

ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP

DISTRICT BIKANER

Location:

Bikaner district is located between 27° 11' to 29° 03' North latitude and 71° 54' to 74° 12' East longitude in the north western part of Rajasthan covering a geographical area of about 27244 sq.km. It is bounded by Ganganagar district on the north, partly by Jaisalmer and Pakistan on the west, Churu and Hanumangarh district on the east, north-east, Nagaur and Jodhpur districts on the south and south-east respectively.

Administrative Setup:

Administratively, Bikaner district is a part of Bikaner division. The district is further divided into four tehsils:- (1) Bikaner, (2) Lunkaransar, (3) Kolayat and (4) Nokha. The above four tehsils are also the panchayat samities of the district.

Climate:

The district has a dry climate with large variation of temperatures and scanty rainfall. Hot wind blows in summer, sweeping away and creating new sand dunes. Winters are severe and sometimes touches freezing point. The average maximum temperature is 48°C and minimum up to 2°C and the mean temperature is 25°C. The normal annual rainfall in the district is 263.7 mm.

Geology & Minerals:

Almost entire district is devoid of rock outcrops except near Kolayat and at a few places in the south of Nokha and Dhulmera. The district is thus a vast sandy tract. All four tehsils except Kolayat, are covered with sand. Rocks locally known as 'Magra', are found in the parts of Kolayat tehsil. In the 'Magra' area various types of sand stone, clay and limestone are found at various depths. Fuller earth, (Multani mitti) lignite, gypsum, white clay, yellow ochre and grit are important economic minerals. Gypsum bed upto 30 metre thick and of the best quality available in India is found in Jamsar village in Bikaner tehsil.

Physiography & Soil:

The major part of the district comprises desolate and dreary regions which forms a part of the great

Indian desert of Thar. There are two natural division of district namely:- (i) Northern and Western desert and (ii) Southern and eastern semidesert. At many places one finds shifting sand dunes of varying heights ranging from 6 to 30 metre. There are no hills, rivers or any stream of significance. Small ephemeral streams flow in the vicinity of Kolayat, Gajner and Gura. Natural inland depression which retains some water during the summer are located near Lunkaransar, Kolayat, Jamsar and Nal. Construction of wells in the western part has led to activation of the stable dune field to a large extent. The migrating sand is, however, threatening the canals and roads.

Duny areas are light pale brown to brown, very deep, fine sand to loamy fine sand and devoid of any pedogenic manifestation except weak segregation of alkaline earth carbonates. In associated plains and interdunal areas occur light yellowish brown to brown, loamy fine sand, very weakly blocky, non calcareous sub soil followed by a weak to moderately developed calcic/cambic horizon and are classified accordingly as calcids/cambids.

Forest:

The total area under forest is 77,248 hectares which is 2.82% of the total area of the district. The vegetation of Bikaner district falls under the broad natural division of the tropical forest but due to extremely low rainfall and extremes of temperature there is high evaporation and loss of moisture converting the district into a typical arid tract. However, where the moisture accumulates to some extent during rains a few scattered stunted trees are found.

Population:

Bikaner has total population of about 1211140 among which 729998 is rural and 481142 is urban population. Tehsilwise distribution of population is as follows:-

1. Bikaner	=	677334
2. Lunkaransar	=	156382
3. Kolayat	=	132657
4. Nokha	=	244767

