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Profile of Solapur District

5.1.1 Introduction of Solapur District:-

The origin of the name Solapur is credited to the fact that the former town was self-possessed of sixteen villages known as Adilpur, Ahmadpur, Chapladev, Fatehpur, Jamdarwadi, Kalajapur, Khadarpur, Khandaravkiwadi, Muhammadpur, Ranapur, Sandalapur, Shaikpur, Solapur, Sonalgi, Sonapur and Vaidkawadi

Solapur had originally eight gates or Vesas such as Degaon, Nava and Bala on the west, Tuljapur on the north, Kumbhari and Dari on the east, Bijapur or Pani on the south and Killa or Revni on the south-west. The Degaon, Tuljapur, Kumbhari, Dari and Bijapur gates have been pulled down and a fine road made from the Kumbhari gate to the Bijapur gate. The Nava gate, so-called because it leads to the Navi ward opened by Mr. Goldfinch in 1864, about 275 yards of the Degaon gate, was opened by the municipality in 1864."

The city of Solapur has been changed with the changing times. Today it is one of the important cities of the state. It is known for industrial like handloom, Chadar, and Bed. Impending time in district stands best education facilities for the scholars and researchers. There are various colleges, research institutes, University and well-known national research centre on Pomegranate. These institutions are keeping pace with the changing times. There are management courses along with computer courses as per the need of the time.
Fig. No. 5.1 Map of Districts in Maharashtra State
5.1.2 Ancient Name of Families at Solapur:

The Solapur District was ruled by various dynasties such as Andhrabhratyas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Yadavas and Bahamanis. 'SOLAPUR' is believed to be derived from two words 'SOLA' meaning sixteen and 'PUR' meaning village. The present city of Solapur was considered to be spread over sixteen villages viz. Aadilpur, Ahmedpur, Chapaldev, Fatehpur, Jamdarwadi, Kalajapur, Khadarpur, Khandervkiwadi, Muhammedpur, Ranapur, Sandalpur, Shaikpur, Solapur, Sonalagi, Sonapur and Vaidakwadi.

It is evident from the inscriptions of Shivayogi Shri. Siddheshwar of the time of the Kalachuristis of Kalyani, that the town was called 'Sonnalage' which came to be pronounced as 'Sonnalagi'. The town was known as Sonnalagi even upto the times of Yadavas. A Sanskrit inscription dated Shake 1238, after the downfall of the Yadavas found at Kamati in Mohol shows that the town was known as Sonalipur. One of the inscription found in Solapur fort shows that the town was called Sonalpur while another inscription on the well in the fort shows that it was known as Sandalpur. During the Muslim period, the town was known as Sandalpur. It is therefore most probably that during the course of time the name Solapur was evolved by dropping 'na' from the name Sonalpur. Subsequently the British rulers pronounced Solapur as Solapur and hence the name of the district.
5.1.3 Physical, Location and Sub-Division of Solapur District:

Physical set-up:-

The total geographical area of the Solapur district is 14895sq.km. The present Solapur district was formerly the part of Ahmednagar, Pune and Satara districts. In 1838 it became the Sub-district of Ahmednagar. It included Barshi, Mohol, Madha, Karmala, Indi, Hippargi and Muddebihal as Sub-divisions. In 1864 this Sub-district was abolish. After 1871 the State reformed. In 1956 Solapur was included in Mumbai State and it became a fully fledged district of Maharashtra State in 1960.

The district has eleven Talukas and is surrounded by Ahmednagar and Osmanabad districts in the north, Osmanabad and Gulbarga (Karnataka State) in the East, Sangli and Bijapur (Karnataka State) in the South and Pune, Satara districts in the West.

Location:-

Solapur District is located between 17°10' to18°32' north latitude and 74°42' to76°.15’ east longitude.

Sub Divisions:-

This district was reformed joining the Sub-divisions viz. Solapur, Barshi, Mohol, Madha and Karmala and two Sub-divisions of Satara district viz. Pandharpur, Sangola and in 1875 Malshiras Sub-division was also attached.

5.1.4 Solapur: Before the Independence of India:

The importance of Solapur is exceptional in the history of India in the wisdom that this district enjoyed the freedom even before independence. The citizens of Solapur enjoyed the independence for three days from 9th to 11th May, 1930. The brief history runs like this. After the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi in May, 1930, protests and demonstrations against the British Rule were held throughout the India.
Large scale rallies and protests were done at Solapur also. Many citizens lost their lives in the Police firings. Due to this the very angry mob attacked the Police Stations. Out of fear the Police and other officers ran out of Solapur. During this period the responsibility of law, order and safety of citizens was on the shoulders of congress party leaders. City congress President Shri Ramkrishna Jaju, with his other congressmen maintained the law and order for a period of three days from 9th to 11th May, 1930.

