

NOTE

With the approval of the Commission, I visited Nagpur, Chandrapore, Gadchiroli, Bhandara and Gondia districts in the state of Maharashtra from 15 -20 May, 2017 to assess the status of human rights. In addition, I visited central / district jails in the districts. Reports regarding visits to the four jails have already been submitted to the Commission.

Enclosed herewith is my report on status of human rights in the above mentioned districts of the state. I shall be grateful if the same is placed before the Commission early.

Secretary General, NHRC

S. Jalaja,
Special Rapporteur, NHRC
Gurgaon, 9-9-2017.

**REPORT ON VISIT TO NAGPUR, CHANDRAPORE, GADCHITOLI,
GONDIA AND BHANDARA DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA FROM 15
to 20-05-2017**

-S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur, NHRC

Created in 1861, **Nagpur Division** with the city of Nagpur as its headquarters, is one of six administrative divisions of Maharashtra State. Nagpur is the easternmost division in the state comprising the districts of Nagpur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Gondia and Wardha.

I visited Nagpur, Chandrapore, Gadchiroli, Bhandara and Gondia districts of Maharashtra from 15-05-2017 to 21-05-2017 to report on the state of human rights therein. This opportunity was also used to visit central/ district jails and Children's Observation/Shelter Homes in the above mentioned districts. Reports regarding visits to those four jails and Homes have already been submitted to the Commission.

Given below are general observations /recommendations concerning all five districts (Part-1 of this report). Also included are specific observations/recommendations in respect of each of the districts (Parts 11,111, 1V, V &VI), in order to facilitate follow up action by the authorities concerned.

PART-1

General Observations/Recommendations

Maharashtra continues to be one of the fastest growing states of the Indian Union. The state has the second largest per capita net (PCN) and state domestic product (SDP) in the country. According to the HDI Report, Maharashtra 2012 '--the growth in the state has been urban-centric and non-agricultural, having visible consequences of pockets of urban affluence with shades of poverty and a continuing draw of migrants'. This, together with the restricted geographical spread of economic development, has resulted in both the average level of income and the degree of inequality in its distribution across persons in the state'. This observation is truly reflected in the economy and development of the five districts visited in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra.

1. Criminal Justice System

Criminal justice system generally reflects the prevailing socio- economic conditions in an area. Districts in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra are no exception. Nagpur (2012-HDI 0.770 very high-Maharashtra 0.752) and Chandrapore (HDI 0.718-high) districts are industrial hubs characterized by rapid population growth and urbanization and migration. Bhandara and Gondia (HDI 0.701 each) reported medium level development. Gadchiroli (HDI 0.608 second lowest) with its high tribal concentration is the most backward.

According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2013, Nagpur reported a crime rate of 327.6 (Maharashtra 218.67) with *an all India rank of 22*; Chandrapore reported a crime rate of 203.06 (rank-167), Bhandara 188.03(rank 341), Gondia with 142.68 (rank 378th) and Gadchiroli only 96.28 (rank-461). Nagpur reported a high crime rate; the city saw a 36.6% rise in number of crimes registered in the five years from 2011 to 2015, according to NCRB. Police administration has taken many notable measures, but multiplicity of agencies/units handling different categories of crime, lack of a holistic approach, poor quality of investigation, low conviction rates, minimum IEC activities/ public relations hamper these efforts.

2. Crimes against Women

Crimes against women are reported to be high especially in Nagpur, Chandrapore and Bhandara district. Several measures have been taken by the administration to ensure security to women. However, here again lack of a holistic approach affect the implementation of these well intended measures. Performance of individual units and impact of their functioning on crime management ought to be monitored. In fact, most of the measures relate to action *after* the crime is reported. *Preventive measures ought to be further strengthened*. Speedy investigation and high percentage of convictions only can act as deterrents. With timely counseling dowry deaths are preventable. Fast track courts ought to be fully utilized.

3. Crimes against children The area of child rights has received very little attention. While it is seen that all child protection structures are in position, they have not been provided proper facilities. JJ Boards and CWCs need to be

strengthened. Condition of Observation/Shelter Homes needs to be improved. Privately run Homes which have no intake ought to be closed or merged with others. The state government may introduce Quality Assurance in institutions. It needs to provide security to girls lodged in Observation/Shelter Homes.

Implementation of the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012 is tardy in the districts. Speedy investigations need to be carried out. Higher conviction ought to be secured in POSCO cases.

4. Sex ratio

Although all districts have reported sex ratios above those reported at state and national levels, it may not be uniform among the Tehsils within a district when disaggregated by rural– urban sectors and social groups (eg. Nagpur district). Therefore, facility-wise monitoring of sex ratios, as is already done in some districts should be undertaken.

It is seen that very few prosecution and convictions relating to sex determination by Sonography centers are reported. Enforcement of provisions of PNDT Act and close monitoring would be needed to eliminate sex determination tests.

5. Human trafficking

Nagpur is identified as a trafficking hub. Neighboring Chandrapore and Bhandara districts also reportedly have high incidence of human trafficking. Although Anti-trafficking Cells have been set up in all districts, it is seen that the number of cases filed are too few. As recommended by US State Department in its Country Report -India 2016, Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) need to be fully resourced and strengthened by providing additional dedicated, trained staff. Efforts should be made to increase prosecutions and convictions for all forms of trafficking, including forced and bonded labor ; cease the penalization of trafficking victims; increase investigations and prosecutions of officials allegedly complicit in trafficking, and convict and punish those found guilty. Implementation of protection programs and compensation schemes initiated by the Central and state governments ought to be taken up on priority to ensure trafficking victims receive benefits, release certificates, and rehabilitation funds. Meaningful partnerships with voluntary organization can enhance the impact of anti-trafficking measures.



6. Atrocities against SC/ST

Protection and promotion of the rights of SC/STs ought to be one of the priorities of district administration everywhere but it remains a sad reality that atrocities against SC/STs still remain neglected.

To facilitate members of these two communities to record their complaints without fear **SC/ST Thanas** **out to bet set up in the state at least in SC/ST concentrated areas.** For better/speedier implementation of SC/ST(POA) Act, police administration at district levels will have to pay attention to the quality of investigation, *witness protection* and securing higher conviction rate.

7. Extremism

Among the districts Gadchiroli is severely affected by extremism ; Chandrapore and Gondia districts are partially affected. By concerted police action, an attractive surrender policy and targeted developmental initiatives administration has been able to contain the problem to a great extent at present . But the battle apparently is not yet over. It is necessary for district administration to ensure that *in this process human rights of the people residing in the area are protected, especially while taking police action.* Encounter deaths in Gadchiroli ought to be inquired into without any delay.

From the tribal point of view this is their last battle for protecting their lands, forests and way of life. Therefore, in blocks with tribal concentration, PESA/ Tribal Sub-plans ought to be implemented fully to protect the way of life of the tribes. Implementing machinery should be strengthened by filling up vacancies of staff.

8. Police Reforms

Maharashtra has taken a lead in the implementation of police reforms by implementing at least two of the six directives of the Apex Court in *Prakash Singh Vs the State of Maharashtra*, especially relating to segregation of crime investigation and law and order and setting up of Police Complaints Authorities at the state and district levels. Steps for upgrading forensic labs, strengthening the investigation system and providing adequate training have also been taken. The Police (Amendment and Continuity)Act 2014 has been enacted w. e. f 1.2-2014.

It is understood that the remaining four directives of the Supreme Court regarding appointment and tenure of DGP, tenure of operational officers, setting up State Security Commission, and Police Establishment Board are yet to be taken up or implemented fully. The **State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA)** and the District Police Complaints Authorities set up in Maharashtra are not fully functional at present. Neutrality and efficiency of the police force could be improved only with far reaching police reforms.

9. Custodial Justice

Maharashtra is considered to be one of the advanced states in terms of correctional administration in India. While basic facilities are seen provided to prisoners, education, healthcare and welfare measures, including liberal sanction of parole, telephone facility, facilities for meeting with family members and canteen facilities help in improving the quality of prisoners' lives. A new Prison Manual based on human rights principles ought to be enacted without any further delay.

It is seen that magisterial inquiry in a number of custodial death cases are pending for a long time. Time bound inquiry is needed and accountability needs to be fixed and action taken against the guilty.

The proposed District Jail in Gondia ought to be taken up and fully established without any delay.

10. Furlough & Parole

In Maharashtra Parole is sanctioned to prisoners as per provisions of the Bombay Prison (Furlough and Parole) Rules, 1959 and as amended as Maharashtra Prison (BF & P) Rules, 2015. It is seen that the Rules were last amended on **26-8-2016**. According to the new rules Rs. 15,000/- is to be taken as deposit from each prisoner, as against Rs 2000/- as per the earlier provision. Other conditions for sanctioning parole and furlough have been made tough. This has caused considerable distress to prisoners, especially those belonging to poorer sections. A few of the prisoners breaking the conditions of parole should not be the reason for depriving others of these facilities.

11. Protection of the rights of Minorities

Although some schemes have been taken up for welfare of Minorities coverage of the population is too small and restricted to mostly education programs. The funds allocated is insufficient to make any impact. The schemes need to be diversified; Basic facilities and infrastructure to be provided in minority populated areas need to be up-scaled. Another issue is the security of minorities. It is incumbent on the district administration to ensure protection to the life and property of minorities, keeping in view the increasing incidents of intolerance directed at them in different parts of the country.

12. Education

The HDI Report Maharashtra 2012 has pointed out that the state showed impressive increase in the access to basic education, with the numbers of primary and secondary schools per capita population having increased substantially. Increase in primary and upper primary school infrastructure, including human resources (HR), have contributed to rising enrolments. This was true with respect to the districts visited. Qualitative improvements in educational attainments and learning achievements still remain a challenge for the state . The report further stated that although the state showed improved performance for all education-related indicators at the aggregate level at the *inter-sectoral (rural– urban) and social-group disparities persist*. Close monitoring of performance of students of SC/ST/ Minority and other weaker sections is needed. Proper implementation of educational schemes for those categories ought to be a priority.

13. Healthcare

The performance of Maharashtra in the health sector has been quite impressive. Although health indicators of the districts visited are far better than those of other states, rural health care in Maharashtra is constrained by the shortage of doctors and medical staff, lack of incentives for those who work in difficult and far-flung areas, poor condition of living quarters, lack of good educational facilities for children of Medical officers and staff.

It is seen that the PHCs are often the only health facilities available to the people in the neighborhood. Deliveries are conducted in VHSCs by ANMs. These facilities are not regularly visited by any gynecologist or specialist. Facilities for delivery in the PHCs are minimum-no AC/cooler even in hot summer months,

faulty design of buildings leaving them open to heat, dust and air, water shortage, poor condition of toilets and wash rooms, lack of hygiene etc. District Health Society ought to meet regularly and should do monitoring facility-wise. RHO should be held accountable for any lapse.

One of the main objectives of NRHM- *Mainstreaming of AYSH* -has not been achieved. Co-location of AYUSH in all PHCs was envisaged, but not seen implemented in any of the PHCs visited.

14. Food Security and Malnutrition

UN World Food Program and the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi prepared a Food Security Atlas of Rural Maharashtra in 2010 based on food availability, accessibility and absorption capacity (2010). *In the Atlas Chandrapore, Gadchiroli, Gondiya and Bhandara districts have been identified as priority districts for food security intervention.* Composite Food Security Indices (FSI) worked out district-wise show that Nagpur has a FSI of 0.423 (rank 28) and is categorized as 'moderately secure'; Chandrapore with FSI of 0.362 (rank30), Gondia with FSI of 0.437 (rank 27) and Bhandara with FSI of 0.477 (rank 26) are categorized as 'moderately insecure'. Gadchiroli with a FSI of 0.286 (rank33) is assessed as 'extremely insecure'. The above assessment appears to be valid even today.

NFSA, MNREGA and ICDS are the three programs taken up to deal with food insecurity and malnutrition. They are being implemented by different agencies without having any linkage with each other. Food security of *Antyodaya* beneficiaries and IPHH Households need to be carefully tracked. Their children ought to be monitored under ICDS. They should be provided 100 days employment. Tracking of poorest households would be needed. This can come only at the level of Gram Sabhas. It is generally seen that food security of inter-state migrants and their children are not ensured through any of the schemes. Close monitoring of implementation of FSA/ MNREGA and ICDS *together* is needed.

15. MNREGA

It has been pointed out that MGNREGA (guaranteeing Right to Work), PESA (the Right to self-governance of Panchayats in Scheduled Areas), and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act), 2006 (which recognizes the right to access forests and other natural resources) are considered to be the three most important rights-based legislations which could impact positively the livelihood concerns of the tribal population. Further these rights-based legislations address the three issues which have long affected STs adversely – a high migration rate in many areas, denial of access to forest and other resources, and lack of a decentralized structure of governance which would allow for self – governance through customary structures that have been in existence for a long period of time.

Despite industrialization in Vidarbha region, high off- season unemployment is reported in district like Gondia and Bhandara. Careful planning is needed in taking up soil and water conservation schemes. Convergence of land allotment, MNREGA and other benefits ought to be up scaled. Panchayats/Gram Sabhas ought to be trained in implementation and planning. Social audit of schemes ought to be taken up on priority, as envisaged under MNREGA.

16. Tribal Sub plan

Experts have pointed out that restoration of illegally-acquired tribal lands, distribution of land to landless, especially those belonging to SC/ST categories, provision of security of tenure of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in forest areas, recognition of women's land rights can go a long way in poverty alleviation in the districts.

Of the 35 districts in the state, the TSP areas fall in 15 districts including Nagpur, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli . There are 47 tribes or tribal groups in Maharashtra, including Bhils, Gonds, Mahadeo Kolis, Pawras, Thakurs and Warlis. It has been pointed out that there remains a significant gap between the developmental indicators of the STs vis-à-vis the general population.

A Diagnostic Study by the TATA Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai Supported by UNICEF, Maharashtra December 2015 pointed out that the present planning process for the district TSP does not involve the Gram Sabhas, Gram

Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis. This lack of participative planning at all levels is one of the main reasons of the gap between the aspirations of STs and service delivery. As of now most of the Tribal Development Department programs are being implemented by either the PO ITDP, or through the line departments. Selection of beneficiaries by the Gram Sabha is done mostly for TSP schemes which are run by the Zilla Parishad and which have provisions for beneficiary selection within the guidelines. However, for most of the TDD schemes, and schemes being operated by other line departments, this was not seen. Nor were the schemes/projects being approved by the Gram Sabhas. Further, according to the Institute, the problems that beset the ITDP structure are: 1. Limited manpower. 2. Uncoordinated delivery of schemes by multiple departments. 3. The present system of service delivery, scheme design, and institutional mechanisms are not in line with the mandate of PESA 4. Lack of delegation of powers. 5. Excessive centralization of decision making at the Commissionaire and ATC levels. The state Government ought to take these seriously.

17. Implementation of PESA-- Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Area) Act, 1966

In Maharashtra 597 Tehsils in 12 districts are notified under the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1966. 80% area of Gadchiroli district reportedly comes under PESA. It is learned that Maharashtra is yet to transfer all powers and functions envisaged under PESA to Gram Sabhas notified under the Act. Funds Functions and Functionaries to Gram Sabhas in notified PESA areas can greatly help in crime control, getting rid of social evils, eliminate extremism, enhance the status of women and protect children. Creation of awareness and training of Gram Sabha will be mandatory.

18. Land and Forest issues

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act or FRA passed in December 2006 gave back to traditional forest dwellers their rights to access, manage and govern forest lands and resources within village boundaries, which had been controlled by the Forest department since British times. Accordingly Maharashtra Village and Forest Rules, 2014 were notified by the state Government. It is reported that Maharashtra has emerged as the front-runner among states in implementing the provisions of this legislation.

As per data available in Nagpur district 626 individual claims involving 576.34 Ha and 782 community claims involving 49452.86 acres were settled under FRA; in Chandrapore 3418 individual claims (area 4083 Ha) and 517 community claims (area 222 Ha) were settled. In Gadchiroli district 20428 individual claims and 1388 community claims were settled. In 350 villages have been covered under FRA in Gondia district since 2012. In Bhandara district 2520 individual claims were settled involving 2932.37 Ha.

The objective of settling land claims under FRA cannot be said to be complete without completing the process of demarcation and handing over possession of lands and make them productive by providing benefits by convergence of various schemes. Careful monitoring of individual cases will be necessary.

Maharashtra Minor Forest Produce (Transfer of Ownership) Act, 1997 has given ownership of 33 Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) to Gram Sabhas under PESA areas. Governor of Maharashtra vide notification dated 19-8-2014 gave given ownership rights of all types of NTFP, including Tendu leaves and Bamboo to Gram Sabhas under PESA. Making use of these provisions Gram Sabhas in Chandrapore and Gadchiroli have done very well in auction of Tendu leaves, bamboo and honey, increasing their income many fold.

Experts in tribal affairs/environmentalists and activists however have pointed out that the above Rules notified by the Maharashtra Government are in violation of the provisions of the FRA and that through the issue of these Rules *effectively transfer rights for the management of forest produce from communities back to the forest department*. Villages have been given the option to choose between community forest rights and village forest rules.

It is further pointed out that apart from diluting and bypassing the provisions of FRA, the state government has been leasing out forest lands to the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) without the consent of Gram Sabhas, supporting joint forest management committees (JFMCs) in recognized CFR villages, diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes against the concurrence of the affected Gram Sabhas. Districts like Gadchiroli, Amravati, Gondia have shown the way that community mobilization and collective action of Gram Sabhas has immense potential to achieve social, ecological and economic

well-being. It is estimated that each title holder has access to 56 government schemes covering land development, subsidized homes and Public distribution system. Experts, therefore are of view that the convergence with government program makes the right an effective livelihood program. The State government ought to take a holistic view on this issue.

19. Farmers suicide

As many as 10,561 farmers have reportedly committed suicide in Vidarbha in a span of 12 years. The reasons for such a pathetic state of farmers include below average rainfall, heavy load-shedding, lack of small irrigation projects, poverty in many cases, pressure of private moneylenders and banks, ignorance of ancillary occupations for raising income, employment problem of the farmers' children, decreasing interest of the young generation in farming, rapid urbanization, apathy and lack of political willpower toward welfare and development of the region, etc. Of the 59 farmer suicides in Gadchiroli district, 33 cases were found eligible for aid.

On visits to the five districts it is seen that no detailed investigation into the causes of death is conducted; apart from the grants provided to eligible families only very few have received other benefits; no preventive action is taken, especially counseling, listening to their grievances, providing immediate short term assistance etc. The dominant view prevailing is that farmers commit suicide due to high personal consumption which is beyond their means. It is well known that the agrarian distress is due to other reasons relating to lack of minimum income from farming and the consequent debt trap. The debt relief schemes announced by the state Government ought to be implemented at the ground level.

A project on zero suicides of farmers which comprises more than 100 schemes for uplift of farmers through a holistic approach of socio-economic development model has been reportedly launched in all 14 districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada. However, success of the campaign depends on proper coordination of the schemes. *Farmers' cooperatives strengthened by adequate funding from government and proper monitoring could be a solution to the problem*. Apart from providing timely loan and inputs, they could take care of marketing of agricultural

produces and helping farmers in distress. By timely counseling farmers' deaths could also be prevented.

20. Bonded Labor/ Child labor

On a visit to different districts in Maharashtra it is seen that there appears to be no clarity on the part of administration as to what constitutes bonded labor. Non-payment of minimum wages, exploitation of time and labor output, more work than due against advance taken by the laborers are the determinants of bonded labor. Bonded labor manifests in many ways in modern times, including as forced labor, child labor, human trafficking etc. Periodic surveys ought to be conducted *with the help of non- governmental agencies* to identify bonded labor. Creating public awareness also is important.

21. Manual Scavenging

Manual scavenging was reported as 'nil' in all five districts visited. However, special care ought to be taken regarding covered/ un covered manholes on roads and the human rights of those who clean them by providing protective gears, ensuring timely payment of salaries etc

22. Water harvesting/ Harnessing solar energy

It seems to be a paradox that more we depend on technology the more we are forced to look for natural resources for problem solving .Water harvesting and harnessing of solar energy are critical in arid regions like Vidharbha. Therefore, these should be made compulsory in all Government buildings, PHCs, educational institutions, all public places, Gram Panchayts etc

23. Involvement of civil society

There is no dearth of good NGOs in Maharashtra. Voluntary agencies have flexibility in decision making and have better outreach. They act as interface between the Government and the people. Their services, therefore, ought to be fully utilized by the district administration, especially in the areas of rights of women, children, SC/ST, physically and mentally challenged and other vulnerable sections of society.

PART-11

**REPORT ON VISIT TO NAGPUR, DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA FROM
15 to 16-05-2017**

-S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur, NHRC

Profile of the district

Nagpur is one of the most important industrial and commercial centers in Maharashtra. The district is blessed with rich deposits of mineral wealth. It is famous for 'Nagpur oranges'.

Area and population

Table-1

District	Area km ²	Population In lakhs	Sex ratio/ 1000 male	Literacy (%) T/M/F
Nagpur	9892	Total- 46.53 M - 23.84 F - 22.68	AV - 951 (932) U- 954 R - 945	T 88.4% M 92.1% F 84.5%

(Source: Census of India- 2011)

Sex ratio

As per Census 2011, Nagpur district has a sex ratio of **951 (932 in 2001)** well above the national average of 940 and the state average of 929. While urban areas of the district show a higher ratio of 954, in the rural areas it is just above the national average (945).

Human Development Report Nagpur 2014 show that all Blocks in Nagpur District experienced rise in sex ratio except Mauda reporting a fall from 945 to 935. *Hingna Block reported the lowest sex ratio of 881 in 2011 (865 in 2001)*. Kuhi Block reported highest sex ratio 972 in 2011 (965 in 2001). Ramtek Block reported no change in sex ratio.

Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT) Act is being implemented in the district. The district administration in its report has stated that there are 92 registered USG Centers out of which 61 are working in Nagpur. A team constituted at the district

level works towards detecting decoy cases, do crash inspection of sonography /MTP /other health centers, provide IEC materials and engage themselves in creating awareness about the problem. Counseling and guidance are provided to young people at the *Maitri* Centers. It is learned that 06 cases have been filed against defaulting centers out of which 03 have been finalized by the court. The Corporation also reported that.

- Quarterly inspection of all USG Centers are carried out.
- It undertakes online form filling, new registration of USG Centers/ renewal of registration, receives online complaints.
- A workshop was organized on 22-03-2017.
- IEC activities are undertaken.
- 04 Centers were closed for violation of rules.

For effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP) a police officer of the rank of DySP/ ACP has been appointed as a nodal officer.

Efforts for having balanced sex ratios need to be continued in the districts. Facility-wise monitoring needs to be undertaken block-wise. It is well known that ensuring girl's education and women's security, creating awareness against the dowry system and providing employment opportunities for women in the long term could help in maintaining better sex ratios in the districts. No civil society intervention is noticed. Apart from interventions from Governments, civil society also has a major role to play.

Administrative set up

Table-2

District	Sub divisions	Blocks	Panchayats	villages	Towns
Nagpur	05	20	416	1859	12

(source: Census 2011)

Meetings with DM/SP and senior officials

In **Nagpur** district the status of implementation of human rights was reviewed with DC/SP (Rural) / RDO/ CEO/Civil Surgeon, SDOs and other senior officials. It was stated that providing credit to small and marginal farmers is a priority issue in the district, as cooperative banks have stopped disbursing credit. Rain water harvesting is another issue which needs attention. Maintenance of law and order also needs to be tackled on priority basis..

Police administration

Nagpur Police was established during 1861 police re-organization, but the city's policing history goes back much before that. As far as police administration is concerned, for administrative purpose, the district is divided into **Nagpur Commissionaire and Nagpur (Rural)**. The district has altogether 29 *thanas* in the Commissionaire (05 without own buildings) and 22 *thanas* in the rural district. It was stated that all *thanas* have toilets in police custody.

Criminal justice system

No data was furnished by the Commissionaire/Rural police regarding incidence of crimes in the district for the last three years. Therefore, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for the year 2013 is used for analysis.

As per crime report by NCRB 2013 , **15,245** crimes were reported in Nagpur district . Nagpur has a crime rate of **327.6** compared to National crime rate **218.67** in 2013/2015.

Table 03-Crime profiles of Nagpur district (2013)

	Category of crime							BU	TH	RI
	M	AM	RA	K&A	KG	DA	RO			
Nagpur Commissionaire	103	85	91	118	80	15	492	1159	2764	207
Nagpur Rural	50	32	75	32	29	07	43	227	951	78

M=murder; AM= Attempt To Murder; RA=Rape; K=Kidnapping & Abduction; KG= Kidnapping of Girls; DA= Dacoity ;RO=Robbery; Bu= Burglary; TH= Theft; RI= Riots *NCRB Report-2013*

NCRB in 2015 reported that **11,018** offences were registered that year in **Nagpur city** as against **10,359** in 2014. NCRB further reported that number of crimes in Nagpur city has increased from 8063 to 11,018 between 2011-2015 which is an increase of 36.6% rise in number of crimes registered. Some serious offences like vehicle theft , burglary, attempt to murder, kidnapping, causing death by negligence and robbery also witnessed an increase, while those like murder, riots, causing grievous hurt and culpable homicide not amounting to murder showed a dip. Increase in cases of violence against women reported was significant during this period.

