

CHAPTER III

*PROFILE OF MALSHIRAS TALUKA*

*AND*

*SELECTED VILLAGES*

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**PROFILE OF MALSHIRAS TALUKA AND  
SELECTED VILLAGES**

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**Chapter III**  
**PROFILE OF MALSHIRAS TALUKA AND**  
**SELECTED VILLAGES**

**3.1 Introduction**

Malshiras Taluka is one of the most important talukas in Solapur district of Maharashtra. It is about 110 km away of North-West of Solapur.

Prior to 1960, Malshiras taluka was in Southern Maharashtra which was poor, having barren land and small villages. It was recognized as drought prone area of Solapur district.

Malshiras taluka was having barren land and also known for drought prone atmosphere. For the development of agriculture, some irrigation projects with modern technology of water supply have been initiated. As a result most of the area of this taluka comes under the irrigation. Though there is uncertainty of rainfall, the agriculture is developed by the water of river, wells and canals by which the water supply for a whole year is ensured. It increased the number of agricultural labourer.

The socio-economic condition of female agricultural labourer is very deprived in this taluka. But not a single research has been made in this area. Therefore we find it necessary to study socio-economic condition along with their sources of income and expenditure of female agricultural labourer in the selected villages of Malshiras taluka.

**3.2 Location**

Malshiras Taluka is located between 17° 51'43" north latitude 74° 54'12" east longitudes. The taluka is situated on the western zone of Solapur district.

**3.3 Boundaries**

The Sangola taluka surrounds the taluka to the east-south, Pandharpur taluka to the east, Madha taluka to the north and Satara district to the west, as well as Pune district to the north - east.

### 3.4 Administrative Set-up

Malshiras taluka came under Pune division. There are 117 villages in Malshiras taluka. There is one Panchayat Samiti and 22 members in Panchayat Samiti. There are 59 Talathi offices and four Police Stations in taluka. The Sub-Divisional Police Office of taluka is at Akluj. There are 11 Zillah Perished units in this taluka. The village Akluj which is having number one Gram panchayat in Asia that comes under Malshiras taluka.

### 3.5 Topography

#### 3.5.1 Climate

The rainy season starts from mid-June and lasts up to the end of October. It is followed by winter season from November to February and summer season from March to mid-June.

During winter season air is generally bright, strong host winds and occasional dust storms. Nights are however generally cool, the rainy months are pleasant. The temperature generally is mild and even. Except hot months of March to May the climate is free from extreme of heat or cold.

#### 3.5.2 Rainfall

Rainfall all over the Malshiras taluka is uncertain. The rain starts in June and continues up to October. The participation during June to August is rather precarious. The showers in September and October are heavy and more assured. There are total 11 rainfall forecasting centres in this taluka. The drought cycle having a very small span of two or three year, has adversely affected the socio-economic condition of the people. Following table no.3.1 shows the annual rainfall from 2000-01 to 2007-08 in this Malshiras taluka.

Table No.3.1

#### Annual rainfall 2000-01 to 2007- 08 of Malshiras taluka

Sr. No.	Year	Rainfall (In mm.)
1	2000-01	390.5
2	2001-02	321
3	2002-03	107
4	2003-04	421
5	2004-05	304

6	2005-06	161
7	2006-07	662.1
8	2007-08	658.1

Sources: Panchayat Samiti, Malshiras

### 3.5.3 Soil

The soil of Malshiras taluka is generally shallow and light in colour and not retentive of moisture. More even some parts are stony, it is hard land sterile near the foot of hills, however fertile black soil of sufficient depth is found in the numerous valley, Jawar, Bajara, Wheat, Maze and Kardai are grown as well as Banana, Grapes, Sugarcane, Cotton, Fruits are produced in this taluka.