5.1.5 Municipal Council:

The Solapur Municipal Council was the first Municipal Council of India to host the National Flag on the Municipal Council building (Now Municipal Corporation) Solapur in 1930. The brief history runs like this. Taking the spirit of Dandi March from Mahatma Gandhi, the freedom fighters of Solapur decided to host the National Flag on the Solapur Municipal Council, Accordingly, senior freedom fighter from Pune Shri Annasaheb Bhopatkar hosted the National Flag on 6th April, 1930 on Municipal Council. This was the first and the unique incidence of such kind throughout the country. The British rulers, due to frustration declared the Marshall Law at Solapur and arrested many leaders and innocent citizens on false charges. The freedom fighters Shri.Mallappa Dhanshetti, Shri.Kurban Hussain, Shri.Jagnnath Shinde and Shri.Kisan Sarda were arrested on charges of killing two Policemen of Mangalwar Police Station. The lower court sentenced the punishment of hanging till death for these freedom fighters. The High Court also confirmed the same decision and these four freedom fighters were hanged till the death on 12th January, 1931. As a mark of respect to these freedom fighters, the Statues of these freedom fighters have been installed in the heart of the City and the location has been named as Hutatma Chowk.
5.1.5 A] Municipal Corporation:

The municipality was established at Solapur on 1st August, 1852 and was upgraded into a municipal corporation on 1st May, 1964. The municipal corporation covers an area of 22.35 km. The Municipal Commissioner is the head of the Municipal Corporation. He is assisted in his work by a number of officials such as the Assistant Municipal Commissioner, Chief Accountant, Internal Auditor, Legal Advisor, Municipal Chief Auditor, Municipal Secretary, City Engineer, Assessor and Collector of Taxes, Octroi Superintendent, Chief Superintendent of Markets, Transport Manager, Works Manager, etc. and other necessary ministerial and non-ministerial staff. The Municipal Corporation maintains eleven hospitals and dispensaries in the city.

5.1.6 Natural Resources:

1] Rivers:

The economic and cultural growth of the civilizations largely depends on rivers. Solapur district is prosperous in this respect also. There is at least one river in each taluka. Bima, Sina, Man, Nira and Bhogawati have contributed to the growth of this district. The Bhima and Sina is the main river of the district. The origin of Bhima is Bhimashankar and from where it comes to Pandharpur known as Chandrabhaga and that place it is Southern Kashi. Bhima, Bhogawati and Nira rivers have also presented the spiritual aspirations of the people of Maharashtra.

Solapur city widen out about 1,800 feet above sea level on the water shed of the Adila, a feeder of the Sina which it joins at Nandur about eight miles to the south-west of the city. The rivers flow in the
District and most important rivers are as Nira, Man, Bhogawati, and Bhima. And the length of these rivers in district is 289 km. All of these rivers flow within the magnificent volume of water during the rainy season and shrivel into a narrow during the hot season.

2] Range Hills:

The Range hill is not biggest in the District but Karamala, Madha, Malshiras and Barshi talukas are stretch out the range hill of Balaghata and flat with small hill ranges scattered along the border of district.

3] Lake or Dam:

The city stands in the centre of large origin the ten miles further north-west is the Ekruk tank, or as it is generally called the Hipparga lake, and to the north, about half a mile on the Tuljapur road, is the old Solapur water-works engine house and about 500 yards further north runs the Selgi stream from east to west.

Solapur has seven water works, of which three- the Koregaon, Ashti and Ekruk lakes supply village water, and four at Solapur, Barsi, Karmala and Pandharpur supply drinking water. Of the three village water works the Koregaon Lake is an old work improved and the Ashti and Ekruk lakes are new works.

4] Soil & Rock: -

The rock on which the city is built is a hard murum almost forthcoming ambush. The city is except for to the north and the east where there is some rich cotton soil, the rock in places near the outside is hardly covered by soil. In the rains the environs of the city is green and pleasant whereas at other times the city gives bare and dull appearance.
5] Climate:

The climate of Solapur is healthy and dry during the year. Hot winds blow in April and May during the day but the nights are rather bearable. The prevailing wind is south-westerly. In the Solapur District the temperature is maximum 46 degrees Celsius and Min. 9 degrees Celsius.

