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An Empirical Study of Economic Growth Trends in Nagpur, Maharashtra: Evidence from 2020–2025

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Abstract

Nagpur is projected to be the fifth fastest growing urban economy in the world and the fifth fastest growing city in India with study shows its growth rate is 8.41%. The influence of economic development trends is influenced by various factors like structural development, education, tourism, etc.Nagpur, an important urban and economic hub with economic rank third in Maharashtra while Mumbai and Pune are ranked first and second. Nagpur has great potential for regional development as it has good educational institutes, tourist spots and is well connected with transport. The present analysis evaluates key indicators of economic growth and development in Nagpur, focusing on three economic indicators such as tourism, education, and connectivity . In this research secondary data collected from official government publications, economic surveys, and other relevant sources are involved . The first economic indicator education show an increase in the number of institutions at various levels such as primary , secondary and higher education, although there are variations in student enrolment and teacher availability across these levels. A good education leads to employability and thus increases innovation , research and development of overall economy. The next economic indicator transport indicate significant expansion in road infrastructure and the number of motor vehicles. Connectivity is important in shaping the economy of specific region however Nagpur is very well connected through road , railways and airport. The third economic indicator tourism is explored through different types of destinations including wildlife, religious, cultural, and urban leisure spots, along with their potential impact on the local economy, employment opportunities, and development of the service sector. The data highlights the importance of education, tourism and connectivity. This report has placed emphasis on the need for reliable and comparable data, and further quantitative research. There is some evidence to suggest that these areas would provide useful insight for policymakers and development planners looking to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development in Nagpur.

Keywords: Nagpur , Tourism Development, Education Sector, Economic Growth, Transport Infrastructure , Trend Analysis, Secondary Data.

Introduction

Nagpur is the geographical centre of the Indian subcontinent. The interesting feature about the city is that it does have a Zero Mile Stone, marking the centre of India and used by the British for measuring distances within the Indian subcontinent. Nagpur is also equidistantly located from nine metropolitan cities include Mumbai, Pune , Ahmedabad , New Delhi , Kolkata , Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kochi in India. Nagpur is known for its greenery and was once ranked as the cleanest and second greenest city in India. Nagpur is also known as Orange City.

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Tourism:

Nagpur is a place of many holy places. It include the Ramtek Fort Temple, the Adasa Ganpati Temple near Savner, the Baba Tajjuddin Dargah, the Shree Ganesh Mandir Tekdi near Nagpur Railway Station, the Sai Baba Mandir at Wardha Road, the Telankhedi Hanuman Temple, the Swaminarayan Temple, the Koradi Temple, the Shri Poddareshwar Ram Temple, the Balaji Temple, the Siddhivinayak Temple at Zilpi, Deekshabhoomi and Dragon Palace The Raman Science Centre is a science museum and planetarium located featuring various interactive scientific exhibits and a facility known as Science on a Sphere.

There are some natural lakes in the city such as Gorewada Lake , Ambazari Lake and man-made lakes in the area are Futala Lake, Sakkardara Lake, Shukrawari Lake, Sonegaon Lake and Zilpi Lake. The main attraction of Futala lake is that it becomes the world's second-largest lighting and musical fountain. Tourist attraction is also towards gardens such as Ambazari Garden, Telankhedi Garden, Satpuda Botanical Garden, Japanese Garden, and Children's Traffic Park.

Nagpur is the Tiger Capital of India. The main tourist attraction is for Tiger reserves such as Pench Tiger Reserve which are located approximately 100 km from the city Tadoba National Park is situated south of the city, where around 3,80,000 are expected to visit every year. Nagpur has its own reserved forest areas in Seminary Hills and Gorewada. Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park is an international zoo and provides a Wildlife Safari experience.

Education

In Nagpur, schools follow the curriculum of one of the following educational boards: Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE). As almost all curriculum is included thus Nagpur is a significant educational center in Central India.

