

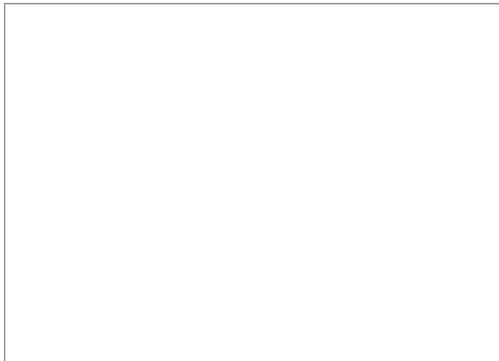
The History Of Amravati

The ancient name of Amravati is "Udumbravati", prakrut form of this is "Umbravati" and



"Amravati" is known for many centuries with this name. The mispronunciation form of this is Amravati and now the Amravati is known with the same. It is said that Amravati is named for its ancient Ambadevi temple. The ancient proof of existence of Amravati can get from stone carved inscription on the base of marble statue of God Adinath (Jain God) Rhishabh Nath. This shows that, these statues were set up here in 1097. Govind Maha Prabhu visited Amravati in 13 th century, at the same time Warhad was under the rule of Deogiri's Hindu King

(Yadav). In 14th century, there was famine (drought) in Amravati & people abandoned Amravati and left for Gujrat and Malva. The local people were returned back after several years at Amravati, the result of this was scanty population. In 16 th century, Mager Aurangpura (today's,

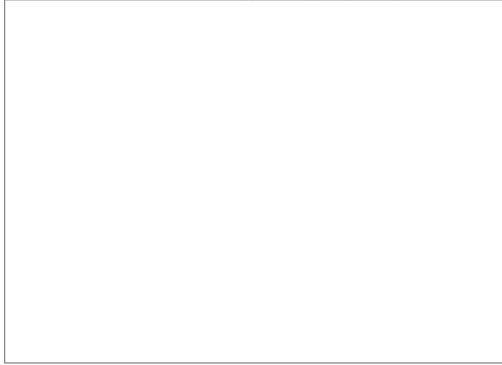


'Sabanpura') was presented for Jumma Majseed by Badashah Aurangjeb. This reveals that Muslims and Hindus lived together here. In 1722, Chhatrapati Shahoo Maharaj presented Amravati and Badnera to Shri Ranoji Bhosle, by the time Amravati was known as Bhosle ki Amravati. The city was reconstructed and prospered by Ranoji Bhosle after the treaty of Devgaon and Anjangaon Surji and victory over Gavilgad (Fort of Chikhaldara). The British general author Wellesly camped in Amravati, particular place is still recognized as camp, by Amravati people. The Amravati city came in to existence at the end of 18th century. Union state of Nijam and

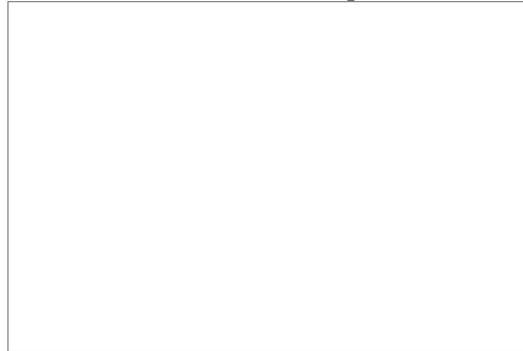
Bosale ruled the Amravati. They appointed the revenue officer, but defense system was worsted. Gavilgad fort was conquered by Britishers on 15th Dec' 1803. According to the Deogaon treaty, the Warhad was presented as the token of the friendship to Nijam.

The Warhad had Nijams monopoly, thereafter. Near about 1805, Pendharies attacked Amravati city.

The Sahukars and Marchants of Amravati saved Amravati by giving seven lakhs to the Chittu Pendhari at that time. The Nijam ruled for a half century. The people enjoyed British rule instead of cruel Mugals (Nijam). From 1859 to 1871, many government buildings were come into



existence, which were built by the Britishers. Railway station was constructed in 1859; commissioner bungalow in 1860, Small cause court in 1886, (today's S.D.O. OFFICE), the Tahsil office & the Main post office were built in 1871. During this time, the central jail, collector office, Rest house, cotton market were also built. During 1896, Shri Dadasaheb Khaparde, Shri Ranganath Pant



Mudhodker, Sir Moropant Joshi, Shri Pralhad Pant Jog were the leaders in Amravati. The 13 th Congress Conference was held at

Amravati on 27-29 Dec' 1897 due to the efforts of these leaders. Shri Lokmanya Tilak and Shri Mahatma Gandhi visited Amravati in 1928. The Munsipal A.V. High School was inaugurated at the hands of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose. At the time of 'Savinay Awagya Andolan ', Amravati held the head office of it. On 26 th of April 1930, the water was taken from 'Dahihanda' for the famous 'Namak Satyagrah', and Dr. Soman was brought the sea water from Mumbai for the occassion. Around ten thousand people were prepared the salt under the leadership of Shri Vir Vamanrao Joshi.

Udumbaravati was the encient name of today's Amravati. It was due to the presence of ample number of Audumber trees in the region. The name was further abbreviated as Umbravati, Umravati& Amravati. The city grown up rapidly at the end of 18 th century due to the growth in businesses. It was one of the richest town of the area.

In 1853, the present day territory of Amravati district as a part of Berar Province was assigned to the British East India Company, following a treaty with the Nizam of Hyderabad. After the Company took over the administration of the province, it was divided into two districts. The present day territory of the district became part of North Berar district, with headquarters at Buldana. Later, the province was reconstituted and the territory of the present district became part of East Berar district, with headquarters at Amraoti. In 1864, Yavatmal District (initially known as Southeast Berar district and later Wun district) was separated. In 1867, Ellichpur District was separated but in August, 1905, when the whole province was reorganized into six districts, it was again merged into the district. In 1903, it became part of the newly constituted province of Central Provinces and Berar. In 1956, Amravati district became part of Bombay State and after its bifurcation in 1960, it became part of Maharashtra state.

Geography Amravati city is situated 340 m above from the sea level. Pohara & Chirodi hills are in the east of the city. Maltekdi is one of the hills, which is inside the city. The hight of Maltekdi is around 60 m & the statue of great maratha kind, Shri Shivaji Maharaj is placed on the top of the hill. There are two lakes in the eastern part of the city, namely, Chhatri Talao & Wadali Talao. The city is located in the East Maharashtra on the altitude of 20o 56' north & 77o 47' east. It is the main centre of west Vidarbha. It is on the Mumbai-Calcutta high way.

First In Amravati - Who & What ?

- First Public (Sarvajanik) Ganesh Festival was celebrated in the leadership of Shri Dadasaheb Khaparde - year 1900 at Indrabhavan Theatre.
- First Commissioner of Amravati was T.H.Bullok.
- First March (Morcha) was arranged in the leadership of Shri Dada Jog.
- First Police Station was established in the year 1877, it was inside the walled city then and place was near the Laxmi - Narayan Temple.
- First person to get re-married was Shri Bhaskar Thatte, at auspicious hands of Shri Balasaheb Bedekar.
- First Circus to Amravati was came in the year was in 1905-06 and stayed at Neharu Ground.
- First person to go to jail for singing Vande Mataram was Shri. Jairam Patil in the year 1907.
- Shri Jainarayan Vyas at Ramvilas Garden started first Ice Factory in the year 1925.
- The Amravati - Narkhed Railway was sanctioned for the first time at Shimla on 12th May 1928 but it still to get complete.
- First political arrest to a woman was Mrs. Parvatibai Patwardhan in 1930.
- Shri Hambarde near Rail Station arranged first wrestling championship. Famous Gama Pahelwan had come to take part and large number of people had come to just have glance at him. But his opponent Ganga Singh Pahelwam did not appeared at the venue.
- First Electric Supply to Amravati was started by Amravati Electric Company. The Company was formed in 1928. This company first started the streetlights.
- First Varhad Untouchable's Convention was arranged on 13th and 14th 1927 at Saban Pura, Amravati. It's Chairperson was Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- Amravati Zilla Parishad was constituted on 1st May 1962.
- In the year 1989, (62nd) Marathi Sahitya Sammelan was held at Amravati for the first time. It was on dates 21,22,23 January 1989. The Chairman was Shri. K.J.Purohit (Shantaram). Place was H.V.P. M. Amravati Campus. The sponsors were H.V.P.M.Amravati and City Library.
- First to represent Indian delegation to Britain were Shri Ranganath pant Mudholkar & Shri Moropant Joshi, Moropant Joshi was only 29 years at that time.
- The first trust was from the donation by Pralhadpant Jog, a famous Lawyer. The chairperson was Shri Dadasaheb Khaparde. The property of Jog trust was located at today's Joshi Hall, New High School and city Library and was named as Jog Square after him.
- The First Theatre in Amravati was Indrabhavan Theatre. Which was earlier used to stage plays and folk art form and later for displaying talkies.
- Gandhi chok was named so for the first time, on 9th October 1920 on the occasion of Gandhiji's Birthday.
- First Indian person to held the post of Minister in British Government was an Amravatian. He was Sir Moropant Joshi. He held the post of Home minister during 1920 to 1925.

