

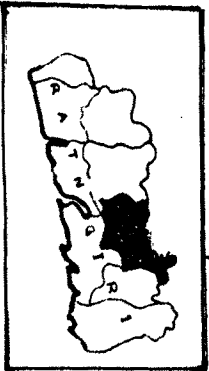
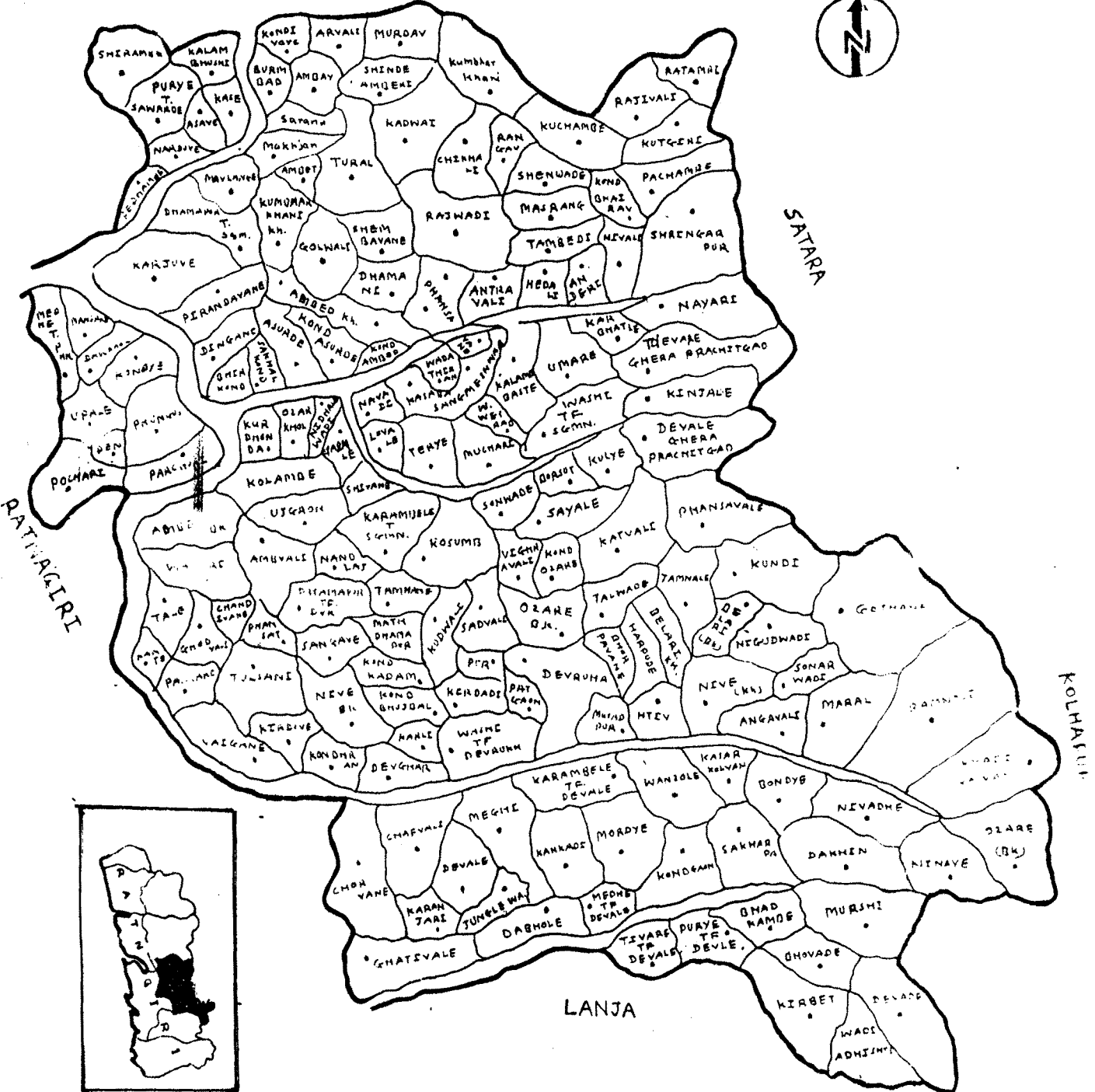
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# SANGMESHWAR

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## C H A P T E R - 2

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND ECONOMIC BASE OF SANGAMESHWAR TALUKA

#### 2.1 PHYSICAL FEATURES OF SANGAMESHWAR TALUKA.

The Ratnagiri district is an administrative -- division of the Maharashtra State. The district is further divided into NINE administrative Sub-Divisions which are ~~are~~ known as the talukas. Sangameshwar is one of the important administrative Sub-Division of the district.