Nagpur include five state universities: Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) ; Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU); Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University (KKSU); Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU); and Laxminarayan Innovation Technological University (LITU). Furthermore , there are two private universities: Ramdeobaba University (RBU) and Lata Mangeshkar University (LMU). Symbiosis International University also operates a campus in the city.

Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, located in Nagpur, is the only National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Maharashtra. The Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) was established in 2016 as a public-private partnership with TCS . A Government College of Engineering was established in the academic year 2016–17. The National Fire Service College, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is also located in Nagpur and was established in 1957. There are five government medical colleges in city are as follows: Government Medical College, Indira Gandhi Government Medical College, Nagpur, Government Dental College, Government Ayurvedic College, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). There is also one private medical college, N. K. P. Salve Institute of Medical Sciences.

Maharashtra National Law University and the Department of Law, Nagpur University are two major law schools in Nagpur . There are two major management institutes the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), and the Institute of Management Technology (IMT). The College of Agriculture is one of the oldest institutions in the city . There are also centrally funded institutes in Nagpur, including the National Power

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Training Institute, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Central Power Research Institute, National Academy of Direct Taxes, National Civil Defence College, National Research Centre for Citrus, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management, Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), National Disaster Response Force Academy, National Academy of Defence Production, and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) are also in Nagpur for distant education . Nagpur serves almost all sphere of educational purpose and improvising toward the economic growth in the state.

Connectivity

Rail has major role in Nagpur's connectivity towards metropolitan and other regions. The data shows 160,000 passengers use Nagpur Railway Station each day for travelling . It is one of the oldest and busiest railway stations in India and play important role in economic growth of the city. In addition to Nagpur Railway Station, Ajni and Itwari are other important railway stations in the city. Other stations in the area include Motibagh, Kamptee, Kalamna, Khapri, and Godhani. The city functions as the divisional headquarters for both the Central Railway and South East Central Railway Zones of Indian Railways.

The good connectivity through road helps in economic growth of the region by connecting producer to market , lowering the logistic cost , agricultural growth , and employment generation. The highway roads have helped decrease the distances between cities. To travel along roadways, Nagpur is a major road junction in India. There are two major national highways, the Srinagar-Kanyakumari National Highway (NH 44) and the Mumbai-Kolkata National Highway (NH 53), pass through the city.

Apart from this there is a need for interstate , intercity and intrastate connectivity for economic growth in city . In our State , Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) provides affordable transportation for intercity, interstate, and intrastate travel. In Nagpur it controls from two bus stations: Nagpur Bus Sthanak at Ganeshpeth and MorBhawan at Jhansi Rani Square, Sitabuldi. MSRTC runs 1600 daily services to long and short distances within the state and other nearby states. For intercity connectivity the city bus service is named Aapli Bus. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation runs 730 buses through three red and one green operators, carrying over 200,000 people daily. To travel by local transport , there are many options in Nagpur include autorickshaws and private taxi services operated by companies such as Ola Cabs, Rapido, and Uber.

Air connection leads to economic growth due to having airport access to cities and the national economy. The airport in Nagpur is Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport. Nagpur's air traffic control system is among the busiest in the country, with around 1700 or more flights passing over the city daily.

Nagpur has uninterrupted flights to cities such as Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune, Indore, Ahmedabad and Goa. For handling diverted flights and emergency landings the Government of India has accepted Nagpur Airport as one of the safe airports. As a matter of fact , many flights have used the airport during emergencies. This is because the government had already informed all international and domestic airlines to use Nagpur as an alternative during such situations. From the past data Nagpur Airport has an annual passenger capacity of one million which is at present around three millions, yet it consistently handles more passengers than its designated capacity.

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Objectives

1. Tourism: To look at the changes in tourism development in Nagpur between 2020 and 2025 and to evaluate how it might contribute to the local economy, create jobs, and support other economic activities connected to tourism.

2. Education: To study about education sector and its effect to develop human resources, create employment opportunities and improve the economy of the region between 2020-2025.