### 3.5.4 River

Solapur district is situated entirely in Bhima, Nira, Maan, Bhogawati and Sina rivers basins in southern Maharashtra. Among them the Nira River is most important for Malshiras Taluka. The Nira chief right bank feeder of the Bhima River rises in the Bhor taluka of Pune. It runs south east and along the borders of Pune, Satara and Solapur. The Nira runs north-east forming the northern boundary of taluka and skirting part of the village of Akluj falls into the river near Sangam in this taluka. The length of Bhima river is about 34 kilometre and it separate Pandharpur taluka and for about Malshiras taluka on the right for about 65 kilometre. The bank of Nira river is steep and rocky and it is generally gravelly. The water supply of the Bhima river is little for used for irrigation in village of taluka and the water of Nira is used maximum for irrigation in villages of this taluka.

### 3.5.5 Forest

The area under forest is scattered. All these forest are scrub, growing thorn bushes. It may be roughly divided the south of Malshiras taluka. The total forest coverage of the taluka is measuring 9,569.91 hectares. The forest area is about average 5.25 per cent and 34 villages are included in forest areas.

### 3.6 Population and Sex Ratio

According to Census 2001, the population of Malshiras taluka is 4,22,600. In that there are 2,19,762 (52 per cent) male and 2,02,838 (47.99 per cent) are female. Mahalung village accounts highest 4.72 per cent and Ganeshgaon village contributes

lowest 0.26 percentages share in total population. Malshiras taluka has the sex ratio of 923.

Table No. 3.2 depicts the male and female agricultural labourer's population of each selected village in Malshiras taluka.

Table No.3.2

**Village and Population wise classification of agricultural labourers**

Sr. No	Village name	Population			% of Population	Agricultural Labourer			% of Agricultural Labour
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
1	Sangam	1360	1222	2582	5.86	166	174	340	4.14
2	Babhulgaon	772	771	1543	3.50	182	168	350	4.26
3	Ganeshgaon	603	536	1139	2.59	131	121	252	3.07
4	Nevare	1396	1276	2672	6.06	355	237	592	7.21
5	Mahalung	10311	9672	19983	45.35	753	502	1255	15.28
6	Chacore	1013	969	1982	4.50	559	373	932	11.35
7	Khudus	639	582	1221	2.77	228	152	380	4.63
8	Maloli	2713	2547	5260	11.94	1080	720	1800	21.92
9	Kanher	1938	1805	3743	8.50	485	324	809	9.85
10	Tarangphal	1178	1044	2222	5.04	388	259	647	7.88
11	Garwad	887	826	1713	3.89	513	343	856	10.42
	<b>Total</b>	22810	21250	44060	100.00	4840	3373	8213	100.00

Source: Census 2001

Out of the total sample villages the Mahalung village constitute about 45.35 per cent of population and about 15.28 per cent of agricultural labour in the sample villages. Even Maloli village is also representing about 11.94 per cent of population and 21.92 per cent of agricultural labour force in the sample villages. More information can be seen in the above table.

### 3.6.1 Working Population

According to Census 2001, the total working population was 35,740. In that male were 2,05,654 (57.78 per cent) and female were 15,084(42.20 per cent). Out of the total working population nearly 62.29 per cent are agricultural labourers, 10.36 per cent are cultivators, 2.46 per cent are household industry workers and 24.87 per cent are other workers in the selected taluka.

### **3.6.2 Agricultural Labour**

According to Census 2001, there are total 22,870 agricultural labourers. Out of which 11,227 (49.09 per cent) were male and 11,643 (50.90 per cent) were female in the concerned taluka.

### **3.7 Education**

Malshiras taluka has a long history of educational development. The late Sahakar Maharshri Shankarrao Mohite Patil was the legend man in talukā, who light the lamp of education. As per Census 2001, there were 294 primary schools, 56 secondary schools and 18 colleges as well as 38 Public Libraries ensuring the education to people.

### **3.8 Literacy Rate**

There are 3,01,102 peoples are literate in this taluka. Among them there were 1,80,661 (59.99 per cent) male and 1,20,441 (40 per cent) female. According to the Census report 2001, literacy rate for the taluka was 71.24 per cent which is somewhat higher than the national average (i.e.64.8 per cent)

### **3.9 Agriculture**

The main occupation of the people from this taluka is agriculture. Their economic activities are mainly depended upon agriculture. The economy of this taluka has been totally depends upon agriculture. Although the taluka is mostly having barren and low productive land, they cultivate cash crops, like Sugarcane, Banana, Grapes, Chikku, Pomegranate, etc. with the help of modern irrigation schemes.