Know Amravati

- Shri Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal is a world famous sports institute of Amravati.
- The starting of the Vidarbha Sahitya Sangha was from Amravati on 14th January 1923.
- Amravati city is the only city in Maharashtra of which History from 11th Century is available (Last 900 years History)
- First Finance Minister of independent India Shri Chintamanrao Alias C.D.Deshmukh was an Amravatian.
- A member of Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal Shri Rajesh Muralidhar Mahatme (25 years) was the first person to get entry in "Limka book of records" for 24 hours continuous cycling.

About Amravati District

General Information

HISTORY

Amravati District with the rest of the Berar was assigned to the East India Company by the Nizam following the treaty of 1853. After this province was assigned to the Company, it was divided into two districts, South Berar with its headquarters at Hingoli with neighbouring region restored to the Nizam and North Berar was reconstituted into East Berar with headquarters at Akola.

In 1864, the district of Yeotmal was separated from Amravati. In 1903, the Treaties of Assignment were superseded by an agreement under which the Nizam leased Berar to the Government of India in perpetuity. Berar was joined to the central provinces in 1903 to form the enlarged province of central provinces and Berar.

With the recognition of States in 1956, Amravati district, along with other districts of Vidarbha region was included in the then Bilingual Bombay State. Since the bifurcation of Bombay state into Maharashtra and Gujrat in 1960, Amravati, along with other districts of Vidharbha formed one of the districts of Maharashtra.

LOCATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

The district is located between 21⁰46' North to 20⁰32' North and 78⁰27' East to 76⁰37', which essentially indicates that Amravati District is located in the Deccan plateau. Amravati district covers an area of 12626 sq.kms. The districts adjacent to Amravati are Nagpur, Akola, Wardha, Yeotmal, and the state of Madhya Pradesh. The district is divided into 14 Talukas and six sub-divisions as per details given below.

Sub-Divisions	Talukas within the sub-division
Amravati	Amravati, Bhatukali and Nandgaon Khandeshwar
Daryapur	Daryapur and Anjangaon
Achalpur	Achalpur and Chandur Bazar
Morshi	Morshi and Warud
Dharni	Dharni and Chikhaldara
Chandur (Rly)	Chandur (Rly), Tiosa and Dhamangaon

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

Amravati faces extreme variations in temperature with very hot summers and very cold winters. Amravati district receives rainfall from south westerly monsoons mainly in the months of June, July, August and September. July and August are the months during which the maximum rainfall as well as maximum continuous rainfall.

AGRICULTURE AND CROPS

The main agriculture crops in the district along with the market area are given in the table below.

Types	Names	Area (Ha)	Market (District, State, Export)
Major Crops (Irrigated)	Wheat	12980	District
	Gram	9480	District/State
Major Crops (Non-Irrigated)	Cotton	368230	State/Export
	Jawar	129640	District/State
	Toor	83680	District/State
	Moong	35350	District/State
	Groundnut	10470	District/State
	Sesamun	4750	District/State
	Soyabean	92180	District/State
	Gram	26765	District/State
	Sunflower	19120	District/State
Major Cash Crops	Cotton	368230	State/Export
	Orange	57650	State/Export
	Groundnut	10430	District/State
	Soyabean	92180	District/State
	Chilli	3113	District/State
	Banana	224	District/State
Major Plantations	Orange	57650	State/Export
	Banana	424	District/State

Education

Amravati district is well known for its educational facilities. The district gets inspiration from its great sons Shri Gadage Baba, Saint Tukadoji Maharaj, and Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh who brought about a revolution in the field of education.

Established on the 1st of May 1983, Amravati University has a lion's share in its contribution to the educational development of Vidarbha. Amravati University covers five major districts in Vidarbha viz. Amravati, Akola, Yeotmal, Buldhana, and Washim. There are affiliated

180 colleges, 22 postgraduate departments and one College of Education run by the University.

The district is also reputed for the technical education. There are three

Engineering colleges viz.

- 1) Government College of Engineering, Amravati.
- 2) V.Y.W.S. College of Engineering, Badnera (Rly), Amravati.
- 3) Sipana College of Engineering, Amravati and four polytechnic colleges.

In Amravati, there are four medical colleges of which two run Ayurvedic course, one for each Allopathy, Homeopathy, and one Dental College. viz.

- 1) Panjabrao Deshmukh Memorial Medical College, Amravati.
- 2) Vidarbha Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Amravati.
- 3) V.Y.W.S. Dental College, Amravati.
- 4) Shri Vallabh Takhatmal College of Homeopathy, Amravati.
- 5) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute of Homeopathic Medical Science, Amravati

The only law college in Amravati is Panjabrao Deshmukh Law College.

Amravati has gained a place of honour in the field of physical education because of Shri Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal. Situated in the heart of the city, it is enriched with the modern facilities that can be compared with the best in world of sports. H.V.P.M. also runs Degree College of Physical Education.

Tourism

The places of tourist attraction in Amravati are

***Chikhaldara:**

It is featured in Mahabharata and thereby hangs a tale. This is a place where Bheema killed villainous Keechaka in a Herculean bout and threw him into a valley. It came to be known as "Keechakadhara" - Chikhaldara is a corruption.

But there is more to Chikhaldara. It has added distinction of being the only coffee growing area in Maharashtra. It abounds in wildlife - panthers, sloth Bears, Sambars, wild Boar, even the rarely seen wild Dogs.

Close by is the famous Melghat Tiger Project which has more than 100 tigers. The scenic beauty of Chikhaldara can be enjoyed from Hurricane point, Prospect point and Devi point. Other interesting excursions include Gavilgad and Narnala Fort, the Pundit Nehru Botanical Garden, the tribal museum and the Semadoh lake.

Situated at an altitude of 1118 meters, Chikhaldara receives an annual rainfall of 154 cm. The temperature varies from 39⁰C in summer and 5⁰C in winter. October to June is the best time to visit Chikhaldara.

Getting there: The nearest railhead is Amravati on Central Railway Branch line, 100 km from Chikhaldara, and 763 km from Mumbai is connected to most major cities by road. Regular S.T. bus services connect Chikhaldara to Amravati, Nagpur, Wardha, Akola and other cities.

Accommodation: Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation(M.T.D.C.) has resorts at Chikhaldara. For reservations contact.

M.T.D.C.,
C/o P.W.D. Rest House,
Maltekadi Road, Amravati-444 601
Maharashtra.
Tel-fax: (0721) 674 008

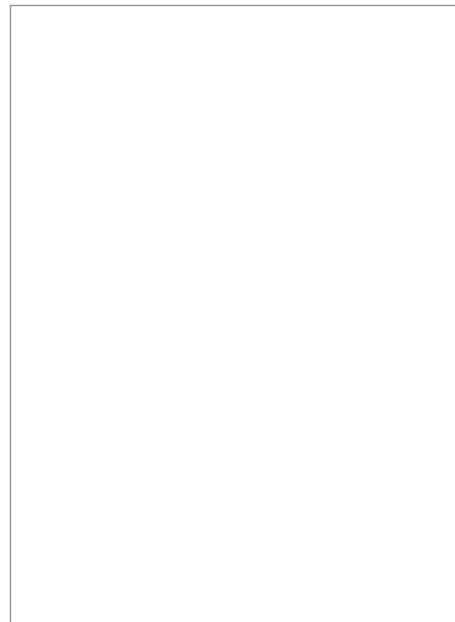
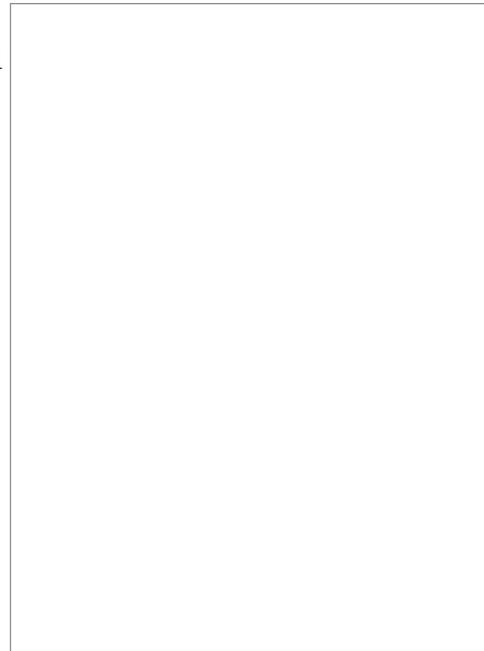
Also Nature Education and Interpretation Centre, Semadoh provides facilities of accommodation and Nature Education. Main features are

1. Huts, tents
2. Museum cum Interpretation Centre
3. Nature trails
4. Wildlife viewing
5. Nature camp sites
6. Open air theatre for wildlife films
7. Nature trek facilities

Reservation Authorities:

1. Field Director, Project Tiger Melghat,
Amravati- 444 602
Phone(0721) 662792, 662680
2. Dy.Conservator of Forests,
Project Tiger Melghat, Division-1,
Paratwada Dist.- Amravati
Phone:-(07223) 20214

*** Other Historical and Religious Centers are:**



Name of the Historical and Religious Centers	Periods of Festival, Occasions, Months	Nearest Urban or Major rural Centre	Estimated Tourist or visiting population
Amravati: Ambadevi and Ekvira Navratra Mahotsav	Nine days from Ashwin Shukla 1'st to 9'th(Sept-Oct)	Amravati	10 Lakh during entire period
Kondeshwar & Tapowaneshwar	Each Monday in the month of Shrawan	Amravati	22 Thousand