3. Connectivity: To study about the improvement of road, rail, air and public transport in Nagpur and its effect to boost the economy of the region by creating good opportunities in trade, tourism, investments etc between 2020-2025.

Methodology

1. 1 Research Design

In this study a descriptive and analytical approach is used to understand the trends in economic growth in Nagpur, Maharashtra, between 2020 and 2025. For the present study it focuses on three key areas of development: tourism, education, and connectivity. This study will examine the changes in key indicators within each of the sectors and how they are linked to overall economic development.

1. 2 Study Area

The research is focused on Nagpur, Maharashtra, India. The geographical scope will be either Nagpur city or Nagpur district, depending on the availability of comparable statistical data. This is a vital point to ensure that the data is accurate when analysing and interpreting.

1. 3 Sources of Data

The data is mainly secondary data obtained from reliable sources such as government publications, official reports and databases.

These sources will include:

- Economic Survey of Maharashtra and District Socio-Economic Review of Nagpur.

- Ministry of Tourism and Maharashtra Tourism Department.

- Ministry of Education and All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE).

- Nagpur Municipal Corporation database.

- National Highways Authority of India, Indian Railways and Airports Authority of India.

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

1. 4 Variables and Indicators

The following indicators will be looked into:

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Tourism: Number of tourists, number of tourism businesses, tourist related facilities and employment within the tourism industry.

Education: Number of education institutions, number of students enrolled and number of colleges and universities.

Connectivity: Number of roads and railways, number of passengers using airports and public transport facilities.

1. 5 Statistical Tools and Techniques

The following techniques will be used to analyse the data that will be collected:

Descriptive Statistics – A summary will be created using tables, percentages, averages and measures of spread.

Trend Analysis – A line graph and trend model will be constructed to highlight any trends over the year between 2020 and 2025.

Discussion

Tourism in Nagpur District plays a significant role in the regional economy, contributing around 8% share to Maharashtra's total tourism revenue according to study. The Maharashtra government to fully power this economic potential, Nagpur is officially recalled as a "Tourism District. " The name allows significant tax benefits to the Hospitality industry. These incentives will allow private investment and help boost growth.

Pench Tiger Reserve and Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary are key natural attractions that generate substantial income from both domestic and international tourists. Premium multi-day safari and resort packages vary from ₹44,000 to over ₹3,46,000, channeling considerable revenue into the hospitality industry.

Deekshabhoomi and Dragon Palace Buddhist Temple are important religious sites that attract large numbers of pilgrims. During major events like Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Din, more than 2. 5 lakh devotees visit Nagpur. The spiritual sites such as Shree Ganesh Mandir Tekdi, Hazrat Baba Tajjuddin Dargah, and Ramtek Fort Temple ensuring consistent economic activity in local communities.

Economic Synergy Matrix

The table below outlines how different tourism sectors contribute to revenue generation in Nagpur:

Destination Type	Core Locations	Primary Revenue Channels	Beneficiaries
Wildlife Eco-Tourism	Pench, Umred Karhandla	Safari ticketing, high-end resort lodging, guide fees	Tribal communities, forest departments, luxury hospitality
Spiritual & Cultural	Deekshabhoomi, Ramtek, Dragon Palace	Transit spending, religious merchandise, budget hotels	Small MSMEs, street vendors, public transport

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Urban Leisure	Futala Lake, Ambazari, Khindsi Lake	Boating, food & beverage, commercial space rentals	Municipal corporation, real estate developers, restaurants

Education

TRENDS IN SELECTED INDICATORS
TABLE 28.7
EDUCATION

2010-11	2020-21	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Item
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(2)
					Primary
75,695	81,609	79,919	1,04,499	1,04,526	(1) Institutions (No.)
10,626	15,391	14,603	14,592	14,501	(2) Students ('000)
349	518	492	480	497	(3) Teachers ('000)
					Secondary (Including Higher Secondary) @
21,357	28,505	28,532	28,986	29,641	(1) Institutions (No.)
10,711	6,523	6,294	6,370	6,362	(2) Students ('000)
298	248	251	254	246	(3) Teachers ('000)
					Higher (All types) $
3,277	3,231	3,556	3,858	4,070	(1) Institutions (No.)
1,784	2,715	2,883	2,902	3,018	(2) Students ('000)

@ From 1994-95 on wards junior colleges are included in higher secondary education
$ From 1994-95 Medical, Engineering and Agricultural Institutions are excluded.

