

varnishes, chemicals, surgical cotton etc. The forest based industries include saw milling, plywood and veneer, clip boards, hardboards, essential oils etc. Among the mineral based industries ferro-manganese, caustic soda, cement, aluminium, pig iron, coal carbonisation, fertilizers, electrolytic manganese, ceramics, titanium oxide, dyestuffs and intermediates and downstream industries using inputs available from the Maharashtra gas cracker project offer scope. In the engineering sector, semi-finished engineering goods, steel tubes and pipes, alloys, castings, forgings, press-work, agricultural implements, industrial machinery, structurals and transport equipment provide opportunities. Chemicals and pharmaceuticals have seen the most rapid growth in the state during the last two decades. Among the sunrise industries, electronic goods, computer peripherals, plastics, synthetic fibres, food processing, beverages and export oriented industries indicate potential in Maharashtra.

## **2. INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Ports, harbour and inland water transport:**

Maharashtra has a coastline of 720 kilometers. It is served by two intermediate ports namely Ratnagiri and Redi and 46 minor ports, from Dahanu in the north to Kiranpani in the south. Of these, six ports handle passenger traffic. The country's most modern port Nhava Sheva in Bombay started functioning in May 1989. In 1985-86 cargo and passenger traffic handled by these ports was imports 306 thousand tonnes, exports 1,293 thousand tonnes, passengers 1.3 million. There are about 9 major creeks in the state which are navigable and offer a vast potential for the development of inland water transport in the state Airports.

### **Airports:**

Bombay has both an international airport linked to all major countries in the world and domestic links to all major cities in India. Several foreign air carriers operate through Bombay. Nearly 60% of international tourists to India visit Bombay.

### **Telecommunications:**

A network links Bombay to more than 400 cities in India on subscriber trunk dialling (STD) while 18 cities in Maharashtra are connected to 151 countries on I.S.D. Telex and telegraph services link many villages and districts.

## **3. BOMBAY, CAPITAL OF MAHARASHTRA**

### **a. Size and trading communities:**

With an area of 603 square kilometres and a population of 9 million, Bombay is the gateway to commercial and industrial India. The population of Bombay is close to the entire population of the Province of Ontario and is projected by the UN to double to 16 million in 2000. It is one of the ten largest cities in the world.

Bombay is the most cosmopolitan and sophisticated city in India. The main trading communities here are the Gujaratis, Sindhis, Parsees, Marwaris and Punjabis.

### **b. Characteristics, Strengths and Specialities:**

Bombay is India's commercial and financial nerve centre. Bombay provides 32% of Indian government revenue, which also accounts for 25% of India's industry, 10% of the nation's industrial jobs and 50% of India's customs and excise revenue. Bombay has the highest concentration of industries in the state, it provides 60% of the factory employment and accounts for almost 3/4 of the total output and value added by manufacturing in Maharashtra. Bombay has more than 5000 industries of large and medium size and about 10,000 small scale establishments.

Historically, Bombay's major industry has been textiles but new industries have emerged in the last few decades with increased industrialisation, providing goods such as metal and rubber products, footwear, paper products, tobacco, beverages, vegetable products, petrochemicals, paints, varnishes and engineering and electrical equipment. Engineering goods are manufactured in the Greater Bombay-Thane belt. A large number of defence and public sector organisations are located in Bombay. It is the Indian Navy's largest operational base and is also the major trading centre for diamonds in India.