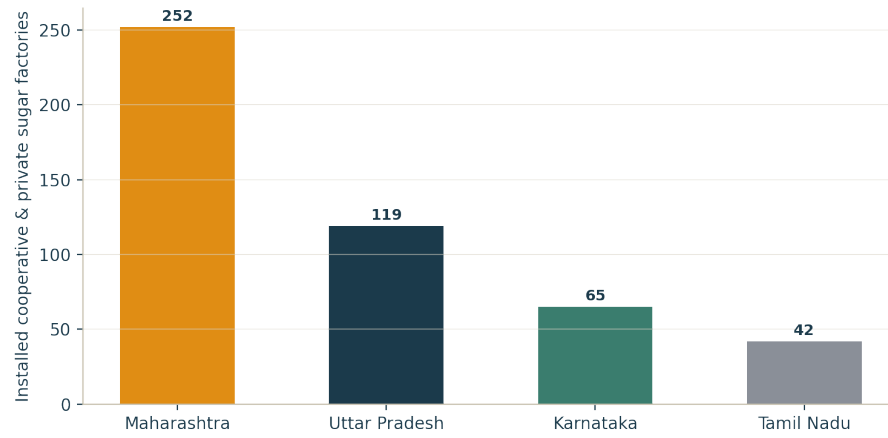
Mumbai's 19th-20th century cotton mills built the city's first industrial base; today the Ichalkaranji cluster near Kolhapur — the "Manchester of Maharashtra" — runs roughly 5,000 textile factories, alongside a major cluster at Solapur. Driver: colonial-era raw cotton availability and port-linked export trade.

7 Sugar **INDIA'S LARGEST PRODUCER**

Maharashtra is India's largest sugar producer, with roughly 252 installed cooperative and private sugar factories, concentrated in Solapur, Kolhapur, Ahilyanagar and Sangli. Driver: irrigated sugarcane-suitable land and a farmer-owned cooperative movement dating to 1950, when Ahmednagar's Bagaitdar factory became India's first cooperative sugar mill.

8 Diamond & Gems Trading **WORLD'S LARGEST EXCHANGE**

The Bharat Diamond Bourse in Mumbai's BKC is the world's largest diamond exchange by membership (4,000+ members), through which an estimated 90% of the world's polished diamonds pass and roughly 98% of India's diamond exports are routed. Driver: established Gujarati and Marwari trading networks combined with Mumbai's port and banking infrastructure.



Installed sugar factories by state. Maharashtra's cooperative sugar-mill model, dating to 1950, has made it India's largest producer by a wide margin.

Transport & Connectivity

Mumbai's suburban rail network carries close to a crore of riders on an ordinary weekday, while a new expressway, a new bullet train corridor and a brand-new international airport are simultaneously reshaping how the rest of the state connects to it.

~93 lakh/day

COMBINED MUMBAI SUBURBAN
RAIL RIDERSHIP, 2025

701 km

SAMRUDDHI MAHAMARG
(MUMBAI-NAGPUR EXPRESSWAY)

55.12 million

CSMIA PASSENGERS, 2024-25
(WORLD'S 28TH-BUSIEST
AIRPORT)

7.94 million TEU

JNPT CONTAINER THROUGHPUT, 2025 — INDIA'S LARGEST PORT

Rail: The Mumbai Suburban Railway is among the world's busiest commuter systems: in 2025, Central Railway carried a weekday average of 45 lakh riders and Western Railway 31 lakh, a combined 93 lakh (9.3 million) daily riders, peaking at 72.18 lakh and 52.07 lakh respectively on a single record day in January 2026. Mumbai hosts the headquarters of both Central and Western Railway. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train corridor runs 156 km through Maharashtra; as of early 2026 the project is roughly 55-60% complete, with all land acquired and the underground Bandra-Kurla Complex terminus station nearing excavation completion; partial Surat-Vapi operations are targeted for 2027, full corridor completion for 2028-29.