	(July-Sept) & Mahashivratri (Jan-April) on Magh Krushna 13		
Salbardi: Shambhu Mahadev Pilramage	Magh Krushna 13, Five days fair during Mahashivratri.	Amravati, Morshi	70 Thousand
Nerpinglai	Navratra Mahotsav during 1'st to 9'th of Ashwin Shukla (Sept-Oct)	Amravati, Morshi	50 Thousand
Riddhapur: Shree Govind Prabhu fair of Mahanubhav Culture	Ashad Shukla 15 (Full Moon Day)	Chandur Bazar, Amravati	50 Thousand
Kaundannyapur: Shree Kaundannyapur fair	From Kartik Shukla 15 (Full Moon Day) for one week	Tiosa, Amravati	50 Thousand
Mozari : Rashtra Sant Tukdiji Maharaj Yatra	Ashwin Waddya 5 for three days	Tiosa, Amravati	75 thousand during entire period
Jahagirpur (Marda) : Hanuman fair	Chaitra Purnima Hanuman Jayanti	Tiosa, Amravati	50 thousand
Bhiltek Nagoba Yatra	Each Sunday in the month of Pausha	Chandur Rly.	30 thousand
Ghuikhed : Mendoli baba Yatra	Rathasaptami Magh Shukla 7. Each Sunday in the month of Pausha	Chandur Rly.	40 thousand
Amla Vishveshwar sant Eknath Maharaj Yatra	Marga. Shukla 15 Purnima	Chandur Rly.	50 thousand
Rianmochan Mahadev Yatra	Each Sunday in the month of Pausha and Rathasaptami	Bhatkuli, Amravati	40 thousand

Bahiram: Bahiram Khandoba & Bahiram Bowaji	Kartik Pournima Shirsha, Shukla 6 and the month of Pausha	Bahiram	50 thousand
Sawanga Vithoba	On Gudhipadawa day	Chandur Rly.	10 thousand
Gavilgad Fort at Chikhaldara in Satpura ranges- A Historical Place	Over the entire year	Chikhaldara	7 thousand a year
Talegaon Dashasahastra: An ancient Historical town where there are old temples, bricks that float on water, deep Celler, God Mahadeva's great temple, old wells with steps	Over the entire year	Chandur Rly.	5 thousand a year

Irrigation Projects

The main rivers in Amravati district are

- Tapi
- Purna
- Chandrabhaga
- Pedhi
- Wardha
- Shahanoor

The Dams in Amravati District are:

- Upper Wardha Project
- Lower Wardha Project
- Chandrabhaga Project
- Bembala Project
- Sapan Project
- Purna Project

Location of the Project(s)	Upper Wardha	Purna	Chandrabhaga
Catchment Area	4302	390.79	104.64

sq.km.			
Target Command Area sq.km.	830	62.75	70.13

Amravati Irrigation Division, Amravati Completed M.I. Tanks - 42.

Zilla Parishad Minor Irrigation Division, Amravati

i) Completed Irrigation Tanks - 58

ii) Completed Percon. Tanks - 50

iii) Irrigation Projects in Progress : a) Irrigation Tanks - 3

..... b) Percon. Tanks - 4

iv) a) Completed Village Tanks - 8 (From Regular Provision)

.b) Completed Village Tanks - 57 (Under E.G.S.)

.c) Completed Village Tanks - 29 (Under Jawahar Wells Scheme)

v) .a) Village Tanks in Progress - 10 (Under E.G.S.)

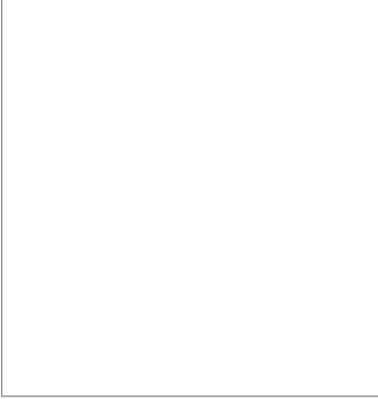
.b) Village Tanks in Progress- 22 (Under Jawahar Wells Scheme)

Superintending Engineer Minor Irrigation (Local Sector) Circle, Amravati.

Category	Completed	In progress	Total
M.I. Tanks	54	16	70
Percolation Tanks	65	10	75
Village Tanks	13	29	42
K.T.Weirs	41	51	92
Total	173	106	279

The Land Of Great Men

Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj



“Mani Nahi Bhaav, Mhane Deva Mala Pav, Deo Bajarcha Bhaji pala Nahire”

“You have not made up your mind to give up your ego, and you want that God should bless you, why ? Do you think God is like vegetables available in any market.” This is one of the most popular bhajans (holy song) of Great saint Tukdoji Maharaj.

The name of this great man was Manik and father’s name Namdeo. He was born (1909) in Ingle family (surname). His father was a very poor tailor. He was never interested in taking the education, instead he would like to sit with the people in temples and sing the songs. He learned the art of playing “khanjiri” (an instrument of about 6 inches diameter with the diaphragm of thin animal skin, played by one of the palms and held in other). Manik accepted the great saint of Varkhed Shri Adkoji Maharaj as his Guru. Manik would amuse the people by singing his own instant compositions on the rhythm of khanjiri.

After a few years, Manik left the home and stayed in different dense forests for years to gather in search of the eternal knowledge. (Atmadnyan). After enlightenment he came back to public life. He came extremely popular due to his “easy to sing” kind of bhajans for the villagers.

Mahatma Gandhi used to call him for meeting and he would like his bhajans very much. Manik was named as “Tukdoji” by his Guru, the name which he very much like. Tukdoji Maharaj entered the independence movement at that time and instigated people to participate in the struggle for independence. He wrote the bhajans of patriotic meaning, that created awakening in the villagers. He wrote the volumes of “Gramgita” a book that became bible for the villagers. Rashtrasant Tukdoji maharaj participated in the Vishwadharm Parishad (International convention of religions) held in Japan in 1955 and received the applauding. He would help the people in distress at the time of national calamities.

Tukdoji was a noble self realised saint. His early life was full of Sadhana both spiritual and yogic exercises. He spent much of his early life in the deep jungles of Ramtek, Salburdi,

Ramdhghi and Gondoda.

Even though he was formally not much educated, his metaphysical spirit and potentiality was of very high order. His devotional songs permeate full spirit of devotion and moral values. His Khanjedi, a traditional musical instrument was unique and his style of playing it was unparalleled. He was bachelor, however, his life was dedicated for the services of the masses irrespective of caste, class, creed or religion.

He was all the while absorbed in spiritual pursuits. He critically observed the nature of the people and channelised them for the cause of their upliftment. He had self realised vision and through out his life, taught the lessons for the purity of hearts and malice for none.

In early life, he used to sing the devotional songs, however, with the passage of time, he impressed the masses that God is not only in Temples, Churches or Masjids, he is everywhere. His powers have no limits. He advised his followers to follow the path of self realisation. He firmly opposed the priesthood and propagated the eternal values and universal truth.

Tukdoji stressed much on the congregational prayer wherein all the people irrespective of their religion, could participate. His prayer system is really unique and matchless in the world. He claimed that his congregational prayer system could be bound to bind the masses in the chain of brotherhood and love.

Rashtrasant Tukdoji used to work in person with the villagers in road construction, village-sanitation and other activities. His writings both prose and poetry are full of devotion and the spirit of humanity. His nobility was of very high order. His selfless devotion and dedication are bound to teach the lessons for the generations to come. Tukdoji is a shining star in the tradition of the saints of our great India.

Photo Galary



(Courtesy: <http://www.grangeeta.org/photogallery/default.htm>)

Sant Gadage Maharaj



Most of the lower class people in villages were uneducated and poor. They worshipped khsudra gods like Maraai and Shitala Devi. Lambs, hens were sacrificed to keep the Gods happy, to cure a disease or for a good crop.

Debuji was born in such society. Though uneducated, he fought against animal sacrifice and untouchability. He taught the importance of cleanliness and hygiene through practice. He built numerous dharmashalas, Gorakshan centers, food donation centers for handicapped and old homes all over Maharashtra.

Debuji was the only child of Zingraji and Sakhubai. After the death of Zingraji he and his mother went to live with his maternal uncle. Within years he became an excellent farmer, herdsman, singer and swimmer.

He was married to Kuntabai and had four children. A lover of animals, he opposed animal sacrifice since childhood. Even when his friends, relatives and the people of his caste forced him to sacrifice animals, he preferred to face their anger rather than kill the animals.

Debuji was a very courageous man. Once a Saukar came with his guards to take hold of Debuji's farm. Despite the fear expressed by his family and the villagers he single handedly fought them all.

Fed up with the material world, one day he left his home. He kept wandering from village to village. He worked for alms. Took up cleaning villages. He also started building Ghats on the river Purna. Slowly people started joining him in his cleaning activity. He preached the villagers on the importance of hygiene.

He found many followers. Among them were people like Dr. B R Ambedkar, Acharya Atre. Money started pouring in the form of donations. This was used for building activities.

Realizing the plight of Harijans, he built a dharmashala for them in Pandharpur, Nasik, Pune, Alandi and Dehu. To stop the slaughter of cows he built a Gorakhan center in Vidarbha. He started food donation centers for the handicapped, and poor. He built homes for the old who had no place to go. He also worked for the upliftment of the people suffering from leprosy.

