



KHEDA DISTRICT PROFILE

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|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Banks | 23 | Colleges / Universities | 9 |
| Electricity | 4 | Hospitals | 22 |
| Municipalities | 10 | Postal | 5 |
| PM Janaushadhi Kendra | 7 | | |

Kheda District takes its name from the town of Kheda which stands on a rising ground near the confluence of the Vatrak and the Shedhi River. English people called it Kaira. In Sanskrit literature, Kheda was called Khetak. Moreover, it was also a main town for a large administrative area called Khetak Ahar or Vishyaya or Mandal Akin to the present day inhabited historically 1.500 to 2.000 year.

Since time immemorial the area is also known as Charotar. In the center of the district is the Charotar or goodly land. A tract of most fertile and well tilled soil. Even dialect spoken by the people inhabiting the region is called Charotri. The word Charotar is derived from the Sanskrit word Charu meaning beautiful. The land is fertile and green with vegetation and so it pleases the eye and is called Charotar.

The specific references of the Kheda district and other places therein were found in number of copper plate grants issued by Maitraka Kings of Valabhi, who ruled over a large part of mainland Gujarat for pretty long period of about three centuries (Circa 470-788 A.D.). After the fall of Valabhi in 788 A.D., the Rashtrakuta King Karaka II extended his kingdom of Lata

northward and shifted his capital to Khetaka. The Rashtrakuta king of Deccan had led a victorious expedition up to the Mahi River. The credit of extending Rashtrakuta power (788-950 A.D.) goes to the King Karka II. The period from 950 to 1300 A. D. is considered as Chalukya period. From 1299 A.D. the Medieval period (1299-1758 A.D.) in the district commenced and it ended with the final defeat of the Mughal Viceroy Morin Khan II by the Marathas.

In 1583 A. D., three English merchants came to India with the intention to open a trade, with the letters from Queen Elizabeth to Akbar, king of Cambay. Their efforts to trade were at first successful. But the Portuguese seized them and they were imprisoned. However, in 1613 A.D. the English merchants got permission to start a factory and in 1616 A.D., the Portuguese dismissed from the Cambay town. The real connection of the British with Kheda district commenced from 1803 A. D. Part of Kheda district came into British possession in 1803 A.D. and the rest came in 1817 A.D.

From 1817 the district remained under the control of British rule and formed part of the Bombay province. After independence, the former Indian States of Cambay, Balasinor, Poniard, Khodal, Ghodasar, the non-jurisdictional states of Zar and Nirmali, Bhadran and Petlad talukas and 38 villages of Attarsuba (Attarsuba) taluka of the former Baroda State and six villages of Ahmedabad district, were put into the district of Kheda

In 1830 Kapadwanj was included in Ahmedabad and Kheda became a sub collectorate under the collector of Ahmadabad in 1833, Ahmedabad and Kheda were again separated. On bifurcation of bilingual Bombay State, it now forms part of Gujarat state from 1st May, 1960. In 1997 by several notifications (s), Government of Gujarat reconstituted some districts and talukas of the State. The former Kheda district is bifurcated into two districts viz. Kheda and

Kheda. Government of Gujarat had reconstituted Kheda district vide the Government Notification No. GHM-97-80-M-PFR-1097-L dated 24th September, 1997. In the reorganization work of districts in 1997, this district was divided into two districts viz Kheda and Kheda.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Nadiad town is the district head quarter for the administration of Kheda district. Besides, there 10 other talukas namely

1. Balasinor,
2. Kapadvanj,
3. Kathlal,
4. Kheda,
5. Mahudha,
6. Matar,
7. Mehmada Vad,
8. Thasra and
9. Virpur.

There are 620 villages in the district.

Collector office is situated in Nadiad town which looks after the administration of the whole district. Besides there are 10 municipalities and total 559 village panchayats including some group panchayats look after the administration at local levels and cooperates to the district headquarter for strengthening the economic growth of the district.

