Sindhudurg district was formed on 1st May 1981 (82). It stretches from Vijaydurg Creek in the north and Kiranpani river in the south flowing along the boundaries of the State of Goa and Maharashtra. The average north-south length is about 160 Kms and east-west width of 60 Kms (Cf. Map. 1 & 2). It is situated between 15°37' - 16°40' north latitude and 73°19' - 74°13' east longitude.

The district in fact is the southern part of the greater tract 'Konkan'. Before Sindhudurg came into being as a separate district the entire Sindhudurg - Ratnagiri region formed part of Ratnagiri representing the greater tract known as 'Konkan' - historically famous for its long coast line and safe harbours of Arabian Sea. The word 'Konkan' no doubt is of Indian origin of considerable antiquity but paradoxically very little explanation is available about it (82).

According to Hindu mythology, it consisted of 7 Kingdoms which find their mention in the 'Hindu History of Kashmir' and is believed that it included nearly the whole of Westcoast. Also, it is believed that Pandavas passed through this region and settled for some time in the 13th year of their exile. Veerat Raj, the King of this region accompanied Pandavas to the famous war of Kurukshetra. Mythology personified, it is claimed that this land mass (of coastal region) of Konkan had arisen from the bed of the ocean by the arrow of legendary Parsurama. It is during the
second century A.D., the great Mauryas annexed the Konkan coast. Kings of Maurya and Nala dynasties appear to have been ruling in Konkan during the middle of 6th century. It is interesting to note that the district Ratnagiri was under Silharaas with initially Goa and later Kharepatnam as capital. Of all the places Chandrapur was one of the ancient towns in Konkan. There are caves at Chipun, Khed, Dabhol and Sangameshwar. The Buddhist legends records embracing of Buddhism in Konkan during the life of Gautam Buddha around 500 BC.

The Portuguese power was on rise on West coast during the 16th Century. The Sultan lost hold of the district in 1675 and was taken over by Shivaji till 1817 and subsequently the whole of the Konkan was transferred to British Crown.

The name "SINDHUDURG" for the district has been derived from the famous sea fort 'Sindhudurg' built by Shivaji.

The district comprises 7 Tahsils viz; Kanakavli, Kudal, Sawantwadi, Vengurla, Malwan, Devgad and Vaibhavvadi. All the Tehsils excepting Vaibhavvadi are (Vabhave) from old Ratnagiri district. Vaibhavvadi has been taken from the Kolhapur district. (Map 1 and 2). The radial distance of various villages from the Headquater Kudal has been indicated taking 15, 25 and 30 Kms distance (Map.3).
The relief features essentially reflect its geological past, like a highly uneven nature with very narrow riverine plains fringing the coastline. Over 85% of the land surface is hilly. On the east a steep and forbidding scrap of the main range with higher elevations in the middle portions can be noticed where the hill ranges run parallel to each other. As a consequence, the numerous streams which flow through the valleys form a parallel drainage pattern. The rivers of the region flow from east to west and merge in the Arabian Sea. The rivers originate from the Sahyadri range, reach their base level of erosion within a distance of 20-30 Kms. The Sahyadri slopes in the east, the sea coast on the west, and the innumerable small hill ranges running east west and north-south wherein the whole area is divided by 9 rivers and many rivulets (Map-2) 12 creeks and some plateaus near the coastline are the features that govern the physiography and landscape of Sindhudurg (Cf. Map 5)

The Sahyadri scalp at some places ends abruptly thereby creates spectacular scenery with rich landscape of tree laden hills (mango and coconut).

Sindhudurg district stretches over an area of 5087.64 Sq. Kms and represents the second smallest in the state of Maharashtra with a population 8.5 lakhs which is mostly rural. 8% of this population resides in an area that can be called urban in the context of the district. This feature is very much in contrast to the State of
which ranks fourth in the per capita income among the state of India and indeed leads the rest of India both in Industrial investment and employment (cf. Income disparity). It is pertinent to note that the economic development in the State of Maharashtra exhibit wide regional disparities in income and industrial development excluding greater Bombay, Thane, Pune and some districts of Western Maharashtra, the rest has been left high and dry by the State Planning Apparatus - an anomaly that needs every consideration. It is in this context, Sindhudurg is often referred to a region thriving on Money Order Economy. That is a paradox in itself when compared to the resources potential of the district.

The district has unique distinction of producing outstanding personalities in all walks of life - Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay and Sanjaya Manjrekar, Dilip Vengsarkar (Sports); N.C. Kelkar, G.T. Madkholkar, V.S. Khandekar, M.M. Karnik (Literature) and Hansa Wadkar (Cine Artist).

The district has 12 creeks viz; Vijaydurg, Wad, Mithumbari, Mithabav, Achara, Sarjekot, Kolamb, Tarkarli, Kochara, Mochemad, water Redi and Kiranpani which were useful for inland transportation but due to silting they lost their utility and infact they offer potential difficulty in providing coastal road link for modern transportation requirements.
The climate of the region is moist and generally healthy. The summer season extends during the months of March to May and the rainy season from June to September. Winter season is experienced from December to February. October to November represents the post-monsoon season.

The temperature variation is between 19-40°C (in the interior) with May as the hot month and January as cold. Places like Amboli & others represent hill stations and have a climate of its own. The rainfall is heavy with an average rainfall for the region of 3940 mm annually. There is little variation with regards to rainfall. Malwan experiences lowest rainfall, while Vaibhavvadi the highest. The relative humidity ranges between 63-93% (December to January and July to August respectively). The humidity is about 55% during winter.

Vegetation is luxurious represented by Teak, Kinjal, Ain, Jamun, Phanas, Cashew, Mango (Alphonso), Coconut and Areca nut, which in itself reflects the richness of the region in terms of crops of economic importance.

The district has several spots of touristic interest like Amboli, Kanakeshwar, several forts and centres for crafts (Sawantwadi) representing high potential for tourism.
SINDHUDURG: RADIAL DISTANCE OF TALUKAS AND

VILLAGES - 1st, 2nd and 3rd CIRCLES DENOTE 15, 25 and 30 kms from the Head Quarters - KUDAL

Dist Roads
Dist boundary
River
National H way
Taluqa HQs