Source: 'Sri Gadage Maharaj' by Go. Ni. Dandekar

Samartha Satguru Pradhnyachakshu

Madhuradwaitacharya

Shri Sant Gulabrao Maharaj



Sant Gulabrao Maharaj was known as Pradhnyachakshu Madhuradwaitacharya Gulabrao Maharaj. He was called Pradhnyachakshu because he became blind of both the eyes at the age of about 9 months; still he was master of Vedanta philosophy and many occult and physical sciences. 'Padnya' means intelligence and eyes are called "chakshu" in Sanskrit language. He had many divine powers which included the 'intellectual eyesight'. His mind could read and grasp any book in the world in any language that he would take in hand and decide to learn. His mind did not need the body-organ like 'eye' to see the world.

"Madhuradwait" was the new school of thought introduced by him. The people well versed in Vedanta know that 'adwaita' (non-dualism) philosophy of Vedanta do not accept any name and form visible or non-visible that could be different from God (soul, Atma or Brahma). Vedanta very explicitly proclaims, "When everything has become one-soul, where is any other thing to smell ? who will see whom ? who will listen to whom ? who will talk to whom ? where is any other thing to think about ? who will know whom ? How to know him who knows everything ?" (Asy sarva atmaivabhuta, tat ken kam jighnet ? , tat ken kam pashyet ?..
brihadaranyaka). "What exists is only one thing i.e. Brahma and what we see and experience as world is illusionary" is the teachings of "adwaita". Madhura Bhakti is the devotional love for lord Krishna. In Vedanta all the three words viz. devotee, devotion and deity are not different from each other where as in Madhura Bhakti one has to be a deity and other a devotee.

Adwaita do not recognize Bhakti at all. Probably the great saint who possessed the eternal knowledge since childhood by dint of providence due to his past karma, had advocated Madhurabhakti for the "after-attaining-knowledge" stage to his disciple.

His full name was Gulab Gundoji Mohod. He was born on July 6, 1881 in a small village named Madhan in Amravati district in Maharashtra and died merely at the age of 34 i.e. in the year

1915. Though he had lost his eyesight at the early age, he wrote about 133 books on various subjects containing more than 6000 pages, 130 commentaries and about 25,000 stanza in poetry. His mother died in the year 1885 when he was four years old. He then stayed at the house of his maternal grand mother at the place known as Loni Takli for about 6 years. In this period people came to know about his extra ordinary intelligence and his “brain-sight” though he had lost his eye-sight. There was a community well in front of the house where he stayed and the women from the village would come to well for water. Small Gulab would call them all by their names, and the women would be wonderstruck and would think as to how the blind boy came to know about their individual names ? He was found many times in deep samadhi stage in the night. Initially his grand mother and others were frightened to see Gulabrao sitting in Yoga position with is respiration stopped completely. However, some elderly and wise men understood the conditions of Gulabrao and asked his relatives to refrain from disturbing him during samadhi. He very much liked the holy songs(Bhajans), holy verses (Slokas) and reading the occult books. He would ask his friends to read the books and would repeat the contents immediately as was heard by him. He had extra ordinary memory. He knew all the Vedas and Shastras at the age of ten years.

He was married to Mankarnika, daughter of Ganaji Bhuyar a farmer in nearby village in the year 1896. He started writing essays and poetry on the religious philosophy since 1897. i.e. from his age of sixteen. Since then he would visit the nearby cities, villages and towns and meet the people to discuss on the various topics of religion. This is incredible but true that in the year 1901 the great saint of 12th century Sant Dnyeshwar Maharaj met Gulabrao and accepted him as his disciple.

Sant Gulabrao Maharaj would call himself to be a daughter of Sant Dnyeshwara and wife of Lord Krishna. He married to lord Krishna in the year 1905. He used to put on the dress and the ornaments like woman. He would lay kumkum (a red spot) on his forehead and put on managalsutra (a golden chain with black beads) around his neck which are usually worn by the Hindu married women.

In the year 1902 when he was 21, he wrote the commentary on the theories of Darwin and Spencer. He had written books on various subjects like dhnyan, yoga and bhakti and written commentaries on ancient treatises. He wrote on the “Manas Ayurveda”, i.e. psychological part in the Ayurveda. He had given valuable guidelines to those who want to attain the salvation and gain the eternal knowledge. It is beyond one’s imagination that a blind man could write on the subjects like Yoga, Upanishads and Brahmasutras and many occult sciences which are difficult subjects to understand even by the highly educated and intelligent persons. When he found time to study these sciences ? How he received old treatises and from whom ? Who explained him the secret meanings of the Sanskrit verses ? Many questions like these arise in the mind when one reads his biography and the books written by him. His style of writing is of his own and he has put forth his own views absolutely keeping the Vedic discipline. He has boldly revealed many secrets of the Hindu religious sciences which are not generally made public by the saints.

Though belonged to Sudra class (Kunabi Caste) most of his disciples were Brahmin Pundits. He was openly telling people that he had no right to study the Vedas according to old traditions, but he knew Vedas without studying them and since he knew the “Atmadhnyan” (knowledge of self-realization) he was not bound by many old rules. He used to respect Vedas, Brahmins and the guidance received from great wealth of old Indian religious treatises.

He was straight forward and would defeat many Pundits and Intelligent people in the debate on the Shastras (sciences).

It is generally found in India that the great persons who really had lived only for the cause of welfare of mankind were truly recognized by the people after their death only. Samartha Satguru Padnychakshu Madhuradwaitacharya Saint Gulabrao Maharaj is becoming more and more popular after his Samadhi on 20th September 1915. His many disciples attained the knowledge of self-realization and are known in the public as the great saints. His main disciple, Baba Maharaj Pundit (death 1964) who wrote many books was recognized as a great intellectual, and saint. His commentary on "Bhavartha Deepika" written by Dnyaneshwara Maharaj is published by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur.

The great saints like Gulabrao Maharaj guide the people even after their death by volumes of knowledge written by them.

Veer Wamanrao Joshi

Veer Wamanrao Joshi, a great son of Amravati born on 18th March 1881. The history of freedom struggle of Amravati is incomplete without his mention. Earlier he was a hard-core revolutionist. He formed a youth organization for arms action. He trained youth members with five arm and ammunition. He formed laboratories and libraries for this purpose. Afterwards he became follower of Gandhiji and started following the principle of nonviolence. In the struggle for freedom he was jailed for long ten years. He was popular by his name "Dada " Which means Brother. Along with being a great revolutionist he was also very popular due to his nationalist plays. He educated the masses in Maharashtra through his plays like Rakshasi Mahatvakangsha (" Devil's Ambitions") and Randundubhi(" The bugle"). He was associated with world famous Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal (H.V.P.M.) till his last moments. He passed away on 3rd June 1956.

Dadasaheb Khaparde

Shri Dadasaheb Khaparde was born in 1854 on Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Day. Due to his social Service he became popular by name Dadasaheb. He became lawyer in 1884. He was government pleader till 1889. Then he started his own law practice. He was influenced by the thoughts of Lokmanya Tilak . He was very generous to donate his law practice earnings for social activities. He chaired the Amravati Municipal Corporation. He contributed a lot in the development of Amravati. Due to his faith and attachment with Lokmanya Tilak he went to London to defend Lokmanya Tilak's case during freedom movement. He was a good lawyer, good politician, great social worker and a nationalist playwright. Due to his contribution in diverse fields he was famous as undisputed King of Varhad (Now Amravati Division). This great son of the soil passed away on 1st July 1938.

Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausahab Deshmukh



Dr. Bhausaheb Deshmukh was born in the year 1898. He was born in a farmer's family at Papal in Amravati district. He had done his schoolings at Papal and then in Amravati. The higher education was obtained at Edinburg and Oxford universities. He had done his law doctorate in Briton. The subject of his research was " The dawn of religion and its growth". He returned back in Amravati and started law practice. He was elected as a member of provincial law board in 1930 and went on to become Minister of Education, Agriculture and Co-operative Departments. He was the member of the committee for the development of Indian Constitution after independence. He was elected member of Parliament in 1952, 1957 and 1962. He was Union Minister of Agriculture from 1952 to 1962. His other important contributions were opening wells to the so-called Untouchables and opening of Shri Ambadevi Temple to this same communities in 1928. He also started Shraddhanand hostel for poor students. He was the founder of famous Shri Shivaji Education Society. Today this society runs several educational institutes, which include Medical College, Engineering college and other educational institutes and hostels. In order to improve the condition of farmers he formed "Bharat Krushak Samaj" and to advocate it's policies he started a newspaper namely "Maharashtra Kesari". this great of the soil passed away in 1965.

Padmashri Dr. Shivajirao Patwardhan

Dr. Shivajirao Patwardhan was born in 1892. He was a Homeopath. He took part in the struggle for Indian independence. He arranged a vidarbha youth conference in 1928 in Amravati. He was secretary of Vidarbha Provincial Congress committee. Though he was doctor by profession, he took great interest in social work. In 1930 he was jailed for taking part in "salt movement" at Dahihanda. He was associated with Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba Bhave and Netaji Shubhashchandra Bose. After Independence he devoted his whole life for Leprosy patients. In 1950 he started "Jagdamba Leprosy Mission". Now this place is famous with the name Tapovan. He struggled for many wrong beliefs regarding Leprosy and was successful in fevour of the Leprosy patients. Due to this great service to the society in general and Leprosy patients in particular, Government of India awarded him with the civilian honor of "Padma Shri". He passed away in 1986.