Roads: The Mumbai-Pune Expressway was India's first six-lane, access-controlled expressway. The newer Samruddhi Mahamarg (Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway) is a 701 km six-lane greenfield corridor (expandable to eight lanes) featuring India's longest road tunnel at 7.8 km through the Kasara Ghat, 33 major bridges, six tunnels and 24 interchanges across 10 districts, cutting Mumbai-Nagpur travel time to roughly 7 hours.

Air: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) handled a record 55.12 million passengers in 2024-25, ranked the world's 28th-busiest airport in 2025 (up from 31st in 2024) and India's second-busiest after Delhi. Navi Mumbai International Airport began commercial domestic operations on 25 December 2025 with an initial designed capacity of roughly 20 million passengers a year; international service to Abu Dhabi launched 15 July 2026.

Ports: Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), near Mumbai, is India's largest container port, handling roughly half the country's containerised cargo across five terminals and 15 berths. It handled a record 7.94 million TEU in calendar 2025 (up 12.6% year-on-year), and following a terminal expansion became the first Indian port to cross 10 million TEU of total capacity, ranking among the world's top 30 container ports.

Environment, Wildlife & Biodiversity

Maharashtra holds the most tree cover of any Indian state and a slice of a globally ranked biodiversity hotspot, but its largest city is increasingly a case study in how climate change is outpacing colonial-era urban drainage.

65,383 km²

FOREST & TREE COVER (ISFR 2023) — INDIA'S HIGHEST

4 sites

WESTERN GHATS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LOCATIONS IN-STATE

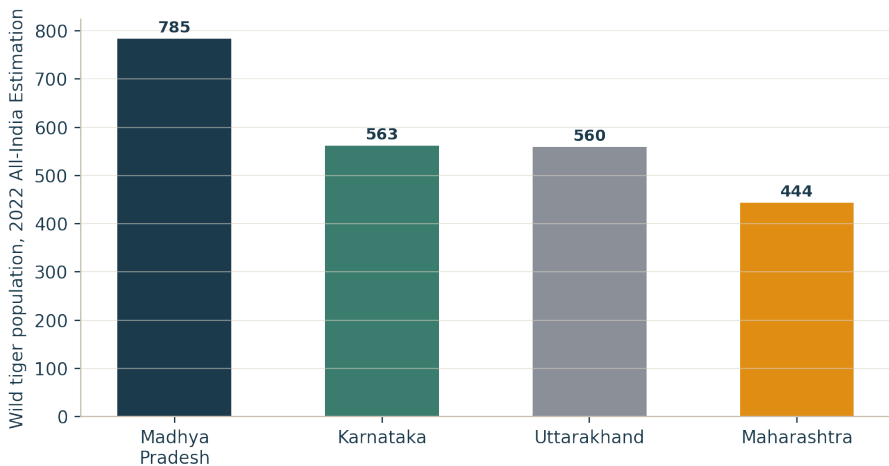
444

WILD TIGER POPULATION, 2022 ALL-INDIA ESTIMATION

\$1.2 billion/yr

ESTIMATED MUMBAI FLOOD-RELATED ECONOMIC LOSS

Per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Maharashtra holds 65,383 km² of forest and tree cover — the highest of any Indian state by this combined measure, ahead of Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh — with mangrove cover up 12.39 km² since the 2021 assessment. The **Western Ghats**, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012 across 39 protected locations in six states, include four sites within Maharashtra; the range hosts roughly 5,000 flowering-plant species, with 54% of its ~650 tree species endemic, and even higher endemism among amphibians (up to 65%), reptiles (62%) and freshwater fish (53%).



Wild tiger population by state, 2022 All-India Tiger Estimation. Maharashtra's 444 tigers rank fourth nationally, anchored by the Tadoba-Andhari and Pench reserves.

Maharashtra's tiger population reached 444 in the 2022 All-India Tiger Estimation — the fourth-highest of any state, after Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttarakhand — spread across the Tadoba-Andhari (97 tigers), Melghat, Pench (77 tigers), Navegaon-Nagzira, Bor and Umred-Karhandla reserves; Melghat and Tadoba-Andhari have both received national conservation recognition.