6] Rainfall –

The chief rainy period is from June to September and average of ten years rainfall in the district shows 41 days and 545.4 mms of rainfall. The rainfall is Min.415.3 mms and Max.1128.4 mms in last 10 years. Solapur stands last in rainfall in Maharashtra state.

5.1.7 Population:-

As per 2011 census, total population of the district is 4315527 people. Population of male in district is 2233778 and female is 2081749. The ratio of female to male in the district is as 932:1000. This ratio is reduced by three compared as census 2001.
Fig. No. 5.2 Evaluate Literacy of 2001 to 2011

Population of District

Fig. No. 5.3 Growth Population of District (Urban and Rural)
As per 2001 census the total population of the district is 38,49,543 people. The population in rural area is 68.17% and urban area 31.83% of total population. As per 2001 census the total literacy of the district is 60.7% out of which literacy of male is 69.6% and female is 51.19%. In the district rural literacy is 57.78% and urban literacy 66.96%.

This district is below power line population as 1.68 lakh and the ratio of female to male in the district was 935:1000 as per the census 2001.

This height of population in the urban area is because of the development and basic of essential facilities in this area.

**Table No. 5.1 Taluka wise Population of Solapur District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pandharpur</td>
<td>402707</td>
<td>10.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Malshiras</td>
<td>422600</td>
<td>10.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sangola</td>
<td>272077</td>
<td>7.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mangalwedha</td>
<td>171261</td>
<td>4.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Solapur</td>
<td>210774</td>
<td>5.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Akkalkot</td>
<td>290037</td>
<td>7.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Karmala</td>
<td>233316</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Madha</td>
<td>292611</td>
<td>7.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Barshi</td>
<td>340831</td>
<td>8.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>North Solapur</td>
<td>960803</td>
<td>24.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mohol</td>
<td>252526</td>
<td>6.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3849543</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North Solapur has the height which shares the total population with 960803 people then after Malshiras with 422600 people. This is the result of basic and vital amenities in these areas. Employment potential, sustainable facilities for agricultural and good education facilities also contributed.
5.1.8 Classification and Distribution of Land:

1] Cultivated Area:

As per agriculture census 2001 the total farmers are 5.65 lakh and they are holding the cultivated land acquired 11.91 lakh hectares. However the blame of little or no landholding in the district will be attributed to fragmentation and sub-division of land holdings due to heavy pressure on land. This crumbling is the result of the method in which partition are usually carried out. Each heir consistently demands his share in every kind of soil, of every well or tanks, houses, graves and pasture land, roads and paths and even of individual trees. There are many difficulties because of crumbling such as the difficulties in availing the facility of labour saving machines in the farms in attempting improvements, waste of labour of moving manual implements, water to distance, waste of time in leaving and fro between the fields and waste of land in providing boundaries and channels irrigation, to avail the medium scientific agricultural practices further crumbling and sub-division of land holding will have to be avoided in the district.

2] Distribution of Land:

Table No. 5.2 Land Acquired of Farmer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Farmers</th>
<th>No. of Farmers</th>
<th>Percentage of Total No. of Farmers</th>
<th>Total area of Land acquired (hectares)</th>
<th>Percentage of Total No. of area of land acquired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>181672</td>
<td>32.10</td>
<td>104227.74</td>
<td>8.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>175693</td>
<td>31.07</td>
<td>261869.30</td>
<td>21.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Middel</td>
<td>171783</td>
<td>30.38</td>
<td>514505.90</td>
<td>43.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middel</td>
<td>29936</td>
<td>5.29</td>
<td>206569.14</td>
<td>17.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Farmers</td>
<td>6305</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>103989.91</td>
<td>8.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Farmers</td>
<td>565389</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1191161.19</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table further revealed that marginal farmer’s majority is 32.10% and they have acquired 8.25% of the total Land of Solapur District. The large farmers have acquired 8.73% land but their number of farmers is very less as 1.16%.

The Solapur district cultivated 1069 hectares out of total land and taken major crops as Jawar, Wheat, Chana, Tur, Groundnut and Sugarcane.

5.1.9 Administration of Solapur District

1. Local Administration:-

Solapur is also the control centre of two talukas in the district, namely, North Solapur taluka and South Solapur taluka and it is the main centre of Government activities in the district. A municipal corporation has also been established at Solapur, the date of establishment being May 1st, 1964 as well as the Collectorate and the Zilla Parishad office, the offices of the Mamledars and the Block Development Officers of North Solapur and South Solapur talukas are also situated at Solapur.

