GUNTUR District

Guntur is a district in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh on the east coast of Bay of Bengal. The district has a coastline of around 100 kilo meters. Guntur City is the largest city in the district and administrative center of Guntur District. The district is a major center for learning, it has one of the largest universities of India, Acharya Nagarjuna University.It covers an area of 11,391 sq.km, and has a population of 4,465,144 of which 28.80% is urban as of 2001. The Krishna River forms the northeastern and eastern boundary of the district, separating Guntur District from Krishna District. The district is bounded on the southeast by the Bay of Bengal, on the south by Prakasam District, on the west by Mahbubnagar District, and on the northwest by Nalgonda District.

It is divided into 57 mandals as listed below for the ease of administration and taking governance closer to the people. Paddy, tobacco, cotton and chillies are the main agricultural products cultivated in the district. Places of historical importance in Guntur District are Amaravathi, Ponnur, Bhattiprolu, Kotappakonda, Undavalli caves, Gurazala, Macherla and the archeological museum in Guntur.

It is located at 16.20°N 80.27°E. It has an average elevation of 33 metres (108 ft) and situated on the plains. There are a few hills in the surrounding suburban areas. The city is located around 40 miles (64 km) to the west of the Bay of Bengal on the east coast of India. The Krishna Delta lies partly in Guntur district. There are other smaller rivers and channels in the region such as Guntur Channel, Chandravanka, Naagileru, Guntur Branch Canal etc.

It is typical of the wider deltas along the southeast coast of India (known as the Coromandel Coast). The braided stream channels, broad floodplain, and extensive sandbars suggest that this part of the Krishna River flows through relatively flat terrain and carries a substantial amount of sediment, especially during the monsoon season

The Soils of Guntur District are broadly divided into 4 types as follows :

1. Red Gravelly Soils:
   These soils are essentially found over the area covered by the Archaean formation which occupy the major portion of the district. Macherla and Vinukonda ranges mostly have re gravelly soils.
2. Black Cotton Soils:
   These are prsent generally in the deltaic area on the banks of the krishna and also in northern parts of Satenapalli and Macherla range, where these are derived by the weathering of the limestone. These have formed due to the former exixtence of large and thick forest when a more moist climate prevailed.
3. Sandy Alluvial Soils:

These are found along the sea coast and in the area covered by some of the Gondwana rocks. Kankar or calcareous nodules occur in tha soils at several places in the district.

4. Saline Swampy Soils:
   These are present in the areas where tidal waves penetrate into the coast. These are characterised by mangrove vegetation. Repalle, Kothapalem, Sarlagondi and Nizampatnam have these soils

The Important rivers that traverse the district are the Krishna, the Chandravanka and the Naguleru:

1. The Krishna:
   The Krishna, one of the mighty rivers in Peninsular Indai rises about 64 Km from the Arabian Sea in the Western Ghats, north of the hill station of Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra State. Taking a south-easterly course through the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka, it forms the border between the districts of Mahaboob Nagar and Kurnool and enters the Guntur district at the south-western portion of Macherla range near the Ganikonda hills at an elevation of roughly 182 m above sea level.
2. The Chandravanka:
   The Chandravanka is an important triburtary of the Krishna. It rises in the Mutukuru extensions of the eastern Nallamalais near the south-west corner of Macherla Range. It initaally contacts Mutukuru village and flows north until it is joined by its tributary the "Edibogula Vagu" at a place where the Atmakur tank project is constructed.
3. The Naguleru:
   Another tributary of the Krishna is the Naguleru, which rises in the Nallamalais off-shoots near the Nayakurali pass in vinukonda range. It contacts initially Karempudi and then flows northwards across Macherla range over a distance of 32 Km till it joins the Krishna near Ramapuram.

4. Other Minor Streams:
   Among the other minor hill streams and rivulets in the district, the most important are the Gundlavagu near Durgi, the Golivagu near Rentachinthala, the Dandivagu near Gurazala.
5. Drainage System:
   Apart from the above mentioned rivers and streams, the Romperu drainage basin, the Tungabhadra drain, the Bhattiprolu drain and the Repalle drain are the drainage facilities available in the district.

