

Kandhamal at a glance

Introduction:

The district of Kandhamal is bestowed with the beauty of nature. It has wild life, scenic beauty, healthy climate, and serpentine ghat roads for the tourists who need to relax and unwind. It has attractions, like panoramic coffee gardens, pine jungles, Ghats, hills and waterfalls, virgin forest and typical tribal village life. Almost 66% of the land area of the district is covered with dense forest and towering mountains which provide shelter to the inhabitants like Kondhas, classified under the ancient Gondid race of proto Austroloid group, rich in green meadows at the attitude of 2000 ft to 3000 ft, the terraced valleys thronged with these colourful tribal in their natural heritage, dancing and sporting has its own appeal. Kandhamal is also famous for handicrafts such as Dokra, Terra Cotta, Cane and Bamboo works.

Historical Background:

The British captured this area in phases from 1830 to 1880 by subjugating some hill chiefs. The present Kandhamal sub-division was an integral part of Boudh from time immemorial till 1855. The British named this newly annexed territory as Kandhamal. After British conquest of Uttar Ghumasar (G.Udayagiri area) and Uttar Khemundi (Balliguda area) these territories were placed under the administration of the Collector of Ganjam district. These areas remained under the control and administration of the British until India attained her independence. Kandhamal remained a Tahasil from 1855 to 1891 and it was administered by a Tahasildar under the direct control and supervision of the superintendent of the Tributary mahals of Cuttack. In 1891, it was upgraded to sub-division and tagged with Angul district. When the new province of Orissa was formed in 1936, and Ganjam was merged with Orissa, from the Madras presidency, Kandhamal became a sub-division of Ganjam. In the wake of the amalgamation of the princely states with Orissa in January 1948, Boudh and Kandhamal constituted the new district of Boudh-Kandhamal, with its headquarters at Phulbani. Balliguda sub-division was added to Boudh-Kandhamal district on 01.01.1949. With the secession of Boudh from Phulbani district as a separate district only Balliguda and Kandhamal sub-divisions remained with Phulbani district, which was later rechristened as Kandhamal in June, 1994.

Geographical Features:

Kandhamal District is located in the heart of Orissa stretching between 19'.34 & 20'.36 north latitude and 83'.34 & 84'.34 east longitude with an area of 7649 sq.km. It is surrounded with Boudh district in the North, Rayagada district in the South, Ganjam &

Nayagarh district in the East and Kalahandi district in the West. Kandhamal district comes under the North-Eastern Ghats Agro-Climatic Zone (Zone No. 5) of the state and the altitude ranges from 300 meters to 1100 meters from the Mean Sea level (MSL). The district is located in central part of Orissa and comes under North-East Ghat Agro-Climatic Zone of the state. The terrain of the district is hilly and highly inaccessible. The altitude ranges from 3.00 mtrs. to 1100 mtrs. Mean Sea level. Kandhamal District has Sub-tropical climate characterized by hot and dry summer, medium to high rainfall and prolonged cold and dry winter.

- Peak rainfall period is 15th June to end September
- Average Annual Rainfall-1522.95 mm
- Normal Rainfall-1427.90 mm
- Average No. of Rainy Days-79 days

The soil is mostly Red-laterite group, which is porous having organic matters contents. As such, the water holding capacity is very low. The PH value of the soil varies 5.3 to 6.5, which is acidic in nature. The big chunk of land consists of red-laterite sandy loam soils being exposed to constant soil erosion and run off devoid of humus contents render in fertile and turn into barren wastelands.

- Cultivated land of this District is 127790 Ha.(33.16 %)
 - Highland - 96298 Ha. (82.2%)
 - Medium land- 20624 Ha. (11.6 %)
 - Low land - 10868 Ha. (06.2%)
- Total paddy land of the District is 57000 Ha. (39%)
 - Highland - 25908 Ha. (48%)
 - Medium land - 20624 Ha. (36%)
 - Low land -10859 Ha. (19%)
- Major non-paddy crops cultivated
 - Kharif - HYV Paddy, Maize, Niger, Ragi, Arhar, Mung, Biri, G.Nut, Dhanicha
 - Rabi - Cereals, Pulses, oil Seeds, Vegetables, Spices, Turmeric
- Irrigated Land are 25462.30 Ha
 - Kharif - 19132.30 Ha.
 - Rabi - 6330.00 Ha.
- Forest area of the District is 5709.83 Sq. KM(71.18 %).
 - Reserve Forests - 2010 Sq. Km.
 - Demarcated Protected Forests - 1583 Sq. Km.
 - Un-demarcated Forests - 202 Sq. Km.
 - Other Forests - 1914.83 Sq. Km.

