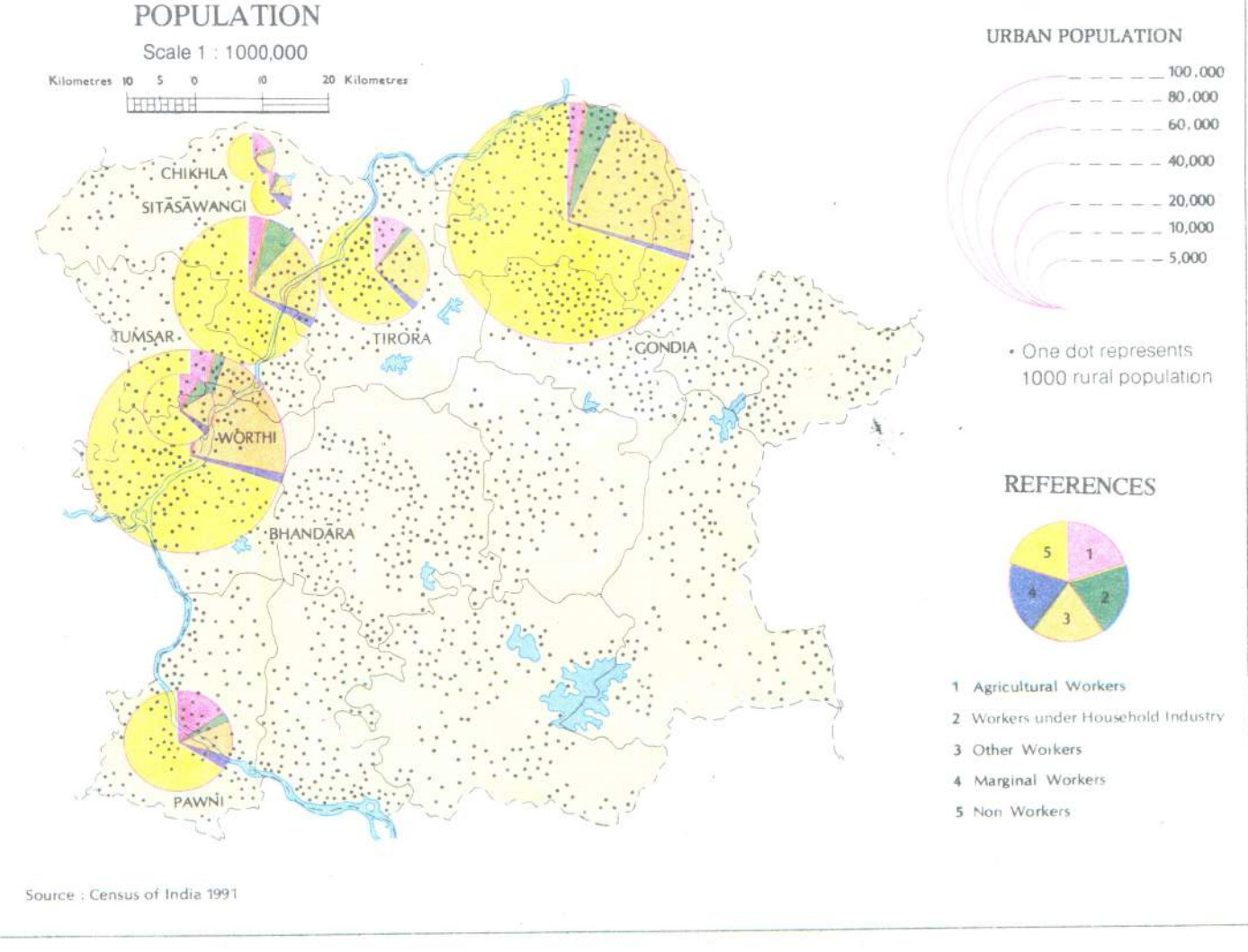