Climate risk: Mumbai's urban flooding is intensifying with climate change rather than easing. The city experienced one of its wettest Augusts in a decade in 2025; IIT Bombay climate researcher Dr. Subimal Ghosh attributes this to rising Arabian Sea temperatures driving heavier moisture influx and more intense precipitation events. A Princeton/University of Chicago study estimated that excess monsoon rainfall costs Mumbai roughly \$1.2 billion and around 2,700 deaths annually — more than eight times the officially reported mortality figures — driven by lost wetlands, encroached floodplains and reduced natural drainage capacity across the city.

“A single study estimates Mumbai's annual flood-related death toll at roughly 2,700 — more than eight times the number the city officially reports — a gap that points to how much of monsoon mortality goes uncounted in India's financial capital.

— Princeton/University of Chicago Climate Institute study

Problems Facing Maharashtra

Maharashtra's largest-state-economy status conceals a stark internal split: a small cluster of western districts generates the majority of state output while Vidarbha's cotton farmers die by suicide in the thousands and Mumbai's housing crisis sits beside some of India's greatest concentrated wealth.

1 Farmer Suicides & Agrarian Distress (Vidarbha & Marathwada)

2,635 farmers died by suicide in Maharashtra in 2024; in 2025, Vidarbha alone recorded 2,009 farmer suicides (Yavatmal 446, Amravati 396, Akola 388, Buldhana 343). Over 8,000 farmers have died by suicide statewide in the past five years — 52% from Marathwada and 39% from Vidarbha, tied overwhelmingly to cotton-price volatility, debt, and unirrigated land.

2 Regional Economic Disparity

Just 7 of Maharashtra's 36 districts generate 54% of the state's ₹45 lakh crore GSDP. Mumbai's per-capita income (roughly ₹2.58 lakh) is about four times Nandurbar's (₹66,110) or Washim's (₹66,462); Konkan division alone contributes ~39% of state GSVA versus just 5.8% from Amravati division and 9.3% from Nagpur division.

3 Mumbai's Housing Crisis

An estimated 42-55% of Mumbai's roughly 12.44 million residents live in slums; Dharavi alone houses 850,000 to 1 million people across just 2.1-2.4 km², a density of roughly 354,000 per km².

4 Chronic Urban Flooding

Recurrent monsoon flooding paralyses Mumbai even in years of below-average cumulative rainfall, as saturated colonial-era drainage and lost natural floodplains combine to produce an estimated \$1.2 billion in annual economic losses.

5 Water Scarcity & Drought (Marathwada)

Since the severe 2015 drought, Marathwada has faced repeated water crises — four droughts at 50-70% of average rainfall between 2012-13 and 2019. Paradoxically, in 2025 the region received 128% of normal monsoon rainfall in erratic bursts, damaging 1.75 million hectares of farmland — underscoring how both drought and flood now threaten the same fragile agricultural belt.

6 Air Pollution & Traffic Congestion

Roughly 29% of Mumbai's particulate matter comes from road and construction dust, worsened by near-continuous construction and demolition activity across the city; pollution peaks between November and February, compounding chronic traffic congestion on an overstretched road network.

“Only seven of Maharashtra's 36 districts produce more than half the state's entire economic output — meaning most of the state's geography contributes to a GDP figure it barely shares in.

— Deccan Herald, citing a state government report

Solutions & Policy Responses

Maharashtra's policy response runs from a revived water-conservation programme with genuine groundwater results to an Adani-led slum redevelopment project whose real test is still years away.

1 Farm Loan Waivers

The 2019 Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Shetkari Karj Mukti Yojana waived crop loans up to ₹2 lakh. It has since been superseded by the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-mukti Yojana, offering full waivers up to ₹2 lakh, a one-time settlement option for larger debts (grace period to 31 March 2027), and a ₹50,000 incentive grant for farmers who repaid loans on schedule across FY2022-23 to 2024-25.

2 Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan (Water Conservation)

This drought-proofing scheme covered over 22,000 villages between 2016 and 2019 through desilting, check-dam construction and rainwater harvesting. A 2018-19 central government report found groundwater levels declined in almost every Indian state except Maharashtra, with some Vidarbha talukas recording recharge gains of 0.66-1.56%. Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan 2.0, launched in 2022, targets 24,000 additional villages.