As far as the rise in crime is concerned it has been pointed out that there has been a rapid rise in urbanization in Nagpur in the last few years and that it is a general trend that increased urbanization leads to increased crimes,

The State Government, no doubt, has made efforts to improve the system by recruitment of more police personnel, provision of equipments, arms/ ammunitions and vehicles, construction of new buildings for *thanas* , installation of CCTVs/ setting up of help lines, online filing of FIRs and setting up of fast-track courts for considering crimes against women.

Guidelines on Arrest

It was stated that Guidelines on Arrest have been exhibited in all *thanas* of the district.

Custodial deaths

Between the period 2007-2016 **04** cases of deaths in police custody were reported in the district. Jabbar Shyamdev Yadav died on 02-11-2015 and Rakesh Sheshrao Mendhe on 04-06-2016 and Sakharam Namdeo Paithane in 2017 in *police* custody. It is seen that Magisterial *inquiry is still pending with the SDM, Nagpur City in all three cases.*

Similarly 25 cases of death of prisoners in *judicial custody* were also reported in the district between 2014-16. *All 25 cases are seen pending for magisterial inquiry with SDM, Nagpur City.* 05 magisterial inquiries relating to miscellaneous cases of death are pending with the same SDM. Commission may like to issue a notice to the State Government for expediting these inquiries within a definite

time-frame and fix accountability in cases where violations of law have taken place..

Encounter deaths

Encounter deaths were reported as **nil** in all Nagpur.

NDPS

No case under NDPS has been registered in the districts at present. However, it is seen that 315 NDPS cases were filed in 2015. It was reported that an NDPS cell is set up in Nagpur district. Since use of drugs is getting widespread every where the cell needs to be activated.

Excise Act

NCRB Report 2015 reported the cases as nil.

Extremism

Extremist activities are reported as nil in Nagpur district.

Central Jail, Nagpur

I visited Central Jail Nagpur on 16-5-2017. A separate report has already been submitted on the functioning of the jail to the Commission. Although the jail provides basic facilities to prisoners, it is in the area of education, health care, legal assistance, communication, vocational activities etc that action is wanting. Action also ought to be taken for reducing the under trial population.

Complaints against the police

In accordance with the directives given by the Supreme Court to all the states in September 2006 on police reforms, a State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) headed by a former high court judge has been set up in Maharashtra. It is probably the first state to do so. The Authority hears complaints against police personnel, including custodial injury, death and rape, arrest or detention without following prescribed procedure, and misconduct. It is authorized to hear complaints against police officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioner and above. The SPCA will also have *suo-motu* powers of inquiry. Similar authorities are set up at the district level, headed by a retired District Judge to hear complaints against junior officers.

It is understood that the Authority is not fully functional in the district at present. It is learned that the Bombay High Court in April 2016 asked Maharashtra

Government to state the steps taken by it to make the SPCA and those at the district and divisional level functional.

Grievances of the police personnel

While complaints against the police receive attention of the authorities, it is equally important to attend to the grievances of the police personnel. It was learned that police durbars are organized separately on fixed days for male and female police officials for interaction with those who have complaints, in all districts. A helpline is also set up for registering complaints.

Cases referred to by NHRC

It was reported that 05 complaints received from NHRC *since 2009 are pending* for action in Nagpur district at present. Final reports ought to be sent to NHRC without any further delay.

Crimes against women

No data on crimes against women was furnished by police administration of Nagpur despite repeated requests. According to NCRB report 2015 Nagpur city recorded 166 rape cases and 392 assault cases against women. The number of cases relating to outraging the modesty of women in the city rose from 68 in 2011 to 392 in 2015 (476.5%) and the number of cases of Rape reportedly increased from 45 to 166 (268%). 158 cases of sexual harassment of women and 24 cases of insult to the modesty of women were also reported in the same period in the city.

It is reported that several steps have been taken by Govt. of Maharashtra to ensure security of women, including, setting up of PAW (Prevention of Atrocities on Women) Cell: Mahila Police Kaksha (Women Help Desk): Mahila Suraksha Samittee: Social Security Cells: Special Counseling Centers (SCC): Help centers at S.T. stands to prevent immoral trafficking of women and children: Preventive action for Dowry Death :Measures taken to Preventive female Feticide : Help Line to help the women in distress: Setting up of Anti- Human Trafficking Cells: training in the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 2005: setting up of Special & Fast Track Courts:: Complaint Committees at work places: Sensitization Police Officers and Men towards the complaints of women and Setting up of Justice Dharmadhikari Committee on crimes against women. *However, to have results, coordinated action by all agencies and close monitoring of their functioning need to be ensured.*

For the speedy disposals of cases of crimes against women it is understood that a Special Court is in position at Nagpur and other districts, along with a Special Court for dealing with cases of immoral trafficking at Mumbai.

Dowry related cases

At present no case of dowry deaths or cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act have been reported in the district. As per NCRB report 2015 09 cases of dowry deaths were reported in Nagpur city and that 06 cases were filed under the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

It is learned that the Maharashtra Government has notified the District Women and Child Development Officer as the Nodal Officer at the district level and Project Development Officer as the project officer for dealing with dowry related issues. District Vigilance Cells have been formed in each district of the State. District collector is the chairperson of this cell & the Superintendent of Police, Social Welfare Officer, an advocate, a woman medical officer, principal of a local college, a social worker and a member of a women's organization are members. Meeting of this Cell is organized by the District collector once in a three months.

It is not clear whether any monitoring is done regarding the functioning of the various cells and what impact they have in preventing the crimes. Reporting by women allegedly harassed for dowry well before things turn to worse needs to be encouraged. Counseling Centers and help lines with the help of NGOs ought to be taken up. Greater involvement of Panchayats/ Gram Sabhas in dealing with social evils, media campaigns, promoting simple marriages etc could be thought of by state/district administration.

Human Trafficking Human trafficking is one of the worst forms of human rights violations. Maharashtra witnesses interstate, inter-district & cross border trafficking of women & children for commercial sexual exploitation. Nagpur is identified as a human trafficking hub.

As per NCRB report 2015 07 cases were registered u/s 370 and 370A of IPC in Nagpur city in the same year. Latest data is not available. For combating Human Trafficking it is seen that

- 12 Anti-Human Trafficking units are established in the state of Maharashtra. One of these units is functioning in Nagpur and is stated to be fully operational.

- The AHTU has two NGOs and an officer from Women and Child Dept as a part of the team.
- Police Inspectors working in the Social Service Branch in the Commissionaire and District Crime Branch of Maharashtra Police have been notified as 'Special Police Officer' for the purpose of Anti Human Trafficking.
- Regular training workshops are being held for police officers, NGOs and prosecutors to sensitize them on this issue.
- 330 help centers are established at S.T. stands as per the recommendation of Justice Dharmadhikari Committee.

In its Country Report 2016 by US State Department a reference has been made on Human Trafficking in India. It is observed therein that the NCRB 'data demonstrated vigorous efforts to combat human trafficking but reflected a relatively low number of law enforcement action for the scale of trafficking in India and a low conviction rate overall. Moreover, the scope of law enforcement action on forced labor and the range of sentences applied to convicted traffickers remained unclear because the data was not comprehensive'. This is true with the state/district as well.

Rights of the Child

As per Census 2011 Nagpur district has approximately 7.5 lakh children (Male app. 05 lakh and female 2.5 lakh) . In compliance with the directions of the Apex Court, Maharashtra Government has set up JJ Boards, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)/ SPIUs and posted Child Welfare Officers in all districts. In Nagpur JJ Board having a President and two Members is functional. A District Child Protection Unit under the District Magistrate with 07 members is also functional in the district. It is learned that training in the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act (POSCO) 2012 has been provided to the officials concerned.

As per NCRB Report, 2015 no case appears to have been filed under the provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in Nagpur city during 2015.

Nagpur district has only one Government Observation cum Child Protection for Boys located near Patankar square in the city. The Home has a sanctioned capacity of 50 against which 18 children are staying there.16 children were admitted in pursuance of the orders of the JJ Board and 02 by the orders of the CWC. Besides it also has a Children's Home for girls located at Katol Road in the city, with a

sanctioned capacity of 100. 82 girls are admitted here. I have submitted a separate report on the functioning of the Home to the Commission enlisting deficiencies and recommending suitable action. A case of gang rape of a girl escaped from the Home with her friends was also reported. State Government has to ensure safety of the children lodged in these Homes.

There are 12 privately run Homes for children in the district. A suggestion has also been made to merge some of them to optimize resources and enhancing their efficiency. It is reported that 08 adaption agencies are also functional in the district

It is learned that a scheme for providing assistance to Child victims of IPC crimes and POSCO named *Manodrarya* has been launched since 2013. As of today 324 cases were filed before the District Board seeking assistance against which Rs 5.20 lakhs have been sanctioned in 267 cases.

Although child protection structures have been set up in the district no assessments seems to have been made about their impact on curbing violations of rights of children. All issues relating to child rights need to be taken up together holistically and ought to be reviewed by both DC and SP jointly at fixed intervals. Criminal cases are to be monitored closely. NGOs need to be involved in a big way in dealing with violation of child rights at the district levels. If district level NGOs are not available, state level NGOs need to be encouraged to work with district/police administration.

Missing children

In Nagpur 1500 children were reported as missing last year of which 800 were girls. No data is available on their rescue. The state Government has initiated action under Muskan 1 and 11 for tracking missing children.

Child Marriages

The mean age of marriage reported for girls in urban areas of Nagpur district (NFHS-4) is 21.8 whereas for rural areas it is 20.1. It is learned that in Nagpur district, at the panchayat level, Village Development Officer is notified as the Child Marriage Protection Officer and the Anganwadi Sevikas as assistant CMPO. In order to prevent child marriages there are 1422 Child protection committees at the village level. It is reported that the administration has been successful in

stopping 08 child marriages. Although it was claimed that cases have also been registered against the offenders, as per NCRB Report, 2015, however, no case appears to have been filed under the provisions of Prohibition of Child Marriages Act in Nagpur city during 2015.

Atrocities on SC/ST

Scheduled Castes constitute 18.65 % (male 18.4%; female 18.89 %) while scheduled tribes form 9.4% (male 9.37%; female 9.43 %) of the population in Nagpur district.

As per NCRB Report 2015, only 05 cases were reported relating to atrocities on SC and nil relating to ST in Nagpur city. No separate SC/ST Thanas are seen set up in Maharashtra. General conviction rate in cases relating to SC/ST reported in the district was 22%; *but for this year it is 11% only*. It was confirmed that distribution of compensation to victims of atrocities is up to date. Meetings are held once in four months to decide the cases.

It was pointed out that discrimination against SC/ST is less in town than in the villages. It remains a reality that atrocities against SC/STs still remain neglected.

Education

Nagpur is an important educational hub of Maharashtra, having educational institutions of all categories, attracting students from different parts of the country to pursue their education.

Nagpur district has 4060 schools at the primary level which include 21 Government, 1579 Zila Parishad, 69 Nagar Parishad, 164 NMC, 1178 privately aided and 1049 unaided schools. 475575 boys and 437610 girls totaling 913185 are studying in these schools. Teaching is in several languages like Marathi, Hindi, English, Urdu and Gujarati. As per report of the education authorities all schools in the district have school buildings. Teacher classroom ratio reported is 66%; schools having boys' toilet 100%, Girls' toilets 99%; drinking water facility 100%; kitchen shed 93%; compound wall 87% and play ground 91%. It is seen that the State government is trying to improve the quality of education in schools by grading schools on the basis of fixed parameters.

Under the National Child Health Program, School Health Program is being implemented in the district since 2013. Students of age Group 6-18 (standard 1 to 12) are covered under it. A team comprising a MO, LMO, a Pharmacist and Nurse visit the schools. The team is provided with a vehicle, necessary equipment and medicines. 37 check up units are set up in schools and Anganwadis in the district.

During 2016-17 422565 children from 2731 schools and 245299 children from 3381 Anganwadis underwent health check-up. 57 children reportedly had heart surgery and 428 other types of surgeries..

Health Issues

Health facilities in Nagpur district comprise of (02) District and (03) Sub Divisional Hospitals (09) Rural Hospitals, 49 PHCs (19 of them IPHS), 316 Health Sub Centers (13 of them IPHS), 28 Allopathic Dispensaries and 33 Ayurveda dispensaries. 03 Mobile units and 01 health unit are also being run. Nagpur Municipal Corporation also runs 02 hospitals having 130 beds each, 36 Dispensaries and 33 Urban Posts.

It is seen from NFHS-4 data that 92% villages in the district had ASHAs. Only 42.8% of the PHCs had a LHV. 92% of the PHCs were located within a radius of 10 km in the district and only 60.5% of the VHSCs were within a radius of 3 km. 100% of VHSC had an ANM posted. 71.4% of the PHCs were 24x 7. Only one is designated as FRU.

There were only 02 Gynecologists and 02 Anesthetists in the district. 90.5 % of MOs and health staff had residential quarters.

The key health indicators pertaining to Nagpur district are given in the Table below.

Table-4 Health Indicators of Nagpur district

District	IMR/1000	MMR /one lakh	TFR	Institutional Delivery (%) NFHS-4	Ins.del. in Public facility	Financial assistance under JSS (%) NFHS-4

Nagpur	24.1 (SCD)	65.5 (HMIS)	1.8	97.0 (95.2- R)	66.1 (80.7- R)	26.0 (34.2- R)
Maharashtra	24	68	1.8	--	----	----
India	40	167		- --	-----	----
NRHM targets	26	100	2.1	---	----	----

DHS 2016-17 Health data published by AHS 2012-13 (NFHS-4)

Health indicators in Nagpur district are broadly comparable to those reported for the state as a whole. *The targets set under the National Rural Health Mission (now NHM) are achieved by the district.*

On analysis of key factors affecting women's health it is seen that only 8.4% of currently married women are reported to be illiterate; only 58% of currently married women had 10 or more years of schooling. Institutional delivery reported was 97%; percentage of women having undergone at least one ANC was 99.1%

As far as family welfare is concerned, it is reported that 27.4 % of women aged 20-24 reported birth order of 02 and above and 13 % of the women aged 15-49 had a birth order of 03 and above. The data relating to family welfare published in NFHS-4 report pertaining to the district are given in Table-5 below.

Table-5

District	Unmet demand NFHS-4 %	Use of any method%	Modern method%	Female sterilization%	Male sterilization%
Nagpur	14.5 (12.6 Rural)	72,4 (74.2-R)	71.5 (73.9-R)	54.7 (66.6-R)	1.5 (1.0-R)

Source: NFHS-4 (2012-13)

In Nagpur district, I visited Health Sub Center, Fetri. It was established in 1982 with only two rooms. Additional rooms were constructed in 2006. Besides a new delivery room, a check -up room and post- delivery room are also available. The floor of the rooms was fully tiled. It is seen that in Nagpur 84% of the VHSC are in government owned buildings.

It is reported in the HDI report on Maharashtra 2014-15 that average bed occupancy in government hospitals in the district is only 37.36 %.

A regular ANM is posted in the sub center. Patient attendance is around 3-4 per day. Last year 1526 patients visited the sub center. Majority of the patients are females. Last month 21 delivery cases were attended to and 23 cases were referred. *There is no facility for anesthesia. No gynecologist visits the sub center.* It was stated that there were no maternal deaths reported in the area in recent times.

Health cards of the patient are maintained. Birth weight of the babies are measured regularly. IFA tablets are distributed to pregnant women. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and JSSK are being implemented. Immunization reported was 100%.

It was confirmed that untied funds were received by the Sub center with which a stethoscope and other instruments were purchased. A fan was installed. An examination board is also set up with the funds. A fridge was bought with IPHS funds. A vending machine for sanitary napkin is seen installed .Each napkin costs Rs.10/- only. It is said to be very popular among young women and girls.

It is seen that ANM stays in the same building. *Because of residential facility her services are available all 24 hours.*

ICDS

It is reported that in Nagpur district ICDS services are being provided through 2423 Anganwadi centers. Some of the key indicators on child health in Nagpur district ,as reported by AHS-(2011-12) and NFHS-4 (2015-16) are listed below.

Table-6

District	Full Immunization (%) NFHS-4	% of children Anemic (6-59 months)
Nagpur	62.0 (67.6-R)	73.6

Source: NFHS-4 2015-16

A survey on malnutrition prevailing amongst children was conducted as a part of which their weights were taken. It is reported that out of 133716 children in the age group of 0-5 weighed, 123585 were reportedly having normal weight; 8811 were moderately under-weight; 1320 were severely underweight; 224 are reportedly suffering from Medium Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 50 from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Malnourished children from 06 months to 03 years are provided THR and those in the age-group 03-06 years are provided hot cooked meals.

It was reported that special nutrition programs like APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Aahar Yojana are being implemented. VCDC (Village Child Development Centre) program is also taken up for which a provision Rs 15/ lakhs was made during 2016-17.

In Nagpur I visited Anganwadi Center at Fetri. It is housed in a new *pucca* building. It was stated that the State Chief minister has adopted this village. Under district planning funds have been sanctioned to this AWW. 16 children of 3-6 age group and 60 children of 06 are enrolled here. 05 pregnant women and 07 lactating mothers are also enrolled in the AWC.

It was stated that Mamta Divas is being observed regularly. 98% of the children are stated to have been vaccinated. No case of malnutrition is reported in the area. Only one case of underweight child is identified. Growth Chart is seen maintained.

At the time of visit Moog dal Kichdi was being served to children. Quality of food appeared to be satisfactory. Cooking is done with the help of LPG. Sufficient ventilation was available in the kitchen.

ICDS has an important role to play in protecting the life of small children and enhancing the quality of life of their mothers. *It is however, seen that ICDS centers are often run as feeding centers only.* Pre-school education, awareness creation, mutual interaction, regular health checkups are grossly neglected. It is, therefore, essential that their activities are closely monitored.

Food Security

Maharashtra is one of the top ten states under NFSA. It is learned that Maharashtra started implementing the National Security act w-e-f 1st February, 2014. Schemes for ensuring food security among the population include the Mid-day Meal Scheme, ICDS and the public distribution System.

The UN World Food program and the Institute of Human Development, Mumbai recently published a report on Food security in Rural Maharashtra . According to the report food security of population in any area is determined by three factors namely food availability, food accessibility and the absorption capacity. SC/ST form 31.56% of the population. Only 66.56% of the rural women are literate.

Food availability depends on the share of forest areas, extent of irrigation, per capita value of agricultural output and paved roads. As per the food Atlas prepared as a part of the study, availability of food in Nagpur district is assessed as "moderately secure". Access to food is determined by factors like proportion of agricultural laborers , working age population and SC/ST in the population, per capita consumption expenditure and wage rate and rural female literacy. Factors that determine absorption capacity are availability of safe drinking water, access to health care and sanitation. Accessibility is assessed as 'moderately secure' in Nagpur. The overall Food Security Index worked out after the study is 0.423 (rank 28th) and is assessed as 'moderately secure'.

It is reported that in the district there are 70232 *Antyodaya* card holders. and the number of Priority Households (PHH) who are beneficiaries is 1209693. As per NCRB report, 2015 15 cases were filed under the EC Act against traders for malpractices in distribution. Only a few complaints were received during field visits about the PDS.

Social Security

A number of pension distribution schemes both national and state level have been taken up in the district, as in the rest of the districts in Maharashtra. Very few complaints were received regarding non-receipt of social security pension during any of the field visits.

Status of SC/ST Status of SC/ST

(a) Welfare of Scheduled Castes

Table-7 Population SC/ST (source: Census of India- 2011)

District	% Population SC			% Population ST			% State SC ST
	T	M	F	T	M	F	
Nagpur	18.65	18.42	18.89	9.40	9.37	9.43	SC 11.81 ST 9.35

A number of schemes directed at welfare of Scheduled Castes are under implementation in the state. Important schemes for welfare of SC include Post-Matric GOI scholarships, hostels for boys and girls of SC category, Residential Schools for boys and girls, Grant- in- aid to NGOs to run hostels, Ramai Gharkul Awas Schemes towards housing for SCs, distribution of agricultural lands to the landless etc. Besides Special component plan for SC is also taken up.

In Nagpur I visited a Harijan Basti at Matangpura in Kalmeshwar. It may be mentioned that unlike such bastis I visited in states like Bihar the entire basti was very clean. Although the road to the basti was pucca, the quality of its construction was not so good. Drinking water is available. Electricity is available for 24 hours, but they do face occasional load shedding. Arrangements have been made by the Municipality to pick up garbage. For healthcare of residents a Rural Health Dispensary was available. Toilets were constructed two years ago.

It was stated that most families had on the average 1-2 children only. For education of children a school was locally available. All children go to school. The Municipal School and Anganwadi are located in the same compound. I visited the MRBS school. 187 children (81 girls and 106 boys) are studying in the school. All girls /boys belong to SC/ST category. It was stated that there were no drop out. 10 teachers, including the Head Mistress, are working in the school. School Health Program is being implemented in the school. Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is also run in the school. Free books are distributed to students of 1-8 class. All girls SC/ST boys are supplied uniforms.

I spoke to some of the residents. Manda Bai Patil 65 has no work. She gets Rs.600/pm as pension. Her husband is no more. She 02 boys of above 31 and 25 years of age and a girl of 22 years. Toilet in their home is made with government assistance but bathroom was constructed on their own.

Girls do private jobs. Vishakha Patil 30 is engaged in sewing work. Her mother-in-law, husband and daughter live in their home. House has tiled roof. Amita Prakash is making bags for a private company and gets Rs.2500 a month with the help of 02 machines. Her husband is not working at present. She had two children but one died. The girl is in second year B.com. Their house was constructed by father in law. She admitted that they have better life than before. No atrocity against members of the SC community was reported.

It was stated that Jindal Industries has adopted 04 dalit bastis. 90% houses are pucca. The bastis have 100% coverage of drinking water. All houses have toilets. Common garbage collection is practiced. Ambedkar Samaj Bhavan is also seen constructed.

Schemes for ST

Schemes for welfare of Scheduled Tribes are also being implemented in the district which include housing schemes like Shabari Adivasi Gharkul Yojana, Pardhi Garkul Yojana, Tribal Residential Improvement Scheme and agriculture related schemes like financial assistance to BPL category for horticulture, supply of electricity to farms, self help program for landless, skill up gradation and training, assistance to girls under Kanyadan Yojana etc. A provision of Rs.108.71 lakhs have been made for agriculture related schemes (category A), Rs.67.65 lakhs for training programs (Category- B) and 59.25 lakhs for miscellaneous schemes (Category C). Thus a total provision of Rs.2.35 crores have been made for all schemes together.

As far as students are concerned, against 29570 eligible students, 19462 were provided with Post- Matric Scholarship assistance by bank transfer. GOI Post-Matric Scholarships are also being disbursed.11 Ashram schools are also run involving 1474 students. *Eklavya* public school is run for tribals which has an intake of 345 students.

Welfare of Minorities

It is reported that a number of programs for the welfare of Minorities are under implementation in the State, including that for providing infrastructure facilities to minority dominated rural schools, Dr. Zakir Hussain Madrasa Modernization Scheme, financial aid under Regional Development Program for area development, police pre-recruitment training Scheme, Nai Roshni scheme in 2016-17. State Government considers proposals under Area Development Programs for providing basic/infrastructural facilities in villages having a substantial population of minority communities. In 2016-17 17 proposals at a cost of Rs 1.45 crore have been sanctioned and funds released by district administration for construction of roads, boundary walls for grave yards, meeting hall etc. Under the scheme for providing basic educational facilities 70 proposals were received in 2016-17. Only 06 proposals have been sanctioned; the rest have been rejected. Under the Madarsa Modernization Scheme out of 43 proposals received 22 have been sanctioned by the High Powered Committee. Sanction from Government is awaited.

In 2016-17 102 youths were selected for police Pre-recruitment Training Scheme. They were provided training by a private agency. A grant of Rs.5,65,000/- was sanctioned. Under Nai Roshni Scheme only two proposals were sanctioned in 2016-17. From what is reported above it would appear that the *schemes are being implemented in a routine manner*. Action ought to be taken to motivate the intended beneficiaries to take advantage of the schemes available. Schemes being implemented need close monitoring.

Quality of life of the people

NFHS -4 further reported that in Nagpur district 96% (rural-94.1 %) of the households have electricity and there is 97.4% coverage (95.3% -R) of improved drinking water source. Only 74.7 % (57.3% -R) households have access to toilet facility. Further, only 60.4% % of households (29.4%-R) use clean fuels.

As per 2012 MHDR findings Nagpur was the only District in Vidarbha having HDI more than the State. Nagpur District had a HDI value of 0.786 and amongst all Districts was ranked fifth as per MHDR 2012.

Swatch Bharat Mission

NFHS-4 data reveals that only 74.7 % (57.3% -R) households in the district are using improved sanitation facility in Nagpur district. As per progress report for 2016-17 maintained by administration, 291828 House Holds (IHHL) in the district were identified as without toilets against which achievement reported was 289363 (99.16%).As far as ODF (open defecation) in 766 GPs was concerned, achievement reported was 766 (100%).

In Municipal Corporation of Nagpur out of 18476 applications received for construction of toilets, 12225 were sanctioned and 7382 are under construction; construction of 7952 were reportedly complete. Total expenditure on construction of toilets both by the Zila Parishad and Nagpur MC has not , however, been reported. *It may be mentioned that the city has been adjudged as the 20th cleanest city in India as per Swachh Sarvekshan 2016.*

Swatch Bharat Mission was launched with a view to ensure much needed sanitation in schools, hospitals and all public places and to sensitize the public to maintain sanitation and hygiene. However, it is seen that more efforts needs to be made in the districts to maintain cleanliness in towns/villages. Swatch Bharat Mission does not mean only construction of toilets. Regular disposal of garbage, cleaning of drains, identification of spots for dumping garbage, recycling of waste etc ought to be thought of. Public awareness and education are also a part of the campaign. *Kudumb Shree* model of Kerala wherein SHG groups of women carry out garbage disposal in towns could be replicated.