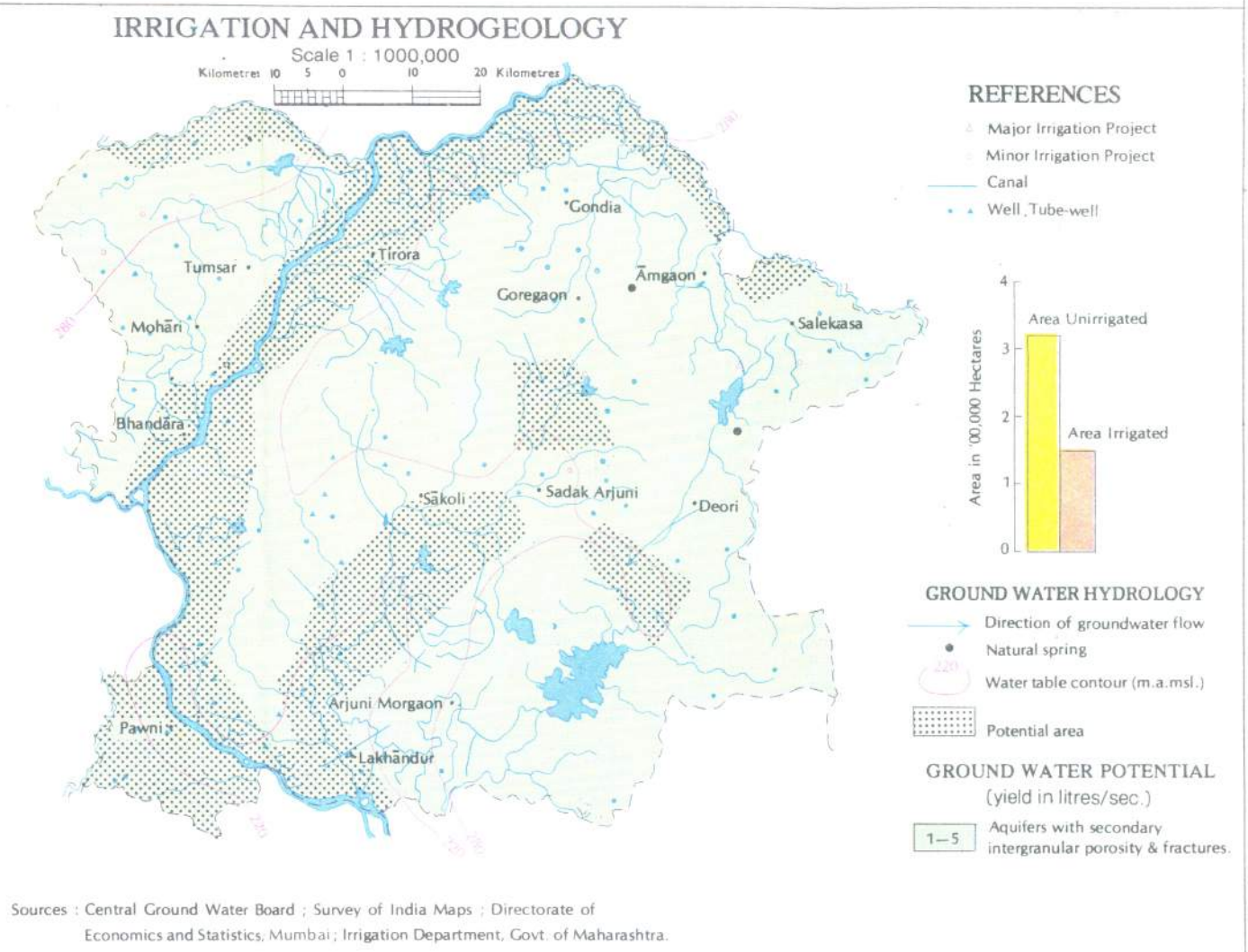