The courts of the District and Sessions Judge, two Assistant Judges and Additional Sessions Judges and two Assistant Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges are also situated in the city. It is also a seat of Civil Judges (Junior Division) and First Class Judicial Magistrates for the talukas of North Solapur and South Solapur. There is also one First Class Judicial Magistrate for Solapur Taluka Police Station and Solapur City Sadar Bazar Police Station.

It is the control center of the District Superintendent of Police. Besides the post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange has also been established at Solapur. Solapur is not only served by the railway but also by the State Transport buses whose depot is located here. The city bus
service has also been introduced in the town. Besides wells, the city has a protected water-supply from Ekburji tank through pipe lines. However, shortage of water is often felt.

2] Administration of Solapur:

From the administrative point of view, district is divided in three sub-divisions namely Solapur, Pandharpur and Madha (Kurduwadi). The district has 1142 villages and 10 urban centers. The district is bounded by Ahmadnagar district to North, Osmanabad & Gulbarga (Karnataka) districts to East, Sangli & Bijapur (Karnataka) districts to the South, Pune & Satara districts to the west.

5.1.10 Temples & Festival in Solapur:

Mallikarjuna temple: The Mallikarjuna temple is a vast structure. The tower of the temple is covered with small images and graceful brass knobs and is still seen in good condition. The temple management is looked after by the Siddheshwar panch committee. A week of kirtana is held at this temple on the occasion of Mahashivratra.

Parasnath temple: The Jain temple of Parasnath is located in Bhusar lane. It is a replica of the Jain temple at Baramati in Pune district and is said to have been built in the year 1850 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,50,000. The temple is in an enclosure surrounded by domes. The temple has short clustered pillars and the roof and tower are covered with thick-set mortar figures and ornaments. There are two images of Parasnath, one with clothes and one without clothes, both made of stone brought from Jaipur. Every year a festival is held at the temple in the month of Bhadrapada.

Adinath temple: Adinath temple was constructed by Seth Haribhai Devkaran in Vikram year 1905. It is a spacious and solid structure. Every
year a festival is held in the month of Bhadrapada. The management of the temple vests in a panch committee.

**Shubharai Math:** Shubharai was a saint-poet who flourished during the last days of the Peshwas. He was well-versed in Vedas & Born at Malur in Mysore State. He established an idol of Vithoba whose devotee he was. Every year the ratha procession is taken out on Shuddha 11th of the months of Ashadha and Kartika, which is attended by a large number of people. Shubharai took samadhi on Bhadrapada Vadya 10 in the Shaka era 1742.

**Indrabhuvan:** The building in which the offices of the Solapur Municipal Corporation are located was purchased by the municipality a few years back. The building was formerly owned by the late Shri Appasaheb Varad, a wealthy social worker of Solapur.

**Masjids:** The number of mosques in the city mentioned must be made of Jumma Masjid and Kali Masjid. Both the Masjids are pretty old, having been constructed at a time when the city formed part of the Bijapur kingdom. The Jumma Masjid is the biggest of all the Masjids in the city. The management of both these Masjids is looked after by a separate panch committee. The Jumma Masjid is maintained from the income realised from an old land grant.

**Churches:** There are three churches in the city. One belongs to Roman Catholics, the other to the Protestants and the third to the American Mission. Attached to the Roman Catholic Church is a school known as Saint Joseph School.

**Agyari:** There is also a Parsi agyari or a Parsi fire-temple in the city. The affairs of the agyari are looked after by the Parsi community in the city through their panchas.
5.1.11 Education and Culture:

In Solapur District the first girls' school was opened at Barshi in the year 1869. In the district position of education is given in the figure below.

**Fig.No 5.4 percentage and Institutes of Education in the district**
Higher Education:-

Recently Solapur University has been established for only one District since August 2004. It is known as SOLAPUR UNIVERSITY SOLAPUR. The jurisdiction of the university at present is Solapur district and 65 Colleges in the district are attached to the Solapur University.

Fig. No. 5.5 Percentage and Students of the district

5.1.12 Agricultural Department

The Agriculture department was separated into two sectors, viz., State and District.
The Agriculture department was separated up into two sectors, viz., State and District.
1] Agricultural Department of State:

This department looks after schemes like town compost, sugarcane development, cotton extension, taluka seed farms, experimental and research farms, soil conservation and gram sevak training centers; while the local sector is entrusted with schemes such as kharip and rabbi campaigns, paddy pilot schemes, horticultural development, rural compost, fertilizer distribution, plant protection, green rising, and distribution of cement, iron and steel, etc.

2] Agricultural department of Zilla Parishad:-

This department is started after the formation of the Zilla Parishad in 1962.

