

**KEY STATISTICS OF RAIGARH DISTRICT 1991**

Area: 7148 sq km Population: 1,814,828 persons Literacy: 50.30%

Density of population: 253.72 persons/sq km Main Language spoken: Marathi

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**DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES**

**RAIGARH DISTRICT**

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**NATIONAL ATLAS AND THEMATIC MAPPING ORGANISATION**

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**RAIGARH DISTRICT**

Situated in the coastal Maharashtra, Raigarh district lies between latitudes 17°31' N to 19°00' N and longitudes 72° 51' E to 73° 40' E and covers an area of 7,148 sq. km. According to 1991 census, the district supports 1,814,828 persons. Marathi is spoken by more than 98 percent of the population. The district is named after the historical fort Raigarh, where Shivaji, the great Maratha emperor, was crowned and also died. The administrative set up of the district is divided into 14 taluhas: Alibag, Uran, Panvel, Karjat, Khalapur, Pen, Roha, Sudhagad, Mangon, Mahad, Poladpur, Khasa, Shivardhan and Murud. Alibag is the district headquarters.

Raigarh district is located in the Konkan coastal region. Situated between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, the district contains square of considerable regularity and height, running westwards at right angles to the main range, as well as isolated peaks and lofty detached ridges. A series of minor ranges also run north and south, between the main range and the Arabian Sea which makes its western boundary, having a length of about 250 km. A few small rivers, rising in the hills, pass through the district to the sea. The main rivers are Ulhas, Palghatta, Amba, Kundalika, Mandad and Savitri. There are several natural springs on the eastern hilly region and a few are thermal.

Due to the coastal location, the district is characterised by a mild, warm and humid climate. May is the hottest month, with mean temperature of 35°C and January is the coldest, with mean temperature of 15°C. About 95 percent of annual rainfall is received during monsoon. The highest amount is recorded at Mathuran (1817.3 mm) and is lowest at Uran and Khasa (2072 mm). The main rock formation is igneous. Basalts is the only notable mineral. Black soil is predominant on its northern part and lateritic soil on the southern part of the district. Red sandy soil may be found on the eastern hilly tracts. Saline and saline alkaline soil appear near the northern coastal belt. The district is fairly rich in forest. Scattered patches of mangrove along the river banks, the forests are spread all over the slopes and tops of hills. Teak is the most important tree here.

Rice is the chief agricultural product of the district, which is cultivated on a suitable portion of the arable land. Salt is extensively made by evaporation, and its production furnishes profitable employment in hot season, when the cultivators are not engaged in agriculture. Industrially this is a backward district of the state. Except a few industrial ventures recently, in general, small scale industries have flourished here. Fishing is an age old occupation of the coastal population.

There is not a single class 1 city in the entire district. The towns provide shelter to 3,28,640 people, which is 18 per cent of the total population. Panvel is the largest town. National Highway 17 runs from north to south and the National Highway 4, coming from the north, meets it at Panvel. Main line of the Central Railway and its Panvel - Uran section, Panvel-Ahmednagar section cover the northern part of the district. Some interesting archaeological remains in the district are the Buddhist caves at Pat, Koli, Kuda, Khande, Amal, and the Brahmanical caves at Elephanta. There are numerous churches and forts built by the Portuguese. Among the forts built by the Marathas, Raigarh is the most prominent.

Proximity to Mumbai and easy accessibility by road and by sea route, make the district economically important. Agro based industries need to be flourished here at a grand scale. Historical monuments, too, if properly maintained and publicised, may attract more tourists and bring more revenue to the district.