Primary schools: There was a notable increase in the number of primary schools in 2023-24 which has remained fairly static in 2024-25.

Secondary schools: The number of secondary schools have increased steadily. However, student numbers have decreased from 2010-11.

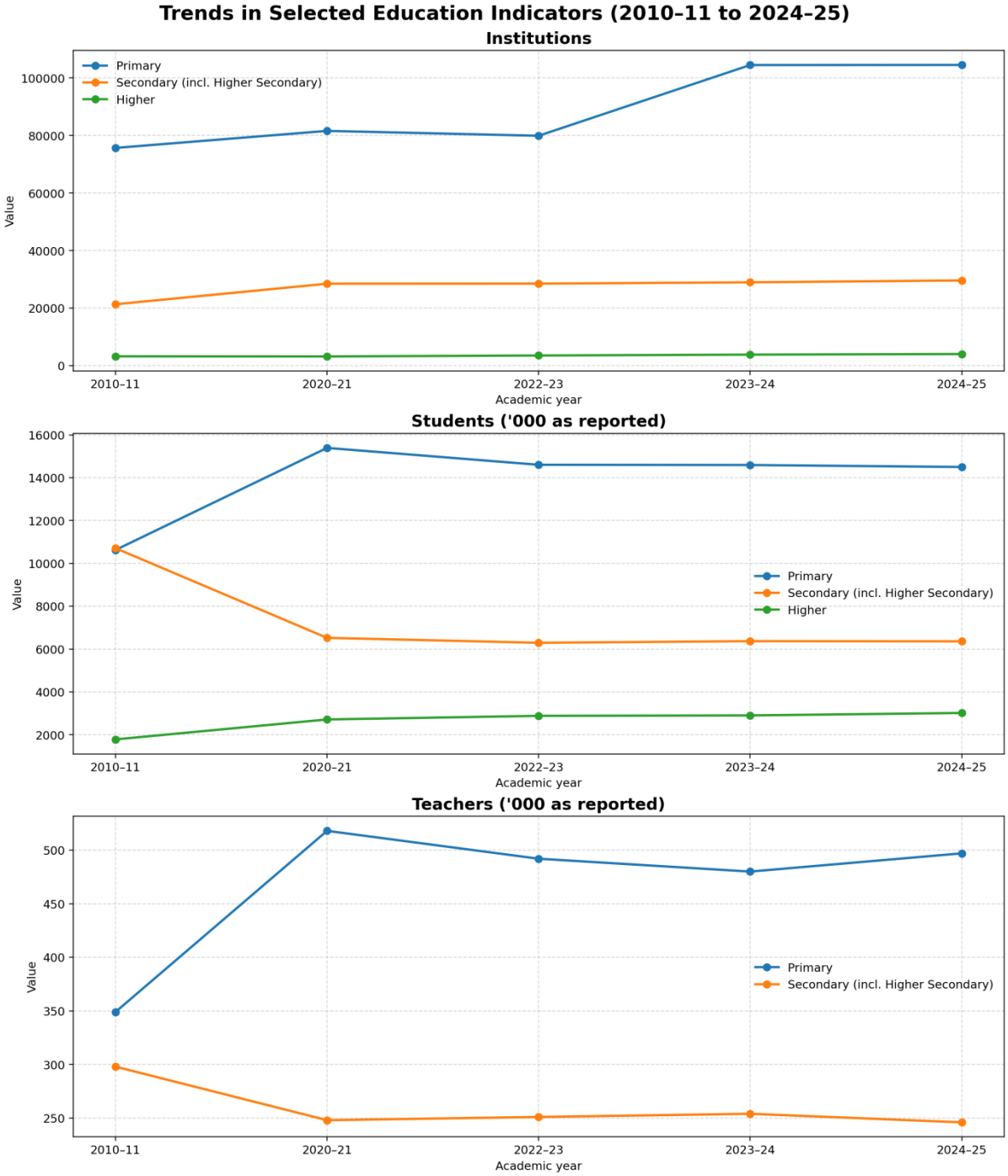
Higher education: There has been an increasing trend in the number of institutions and students from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Teachers: The number of primary school teachers has increased in 2024-25 compared to the 2010-11 period. However, secondary school teacher numbers have decreased overall.