Establishment of seed farm centres: By the end of the Third Five-Year Plan ten out of eleven talukas were covered by the Taluka Seed Farms. In the Fourth Plan, the remaining taluka, viz., Barshi was covered by establishing seed farm at Upalai. An amount of Rs. 3.46 lakh has been provided in the Fifth Plan for land development, digging of wells, purchase of cattle, etc.

Construction of godowns: The godowns have been established in the district for storage of seeds and fertilizers. It is necessary to have godowns at 150 Agricultural Assistant's circles. However, in view of limited funds it is proposed to construct sixty godowns for which an amount of Rs. 6 lakh has been provided in the District Plan of Solapur.

Mass training of farmers: The peripatetic courses of one day are being conducted to impart training to farmers to explain them with the technique of growing hybrid and high-yielding varieties of food-crops.
5.1.13 Other Strength of Solapur:

In the Solapur district other strength of various factors for developing are as under:

Table No 5.3 Brief digest of Solapur District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Co-operative Societies -</td>
<td>10550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Rail Length –</td>
<td>375.40 kms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Road Length –</td>
<td>14853.68 kms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Small Scale Industries -</td>
<td>8516.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Talukas -</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Villages -</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Village Panchayats -</td>
<td>1028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Panchayat Samitis -</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Corporation -</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Councils -</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Commissionerate -</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Police Stations -</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River</td>
<td>Bhima. And it’s Sub-rivers - Neera, Mann, Seena, Bhogawati.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>220/132/33 KV Sub-Centres - 05, 132/110 KV Sub-Centres - 9, 110/33 KV Sub-centres - 3, 33/11 KV Sub-Centres - 98.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Major Irrigation Project - 1, Medium Irrigation Projects - 2, Lift Irrigation Projects - 8, Minor Irrigation Projects - 86.
5.1.14 Spiritual and Interesting Places:-

In the Solapur district various most important spiritual Places are at Pandharapur, Akkalkot, Barshi, Mangalwedha, Solapur and Sangola. And also various interesting places for looking are as sanctuary (Maldhok Wild Life Sanctuary Nannaj) and Hamadpati Temple at Velapur, Machanur and Kudal Sangam.

5.1.15 Commerce & Industry

Solapur district is famous for its Chadder, Handloom, Powerloom and Beedi Industries, covering an area 14844.6 sq.kms. It is one of the important districts in Maharashtra State of India. It is situated at a distance of 410 Kms. from the Maharashtra State Capital of Mumbai by road and train. It falls on the Mumbai-Chennai and Mumbai-Hyderabad railway track. The nearest domestic Air-Port is Pune and the International Air-Port is Mumbai. Solapur is at a distance of 245 kms from Pune and 305 Kms. from Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh). The national highways viz. NH-9, NH-13 and NH-211 pass through the city making Solapur on the frontline of the commercial map of India.

Solapur is a great and well-located trade centre for the neighboring Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and the Southern States areas and it has consequently become an industrial centre too. Therefore it is Mumbai and Ahmedabad combined to the extensive territory sprawling to the east of Sahyadri hills along Godavari and Krishna valleys. Besides Solapur, Barshi, Latur and recently Kurduwadi have busy centres. Barshi serves for textiles, Latur for agricultural products and Kurduwadi as a great railway junction. The lead in trade was taken by the Warad family in the
latter half of the 18th century when Peshva Madhavrao. He was persuaded to open a market centre which is now known as Mangalvar Peth. Ever since the middle of the 19th century i.e., from about 1840, raw cotton used to be sent from the Hyderabad area to Mumbai, bullocks and camels being used as means of transport.

The trade routes run through Barshi, Latur and Solapur towards Mumbai. Rally brothers acted as the agents who pre-dominated this internal trade. In 1859 the railway route from Mumbai passed through Solapur towards Raichur, which was later supplemented by another from Kurduwadi to Latur and a third from Kurduwadi to Miraj which gave a great stimulus to export trade. Since about 1870, Mallappa Warad ventured into this trade and in about ten years overcame the competition of Rally brothers in the Solapur market. Then Warad ventured to act as the agent between the western export agents and the local wholesale dealers and opened an Adat at Mumbai overcoming the competition of the Gujarati and Marwadi businessmen in the field. Mallappa also took the lead in large-scale agriculture in Solapur and looked forward towards the production of sugar; but the Government has prohibited utilizing molasses for rum proved a great obstacle.