#### **3.9.1 Land utilization**

According to Census report 2001, the total geographical area of Malshiras Taluka is of 1,60,801.64 hectares. Out of which irrigated area is about 65,532.14 hectares (70.36 per cent) and non-irrigated area is about 27,604.48 hectares (29.63 per cent), and net area under the sown was 93,136.62 hectares. Out of that area under *Kharip* crops was 25,604.61 hector, under *Rabbi* crops was 72,532.24 hector and under all seasons was 10,095.62 hector.

### **3.9.2 Irrigation**

Malshiras taluka has both irrigated and non-irrigated area. Water supply is not plentiful in the western part of this taluka. The right bank of Nira river, Bhatagar cannel and also wells provides considerable water supply for irrigating farm land, well is fairly significant in this stretch. There are 92 gentle trickling tanks, 8 villages' tank, 72 Kolhapur bands, 11 Cricket bands as well as 900 wells provides considerable water supply for irrigating farm land. That is why in this taluka reward the highest percentage under irrigation within the Solapur district.

### **3.9.3 Cropping Pattern**

There are three types of seasonal crops viz; Kharip, Rabbi and Summer season in this taluka. It mainly deals with rabbi season as its main crop of the season. The farmers of this area take the irrigated and non- irrigated area for crop production. As such as the area under the Kharip crops are 25,604.61 hector. In which without sowed land is 380.60 hectores. The area under the Rabbi crops is 72532.24 hectores. In which without sowed land is of 8,403.10 hector. Similarly, the average area under the summer crops is of 71,300 hector. Whereas crops 300 hector and the average under horticulture crops is 3,571 hectores.

The cropping pattern of this taluka is dominated by large inferior food crops. Jawar, Bajara, Wheat, Maze and Kardai are most important crops. As well as Cotton, Sunflowers, Pluses were favoured in place of the traditional food crops. Now a day, non-irrigated land is also producing grapes, pomegranates, whereas irrigated land is producing Sugarcane and Banana.

### **3.10 Co-operative Movement**

The history of co-operative movement in the Malshiras taluka could be traced after the registration of Akluj Co-operative Society on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915, since the co-operative movement has spread all over the taluka covering vertical and horizontal link in the movement. But during the pre-independent, period of the co-operative movement in this taluka was more concerned primarily to the credit activities.

In the post-independence period, the co-operative movement has spread in all over the sectors. By the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2000 the 103 Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Societies and 423 other types of co-operative societies were working for the well being of the taluka. Co-operative movement made revolutionary



development in various fields of the taluka. Among various co-operative societies the co-operative sugar factories, co-operative milk societies, co-operative banks are playing major role in the prosperity of co-operative movement in the taluka.

Malshiras is well developed in agricultural and industrial sector. Late Shri Sahakar Maharshri Shankarrao Mohite-Patil is the pioneer of co-operative movement in Malshiras taluka. His motto was to develop socio-economical status of not only Malshiras but also Maharashtra through co-operative organisations.

### **3.11 Industries**

Presently there are four sugar factories in this taluka, three are in co-operative sector and one is in private sector. There is one winery project, one cotton mill, one paper industry as well as two milk units and four ethanol projects are contributing in the development of this taluka.

### **3.12 Transportation**

As far as the transportation is concern the taluka is well equiped with road facilities which plays a vital role in the overall development of the taluka. Rural development is more preferred mode of transport due to its coverage and speed. Malshiras taluka is situated on the state highway-9. There are five main state highways in this taluka.

There are state transport buses regularly from Malshiras to Pune, Pandharpur, Sangola, Kolhapur, Satara, Mumbai, Shirdi and several other places. There are major district roads, other districts road and village roads is surfaced road. There are 85 per cent pakka road and 15 per cent kachha roads. The nearest airport for Malshiras taluka is at Solapur, as well as the nearest Railway transport of Malshiras taluka in Pandharpur taluka.