Barrister Ramraoji Deshmukh

Shri Ramraoji Deshmukh belonged to Daryapur, a taluka place near Amravati. He went to Britain in 1911 for higher education. He returned back in 1916. In 1917 he became president of then Belgaon Provincial Council. Then he worked with Lokmanya Tilak . In 1920 he was

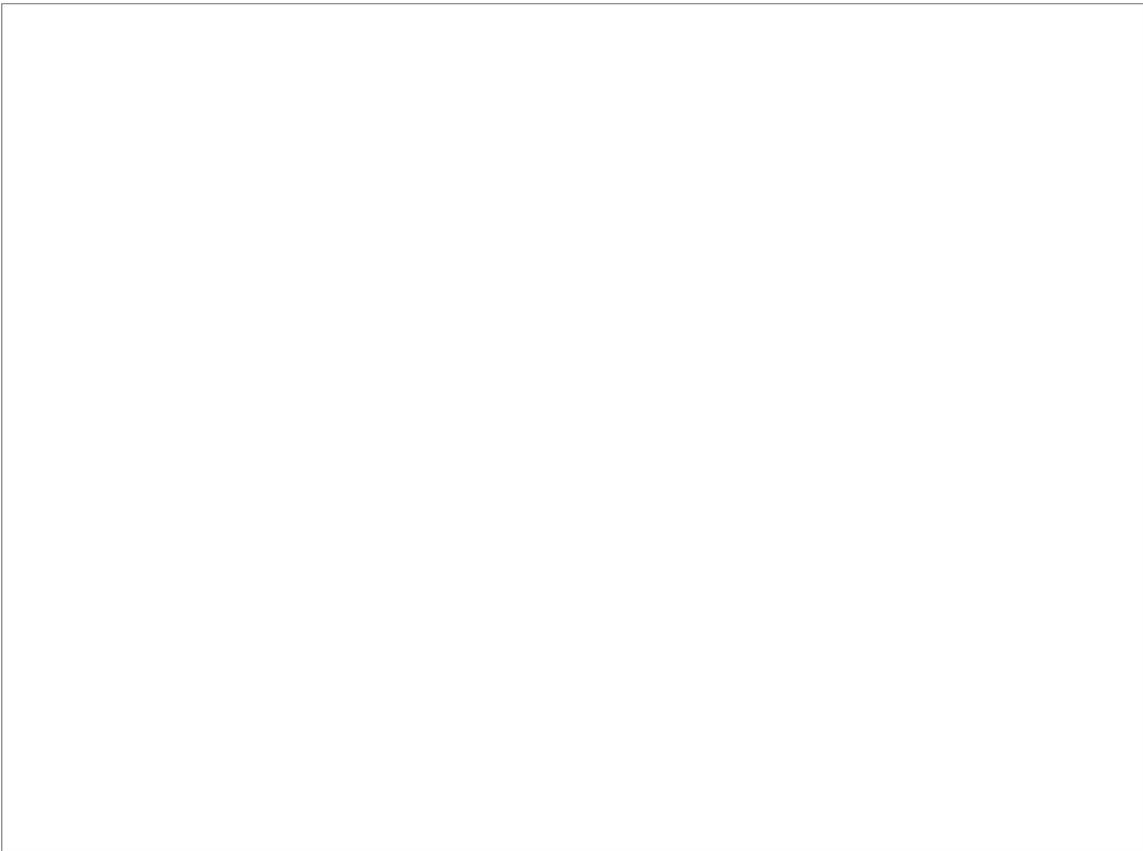
inducted in the law board of Varhad. He was elevated as minister in central province and Berar ministry. He was a member of the delegation for round table conference at Britain in 1933. His stints as Devan of various states were very successful. After independence he worked as Indian High Commissioner in various countries and had very successful career.

Sir Moropant Joshi

During pre independence days there were two categories of lawyers the vernacular practitioner and English practitioner. Sir Moropant Joshi was first English practitioner after passing the examination in 1884. His house was situated in side the walled city at Bhajibazar. The name of the building was Rajibai Dharmashala. After words he build a bungalow at Camp Road and went on to live there. He was a man with modern thoughts. The creates of bringing a cycle and motor vehicle goes to his. Earlier horse driven Tanga was the main ride and transportation facility. The Congress Convention in the year 1897 at Amravati was held in the free space near his bungalow. He was a active congressman after 1885. He was the member of the delegation to London in 1890, to take part in the negotiation about the Indian Independence. He was the lawyer by profession and started his carrier at nagpur in 1916. He continued his Law practice till 1920. He was a clever politician as well and became home minister of the Central Province and the honor to become an Indian minister 1925. The British Government awarded him the degree of "Sir". He was also involved in social activities and strongly opposed the Evils such as teen-age marriages & atrocities on widows. The Child Marriage Prohibition Act of government of India could be passed only after submission of the Joshi Commission Report headed by Sir Moropant Joshi.

Shri Rangnath Mudholkar

Shri Rangnath Mudholkar was a famous lawyer of Varhad region (now Amravati Division). He advocated the need of vocational training for upliftment of poor citizens. He was the founder of Victoria Berar Technical School now Government I.T.I. is situated at this place. He was the first non-government member to become the president of, and then Amravati Municipal Corporation. He was honored with the Chairmanship of Congress Convention in 1912. He was Judicial Commissioner in Nagpur during 1920. He was instrumental in starting the King Edward College (Now V.M.V.). The credit of 1897 congress convention at Amravati mainly goes to him. He was general secretary of National Industrial Council for ten years. He passed away on 14th January 1921.



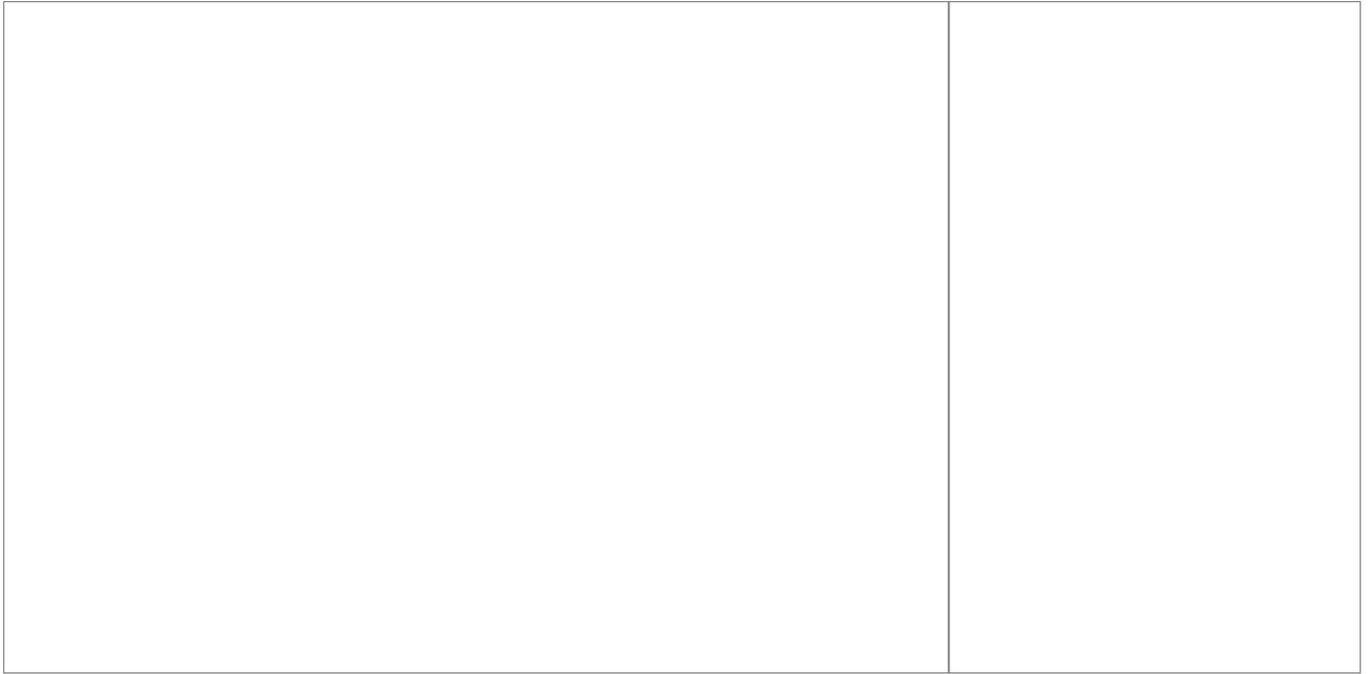
Melghat Tiger Project

SITUATION



Melghat is located on longitude 21 degrees 21' N, latitude 77 degrees 22' E. Chikhaldara and Dharni and Melghat extends over an area sq. kms. It forms the major port of Amaravati district of Maharashtra in India.