6.Temperature:

The day temperature will be higher by 3°C-4°C in summer and the night temperatures lower by 3°C-4°C in winter. Rentachintala is the hottest palce, recording a maximum temperature of 49°C on 18th May 1948 and the lowest temperature recorded is 10°C at

the same place on 31st December 1936. The annual minimum and maximum temperatures are 15°C and 47°C respectively.

7. Weather:

Stroms and depression, originating in the Bay of Bengal, cross the east coast of the district causing wide spread heavy rain and strong winds. Thunder-stroms occur during March-October, being more frequent in the post-monsoon season.

8. Rainfall:

The average rainfall in the district is 830 mm. The rainfall generally decreases from east to the west. The rain is experienced mostly by both south-west monsoon and the retreating monsoon. October is the rainest month of the year. On the average there are 47 rainy days in a year. The highest rainfall recorded was 386 mm at sattenapalli on 19th of November, 1879.

9. Climate:

The district suffers from hot climate, the summer especially being extremely trying. The year may be divided into four sessons.

1) December to February : Dry and Cool Winter Season
2) March to May : Summer Season
3) June to September : South-West Monsoon Season
4) October to November : Post Monsoon or Retreating Monsoon Season

The Principal hill ranges of the district are Nallamalai, the Venkatayapalem range and the Kondavedu hills.

1. The Nallamalai off-shoots:
   The lofty Nallamalais of the Kurnool district with their 'U' shaped terminal off-shoots skirt the Palnadu area. The highest point on the range is known as 'Swamikonda' or 'Vamikonda' (605 m), a flat-topped hill on the Macherla-Yerragondapalem range. The other peak of appreciable height in this stretch is Kairalakonda (590 m). A north-western edge of the Nallamalai off-shoot runs in an easterly direction along the Krishna river until it reaches Mallavaram.
2. The Venkatayapalem Range:
   The next important hill range is Venkatayapalem named after a village in Sattenapalli range and is composed of slates and quartzites. It runs for a length of about 40 Km in north-east to south-west direction. It has long been known for the ancient working of diamonds. Its highest point is "Maidarsal" (447 m).
3. Kondavedu Range:
   The Kondavedu range near Narasaraopet is composed of granite rock and extends abput 19 Km, registering a maximum height of 523 m. A few kilometers to its west is the isolated hill of Yellamanda (489 m), otherwise known as "Kotappakonda". To its south are detached hills spreading themselves towards Addanki.

The district contains immense reserves of cement grade limestone, iron ores, copper and lead minerals. The occurrence and deposits of economic mineral are as follows:

1. Limestones:
   Narjee limestone is very extensively present in the Palnadu region which is used for the manufacture of cement.
2. Diamonds:
   Extensive mining was carried out in the past in the vicinity of Kollur village in Sattenapalli range on the banks of Krishna river. It is believed that the famous "Kohinoor" diamond was found at Kollur. The diamond mines in the district are situated near Madugula, Mallavaram and Sarangapalli hills.
3. Diatomaceous Earth:
   It was reported to occur at Thimmayapalem and Innavolu near Vinukonda.
4. Copper and Lead Ores:
   Ancient workings for copper and lead exist in the vicinity of Agnigundala and Karempudi. The Ores of copper and lead are extensively found in these areas and extraction is being carried out.
5. Iron-Ore:
   Low Grade iron-ore magnetite quartzites occur near Thumurukota near Macherla.
6. Gypsum:
   Gypsum occurs as spasely distributed plates at a depth of one to three metres in the marine silts near Santaravuru.
7. Quartz:
   These are several reefs of quartz in Palnadu, Sattenapalli, Narasaraopet and Vinukonda which might find use in glass manufacture.
8. Kankar:
   Kankar or calcareous nodules, used for manufacture of lime, has a wide distribution in the district near Chebrolu, Mangalagiri, Pedakakani, Venkatayapalem and Nadendla.
9. White Clays:
   White clay occurs near Macherla.
10. Granite:
    Gondwana granite stones are useful in building construction. Palnadu lime stone was utilized for the construction of stupas during the Buddhist period

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