#### **3.12.1 Trade and Commerce**

There are 173 Government Ration Shops, 156 Kerosene shops in this taluka. There are 89 Credit societies, 124 Labour societies, 132 Vikas societies, and two Co-operative banks. There are three government godowns. The place of godowns and capacity is shown in the following table no.3.3

Table No.3.3

**Place of Godowns and capacity of Malshiras taluka**

Sr. No.	Place of Godowns	Capacity (MT)
1	Akluj	500
2	Malshiras	1000
3	Natepute	200

Source: Panchayat Samiti, Malshiras

The crops like, are Jowar, Wheat, Maize, Kardai, Chilli, Groundnut, Grapes etc. are exported as well as rice, salt, coffees, coconut, kerosene etc. are imported in Malshiras taluka.

**3.12.2 Weekly Bazaar**

There is a weekly bazaar in each and every village of the Malshiras taluka for the whole week they work in their fields and at the end of week they sale their products and buy agricultural goods products which they need in weekly bazaar. There is one Market Committee and also there are three sub-divisional in Market Committee in the taluka. Following table no.3.4 talks about the days and place of weekly bazaar.

Table No.3.4

**Village/ Place of weekly Bazaar in Malshiras taluka**

Sr. No.	Day	Place/ Village
1	Monday	Akluj, Malingar
2	Tuesday	Piliv
3	Wednesday	Natepute, Tondale
4	Thursday	Malshiras
5	Friday	Shripur, Tandulwadi
6	Saturday	Velapur, Dharpuri
7	Sunday	Sadashivnagar, Khudus

Source: Panchayat samiti, Malshiras

**3.13 Religion Places**

Malshiras taluka has blessed with various temple and religious places, which make visiting in this taluka none less then a pilgrimage. Following table no.3.5 shown some important religious places in taluka.

Table No.3.5

**Religious places in Malshiras taluka**

Sr. No.	Religious Place	Village Name
1	Mahalaxmi	Piliv
2	Jagadamba	Mahalung
3	Akalaidevi	Akluj
4	Mahavir Temple	Dahigaon
5	Ardhanari Nateshwar	Velapur
6	Guptaling	Shikhar shingnapur

Source: Panchayat Samiti office, Malshiras

**3.13 Historical Places**

Malshiras taluka is also a place of great historical important. There are two important places in this taluka.

**3.13.1 Akluj**

In 1689, Aurangzeb driven north from his camp at Bijapur by an outbreak of the plague, come to Akluj where the epidemic subsided. After his arrival at an Akluj plundering parties of Marathas where frequent near and detachment were sent to Sambhaji's territories. When the news of Sambhaji's captures reached Aurangzeb's camp at Akluj there were great rejoicings. During the four or five days when Mukarrab Khan was known to be coming with the prisoners, all classes were so over enjoyed that they could not sleep and went out four miles to meet the prisoners and give expression to their joy.

**3.13.2 Velapur**

Velapur is a well-known historical place. It has mythical story of Mahabharata it is said that "Bhima" had killed "Bakasur" at the same place and there are empirical and historical temple of Ardhanari Nateshwar.

**3.14 Special features of the taluka**

Other than above mentioned places, there are some other places like Shivamrut Park at Vizori, Shiv-Parvati temple at Yeshwantnagar, Shiv-Kirti and wonderful water park at Anandnagar, Shivaji fort and beautiful Park at Akluj.

Whereas it is surrounded by natural beauty etc. which also attract the tourist to come over such places