**REFERENCES**

Boundary: district, tahsil, forest

Name: spaced, district

Name of headquarters: district, tahsil

Name: other than headquarters, village

Highway: national, state

Other roads: metalled

Cart track, Footpath

Railway: broadgauge with station, metre gauge with station

Main power line, Telegraph & telephone line

River: perennial, nonperennial

Lake, Well, Spring

Bridge: road, railway

Settlement: urban, rural

Arable land

Forest, Scrub

Other non agricultural use of land

Wasteland: culturable, unculturable

Market, Educational institute, Fort

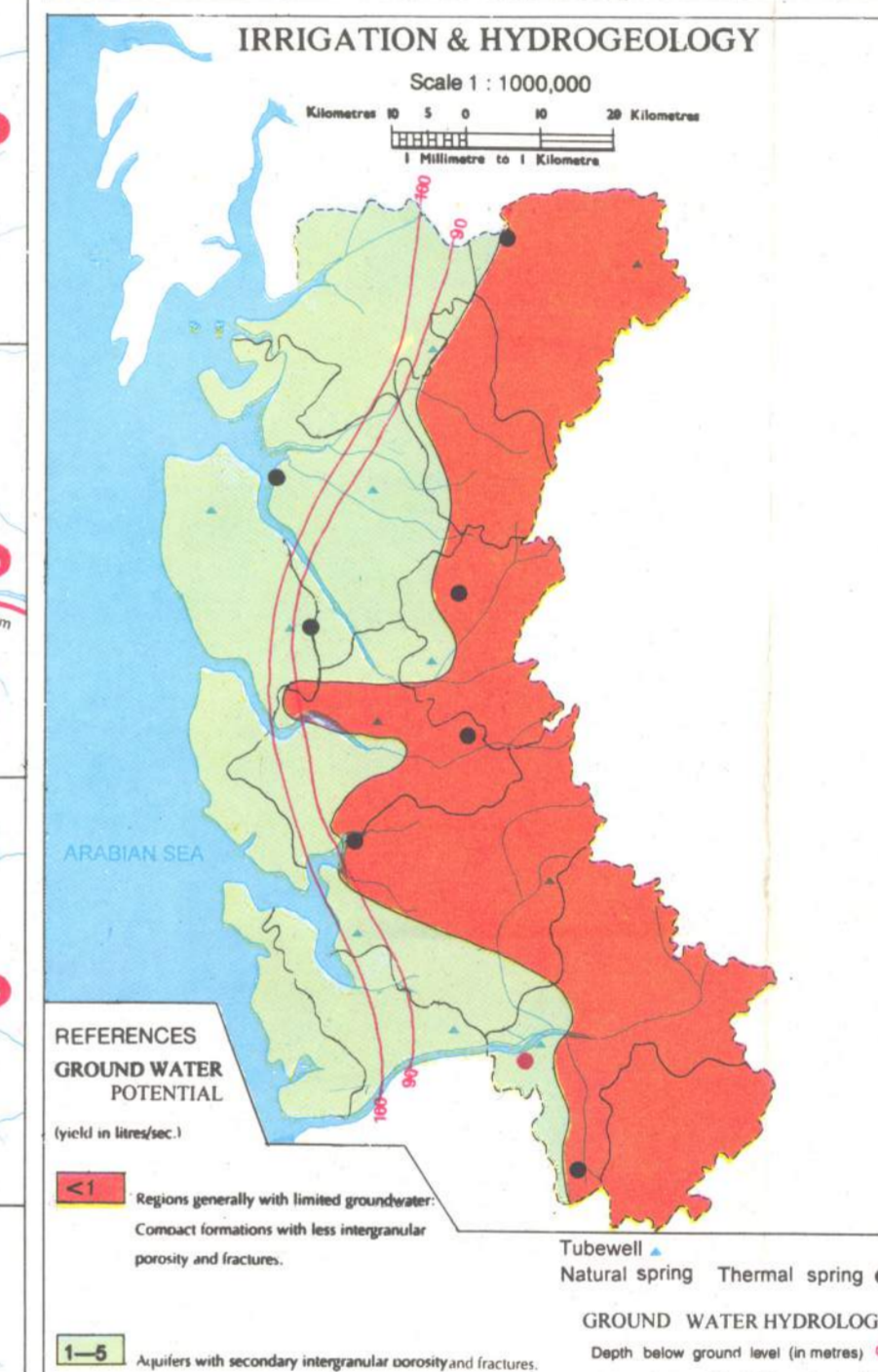