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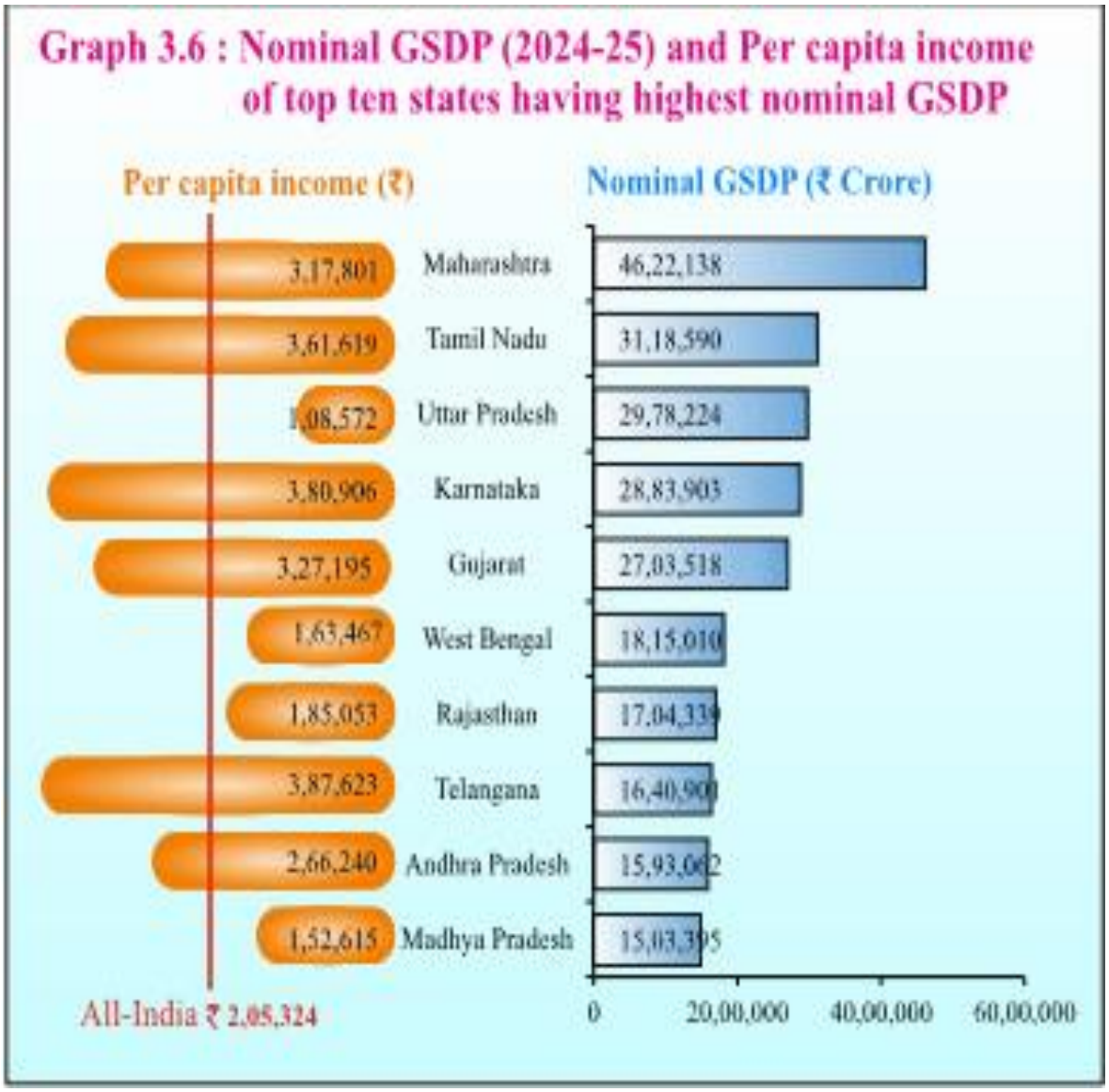
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District Income