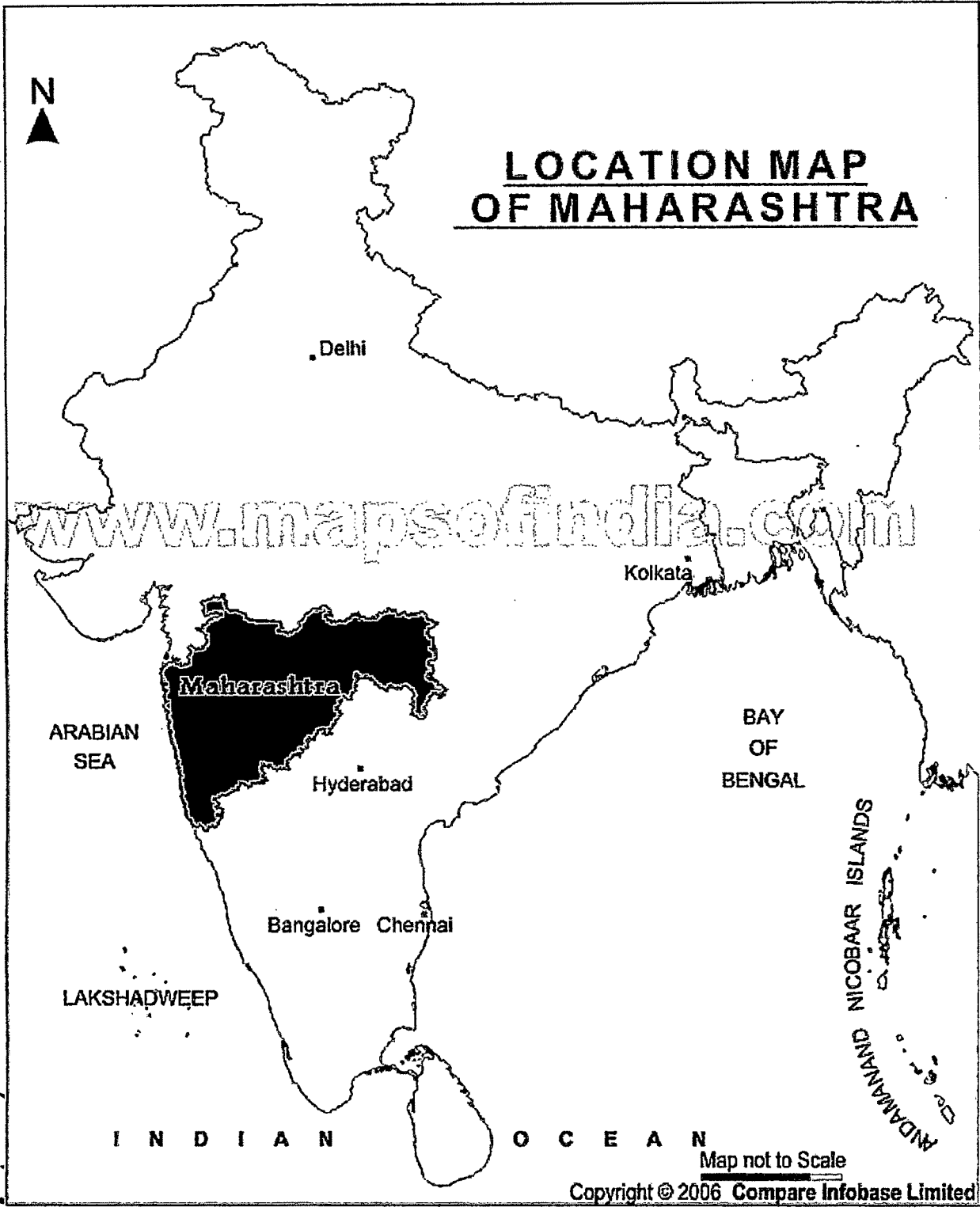
### **3.27 Conclusion**

We have studied the profile of the taluka and the main features of agricultural in it. It is seen that Malshiras taluka is a typical "Drought Prone" but also well irrigated in some area and it has the major crops like food grains and fruits along with some cash crops like Sugarcane and Banana. It mainly deals with rabbi season as its main crop of the season. The Mahalung village accounts highest 4.72 per cent and Ganeshgaon village contributes lowest 0.26 percentages share in total population. The Co-operative movement made revolutionary development in various fields of the taluka. Never the less, the religious and historical places are attracting to the tourists to visit these places.

