



SURVEY OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

RATNAGIRI DISTRICT

The basic objective of this 'Map Series' is to provide users and planners with topographical and important thematic information related to a district. The data are likely to be available in digital form as a part of Geographic Information System.

RATNAGIRI district stands along the western coast of India stretching between 16° 30' and 18° 5' North Latitudes, 73° 2' and 75° 52' East Longitudes. Earlier RATNAGIRI was a vast area under the administrative control of Konkani Kings. This was later divided into two districts i.e. RATNAGIRI and SINHDURG for ease of administration. The place RATNAGIRI is the administrative headquarters of the district and is about 358 km. away from Mumbai. The city is famous being the birth place of Lokmanya Tilak.

The district forms a part of the Deccan trap region, which is primarily a plateau, extending from sea coast to the continental divide, where the peaks rise to 1000 metres at places. The geological formations found in the district include those of the Precambrian, Mesozoic, tertiary and quaternary ages, while the rock formation consists of Deccan trap considered to be of upper Cretaceous to lower Eocene in age and laterite rocks supposed to be of quaternary in age. The area close to the ghats is highly dissected with deep valleys. The middle part of the district has many flat topped hills rising to the heights of 250 m to 300 m above the sea level. These plateaus form a gradual slope towards west. The major rivers originating from the Sahyadri hill ranges are the Savitri, Vashishthi, Shastri, Kaji and Murkhindi. The river systems are young and bring to heavy rainfall have tremendous headwaters eroding capacity.

The predominant soil types found in the district are of laterite variety varying in colour from bright red to brownish red owing to the prevalence of hydrated iron oxide.

RATNAGIRI is endowed with several minerals and rocks of economic importance such as Asbestos, Bauxite, Building stones, Chromite, Clay, Feldspar, Quartz and the radioactive mineral Uranium oxide as well as iron and manganese ores. Being spread along the western coast the district has minor port facilities constructed in the year 1934.

RATNAGIRI Fort standing on the high headland, forms the west end of the RATNAGIRI harbour. The bastions of the Fort is 100 acres. The tower of the lighthouse point is known as the 'Siddha Bure'. The white palace of King Thibou constructed in 1811 is in Naochone village close to the RATNAGIRI city.

One of the beautiful decorations within the palaces of RATNAGIRI is the white beach interspersed with coconut palms and cypress trees on its border. It is a favourite tourist spot for holiday makers. There are also many other spots of tourist attractions like Lokmanya Memorial, Vinoba temple, Rajakrishna Mandir and Ram Mandir in the RATNAGIRI city.

Ganpatipule, a seaside holiday resort and a sacred place, 52 km north of RATNAGIRI is known for the ancient temple of Pule Ganpati. The idol is believed to be of 'Sivayambud'.

Rajapur town of the district, stands on a hill slope along the bank of a tidal creek. There is a hot spring at the foot of the hill at a distance of 2 km. from the town. The water of the hot spring has wonder healing power for rheumatic and skin diseases and hence frequented by people. There is another spring locally known as 'Rajapur Ganga' where the flow of water is irregular. Tourists visit this place for taking bath in the sacred water of 'Rajapur Ganga'.

RATNAGIRI has been a famous education centre in the state. It is also a place of trade and commerce. RATNAGIRI's chief export items are Mango, Coconut, Betanut and Fish.

The district receives heavy monsoon rains varying from 3100 mm to 4700 mm. The mean annual temperature of the district is 27°C.