Land and Forest issues

Maharashtra is stated to be a front runner in the Implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 1966. It is reported that under the FRA 626 individual claims involving 576.347 ha have been settled. Only 03 claims involving 6.31 ha was rejected.53 appeals involving 65.168 ha were also allowed. 782 community claims involving 49452.586 ha were also settled. Only one claim was rejected.

The objective of settling land claims under FRA cannot be said to be complete without completing the process of demarcation and handing over possession of lands and make them productive by providing benefits by convergence of various schemes. Careful monitoring of individual cases will be necessary.

MNREGA

As per Human Development Report, 2014 of Nagpur district BPL forms 37.3% of the rural population. Khapa Tehsil reported the highest number of BPL families of 52.81%, followed by Mowad at 50.78%; and Narkhed at 49.36%. All these towns are located a little away from Nagpur City. The situation does augment discomfort in terms of poverty alleviation. BPL category forms 25.42% of the urban population in Nagpur district. Katol reported high proportion of 57.03% of BPL families, followed by Narkhed at 50.74%.

Keeping in view of the above data MNREGA is still relevant for a district like Nagpur wherein high income levels are reported at least for a part of the population.

Nagpur district has 162673 households (HHs) registered under MNREGA against which 153978 job cards were reportedly issued. Only 69027 job cards were stated to be active. After verification the number of active cards got reduced to 48877 only (49.13%). 99.66% of the cards were stated to be Aadhar-seeded. Against 45586 HHs which demanded work 41805 HHs were provided employment in 2016-17. But only 8148 families could complete 100 days employment last year. During 2016-17 against a target outlay of Rs 81.97 crore (plus additional funds) achievement reported was Rs.82.68 crore.

In Nagpur district a variety of schemes are seen taken up under MNREGA like drought relief works, Fisheries, flood control and protection, land development, micro-irrigation, play grounds, renovation of traditional water bodies, rural connectivity, rural drinking water and tree planting. It was stated that in the district Gram Panchayats are executing 1693 works and agencies 300. Ongoing works include 1414 IHHL, 31 farm ponds, 1661 vermin- compost schemes. 75 km of roadside plantations are to be taken up this year. It is reported that 80.68 % of the works taken up since inception are complete. Out of 37952 works taken up since 2014-15 only 23858 are complete (62.86%). Out of 2643 houses sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojana in 2016-17 only 184 works are ongoing. *No houses have been completed so far.*

During discussion with the Collector and other senior officers of the district it was pointed out that in Nagpur district achievement under MNREGA was 147% in 2015-16. 27 km length inter and intra village roads were completed. In last two

years 2400 irrigation wells were taken up. JYS 500 villages water table risen. 1500 rain water harvesting/ farm ponds were completed under Jalmukth Shivar Yojana (JYS) last year and it had good impact. In 500 villages water table rose. Number of active labor now has reached 1000200. 100% Aadhar seeding of job cards have been completed.

I visited a scheme being executed in Shamashanbhumi road in Yerla village. The site had 1 1/2 acre of tree plantation. In 2015-16 200 trees were planted; in 2016-17 400. Gulmohar, Karanj and Neem were seen planted Estimated cost reported was Rs.1,21,56 against which actual expenditure was Rs. 94,719. For 03 years the estimates cost worked out to be Rs 3 lakhs. 459 man days were generated.

It was pointed out that more useful trees could be planted. keeping in view shortage of fodder grass there is need for planting more grass, babul etc. Adjoining the plantation site was a cement-concrete road of 500 meters taken up at a cost of Rs.Rs.4.30 lakhs.

As per report of the district authorities out of 136589 casual laborers in the district only 4947 could be mapped so far; only 1486 were willing to avail job cards to work under MNREGA . No job cards have been issued so far to any of them.

Drought relief It is reported that none of the villages were affected by drought last year. However, in 2015-16, 1171 villages were declared drought affected and a sum of Rs.40.58 was sanctioned for relief works.

Farmers suicide District administration, Nagpur reported 66 cases of farmer's suicide in the period January -December 2016. Ex-gratia payments were made only to 25 of the deceased farmers' families. 11 cases of farmers suicide were reported since January, 2017. Only in 04 cases ex-gratia relief was paid to the families of the deceased farmers. 06 cases were considered ineligible. One case is pending. Apart from making mandatory ex-gratia payments in eligible cases *the district administration has not gone into the cause behind the suicides and taken action to prevent them.* Since farmers commit suicide in extreme distress it is felt that the *eligibility criterion applied for making payments is somewhat harsh on the bereaved families.*

Bonded Labor/ It was stated that incidence of bonded labor is reported as nil in Nagpur district. However in 2016 three complaints were received from the labor unions. Upon inquiry no bonded labor could be found. It was stated that District Level and Sub Divisional 1 Vigilance Committees have been constituted. The last meeting of the District Vigilance Committee was held on 21-1-2017.

Child Labor

Incidence of child labor is reported in the district. It was stated that between January 2015 to 31 December, 2016. 16 raids were organized by the Child Labor Task Force under the chairmanship of the Collector. During these raids 237 establishments were inspected. 03 child laborers were rescued and 02 cases filed against the employer for engaging child workers. Shop Inspectors and labor Officers regularly visit shops and establishments. Every year awareness programs and seminars are organized on 12 June and 14th November on the occasion of Anti Child Labor Day and Children's Day.

Manual scavenging Manual Scavenging is reported as nil in the district. It was stated that a Town Level Survey Committee has been formed in Nagpur with 08 members in 2013 to conduct a survey on bonded labor in the district. 10 Supervisors, 72 Enumerators and 11 Data Entry Operators were appointed has conducted a regular survey in 2013. No bonded labor could be located.

However, special care ought to be taken regarding covered/ un covered manholes on roads and the human rights of those who clean them by providing protective gears, ensuring timely payment of salaries etc

PESA --Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1966

Nagpur district is not notified under PESA.

Observations and Recommendations:-

With a Per Capita Net District Domestic Product (PCNDDP) of Rs.1,00,663 Nagpur is one of the six Districts which have reported PCNDDP greater than the average of Rs.96,339 for the state of Maharashtra. The HDI of Nagpur is 0.786 as per MHDR 2012. The district is ranked in 'very high' category. Despite this high level of economic progress achieved, the district still faces problems of poverty, malnutrition, skewed sex ratios, high crime rates (especially against women), atrocities on SC/ST forest-related issues etc. Urban poverty reported for Nagpur is

25.42% whereas for rural areas it is worked out at 37.3% as per HDI Report 2014, Nagpur district. Removing economic and social disparities, ensuring security to women and other vulnerable sections remain the chief challenge for the district.

Main observations and suggestions have already been included in the general comments given in Part-1 of this report. However, some district-specific observations/suggestions are given here for further necessary action.

1. Crime and law and order

Reducing crime rate/ Management of multiple agencies / better quality investigation/ 100% convictions/ impact assessment/community policing to be attended to.

2. Crimes against women Coordinated action by multiple agencies/departments for ensuring women's security

3. Human Trafficking AHTUs, ought to be strengthened with resources and manpower; they should show results- step up legal enforcement, bust rackets, rehabilitate women/children trafficked.

4. Crimes against children This area has received very little attention. POSCO is poorly implemented. All structures are in position but no facilities provided. Poor condition of Observation/Shelter Homes. Introduce Quality Assurance in institutions

5. Atrocities against SC/ST

Should receive priority. *SC/ST Thanas out to bet set up in the state.* Better/speedier implementation of SC/ST(POA)Act, witness protection, 100% conviction rate.

6. Protection of the rights of Minorities

It is incumbent on the district administration to ensure protection to the life and property of minorities, keeping in view the increasing incidents of intolerance directed at them.

7. Custodial Justice & care

Report on Central Jail already submitted to the Commission. While basic facilities are seen provided to prisoners, welfare measures, including liberal sanction of parole, telephone facility, facilities for meeting with family members and canteen facilities help in improving the quality of prisoners' lives. Prison reforms ought to be implemented without any delay.

It is seen that magisterial inquiry into a number of custodial deaths are pending for a long time. Time bound inquiry needed-accountability to be fixed and action taken against the guilty.

8. Healthcare

Shortage of doctors and medical staff/ better incentives for those who work in rural areas/ start indoor treatment in PHCs, improve facilities for deliveries, provide coolers/fans in OTs /delivery room /indoor, maintain quarters for doctors and medical staff/ better design of buildings, introduce solar lighting/heating/water harvesting in health facilities. Prioritize AYUSH Systems. Have AYUSH Wings in PHCs/CHCs/ closely monitor ASHAs

8. Food Security and Malnutrition

Lacunae in the implementation of NFSA out to be corrected without any delay. Attention to be paid to those families categorized under Antyodaya /priority households. children who are outside Anganwadis or schools, especially a large number of children of inter-state migrants who are generally not covered by any program ought to be taken care of.

9. Land and Forest issues

Possession ought to be ensured of the lands allotted to beneficiaries under FRA/ other legal provisions. Land allotment under FRA although linked with MNREGA and with benefits under other schemes as well.

10. Involvement of civil society

Very little involvement of civil society is noticed in Government programs. Channelizing the involvement of reputed NGOs can yield better results.

11. Police Reforms

District Police Complaint Authority ought to be made functional. Management of multiple agencies / better quality investigation, 100% convictions.

12. Water harvesting and harnessing solar energy

(PTO)

PART-111

REPORT ON VISIT TO CHANDRAPORE DISTRICT ON 16-05-2017

-S. Jalaja, *Special Rapporteur, NHRC*

Profile of the district

Formerly known as *Chanda District*. Chandrapur was the largest district in India until it was bifurcated and the district of Gadchiroli was created in 1982. It was renamed as Chandrapur in 1964. The district has abundant natural lime and coal resources that feed coal companies like Western Coal Fields and large cement factories, such as ACC, L&T, Ambuja Cements etc.

Area and population

Table-1

District	Area km ²	Population In lakhs	Sex ratio/ 1000 male	Literacy (%) T/M/F
Chandrapore	11443	Total: 22.04 M- 11.23 F- 10.80	AV - 961 (948) U- 950 R - 968	T- 80.01 M- 86.79 F- 72.97

(Source: Census of India- 2011)

Sex ratio

As per Census 2011, the district has an average sex ratio well above the national average of 940 and the state average of 929. Sex ratio reported in the urban areas (950) is much less than that for rural areas (968) of the district.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994-PCPNDT Act is under implementation in the district. District and Taluka Level Advisory Committees have been set up to oversee the implementation of the Act. Municipal Corporation, Chandrapore, in its recent report, has listed various actions taken by it under the provisions of PCPNDT ACT.

- There are 57 registered USG centers in the Corporation area.
- 84 Machine Registration Certificates (MRC) have been issued by the Corporation.
- As per provisions of the Act an Advisory Committee has been set up. Regular meetings of the committee are conducted every 60 days.
- Quarterly inspection of all USG Centers are carried out.
- The Corporation undertakes online form filling. It undertakes new registration of USG centers/ renewal of registration, receives online complaints.
- IEC activities are undertaken. A workshop was organized on 22-03-2017.
- 04 Centers were closed for violation of rules.

Legal enforcement of PCPNDT Act appears only to be routine. Despite the above mentioned actions, efforts for having balanced sex ratios need to be continued in the district. There is need for analyzing health facility-wise data on sex ratios. It is already known that ensuring girl's education and women's security, creating awareness against the dowry system and providing employment opportunities for women in the long term could help in maintaining better sex ratios in the districts. *Apart from interventions from Governments, civil society also has a major role to play.*

Administrative set up

Table-2

District	Sub divisions	Blocks	Panchayats	villages	Towns
Chanrapore	08	15	847	1792	23

(source

e: Census 2011)

Meetings with DM/SP

After visiting Nagpur district, I proceeded to **Chandrapore** district by road. In Chandrapore district too I had meeting with DM, SP, DDC, SDOs and other senior officials.

The important issues identified in the district were (i) **Industrial pollution** Chandrapore has a good industrial base, especially in the area of coal mining, paper, cement industries and power generation. Industrial pollution, therefore, is very high, especially in 03 blocks with industrial townships. (ii) **livelihood issues of SC/ST population**. There are large forest tracts in the district wherein development is yet to make an impact in the lives of people. The district has 18% ST population and 03 PESA blocks. It was stated that Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) numbering 3500 are spread over in 32 villages. 02 ITBP projects have been taken up for their welfare. (iii) **Man animal conflicts** Chandrapore district has 45% forest cover. Due to water shortage and scarcity of food animals often stray into human habitations damaging houses and crops sometimes causing death and injury to humans. (iv) **Lack of crop diversity** Chief crops in the area are rice and cotton. Lack of diversity has affected agricultural output. Water is not a problem in the area. (v) **Extremism** Parts of the district, adjoining Gadchiroli are affected by extremist activities. 09 blocks are reportedly affected by extremism. Due to that special funding is provided to the district. Law and order was stated as normal at present. No communal or caste issues are reported. Prohibition has been declared in the area to protect the interests of ST.

Police administration

Chandrapore has only one police district with 06 Sub Divisions, 27 thanas (of which 22 have their own buildings), Sub police stations, 17 Out Posts and 01 Armed Out Post. There are altogether 25 police and Sub police stations in the naxal affected areas.

It was confirmed that all thanas have toilets in police custody. Law and order in the district was stated to be stable. Crime profile also was stated to be stable. General conviction rate reported in the district was 57%.

Criminal justice system As per crime report by **NCRB** in 2013, **4,476** crimes were reported in Chandrapur district. Chandrapur has a crime rate

of **203.06** compared to National crime rate **218.67** in 2013. The district stood **167th** in all crime records in 2013. Further, according to NCRB in 2013 Chandrapur district ranked 110th in no. of murders, 57th in no of rapes, 79th in no of robberies, 77th in no of thefts, 41st in no of dacoities, 188th in no of kidnappings, 138th in no of riots in 2013.

Data on incidence of crimes in Chandrapore district for the last three years reported by the district police is given below:-

Table 03-Crime profile of Chandrapore district in the last three years

Category	No. of Crimes)			
	2014	2015	2016	2017 (up to April)
Murder	51	29	33	08
Attempt to Murder	50	54	54	09
Hurt	743	674	595	156
Rape	100	127	92	34
Robbery	41	44	35	17
Kidnapping	NA	NA	NA	NA
Riot	74	87	88	14
Theft	751	606	555	162
Dacoity	09	05	02	01
HBT	233	217	237	75
Total	3836	3591	3171	974

Source: District police, Chandrapore

It is seen from the data provided that the crimes show a declining trend in Chandrapore district. Among the crimes reported, rape/hurt/theft and burglary were high in numbers. It is good to see that police administration also has taken action under provisions of special laws like the Prohibition Act and preventive action for control of crimes which appear to have an impact on general crime situation. It is reported that in 2014, **6758** preventive cases were filed ; in 2015 **5151** cases, in 2016 **5537** cases and in 2017 up to 30 April, 1683 cases were registered by the police. While taking preventive action, however, *it needs to be ensured that due process of law is followed.*

As far as conviction rates are concerned, in 2014 IPC crimes reported a conviction rate of 32% and SLL cases 40% ; in 2015 conviction rates for IPC crimes was 25% and SLL crimes 38% ; in 2016 33% conviction rate was reported for IPC crimes and 25% for SLL crimes and in 2017 (up to 30 April) 25% conviction rate for IPC crimes and 24% for SLL crimes were reported. Continued monitoring of conviction rates, especially for heinous crimes, crimes against women and SC/ST would be necessary.

Guidelines on Arrest

It was stated that Guidelines on Arrest have been exhibited in all *thanas* of the district.

Custodial deaths

One custodial death was reported in Chandrapore district. Magisterial inquiry revealed that the death was due to natural causes. The deceased was stated to have been ill at the time of his arrest.

Encounter deaths

Encounter deaths were reported as **nil** in Chandrapore district.

NDPS

No case under NDPS has been registered in the district. However, it was learned that due to sharing a common border with Telengana, drug trafficking across the border is reported.

Prohibition Act

It is learned that in tribal areas prohibition is being implemented. It is reported that that 2648 cases were registered under the Act in the district this year up to 30th April. Many times it is seen that members of the tribal community are booked under the Act and kept in prisons for long periods. Periodic reviews of those cases

ought to be undertaken. Awareness ought to be created through Gram Sabhas and Panchayat Raj institutions.

Extremism

As mentioned earlier, 09 blocks in the district are affected by extremist activities . Success is claimed by state authorities in containing naxal activities by concerted police action, an attractive surrender policy and targeted developmental initiatives. It is necessary for district administration to ensure that *in this process human rights of the people residing in the area are protected, especially while taking police action*. In blocks with tribal concentration, *PESA ought to be implemented to protect the way of life of the tribes*.

47 alleged *naxalite* prisoners are lodged in the jail. Their individual cases need to be reviewed. Only those who have committed heinous offences ought to be detained in distant jails. Others could be kept in jails near their homes to facilitate communication with their families. *It ought to be ensured that they have access to law and are produced before courts without fail..*

Visit to District Jail

I visited District Jail Chandrapore. A separate report has been submitted on the functioning of the jail to the Commission. Although the jail provides basic facilities to prisoners, it is in the area of education, health care, production before courts, communication, vocational activities etc that action is wanting. Action also ought to be taken for reducing the under trial population.

Complaints against the police

In accordance with the directives given by the Supreme Court to all states in September 2006 on police reforms, the **State Police Complaints Authority** (SPCA) has been set up in Maharashtra headed by a former Judge. It is probably the first state to do so. The Authority hears complaints against police personnel, including custodial injury , death and rape, arrest or detention without following prescribed procedure, and misconduct. It is authorized to hear complaints against police officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioner and above. Similar authorities at the district level, headed by retired district judges, would hear complaints against junior officers. The SPCA will also have *suo-motu* powers of inquiry .

It is understood that the District Level Authority in Chandrapore is not fully functional at present. The Bombay high court in April 2016 asked the Maharashtra Government to state the steps taken by it to make the SPCA and those at the district and divisional level functional.

Grievances of the police personnel

While complaints against the police receive attention of the authorities, it is equally important to attend to the grievances of the police personnel. It was learned that police durbars are organized separately on fixed days for male and female police officials for interaction with those who have complaints as in other districts. Help lines are also stated to be set up for this purpose.

Cases referred to by NHRC

It was reported that 5-6 complaints received from NHRC are pending for action in Chandrapore district. Action ought to be expedited in these cases .

Crimes against women

669 crimes against women were reported in 2014, 784 in 2015, 604 in 2016 and 193 in 2017 (up to 30 April) by police administration in Chandrapore district. Crimes showed only a slight varying trend in the last three years. Among the crimes 100 cases of Rape were reported in 2014, 127 in 2015, 92 in 2016 and 34 cases in 2017 (up to 31-3-2017). The number of cases reported is very high.

The above data show that crimes against women remained more or less the same in the district in the last 03 years. It was explained that several special measures have been taken by the police administration for protection of women, including formation of Mahila Dakshata Samittee, Women's Assistance Centers at District and thana levels, Toll free helpline, counseling centers, setting up committee on sexual harassment at work place, installation of CCTVs at work places/schools/railway stations/ bus stands etc formation of Damini squads, equipped with PCR van/awareness programs in Schools and colleges Special schemes for rape victims/acid attack victims/child victims and formation of special investigation teams for cases related to crimes against women and children.

Dowry related cases

It is a matter of concern that dowry deaths are being reported even in modern times in the district. 02 cases of dowry deaths were reported in Chandrapore district in 2014; 10 cases in 2015 and 06 cases in 2016. 07 cases each were filed under provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, in 2014 and 2015 and 02 cases in 2016. 203 cases were filed U/s 498 (A) in 2014, 201 in 2015, 128 cases in 2016 and 48 cases in 2017 in the district.

Human Trafficking

No case of human trafficking was reported in the district, although due to industrialization and urbanization trafficking incidents could be high..

Missing women

District Police Chandrapore reported 1347 cases of missing women (627 in 2015; 451 in 2016; 269 in 2017) in the district in the last three years. 1108 women (590 in 2015; 357 in 2016; and 161 in 2017) were traced ; 434 are still reported missing.

Rights of the Child

The State Government has taken steps to set up Child Welfare Committees in all districts, besides designating Child protection Officers. It is learned that JJ Board at district level have also been constituted. Probation Officers have also been posted.

I visited one of the Homes for juveniles in the district visit. A separate report has already been submitted to the Commission.

As far as crimes against children are concerned, it is reported that 65 cases U/s 376 IPC with POSCO and 63 cases U/s 354 IPC with POSCO were filed in the district in 2014 ; 66 cases U/s 376 IPC along with POSCO and 76 cases U/s 354 IPC with POSCO were filed in 2015; 61 cases U/S 376 IPC with POSCO and 67 cases U/s 354 IPC with POSCO were filed in 2016 and 24 cases U/s 376 IPC with POSCO and 34 cases U/s 354 IPC with POSCO were also filed in 2017.

Missing children

It was reported that 328 children were reported missing in the district in the last three years; 304 children were recovered. 24 children are still reportedly missing.

142 children were reported missing in Chandrapore district in 2014 and were reportedly traced by the police. Out of 125 cases of missing children reported, 119 were tracked in 2016. In 2017 61 children were reported missing out of which 43

were recovered. Police administration, Chandrapore has initiated action under Muskan 1 and 11 for tracking missing children.

Child marriages

Table-4 District-wise data on child marriages

District	Mean age of marriage		% of 20-24 yrs women married before 18	
	Girls			
Chandrapore	T	U	T	R
	20.8	19.8	26.8	26.1

(Source: AHS
T=Total;
R=Rural

2011-12)
U=Urban;

It was reported that Child Marriage Prevention Act is under implementation at Gram panchayat level. Gram Sevak is declared as the Child Marriage Control Officer. Gram Sabhas and Village Child Protection Committees are involved in preventing child marriages. Families are individually contacted. and child marriages are prevented. *It was claimed that there are no child marriages in the district now.*

Bonded Labor/ child labor

It is reported that as per Maharashtra Government resolution dated 2-3-2009 a District Task Force on Bonded/Child Labor was established in Chandrapore district, with the District Collector as chairperson. After inspection of various establishments and industrial units by the District Level Committee no bonded/child labor was reported in the district. The Labor Department also conducts inspections/raids every month. it is also mentioned that there were no reports about children below 18 being engaged in difficult and hazardous works.

Atrocities on SC/ST

65 cases of atrocities against SC/ST were stated to have been registered in Chandrapore district in 2014; 61 cases in 2015; 54 cases in 2016 and 14 cases in 2017. Conviction rate of 33% was reported in 2014. *But for 05 convictions in 2014 no conviction was reported in any of the cases registered thereafter.* 12 cases ended in acquittals in 2014; 03 cases each in 2015 and 2016. 41 cases of 2014, 52

cases of 2015, 19 cases of 2016 and 04 cases relating to 2017 are reported to be pending before courts.

It is generally seen that very few cases of atrocities against SC/ST get convictions due to the fact that many of the witnesses turn hostile either due to threats or inducements; fool proof cases are not made out before courts and due to various legal impediments cases end in acquittal. Besides no attempt is seen made to vacate stay given by higher courts. These cases require careful and close monitoring.

It was stated that payment of compensation was up to date in cases relating to atrocities against SC/ST.

Primary education

Chandrapore has 1634 Government and local body schools, 444 private aided schools and 371 permanent aided schools. Besides, it also has 571 e-learning and 1154 digital schools. Enrolment in schools reported was 1,08,358. Teachers numbering 5911 are available. Against sanctioned posts of 5750 posts 5726 are recruited; only 24 posts are vacant. Under *Pragat Shaishanik Maharashtra*, achievement levels of every student is being tested and teachers are helped to achieve their goals. The district administration claimed to have achieved a number milestones and innovations.

It was stated that School Health Program is being implemented in the district. A team comprising of one doctor, and a compounder visit the schools. A vehicle is provided for this purpose.

I could not visit any school as all educational institutions were closed for summer vacation in the district.

Health Issues

As far as health status of the population is concerned it was stated that there are differences in the status of people in tribal and non tribal areas. Health problems mainly seen among the tribes are nutritional deficiency, especially malnutrition amongst children, anemia among women and children, Goiter, skin diseases, worm and parasitic infestations including Malaria. Seasonal diseases like diarrhea,

dysentery, ARI, Measles are widely prevalent. Malaria is endemic affecting all ages and sex. Hence high morbidity is prevalent amongst the population.

The key health indicators pertaining to the district could be seen in the Table below

Health Indicators of Chandrapore district

Table-5

District	IMR/1000	MMR /one lakh	TFR	Institutional Delivery (%)	Ins.del. in Public facility	Financial assistance under JSS (%)
Chandrapore	15.62	69	1.5	89.4 (89.8-R)	62.4 (75.8-R)	33.6 (42.4-R)
NRHM target	26	100	2.1	100	---	100

DHS 2016-17 Health data published by AHS 2012-13 (NFHS-4)

It needs to be appreciated that in Chandrapore district IMR was brought down from 34.9 in 2013-14 to 15.62 in 2016-17; similarly maternal deaths from 120 in 2013-14 to 69 in 2016-17 and maternal death rate from 102 to 69 in the same period. TFR is much below the replacement level.

Table-6 Data relating to Family Welfare Program in the district is given below.