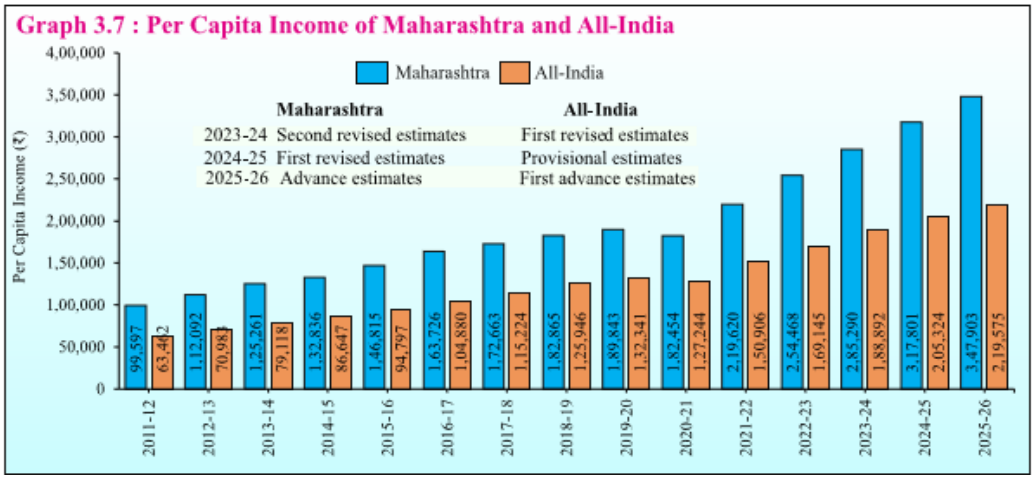
The three variables under study are tourism, education and connectivity . To understand the interrelation we need to study district income to get the full idea about consistent economic growth in district from revenue generation and prosperity in district. The following graph below shows that from the top ten states Maharashtra is having highest per capita income for the year 2024-25. Also the study reveals Nagpur is in fourth position in per capita District income shown in graph below.

