Kolhapur district is the southern district of Maharashtra. Its headquarter is Kolhapur City which is an ancient city. The city is situated on the banks of river Panchganga and is known as 'Dakshin Kashi'.

Kolhapur is famous in the country for production of Jaggery, Kolhapur Chappals, silver jewelry, and Indian Wrestling. The physical setting of the Kolhapur district is divided into three main parts namely Eastern ranges, Central ranges and Southern ranges. Eastern and Central ranges have black soil formed from 'lava' and at some places it has large tracks of fertile land. The western ranges are mostly hilly and have red soil. The majority area in the west is under thick forest coverage.

Panchaganga, Warana, Dudhaganga, Vedganga, Bhogavati, Hiranyakeshi and Ghataprabha are main rivers which flows towards east through western Ghats. The river Panchaganga is formed by the tributaries namely the Kasari, the Kumbi, the Tulsi and the Bhogavati. Krishna river flows in the east on easten border of the district, similarly Tillari river flows on western border to west.

Kolhapur is seat of Goddess Mahalaxmi and is one of the Shaktipeeths mentioned in Indian mythology. Kolhapur was ruled by Silaharas, Yadavas, Rashtrakutas and Chalukyas in the Medieval times.

The growth of district in modern times is fascinating. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja is an architect and founder of modern Kolhapur. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja is is also known to have done a lot for the upliftment of the poor and the down trodden. He tried his level best to make education and jobs available to all those living in his domain. He also passed laws to allow the training of non-Brahmin men as temple priests.
Shahu Chhatrapati was the Maharaja or the king of the Indian princely state of Kolhapur. Also known by the name of Rajarshi Shahu, he was known to be a great social reformer of his time. Shahu Chhatrapati was born on 26 June in the year 1874 as Yeshwantrao Ghatge. He was the eldest son of Appasaheb Ghatge, who was the head of Kagal and his wife Radhabai, who was the daughter of the Raja of Mudhol that's in today's Karnataka state.

The Kolhapur district is abundant in natural resources—water, soil, natural vegetation, animal wealth and minerals. As a result, Kolhapur is one of the most agriculturally advanced districts of not only Maharashtra but also India. It is fast becoming an industrialised district as well and already a front runner in agro-based industries. Kolhapur District is one of the shining examples in the Co-operative Movement of India. The Kolhapur district has the highest per capita income in the Maharashtra State and one of the highest in the country.

Location:

Kolhapur is 395 km to the South of Mumbai and 240 km from Pune. It is well connected by air, rail and road. Kolhapur is situated on the Pune-Bangalore National Highway No. 4. There are State Transport buses regularly from Kolhapur to Mumbai, Panaji, Miraj, Sangli, Pune, Satara, Sawantwadi, Solapur and several other places.

Connectivity:

1) Air:— Airport is available and Nearest airport is at Belgaum, 105 kms from Kolhapur.

2) Rail:— It is a railway station on the Pune - Miraj - Kolhapur section of the South-Central Railway. It is well connected with all the important cities in India.

3) Road:— Kolhapur is situated on the Pune - Bangalore National Highway No. 4. There are State Transport buses regularly from Kolhapur to Mumbai, Panaji, Miraj, Sangli, Pune, Satara, Sawantwadi, Solapur and several other places. The Kolhapur Municipal Transport service operates in the city, suburbs and nearby villages. Taxis and rickshaws are also available round the clock.
Climate:

The climate of the district is temperate in plains and cool in western Ghats. The Eastern region represents dry weather and it experiences hot winds during April and May. The nights over the whole district are generally cool due to the influences of the sea Breezes. The Kolhapur district receives its major rainfall from the South West monsoon winds, it also gets some rainfall from thunderstorms during the month of April and May. The rainy season is from June to October. The Western Ghats receives the heavy rainfall and Gaganbavada which receives 5000 mm average rainfall is known as the Cherapunji of the Maharashtra. Shirol and Hatkanangle talukas record poor rainfall around 500 mm.

Topographical Locations:

- Latitude N 16.430
- Longitude E 74.140
- Height above sea level 574 M.
- Average rainfall 1900 mm.
- Temperature range 28 to 35
- Area 66.82 sqkm.
- Population: As per 2001 census- 4,93,167

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature Range (Deg °C)</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>34° C</td>
<td>24° C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>27° C</td>
<td>21° C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainfall</td>
<td>1,932 mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clothing
- Light woolen clothes required during November to February

Population

Climate
- Tropical

(Reference: website of kolhapur.nic.in which is constructed by N.I.C. Kolhapur.)