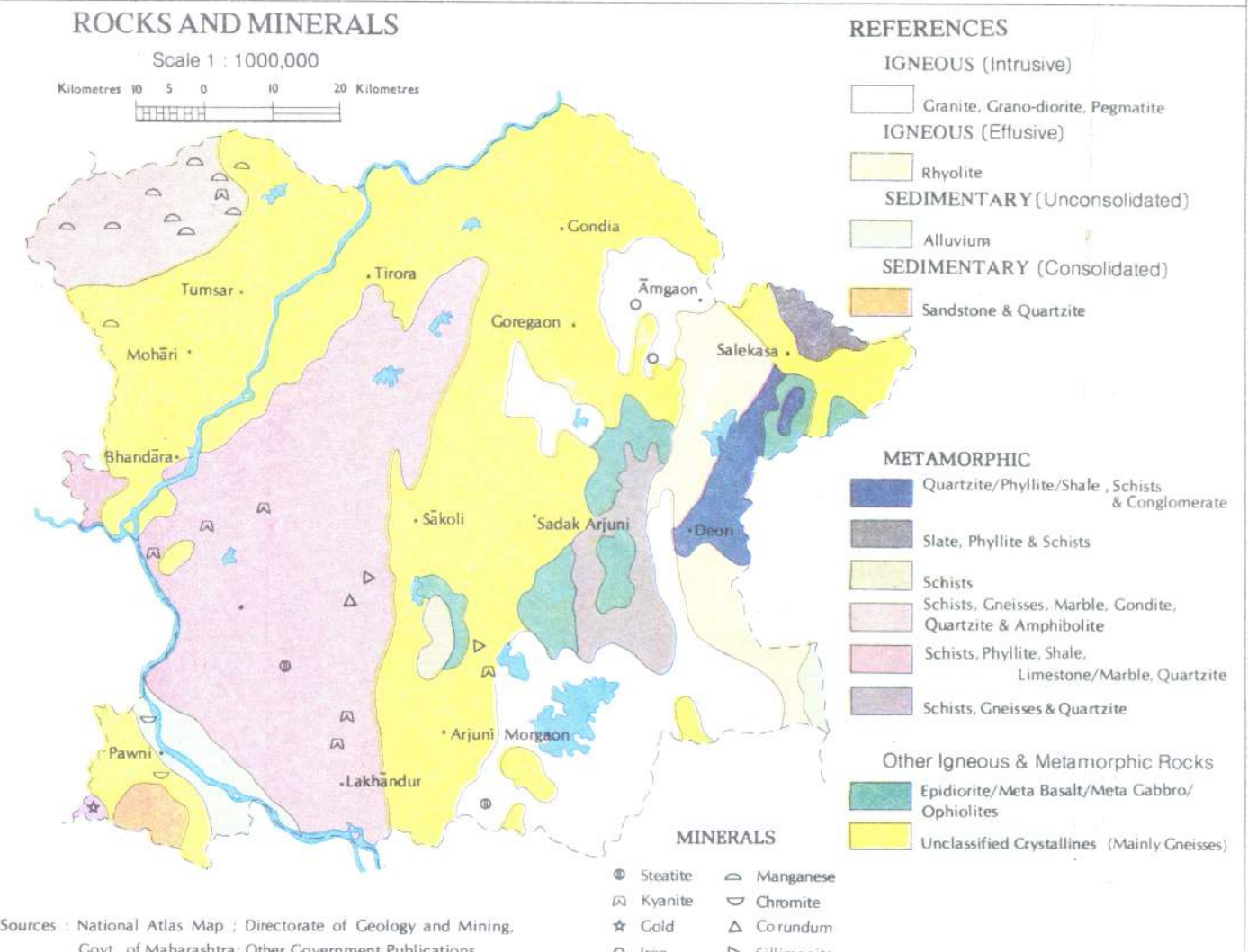