CLIMATE



Melghat has three distinct seasons namely Monsoon, Rainy season and Winter season. The considerable altitudinal variations in Melghat gives rise to smart variations in rainfall which ranges from 1000 mm to 2050 mm. The rainfall is received in 50 to 60 rainy days during July to September. Winter is cooled and summer is extremely hot. Temperature varies from 6 degrees celsius to 43.6 degees celsius.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Melghat Tiger Reserve is located on southern offshoot of the Satpura Hill Range in Central India, called Gavilgarh hill in the Indian state of Maharashtra. The high ridge running east-west which has its highest point at Vairat (1178 m. above msl.), forms the southwestern boundary of the Reserve. It is a prime habitat of the tiger. The forest is tropical dry deciduous in nature, dominated by teak *Tectona grandis*. The Reserve is a catchment area for five major rivers viz. Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga and Dolar, all of which are tributaries of the river Tapti. The northeastern boundary of the Reserve is marked by the Tapti river. Melghat is the prime biodiversity repository of the state.

The sudden slope of Melghat form the part of catchment of river Purna.

The three major tributaries originating from Melghat region and draining into river Purna are Chandrabhaga, adnani and wan. Chikhaldara is located on high sudden platau at an altitude of 1100 ms. above MSL.

Nature has offered protection to Melghat in the form of a rugged topography with only a few entry points. The Makhala, Chikhaldara, Chiladari, Patulda and Gugamal are the large plateaux amidst rugged terrain. Contiguity of forests in Satpura Hill Range guarantees the long-term conservation potential of the area.

Conservation History : Melghat area was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1974. Presently, the total area of the Reserve is around 1677 sq. km. The core area of the Reserve, the Gugarnal National Park with an area of 361.28 sq. km., and buffer area of the Reserve, the Melghat Tiger Sanctuary with an area of 788.28 sq. km. (of which 21.39 sq. km. is non-forest), were together re-notified by the state government in 1994 as Melghat Sanctuary. The remaining area is managed as a 'multiple use area'. Previously, Melghat Tiger Sanctuary was created in 1985 with an area of 1597.23 sq. km. Gugarnal National Park was carved out of this Sanctuary in 1987.

Archaeological Richness : The Gavilgarh fort on the Chikhaldara plateau and Narnala fort abetting southeastern part of Melghat Tiger Reserve add to the aesthetic value of the area. Visitors to these archaeological monuments enjoy the serene forests in the backdrop.

MELGHAT FLOURA

The area has sudden tropical dry, deciduous forest. Teak (*Tectonal grandic*) is the dominant species with common associate *Lendia*(*Lagestroemia parviflora*), Moyan (*Lanmea coromondolica*), Ain (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Dhawda(*Anogeissus latifolia*), Haldu(*Adina Cordifolia*) Kalanb(*Mitrigyna parviflora*), and Dhaman(*Grewia tiliafolia*).

--	--	--

Other associates are Salai (*Boswellia Serrota*), Dudhi (*Wrightia tinctoria*), Amaltus (*Cassia fistula*), Humba (*Milliusa veletina*), Bhosa(*Bauhinia racemosa*), Kusum (*Sleichera deosa*), Rivit (*Casearea eliptica*) etc. there are over 700 naturalise species belonging to 400 genera and 97 families. There are 90 tree species, 66 shrub species, 320 herb species, 56 climber species, 23 sedge species and 99 grass species. Bamboo forms midle story.

Medicinal plant species of ethno botanical importance. Number more than 250 species.

MELGHAT FAUNA



Melghat is an abort of wild life which include 41 species of Mammals, 250 species of Birds, 24 species of Fish, 160 species of Reptiles and snakes and species of Lizard, amphibians etc.

Important Mamals are Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*), Wild dog(*Cuon alpinus*), Jackal (*Canis Aureus*), Hyenae (*Hyenal hynae*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursiness*), Gaur (*Bos Gaurus*), Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjack*), Chousinga (*Tetracerus Quadricornis*), Spotted Deer(*Cervus Axis*), Nillgai(*Bos Elaphus Tragocamelus*), Wild Boar(*Sus Scrofa*), Common langur(*Presbytis entellus*), Rhesus Monkey(*Macaca Mulata*) and Black Naped Hare. The rare ones are Ratel(*Mellivora Capensis*), Other(*Lutra Perspica Latta*), Flying Squirrel(*Petausista Petausista*), Pangolin(*Manis Crassicaudata*), Caracal(*Felis Caracal*), Rustry Spotted Cat and Mouse Deer.

POPULATION



There are no villages in the core area. There are 61 villages in the Reserve - 22 in the buffer zone and 39 in the Multiple Use Area. Human population in the buffer zone and MUA is 9160 and 15506 respectively, as per 1991 census. The inhabitants are mainly tribal, largely Korcu tribe (80 per cent) and others like Gond, Nihal, Balai, Gaolan, Gawali, Halbi, Wanjari, etc.

All inhabitants depend on forest for bonafied domestic need of fire wood, timber, fodder, medicinal plants, and non-timber forest like fruit, flowers, gum and medicinal plant part. Their main source of income is from labor works and rainy season agriculture. They argue through collection of non-timber forest products like Mahuali, Flowers, Seeds, Charoli, Gumculla, Dhawada, Tendu-leaves, Musali (Medicinal Plant). Leaf Shade anchor etc. Their food is enriched through rhizomes, fruits and other parts of the wild plant species. Fishing is a common hobby as well as daily routine activity protein supplement. They sometimes indulge in poisoning of water using part of plant species to kill fish they also indulge in hunting of Sambar, Wild Boar, Gray Jungle Fallow, Pea Fowl and harvest occasionally.

Livestock Population : The livestock population of 22 villages in the buffer zones is 11024 and that of 39 villages in Multiple Use Area is 15642, as per census of 1994.

Fauna & Management

Protection and habitat management are the main inputs here. Issues related to high degree of man-animal conflict are tackled on a priority basis. The Reserve area has been divided into three zones for management purposes and to strike a balance between biodiversity conservation and ecologically sustainable community development.

Protection/Patrolling Squads: During monsoon, special protection squads carry out foot patrolling to curb the hunting of sambar and wild boar by the local people. Similar squads are established during the summer for fire protection works.

Village Forest Protection Committees: A Village Forest Protection Committee was

established in the village Gullarghat which has taken up the responsibility of conservation of medicinal plants.

Eco-development : Eco-development activities on a pilot basis were taken up during 1992-97. Later, proper eco-development planning under the guidance of WII and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was taken up. The response of the local people to eco-development is encouraging.

Education and Awareness : A Nature Education and Interpretation Centre has been established at Semadoh. Around 50,000 people visit this centre annually. Two orientation centres at Akot and Harisal, and an interpretation centre at Amravati are also planned.

Special Projects : Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was involved in preparation of the flora list of Melghat. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has completed a three-year survey of the area. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has completed three-year research project on 'Management of Biodiversity in Central India'. Another project on 'Integrated Biodiversity Management in Satpura Hill Range' has also been initiated.

Medicinal plant conservation area has been established with the help of Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore.

Control of the Buffer : The buffer and the multiple use area are under dual control of three territorial divisions and the Reserve Management.

Staff : Of the 185 posts, 17 are vacant. Only two out of the seven Range Forest Officers are trained in wildlife management. The Research Officer (A.C.F.), foresters (23) and forest guards are not specially trained in wildlife management.

Grazing : No grazing exists in the core area. The remaining area is burdened with grazing pressures of 25,000 to 30,000 livestock heads. However, grazing is intense around the villages and in broad valleys, which are also better habitats for wild herbivores as these are the only sites where water is available.

Fire : There are few incidences (on an average 12 cases per annum) of fire in the core area, affecting 10 per cent of the area. Fires in the buffer and multiple use area of the Reserve are frequent. The grassy tops of the hills (locally called ballas) are prone to fire. The rugged terrain makes fire protection a difficult job. Almost 20 per cent of the area gets burns annually.

Poaching of Fauna and Flora : Poaching is rare in the core. The local people hunt sambar and wild boar. Collection of medicinal plants like safed musli *Chlorophyllum tuberosum* is also noticed.

Poaching Cases :

Year	Cases
1990-91	6

1991-92	7
1992-93	12
1993-94	10
1994-95	8
1995-96	6
1996-97	2
1997-98	5

Highways : Two State Highways - Paratwada to Burhanpur and Akot to Harisal - pass through the Tiger Reserve. There has been a sudden increase in traffic along the Nagpur-Indore State Highway in the last four years. This is partly due to a reduction in distance (70 km.) after a new bridge has been constructed in Madhya Pradesh and partly due to better maintenance of the road in Maharashtra.

Diseases : Foot and mouth disease has been noticed at times but no epidemic has been recorded.

Weeds: There is a gregarious spread of *Lantana camara* and *Hyptis suaveolens*. *Lantana* is found in almost all the valleys and village surroundings, where constant grazing takes place. However, it is absent on slopes. *Lantana* and *Hyptis* have spread to roughly 30 per cent and 20 per cent of the area respectively.

Man - Animal : Tiger prey base in Melghat includes Indian Bison or gaur *Bos gaurus*, sambar *Cervus unicolor*, barking deer *Muntiacus muntjac*, wild boar *Sus scrofa*, chital *Axis axis* and chausingha *Tetraceros quadricornis*. However, gaur and sambar are in low densities. Chital is found only in few pockets and does not contribute much to the prey base. Thus, the domestic cattle substantially contribute towards the prey base, and 400-500 cattle are killed by the tigers and leopards annually. Quite naturally, this is a matter of conflict.