Then he turned his attention to textile industry. But even before this, the first textile mill in Solapur was started by Seth Morarji Gokuldas of Bombay in 1874. As Solapur was often affected by famine, labour was cheap, water facilities so necessary for mills were available, tanks to the construction of the tank and raw cotton could be available in larger quantities from the Hyderabad area and Solapur weavers were skilled in their profession. For these reasons the textile industry could hold its ground in Solapur. In 1898 Seth Laxmidas Khimji from Bombay started
the Laxmi cotton mill and in the same year Mallappa Warad stepped into the field and opened the Narsingji Girji Mills. Although Morarji Gokuldas had the lead in textile industry in Solapur, the credit of having laid the foundations of the modern form of business in Solapur must be given to the local adventurer Mallappa Warad. In making headway he always cool-headedly followed the line of least resistance. Besides the three mills started in the 19th century two more mills were added in the first decade of the 20th and when all the mills in Solapur were working in good condition the total labour employed was over 31,000. In 1921 Solapur was described as a great milling community, super-imposed upon an old Indian town. After the First World War the mills in Solapur earned great reputation for their products which had a demand in Africa and they earned big profits too upto 1927-28; but from 1928 they received a setback on account of the Congress propaganda of khaddar, i.e. hand-spun and hand-woven yarn. When the Second World War started, the textile industry again began to make bumper profits. By about 1950 the industry started facing economic crisis. One of the mills was permanently closed in 1964, the Narsingji Girji Mills which were taken over by Government in 1958 were recently purchased by them and the other mills somehow are facing and fighting the difficulties in their way.

It is unnecessary to go into the details of these recent vicissitudes but it can be said that there is no other centre than Solapur in western Maharashtra, except Bombay, which has earned the reputation of being a centre of modern textile industry. Besides textile industry a variety of other industries such as those of smiths, pulse-makers, oil mill owners, dyers and printers and leather manufacturers not to speak of the wholesale grain dealers and others engaged in trade and transport, constituted the business of Solapur that overshadowed all other aspects of the mixed community of Solapur which included a good portion of
skilled and unskilled Muslim workers too. The mill labour of Solapur are organized groups having their own unions but it can be definitely stated after a close scrutiny, that Solapur labour has not been affected over any communal, regional, linguistic and such other issues that stand in the way of proprietor-labour relationship. Strikes and lock-outs have taken place, but largely on economic grounds. Solapur labour does not indicate the cosmopolitan character of the Bombay labour, because it is largely local, a large number having their native places in nearby villages; and as a consequence Solapur labour is irregular, registering a large percentage of absentees who choose any excuse to be away from their work, quite a few having a small piece of land of their own which they would like to attend to.

Fig.No. 5.7 Map of Solapur District

![Map of Solapur District](https://www.mapsindia.com)
5.2 Significant of Talukas:-

5.2.1 SANGOLA

The head-quarters of the taluka stands the same name situated in 17°25' north latitude and 75° 10' east longitude on the Man about fifty miles to the south-west of Solapur, is a railway station on the Nanded-Kolhapur broad gauge branch line of the South-Central Railway. It is a municipal town and has, as per the Census of 2001, a total population of 243961 people. Being the head-quarters of a taluka, there are located in the town the offices of the Tahsildar and a Block Development Officer as also the Court of the Civil Judge, Junior Division. It has a post and telegraph office too. The jurisdiction of the police head-quarters also located at Sangola extends over 102 villages. The educational needs of the town common people are met by the primary schools conducted by the Zilla Parishad and the Sangola Vidya Mandir High School. The medical facilities are provided by the municipal dispensary with ten beds and by the private medical practitioners. Wells form the main source of water-supply. A weekly market which is also a cattle market is held at Sangola on every Sunday.

5.2.2 AKKALKOT

Akkalkot is situated in 17°30' north latitude and 76°10' east longitude which has a population of 227922 people as per the Census of 2001. In this taluka included over 135 villages. It was formerly a head-quarters seat, a capital of the significant state of Akkalkot. After the merger of the State in Indian Union, it formed part of Solapur district and became the head-quarter of the taluka bearing the same name. The municipal town has been electrified and has a protected water-supply.
The town has a Government rest-house. A weekly market including cattle market is held at Akkalkot on every Monday.

DUDHANI: Dudhani is most popular town in the Akkalkot for Financial as well as Political purpose. It is located in 17°05' north latitude and 76°15' east longitude, Dudhani is a municipal town in Akkalkot taluka. It has a population of 6,726 souls as per the Census of 1971. It is a railway station on the Solapur-Raichur broad gauge section of the South-Central railway. Wells form the main source of water-supply to the town. It has a post and telegraph office. Primary schools conducted by the Zilla Parishad and a high school known as Shri Siddheshwar High School provide educational facilities to the town populace. Private medical practitioners and a municipal ayurvedic dispensary cater to the preventive and curative health needs of the people. A weekly market which is also a cattle market is held at Dudhani on every Tuesday.