For better governance and development, Kandhamal District has

- 2 Sub-Divisions
- 12 Tahasils
- 12 Panchayat Samitis(CD Blocks)
- 153 Gram Panchayats
- 1 Municipal Council
- 1 Notified Area Council

In addition to this Kandhamal has

- 1 Parliamentary Constituency
- 3 Assembly Constituencies

As per Census-2011

- Total Population of the district is 7,31,952(1.11% of Odisha's Population)
Male population is 3,59,401(49.1%)
Female population is 3,72,551(50.9%)
- Decadal population growth in comparison to 2001 Census is 12.92%
- Density/km² of the District is 91
- Sex Ratio of the District is 1000:1037
- Total Literates are 4,07,383(65.12 %)
Male Literates are 2,39,270(78.41 %)
Female Literates are 168,113 (52.46 %)

District is connected by Road with Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, and other important places of the state by regular public bus service

- Nearest railway stations are Rairakhol which is 99 kms. from Phulbani and Berhampur which is 165 Kms. from Phulbani.
- Nearest Air Port of this district is at Bhubaneswar which is 211 Kms. from Phulbani
- Helipad at Gudari
- National Highway-217 (Gopalpur to Raipur) is passing via Daringibadi & Balliguda
- Ranchi-Vijayawada Corridor passing through Phulbani & G.Udayagiri
- State High Way - 389 Kms
- Major District Roads - 133 Kms.
- Other District Roads - 63 Kms.
- Forest Road - 323 Kms.
- Gram Panchayat Roads - 5651 Kms.
- Classified Village Roads - 279 Kms.
- Panchayat Samiti Roads - 532 Kms.
- Village Roads - 853 Kms.

To educate the people of this District it has

- 1 Education Circle
- 3 Education Districts
- 14 Colleges
- 103 High Schools
- 1214 Primary Schools
- 212 UP schools
- 42 Block Grant Schools
- 3 Class-VIII Recognized High Schools

- 3 Sanskrit Tolls
- 1 Navodaya Vidyalaya
- 1 Central School
- 4 English Medium Schools
- 1 Ekalavya Vidyalaya
- 2 ITIs,
- 1 Diploma Engineering Institution
- 1 DIET
- 1 B.Ed College
- 1 Sports Hostel

In order to provide better Health facility to the general public of this neighbouring areas the District has

District and its

- 1 District Head Quarter Hospital
- 1 Sub-Divisional Head Quarter Hospital
- 14 Community Health Centres
- 33 Primary Health Centres
- 4 Government Hospitals

Also, to take care of the animals of this District it has

- 1 Dist. Diagnostic Laboratory
- 3 Veterinary Hospitals
- 17 Veterinary Dispensaries
- 74 Livestock Aid Centres
- 62 No of AI Doing Centres

To look after the law & order situation of Kandhamal District there are

- 1 District Police Office
- 2 Police Sub-Divisions
- 18 Police Stations
- 8 Outposts

To irrigate the cultivated land of this District

- 1 Medium Irrigation Project
- 54 Minor Irrigation Projects
- 344 Lift Irrigation Projects
- 708 Water Harvesting Structures
- 4038 Dug wells

Various types of Co-operative activities in the district are implemented through

- 24 LAMPCS
- 2 House building C.S
- 1 Dist. Wholesale Co-op. Store
- 1 R.M.C.S. Ltd. at Raikia
- 2 Employees Credit C.S
- 1 CARD Bank Ltd. at Phulbani
- 1 A.M.C.S. Ltd. at Tikabali

- 2 Primary Coop. Consumer Store
- 1 Kandhamal Dist. Coop. Union
- 5 Fruit and Veg. Growers C.S.s.