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# LOCATION MAP OF MAHARASHTRA



**Maharashtra**

Delhi

Kolkata

ARABIAN  
SEA

BAY  
OF  
BENGAL

Hyderabad

Bangalore Chennai

LAKSHADWEEP

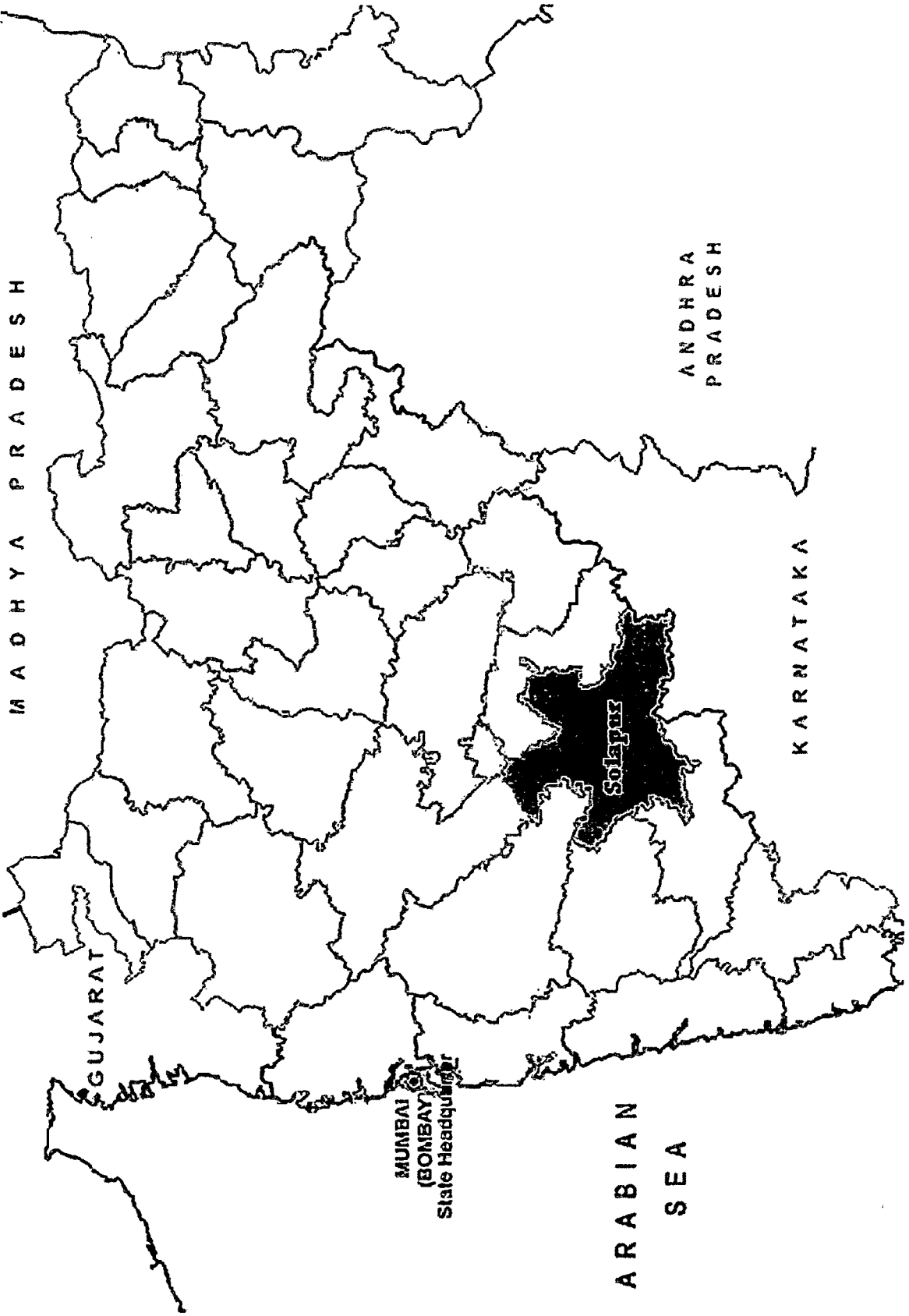
ANDAMAN  
AND  
NICOBAR ISLANDS