Injuries and killing of human beings by tiger, leopard and sloth bears is another conflict. The magnitude is amply indicated by the following statistics:

Year	No. of persons injured	No. of persons dead
1996-97	6 (2 Tigers, 4 Sloth bears)	1 (Tiger)
1997-98	11 (1 Tiger, 10 Sloth bears)	1 (Tiger)

	bears)	
1998-99	5 (Sloth bears)	-

Offence cases

Year	Total offences
1994-95	52
1995-96	36
1996-97	18
1997-98	18
1998-99	24

Man - Forest : People set fire to the forest to facilitate the collection of NTFP and use destructive methods of harvesting gums, honey, fruits, flowers, roots, tubers, medicinal plants etc. The local people have almost free access for firewood, small timber, bamboo and grasses.

Action Points : Immediate transfer of entire Reserve area along with staff under the administrative control of the Director. Finalisation of the legal status of Core and Buffer area as National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary respectively. Establishment of a strike force to strengthen protection. Rehabilitation of few villages from the buffer on priority basis. Eco-development in villages in the Multiple Use Area. Joint Forest Management. Staff orientation and training to improve the management capabilities and to provide them adequate essentialities to obtain their commitment. Building up of research and monitoring database to support conservation activities.

Tourism : A 40 sq. km. tourism zone has been established near Semadoh. During 1992-93 to 1996-97, on an average, about 6000 tourists availed of the tourism facility annually. Tourists visit the Reserve in the three available minibuses to view wildlife.

Infrastructure and Facilities : The Nature education and interpretation centre at Semadoh has four dormitories (64 beds) 10 huts (20 beds) and tent facility. Tent facility (6 tents) has been established at 11 different places to facilitate trekking in the Reserve.

General Information :

Area: 1676.49 sq. km.

Core: 361.28 sq. km.

Buffer: 788.28 sq. km.

Multiple use area: 526.93 sq. km.

Longitude: 76°54' E to 77°33' E

Latitude: 21°15' N to 21°45' N

Altitude: 350 m. - 1178 m. above msl.

Rainfall: 1500 mm. - 2200 mm.

Temperature: Minimum: 6 0C

Seasons :

Monsoon: Mid -June to September

Winter: December to February

Summer: March to Mid-June

Census :

Animal	1993	1995	1996	1997
Tiger	72	71	72	73
Leopard	57	57	67	79
Gaur	2974	2138	1512	1755
Sambar	2796	2703	2504	1718
Chausingha	128	111	N.A.	N.A.
Nilgai	254	132	285	232
Barking deer	1656	1672	1191	1302
Wild boar	3988	3350	2278	1966

Monkey	4995	3089	7950	8780
Sloth bear	121	145	200	187
Chital	265	240	402	172
Wild dog	139	202	295	123
Hyaena	50	42	49	37
Jackal	97	51	95	61

(Courtesy : <http://www.sanctuaryasia.com>)

Civil justice and litigation.

318. The Civil District of East Berar is second only to Nagpur for the dubious distinction of being the most litigious in the Provinces. According to the latest figures 9749 suits were filed in 1907 as compared with 11,660 in the latter District. The District Court, however, considered 659 appeals in that year, while that of Nagpur had only 390; figures which suggest that the amount spent in litigation must be higher in Berar. The commonest suits are those connected directly or indirectly with land; with questions of the right to be considered a member of Deshmukh or Deshpande, Patelki or Patwari families; and with cotton, which is the staple industry of the District. Land is held under the ryotwari tenure and as it is of very great value and fertility, suits regarding it are taken to the highest courts regardless of expense; mortgages with a condition of foreclosure are common, those with a condition of sale rare; and the right of pre-emption is also a frequent source of discord. Further, as the revenue law makes no provision for a compulsory mutation of names in village registers when a field changes hands, it commonly happens that the *khatedar* or registered occupant is a person with no tangible right in the soil save that of paying the revenue on it: and thus many suits are filed for a declaration in favour of mutation. The titles of the village and ex-pargana officers are used in Berar as family surnames conveying a certain amount of distinction. The allowance, (*rusarn* or *lawazima*) made to the latter is a matter to be divided among members of the family. Hence there are always a number of claimants to be declared members of Deshmukh or Deshpande families. Suits for partition of ancestral property are also not uncommon, while a decree of the civil court in favour of an applicant's claim to patel or patwari family has always this additional attraction, that it may some day be found useful when the revenue court is deciding the right to the office itself. Finally, the ginning and pressing of cotton in partnership leads to suits for dissolution of partnership and rendition of account; and the *satta* system of speculation on the coming crop gives rise to suits upon losses so incurred which provide the courts with a considerable amount of work. There are two barristers-at-law, both Europeans, practising in this District, seven advocates of the High Court and 60 District

vakils: this does not include those resident in Yeotmal.

Chikalda.-The sanitarium of Berar is situated 3664 above sea-level [This is the most recent calculation of the Forest Survey; the figure formerly given by Mr. Mulherran was 3,777.] in latitude 21°24' N. and longitude 77° 22' E. The plateau occupied by the Civil Station is only about three-quarters of a mile broad and about a mile in length; but it has easy access to the spacious tableland surrounding it and to many picturesque valleys, and there is ample room for expansion. A mile and a half to the south-west lies the fortress of Gawilgarh; and Ellichpur, the nearest town of any importance, is reached by a variety of roads and footpaths, the best of which, available even for motor-cars, winds up through Ghatang and Silona amid fascinating scenery a distance of 31 miles. There is a travellers' bungalow at Ghatang, which makes a convenient halfway halting place. Arrangements for tongas have to be made in Ellichpur. A surface road *via* Dhamangaon and Mota 21 miles, marking the track followed by a section of Wellesley's force in 1803, is available for cart traffic; but this is not used in the rainy season. It is probable, however, that at no very great cost it might be made into an excellent thoroughfare. Travellers in haste generally ride by the precipitous bridle-track which passes near Wastapur and through the fort, and a small stable has been built for their convenience at the foot of the hill. By this the distance is reduced to fifteen miles and the post runners have one or two foot-paths leading up the cliff side through the fort which lessen it still further. Apart from the fort, of which it commands several splendid views, Chikalda has little or no history. It was discovered, according to the *Nur-ul-Berar*, by Captain Robinson of the Hyderabad Contingent Battery in A.D. 1823, the very year in which regular troops were first stationed at Ellichpur, but bungalows were not built there, it seems, till 1839. Its popularity was very soon established and Meadows Taylor mentions its delights as early as 1840 when he was here with the troops; he visited Ellichpur again as Deputy Commissioner on the 9th December 1857 and notes 'How welcome were the large baskets of delicious peaches from Captain Hamilton's garden at Chikalda; and I wished I could go up there again and revisit the old scenes.' The peach is still cultivated in a few gardens at Chikalda though it has degenerated very considerably since Meadows Taylor's time. Coffee of the very finest quality, however, is still grown in private gardens especially on land belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission. At one time a great future was anticipated from coffee and tea plantations in Chikalda, some European planters being attracted by the prospects of success, but the tea has entirely disappeared and coffee is now only grown in small gardens. There is a Government garden known locally as the *Company bagicha* in which various European and tropical trees and shrubs, fruits and flowers are grown, the great difficulty being the scarcity of water. In a wild state roses, clematis, orchids, ferns and lilies succeed each other with the changing seasons, and balsams, zinnias, wild ginger and orchids also abound. The scenery is magnificent; and the eight 'points' of the station (see Map) command in turn distant views of the Nimar and Mahadeo hills to the west and north with wooded valleys lying closer at hand and to the south a broad outlook across the open plains of Berar to the Balaghat beyond. Footpaths, cut in the hill sides, afford pleasant walks on the lower ridges, such as that which leads to the Devil's Punch Bowl or Andhera Khora (the valley of darkness), a splendid deep chasm walled in by a circle of cliffs two to three hundred feet high, down one side of which in the rains tumbles a water-fall. Close by is a fine triple echo. Mountaineers can exert themselves over many precipitous pathways and can even climb a miniature Matterhorn though one has to go more down than up hill to reach it. Two miles away at the bottom of a secluded valley, lies the Roman Catholic village of Mariampur.

The native village.

In 1901 Chikalda had attained to 961 inhabitants and was thus the most populous village in the

whole Melghat; it is possible, however, that the figures are swelled by some early arrivals for the hot weather from Ellichpur and elsewhere. Even the indigenous population is largely dependent on its popularity as a health resort, and consists mainly of Gaolis, Musalmans, Mahars and Gonds, Korkus forming a comparatively small section. The village is divided into four quarters or *puras*, and a weekly bazar of groceries and vegetables is held on Sundays. Between it and the Civil Station lie the police station and a Government school, the female orphanage and Mission house of the Korku Mission, a *sarai* and quarters provided by Government for the Tahsildar and other officials.

The Civil Station.

The European community is accommodated partly in the old Civil Station and partly in a smaller settlement which has grown up on a lower level round the Bir tank. There are about a dozen bungalows of which two are owned by the Raja of Makla, one being used as his residence. The order of St. Francis de Sales owns several bungalows which are let during the season. For visitors making only a short stay, Chikalda has an Officers' Rest house, recently enlarged, and a Public Works Department inspection bungalow. In the Civil Station lie the Tahsili, the hospital and observatory, the post and telegraph office, the veterinary dispensary and the Divisional Forest Office. The only Gazetted officers who have Government bungalows in Chikalda are the Conservator and Deputy Conservator, but the place is usually visited in the hot weather by the Commissioner of Berar and other officers. The sanitarium is supported by an annual grant of Rs, 5,000 from provincial revenues. The climate has been fully discussed in Chapter I.