District	Unmet demand NFHS-4	Use of any method	Modern method	Female sterilization	Male sterilization
Chandrapore	14.6 (12.5-R)	72.0 (71.1-R)	70.8 (75.9-R)	59.4 (67.5-R)	4 (5.4-R)

Source: NFHS-4 (2012-13)

As per NFHS-4 data 18.2% (R-23.8%) of the currently married women are illiterate in the district. Only 44.8% (R-33.1%) of currently married women had 10

or more years of schooling. Percentage of women reporting birth order of 02 and above was 28.7 (Rural-30.9) and percentage of women aged 15-49 with birth order of 03 and above was 11.9(R-10.9) only.

As far as health facilities are concerned, Chandrapore district has one Medical College, 02 Sub District Hospitals and 11 Rural Hospitals. Other health facilities include 58 PHCs, 339 Health Sub Centers, 07 Urban Health Sub Centers, 19 Allopathy and Ayurveda dispensaries and 07 mobile dispensaries.

In **Chandrapore** district I visited PHC, Kosarsar, Bowrora. Established in 2014 the building of the PHC was constructed in 2014. This PHC is a *not* a 24x7 facility. The PHC is located far away from habitation. It was stated that 25% of the people in the neighborhood, especially tribes come here.

Apart from Dr. Bhattacharya, CMO, two other doctors, one male and a lady doctor, are posted here. Against two posts of Nurses only one is filled up. Posts of Lab Technician and clerk are vacant.

Daily OPD attendance reported was around 60-70. Only 02 patients reported as having Malaria (this needs to be investigated). 02 patients are being treated for leprosy. 24-25 TB patients are being treated. 18-20 are old cases. 02 HIV /AIDS cases have been detected. It was stated that there was no shortage of medicines in the PHC. Medical supplies are made available by the DHO from the district store. Services of Labs owned by HLL, a Central Govt.PSU, are being availed.

Indoor has 10 beds each for the use of male and female patients. Beds in the female ward are used by women who come for deliveries. Average number of deliveries reported was 2-3 per month. ANM attends to the deliveries. Operation Theatre (OT) and a delivery room, are available. It was stated that necessary equipment are also available. As far as family welfare is concerned no surgeon is available to conduct surgeries.

Immunization was reported as 100%. However, coverage becomes difficult due to the presence of migrant population. Child health promotion programs have been taken up including School Health Program under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSk).

52 ASHAs have been engaged covering 32 villages tribal villages. An Ambulance in good condition with dedicated numbers 108/102 is available for emergency services.

The PHC has no AYUSH wing, although an AYSH dispensary is located closely. It is said to be presently housed in an old building but is planned to be shifted to a new building in the same campus shortly.

Water is a serious problem in the PHC. Although a bore -well is sanctioned, it has not yet been taken up for installation. The doctors complained about the poor condition of Government quarters allotted to them. Besides faulty design, it had construction problems.

Chandrapore district has reported several achievements in the health sector to its credit. Under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) achievements reported in 2015-16 and 2016-17 were 102.81% and 106.41% against the targets, respectively. Likewise in the area of family planning achievements reported against targets for 2015-16 and 2016-17 were 100.42% and 97.96% respectively. Home delivery reported was only 0.73%. Immunization reported for 2016-17 was 107.70%.

ICDS

It was reported that Chandrapore district has 2565 Anganwadis and 119 Mini Anganwadis, totaling 2684. Most of them are located in Government buildings with toilets.

Some of the key indicators on child health in respect of the district ,as reported by AHS-(2011-12) and NFHS-4 (2015-16) are listed in table-6 below.

Table-6

District	Full Immunization (%) NFHS-4	% Under wt. children	% of stunted children (under-5)	% children wasted	% of children Anemic (6-59 months)
Chandrapore	76.9 (78-R)	NA	NA	NA	61.6 (67.7-R)

Source: NFHS-4 2012-13

It is reported that a nutrition survey covering 115570 children of 0-5 years was undertaken in the district; 95096 children had normal weight; 15542 children were underweight; 3731 were severely underweight; 729 had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 197 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). As of April, 2017 out of 110931 children weighed during a survey, 96421 had normal weight. 11951 were Medium Under Weight (MUW); 2559 Severely Under weight (SUW); 383 SAM and 106 MAM.

It was stated that Village Child Diagnostic Centers have been opened to detect malnutrition. Schemes named Kuposhak Balak Dattak Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Palnagher Yojana have been launched, besides providing nutritious food through Anganwadis. CDPO Chandrapore explained that earlier there were 197 cases of SAM which has now come down to 106 cases. Similarly 729 cases of MAM have also come down to 383. Children suffering from medium and severe malnutrition are being provided with banana and eggs. Each child gets 01 egg in tribal area for 16 days a month.

In Chandrapore district I visited Anganwadi, Yensa in Warora taluk. It has a new building constructed in 2013. Pipe water supply is available. Power supply was available full time. It is maintained with support from the Gram Pamchayat which pays the bills. A toilet is available.

30 children of 03 years of age and 12 children in the age group of 3-6 are enrolled here. Besides 05 pregnant women and 03 lactating mothers are also enrolled. Supervisor, Sevika and ASHA were present. ANM is said to visit the center. A growth chart is maintained. 02 children are suffering from moderate malnutrition. Additional funds are provided to the AWC.

Kitchen here is very small. But it has a window for ventilation. *Upma* was cooked for breakfast and rice and *dal* for lunch. Cooking is done with the help of LPG. There was no shortage of *dal*.

ICDS has an important role to play in protecting the life of small children and enhancing the quality of life of their mothers. *It is however, seen that ICDS centers are often run as feeding centers only.* Pre-school education, awareness creation, mutual interaction, regular health checkups are grossly neglected. It is, therefore, essential that their activities are closely monitored.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes

As per Census of India- 2011 Chandrapore district has 15.80 % Scheduled Castes and 17.67% Scheduled Caste population. Details are given below:

Population SC/ST

Table-7

District	% Population SC			% Population ST		
	T	M	F	T	M	F
Chandrapore	15.80	15.74	15.87	17.67	17.51	17.83

(source: Census of India- 2011)

- A number of schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes are being implemented in the district. For supporting their education stipends were disbursed to 59000 SC students up to March, 2017. 370 students are taking education in residential schools. There are two Residential Schools and 11 hostels for SC students.
- Under Ramai Awas Yojana 787 houses in Municipality, 1307 in Municipal Corporation and 12173 in rural areas were sanctioned up to March, 2017.
- In financial 2016-17 under Scheduled Caste Sub plan Rs 6128 lakhs were made available against which 6113.16 lakhs (99.75%) were reportedly spent.
- A comprehensive Watershed Development Program was also taken up at a cost of Rs. 839.57 lakhs benefiting 992 beneficiaries.
- During financial year 2016-17 Rs.2200.00 lakhs were spent by the Municipality and Rs.737.08 lakhs by the Municipal Corporation under the *Nagri Dalit Wasti Sudhar Yojana*.
- Free domestic electric connections costing Rs.150/ lakhs were provided to SC families during 2016-17.71 works were taken up.
- During 2016-17 Rs 500/- lakhs were spent on 392 works relating to electrification of wells belonging to SC families.

In Chandrapore I visited the *dalit basti* in Koleriwad (tribal) area. One ward has around 700 houses. 60% of the population belong to the BPL category. It

was stated that road to the *basti* is constructed by the Municipality. 15% of the households have received assistance under PM Awasiy Yojana based on survey. The *basti* has 100 % coverage of toilets. Drainage is available

I spoke to some of the *dalit* families. Sachin Pindore is a mason by profession. He has 05 brothers and sisters. His father is no more. Mother too is a laborer. All members of the family work. The family is getting ration. But his mother does not get any pension. Their house is not *pucca*, nevertheless is owned by the family. Shobha Pazare is 68 years old. She works as a laborer. Her husband is a rickshaw puller. I could find a lone Muslim family-that of Sheikh Raut Ibrahim 40. He has three girl children. Girija Bhai 65 gets pension of Rs.600/pm. Although *she has a ration card she is not getting ration for the last two months.*

I talked to some of the young people in the *basti*. Priya 19 is not going to college. She has studied up to 10th. There is a mixed school up to 10th near the *basti*. It was mentioned that all children go to school. *It however remains a sad fact that most after their schooling mostly work as laborers for Rs 200 per day.* Labor charges are Rs.350-400 but get no regular work. Rakesh Kinke runs a small shop. Residents confirmed that by and large they do get their quota of ration. Water supply to the area is through pipeline; but it does come late. Power supply is regular. Subsidized gas is available but supply is irregular. There was proposal for up gradation of houses. Residents complained that no bin for collecting garbage is installed in the *basti*. It was stated that no atrocities on *dalits* is reported from the *basti*.

Welfare of ST

18.1% of the total population of Chandrapore district comprises of tribals and 22.7% of rural population is tribal. In Chandrapore there are 03 tribal blocks Jivti, Rajura and Korpana although tribal communities are spread across the district. Tribals are traditionally food gatherers and hunters and small scale cultivators The forest department employs some of them as casual laborers mainly for bamboo cutting. They depend on forests both for livelihood and sustenance. Seasonal income is obtained from collection of *Mahua* flowers and *tendu* leaves. As far as Scheduled Tribes in the district are concerned a comprehensive Tribal Sub Plan involving Rs.13,969,81/-is sanctioned for 2017-18 and is under implementation.

Welfare of Minorities

A number of programs have also been taken up for welfare of Minorities in Chandrapore including educational schemes for students, providing basic facilities to minority students ; construction of Girl's Hostels; Marathi classes for non Marathi students and Dr Zakir Hussein Madarsa Modernization Scheme. *Coverage of the population is too small and restricted to mostly education programs and the funds allocated is too meager to make any impact.* The schemes need to be diversified; basic facilities and infrastructure ought to be provided in minority populated areas.

Quality of life of the people

NFHS -4 further reported that in Chandrapore district 93.9% (rural-89.8 %) of the households have electricity and there is 94% coverage (90.8% -R) of improved drinking water source. Only 54.1 % (32.6% -R) households have access to toilet facility. Further only 45.0 % of households (15.1%-R) use clean fuels.

As per 2012 Maharashtra Human development Report, 2012 Chandrapore district had a HDI value of 0.718 (State av. 0.752) and was categorized as 'medium'. The per capita NDDP at current prices (PCNDDP) reported for Chandrapore district in 2011-12 was Rs.73328/-.

Swatch Bharat Mission

Swatch Bharat Mission is under implementation in the district. As per a baseline survey conducted in 2012 out of 3.07 lakh households (HHs) in Chandrapore, 1.46 lakh HHs were without toilet facility. In the survey conducted in 2017, HHs without toilet facility reported were only 14002. Coverage after 2012 reported was 127752 (95%).

Out of 827 Gram Panchayats (GPs) 248 were targeted in 2016-17 for achieving ODF (Open Defecation Free) status. 293 GPs are ODF as of 31-3-2016. Thus out of 827 GPs in the district 644 are stated to be ODF.

Chandrapore city has already been declared as ODF. Chandrapore Municipal Corporation got 76th rank in India, out of 55 cities and 6th rank in Maharashtra. *However, these figures need to be verified on ground.*

Against Rs 846.45 received by the Corporation as grant and Rs 300/- lakhs received from 14th Finance Commission, total expenditure reported was Rs.1010.17 lakh.

Manual scavenging

It was mentioned that a survey was conducted in the district between 27-03 2013 and 6-5-2013 on the basis of which Manual Scavenging is reported as nil in the district. However, special care ought to be taken regarding covered/ un covered manholes on roads and the human rights of those who clean them by providing protective gears, ensuring timely payment of salaries etc

Food Security

Maharashtra is one of the top ten states under NFSA. It is learned that Maharashtra started implementing the National Security Act w-e-f 1st February, 2014. Schemes for ensuring food security among the population include the Mid-day Meal Scheme, ICDS and the public distribution System.

The UN World Food program and the Institute of Human Development, Mumbai recently published a Food Security Atlas for Rural Maharashtra. According to the Atlas, food security of population in any area is determined by three factors namely food availability, food accessibility and the absorption capacity.

As mentioned the share of forest area in Chandrapore district is 35.68%; SC/STs form 31.1% of total population of the district and only 56.05% of the rural women are literate in the district. These factors are important in deciding the food security in a district.

Food availability depends on the share of forest areas, extent of irrigation, per capita value of agricultural output and paved roads. As per the food Atlas prepared as a part of the study, availability of food in Nagpur district is assessed as "moderately secure". Access to food is determined by factors like proportion of agricultural laborers, working age population and SC/ST in the population, per capita consumption expenditure and wage rate and rural female literacy. Factors that determine absorption capacity are availability of safe drinking water, access to health care and sanitation. Accessibility is assessed as 'moderately secure' in Nagpur. *The overall Food Security Index worked out after the study is 0.362 (rank 30th) and is assessed as 'moderately insecure'.*

As mentioned, Maharashtra started implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013 from 1st February, 2014. As per government resolution 45.34% of Urban population and 76.32% of the rural population are to be covered. Total beneficiaries in the urban areas of the district is 3,49,045 and rural 10,87,120/- totaling 14,36,165. 1540 Point of Sale (POS) machines have been supplied to ration shops and shop keepers were given training in its operation. All ration cards are being linked to Aadhar cards. Food grain is supplied through door step delivery. Some complaints regarding non availability were received during field

visits. Close monitoring and complaint redressal are essential for full implementation of the NFSA.

Social Security

No data on social security schemes was collected. However, on field visits it was seen that only some beneficiaries had not received their social security pensions.

MNREGA

In Chandrapore district there are 2,67,859 registered job card holder families. For 2016-17 labor budget of MNREGA was reported as Rs.55.34lakh. Against the allotment achievement of man days reported was 41.34 lakh. In 2016-17 work was reportedly provided to 180,385 labor (90182 families) out of which 91,822 were women laborers (21.55 lakh man days). Against 36,204 works taken up from the beginning 22,261 were reported to be complete (61.49%). For 2017-18 the target of labor budget is 49.44 lakh man days.

In Chandrapore I visited Gram Panchayat Yensa in Warora tehsil. I met Vittabhai Jhade, the Sarpanch. He stated that he was elected in 2015. He pointed out the shortage of man power in the GP and that no Secretary is posted in the GP.

Regarding social issues he stated that no child marriages take place in the panchayat. As far as mal nutrition is concerned generally children born have weight above 3kg. Deliveries are being conducted in the Village Health Sub Center. Dowry system is prevalent. There is ban on sale and consumption of alcohol in districts like Wardha and Chandrapore.

In Chandrapore district I visited a plantation scheme taken up under MNREGA in Yensa GP. The plantation is taken up in Government land. In the plot selected 450 dug pits were seen made. Fencing was done with funds received under the 14th Finance Commission. Total estimate was reported as Rs.1.21, 307/-with labor component of Rs 7236/- . 341.92 man days were generated so far. Plants like Shesham, Karanj, Bhel and Neem are proposed to be planted.

Drought Relief

For drought relief a Water Scarcity Program has been launched since 2016 in three different Phases covering 413 villages. This program includes 578 schemes costing Rs 627.53 lakhs.10 villages are covered under water supply scheme through tankers

Farmers suicide

Although suicides by farmers were reported in Chandrapore district, as in other districts of Vidharbha region no data was made available by the district administration on this issue.

Land issues

It has been stated that although *zamindari* system stands abolished, the factors associated with this system remained deeply ingrained within the agrarian social structure. Land distribution in the districts is highly skewed. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, passed in December 2006. It is reported that Maharashtra has emerged as the front-runner among states in implementing the provisions of this legislation.

As mentioned Chandrapore district has a forest cover of 35.68%. Latest report on settlement of claims under FRA from the district show that in Chandrapore claims were settled with 3418 persons involving 4083 ha . It is further reported that measurement processes have been completed and 3361 claims admitted and land handed over to 3153 beneficiaries. Out of 517 claims relating to Community Forest Rights (CFR) 365 claims were settled by the Sub Divisional Committee. 150 claims are pending before the committee for consideration. Claims involving 222 ha were allowed for community purposes. 700 claims relating to allotment of lands to tribals are reported to be pending in the district.

It was stated that in PESA blocks of Rajura, Korpana and Jiwati awareness campaigns under FRA are being organized. Applications from claimants of lands are collected during those campaigns. 47 inquiry meetings were held in all three talukas (30 in Rajura ; 02 in Korpana and 15 in Jiwati). 47 proposals (30 in Rajura; 02 in Korpana and 15 in Jiwati) were reportedly found to be valid.

It would appear from the data given that the number of claims admitted are very few. It is essential to have a drive in settling those claims. Even after settlements, demarcation and handing over possession of the land settled are very important. Having a grievance redressal mechanism wherein there is interface between government officials and the claimants and direct communication is equally important. Convergence of schemes especially MNREGA (soil and water

harvesting) and agriculture schemes ought to be integrated with land settled under FRA .

As in other PESA districts community rights for collection, use and disposal of minor forest produces is allowed in Chandrapore too.

Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1966 (PESA)

It was stated that the **Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1966-PESA** is being implemented in the district. Government of Maharashtra has also notified Maharashtra Village Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Rules to make the state laws compatible with PESA.

Three of the Talukas of the district namely Rajura, Korpana and Jivati have sizable tribal population. Out of 152 Village Panchayats in these three talukas 93 villages are included in PESA.

Gram Panchayats under PESA Act get five per cent funds directly. A Government Resolution to this effect was issued on April 21, 2015. Accordingly, in the financial year 2015-16, a total of 2,873 Gram Panchayats covering 5,979 villages in 60 tehsils of 13 districts in Maharashtra were given direct funds. The total amount of the funds so distributed was Rs 178/-crore.

Observations and suggestions

Main observations and suggestions have already been included in the general comments given in Part-1 of this report. However, some district-specific observations/suggestions are given here for further necessary action.

1. Crime and law and order

2.Reducing crime rate -crimes against women High incidence- Coordinated action by Multiple agencies/departments for ensuring women's security

3. Human Trafficking AHTUs, ought to show results- step up legal enforcement, bust rackets, rehabilitate women/children trafficked

4. Crimes against children This area has received very little attention. POSCO poorly implemented. All structures are in position but no facilities provided. Poor condition of Observation/Shelter Homes. Introduce Quality Assurance in institutions

5. Atrocities against SC/ST

Should receive priority. SC/ST Thanas out to be set up in the state. Better/speedier implementation of SC/ST(POA)Act, witness protection, 100% conviction rate

6. Protection of the rights of Minorities

It is incumbent on the district administration to ensure protection to the life and property of minorities, keeping in view the increasing incidents of intolerance directed at them.

7. Extremism It is necessary for district administration to ensure that in this process human rights of the people residing in the area are protected, especially while taking police action. Those who are lodged in prison who are alleged to be naxalites, production before court and access to legal aid are important. In blocks with tribal concentration, PESA ought to be implemented to protect the way of life of the tribes.

8. Prisons

Visit report on District Jail, Chandrapore is already submitted to the commission.

9. Healthcare

Shortage of doctors and medical staff/ better incentives for those who work in rural areas/ start indoor treatment in PHCs, improve facilities for deliveries, provide coolers/fans in OTs /delivery room /indoor, maintain quarters for doctors and medical staff/ better design of buildings, introduce solar lighting/heating/water harvesting in health facilities. Prioritize AYUSH Systems. Have AYUSH Wings in PHCs/CHCs/ closely monitor ASHAs.

10. Food Security and Malnutrition

Lacunae in the implementation of NFSA out to be corrected without any delay. Attention to be paid to those families categorized under Antyodaya /priority households. children who are outside Anganwadis or schools, especially a large number of children of inter-state migrants who are generally not covered by any program ought to be taken care of.

11. Land and Forest issues

Possession ought to be ensured of the lands allotted to beneficiaries under FRA/ other legal provisions. Land allotment under FRA although linked with MNREGA and with benefits under other schemes as well.

12. Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1966 (PESA)

Action required include Transfer all powers and functions envisaged under PESA to Gram Sabhas notified under the Act and provide funds functions and functionaries to Gram Sabhas in notified PESA areas. These can greatly help in crime control, getting rid of social evils, eliminate extremism, enhance the status of women and protect children. Creation of awareness and training of Gram Sabha will be mandatory.

13. Farmers suicide Each case of farmer's suicide needs to be investigated to find out the reason behind it. Apart from the grants provided to eligible families only very few have received other benefits; no preventive action is taken, especially counseling, listening to their grievances, providing immediate short term assistance etc. Revival of farmer's cooperatives which can jointly meet all needs of farmers ought to be assisted.

14. Involvement of civil society Very little involvement of civil society is noticed in Government programs. Channelizing the involvement of reputed NGOs can yield better results.

12. Police Reforms District Police Complaint Authority ought to be made functional.

13. Water harvesting and harnessing solar energy

PART-IV

**REPORT ON VISIT TO GADCHITOLI DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA
ON 17-05-2017**

-S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur, NHRC

Gadchiroli district was notified as a separate district on the 26th of August 1982 by bifurcating erstwhile Chandrapur district. As of 2011 it is the second least populous out of 39 districts in Maharashtra, after Sindhudurg. Tribal communities account for 38.3 % the total population. The district has the highest proportion of forest area (79.36%) and mineral deposits in the state. The district is currently a part of the Red Corridor.

Area and population

Table-1

District	Area km ²	Population In lakhs	Sex ratio/ 1000 male	Literacy (%) T/M/F
Gadchiroli	14412	T- 10.72 M- 5.41 F- 5.31	AV - 982 (929 in 2001) U- 966 R - 984	T- 74.36 M- 82.31 F- 66.27

(Source: Census of India- 2011)

Sex ratio

As per Census 2011 the district has an average sex ratio of 982 well above the national average of 940 and the state average of 929. Although sex ratio reported for the rural area is 984, that of urban area is only 966. It is seen that the district administration is monitoring disaggregated data collected from each block on a monthly basis.

The Pre- conception and Pre- Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 -PCPNDT Act- is being implemented in the district. A District Level Advisory Committee has been set up with the Civil Surgeon as Chairperson u/s 17(5) (6) of the Act.

It is reported that there are 19 Sonography centers registered in the district; only 17 are stated to be active. Only 04 centers were inspected in March-April, 2017. No center is seen raided for conducting sex selection tests. There is no report on action taken against any of the centers nor any case is pending in the court against

any center for violation of the provisions of the Act. Legal enforcement of the provisions of the PNDT Act is of utmost importance.

Efforts for having balanced sex ratios need to be continued in the district. Ensuring girl's education and women's security, creating awareness against the dowry system and providing employment opportunities for women in the long term could help in maintaining better sex ratios in the districts. Apart from interventions from Governments, civil society also has a major role to play.

Administrative set up

Table-2

District	Sub divisions	Blocks	Panchayats	villages	Towns
Gadchiroli	06	12	457	2706	06

(Source: Census 2011)

Meetings with DMs/SPs

In Gadchiroli I had a meeting with the District Collector, SP , RDO, SDOs and other senior officials. According to DM, Gadchiroli, the district has approximately 78% forest coverage. Many areas are inaccessible due to which implementation of development programs is very difficult. With 38% tribal population livelihood issues concerning the poor and implementation of PESA and FRA are priorities in the district. Further, it is the highest malaria prone district in the state. The district is severely affected by extremism.

Police administration Maintaining law and order and dealing with extremism is a huge challenge for the police administration in Gadchiroli.

For administrative purpose the district is divided into eight Police Sub Divisions with 14 police stations, 14 sub police stations and 14 armed out posts in the district. There are approximately 3087 police personnel working in the district. Law and order in the district was stated to be stable at present, although on 3rd May, 2017 a police vehicle was blasted with mines in which one policeman died. It was also stated that in 2016 03 alleged naxalites died in police firing.

Criminal justice system

As per Crime Report 2013 by NCRB, **1,033** crimes were reported in Gadchiroli and stood **461st** in all crime records in **2013**. Gadchiroli has a crime rate of **96.28** compared to National crime rate **218.67** in 2013. **It stood 105th** in no of murders, **111th** in no of rapes, **126th** in no of robberies, **321st** in no of thefts, **43rd** in no of dacoities, **220th** in no of kidnapping and **230th** in no of riots.

Table 03-Crime profile of Gadchiroli (Ref: NCRB Report-2013)

	Category of crime									
	M	AM	RA	K&A	KG	DA	RO	BU	TH	RI
Gadchiroli	42	61	33	06	05	03	06	97	131	16

M=murder; AM= Attempt To Murder; RA=Rape; K=Kidnapping & Abduction; KG= Kidnapping of Girls; DA= Dacoity ;RO=Robbery; Bu= Burglary; TH= Theft; RI= Riots

The State Government, no doubt, has made efforts to improve the system by recruitment of more police personnel, provision of equipments, arms/ ammunitions and vehicles etc. Police Reforms like separation of Law and investigation wings, setting up of Police Complaints Authority etc have been partially introduced. Online filing of FIR, installation of CCTVs, Special squads for aiding women in distress, Women's Cells and preventive actions for crime control are also taken up.

Guidelines on Arrest

It was stated that Guidelines on Arrest have been exhibited in all *thanas* of the district.

Custodial deaths

No custodial death was reported in Gadchiroli district recently.

Extremism/Encounter deaths

Gadchiroli is one of the 35 extremist- affected districts in the country. Extremists usually operate in the remote and fur flung interior parts of the district where access is very limited due to difficult terrain and dense forest. The southern part of

Gadchiroli, mainly comprising Sironcha, Aheri, Etapalli and Bhamragad Tehsils are reportedly infested by naxalites as these areas are located in thick forests and are close to the border of the states of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh & Chattisgarh . These extremists reportedly belong to the banned outfit -People's War Group (PWG).