LOCATION

Kheda district of Gujarat is known as the land of “Golden Leaf”. The district is situated in the middle part of Gujarat state. The district lies between 22°30' N to 23°18' latitude and 72°30' to 73°37' E longitudes situated at 32 to 35 meters above sea level. It is located on the bank of river Vatrak, in the northern side Sabarkantha, eastern side Panchmahal, western side Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in west and in the southern side Anand and Vadodara district are situated. The area covered by the district is 3,953 sq. km it covers 2.01% geographical area of State. The rank of the district is 17th by area among the districts of the State.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Kheda district is a part of Gujarat plain and is subdivided into five sub-micro regions viz. Sabaramati-Vatrak plain, Nadiad plain, Aravalli Forested Rock-outcrops, Mahi plain, Thasra plain and Charotar plain on the basis of topography, climate, geology, soils and natural vegetation.

DRAINAGE

There are nine rivers in Kheda district, of which Mahi and Sabarmati are principal perennial rivers. The river Mahi is known as Mahisagar. Total length of Mahi River in the district is about 180 km. It originates from Mehad tank situated on Vindhyachal Mountains and empties into Arabian Sea at the bay of Khambhat. The river is very useful for irrigation. Total length of Sabarmati River in the district is 88 km. It originates from Aravalli Mountains and

enters into the boundary of the district at Khadiarapura village of Matar taluka and empties in to the Gulf of Khambhat. Unlike Mahi, which is most useful for irrigation the main purpose served by the river Sabarmati is that of drainage. Other rivers of the district viz. Shedhi, Vatrak, Meshwo and Khari meet Sabarmati River at its left bank. Moreover, there are Luni Varanasi and Mahora rivers, which are seasonal and very shallow. Water flows in these rivers for few months in the year.

LAND

Goradu and sandy loam type land is commonly found in Nadiad. Every taluka is bestowed with rich organic content and responded with huge irrigation facilities coupled with use of fertilizers and improved farm practices with technological transformation gradually. The land is highly fertile and locally known as „CHAROTAR“. While, kyari soil is found in the parts of Matar and Mahemdabad talukas, where extensive cultivation of paddy is grown and the region is famous as „DASHKOSHI“, and medium black soil is found in Kapadvanj, Thasra and Balasinor talukas.

There are four types of available land in the district as given below viz. Sandy loam, Kyari, Medium black, Bhatha.

FOREST

The State Government through Forest Department Authority has undertaken various concrete steps relating to forestry and waste land development. The Forest Department is having network of nurseries in all the taluka for supplying of seeds. There is no production or collection of forest goods in the district.

CLIMATE

The climate of this district is characterized by a hot summer and general dryness except in the southwest monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from December to February is followed by the hot season from March to May. The period from June to September is the south-west monsoon season. October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Temperature: The period from March to May is one of continuous increase in temperature. The weather is intensely hot in summer and particularly in the month of May the day temperature reaches to 34.3 C or over.

Winds: Winds are generally light with some strengthening in force during the summer and the south-west monsoon seasons. During the south-west monsoon season winds blow mostly from the west or south-west. Towards the end of the south-west monsoon season north-western lies appear and in the next four months winds are mostly from directions between north-west and east. In February and March winds in the mornings are from directions between north-west and north-east, while in the afternoons they are from directions between south-west and north-west. In April and May winds are mainly from directions between south-west and north-west.

Rainfall: In association with some of the cyclonic storms from the Arabian Sea which move towards the district or its neighbourhood during the post monsoon season and to a lesser extent in the latter part of summer, the district experiences gusty winds and widespread rain. Thunder storms occur in the latter half of summer and in the monsoon season.

RESOURCES IN THE DISTRICT

Export performance of a district depends on the Social, economic and industrial growth of any district which depends upon the availability of abundant natural, skilled human resources which leads to industrial growth status of a district. Classification of these resources can be done as under.