I N D I A N O C E A N

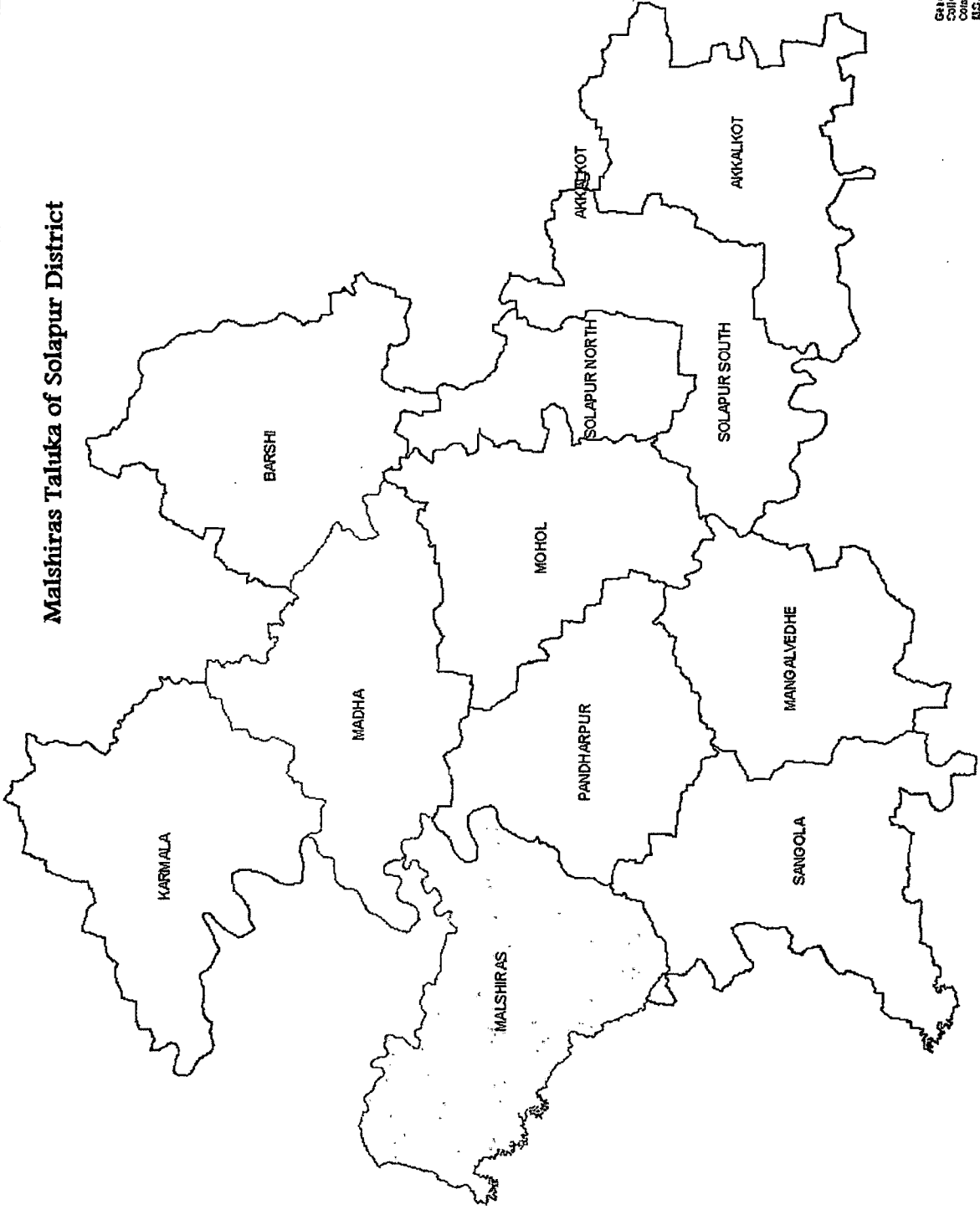
Map not to Scale

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# Solapur District in Maharashtra State



# Malshiras Taluka of Solapur District



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