On 3rd May, 2017 one police vehicle was blasted in which one policeman died. In 03 extremists reportedly died in police firing In Gadchiroli in 2016. Total 12 encounter deaths were reported in the district. According to police administration these were genuine encounters against guerilla fighters and police firing was wholly justified.

Apart from concerted police action, an attractive surrender policy and social networking to win the confidence of the tribes caught in the crossfire between the extremists and the police have been working well so far in Gadchiroli. Since November, 2016 11 extremists have surrendered in the district. 44 surrenders are reported this year. Apart from this, the district police also initiated many schemes like Jan Jagran Mela, in which the tribals are invited and are given information on various government schemes. The people are also given free medical aid and are warned about propaganda by the extremists. Despite increasing number of surrenders and no fresh recruitment from the area, the battle between left wing extremists and security forces in Gadchiroli is yet to be over. There are reportedly 205 active extremists operating in the area now compared to more than 300 who were active a few years ago.

It is reported that 06 cases of encounter deaths referred to by NHRC relating to extremists are pending for magisterial inquiry. Out of these 03 cases apparently are encounter deaths of women who were alleged to be naxalites. Two of these encounters happened in 2012. Delayed magisterial inquiry is unacceptable. The sad aspect of the delay would be the inordinate delay in fixing accountability on officials, if the complaints were found to be true. Further, fixing responsibility would have been a deterrent for repeating such encounters in future.

NDPS

No case under NDPS has been registered in the districts at present.

Excise Act

It is learned that very few cases have been registered in the district under the Excise Act.

Jail visit

I visited District Jail Gadchiroli (Open jail). A separate report has been submitted on the functioning of the jail to the Commission. It was recommended that the jail ought to be converted to a regular district jail for accommodating *local prisoners*; those who commit serious crimes ought to be lodged in Central Prison, Nagpur. The prisoners currently housed ought to be transferred back to the jails from which they were brought here.

Complaints against the police

In accordance with the directives given by the Supreme Court to all states in September 2006, on police reforms, a State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) has been set up in Maharashtra. Similar authorities at the district level, headed by retired District Judges, would hear complaints against junior officers. The SPCA will also have *suo-motu* powers of inquiry.

It is understood that the Authority is not fully functional at present at the state level. In Gadchiroli district the Authority was not formed nor were guidelines issued. The Bombay High Court in April 2016 asked Maharashtra Government to state the steps taken by it to make the SPCA and those at the district and divisional level functional.

Grievances of the police personnel

While complaints against the police receive attention of the authorities, it is equally important to attend to the grievances of the police personnel. It was learned that meetings are organized separately on fixed days for male and female police officials for interaction with those who have complaints, in the district. A helpline is available.

Cases referred to by NHRC /SHRC

As far as the State human Rights Commission (SHRC) is concerned it is seen that 04 cases are pending. Two of these cases relate to 2013-14 period. It was reported that as of 17-5 2017 27 complaints were received from NHRC of which 24 have been disposed of; four cases are closed and 03 cases are pending for action.

Crimes against women

From the data given in the table below it will be seen that crimes against women show an increasing trend in the district. Heinous crimes like Murder and Attempt to Murder remained more or less the same.

Crimes against women in Gadchiroli District- last 03 years

Table-4

Category	No. of Crimes)			
	2014	2015	2016	2017 (up to April)
Murder	11	13	06	08
Attempt to Murder	04	04	04	09
Abetment to suicide 306 IPC	01	05	07	-
Hurt	-----	51	47	156
Rape	22	42	34	34
Molestation 354 IPC	33	38	50	17
Kidnapping & Abduction	06	18	22	NA\
Dowry deaths 304 B IPC	--	01	02	
Cruelty by husband/relatives 498	17	14	10	14

IPC				
Sexual Harassment 409/294 IPC	19	09	20	162
Immoral Traffic Actt	--	--	02	01
Other IPC crimes	38	05	10	75
Total	153	204	209	974

Source: Police Administration, Gadchiroli District

Crimes generally show an increasing trend, especially Hurt, Sexual Harassment, Kidnapping and Abduction. It was stated that several measures have been initiated by the police administration in preventing crimes against women which include installation of CCTVs in all Thanas and important public places; facility for filing online FIRs; Women's Helpline; Toll free number; Damini squads to assist women in distress, Mahila Cells and night patrolling.

Dowry related cases

It is a matter of concern that dowry deaths are being reported even in modern times in the district. Although here were no dowry deaths reported in the year 2014 in the district District Police office, Gadchiroli reported one case of dowry death under section 304- B in 2015 and 02 cases in 2016.

According to district Police altogether 17 dowry related cases were registered u/s 498-A in district in 2014 ; 14 cases in 2015 , 10 cases in 2016 and 04 cases in 2017 .

District administration reported that 10 Protection Officers have been appointed in the district to assist the victims with legal and other support and in filing FIR. They also inquire into dowry related problems. District Monitoring Committee chaired by the SP, with women social workers as members, is also functional in the district.

Reporting by women allegedly harassed for dowry well before things turn to worse needs to be encouraged. Counseling Centers and help lines with the help of NGOs ought to be taken up. Greater involvement of Panchayats in dealing with social evils, media campaigns, promoting simple marriages etc could be thought of by state/district administration.

Human Trafficking

Large scale trafficking of women and children from tribal areas like Jharkhand has been widely reported. It is therefore surprising that no case has been reported from Gadchiroli. Legal enforcement of laws relating to human trafficking ought to be a priority. AHTU ought to be activated. Gram Sabhas and Panchayats ought to be fully involved in prevention of human trafficking.

Rights of the Child

It is learned that a Juvenile Justice Board has been constituted in the district with Justice S.M. Bomidwar as Chairperson. Of the 19 cases currently pending before the Board, 02 were reportedly disposed of. The proceedings are held in the premises of the Observation Home only. The Board meets every Friday. A review is conducted by the CJM periodically.

District Child Protection Unit is in position with 03 staff members. The unit is stated to be active in all issues concerning child rights.

There is only one Government -run Observation Home for boys in the district. It is run in a rental building. Against a sanctioned capacity of 25 only one child is admitted. The Home has 04 caretakers and other staff. A detailed report has been submitted to the Commission separately.

Under POSCO Act 2012 during 2014 11 cases were filed during 2014 ; 08 cases in 2015 and 18 cases during 2016. These cases need to be monitored closely. Help of NGOs ought to be taken for detecting POSCO cases.

Missing children

District police Gadchiroli reported that altogether 511 women and children (416 women and 95 children) were reported missing in the district in the last three years.; 197 (127 women and 70 children) in 2014; 168 (143 women and 25 children) in 2015; 146 (all women) in 2016. Total 399 women and Children (306

women and 93 children) were recovered so far- 172 in 2014 (104 women and 68 children); 132 (107 women and 25 children) in 2015; 95 women in 2016.

Child marriages

Table-5 District-wise data on child marriages

District	Mean age of marriage of Girls		% of 20-24 yrs women married before 18	% of 15-19 yrs old girls who are mothers /pregnant
Gadchiroli	AV	Rural	9.5 (8.8)	1.7 (1.5-R)
	21	-		

Mean age of marriage of girls reported was 21 in the district. It was stated that the district has taken a number of steps for prevention of child marriages. A three member team has been appointed to work on the problems of children, including child marriages in the district. Besides a Gram Sevak and an Anganwadi Sevika have been declared as preventive officers. 10 officers notified for preventing domestic violence are also declared as preventive officers for child marriages. IEC activities are taken up at all levels, including Anganwadis.

Poverty, lack of educational prospects, perceived lack of security, family burden etc are cited as reasons behind child marriages. Child marriages usually happen with social sanction. Only solution to this problem appears to be in providing educational/employment opportunities to girls. Those who do not wish to pursue their studies need to be provided facilities for skill development. The State Government has initiated a number of programs for education of girls in the state.

Atrocities on SC/ST

Census 2011 figures indicated that the percentage share of Scheduled Caste population to total population was 11.25 % (male 11.8 %; female 11.28%) , while that of scheduled tribes was 38.71 % (38.31 male %; female 38.11%) in Gadchiroli district. Data on cases of atrocities on SC/ST filed under SC/ST(POA) Act, 1989 in last three years is given below.

Table-6 Data on cases of atrocities on SC/ST in Gadchiroli district-last three years

Year	No. of cases reg. No.	No. pending investigation	Final cases	No. charge sheeted	No. Acquitted	No. Convicted
2014	14	-	01	03	08	02
2015	18	01	03	12	02	--
2016	20	01	02	13	04	----
2017 July	19	13		05	01	----

As per report of the district police only one case under PCR Act, 1955 was filed in 2017 in the district. No cases were files in the three years prior to 2017.

It is generally seen that very few cases of atrocities against SC/ST get convicted due to the fact that many of the witnesses turn hostile either due to threats or inducements; fool proof cases are not made out before courts due to various legal impediments. Besides no attempt is seen made to vacate stays given by higher courts. These cases require careful and close monitoring.

It was stated that payment of compensation was up to date in cases relating to atrocities against SC/ST.

Education

Gadchiroli has 2013 primary schools with 156234 students. These schools altogether have 7884 teachers at present. Posts of 7964 teachers are stated to be vacant. All 12 tehsils have altogether 103 clusters have 1554 schools and 857 Digital Schools run by the GPs (55.15%). 58 Digital Schools are run by SSA.

Local people contribute around 15.12% of the expenditure in running these schools..

A major drive was initiated for Adhar registration of students with 90% achievement. 97% of students of 1-12 students have been Aadhar-linked. Aadhar coverage of children in AWCs was reported as 89.53%.

Regarding quality assurance it was stated that three evaluation tests are conducted for schools and they are graded on that basis. Out of 2023 schools graded, 952 schools are categorized as progressive.

Digital equipments have been distributed to 1150 schools out of which 800 are by Gram Panchayats. Computers are planned to be supplied schools.

In Gadchiroli district I could not visit any primary school , as schools were closed due to summer vacation.

Health Issues

There are differences in the health status of people in tribal and non tribal areas. Health problems mainly seen among the tribals are nutritional deficiency, especially malnutrition amongst children, anemia, among women, Goiter, skin diseases, worm and parasitic infestations including Malaria. Seasonal diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, ARI, Measles are reported. Malaria is endemic in the district affecting people of all ages and sex. High morbidity is therefore prevalent amongst the population.

Table-7 Health Indicators of Gadchiroli district

District	IMR /1000	MMR /one lakh	TFR	Institutional Delivery (%)	Ins.del. in Public facility	Financial assistance under JSS (%)
Gadchiroli	30	136	NA	86.2 (87.7-R)	72.6 (70% R)	28.4 (27.1-R)
Maharashtra	24	68	1.8	-	---	----

India	40	167	2.3	---	----	----
NRHM target	26	100	2.1	---	----	----

DHS 2016-17 Health data published by AHS 2012-13 (NFHS-4)

IMR reported is higher than that for the State . Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is also high when compared to the state average. Institutional delivery needs to be further improved in the district. As per NFHS-4 percentage of currently married women who are illiterate and those have 10 or more years of schooling is only 70.1(R- 72.8%) and 33.1% (33.5% R) respectively. 51.0% (51.7-R) of women in age group 15-49 are anemic in the district. Creation of awareness ought to be specifically targeted among this category. Performance under JSY -especially receipt of cash assistance reported both for rural and urban areas of the district is poor-only around 28%. TFR is above replacement level.

As far as family welfare is concerned data published by NFHS-4 is given below.

Table-8

District	Unmet demand NFHS-%	Use of any method%	Modern method%	Female sterilization%	Male sterilization %
Gadchiroli	6.3(5.5 R)	73.2 (R- 75.1)	71.9 (73.8-R)	61.8 (R- 62.8)	5.4 (5.6-R)

Source: NFHS-4 (2015-16)

As far as family welfare Program is concerned, against a target of 97 female sterilizations 98 were carried out. Having performed 4000 male sterilizations the district stood third in the state .

Health facilities in Gadchiroli include a District Hospital, 12 Sub Divisional and Rural Hospitals, 42 PHCs, 07 Ayurveda dispensaries, 376 Village Health sub Centers and 33 Mobile Units. In Gadchiroli district I visited PHC Bodhli. It is a 24x7 facility. Two Medical Officers, a male and female doctors are posted here. Besides a Pharmacist, Health Assistant, one LHV and ANM are also posted.

PHC coverage extends to 29 villages. *It was pointed out that the local population is entirely dependent on the public health system for health care.* The PHC has 05 sub

centers under it. Only one has building; one building is under construction; another is sanctioned.

OPD attendance reported was 50/day (14030 patients last year). Total 64 deliveries have been conducted so far.. 11 TB cases are being treated. As far as HIV/AIDs is concerned only one case was reported positive.

Gadchiroli is considered as the highest malaria prone district in Maharashtra. It is surprising that no case of Malaria was reported in the PHC when the incidence of Malaria is high in the district. It was stated that compared to last year there is a big drop in its incidence. Fogging is done. Mosquito nets are also distributed.

All 45 PHCs are supplied digital equipment with which 32 diagnostic tests could be carried out. Prevalence of Anemia high in the district. PHCs have been provided with Hemoglobin- testers. An ambulance attached to the PHC is in working condition . 10 bike ambulances are to be deployed in rural areas. Their impact on health care ought to be assessed independently.

It was stated that a grant of Rs 1,000,00/- was sanctioned to the Rogi Kalyan Samity (RKS).The amount was spent on purchase of medicines, purchase of Almarah, gas cylinders etc.

ICDS

12 ICDS projects are run in Gadchiroli through 2289 Anganwadis of which 1771 are regular AWC and 518 are Mini centers. During a survey on malnutrition amongst 80940 children out of 79936 children weighed (98.76%) , 65095 children (81.43%) had normal weight; 12159 were (15.21%) had medium underweight (MUW) ; 2682 were (3.36) were severely under weight (SUW): 910 children were suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 209 children from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).To fight malnutrition among children a number of schemes have been launched by the State government including Amrit Aahar Yojana. A district level committee has been set up for elimination of malnutrition. Model Anganwadis have also been set up. Community level programs have also been taken up.

In Gadchiroli district I visited Anganwadi, Navegaon. The Anganwadi building was constructed in 1994. It looked recently painted.96 children of 0-6 age group and 51

children of 0-3 age group are enrolled. Besides 08 pregnant women and 11 lactating mothers are also registered. CDPO, Supervisor and Helper were present.

Immunization was reported as 100%. Growth chart of children is seen maintained. Moderate malnutrition was reported amongst 05 children. It was mentioned that there was no facility in the PHC for VCDC.

No kitchen or LPG connection is available. Cooking is done in the open. A water hand pump provides water for cooking and other purposes. A toilet is available. THR is sent to pregnant women. On inquiry it was stated that health cards for children have not been made. RSBK team visits the Anganwadi. No registers are seen maintained. No donation is received from the public. Only PESA funds are being utilized.

Table 09

District	Full Immunization (%) NFHS-4	% Under wt. children	% of stunted children (under-5)	% children wasted	% of children Anemic (6-59 months)
Gadchiroli	81.4 (82-R)	40.2	30.9	46.7	59.8(58.3-R)

Source: NFHS-4 2012-13

It could be seen from the Table above that key indicators relating to child health are very low in the district. Percentage of children severely wasted in the district reported as per above data is 21.3(22.3R) Immunization figures are comparatively low. There is every need to strengthen Anganwaris in the district. Food security needs to be closely monitored.

ICDS has an important role to play in protecting the life of small children and enhancing the quality of life of their mothers. *It is however, seen that ICDS centers are often run as feeding centers only.* Pre-school education, awareness creation, mutual interaction, regular health checkups are grossly neglected. It is, therefore, essential that their activities are closely monitored.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes

Table-11 Population SC/ST (source: Census of India- 2011)

District	% Population SC			% Population ST			% State SC ST
	T	M	F	T	M	F	
Gadchiroli	11.25	11.28	11.23	38.71	38.31	38.11	-----

A number of schemes directed at the welfare of Scheduled Castes are under implementation in the state. Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Schemes for Metric and Inter students who belong to SC/ST are a major support for SC/ST students. A host of other schemes for support for education of students including hostels, scholarships, tuition fees, supply of equipment to schools, construction of play grounds, vocational education and training have been taken up.

Included in the Sub Plan for **Scheduled castes 2016-17** are special assistance to farmers, supply of milch animals, increased fodder availability to cattle, Interest Subsidy Scheme, PM Awas Yojana, Rural Sanitation Program, Free domestic electric connections to SC families, street lighting, support to dalit bastis, District Industries Center, entrepreneurial training programs, seed money to educated unemployed etc. Total outlay for 2016-17 reported under SC Sub Plan was Rs.29.50 crores against which total expenditure reported was Rs.28.69 crore.

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes

This is discussed in other sections of this report.

Social Security As in other districts social security schemes at the state and national levels are being implemented in Gadchiroli. Only a few complaints were received regarding non-receipt of social security pensions during field visits..

Welfare of Minorities

It was learned that the State Government considers proposals under Area Development Programs for providing basic/infrastructural facilities in villages

having a substantial population of minority communities. In 2016-17 07 proposals at a cost of Rs 70/-lakh have been listed by district administration for construction of roads, boundary walls for grave yards, meeting hall etc. Only 04 proposals have been received so far. Another scheme for providing basic educational facilities through Maulana Azad Education Trust is also stated to have been sanctioned. It is however, seen that no proposals were received in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Only Rs 02 lakh has been sanctioned for buying educational tools and kits in one of the schools.

In 2017 pre-test Training program is being conducted for 45 youths belonging to minority communities for recruitment as constables. *It is seen that schemes for welfare of minorities seems to be run in a routine fashion. Only a paltry sum is seen utilized. Programs need to be up-scaled more money and staff need to be provided for having better results.*

Quality of life of the people

NFHS -4 reported that in Gadchiroli district 92.7% (Rural-93.5 %) of the households have electricity and there is 84.1% (R-86.1%) coverage of improved drinking water source. Further only 14.5% (R-22.4%) of households use clean fuels. Only 27.9% (R-32.6%) of the population had access to improved toilet facility.

As per data provided in the Maharashtra Human Development Report, 2012, HDI for Gadchiroli district reported is only **0.608** (low-2nd last) compared to **0.770** for Nagpur and **0.752** for Maharashtra. Per capita NDDP 2011-12 at current prices reported for the district was Rs 48311 (Nagpur-Rs.100663).

Swatch Bharat Mission

As per progress report for 2016-17 (dated 31-3-2017) maintained by the administration, 158 Gram Panchayats (GPs) were targeted for ODF status in the district; 34249 House Holds (IHHL) were identified for construction of toilets, against which achievement reported was 30731 (89.73%). Against a target of ODF (Open Defecation Free) of 158 GPs, achievement reported was 144 (91.14%). Construction of toilets in schools has also been taken up by the administration. As far as financial achievement is concerned against an allocation of Rs 123 lakhs for construction of toilets in Nagar Parishads and Nagar

panchayats, Rs.94.44 lakhs were reportedly spent. An amount of Rs 69.63 lakhs is still needed.

Swachh Bharat Mission was launched with a view to ensure much needed sanitation in schools, hospitals and all public places and to sensitize the public to maintain sanitation and hygiene. However, it is seen that more efforts need to be made in these districts to maintain cleanliness in towns/villages. Regular disposal of garbage, cleaning of drains, identification of spots for dumping garbage, recycling of waste etc ought to be thought of. But for activity of SHGs participation of civil society also appeared to be limited. . *Kudumb Shree* model of Kerala wherein SHG groups of women carry out garbage disposal in towns could be replicated.

Manual scavenging Manual Scavenging is reported as nil in Gadchiroli district. However, special care ought to be taken regarding covered/ un covered manholes on roads and the human rights of those who clean them by providing protective gears, ensuring timely payment of salaries etc

Bonded labor/ Child Labor It was stated that there are no bonded laborers reported in the district in the last 03 years. Even then periodic surveys ought to be conducted with the help of reputed NGOs.

It was reported that inspection Committee set up in 2015 identified and reported only one child labor.06 cases are seen filed in 2016 and 08 child laborers were rescued. No child labor is reported in 2017. More number of committees ought to be set up for inspection of various sites. Action taken after rescue is also not reported.

Food Security

Food security is a matter of serious concern in Gadchiroli district. *Average personal consumption is reported to be the lowest in Gadchiroli among the districts in Maharashtra.* Rural literacy for women in Gadchiroli is reported as 46.05%, ranked at 30th in the district. Proportion of rural SC/ST in the population is 51.19 % and ranks 2nd in the state.

The UN World Food Program in collaboration with Institute of Human Development, New Delhi has prepared a Food Security Atlas of Rural Maharashtra published in 2010 based on availability, accessibility and absorption capacity of the population that determine the food security of any population.

According to the above report the factors that determine *food availability* are the share of forest area, extent of irrigation, per capita value of agriculture output and paved roads. Based on these factors Gadchiroli is rated as *extremely insecure* as far as food availability is concerned. Measures to improve availability must include improving irrigation and agricultural productivity. Farm incomes can be improved through better rural connectivity. Access to food is determined by factors like proportion of agricultural laborers, working age population and SC/ST in the population, per capita consumption expenditure and wage rate and rural female literacy. Access is graded as *severely insecure* in Gadchiroli. As far as capacity for absorption is concerned, factors determining it are identified as safe drinking water, access to health and sanitation. Absorption index for Gadchiroli included in the Food Atlas is *severely insecure for Gadchiroli* district.

The **composite Food Security Index** worked out for Gadchiroli is 0.286 (ranks 33 in Maharashtra). Gadchiroli is graded as *extremely Insecure*.

According to the report access should be improved by policies for enhancing rural wages and thereby spending on food, improving the lot of agricultural labor, land re-distribution, and enhancing the status of women. Thus, improving the food security in the semi-arid and hill-forest regions crucially depends on the transformation of the structure of the economy. Finally, enhancing rural food security is not just a matter of increasing agricultural productivity. In order to substantially increase per capita incomes in these rural areas, it would be necessary to shift a large proportion of workers out of agriculture through generation of non-farm employment avenues.

Maharashtra started implementing the National Food Security Act from 1st February, 2014. It was reported that in Gadchiroli 45.34% of urban population and 76.32% of the rural population are covered. Total 92308 ration cards for AAY beneficiaries (3804 urban and 88504 rural) and 442742 cards (55250 urban ;387492 rural) for PHH households (PHH Rural are those with income below Rs.44,000/- and PHH urban are those having income below 59,000/-and were selected for APL) have been issued in the district.

A number of steps like end to end computerization of ration cards and their linkage with Aadhar, supply of Point of Sale Machines to fair price shops, supply of food grains through door step delivery under the new system have been taken to improve the system.

District Level Vigilance and District Consumer Protection Committees have been set up in the district and 09 meetings were held. 14 meetings at the taluka and Municipal Corporation (nil) / village (895) levels are also held. What was the outcome has not been indicated.

MNREGA

As already reported forest cover in Gadchiroli is 79.6 % whereas cultivable land is only 16% of the total geographical area. Gadchiroli has 55% of its rural population categorized as BPL.

Gadchiroli has 177916 registered households (HHs) out of which 22219 are SC and 68649 ST HHs. As per report of the district administration 101182 households demanded employment against which 101173 were provided employment. Expenditure during 2015-16 reported was Rs.13149.22 lakhs. Total person days generated was 5527973 (SC-490915- 8.88%; ST 2449058 HHs (44.30%) and women 2558319 (46.28%). For the number of works Started in all GPs and the number of beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana, the district stood first. For the total expenditure incurred and the number of person days generated it stood third in the state. For total expenditure it had 3rd rank in the state. Number of HHs completed 100 days of employment reported were 15830.

97% of the job cards are stated to be Aadhar- seeded and 47% payments are Aadhar based. *Out of 30890 FRA beneficiaries in 457 GPs, 3887 also benefitted under MNREGA out of which 1747 were provided employment exceeding 100 days under MNREGA.*

In Gadchiroli only a single crop of paddy is cultivated. Therefore under MNREGA fish ponds, irrigation wells, farm improvement schemes, water harvesting structures, tree plantation etc are generally taken up. Convergence of schemes is attempted in order to maximize benefits. It was pointed out that all 457 GPS all had some work or the other. Under Samrudha Mahajan Kalyan Yojana construction of toilets, gobar gas and soak pits are taken up. Achievement of 50% against the target was reported.

In **Gadchiroli** district I saw a renovation project of Ma Ma talab (Majhe Malgajari tank) with an estimated cost of Rs.24 lakhs. A sum of Rs.6.51 lakhs was reportedly spent. Out of estimated man days of 10,428, 3147 were already achieved. It was stated that this type of 17 tanks were taken up in the panchayat, In all 158 MM Talabs were taken up in the district. 10 ha of land is planned to be irrigated on completion of the project. 82 farmers with 400 acres land are likely to be benefitted. Fishing also could be taken up. But 400 cms of rain silting is a problem. Sluice gates for two canals need to be installed and steps to be made for easy access.