3 Marathwada Water Grid

A state initiative championed by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis aims to interlink river basins and reservoirs across the drought-prone Marathwada region for long-term water security, directly targeting the disparity between the region's agrarian distress and the rest of the state's economic growth.

4 Dharavi Redevelopment Project

An Adani Group-led public-private partnership (Adani 80%, Maharashtra government 20%) aims to rehabilitate over one million residents into roughly 125,000 new housing units. A household survey concluded in August 2025; the first building handover, on railway land in Mahim (Phase 1, 10,000 flats), is targeted for December 2026, with 30,000 units planned across FY27, alongside schools, healthcare facilities and a multi-modal transport hub with three metro stations.

5 Mumbai Coastal Road & Metro Expansion

Phase 1 of the Mumbai Coastal Road, from Princess Street Flyover to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, is operational, with its 5.25 km promenade section inaugurated in August 2025; both phases are expected complete by May 2026. Parallel metro expansion in 2026 includes Line 9's Dahisar East-Kashigaon stretch and Line 4/4A extensions into Thane, aimed at cutting congestion and commute times — the coastal road alone has cut some Worli commutes to roughly 10 minutes.

6 Industry & Investment Policy for Regional Balance

The state's semiconductor and EV investment push explicitly targets underdeveloped regions — the MSN Holdings lithium battery/cell plant announced at Davos 2025 is directed at Vidarbha specifically, an attempt to extend the Mumbai-Pune investment boom into the state's most economically distressed division.

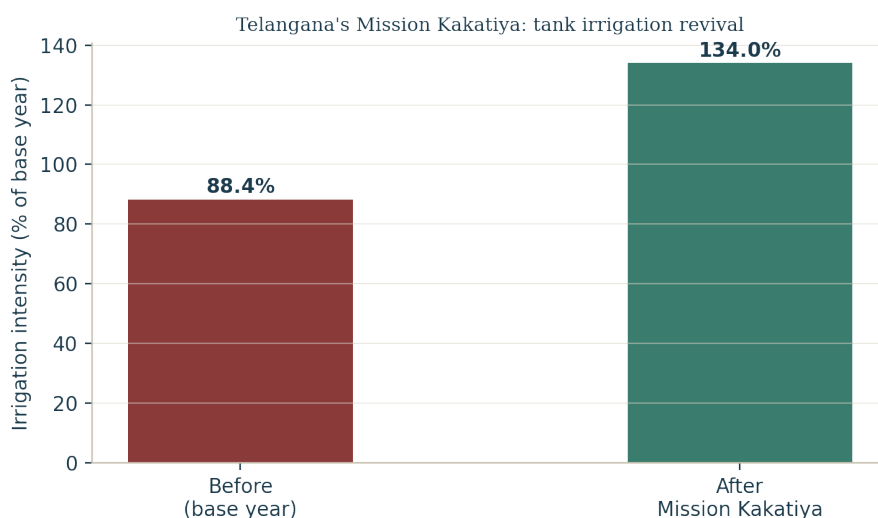
What Maharashtra Can Learn From Other States & Regions

Maharashtra's specific problems — drought, farmer debt, slum housing, urban flooding, regional imbalance, and traffic — all have real-world precedents elsewhere, several with concrete, measurable turnarounds.

1 Telangana's Mission Kakatiya (Water Scarcity)

Telangana restored 46,531 defunct irrigation tanks between 2015 and 2019. Irrigation intensity rose from 88.4% to 134% of the base year, stabilising irrigation across 6.71 lakh acres and lifting fish yields by 36-39%.

Lesson for Maharashtra: Marathwada needs systematic minor-irrigation-tank revival at this scale, not just borewell subsidies or emergency tanker relief.



Telangana's Mission Kakatiya lifted irrigation intensity from 88.4% to 134% of the base year through systematic tank restoration.