5.2.3 BARSHI

Barshi is situated in 18°13' north latitude and 75°41' east longitude north-west of Solapur, the district head-quarters, Barshi is a municipal town and a head-quarter of a taluka bearing the same name. It has, as per the Census of 2001, a total population of 236046 souls. Being the headquarters of a taluka the offices of the Mamledar and the Block Development Officer (BDO) are located at Barshi. It is also a seat of the Civil Judge (Junior Division) and First Class Judicial Magistrate. There is a separate police station for the town only. There is a railway station on the Latur-Kurduwadi Broad gauge section of the South-Central railway. The railway itself was known as Barshi Light Railway. Wells and a tank form the main sources of water-supply. Scarcity of drinking water is often felt. A weekly market including cattle market is held at Barshi on every Saturday.
5.2.4 AKLUJ (Malshiras)

Akluj Grampanchayat is famous in India. It is a part of the Malshiras Taluka and situated in 17°50' north latitude and 75°00' east longitude. Akluj is a large market town on the Nira, about six miles to the north-east of Malshiras, the taluka head-quarters. This large village has a population of 40,278 souls as per the Census of 1971. The town was formerly very flourishing with a large trade in cotton which has now almost disappeared. However, it still continues to be the principal trading centre in the taluka, the main articles sold being cotton, wheat, and groundnut. A weekly market including cattle market is held at Akluj on every Monday.

The town has a post and telegraph office. River and wells form the main source of water-supply. Primary schools conducted by the Zilla Parishad and one high school known as the Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Vidyalaya cater to the educational needs of the town populace. The primary health centre and the private medical practitioners provide medical facilities to the town populace. The town has a ruined fort. There is an interesting park called the Sayaji Park and also famous temple of Ganesha.

5.2.5 NORTH SOLAPUR (North & South)

Solapur is situated in 17°40' north latitude and 75°46' east longitude, Solapur city is the head-quarters of the district bearing the same name and has a railway station on the broad gauge line of the South-Central Railway, 165 miles to the south-east of Pune and 283 miles to the south-east of Mumbai. The derivation of the name Solapur is attributed to the fact that the former town was composed of sixteen villages known as Adilpur, Ahmadpur, Chapladev, Fatehpur, Jamdarwadi, Kalajapur, Khadarpur, Khanderavkiwadi, Muhammadpur,
Ranapur, Sandalapur, Shaikpur, Solapur, Sonalgi, Sonapur and Vaidkawadi. However, this derivation appears to be fallacious in view of the name Solapur being among the list of sixteen villages given. Recent research however shows that the name Solapur is derived from Solapur and not from the congregation of sixteen villages. The Solapur is divided into two parts as North Solapur and South Solapur.

5.2.5 North Solapur: -

North Solapur has a population of 88325 people as per the Census of 2001. This taluka has included above 40 villages. The North Solapur city is spread over area of 35.3 sq. km and has a population of 872478 souls as per the Census of 2001.

5.2.6 South Solapur: -

South Solapur has a population of 210774 persons as per the Census of 2001. This taluka includes over 91 villages.

5.2.7 MADHA:-

The Madha taluka is spread over an area of 1538.4 squares Kilometers and it has a population of 269834 souls as per the Census of 2001. Kurduwadi is the biggest town in the Madha taluka.

KURDUWADI:- Kurduwadi is an important railway junction on the Pune-Solapur main broad gauge line and Miraj-Latur branch broad gauge line of the South-Central railway. Kurduwadi is situated in 18°05' north latitude and 75°25' east longitude in Madha taluka of the Solapur district. The junction has achieved special importance in view of the fact that it has become the main centre to pass through to those thousands of pilgrims visiting Pandharpur from Marathwada region. It has a
Government rest-house and a primary health centre. The agricultural produce market committee was established at Kurduwadi in 1969, the commodities regulated being jowar, cotton, ground-nut, wheat, gram, tur and gur. The town has a population of 17,862 souls as per the Census of 1971. The town has no other importance except being a railway junction. An annual fair is held in the honour of Maruti on Hanuman Jayanti on Chaitra full-moon day. About 5,000 people assemble at the time of the fair.