157 workers (71 male and 86 females) were on the job at the time of my visit. Work apparently began on 24th April 2017. Majority of the laborers on that day were women. Able bodied men and youth go to towns in search of employment. Some are engaged in industrial units; others in mines. Yet others as farm labor which can fetch them more wages. Laborers belonged to mixed category. In fact none of them in this project were tribals. Laborers earn around Rs 201/day. Some earn Rs.250 per day. It was pointed out that no other work can give them this scale of pay. The laborers stated that they work from 6 am to 11 am in hot summer. This Gram Panchayat has spent Rs 80 lakhs on MNREGA so far and is stated to be the No.1 in the execution of MNREGA works. Payments are being made through bank accounts. *On the whole it appeared to be a very useful scheme providing employment to local people, at the same time helping improve agriculture productivity. Other programs need to be integrated through convergence.*

Land & Forest issues

Tribes are traditionally food gatherers hunters and small scale cultivators. Maharashtra Government is implementing **The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 or the Forest Rights Act, 2006** and has notified Rules under the Act namely Maharashtra Village and Forest Rules 2014.

District administration of Gadchiroli reported that of the 6734 persons who had encroached upon 5408.92 acres of forest land, it has regularized 1403 cases involving 1265.84 ha . Action has also been taken for conversion of class-11 lands to class-1 lands. This way 22514 holders converted 27121.17 acres to class-1lands. Balance no of cases of 81287 holders involving 109078.00 are pending.

FRA is under implementation in the district. It is reported that up to April, 2017 under the FRA 20428 individual claims have been settled in Gadchiroli district. Appeals have been filed in 10444 cases. Thus 30872 individual claims were considered in the district, 21816 claims have been settled. In all 1388 Community Forest Rights were settled. No appeals have been filed. *22000 beneficiaries are said to be involved in asset creation under MNREGA.*

Reports on implementation of FRA in the district indicate that Gadchiroli has recognized community forest rights in 66% of eligible land, compared to the state's figure of 15%. Further, of the 7,260.58 sq km recognized under CFR, 4,349 sq km is in Gadchiroli alone. According to reports 383 proposals involving 960.37 acres received from Gram sabhas for various public works out of which 229 cases involving 463.86 acres were sanctioned as of April, 2017.

As pointed out it is important that beneficiaries actually receive possession of the house sites/land sites allotted to them. Periodic sample surveys, therefore, ought to be conducted.

Experts have pointed out that restoration of illegally-acquired tribal lands, distribution of land to landless, especially those belonging to SC/ST categories, provision of security of tenure of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in forest areas, recognition of women's land rights can go a long way in poverty alleviation in the district.

PESA

In Maharashtra 597 Tehsils in 12 districts are notified under the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1966. 80% area of Gadchiroli district reportedly comes under PESA. Rajura, korpana, Etapalli, Sironcha, Aheri, Dhanora, Kurkheda, Bhamragad, Korchi, Gadchiroli, Armori, Chamorshi, Mulchera, and Desaignanj tehsils in Gadchiroli district are notified under PESA. Only 2-3 taluks are outside PESA notified areas.

Under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Gram Panchayats under PESA get five per cent funds directly. A Government Resolution to this effect was issued on April 21, 2015. Accordingly, in the financial year 2015-16, a total of 2,873 Gram Panchayats covering 5,979 villages in 60 tehsils of 13 districts in Maharashtra were given direct funds. The total amount of funds so distributed was Rs 178 crore.

It is said that most of the Gram Panchayats, however, do not have the expertise or proper knowledge to implement the schemes and utilize the funds.

Minor forest Produces

Maharashtra Minor Forest Produce (Transfer of Ownership) Act, 1997 has given ownership of 33 Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) to Gram Sabhas under

PESA areas. Governor of Maharashtra vide notification dated 19-8-2014 gave given ownership rights of all types of NTFP , including Tendu leaves and Bamboo to Gram Sabhas under PESA.

Tendu leaves and bamboo are the two most important non-timber forest produce in Gadchiroli. Gadchiroli accounts for as much as 70 per cent of the total tendu business in Maharashtra. 30 Garam Sabhas opted for Option-11 (Option -1 auction carried out through FMC/Forest Dept.; option -11 by Gram Sabhas) for **auction of Tendu leaves** in 2014-15 and received an income of Rs.64.43 lakhs; in 2015-16 554 GPs chose the auction route and earned Rs 4975.39 lakhs; in 2016-17 1050 GPS auctioned Tendu leaves and earned an income of Rs.13676.51 lakhs. **Under Community Forest Rights (CFR)** 13 villages received Rs 44.72 lakha in 2014 and 09 villages received Rs.17.06 lakhs from tendu auction.

Perhaps this was the first time Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas handled the auction, which has traditionally been conducted by the Forest Department with the proceeds going to the state, the presumed owner of the forests. **The main reason for this year's huge increase is said to be the shortage of leaves leading to a sharp rise in prices.**

In 2014-15 villages received an income of RS 655.08 lakhs by way of **auction of bamboo**; in 2015-16 it went up to Rs.1423.72 lakhs. But the number of villages taking up auction on their own (option 11) is very limited. *Data on comparison of option-1 and Option-11 reveals that the latter is many times more profitable to the GPs.*

Minor forest produce 30 Gram Sabhas auctioned Mahua honey, a minor forest produce 554 income last 1050 this year did auction 136 crores centralized procurement.

An important achievement claimed by the administration was that 22.28 lakh man days were generated in 2014-15 by auction of tendu leaves (2. 42 lakhs for bamboo); in 2015 it was 29.41 lakhs (9.94 lakhs from bamboo) and in 2016 it went up to 48.27 lakhs (bambo 46 lakhs).

Gadchiroli certainly has taken a lead increasing the income of Gram Sabhas by auction of MNF. The district Administration was euphoric about the achievements. But some questions do arise- are the Gram Sabhas doing auctions on their own? or are there other private players behind them? What do the Gram Sabhas do with the income earned? What is its impact on the income level of families? what do they use the money for?

Experts have pointed out that some of the recent interventions by Maharashtra **Government relating to PESA** have raised serious concerns. These include notification on Village Forest Rules (VFRs) in Maharashtra, leasing out forest lands to FDCM without consent of the Gram Sabhas, supporting Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in recognized CFR villages and more recently, diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes against the wishes of the concerned Gram Sabhas. *Districts like Gadchiroli, Gondia and others show that community mobilization and collective action of Gram Sabhas have immense potential to achieve social, ecological and economic well-being of local people.*

Farmers suicide

District administration, Gadchiroli has not furnished data on farmers suicides in the district. It is however reported that as many as 10,561 farmers have committed suicide in Vidarbha in a span of 12 years.. Reports indicate that of the 59 farmer suicides in Gadchiroli district, only 33 cases were found eligible for aid. The district administration ought to analyze individual cases and see why the deaths have occurred and what impact government announcements made for debt relief is making. Remedial action ought to be taken on priority.

Drought Relief

It was reported that at present no drought like situation exists in the district and no village is declared as drought affected. However for Khariff season 2015 1398 villages were declared as scarcity affected. RS 25.68 crore was sanctioned for distribution amongst 31774 affected families who were eligible in 367 villages. The remaining villages are yet to receive any assistance.

Observations and suggestions

Main observations and suggestions have already been included in the general comments given in Part-1 of this report. However, some district-specific observations/suggestions are given here for further necessary action.

1. Crime and law and order

Reducing crime rate -

2. crimes against women High incidence- Coordinated action by Multiple agencies/departments for ensuring women's security

3. Human Trafficking AHTUs, ought to show results- step up legal enforcement, bust rackets, rehabilitate women/children trafficked

4. Crimes against children This area has received very little attention. POSCO poorly implemented. All structures are in position but no facilities provided. Poor condition of Observation/Shelter Homes. Introduce Quality Assurance in institutions

5. Atrocities against SC/ST

Should receive priority. SC/ST Thanas out to bet set up in the state. Better/speedier implementation of SC/ST(POA)Act, witness protection, 100% conviction rate

6. Protection of the rights of Minorities

It is incumbent on the district administration to ensure protection to the life and property of minorities, keeping in view the increasing incidents of intolerance directed at them.

7. Extremism It is necessary for district administration to ensure that in this process human rights of the people residing in the area are protected, especially while taking police action. Those who are lodged in prison who are alleged to be naxalites, production before court and access to legal aid are important. In blocks with tribal concentration, PESA ought to be implemented to protect the way of life of the tribes.

8. Prisons

Visit report on District (Open) Jail, Gadchiroli is already submitted to the Commission.

9. Healthcare

Shortage of doctors and medical staff/ better incentives for those who work in rural areas/ start indoor treatment in PHCs, improve facilities for deliveries, provide coolers/fans in OTs /delivery room /indoor, maintain quarters for doctors and medical staff/ better design of buildings, introduce solar lighting/heating/water harvesting in health facilities. Prioritize AYUSH Systems. Have AYUSH Wings in PHCs/CHCs/ closely monitor ASHAs.

10. Food Security and Malnutrition

Lacunae in the implementation of NFSA out to be corrected without any delay. Attention to be paid to those families categorized under Antyodaya /priority households. children who are outside Anganwadis or schools, especially a large number of children of inter-state migrants who are generally not covered by any program ought to be taken care of.

11. Land and Forest issues

Possession ought to be ensured of the lands allotted to beneficiaries under FRA/ other legal provisions. Land allotment under FRA although linked with MNREGA and with benefits under other schemes as well.

10. Farmers suicide

Each case of farmer's suicide needs to be investigated to find out the reason behind it. Apart from the grants provided to eligible families only very few have received other benefits; no preventive action is taken, especially counseling. listening to their grievances, providing immediate short term assistance etc. Revival of farmer's cooperatives which can jointly meet all needs of farmers ought to be assisted.

11. Involvement of civil society

Very little involvement of civil society is noticed in Government programs. Channelizing the involvement of reputed NGOs can yield better results.

12. Police Reforms

District Police Complaint Authority ought to be made functional.

13. Water harvesting and harnessing solar energy

(PTO)

**REPORT ON VISIT TO GONDIA DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA from
18th to 19-05-2017**

-S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur, NHRC

Profile of the district

Gondia district, a part of the Nagpur division, is a district located in the eastern Vidarbha region. Situated amid hills and forests, Gondia is considered the gateway to Maharashtra from central and eastern India. It was once ruled by Gond kings, giving the place its name.

The district was bifurcated from Bhandara district with effect from 1st May 1999. The district is rich in forest and mineral deposits. Collection of *tendu* leaves and *beedi* making are the chief occupations of the people of the district.

Area and population

Table-1

District	Area km ²	Population In lakhs	Sex ratio/ 1000 male	Literacy (%) T/M/F
Gondia	5234	T- 13.22 M- 6.61 F- 6.60	AV - 999 (929) U- 988 R - 1001	T- 84.95 M- 92.04 F- 77.89

(Source: Census of India- 2011)

Sex ratio

As per Census 2011, the district has a sex ratio of 999 well above the national average of 940 and the state average of 929, although average sex ratio reported in the last Census (2001) in the district was 1005. Thus there is a decline in the sex ratio. District administration ought to be alert to this decline.

It is seen that facility wise reporting on month-wise sex ratio is monitored in the district. Disaggregated data relating to Panchayats also ought to be carefully monitored.

Involving ASHA and the medical staff directly into collection of data, monitoring and taking a remedial action to correct imbalances are the best ways to raise the sex ratio and preventing it from slipping to lower figures.

As noted efforts for having balanced sex ratios need to be continued in the district. Ensuring girl's education and women's security, creating awareness against the dowry system and providing employment opportunities for women in the long term could help in maintaining better sex ratios in the districts. Apart from interventions from Governments, civil society also has a major role to play.

Administrative set up

Table-2

District	Sub divisions	Blocks	Panchayats	villages	Towns
Gondia	04	08	556	883	10

(source: Census 2011)

Meetings with DMs/SPs

Gondia is referred to as the Rice City due to the abundance of rice mills in the area, While travelling to Gondia from Gadchiroli by road, one could see miles and miles of ripened paddy fields which is an astonishing sight at the peak of summer .

In Gondia district too I had a meeting with the DM, SP, RDO and other senior officials. The important issues identified in **Gondia** district by the DM were land problems, unemployment and inadequate availability of roads. According to SP, Gondia, land disputes form a major part of crime investigation in the district. Gondia is also one of the districts affected in Maharashtra affected by extremist activities. 04 tehsils are stated to be affected by extremism. 09 armed out posts have been set up in naxal-affected areas. All police stations have buildings with security walls with modern equipment.

Police administration

Gondia district has only one police district with 16 police stations. 14 police stations have their own buildings with toilets in police custody. 02 Thanas are located in private buildings.

Criminal justice system

As per crime reports by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) **1,887** crimes were reported in Gondia district in 2013. It stood **378 th** in all crime records in **2013**. Gondia has a crime rate of **142.68** compared to National crime rate **218.67** in 2013. It reported **116 th** in no of murders, **92 nd** in no of rapes, **123 rd** in no of robberies, **247 th** in no of thefts, **41st** in no of dacoities, **202 nd** in no of kidnappings, **218th** in no of riots.

Table 03-Crime profile of Gondia district in the last 03 years

Category	No. of Crimes regd.			
	2014	2015	2016	2017 (up to April)
Murder	33	27	25	09
Attempt to Murder	21	31	18	15
Hurt	362	299	307	105
Rape	58	56	50	22
Robbery	20	21	20	04
Kidnapping	26	78	67	28
Riot	13	07	09	07
Theft	313	310	331	127
Dacoity	01	01	03	01

HBT	130	101	110	44
Other IPC crimes	283	223	213	56
Total IPC	1672	1565	1583	568
IPC+ SLL	3295	4374	4087	1732

Ref: District Police, Gondia

Crime profile of the district remained more or less the same,, although it declined marginally in 2016. Incidence of crimes like Murder, Hurt, Rape, Robbery, Theft, House Breaking remained more or less the same but crimes like Attempt to Murder, Rioting and other IPC crimes showed a declining trend. Crimes like kidnapping were on the increase.

Guidelines on Arrest

It was stated that Guidelines on Arrest have been exhibited in all *thanas* of the district.

Custodial deaths

No custodial death was reported in Gondia district in the last three years.

Encounter deaths

Encounter deaths were reported as nil in Gondia district.

NDPS

It was reported that 04 cases under NDPS were registered in the district in 2014; 01 case in 2015 and 04 cases in 2016. No case has been filed this year up to April.

Excise Act

It was mentioned that very few cases have been registered in the district.

Extremism

Extremist activities have been reported in Gondia district. As mentioned, 04 tehsils are stated to be mainly affected. Anti-naxal operations are being carried out in these Tehsils.

Jails

Although Gondia district was carved out of Bhandara district in 1999 no district jail has been set up here. Prisoners from the district are lodged in District Jail Bhandara or Central jail, Nagpur.

It is learned that 10 acres of land have been acquired in Gondia district for construction of a new jail. Steps may be taken to ensure early completion of its construction. Advanced action may be taken for filling up of posts, training of staff, computerization of data etc

Complaints against the police

It is learned that in Gondia district the District Level Authority for dealing with complaints against the police is not functional at present. Urgent steps may be taken to set up the Authority and make it operational.

Grievances of the police personnel

While complaints against the police receive attention of the authorities, it is equally important to attend to the grievances of the police personnel. helpline. It is learned that in Gondia district the Complaint Redressal Committee is formed and is active .A *Pratisar* Cell is also formed in dealing with complaints from the police personnel.

Cases referred to by NHRC /SHRC

It was reported that 03 complaints were received from NHRC in 2016 and 02 complaints in 2017. Two of the complaints pertaining to 2016 have been disposed of; only one complaint is pending. Both complaints of 2017 are pending for action at present.

Similarly out of 08 complaints received from the State Human Rights Commission in 2016, 07 have been disposed of; only one complaint is pending. Of the 06 complaints received in 2017, 04 have been disposed of. Only 03 are pending.

Crimes against women

Data on crimes relating to women reported by police Administration, in Gondia district is given below.

Table-4 Crimes against Women in Gondia district

Crime	2014	2015	2016	2017 (Till April)

Total crimes=902	250	284	260	108
Rape	58	56	50	22
Molestation	113	118	111	41

It is seen from the data given above that crimes against women remained almost at the same level in the last three years in Gondia. It was explained that several steps have been taken by the police administration for ensuring the safety of women. A system of filing online FIRs has been introduced in two police stations. District Counseling Centers have been set up. Damini squads have been set up for assisting women in need. Out of 16 police stations 04 have CCTVs. RS.25/- lakhs were sanctioned for installing CCTVs in strategic locations in Gondia town.

Dowry related cases

As per report of the police 06 cases were filed under the Dowry Prohibition Act, in Gondia district in 2014; no case in 2015 and **only 02** cases in 2016. No case has been registered in 2017.

Human Trafficking

No data on Human trafficking was made available during the visit.

Rights of the Child

The State Government has taken steps to set up JJ Boards and Child Welfare Committees in all districts, besides designating Child protection Officers. Probation Officers have also been posted. SPIU has also been constituted. It was confirmed that all posts have been filled up. The JJ Board meets for two days a week. However, there are no Homes for juveniles in Gondia district.

As per police reports 200 cases relating to crimes against children were filed in the last 03 years in Gondia district-- 61 in 2014; 72 cases in 2015; 45 cases in 2016 and 22 cases up to April, 2017. These cases ought to be taken up on priority in the district. Services of reputed NGOs engaged in the field of child rights could be enlisted for support.

Missing children

The following information was provided by the district police on missing children in the district in the last three years.

Table-5 Missing Children in last three years in Gondia district

year	No. of missing children		No. of children traced		No.untraced	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
2015	26	57	25	54	01	03
2016	14	57	12	51	02	06
2017(till April)	07	29	05	11	02	18
Total	47	143	42	116	05	27

Operation Muskan was taken up in the district in the last two years. 20 girls and 20 boys were traced after the operations.

Child marriages

The latest demographic indicators as per NFHS-4 Survey-4 reveal that the mean marriage age in Maharashtra for girls as 20.1 in 2013, up from 19.3 in 2008 (DLHS-3). Details pertaining to Gondia district are given below.

District-wise data on child marriages NFHS-4

Table-06

It

District	Mean age of marriage for girls	% women of age gr. 20-24 married before 18	% of 15-19 yrs old girls who are mothers /pregnant
Gondia	20.1	5.7 (6.4 rural)	4.4 (5.1 Rural)

was stated in the meeting with the DM and other senior officials that the average age of marriage of girls in the district was above 20 years of age. There were no report of child marriages in the district. It was also reported that no case on this issue has been filed in the district so far.

A three member team has been appointed to work on the problems of children, including child marriages in the district. Besides a Gram Sevak and an Anganwadi Sevika have been declared as preventive officers. Officers notified for preventing domestic violence are also declared as preventive officers for child marriages. IEC activities are taken up at all levels, including Anganwadis.

Atrocities on SC/ST

143 cases of atrocities on SC/ST were reported in the district in the last three years- 47 cases in 2014; 36 cases in 2015; 37 cases in 2016 and 23 cases in 2017 (up to April). Conviction rate was reported as 12-14 % only. It is understood that there is no separate SC/ST Thana in the district. It was explained that the atrocities take place due to caste and political rivalry.

Social Welfare Department of Gondia district reported 46 cases of atrocities against SC/ST (40 SC & 06 ST) in the period between 01-04-2016 and 31-03-2017. Categories of crime reported were Murder 02, Rape 06; Molestation 01; Hurt 03; caste rivalry- 21. Out of these 46 cases 01 is under investigation; final reports given by police in 02 cases, pending before courts-35 cases. ***It may be noted that none of the culprits have been convicted in any of the cases so far. It is a sad reflection on the quality of investigation of cases of atrocities concerning weaker sections.***

It is also reported that the District Level Committee under the chairmanship of the Collector for deciding compensation to the victims of atrocities held 12 meetings in 2016-17. It was confirmed that payment of compensation to victims was up to date. In 45 cases victims have been paid compensation by the district administration. An amount of RS. 5102500/- was reportedly disbursed to the victims or their families.

Education

As per report of the Education office under the Zila Parishad there are 1297 primary schools in the district (ZP-1048; NP-21; Pvt. aided-93; Pvt. unaided-133, Govt. Ashram school- 01 and others-01). The district also has 144891 High

schools and colleges. Altogether 8331 teachers are working in the district at the primary level.

1.65 % boys and 1.26% of girls are reported to drop out of schools in 2015-16. The number got reduced to 0.65 % for boys and 0.51% for girls in 2016-17.

1162 schools 1-5 classes (671) and 6-8 classes (491) are covered under the Mid Day Meal scheme.

A program called 'Inclusive Education of Disabled' is being implemented in the State to ensure quality education to Children With Special Needs (CWSN) in a normal set up with a normal peer group for their emotional progress and to socially integrate them. This program includes identification and medical assessment of CWSN, providing rehabilitation and educational support services like Braille books, spectacles, hearing aids & appliances, speech trainer, etc

I visited Ekodi panchayat. The school was closed at the time of visit due to summer vacation. Against sanctioned posts of 07 teachers 05 are in position. In ZP High school 10 teachers are working against the posts of 15 teachers.

I visited Dhamnewad Gram Panchayat. I had a discussion with the Sarpanch. He pointed out that most of the schools in the district are under the Zila Parishad. He stated that there is shortage of 10-15 teachers as per norms. But recruitment of teachers is by the State Government. Panchayat Education Committee do not have any direct control. The local school comes under the Zila Parishad and the building was constructed in 1952 which is in poor condition. He also complained about the lack of staff.

Health Issues As per data published under NFHS-4 only 16% of the households (15.7%-R) have a member of the family covered with a health scheme or health insurance. 83.5% of women are literate (83.55 Rural) in the district. But only 43.9 % of the women (40.6%-R) had 10 or more years of schooling. Success of implementation of health schemes depends on the level and quality of education of women.

Key health indicators pertaining to Gondia district could be seen from the Table below.

Table-7 Health Indicators of Gondia district

Data was furnished by the Civil surgeon, Gondia

District	IMR/1000	MMR /one lakh	TFR
Gondia SCD 2015	16.26	69	2.1
Maharashtra SRS 2015	21	68	1.8
India SRS 2015	37	167	2.3
NRHM target	26	100	2.1

It will be seen that health indicators are better in the district when compared to those for Maharashtra and the country as a whole. IMR in Gondia is much below that of India and Maharashtra. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the district is much below the national average and comparable to the state average.

However it is reported that 08 maternal deaths took place in the area in recent times. This needs to be inquired into. According to health authorities institutional delivery is very high (99.76) in the district. But TFR is above replacement level.

74.4% of the children (77.4 in rural area) are immunized as per data published by NFHS-4. Almost 100% immunizations are carried out in public health facilities.

Institutional Delivery (NFHS-4 data)

Table 8

It may be mentioned that 54.9% (56.3% in rural areas) of women in 15-49 age group

% of preg. women receiving at least one ANC	% of preg. women receiving four ANCs	Institutional Delivery (%)	Ins.del. in Public facility	% of women receiving financial assistance under JSY
68.9 (70.2-R)	76 (75.2-R)	93.3 (93.1-Rural)	79.1 (83.3 R)	26.1 (24.3 R)

are reported to be anemic in the district; 58.7% (59%-R) of pregnant women of the same age group are also stated to be anemic.

Table-9 Family welfare

District	Unmet demand NFHS-4	Use of any method	Modern method	Female sterilization	Male sterilization
Gondia	8.8 (9.4-R)	67.7 (68.2-R)	65.6 (65.9-R)	55 (55.7-R)	6.8 (6.9-R)

Source: NFHS-4 (2015-16)

In **Gondia district** I visited PHC Ekodi. The PHC was established in 1982. It is located in an old building. The Chief Medical Officer is on deputation. Second officer is deputed to this PHC. Another MO was reportedly on medical leave. Other staff members include Staff Nurse 01; LHV- 01, Lab Technician- 01, Dresser- 01, MHV-01, Pharmacist- 01 and Health Assisstant-01.

OPD attendance was reported at 50-60 patients per day. Indoor facility includes 08 beds for those male patients who come for tubectomy and 10 beds for women who come for deliveries. Average delivery was reported as 10 per month, The PHC had OT and labor room with toilets for conducting deliveries. Instruments are stated to be available for conducting delivery. The male ward was empty. The wash basins in the wards were dirty. OT had no cooler. It was indeed very hot very hot inside the OT. Beds in the women's ward were also found empty. Condition of the toilet was satisfactory.

A Laboratory for testing Malaria, HIV/AIDs TB Pregnancy is available. 01 case of Leprosy, 02 cases of Malaria & 04 cases of TB and -01 MDR case were detected. No case of HIV/AIDs was reported. The patients having Malaria,, TB etc are undergoing treatment.

Immunization reported was 100% . Against a target of 225 cases only 100 could be achieved in family planning.

Rs. 1 lakh was received as funds for RKS. It was stated that the funds were utilized for purchase of chairs, AC, medicines for patients.

Complaints were made by the assembled public that *no doctor was available after 11 am*. There were no water facilities. Water was not available for the use of patients. A new bore well is dug. No maintenance work is carried out in the PHC.

Ambulance attached to the PHC is old and is in disuse. A new ambulance is needed.

Doctors and staff also complained about the serious water shortage in the PHC. They also pointed out that doctor's quarters were in poor condition.

ICDS

Gondia district has 2717 Anganwadis (1564 regular and 233 Mini Anganwadis). 1516 Anganwadis reportedly have their own buildings; only 48 do not have buildings; 04 are running in rented buildings. 1319 have toilets; 232 do not have toilets.

In Gondia districted 84413 children are reportedly in the age group of 0-5 years. Out of these 83583 children (99.02%) were weighed for assessing their nutritional status. 78232 children (93.60%) reportedly had normal weight. 4448 children (5.32%) found to be moderately underweight ; 903 children were (1.08%) severely underweight;84 children (0.10%) were in SAM category; 263 children (0.31%) were in MAM category.