HUMAN RESOURCES

It seeks greater importance in achieving consistent and targeted growth rate in every sector of the economy. Hence, it is divided mainly in two parts namely skilled and unskilled labour force is deemed to be a main key of economy. Availability of labour and high productivity can heavily contribute to the achievements of targeted growth. Labour force is spread over in nearly 3800 sq.km area of the district. Available skilled labour is nearly 38.20 % to the total human resources; of which 16.13% are engaged in agriculture and 22.07 % in the industrial sector is engaged in the economy of the district.

MATERIAL RESOURCES**Agriculture**

Cultivation of various crops in all seasons is carried out with canal irrigation in Kheda district. Average rainfall is 723 mm. in Kheda. Aonla, Citrus, banana and papaya are the main fruits. Kheda is the largest producer of Aonla contributing up to 23 % to the total fruit production in the State. It also contributes nearly 7 % to the total production of vegetables in the district including potatoes, tomatoes, bringals and onions. Cumin seeds, fennel seeds, chilly, ginger and turmeric are the major spices produced in the district. Kheda is second largest producer of tobacco in Gujarat State.

Soil

The soils of the district can be classified into six main types: the goradu (gravelly), black, medium black, black, sandy and rocky type. The goradu type is mainly to be found in the Charotar tract comprising Nadiad Taluka and parts of Thasra taluka. The black type of the Bhal tract is mainly to be found in Matar taluka while the medium black type is confined to the Mehmedabad taluka. The rich black type suitable for cotton is found in parts of Kapadvanj, Balasinor and Thasra talukas. The sandy type is concentrated in the Kapadvanj and Mehmedabad taluka. Finally, the rocky type is to be found in Balasinor and parts of Kapadvanj taluka. Tobacco is the most valuable article of produce in the district. It is grown mostly in the Charotar tract in the district. Castor seed and sesame are the only oil seeds grown in the district. The cultivation of the cotton occupies large acres of land and is one of the most valuable crops of the district. Garden cultivation is also extensive.

Cropping Pattern

Paddy, Wheat, Bajara, castor, cotton and Tobacco are the predominant crops of the District. The main crops of the district are Paddy and Bajra in Kharif and Wheat and Potato in Rabi. Active public interventions in the form of development of irrigation and input supply systems coupled with favorable output markets initially boosted the wheat and paddy yields and returns thereby shifting the crop pattern in favour of these crops. The oil seed crop like castor has gain area due to the introduction of high yielding varieties and higher net return. The Vegetable crops like Tomato and Chili area has been increased in recent years. The area under banana and papaya crops is increasing due to the introduction of new technologies like tissue culture, drip irrigation.

Irrigation

The monsoon generally sets in during the latter part of June and lasts up to the end of September. Though the rainfall in the district is normally more than the State average, it is on whole inadequate and not evenly distributed. As a result, the agriculture has mostly to depend on Irrigation. The District has nine Rivers of which two, the Mahi, and the Sabarmati, are the main rivers out of these two; Mahi has proved more useful for Irrigation.

Horticulture

Good production of spices, fruits and vegetables is taken in horticulture during the year in the district. Mangoes, banana, chiku, and kharek are the main fruit. Whereas, onion, potato and guwar are the main vegetables. and, guwar, papdi, parwal patal etc. are produced at satisfactory level in the district. Hara dhanian, garlic, chili and turmeric are produced in satisfactory quantity in the district under head spices.

Dairy Development

The Dairy Development Programme seeks vital significance as a supplementary source of additional income generation in terms of allied activities in the agriculture sector for bringing improvement of the living standards of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers of the district.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Bauxite, limestone and quartz are the major minerals found in Kheda district. Bentonite, brick clay, road metal, sand, gravel and black trap are the minor minerals found in the district. Bauxite reserves are found in Thasra and Kapavanj taluka having 89 million tonnes approximately. Also, Quartz reserves exist in Thasra taluka of the district. Some of the mineral-based industries in Kheda district are as under:

- Bauxite calcination plant.
- Bentonite pulverizing unit.
- Cement plant.
- Crockery/Ceramic unit.
- Glazed tiles.
- Quartz crushing unit.