5.2.8 MANGALWEDHA

Mangalwedha is situated in 17°30' north latitude and 75°25' east longitude, Mangal-vedha is the head-quarters of the taluka bearing the same name and is located at a distance of fourteen miles from Pandharpur. The population, according to 2001 Census, was 149555. The Mangalwedha taluka is spread over an area of 988.6 squares Kilometers. Though no definite information is available as to how the town came to be known as Mangalwedha, as per the local tradition it is ascribed to one king Mangal who was ruling from Mangalwedha. As per another account the origin of the name of the town is the temple of Mangalai that was there in the town. It was also known as Mangalvad or Mangaliveda during the reign of Kalachuris.

5.2.9 MOHOL:

Mohol is near the Solapur city and the head-quarters of the taluka Mohol is situated in 17°45' north latitude and 75°35' east longitude is a railway station on the Pune-Solapur broad gauge line of the South-Central Railway. The Mohol taluka is spread over an area of 1408.4 squares Kilometers. The population, according to 2001 Census, was 252526 and the offices of the Mamledar and the Block Development Officer are located in this village besides the Court of the Civil Judge, Junior
Division. The jurisdiction of the police station at Mohol extends over 101 villages. The educational facilities to the village populace are provided by four primary schools conducted by the Zilla Parishad and a high school known as the Nagnath Vidya Mandir conducted by the Mohol Education Society. It has a Government rest-house too. The agricultural produce market committee was established at Mohol on January 1, 1958. A weekly market including a cattle market is held at Mohol on every Sunday.

5.2.10 PANDHARPUR

Shri kshetra Pandharpur, considered as 'Southern Kashi' of India and Kuldaivat of Maharashtra State, is the honour of this district. It is situated in 17°40' north latitude and 75°23' east longitude, forty miles to the west of Solapur, is one of the most frequented places of pilgrimage not only in the State of Maharashtra but also in the whole of India, and ranks first amongst the fairs in the State with an aggregate congregation of four to five lakh. It is the head-quarters of the taluka bearing the same name and has, according to the Census of 2001, a total population of 311328 people and is spread over an area of 1291.5 squares Kilometers. The town with an area of 12.1 square miles lies along the right bank of the Bhima on trap overlaid with poor black soil. The river is also known here as Chandrabhaga due to the particular shape of the river-bend that gives an appearance of the moon as it is seen on the bright as well as dark half of every Hindu calendar month. When the river is full the broad winding Bhima lay with boats with bright lion, horse and unicorn figure heads; the islet temples of Vishnupad and Narad; and on the further bank the rows of domed and spired tombs; the crowded cloth-brightened flights of steps leading from the water, the shady banks, and, among the tree
tops, the spires and pinnacles of Pundlik's and other large temples, is a scene of much life and beauty.

Being the head-quarters of the taluka as also of the Panchayat Samiti, the offices of the Mamledar as also of the Block Development Officer are located in the town. It is also a Sub-Divisional head-quarter in charge of a Deputy Collector. The courts of the Civil Judge (Junior Division) and the First Class Judicial Magistrate are also located at Pandharpur. A municipality was established at Pandharpur in the year 1855. There are two police stations at Pandharpur, one for the town and the other for the taluka, the jurisdiction of which extends over 83 villages. The educational facilities to the town populace are provided by primary schools conducted by the municipality and other private education institutions as primary, secondary and colleges.

Pandharpur is a railway station on the Latur-Kurduwadi-Miraj broad gauge line of the South-Central Railway and has proved to be of immense use to devote pilgrims. There is a Government rest-house and many lodging houses and dharmashalas. But although some of the characteristics are similar in both images, it must be said that the style and the detail of the ornamentation are absolutely different.

5.2.11 KARMALA

The town came to be known as Karmala after one Muhammedan maulavi named Karme-Maula who propagated the teaching of Islam when Karmala was under the Nizamshahi kingdom of Ahmadnagar.

Karmala is the head-quarters of the taluka as bearing the same name. The population, according to 2001 Census, was 211388 people. This municipal town has the offices of the Mamledar and the Block Development Officer besides that of the Court of the Civil Judge, Junior Division. There is also a police station the jurisdiction of which extends
over 118 villages. It has a post and telegraph office. The water-supply to the town is piped and protected. The town has been electrified. The educational facilities are provided by five primary schools conducted by the municipality, the Mahatma Gandhi Vidyalaya conducted by the Karmala Taluka Co-operative Education Society and Yashwantrao Chavan College of Arts and Commerce conducted by the Vidyavikas, Karmala. The Government basic training college is also located at Karmala. The Samaj Seva Mandal conducts the Annasaheb Jagtap Vidyalaya. A Government rest-house is also located at Karmala.