2 Punjab & Gujarat Crop Diversification (Farmer Distress)

Vidarbha has roughly 3.4 million cotton farmers, 95% in debt, with only 10-12% irrigated land. By contrast, Punjab's diversification incentives (~₹35,000/hectare) away from paddy monoculture yield 20-30% higher profits on alternative crops, while Gujarat's shift from cotton monoculture into groundnut, castor and Amul-model dairy cooperatives lifted incomes through value addition and assured procurement.

Lesson: pair MSP-backed crop diversification and cooperative dairy/agro-processing with irrigation investment in Vidarbha, rather than relying on debt relief alone.

3 Singapore's HDB Model (Housing Crisis)

Singapore cleared its squatter settlements and rehoused residents within roughly a decade starting in the 1960s; 82% of Singaporeans now live in public HDB flats. Maharashtra's own Dharavi Redevelopment Project is explicitly modelled on Singapore and Hong Kong's high-density public housing approach.

Lesson: sustained, decades-long vertical rehousing commitment — not one-off slum "schemes" — is what converted Singapore's slums into permanent housing stock; Maharashtra must hold this course well past the 2028 Dharavi handover target.

4 Rotterdam's Water-Resilient Design (Urban Flooding)

Rotterdam operates over 1,000 pumping stations plus a dyke/polder system and "water squares" that double as flood-storage plazas during storms, part of the Netherlands' "Room for the River" doctrine of designed flood absorption. Mumbai still relies mainly on colonial-era storm drains and periodic desilting drives.

Lesson: invest in retention squares and integrated pumping networks as permanent infrastructure, not monsoon-season stopgaps.

5 China's Western Development Strategy (Regional Disparity)

Western China's per-capita GDP was only about 30% of the coastal east in the late 1990s; after the 2000 Western Development Strategy's infrastructure and industrial incentives, the development gap narrowed 27.6% over 15 years, with annual regional GDP growth rising roughly 1.6 percentage points.

Lesson: Maharashtra needs a dedicated, decades-long capital-and-industry allocation formula tilted toward Vidarbha and Marathwada, not periodic "special package" announcements.

6 Tokyo's Rail-First Transit Model (Traffic Congestion)

Tokyo cut its train congestion rate from 221% in 1975 to 164% by 2015 through new lines, longer trains and inter-operator through-running; trains now run at 2-3 minute intervals and rail carries 48% of trips within the 23 Wards.

Lesson: continuous, decades-scale investment in rail frequency and network integration — not just more roads and flyovers — is what actually solves megacity congestion.

Future Growth & Potential

Maharashtra's ambition to become India's first \$1 trillion state economy by 2028 rests on real, funded infrastructure — but the same regional divide documented in earlier chapters is the risk analysts flag most often against hitting that target on schedule.

\$1 trillion by 2028

STATE GSDP TARGET

₹15.7 + 14.5 lakh Cr

MOUS SIGNED AT DAVOS 2025 & 2026

\$10 billion

TOWER-ADANI SEMICONDUCTOR FAB, TALOJA

Dec 2026

FIRST DHARAVI REDEVELOPMENT PHASE HANDOVER

The \$1 trillion target: Maharashtra aims to become India's first trillion-dollar state economy by 2028, up from an estimated \$450 billion GSDP in FY2023-24 (roughly 13% of India's GDP). An Economic Advisory Committee chaired by N. Chandrasekaran of Tata Sons drafted the roadmap in July 2023, though analysts note the target implies sustained growth well above 15% a year — nearly double the state's current trend rate.

Investment summits: At WEF Davos 2025, Maharashtra signed 54 MoUs worth ₹15.70 lakh crore (a projected 16 lakh jobs), including a ₹3.05 lakh crore Reliance Group commitment spanning petrochemicals, green hydrogen, data centres and retail, and an MSN Holdings ₹14,652 crore lithium battery plant explicitly directed at Vidarbha. Davos 2026 added a further 19 MoUs worth ₹14.5 lakh crore, building on the state's "Magnetic Maharashtra" investment platform and its rank as India's top FDI destination for two consecutive years.

