



**SURVEY OF INDIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**RAJKOT DISTRICT**

The objective of the District Planning Map Series is to provide users and planners with topographic and thematic information related to a district.

The district 'RAJKOT' derives its name from the most important city of the region called Rajkot, which is the headquarters of the district administration. It is situated in the central part of Saurashtra peninsula, bounded by east longitude 70° 02' to 71° 31' and by north latitude 21° 32' to 23° 10'. The district, formerly called Maliya Saurashtra district, was formed out of the former princely states of Gondal, Maliya Saurashtra, Wankner and Morbi, when a separate state of Saurashtra came into existence in 1948. Maliya Saurashtra was reorganised with a few adjustments of some of the villages in the neighbouring districts in 1960 and was named Rajkot district.

For bringing out a well connected account of the ancient and early medieval period of the history of Rajkot District, not much material-archaeological, epigraphic, numismatic or literary is available. Recent excavations and explorations in the district have brought to light some pre-historic, proto-historic and early historic sites.

The district has three distinct geographical regions i.e. eastern hilly region almost bordering on Jethpur, Rajkot and Wankner cities; alluvial plain of Bhadar valley on the West and South-West; and Northern plains, Rann of Kachchh and swampy coastline. The unique feature of the region is the presence of trap dykes formed by flood in the eastern hilly region during the decan trap period. This is the most curious and important landscape in the region. The main rivers which are flowing through the district are Bhadar, Machhu and Aji. Though there is a lot of high and undulating country side in the district forming the catchment of above rivers, there is very little forest. Most of the hills are barren and open to erosion. The gray soil bearing some clusters and baobab plants are visible round about Jaidan, Wankner and Gondal.

The climate of the district is characterised by a hot summer and dryness in the non-rainy seasons. Winds are generally light to moderate, but in summer and the south-west monsoon season, they become stronger. In association with cyclonic storms in the Arabian Sea the district experiences very strong winds and wide spread rain during rainy season. Thunder storms occur practically in all months, the frequency being more during the period of May to October.

An over whelming majority of the population consists of Hindus and the main occupation is based upon agriculture. The main items in the area in the villages worn by male are *patli, pheta, patiya, upendia, patiya, dhoti* and that of female are *salla, choli, ghagra and odhani*. Ornaments to a great extent has become out of fashion for males, but the privilege still continues to be enjoyed by fair sex. The main items used by women are pearl necklace, nose rings, armlets and bangles etc.

The staple food is mostly confined to *roti, khichri* with *ghee* and *chhola*. They do have rice, dal, curry, vegetables and some sweets on special occasions.

Places of interest in the district are Aitok, Dhoraji, Gondal, Jaidan, Jethpur, Morbi, Rajkot and Wankner. The palace of Wankner is famous for its architectural structure. Tankara, birth place of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj, is situated in this district.

