TOPOGRAPHY OF: SINDHUDURG

BRIEF HISTORY OF SINDHUDURG REGION

Sindhudurg district is the Southern part of the greater tract known as the “Konkan” which is historically famous for its long coast line and safe harbours. Sindhudurg district was earlier a part of the Ratnagiri district. For administrative convenience and industrial and agricultural development Ratnagiri district was divided into Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg with effect from 1st May, 1981.

Sindhudurg (Sindhu= Sea, Durg= Fort) was built by the great Maratha warrior leader Shivaji in 1664. Shivaji selected the strategic rocky island location “Kurte” for the fort himself to counter foreign forces and to keep the nearby Siddis of Murud-Janjira in check. Shivaji himself was one of the 6000 skilled construction workers on this massive maritime fort project.

Sindhudurg district now comprises of eight Tahsils of Sawantwadi, Kudal, Vengurla, Malvan, Devgad, Kankavli, Vaibhavwadi and Dodamarg. The word “Konkan” is of Indian origin and of considerable antiquity though the origin of the name has never been sufficiently explained.

The seven kingdoms of the Konkan of Hindu mythology are mentioned in the “Hindu History of Kashmir” and are said to have included nearly the whole west coast of India. The Pandavas are said to have passed through this region in the 13th year of their exile and had settled in this area for some time. The Raja of this region Veerat Ray had accompanied them in the famous war at Kurukshetra with the Kauravas. In the second century A.D. The great empire of Mauryas annexed all the Konkan Coast.

In the middle of the Sixth century, kings of the Maurya and Nala dynasties appear to have been ruling in the Konkan. The district of Ratnagiri was under the Silahars and
the capital of their Kingdom was probably Goa and later it may have been transferred to a more central place in the vicinity of Ratnagiri or Kharepatan.

Chandrapur was one of the most ancient towns in Konkan, probably founded by Chandravatiya a son of the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II. The 16th century saw the advent and rise of Portuguese power on the west coast of India and Sindhdurg was no exception. The sultan lost hold on the district in 1675 with the rise of Shivaji leading finally into the hands of Marathas. Marathas continued to the district till 1817 i.e. when the struggle between the British and the Peshwas came to an end and the whole of Konkan was transferred to the British. In 1819 South Konkan was formed as separate district with its headquarters first at Bankot and later at Ratnagiri. Three northern Sub-divisions were transferred to Thane District in 1830 and the district was reduced to a sub-collectorate level under Thane district.

In 1832, it was again made a fullfledged district and named as Ratnagiri district. In the year 1945, a new Mahal (Tahsil) called Kankavli Mahal (Tahsil) was formed. The former Indian state of Sawantwadi was merged with the district and the taluka boundaries were reorganized in the year 1949. In the same year the new taluka at the Sawantwadi was created and two new Mahals namely Kudal and Lania were formed. With the recogazation of the states in 1956, the district was included in the Bombay state and since 1960, it forms a part of Maharashtra. The name of the district has been adopted from the famous Sea fort of Sindhurg. This was built by Shivaji Maharaj near Malwan and it literally means “Sea Fort”. Its construction started on November 25, 1664 and after 3 years it was completed in such a fashion that it could not be seen easily by the enemy coming from the Arabian Sea.

**STRUCTURAL DETAILS**

Over 4000 mounds of Iron were used in the Casting and foundation stones were firmly laid down in lead. The construction was started on November 25, 1664. Built over a period of three years the sea fort is spread over 48 acres with a two mile long rampart
and walls that are 30 feet high and 12 feet thick. The massive walls were designed to serve as a deterrent to approaching enemies and to the waves and tides of the Arabian Sea. The main entrance is concealed in such a way that no one can pinpoint it from outside.

**LOCATION**

Sindhudurg district is spread over an area of around 5,207 sq. kms. The population of the district is 8,68,825 as Per census of 2001.

Sindhudurg is bordered on the North Ratnagiri District, on the South by the state of Goa, on the West by the Arabian Sea and to the East across the Crest of the Western Ghats or Sayadhrs in Kolhapur District.

Sindhudurg is part of Konkan (Coastal) region a narrow Coastal plain in Western Maharashtra which lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea.

Sindhudurg is accessible by road NH-17 which passes through major towns at Kankavli, Kudal and Sawantwadi or by the picturesque journey on the Konkan Railway which stops at Kankavli, Sindhudurg, Kudal and Sawantwadi. The nearest airports are at Ratnagiri, Belgaum (Karnataka) and Dabolim (Goa).

**CLIMATE**

The climate is generally moist and humid and the temperature variations during the day and throughout the seasons are not large.

Sindhurg has semi-tropical climate and remains warm and humid in most of the year. It has three clear Seasons:
1) Rainy Season (June to September).
2) Winter Season (October to January) and
3) Summer Season (February to May).

Temperatures vary between Max. 32°C and Min. 21°C.

**LANGUAGE**

The people of Sindhudurg District mostly speak Malvani, through Marathi and English are also spoken. Cities in the district include Sawantwadi, Kudal, Oros, Kankavli, Devgad, Vergurla and Malvan. Smaller towns include Nerur, Katta, Kalse, Bande and the hill resort of Amboli.

**STATISTICAL DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>8,68825</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,17,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,50,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>80.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>90.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femlae</td>
<td>71.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>167 Per sp. km.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>1079 (For 1000 male)</td>
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</table>

**FOOD (FEEDING)**

The Cuisine of the district is popularly known as Malvani Cuisine. Coconut, Rice and Fish assume Prime significance in the Malavani Cuisine Sea-food containing fish, especially Bangada (Soloman), Paplet (Pomfret), Prawns, Bombil (Shells) and Tisrya (Crab) is very popular food of the people here. “Kombdi Vade” a chicken savoury, is the most popular dish here others include vkadya Tandulachi Pej (a semi-fluid boiled
prepartion made of brown red rice variety) and Sol Kadhi (A preparation made of Aamsul (Kokum) and Coconut milk), Dry fish is also a local delicasy.

Mango assumes a major factor to the life of Sindhurg in fact whole of konkan. Varieties of Alphanso Mango from Devgad are particularly popular other varieties of Mango: Mankur, Payari and Karel (Used for preparing Mango Pickle) are also popular for their distinct taste.

RAINFALL

The average rainfall is very high but almost all the rainwater causes surface run off, due to undulating topography and lack of any water impounding major and medium structures.

Sindhudurg witnesses rain for full four months June, July, August and September.

South West Monsoon winds bring heavy rain. Average rainfall 3,287mm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Sindhudurg district is spread over an area of around 5,207 sq.kms. The population of the District is 8,68,825 as per census of 2001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Latitudes</th>
<th>15.37 to 16.40</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Longitude</td>
<td>73.19 to 74.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Area</td>
<td>5207 sq. kilometer.</td>
</tr>
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## FISHERIES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Coast Length</td>
<td>121 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Area</td>
<td>16000 sq.km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Fisheries centers (8)</td>
<td>Vijaydurg, Devgad, Achara, Malvan, Sarjekot, Kochara, Vengurla, Shiroda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman Population</td>
<td>25365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fish Production</td>
<td>19273 M. Tons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Co.Op. Soc.</td>
<td>34 (Total Members 14216)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map Showing Location of Maharashtra State in India
Map Showing Location of Sindhudurg Region in Maharashtra State
Fish collecting boat

Fish Market
PLATE - B

Collection of intestine from Fish market

Working in Laboratory
Heavily Infected intestine

Collected worms
Parasites collected from different hosts

Trygon sephen

Trygon walga

Trygon zugei

Rhynchobatus djeddensis