In Gondia district I visited Anganwadi center at Pangdi. The center was located in a Government building. 21 children are enrolled-09 children of 03-06 age group (05 female and 04 male) and 12 children of 0-3 age group. All children belong to tribal communities, especially Gond tribe. Besides, 01 pregnant women and 02 lactating women are enrolled. Only the Anganwadi worker was available at the time of visit. Supervisor was stated to be on training. Growth chart is maintained. No malnutrition was reported. One was suffering from malnutrition but none now.

Cooking is done with firewood. No LPG is available. A separate kitchen is available. Food materials are stated to be with self-help group. Rice and *dal* are being supplied through *the ration shop*. Kitchdi Upma and *User* were cooked for lunch Drinking water is drawn from a well. Cooking is done outside the building in the open. Toilet is not maintained properly.

Some of the key indicators on child health in respect of Gondia district ,as reported by AHS-(2011-12) and NFHS-4 (2015-16) are listed below.

Table 10

District	Full Immunization (%) NFHS-4	% Under wt. children	% of stunted children (under-5)	% of children wasted	% of children Anemic (6-59 months)
Gondia	74.4 (77.4-R)	40.1 (41.7-R)	34.7 (34.5-R)	29.79 (31.3R)	57 (57.2-R)

Source: NFHS-4 2015-16

It could be seen from the Table above that key indicators relating to child health are very low in the district. Immunization figures are low when compared with many of the districts in Maharashtra. There is every need to strengthen Anganwaris in these districts. Food security needs to be closely monitored.

ICDS has an important role to play in protecting the life of small children and enhancing the quality of life of their mothers. *It is however, seen that ICDS centers are often run as feeding centers only.* Pre-school education, awareness creation, mutual interaction, regular health checkups are grossly neglected. It is, therefore, essential that their activities are closely monitored.

Food Security

Maharashtra is one of the top ten states prioritized under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The state started implementing the Act from February, 2014. Bhandara, Chandrapore, Gondia and Gadchiroli are covered under NFSA. Gondia is one of the priority districts of food security intervention in Maharashtra.

A number of factors are considered significant while assessing the food security of any population. The share of forest area in Gondia district is reported at 28.84 %. With 51.19% of SC/ST population being rural, the district ranks ten in the state on this account. Women's literacy in rural areas is reported at 65.55% (7th rank in the state) in Gondia district.

The UN World Food Program in collaboration with Institute of Human Development, New Delhi has prepared a Food Security Atlas of Rural Maharashtra published in 2010 based on availability, accessibility and absorption capacity of the population that determine the food security of any population.

According to the above mentioned Atlas, the factors that determine *food availability* are the share of forest area, extent of irrigation, per capita value of agriculture output and paved roads. Based on these factors Gondia is rated as *severely insecure* as far as food availability is concerned. Measures to improve availability must include improving irrigation and agricultural productivity. Farm incomes can be improved through better rural connectivity. Access to food is determined by factors like proportion of agricultural laborers, working age population and SC/ST in the population, per capita consumption expenditure and wage rate and rural female literacy. Access is graded as *moderately insecure* in Gondia. As far as capacity for absorption is concerned, factors determining it are identified as safe drinking water, access to health and sanitation. Absorption index for Gondia included in the Food Atlas is 'moderately insecure' for Gondia.

The **composite Food Security Index** worked out for Gondia is 0.437 (ranks 27 in Maharashtra). Gondia is graded as '**Moderately Insecure**'.

According to the report access should be improved by policies for enhancing rural wages and thereby spending on food, improving the lot of agricultural labor, land re-distribution, and enhancing the status of women. Thus, improving food security in the semi-arid and hill-forest regions crucially depends on the transformation of the structure of the economy. Finally, enhancing rural food security is not only a matter of increasing agricultural productivity, but also is dependent on shifting a large proportion of workers out of agriculture through generation of non-farm employment avenues.

Social Security

A number of social welfare schemes have been taken up in Gondia, like in other districts of the state benefitting widows, the elderly, the destitute etc. The details, however, were not made available by the Social Welfare Department. During field visits very few complaints were received about non-receipt of pension.

Quality of life of the people

NFHS -4 reported that in Gondia district 96.2% (rural- 95.5 %) of the households have electricity and there is 78.8% coverage (76.9 R) of improved drinking water source. Further only 23.8 % (17.1 R) of households use clean fuels.

As per Human Development Report Maharashtra 2012, Gondiya district had HDI of 0.701 (Medium) compared to HDI of Maharashtra-0.752.

Swatch Bharat Mission

According to Census 2011, 46.20 % households (48.83% R; 29.75 %) in the district still defecate in open as they do not have access to toilets. As per NFSHS-4

data on percentage of households using improved sanitation facility for Gondia district it was 55.4 % households (51.9%-R) .

Swatch Bharat Mission is under implementation in all districts of Maharashtra. 89.40% habitations in the district have been covered so far. 96% of SC dominated households and 92.925% of the ST households and 87.72% other habitations have also been covered by sanitation programs. Up to date information on progress made under the Swatch Bharat Mission was not reported by the administration.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes

Table 12 Population SC/ST (source: Census of India- 2011)

District	% Population SC			% Population ST			% State SC ST
	T	M	F	T	M	F	
Gondia	13.31	13.22	13.39	16.20	16.01	16.39	-----

A number of schemes directed at welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are under implementation in the district. Scholarship Schemes for Metric and Inter students who belong to SC/ST are a major support for SC/ST students. Gondia district is covered by Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Deendayal Upadhyay Swayam Yojana which provide hostel and food facilities for tribal students was launched by the State Government. Another scheme for providing hostel fee to children of farmers and registered laborers is also under implementation. Besides Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Health Insurance schemes also cover SC/ST.

It has been pointed out that there remains a significant gap between the developmental indicators of the STs vis-à-vis the general population. The National Commission of Scheduled Tribes recommended to the Planning Commission that ITSP at state level should be based not on the “population-share” approach as is the present practice, but on a “problem-share” approach.

In Gondia district I visited Pangdi, a tribal village. I met Ballu Singh who is the Sarpanch . He has passed 10th class. He has been charge as Sarpanch for the last 13

months. The village has a population of only 325. 55% of the population is reportedly below the poverty line. No one is landless.

Lokesh Raghav who runs an Adivasi society stated that he attended a training program organized on behalf of GOI and received a certificate. His society has taken up public welfare activities.. He made a complaint that houses are not registered in the panchayat. Unemployment is rampant. Most women are laborers. Women bring wood from forests and sell in Gondia. Women also work in shifts in MNREGA. Only one person from the village is engaged in a herbal garden outside. 02 chowkidars posted in the Forest Dept nursery are not regular. *Under MNREGA the only scheme taken up in the village is the deepening of a channel.* For transportation only a bus run for students comes to the village. No means of transportation is available to the public.

No atrocity against the tribals or abuse of women is reported from the village. Although alcohol is prohibited, the residents complained that in the name of tourism outsiders consume alcohol. **Many houses have no toilets.** *Regular ration is not available.* For drinking water hand pumps have been installed. Presently there is no water problem.

Villagers also complained that an Ayurvedic dispensary which was useful to the local people was recently transferred from the village.

I visited the local Anganwadi. AWW was not present. There was no kitchen or store room. Supplies are being received from the local ration shop. No LPG facilities are available.

The Helper who was present stated that her family lives in the village .The family owns 3A 75 decimals of land. No irrigation is available for cultivation. Agriculture depends on rains. They cultivate rice. Her husband is a laborer. They have two children. The boy goes to school and is in 11th class. Her daughter studies hotel management.

I also visited Ekodi village in Dhamnewad GP. Shri Ravi Patle is the Sarpanch of the village. Population of the GP as of 2015 was reported as 5585 with SC- 533; ST 210 and Minorities- 222. The Sarpanch stated that there is a shortage of teachers in schools. Doctors are also not available in the PHC. No staff is available.

The Anganwadi has no kitchen or LPG. There is also staff shortage. Forest lands in villages are not transferred to the local people.

He stated that no communal or caste problems are reported in the village. Atrocities on dalits also have not been reported. People live in mixed houses.

Land and Forest issues The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, passed in December 2006. FRA gave back to traditional forest dwellers their rights to access, manage and govern forest lands and resources within village boundaries, which had been controlled by the forest department since colonial times. It is reported that Maharashtra has emerged as the front-runner among states in implementing the provisions of this legislation.

As mentioned Gondia district has a forest cover of 28.84%. Latest report on settlement of claims under FRA from the district was not readily available but is learned that as of Aug 7, 2012 -350 villages in Gondia district have been granted community forest rights .

The Tata Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) after an impact study of FRA implementation in 2014 had found that 14,668.96 hectares of forest land in Gondia and other districts were recognized in Maharashtra 'against' the provisions of Forest Rights Act. 'Wrong recognition' of rights under FRA has resulted in loss of forest cover as well as increased vulnerability of forest-dependent communities to adverse impact of climate change. Faulty settlement of claims under FRA pointed by TERI ought to be paid attention by the State government but they should not be construed as a reason for tampering with the with the spirit of FRA.

In May 2014, the state notified Maharashtra Village Forest Rules which effectively transfer rights for the management of forest produce from communities back to the forest department. Villages have the right to choose between community forest rights and village forest rules . Experts in tribal affairs/environmentalists and those who work among the tribals however have pointed out that the above Rules notified by the Maharashtra Government are in violation of the provisions of the FRA and that through the issue of these Rules the *state Government has taken away the rights of indigenous people in the management of forest produces*. It is learned that The

Tribal Development Department of Maharashtra on 9th March, 2017 stayed the sale of tendu leaves under community forest right (CFR) by 38 Gram Sabhas from Gondia district and directed them to recomplete the auction process under the supervision of District Collector. It was reported that the department revoked it due to protests from tribal communities and activists.

TSP

In Maharashtra State there are 59 Talukas in 13 Districts that are in the Scheduled Areas. Tribal Sub-Plan in Maharashtra A Diagnostic Study by the TATA Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai Supported by UNICEF, Maharashtra December 2015 pointed out that

- the present planning process for the district TSP does not involve the Gram Sabhas, Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis. Even at the level of the apex Panchayat, which is the Zilla Parishad, the demands are made through the ZP departments and not arrived at through a deliberative exercise done with the participation of the Zilla Parishad General Body. This lack of participative planning at all levels is one of the main reasons of the gap between the aspirations of STs and service delivery.
- As of now most of the Tribal Development Department programs are being implemented by either the PO ITDP, or through the line departments. (A number of schemes in health, education, nutrition, housing, and, water conservation are run by the Zilla Parishad as an agency.)
- Selection of beneficiaries by the Gram Sabha is done mostly for TSP schemes which are run by the Zilla Parishad and which have provisions for beneficiary selection within the guidelines. However, for most of the TDD schemes, and schemes being operated by other line departments, this was not seen. Nor were the schemes/projects being approved by the Gram Sabhas.

The biggest problems that beset the PO ITDP structure are: 1. Limited manpower. 2. Uncoordinated delivery of schemes by multiple departments. 3. The present system of service delivery, scheme design, and institutional mechanisms are not in line with the mandate of PESA 4. Lack of delegation of powers. 5. Excessive centralization of decision making at the Commissionnaire and ATC levels.

I already mentioned about my visit to Ekodi panchayat where I met the Sarpanch. When asked about the finances of the panchayat he stated that taxes to the extent of 5-6 lakhs per year are collected by the GP including House Tax, electricity, health cess and water charges. Under the 14th Finance Commission Rs.12 lakhs were sanctioned last year. Besides contribution from MLA/MP and MNREGA are also received.

The staff comprise of Gram Vikas Adhikari 01, Clerk-01, Computer Operator-01 and Water Supply Employee-01. Recruitment of staff is banned at present. Gram Sabha/ Panchayat Samity is involved only in planning. Funds are provided by the BDO. When asked about facilities he stated that 40% of the beneficiaries do not get LPG.

PESA

The Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) was passed in 1996 with the objective of giving Gram Panchayats in Scheduled Areas a large measure of self-governance, decentralization and devolution. In Nagpur Division only 03 blocks of Chandrapore and 12 blocks of Gadchiroli district are included under PESA. Gondia stands, therefore, excluded.

MNREGA

With 57.90% of the rural population below the poverty line (BPL) Gondia is considered to be one of the backward districts in Maharashtra. As already mentioned 28.84% of the geographical area of the district is covered with forests. Only 16% of the area is cultivable. The main occupation of people is farming. Paddy is the main agricultural crop. The other crops sown in the district are Jowar, Linseed, wheat, pigeon pea and tur. There is no large scale industry in the entire district due to which the district is economically backward. There are many rice mills in the district as paddy is the main crop here. Keeping in view this position importance of MNREGA cannot be minimized.

It was stated that under MNREGA schemes taken up include deepening and strengthening of nalas and bandhs, construction of irrigation wells, farm ponds, tree plantation etc.

In Gondia district I visited Ekodi village in Dhamnewad GP. A 500 meter channel and a bandh were under construction attached to a tank, which helps in the storage of water. Estimated cost of the scheme reported was Rs.10.87 lakh. 2400 man days were to be generated against which 547 were already created. It was stated that laborers work from 9am to 5.30 pm with a break in between. Average payment made was Rs 175/- for men and Rs.150/ for women. Mostly older men and women were seen working. Maharashtra government has launched the project "**Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyaan**" in a bid to make Maharashtra a drought-free state by 2019.

The administration ought to prepare a detailed plan (if not already done) for construction of water harvesting structures. Merely taking up one or two schemes panchayat wise will not guarantee success of the schemes. District administration ought to take up soil conservation , water harvesting and other schemes under MNREGA to make lands distributed under FRA productive at the same time eco-friendly.

District administration did not provide details of the number of job cards issued, person days generated and expenditure made. It had also not given details of the number of families provided 100 days of guaranteed employment without which it was difficult to assess the success of the scheme.

Farmers suicide

As per report of the District administration 222 farmers in the district committed suicide since 2001.127 families of the deceased farmers were provided grants in aid to the tune of Rs 127 lakhs. 94 cases were found to be ineligible..

It was also reported that in 2017 07 farmers committed suicide. Only 02 cases were found to be eligible for assistance. 04 cases were ineligible. Only one case is pending. Rs 2 /-lakh was disbursed as Grant in aid. The district administration apparently has not tried to find out the reason for suicide in individual cases. That could have helped in containing the underlying problems and would have stopped further incidents of deaths. Discrimination in sanctioning grants to the deceased families ought to be removed.

It is understood that the State Government has launched a Direct Benefit Transfer Portal for farmer's loan waiver to ensure faster flow of loan waiver funds. Another scheme called Advance Farming -Enrich Farmers for increasing farm outputs and cutting cost of production has also been taken up. The impact of schemes announced for the benefit of farmers ought to be assessed.

Bonded Labor/Child Labor

According to Assistant Labor Commissioner, Gondia, a Child Labor Action Committee has been functional in the district since 24-03, 2006. 65 raids were conducted covering 802 establishments in the district. 29 child laborers were released from 16 establishments. All child laborers were handed over to their parents. Court cases have been stated against these establishments.. No child labor was reported in 2016 in Gondia.

It was stated that National Child Labor Project is under implementation in the district. Out of 40 training centers sanctioned, 12 are functioning. 386 children are admitted to project schools. It was claimed by the officials that 1819 children have been brought into the mainstream through this project.

As far as bonded labor is concerned, District and Sub Divisional Level Vigilance Committees have been set up as per provisions of the Bonded Labor Act, 1976. It was further reported that there were no bonded laborers found in any of the industrial establishment in the district.

Manual scavenging

Manual scavenging is reported as nil in Gondia district. However, special care ought to be taken regarding covered/ un covered manholes on roads and the human rights of those who clean them by providing protective gears, ensuring timely payment of salaries etc

Observations and Recommendations:-

1. Crime and law and order

Reducing crime rate -crimes against women -High incidence- Coordinated action by Multiple agencies/departments for ensuring women's security

3. Human Trafficking AHTUs, ought to show results- step up legal enforcement, bust rackets, rehabilitate women/children trafficked

4. Crimes against children This area has received very little attention. POSCO poorly implemented. All structures are in position but no facilities provided. Poor condition of Observation/Shelter Homes. Introduce Quality Assurance in institutions

5. Atrocities against SC/ST

Should receive priority. SC/ST Thanas out to bet set up in the state. Better/speedier implementation of SC/ST(POA)Act, witness protection, 100% conviction rate

6. Protection of the rights of Minorities

It is incumbent on the district administration to ensure protection to the life and property of minorities, keeping in view the increasing incidents of intolerance directed at them.

7. Extremism It is necessary for district administration to ensure that in this process human rights of the people residing in the area are protected, especially while taking police action. As far as those from Gondia who are lodged in prison and are alleged to be naxalites are concerned, production before court and access to legal aid are important.

8. Prisons

Although Gondia became an independent district in 1999 no District jail has been set up. Early steps may be taken to set it up.

9. Healthcare

Shortage of doctors and medical staff/ better incentives for those who work in rural areas/ start indoor treatment in PHCs, improve facilities for deliveries, provide coolers/fans in OTs /delivery room /indoor, maintain quarters for doctors and medical staff/ better design of buildings, introduce solar lighting/heating/water harvesting in health facilities. Prioritize AYUSH Systems. Have AYUSH Wings in PHCs/CHCs/ closely monitor ASHAs.

10. Food Security and Malnutrition

Full implementation of NFSA ought to be carried out without any delay. Attention to be paid to those families categorized under Antyodaya /priority households. Children who are outside Anganwadis or schools, especially children of inter-state migrants who are generally not covered by any program ought to be taken care of.

11. Land and Forest issues

Possession ought to be ensured of the lands allotted to beneficiaries under FRA/ other legal provisions. Land allotment under FRA although linked with MNREGA and with benefits under other schemes as well.

12. Farmers suicide

Each case of farmer's suicide needs to be investigated to find out the reason behind them. Apart from the grants provided to eligible families only very few have received other benefits; no preventive action is taken, especially counseling, listening to their grievances, providing immediate short term assistance etc. Revival of farmer's cooperatives which can jointly meet all needs of farmers ought to be assisted.

10. Involvement of civil society

Very little involvement of civil society is noticed in Government programs. Channelizing the involvement of reputed NGOs can yield better results.

11. Police Reforms

District Police Complaint Authority ought to be made functional.

12. Water harvesting and harnessing solar energy

(PTO)

REPORT ON VISIT TO BHANDARA DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA from 19th to 20-05-2017

-S. Jalaja, Special Rapporteur, NHRC

Profile of the district

Bhandara is one of the least urbanized districts in the state having only about 19.5 per cent of its population living in urban areas of the district. Bhandara is known as the mining district of the state for its rich mineral resources and the town is also known as 'Brass City' owing to the presence of a large brass products industry. Bhandara is also known for large production of rice. The district is famous for its lakes and natural beauty.

Area and population

Table-1

District	Area km ²	Population In lakhs	Sex ratio/ 1000 male	Literacy (%) T/M/F
Bhandara	4087	T- 12.00 M- 6.05 F- 5.94	AV - 982 (981) U- 981 R - 983	T- 83.76 M- 90.35 F- 77.08

(Source: Census of India- 2011)

Sex ratio

As per Census 2011, the district has an average sex ratio of 982 well above the national average of 940 and the state average of 929. It may however, be noted that the sex ratio reported in Census 2001 was 981. It has almost remained the same. Instead of being complacent about the fact that sex ratio is above the state/national average, it would be necessary for the administration to be vigilant so that it does not slip. Panchayat-wise disaggregated data needs to be carefully monitored by the administration.

The Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Act (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 or PCPNDT Act is under implementation in the district. Bhandara

district has 61(09 Government and 52 private) Sonography centers out of which 41 (06 Govt. and 35 private) are stated to be functional. After inspection 03 Government and 01private centers were reportedly sealed.

Administrative set up

Table-2

District	Sub divisions	Blocks	Panchayats	villages	Towns
Bhandara	02	07	541	878	12

(source: Census 2011)

Meetings with DMs/SPs

It was stated that there was high level of unemployment in **Bhandara** district during summer months. Further, 45,138 persons were registered under the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) in the district. Increase in crimes against women, especially kidnapping/ elopement cases was a matter of concern in Bhandara. High SC population and issues connected with it also need to be handled on priority. Female trafficking is another issue. Black magic is practiced by some in the district. SP, Bhandara stated that crimes are under control in the district at present.

Police administration

Bhandara district has only one police district with 17 police stations. Against a sanctioned strength of 1564, 1509 personnel are in position.55 vacancies are reported. It was reported that all police stations have buildings with toilets in police custody.

Criminal justice system As per crime reports by **NCRB**, **2257**crimes were reported in **Bhandara** District in 2013. It stood **341st** in all crime records in **2013**. Bhandara reported a crime rate of **188.03** compared to National crime rate **218.67** in 2013. It stood **119th** in no. of murders, **104 th** in no of rapes, **105th** in no of robberies, **130th** in no of thefts, **42nd** in no of dacoities, **206 th** in no of kidnappings, **192nd** in no of riots.

Table 3-Crime profile of Bhandara district (2013)

Category	No. of Crimes regd.			
	2014	2015	2016	2017 (up to April)
Murder	20	27	27	05
Attempt to Murder	17	29	18	07
Hurt	278	253	269	88
Rape	28	25	49	15
Robbery	25	21	20	09
Kidnapping	23	68	71	22
Riot	19	19	21	06
Theft	476	378	472	133
Dacoity	01	00	04	02
HBT	151	166	144	61
Total IPC	1762	1744	1885	441
IPC+ SLL	4850	4316	4650	1536

Source: District police, Bhandara

It will be seen from the data given above that the number of crimes have almost remained the same in the last three years. Compared to 2016, total IPC crimes registered have come down from 1762 in 2014 to 441 in 2017. However, incidence of heinous crimes like Attempt to Murder, kidnapping have marginally increased.

General conviction rate reported was 19%. District Police Bhandara reported a conviction rate of 10.00% as far as Session Court cases are concerned. In all IPC cases, including Sessions Court cases, it was 23.10%. Conviction rate reported in cases under Special Acts other than Prohibition and Gambling Acts was 31.73%.

Guidelines on Arrest

It was stated that Guidelines on Arrest have been exhibited in all *thanas* of the district.

Custodial deaths

No custodial death was reported in Bhandara district in recent times.

Encounter deaths

Encounter deaths were reported as nil in Bhandara district.

NDPS

No case under NDPS has been registered in the district at present.

Excise Act

It was stated that very few cases have been registered in the district under report.

Extremism 03 tehsils are stated to be affected by extremist activities in Bhandara district.

Jails

I visited District Jail Bhandara on 19-05-2017. A Separate report has been submitted on the functioning of the jail to the Commission. Recommendations included in the report are posting of a regular Jail Superintendent, regular MO and health staff, filling up other vacancies, up gradation of infrastructure/plan for modernization, reduce U/T population, review security, set up new jail hospital/Lab facilities, screen prisoners for mental illness/TB/ Malaria/HIV/AIDS, **post ANM** to take care of women prisoners/children , full compliance of SC- directions on women prisoners/children, set up modern Telephone System/VMS/ Complaint Management System, up-scale/diversify vocational activity, channelize involvement of NGOs in various activities, train jail officials and staff in human rights issues concerning prisoners, install solar lighting/heating facilities, set up water harvesting/recycling facilities etc

Complaints against the police

In accordance with the directives given by the Supreme Court to all states in September 2006, on police reforms, a State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) has been set up in Maharashtra. It is probably the first state to do so. The Authority hears complaints against police personnel, including custodial injury , death and rape, arrest or detention without following prescribed procedure, and misconduct. The Authority is headed by a former high court judge. It is authorized

to hear complaints against police officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioner and above. Similar authorities at the district level, headed by retired District Judges, would hear complaints against junior officers. The SPCA will also have *suo-motu* powers of inquiry .

It is understood that in Bhandara district the Authority has not been formed nor are guidelines issued. The Bombay high court in April 2016 asked Maharashtra government to state the steps taken by it to make the SPCA and those at the district and divisional level functional.

It was stated that in Bhandara on the first Monday of the month the DM meets all departmental heads to discuss issues, including complaints against the officials.

Grievances of the police personnel

It was learned that police durbars are organized on every Saturday for interaction with those who have complaints.

Cases referred to by NHRC

It was reported that no complaints received from NHRC are pending for action in Bhandara district at present.

Crimes against women District Police, Bhandara reported details of crimes under Sections 376 and 354 IPC as follows

Table-4

Crime Head	Year		of		reporting	
	2014		2015		2016	
	R	D	R	D	R	D
376 IPC	28	28	25	25	49	49
354 IPC	73	72	92	92	99	99

(Source: District Police) Abbreviations R=Registered; D- Detected

Data provided on the subject shows that there has been increase in the registration and detection of cases u/s 376 IPC and 354 IPC in 2015 and 2016 compared to the previous year. District Police, Bhandara claimed that it has taken several steps to

protect the rights of women, including setting up of Damini squads /Women's helpline/ toll free number and night patrolling. Mahila Assistance Cell, Women's Counseling Centers / committees on sexual harassment in work places and Dakshata Committee have been set up for providing help to women in distress. Awareness programs on rights of women are organized. Mobile police is deputed every Saturday by the police stations to check on crimes. This has become very popular that some of the other states are also taking it up.

Dowry related cases

It is a matter of concern that in a progressive state like Maharashtra dowry deaths are being reported even in modern times. A total number of 02 cases of dowry deaths each were registered in the district in 2014 and 2016. No dowry deaths were reported in 2015 or 2017 in the district.