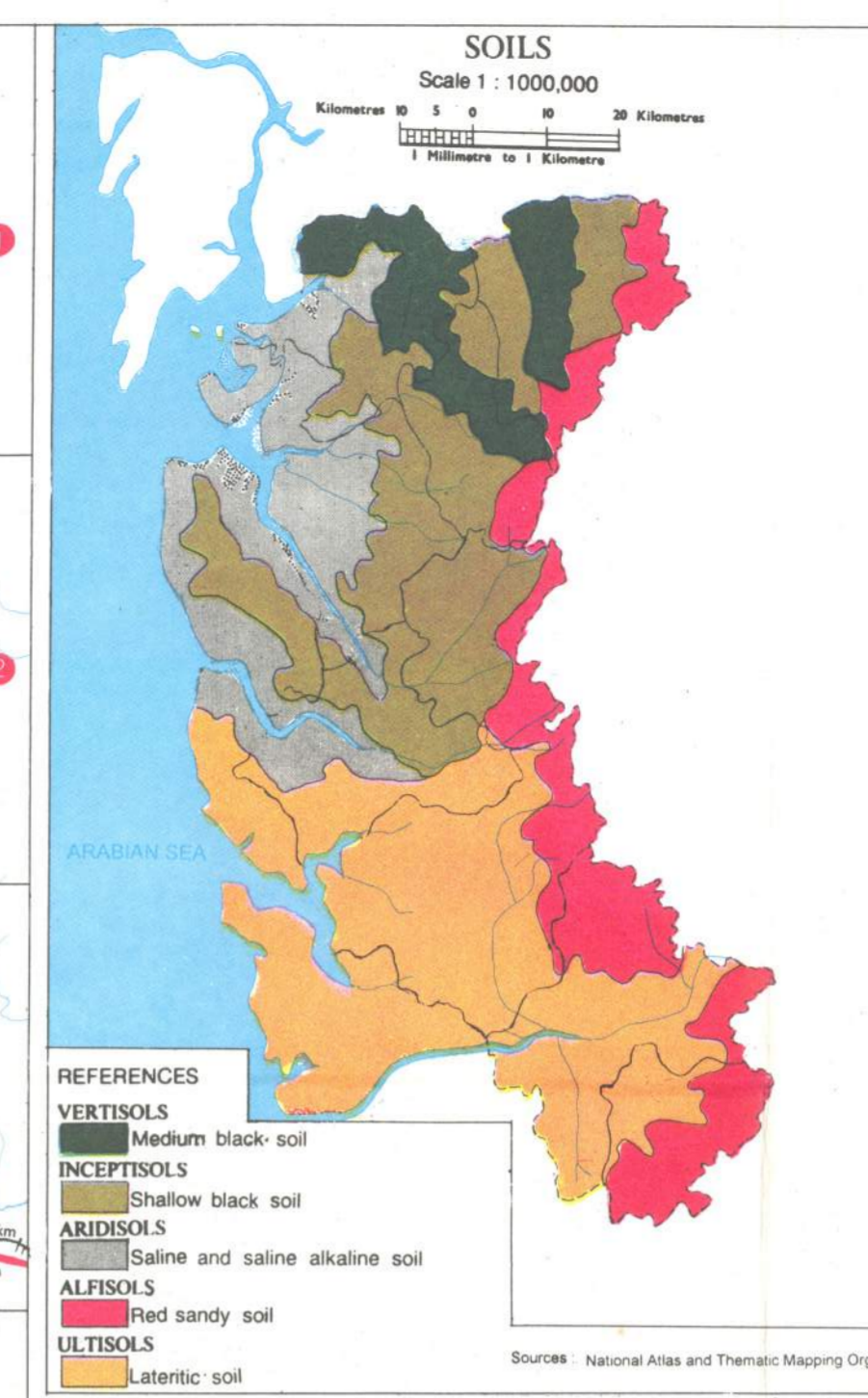
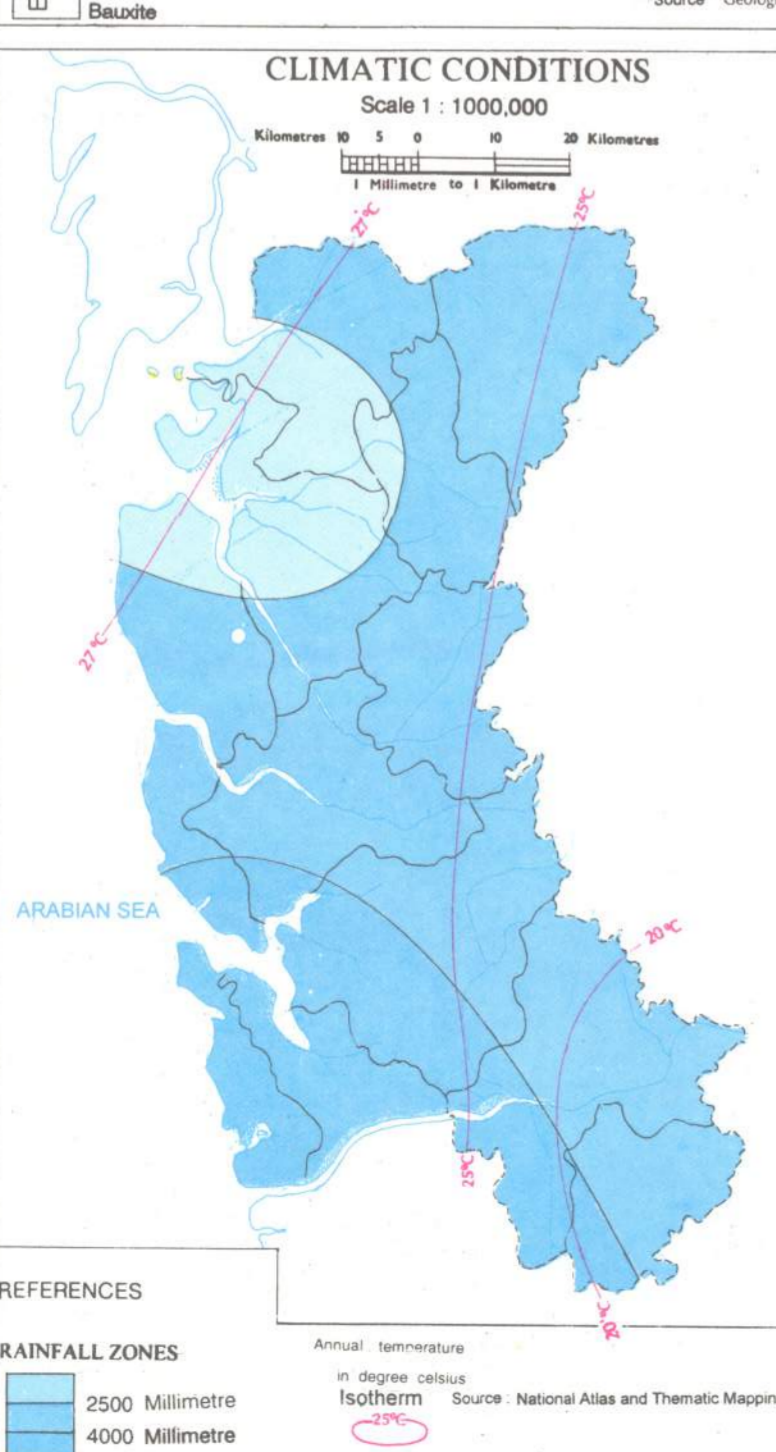
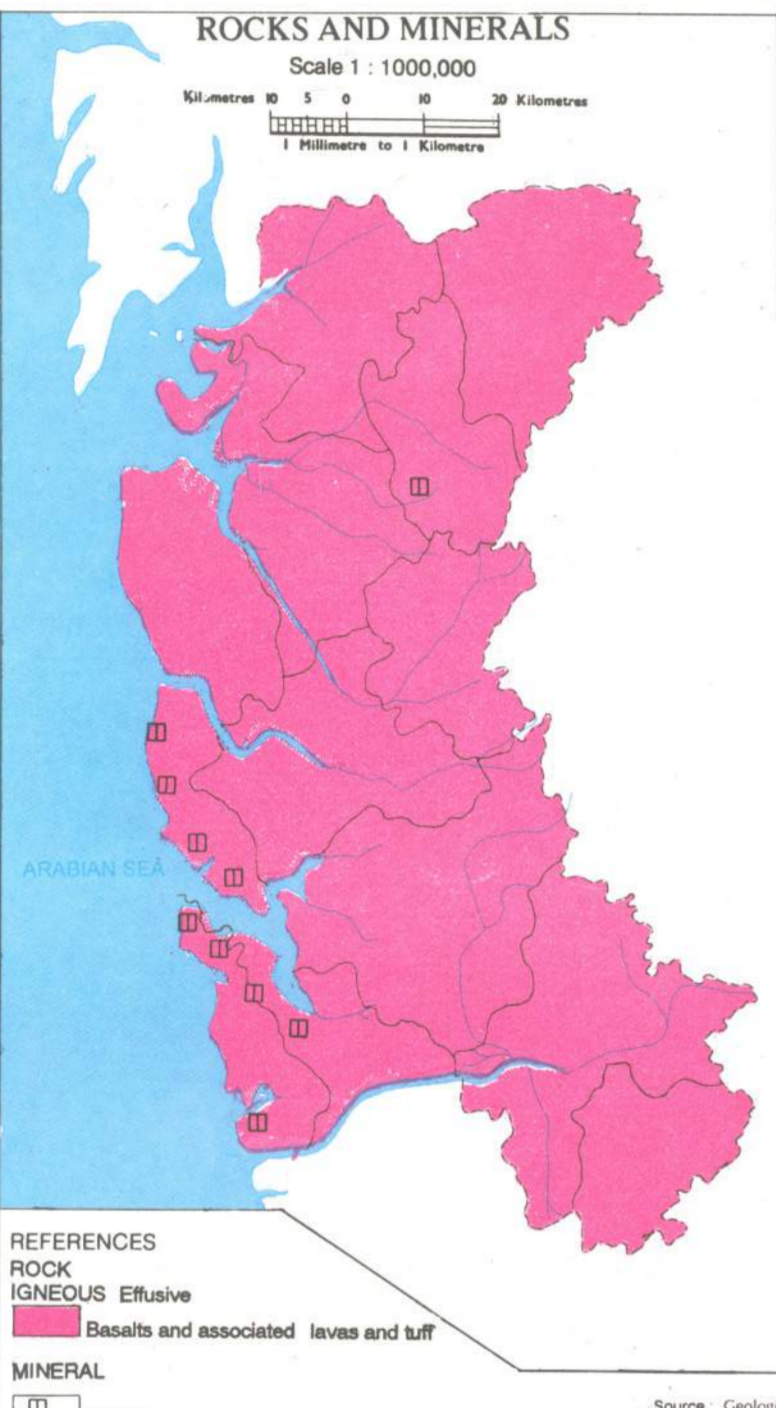
Temple, Mosque, Church

Hospital, Dispensary, Veterinary hospital

Inspection bungalow, Rest house, Circuit house

Post office, Post and telegraph office

Bank, Places of tourist interest, Police station



**REFERENCES**

National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Survey of India, Central Ground Water Board, Census of India 1991, IRS data, field survey and other government agencies.

The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

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