Infrastructure pipeline: The Atal Setu (Mumbai Trans Harbour Link), a 21.8 km sea bridge operational since January 2024, has cut South Mumbai-Navi Mumbai travel time from over 90 minutes to roughly 20. Navi Mumbai International Airport, inaugurated October 2025 and handling domestic flights from December 2025, added international routes and cargo service from July 2026. The Samruddhi Mahamarg (Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway) has cut travel time between the two cities from 16 hours to 8. The Dharavi Redevelopment Project's first phase of roughly 10,000 homes is targeted for handover by December 2026.

Signature growth sectors: the state Cabinet approved a Tower Semiconductor-Adani Group joint venture in September 2024 — a \$10 billion fab at Taloja, Panvel, targeting 40,000 wafer-starts a month in its first phase, scaling to 80,000. Mahindra's Chakan EV plant, operational since January

2025, targets 200,000 electric vehicles a year as part of a ₹16,000 crore investment cycle running through FY2027. The state's IT market, estimated at \$48 billion in 2024, represents roughly 19% of India's total.

Demographic dividend versus risk: Maharashtra's scale — top-ranked FDI destination, second in export value — is a genuine growth asset, but economists repeatedly flag the same regional-disparity problem documented in Chapters 13 and 15 as the likeliest reason the \$1 trillion target slips: Vidarbha and Marathwada's agrarian distress and thin infrastructure base could absorb only a fraction of the investment flowing into Mumbai and Pune, leaving the demographic dividend concentrated in a handful of districts rather than spread across the state.

Notable Facts

- ✦ **India's largest state economy by a wide margin** — Maharashtra's GSDP lead over the next-largest state, Tamil Nadu, is roughly ₹11 lakh crore, wider than the entire economy of most other Indian states.

- ✦ **Home to Asia's oldest stock exchange** — the Bombay Stock Exchange, founded in 1875, predates the National Stock Exchange by over a century.

- ✦ **India's largest Buddhist population** — roughly 6.53 million people, tracing to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's mass conversion of 400,000-800,000 followers at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, on 14 October 1956.

- ✦ **The world's largest diamond exchange** — the Bharat Diamond Bourse in Mumbai's BKC, through which an estimated 90% of the world's polished diamonds pass.

- ✦ **A 700-year-old walking pilgrimage** — the Pandharpur Wari still sees hundreds of thousands of Warkari pilgrims walk roughly 250 km behind palkhis carrying the padukas of Sant Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram Maharaj.

- ✦ **Only seven districts produce over half the state's GDP** — a striking concentration of economic output that leaves most of Maharashtra's geography contributing little to the headline growth figures.

- ✦ **India's most densely populated district** — Mumbai Suburban, at roughly 21,000 people per km².

- ✦ **The world's tallest railway bridge piers are not here — but the tallest road tunnel is** — the Samruddhi Mahamarg's Kasara Ghat tunnel, at 7.8 km, is India's longest road tunnel.

- ✦ **A single study estimates 2,700 flood-related deaths a year in Mumbai** — more than eight times the city's officially reported monsoon mortality figures.

- ✦ **Founded from a 14-year linguistic movement** — the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement (1946-1960) cost 106 lives before securing the modern state's formation on 1 May 1960.

- ✦ **India's largest cooperative sugar-mill network** — roughly 252 factories, traced to Ahmednagar's Bagaitdar mill, India's first cooperative sugar factory, founded in 1950.

Sources: Census of India (2011, with Registrar General/StatisticsTimes projections for later years), NITI Aayog macro-fiscal reports, RBI State Finances data, PRS Legislative Research, NFHS-5 (2019-21), Economic Survey of Maharashtra, India State of Forest Report (ISFR 2023), NTCA All-India Tiger Estimation 2022, NIRF rankings, UNESCO World Heritage listings, and Wikipedia (cross-checked

against primary sources), plus contemporaneous reporting (Business Standard, Deccan Herald, Scroll, Swarajya) for 2024-2026 developments. Post-2011 demographic figures, exact post-2014 district boundary data (following the Thane-Palghar split), and in-progress infrastructure/investment figures are provisional pending the next full Census and updated state Economic Survey; where sources disagreed, the most authoritative or most recent figure was used.