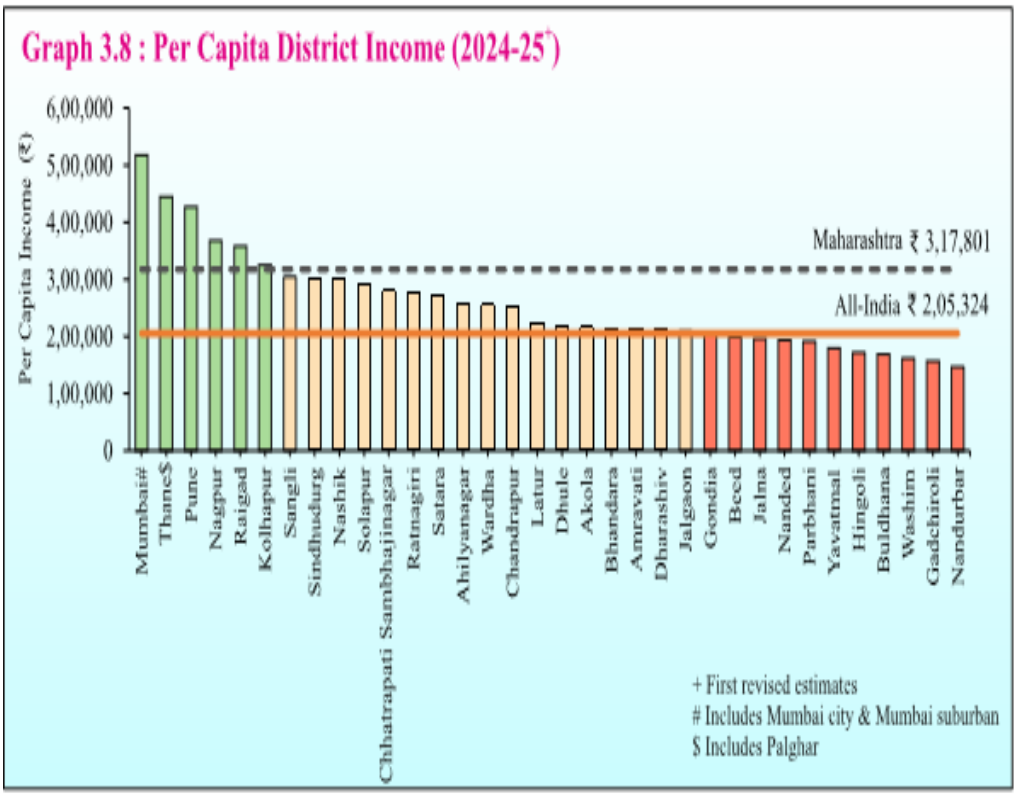


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Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2025-26

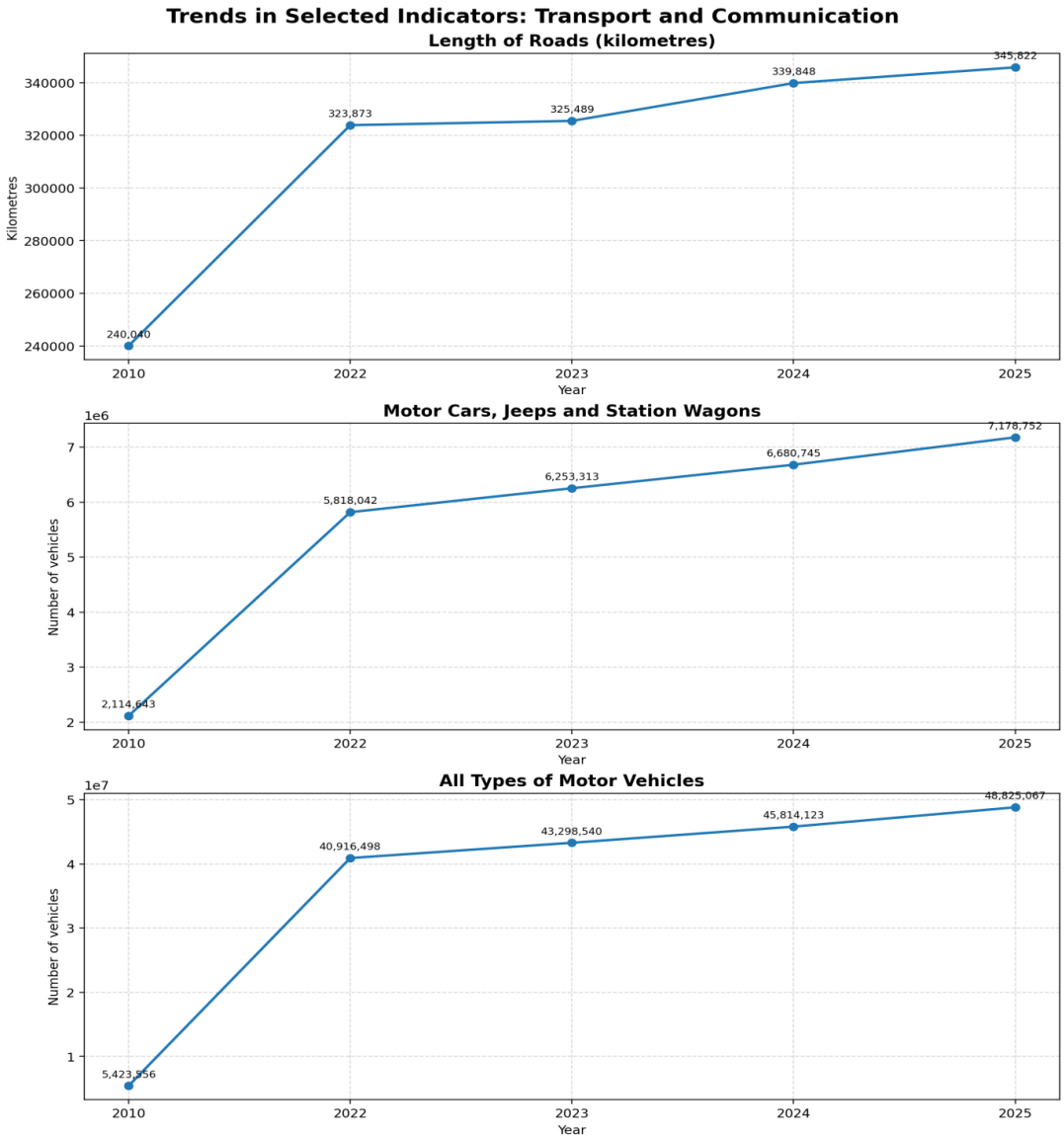
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TRENDS IN SELECTED INDICATORS
TABLE 28.6
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