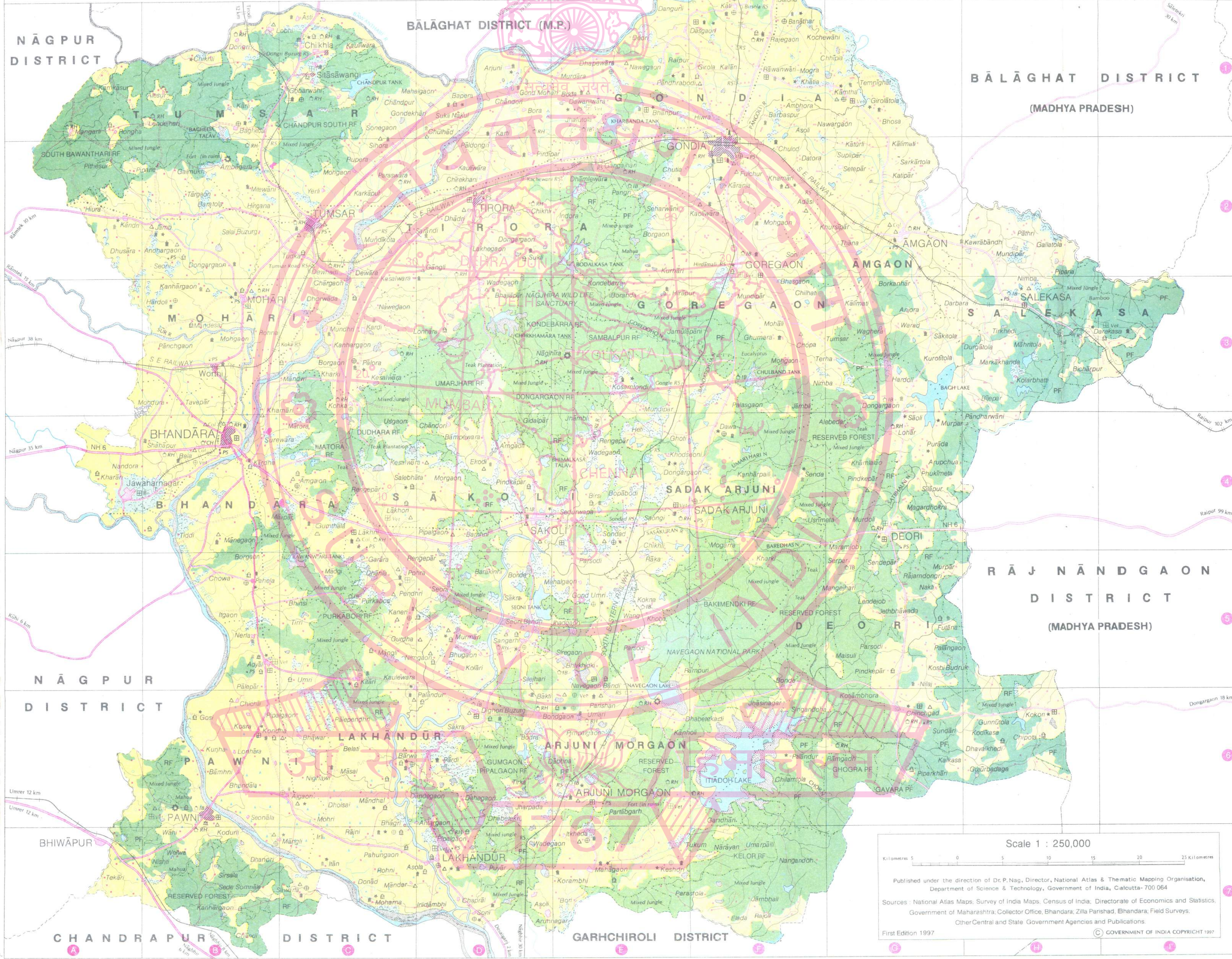


### DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES

## BHANDARA MAHARASHTRA

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



### BHANDARA DISTRICT

The district of Bhandara is in the extreme north-eastern part of the Maharashtra state. It lies between the north latitudes 20° 36' and 21° 38' and east longitudes 79° 27' and 80° 42' and covers 1.02 per cent of the total area of Maharashtra. The district is known as the rice bowl of Maharashtra and is also renowned for its mineral resources.

The Palasthali culture seems to have developed here, along the Wanganga valley. In ancient period, the entire Vidarbha region was included in the Empire of King Ashoka and subsequently was ruled by the Satavahans, the Chalukyas and the Rasthapuris for a long period of time. During the medieval period, Vidarbha was governed by the Muslim rulers and Gond kings were the rulers of Bhandara. In 1818, under the rule of the Marathas and Raghuji Bhosle was mainly responsible for the prosperity of this region. In 1854, the area was annexed to the British territory and Bhandara remained a part of the Central Provinces till 1956. It was transferred to the state of Bombay in 1956 and became a part of the state of Maharashtra in 1960. Currently, there are 14 talukas in the district.

Physiographically, the district as a whole is rolling and open with higher elevations to the NW and the SE. The Amgaon hills range in the NW represents city precipices on the southern side. Colhan range in the central part, runs in a series of double ridges with longitudinal depression in between. In the SE, Nawangan, Palagan and Pratapgaon hills are part of an undulating plateau with residual rounded hills, rise to the higher elevations within the district. The low lands lie mainly along the valleys of the river Wanganga and its major tributaries, Bagh, Chulband and Bawantari, which also form the main drainage system of the district. There are innumerable number of tanks scattered all over the district and Bhandara is often called the lake district of Maharashtra.

Major part of the district is underlain by crystalline rocks of the Cambrian age. The Sakoli formations arranged in a triangular pattern, cover the southern part of the district, while the rocks of the Salak and recent age is found along the river valleys. The minerals of economic importance are manganese, chromite, kaolin, silimanite, opaculum, iron ore, gold.

Climatically, the district experiences hot summer, well distributed rainfall during SW monsoon and dry weather condition for the rest of the year. December and January are the coldest months and May is the hottest. Of the total geographical area of the district, about 24.99% area is under forest. The most valuable species is Teak. Other species of commercial importance are sag, Haldu, Tira, Shoham, Khir, khir, etc. Timber and firewood are the major forest products and minor forest products include humber, gum, tendu leaves etc.

Shir (reddish yellow, derived from crystalline rocks) and Mosand (light grey, coarse textured) soils constitute about 73% of the total cultivated area and are utilized mainly for rice cultivation. Sambur soils (very deep, clay loam) are found chiefly in the plains and bear double crop, while Koli (black) is rare in the district. Inferior rice and minor millets grow on Khami (gavally and shallow) and Bardi (poor lateritic) soils.

Bhandara is predominantly an agricultural district. Rice is the main crop and is cultivated nearly in 98% of the gross cropped area. The other important crops are wheat, jowar, sind, gram, tur, linseed, sugar cane, vegetables and some fruits. About 30.79% of the gross cropped area is under irrigation.

Among the various types of industries, steel plant, sugar factory, paper mills, manganese refineries and manure tanning units of diverse equipment, truck shops, ironwood, asbestos pipe are most important. Rice mills, bidi making, saw mills, handlooms etc. are other notable industries. Gondia is the most prosperous and populous town of the district.

With a good agricultural background, Bhandara district with its valuable minerals and forest resources, has a good prospect for future economic development.

### REFERENCES

Boundaries: state, district, taluk, forest

Names of headquarters: district, taluk **BHANDARA PAWNI**

Names of other important places, village, forest species: Worthi Kānī Teak

Roads, metalled: according to importance

Roads, unmetalled: according to importance

Bridges: railway, road, Ferry, Track

Railways with station: broad gauge, narrow gauge

Main power line

Rivers: perennial, non-perennial, Canal

Lake, Tank, Well, Tube-well

Settlements: urban, rural

Cultivated land, Orchard & Plantation

Forest, Scrub, Grass

Other non-agricultural uses of land

Uncultivable wasteland

Post office, Telegraph office, Post & Telegraph office

Police station

Inspection bungalow

Rest-house, Circuit house

Forest: reserved, protected

Hospital, Dispensary

Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary Dispensary

Temple, Church, Mosque, Gurudwara

Places of tourists' interest, Market

College, Secondary School

Scale 1 : 250,000

Published under the direction of D.P. Nag, Director, National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, Calcutta-700 064

Sources: National Atlas Maps, Survey of India Maps, Census of India, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Maharashtra, Collector Office, Bhandara, Zilla Parishad, Bhandara; Field Surveys, Other Central and State Government Agencies and Publications.

First Edition 1997

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