Amusements.

In days gone by when Chikalda was the summer headquarters not only of the heads of departments of the Berar Administration but also of the Military from Ellichpur, Hingoli and elsewhere, it was a place of considerable gaiety. The band of one or other of the corps stationed at Ellichpur used to play every evening at Band Point, and the camping ground would be covered with tents. To-day the greatest charm of the place is its quiet peacefulness, and the station has not inappropriately been compared to a small village in England. It is a fairly cool retreat from the burning heat of the Berar plain during the summer, but is at its best in October, when the hill-sides are clothed in white clematis and there is a crisp coolness in the air. Its wildest distractions do not run beyond tennis and golf; there are two excellent tennis courts in the Government garden, both of which dry very quickly after rains, and on the lower plateau is a golf course. Besides the tennis courts is a trellis work summer house used during the week as a pavilion and on Sundays as a Church. The plateau and neighbouring valleys for a distance of three miles form a sanctuary in which the shooting of birds or of horned game is forbidden. Carnivora and destructive animals of course are unprotected, and, as panthers and bears are fairly common even within the Civil station, good sport is fairly easily obtained.

Water-supply.

The great difficulty of Chikalda which will prevent its ever becoming a large hill station is the scarcity of water. There are six tanks (Shakar, Kalapani, Dhobi, Machchhi, Nagjhira and Bir Talao), but the majority of these are a considerable distance from the Station on the road to Gawilgarh, and are not therefore of much use except to Dhobis. Such attempts as have been made to provide tanks in the Civil Station, have been failures. The Bir Talao which is situated on the small plateau close to the Convent just beneath the Civil Station, contains water throughout the year, but not of very good quality for drinking purposes. An arrangement has been made by which a limited supply of excellent drinking water is obtainable, an underground reservoir holding 102,400 gallons constructed in the Tahsili compound, into which after the first showers have been allowed to wash the dust away, the rain water from the Tahsili roof is drained. An additional reservoir is shortly to be constructed with a capacity of about 50,000 gallons.

Mr. J. Mulheran in his report on the Melghat in 1861 discusses the difficulty and expresses the opinion that by sinking wells to a depth of 40 or 50 feet, water might easily be found ' in great abundance throughout the year,' but attempts in this direction have not been successful.

Important Telephone Numbers**Telephone numbers of officials in Collectorate, Amravati****P.B.X. :(0721)2662025 / 2662352****Fax: (0721)2662843**

Designation	Office (STD - 0721)	Residence (STD - 0721)
Collector, Amravati	2662522	2662112
Addl. Collector	2662942	2662805
Resident Deputy Collector	2662493	2660166
Nazul officer	2662025	-----
Deputy Collector (Election)	2662364	2665055
District Supply Officer	2662784	2666686
District Planning Officer	2662733	2573273
District Resettlement Officer	2662352	-----
District Informatics Officer (N.I.C.)	2662893	2661038
Deputy Collector(E.G.S.)	2662505	2662556
Spl. Land Acquisition Officer No-4	2663449	-----
Spl. Land Acquisition Officer (Z.P. Works)	2662025	2663134
Spl. Land Acquisition Officer (Minor Irrigation)	2661602	-----
Spl. Land Acquisition Officer No-2	2664819	2663421
District Adult Education Officer	2662467	-----
Asst. Director(Municipal Administration)	2665367	-----
Asst. Director(Small Savings)	2662352	-----
District Mining Officer	2662025	-----
District Enquiry Officer	2662352	-----
Food Distribution Officer	2663090	2663790
Supintendent (State Excise Duty)	2663410	2663410

Emergency Telephone Phone Nos.

Hospital

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	Govt. Dist. Hospital(gen)-Irwin	(0721)663337/38
2	Govt. Dist. Hospital (women)--Daffrin	(0721)660982
3	P D M C Hospital	(0721)662323
4	DayaSagar Hospital	(0721)2662398
5	Bakhtar Hospital Research	(0721)2678062
6	Dhanvantari Hospital	(0721)2577622
7	G.G.Rathi - T.B.Hospital	(0721)2662857
8	Dental College Hospital	(0721)662166
9	Dr.Rajendra Singh Arora(Cancer Specialist)	(0721)2651302
10	Dr.Anil Bonde(Cardiologist)	(0721)676416
11	Dr.Mrs.Vasudha Bonde(Gynaecologist)	(0721)2676416
12	DR.Ghansham Baheti(Pathologist)	(0721)2578298
13	Dr.Harish Baheti(Cardiologist)	(0721)2675598
14	Dr.Neelu Somani(Speech Therapist)	(0721)2541354
15	Dr.Smt.S.J.Potode(Gynaecologist)	(0721)2574776/2573500
16	Dr.Advait Mahalley(Cardiologist)	(0721)2570534

17	Dr.Satish Deshmukh (Rajakamal Chk.)	(0721)2677679
18	Dr.P.B.Kadu(Cardiologist)	(0721)2677144/2676444

Blood Bank

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	General Hospital Blood Bank, Irwin Hospital Campus, Amravati - 444 601,	(0721) 2663337 / 38 / 39
2	Shri Balaji Blood Bank & Blood Component Lab, Ambapeth, Amravati PIN 444601,	(0721) 2671600
3	Padmavati Blood Bank, Jamanalal Bajaj Nagar. Walcut Compound, Amravati - 444601,	(0721)2677859.
4	Dr. P.D.M.H.C. Hospital & Research Centre, Shivaji Nagar, Amravati 440603.	(0721) 2665545.
5	Dr. Bhagwat Blood Bank, Opp Bhartiya Mahavidhalaya, Rajpeth, Amravati 444 601,	(0721) 2675717

Fire Service

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	Amravati Fire Station	101
2	BDE Fire Station	(0721)2681273

Railway & S. T. Enquiry

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	Amravati Railway enquiry	131

2	Amravati Reservation (Railway)	(0721)2672052
3	Badnera Railway Enquiry/Reservation	(0721)2681333
4	Amravati S T stand	(0721)2663221
5	Badnera S T stand	(0721)2681222

MSEB Call Centre

Sr. No.	Call Centre Name	Ph. No.
1	M.S.E.Dist.Co.Ltd.[O&M] Circle Amravati.Vidyut Bhavan Shivaji Ngr Amravati.0	(0721)2667411
2	M.S.E.Dist.Co.Ltd.[O&M] Circle Mravati.Vidyut Bhavan Shivaji Ngr Amravati.0	(0721) 2667412
3	M.S.E.Dist.Co.Ltd.[O&M] Circle Mravati.Vidyut Bhavan Shivaji Ngr Amravati.0	(0721) 2667413
4	M.S.E.Dist.Co.Ltd.[O&M] Circle Mravati.Vidyut Bhavan Shivaji Ngr Amravati.0	(0721) 2667414
5	M.S.E.Dist.Co.Ltd.[O&M] Circle Mravati.Vidyut Bhavan Shivaji Ngr Amravati.0	(0721) 2667415

Water Supply

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	Water SDO Env Engg Works Dn II (Rathi Nagar)	2576439
2	Water SDO Env Engg Works Dn II	2667199

	(Shriram Nagar)	
3	Water SDO Env Works Dn II (Rest House Water Wrks,(off))	2663391
4	Water SDO Env Works (R.V.M.V.Road,Saurabh Colony)	2661452
5	Water SDO Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhika. Maltekdi	2660596
6	Water SDO Water Supply(Billing)Storage Maltekdi	2663341
7	Water SDO Env Engg Works Dn II (Pump Hse V.M.V Rd Rathi Nagar)	2530439
8	Water SDO Env Wk Dn 3 R (Pawanaskar Layout Tope Nagar)	2664799

Police Station

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	Commissioner Of Police	0721-2551001 Fax No. 0721-2663256
2	Dy. Commissioner Of Police (H.Q.)	0721-2551003
3	Dy. Commissioner Of Police (Zone)	0721-2551005
4	Acp Rajapeth Division	0721-2672010
5	Rajapeth Police Station	0721-2672010
6	City Kotwali Police Station	0721-2672001
7	Kholpuri Gate Police Station	0721-2678133

8	Acp Gadge Nagar Division	0721-2679330
9	Gadge Nagar Police Station	0721-2679330
10	Nagpuri Gate Police Station	0721-2675569
11	Valgaon Police Station	0721-2386233
12	Acp Frezerupur Division	0721-2568686
13	Frezerpur Police Station	0721-2568686
14	Nandgaon Peth Police Station	0721-2384267
15	Badnera Police Station	0721-2681300

Munciple Corporation

Sr. No.	Name	Ph. No.
1	Commissioner	2672569
2	Deputy Commissioner	9403411000
3	Asst. Commissioner	9403081503
4	Medical Health Officer	9403081508
5	Executive Engineer 1	9403081509
6	City Engineer	9403081511
7	Chief Account Officer	9403081513
8	Chief Fire Officer	9403081517
9	Medical officer Cleaning 1	9403081518

10	Deputy Engineer 1	9403081520
11	Asst. Town Planner	9403081525
12	Tax Superintendent	9403081578