2010	2022	2023	2024	2025	Item
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(2)
2,40,040	3,23,873	3,25,489	3,39,848	3,45,822	Length of roads as on 31st March of each year (kilometers)
					Motor vehicles in operation (as on 1st January of each year)
21,14,643	58,18,042	62,53,313	66,80,745	71,78,752	(a) Motor cars, Jeeps, Station Wagons
54,23,556	4,09,16,498	4,32,98,540	4,58,14,123	4,88,25,067	b) All types of vehicles



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The length of roads increased from 240,040 km in 2010 to 345,822 km in 2025. Cars, Jeeps and Station Wagon increased from 2,114,643 in 2010 to 7,178,752 in 2025. Here the trends shows a significant growth in road infrastructure and the number of motor vehicles over the period.

Findings

• The study incorporates comparisons of nominal Gross State Domestic Product and per capita income, both for Maharashtra and India.

• This provides a wider economic view to understand Nagpur's position in Maharashtra and the Nation.

• The key finding shows that education, tourism, and transport connectivity are interconnected aspects of regional and economic development of specific region.

• The tables clearly shows that growth occurs in selected indicators of education and transport ,whereas the tourism section highlights potential economic opportunities.

• Descriptive evidence showing trends of development and growth.

• Consistent data across districts is very important in identifying growth rates, key contributors within sectors and how effective development strategies are.

Conclusion

In this study we examines economic growth and development indicators in Nagpur, Maharashtra, with the consideration of variables such as tourism, education, and transport connectivity. The conclusion of the study show growth trends in every indicators , especially in the number of educational institutions, road infrastructure, and the number of motor vehicles leading to Nagpur can be reflected as a fastest growing economy. For tourism-related economic activities Nagpur's wildlife, religious, cultural, and recreational sites offer hopeful opportunities employment creation. The data concerning to education tells the number of institutions increased, student enrolment and teacher numbers. However teacher numbers did not follow a consistent upward trend across all levels. This would assess the educational progress in terms of the number of institutions, enrolment rate, staff and efficient use of resources. Similarly, the potential importance of connectivity for regional economic development is reflected from expansion in road length .However, infrastructure growth, investment, employment, and productivity should be measured to understand its broader economic impact. Overall it was highlighted that there are key areas that can help drive regional development within Nagpur such as the tourism industry, educational sector and connectivity. Future research study should include the various another economic indicators such as Healthcare sector, infrastructure , export of oranges , MIDC Butibori and Mihan to study the overall economic impact ,growth rates and development of district.

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