Human Trafficking

No case of human trafficking was reported in the district.

Rights of the Child

As per data furnished by the district police the number of crimes against children registered in the district were 60 (60 detected) in 2014; 111 cases registered (111 detected) in 2015; 107 cases registered (107 detected) and 53 cases registered in 2017 (35 cases detected). A point was raised by the officials that under POSCO age of consent is 18 years whereas under IPC it is only 16.

Juvenile justice It is seen that JJ Boards and Child Welfare Committees (CWC) have been set up in the district. Besides Child Protection Unit has also been put in position. According to reports JJ Board dealt with 142 cases last year and disposed of 21 cases; 121 cases are pending. CWC handled 25 cases, 22 were disposed of 03 cases are pending.

Bhandara district has 09 Observation Homes run with the help of private agencies/NGOs. It is seen that among them Vaishali Bahudhesiy Shikshan Sansta running one of the Homes with a capacity of 50 and Asha Akanksha Bahudhesiy Sanstha, Parsoda, Ramtek with sanctioned capacity of 100 *have no intake*. I visited one Observation Home for Boys. A detailed report on the visit has already been submitted.

Missing Women and children

District Police, Bhandara reported 473 cases on missing persons (131 male; 229 female; 26 boys; 87 girls) in 2014 ; 488 persons (175 male; 299 female; 04 boys; 10 girls) in 2015; 540 persons (186 male; 354 female; 0 boys/girls) in 2016 and 203 persons (69 male; 134 female, 0 boys/girls) in 2017 .

454 missing persons (out of 473 missing) in 2014, 437 persons (out of 488 missing) in 2015, 459 persons (out of 540 missing) in 2016 and 138 persons (out of 203 missing) in 2017 were reportedly traced by the police. Out of 454 recovered in 2014 , 226 were women, 26 boys and 85 girls; of 437 persons recovered in 2015 266 were women, 03 boys and 10 girls; among 459 persons traced in 2016 294 were women and no boys or girls; among 138 persons tracked in 2017 98 were women and no boys or girls.

Child Marriages

Table-5 Bhandara District-- data on child marriages

District	Mean age of Marriage of girls		% of 20-24 yrs women married before 18	
	T	R	T	R
Bhandara	21.4	20.02	1.0	00

(Source: AHS 2011-12) T=Total; R=Rural

A three member team has been appointed to work on the problems of children, including child marriages in the district. Besides a Gram Sevak and an Anganwadi Sevika have been declared as preventive officers. Officers notified for preventing domestic violence are also declared as preventive officers for child marriages. IEC activities are taken up at all levels, including Anganwadis. It was mentioned that no complaint was registered relating to child marriages in the district in 2016-17.

Atrocities on SC/ST

District Police, Bhandara furnished the following data regarding atrocities on SC/ST for the last 03 years in the district.

Table-6

year	Cases Registered		Charge sheeted		Final		conviction		Acquittal		pending	
	S C	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
2014	13	0	11	0	2	0	0	0	07	0	04	0
2015	19	01	17	0	0	02	0	0	05	0	12	0
2016	30	10	26	09	03	01	0	0	0	0	26	09
2017(up to April)	15	01	05	0	0	0	0	0	0		05	0
Total	77	12	59	09	07	01	0	0	12	0	47	09

It was reported by the administration that *only one person was convicted for committing atrocity in Bhandara so far*. It is generally seen that very few cases of atrocities against SC/ST get convictions due to the fact that many of the witnesses turn hostile either due to threats or inducements; fool proof cases are not made out before courts and due to various legal impediments. Besides no attempt is seen made to vacate stay given by higher courts. These cases require careful and close monitoring. It was stated that payment of compensation was up to date in cases relating to atrocities against SC/ST.

Education

According to Education Office, Zila Parishad, Bhandara the district has 984 schools (Govt.-01; ZP-767, NP-18; Govt.-aided-113, unaided-79 and unrecognized 06). 144598 students (74427 boys; 70171 girls) are enrolled in these schools. The district has 3885 (2225 male; 1660 female) teachers. According to the Department, the state government is providing support to students by way of text book facilities, uniforms, midday meals etc. Nearly 60% schools are stated to be digital .

On the basis of a survey it is reported that as of 11-07-2016 there were 238 children out of school in Bhandara district. Of those 226 children were admitted in schools; 58 children had migrated and 06 children reportedly dead.

Since I visited the district when schools were closed due to summer holidays I could not visit any school.

Health Issues

The key health indicators pertaining to the district could be seen in the Table below :-

Table-7

Health Indicators of Bhandara district

District	IMR/1000	MMR /one lakh	TFR	Institutional Delivery (%) NFHS-4	Ins.del. in Public facility- NFHS-4	Financial assistance under JSS (%) NFHS-4
Bhandara	20.23	80.26	1.8	94.9 (91.1-R)	70.0 (80.5-R)	24.6 (33.0-R)
Maharashtra	22	68	1.8	---	---	----
India	40	167	2.3	---	---	---
NRHM target	26	100	2.1	100	---	100

DHS 2016-17 Health data provided by district administration.

From the above Table it will be seen that but for MMR health indicators of the district are low when compared to those for Maharashtra and those set under NRHM/NHM. It was reported that institutional delivery is 100% at present in the

district. Even then it was learned that there were 47 maternal deaths last year and 14 this year in district. Deaths were reportedly due to Post-partum Hemorrhage and eclampsia. Three cases were referred to higher facilities.

As far as family welfare is concerned, data published by HFHS-4 is given below.

Table-8

District	Unmet demand NFHS-4	Use of any method	Modern method	Female sterilization	Male sterilization
Bhandara	19.2(20.7-R)	69.9(68.5-R)	69.2 (67.9-R)	51.1 (53.4-R)	7.3 (8.9-R)

Source: NFHS-4 (2015-16)

As per NFHS-4 9.8% of the currently married women (R-13.45%) are reported to be illiterate. Only 60.9% (R-44.5%) had schooling of more than 10 or more years of schooling. 20.3% of the women (R-24.5) in the age group 20-24 had a birth order of 02 and above. 9.7% (R-9.5%) of the women in the age group of 15-49 had a birth order of 03 and above.

According to District Rural Medical Officer, Bhandara male sterilization has reached 20% at present in the district, which is indeed very welcome. One BMS and 01 MBBS doctors are trained in NSV.

As far as health infrastructure is concerned, Bhandara has only one District Hospital, 02 Sub divisional Hospitals, four CHCs, 16 PHCs, 23 VHSCs. 81.2 5% of PHCs are 24x7. Only four facilities are designated as FRUs.

Only 48% of the villages have ASHs. 64% of the VHSC. are within a distance of 3 kms from the village. 92% of the PHCs are within a distance of 10 kms of the habitations. 95.6% of the VHSCs have a resident ANM. This is a welcome step. 75% of the Medical officers/staff had Government quarters.

As far as availability of specialists are concerned, no Gynecologist or Radiologist is available in the district.

I visited PHC Kondha. Its building was reportedly constructed in 2005. 02 Medical Officers ,02 ANMs 02 Staff Nurses 02 LHVs and 02 Health Assistants (M) are

posted here. There are 13 Health Sub Centers in all under the PHC covering a population of 68000. A Rural Hospital is located 10 km away.

OPD attendance was reported as 150-160 patients per day. Indoor facilities (male-04 and female 06 beds) of total 10 beds are available. All 06 beds for female were vacant. 04 beds in post delivery ward were too vacant. A labor room and OT are available. Labor room thankfully had a cooler installed. Institutional delivery reported was 100% 25-30 deliveries are reported per month. Last year 268 deliveries took place in the PHC. No maternal death reported in the area. Further, 100% family planning targets are met. After delivery IUD is inserted within 48 hrs.

No case of Malaria was reported, nor TB or HIV. However two cases of Leprosy were reported. It was mentioned that a pilot project was taken up involving 30% of the population covering 10 Sub Centers and screening of a population of 20000 was carried out. Accordingly diabetes was detected in 6.5% of the population and HT in 15.18%. These cases are referred to the District Hospital for treatment. MO and the Senior Nurse were trained in screening for cancer. NIC Nagpur has trained ASHAs in cancer screening.

A meeting hall is available in which all 63 ASHAs reporting to this PHC assembled. ASHAs were seen provided smart uniforms which gave them a dignified look. All ASHAs have received training in Bhandara district. Each of the ASHA earns Rs. 3000-4000/-pm. *However, it was pointed out that they were not getting allowance for attending to general patients in delivery cases. This should be looked into immediately by the District Health Society.*

There was no AYUSH Wing in the PHC although 33 Ayurveda dispensaries are stated to be available in the district. It was said that on market day one BMS doctor visits the PHC and attends to patients. Sanction for an AYUSH unit at sub centers is under consideration. AYUSH facilities are available at Rural Hospitals and District Hospitals.

As far as mental health is considered training has been provided to Medical Officers and MPWs.

Interestingly I saw a solar powered cold chain in the PHC. It was stated that this is the only PHC in the district with this facility. 07 more PHCs are proposed to be

covered. No water harvesting facility is available in the PHC though. In water scarcity areas having this facility is very essential. *All PHCs in the district ought to have solar powered cold chains, lighting and heating as well as water harvesting facility.*

Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) is functional. Rs.1,75,000/- received as grant was utilized for providing facilities for delivery, purchase of medicines, repair of electrical connections etc. It was stated that doctors quarters were in good condition.

ICDS

Some of the key indicators on child health in the district, as reported by AHS- (2011-12) and NFHS-4 (2015-16) are listed below.

Table-9

District	Full Immunization (%) NFHS-4	% Under wt. children	% of stunted children (under-5)	% children wasted	% of children Anemic (6-59 months)
Bhandara	69.1 (71.9-R)	-	-		68.5 (71.9-R)

Source: NFHS-4 2012-13

It is reported that in Bhandara district ICDS services are being provided through 1305 Anganwadis (1196 Anganwadi Centers and 109 Mini Centers). A survey covering 73133 children was undertaken in the district; After weighing 72574 children 95.43 % were found to have normal weight; 4.02% of children were Medium Under weight (MUW) and 0.55% Severely Under weight (SUW). 0.19% had Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 0.02% had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

In Bhandra district I visited Anganwadi at Silly. The building is reportedly 15 years old. Repairs were undertaken with funds received under the 14th Finance Commission.

Total enrolment of children of age group 0-3 reported was 49; Number of children in 03-06 age group was 31. 08 pregnant women and 11 lactating mothers were also enrolled in the Anganwadi. Children come between 8-12 they are given take home ration.03-06 food given pregnant THR

It was stated that the Supervisor was on leave. But the Helper was present.

It was stated that no Children of SAM category was present but 05 children belonged to MAM category.

Vaccination is carried out in 02 camps organized every month. ANM comes on those days. The Helper was not able to cite the percentage of immunization achieved. Health cards are maintained by the ANM.

A separate kitchen is available. It had sufficient ventilation. No LPG is available for cooking purposes. At the time of visit *Kitchdi* and beans were seen cooked for breakfast.

Unlike in Gujarat no donation from the public or community support is taken by the Anganwadi.

Social Welfare Schemes

Social Welfare Department is implementing welfare schemes for SC/ST and Backward communities and other vulnerable groups, through the Zila Parishads. The schemes include maintenance grants for institutions, payment of staff salary, Grant-in-aid to hostels, Pre-Matric scholarships to students belonging to SC/ST and Backward communities, scholarships for girls, reimbursement of tuition fees etc.

Schemes are also sanctioned for physically and mentally challenged students. 31 schools (01 for the blind; 06 for the deaf and dumb; 08 for orthopedic handicapped and 16 for mentally retarded) are being run in the district. Pre- Matric scholarships are also granted to physically handicapped students. 3% of the cess collected by the Zila Parishad is spent on the Physically Challenged.

Welfare of Scheduled castes

Population SC/ST (source: Census of India- 2011)

Table-10

District	% Population SC			% Population ST			% State SC ST
	T	M	F	T	M	F	
Bhandar	18.65	18.42	18.89	9.40	9.37	9.43	SC 11.81 ST 9.35

A number of schemes directed at welfare of Scheduled Castes are under implementation in Bhandara district. Apart from providing hostel facilities, support to institutions and sanction of scholarships as already mentioned, 20% of the total income from cess by Zila Parishads is utilized for welfare of SC/St/BC and other vulnerable sections.

Visit to a dalit basti

I visited Panchayat Bhavan, Silly and had a meeting with Shri Dhulichand Deshmukh, Sarpanch, Smt. Asha Barai Deputy Sarpanch and Smt. Chetana Sarkar, Member. The Gram Panchayat has 11 members with 02 Members belonging to SC category, but no ST Members. They were elected in 2012. Total population of the panchayat was reported as 3508 with 519 belonging to SC and 1129 (165 families) belonging to the BPL categories.

The Panchayat has its own building repaired with funds received from 13th Finance Commission. Staff comprises of 1 clerk, a Computer Operator and 02 peons only. 100% of tax collection was reported up to now. 98% collection is reported in the current financial year. Gram Sabha meetings are regularly being held. Priority is given to drinking water, sanitation and employment generation programs.

The panchayat has an Upper Primary school for classes 1-7. It is a mixed school. No drop outs have been reported.

The Panchayat has taken steps towards harnessing solar energy for public purposes. Out of 11 solar lights installed only 06 are working. Solar pumps are installed in 03 wells. Solar pumps have been connected over hand pumps. These pumps work from 8am to 5.30 pm daily. 14th Fin commission provided direct financing to Panchayats. This scheme could be extended to other panchayats as well.

I visited the adjoining dalit basti. Road cum drainage scheme taken up in the basti has been completed. Ambedkar Bhavan is seen constructed at a cost of Rs.7 lakhs by the panchayat. It was stated that all residents are literate in the basti. Girls go to school. A Junior and senior college meet the educational needs of students. The panchayat as a whole faces problem of drinking water. Impure (hard) water is pumped from the river bed and supplied. A RO system has been installed in the school by the panchayat. 22 villages are covered by the Wyn Ganga (a tributary of Godavari river) project. DPC sanctioned schemes for 11 panchayats in Bhandara. A proposal for pipeline supply of water in the panchayat is pending for the last 15 years. Purification of water is needed to make it potable. It was stated that all houses in the basti had toilets. Power supply is available all the time.

Unemployment is said to be high as there is no industry. Only self employment is pursued by the youth.

No atrocities against Dalits are reported. Social security pension is available. There were no complaints about non receipt of pension. No child marriage is reported in the panchayat. Sex ratio reported was 1000: 960 . 03 ASHAS are working in the villages.

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes

Welfare schemes for ST include schemes for income generation (Group-A), Training (Group-B) and Human Resource Development (Group-c). *It is seen that against allocation of Rs.43.49 for Gr. A, Rs.21.75 lakh each for Gr. B and Gr. C no expenditure is made as of May, 2017.* However, under Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) out of Rs 1361.40 lakhs received for 2016-17 an expenditure of Rs.1350.09 (99.17%) has been reported. Whether the funds were utilized for the purpose for which they were sanctioned needs to be verified along with physical achievements. It is further seen that Rs 31.24 lakhs allocated for

skill development too were not utilized. Shabari Adivasi Gharkul Yojana is taken up for meeting housing needs of tribals in the district. It is seen that although the Zila Parishad has sanctioned 60 units in 2015-16 and 120 units for 2016-17 no houses have been constructed. As per reports no grant has been received from the State Government for this purpose.

Implementing machinery

Although 16 posts have been sanctioned at the district level for implementing welfare schemes for SC/ST, 10 of them are reportedly vacant. *Vacancies include posts of District welfare Officer, 3 Welfare Inspectors, Office Superintendent, senior clerk etc.*

Food Security

Maharashtra is one of the top ten states under NFSA. It is learned that Maharashtra started implementing the National Security Act w-e-f 1st February, 2014. Schemes for ensuring food security among the population include the Mid-day Meal Scheme, ICDS and the public distribution System.

The UN World Food Program and the Institute of Human Development, New Delhi recently published a report on **Food Security Atlas of Maharashtra**. According to the Atlas food security of population in any area is determined by three factors namely food availability, food accessibility and the absorption capacity.

As mentioned the share of forest area in Bhandara district is 28.84%; SC/STs form 26.52 % of total population of the district and only 65.19 % of the rural women are literate in the district. These factors are important in deciding the food security in a district.

Food availability depends on the share of forest areas, extent of irrigation, per capita value of agricultural output and paved roads. As per the food Atlas availability of food in Bhandara district is assessed as "moderately secure". Access to food is determined by factors like proportion of agricultural laborers, working age population and SC/ST in the population, per capita consumption expenditure and wage rate and rural female literacy. Factors that determine absorption capacity are availability of safe drinking water, access to health care and sanitation. Accessibility is assessed as 'moderately secure' in Nagpur. **The overall Food Security Index worked out after the study is 0.477 (rank 26th) and is assessed as 'moderately insecure'.**

National food Security Act, 2013 is being implemented in Bhandara district. The administration has identified 699065 beneficiaries under Priority House Holds (PHH); Antyodaya cards have been issued to 64585 beneficiaries. It is reported that as of April, 2017 the entire allocations of 1398 tons of wheat and 2097 tons of rice by the Central government have been lifted. Out of these 1370 tons of wheat and 1980 tons of rice have been distributed to PHH beneficiaries. Similarly out of allocation of 646 T of wheat and 1615 T of rice , 630T of wheat and 1600 T of wheat have been distributed to Antyodaya beneficiaries.

During field visits on inquiry it was found that public distribution of food grains was by and large satisfactory in the district.

Social Security

A number of pension distribution schemes both national and state level have been taken up in the district.

Quality of life of the people

NFHS-4 reported that in Bhandara district 97.6% (rural- 95.5%) of the households have electricity and there is 95.8% (R-92.9%) coverage of improved drinking water source. Further only 48.2 % (R-14.6%) of households use clean fuels. As per Maharashtra Human Development Report, 2012 Bhandara district had a HDI value of 0.701 (State av. 0.752) and was categorized as 'medium'.

Swatch Bharat Mission

NFHS-4 has also reported that only 69.6 % (R-51.3%) households had access to improved toilet facility. Swatch Bharat Mission is being implemented in all 07 blocks of the district. It is reported that as of 12/5/17 against a target of 59501, 59501 toilets (100%) were constructed as per AIP 2016-17. All 538 Gram Panchayats in the district were declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF). An amount of Rs 700/-laks was received by the district for construction of toilets. However the claims made by the administration ought to be verified. Left out villages any ought to be taken up on priority. It would also be necessary to ensure that the toilets are being used by the people.

Swatch Bharat Abhiyan is simply not only about construction of toilets. it is about keeping all public places clean and bringing about change in attitude and behavior of the people. A holistic approach is needed. Moreover cleanliness of towns and villages ought to be sustainable for which the *Kudumbshree* model (women's groups) adopted by Kerala could be useful.

Land & Forest issues

Bhandara district is well-known for its forest resources. Out of total geographical area of the district, 38 thousand hectares is reported to be under forest.

Forest Rights Act (FRA) is being implemented in Bhandara ditrict. The district administration Bhandara reported that 16454 tribal and other claims were approved by the Gram Sabha in three tehsils (Bhandara, Sakoli and Tumsar). Out of those claims recommended by Gram Sabha 13805 claims were rejected and 2649 sanctioned by the *Sub Divisional Committee*. Out of 11618 rejected cases only 2334 filed appeals, and only 320 appeals were accepted.1167 appeals are reported to be pending. Of these only 2134 were accepted by the *District Level Committee*; 515 claims were rejected. District administration ought to look into the cases and see why only very few claims have been sanctioned in the district.

In Bhandara district 2520 claims have been sanctioned involving 2932.37 acres up to April, 2017 under the Forest Right Act,. It was reported that after measurement 2109 acres stand distributed. According to Administration only 143 cases are pending for measurement and distribution. It would be necessary to do a survey to find out as to how many of the beneficiaries are in *actual possession* of lands settled. Beneficiaries also ought to be provided assistance for land leveling, soil conservation, water harvesting, cultivation etc by integrating MNREGA with other schemes, if not already done.

MNREGA

Bhandara district comprises of 07 Tehsils and 543 Gram Panchayats. Main crops cultivates are paddy, wheat, Chick Pea (Chana) and Tuvar . Lac is also produced in Bhandra. MNREGA is taken up in the district between the months of January and June. Rest of the period no labor is reportedly available due to paddy cultivation and Manganese mining. MNREGA funds are mainly used for construction of rural roads and water harvesting structures, tree plantations etc.

According to district administration 281020 job cards were issued to eligible households (HHs) in **the** district. Out of these 140825 are active cards. Out of 281948 job cards, 281020 cards are Aadhar seeded (99.67%). 155047 beneficiaries are being provided Aadhar-based payments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). 88.11% of the payments are claimed to be made within 15 days.

Bhandara district claims to have a higher achievement compared to other districts. Against a target of 69.62 lakh person days estimated for the year 2016-17, achievement reported was Rs 55.14 lakh (79,20%). Against an allocation of Rs 22281.60 lakh achievement reported was 11241.35 lakh (69.63%). Since inception 36777 works were taken up in the district against which 26540 were completed (achievement 72.16%). The schemes taken up include tree plantation, repair of irrigation canals, ground leveling, construction of soak pits, farm pond, irrigation wells cattle/poultry sheds etc. Out of 3969 irrigation wells taken up, 2440 are stated to be complete. Against an allocation of Rs 22281.60 lakh achievement reported was 11241.35 lakh (69.63%)

I visited *panther rasta*. a road about 1km in length in Silly tehsil under construction with MNREGA funds. A board displaying estimated cost and man days to be generated was displayed in the vicinity of the scheme. Soil is taken from sides and the height of the road was being raised. Officials present stated that the road will be made *pucca* after morrum is put on the top and after leveling. Estimated cost reported was Rs.22.96 lakhs (which appeared to be high) with estimated man days at 6939. 1596 person days have already been achieved. One of the female laborers stated that she worked for all 07 days in a week from 7am to 1pm. Her children go to school and husband goes for other works. She gets paid Rs. 120-150 daily. Officials present stated that this road will be very useful for the local population, especially during agricultural operations. Deepening of tanks and irrigation canals have also been taken up under MNREGA.

Farmers suicide 04 cases of farmer's suicide were reported in the district this year. It was stated that compensation was paid in three cases. Apparently district administration has not gone into the details of the causes of death. The families of diseased farmers ought to be provided other benefits under various Government schemes.

Bonded Labor/Child Labor No incidence of bonded labor was reported in Bhandara district. It is, however, reported that 05 cases of child labor were reported in the district in 2016-17. No details were made available on the follow up action taken.

Manual scavenging

It was reported that a survey was conducted in the district to identify manual scavengers. No case of manual scavenging was reported in the district. However special care ought to be taken regarding covered/ un covered manholes on roads and the human rights of those who clean them by providing protective gears, ensuring timely payment of salaries etc

Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act -PESA

Bhandara is not a district notified under PESA .

Observations and Recommendations:-

1. Crime and law and order

2. Reducing crime rate -crimes against women High incidence- Coordinated action by Multiple agencies/departments for ensuring women's security

3. Human Trafficking AHTUs, ought to show results- step up legal enforcement, bust rackets, rehabilitate women/children trafficked

4. Crimes against children This area has received very little attention. POSCO Act is poorly implemented. All structures are in position but no facilities provided. Poor condition of Observation/Shelter Homes. Introduce Quality Assurance in institutions needed.

5. Atrocities against SC/ST

This should receive priority. SC/ST Thanas out to bet set up in the state. Better/speedier implementation of SC/ST (POA) Act, witness protection, 100% conviction rate etc

6. Protection of the rights of Minorities

It is incumbent on the district administration to ensure protection to the life and property of minorities, keeping in view the increasing incidents of intolerance directed at them.

7. Extremism It is necessary for district administration to ensure that human rights of the people residing in the extremist affected areas are protected, especially while

taking police action. As far as those who are lodged in prison as alleged extremists are concerned, their production before court and access to legal aid are important.

8. Prisons

Visit report on District Jail, Bhandara is already submitted to the commission.

9. Healthcare

Shortage of doctors and medical staff/ better incentives for those who work in rural areas/ start indoor treatment in PHCs, improve facilities for deliveries, provide coolers/fans in OTs /delivery room /indoor, maintain quarters for doctors and medical staff/ better design of buildings, introduce solar lighting/heating/water harvesting in health facilities. Prioritize AYUSH Systems. Have AYUSH Wings in PHCs/CHCs/ closely monitor ASHAs.

10. Food Security and Malnutrition

NFSA ought to be fully implemented without any delay. Attention to be paid to those families categorized under *Antyodaya* /priority households. Children who are outside Anganwadis or schools, especially a large number of children of inter-state migrants who are generally not covered by any program ought to be taken care of.

11. Land and Forest issues

Possession ought to be ensured of the lands allotted to beneficiaries under FRA/ other legal provisions. Land allotment under FRA although linked with MNREGA ought to be integrated with benefits under other schemes as well.

10. Farmers suicide

Each case of farmer's suicide needs to be investigated to find out the reason behind it. Apart from the grants provided to eligible families only very few have received other benefits; no preventive action is taken, especially counseling. listening to their grievances, providing immediate short term assistance etc. Revival of farmer's cooperatives which can meet all needs of farmers ought to be assisted.

11. Involvement of civil society

Very little involvement of civil society is noticed in Government programs. Channelizing the involvement of reputed NGOs can yield better results.

11. Police Reforms

The District Police Complaint Authority, Bhandara ought to be made functional.

12 Water harvesting and harnessing solar energy
