

## **Jalna District: The Next Twenty Years**

**Naresh R. Bodkhe**

*This study contains excerpts from the Jalna vision document. It addresses three aspects of development namely, human development indicators, infrastructure development and development in the productive sectors. The data were collected from 763 villages and analysed to identify issues and arrive at the accepted set of priorities for the district. The district ranks low in terms of HDI because of low per capita income and low literacy level. The district lack basic infrastructure like roads, electricity and water supply. The productivity of the agriculture is also poor due to low and erratic rain fall and lack of irrigational facilities. Roughly 80 per cent population of the district lives in the rural area and hence dependence on agriculture is high. Therefore, agriculture and allied activities along with agro-based industries emerge as lead sectors of the economy. Thus, the vision of the district revolves around education, health, infrastructure, irrigation and agro based industries.*

### **I Introduction**

The Experts Group constituted by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj to study and make recommendations on the formulation of district and sub-district plans at all levels of Panchayat in 2005, visualized the process of district planning as falling into a broad sequence of steps. First step is the envisioning process which would look at how the main priorities are determined as also the participatory processes that enable all stakeholders to be involved. Second step is to prepare perspective development plan for five to ten years and finally consolidation and integration of perspective plans with five year and annual plans by the District Planning Committee. This study contains excerpts from the vision document submitted to Jalna District Planning Committee.

The vision is primarily in terms of goals and outcomes, and addresses basically three aspects of development, namely, *human development indicators, infrastructure development and development in productive sector*. Basic human development indicators essentially cover health, education, women and child welfare, social justice and availability of basic minimum services. With respect to infrastructure, the targets aimed under Bharat Nirman could be adopted. The

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