



AMRELI DISTRICT

The objective of District Planning Map Series is to provide users and planners with topographic and thematic informations related to a district. Amreli district derives its name from 'Amravati' found inscribed on a stone in Nighanli temple. It is located in the southern part of Saurashtra peninsula and is bounded by north latitudes 20° 41' to 22° 01' and by east longitudes 70° 33' to 77° 41'.

The district has been carved out of a number of princely states. Apart from Amreli Prant of former Baroda State, it also contains some territories of former Bhavnagar and Junagadh States and estates of Jalandhar, Lathi, Dadan, Bagasara, Charkha, Likhavadi, Vankia, Kotda Piba, Garmali, Nani-Moti, Jankia, Vadia, Thana-Devi, Amarpur, Balra, Bikha, Jelpur and Bhesan. After independence the district has been reorganised twice: firstly in 1949, when the administration was organised on the pattern of British Districts, which were principal units of administration and then second time in 1959, when boundaries were enlarged on account of the inclusion of villages from the Bilimora, Rajkot, and Junagadh districts. The district has been included in Gujarat state on bifurcation of Bombay State.

The district can be divided into four natural divisions which generally correspond to the topography. The first is of northern table-land and its adjoining areas containing part of central tableland and li-thed barren hills ranges; second of northern and eastern parts of Lathi and Amreli taluks covered by small hills and plateaus; third of hilly tracts of Gir ranges and the remaining fourth part is of coastal belt. Three major rivers which flow through the district are the Shetrunji, the Singvada and the Sitadi.

The main communities in the district are Hindus and Muslims. They are mainly businessmen and farmers and few have teaching and other jobs in government departments. The Koli-Khavis community of Jalandhar do out its livelihood by sea fishing, fishing and sea casual labour. The people prefer vegetable food, confined to rolls of jowar and dalji with phen, gur, chhals and milk. Khichdi is a popular item of food generally taken in the evening. In rural areas, the common dress of men consists of kadiya, chhoti and phento, whereas of young women is charkhi blouse, choli or polku and cohan and old women wear bhalo in hand, val in nose, kadan in ankles, dhola in ears and chain in neck. Main sources of entertainment are ras, dandiya, parba and bhajans.

There is an ancient Shiva temple on the north bank of river Kalubhar in Pipavri, said to have been built by Parsis during their exile and another on the river Singvada in Ghildad known as Rudreshwar Mahadev. Fairs are held on chaiti puja in Pipavri and on amavasya in Ghildad. These fairs are generally associated with important deities and religious festivals and afford ample opportunities for social as well as cultural contacts.

The district experiences strong winds and widespread breeze in the post monsoon season but thunder storms prevail throughout the year. Occasional fog occurs in the winter season.

Mesgre rainfall and inadequate water facilities are not conducive to the growth of orchards / plantation, still where conditions permit; fruits like mango, chikoo, papaya and banana are grown.

The district is not having large number of industries and the economy of the district is predominantly agricultural. Still it is famous for its cottage industries notably weaving, dyeing and calico printing. The major large scale industries in the district are confined to sugar-cane, groundnut, salt and various food items.