##### 2.1.1 L O C A T I O N

The Sangameshwar Taluka is located on eastern part of the Ratnagiri District. The taluka lies between  $16^{\circ}.50'$  and  $17^{\circ}.60'$  north latitude and between  $73^{\circ}.60'$  and  $73^{\circ}.30'$  east longitude. The taluka is away from the costal east ward boundary of the Ratnagiri district. But it is very near to the Sahyadri ranges. The century old Amba pass, which is the important gateway for the district lies in this taluka.

##### 2.1.2 A R E A.

The Sangameshwar Taluka secures first position in the district when compared with the total geographical area of the other talukas. Total geographical area of Sangameshwar taluka is 1292.6 Sq.Kms. It covers about 15.7 percent of the total geographical area of the Ratnagiri district. About 80 percent of the area is the hilly region. At many places the Sahyadri ranges are inserted in the taluka.



### 2.1.3 BOUNDARIES

On eastward side of the taluka there lies Kolhapur and Satara districts. The Ratnagiri taluka is on the West. The north boundary of Sangameshwar taluka is surrounded by Chiplun taluka and on the South by Lanja taluka. There are no natural boundaries for the taluka.

### 2.1.4 RIVERS

There are five important rivers in the taluka and they are Gadgadi, Gad, Shastri, Baw and Kazri. None of these few rivers are used for irrigation. As all these rivers streams are in the mountain area no river can be used for navigational purpose. A century ago Sangameshwar was the important river port, river Shastri was used for the purpose. There is a common feature of the rivers of this taluka and that is the rivers overflow during heavy rainy season and they have spring line stream in summer season. In addition to these five rivers there are number of -- seasonal streams which are not economically unuseful. The drainage of all the rivers of the taluka is west to east.

### 2.1.5 SOIL:

The predominant soil in the taluka is laterite soil. The soils vary in colours from bright red to brownish red owing to the predominance of hydrated iron oxide. The

soil is useful for paddy cultivation and for horticulture. The soil erosion in the taluka is very heavy mainly because of heavy rainy season and the seasonal streams pounding down from the hilly area. Another reason of the soil -- erosion is after independence the forest are declining. At many places due to erosion and good fertile land has turn in to a barren land.

#### 2.1.6 C L I M A T E

The climate in the taluka is uneven when compared with the climatic conditions of the districts. The temperature varies  $34^{\circ}$  c. in summer season to  $17.7^{\circ}$ c in winter season. The average rainfall in the taluka was above 3500 mm. and the average number of rainy days were 117 during 1982 to 1984. The year can be divided into three seasons June to December is the rainy season and it is the longest season than winter and summer.

### II ECONOMIC BASE OF THE SANGAMESHWAR TALUKA

#### 2.2.1 POPULATION

In 1981 the population density of the taluka was 148 people per Sq.Km. According to population the Sangameshwar taluka holds second position in the district, Ratnagiri --- being the first. In 1981 the population of Sangameshwar ---

taluka was 1,92,000 on an average population growth during last three decades that is during 1951 to 1981 was 9.11 percent per decade. On an average the population growth rate of the taluka was had always remained higher than the population growth rate of the district, exception to this was the growth rate between 1951 and 1961. The -- distribution of population according to sex was in the favour of female population. Of the 192000 of taluka's population 55.2 percent was female population and the balance was of male population. There are no urban areas and therefore the whole of the population lives in rural areas. For last three decades the population distribution between rural and urban areas has not changed at all. The population was distributed between 192 villages there was no village having a population more than ten thousand. Overall literacy rate in the taluka was 42.37 percent. The educated female population was only 32.56 percent. The average literacy rate was near to the district's average literacy rate.

#### 2.2.2 OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN:

More than 36.33 percent of the taluka population was engaged in different sectors of the economy. The -- occupation ratio was higher than the district occupation ratio. Of the 69.6 thousand employed persons 51 thousand (73.27 percent) people were farmers and only 5.5 percent of the employed population was agricultural labourers. There was no developed industrial sector in the economy and there-

fore employment in industrial sector was negligible. 14200 people were engaged in the occupations other than agriculture and industry. This other occupation include dairy, forestry, construction, horticulture etc. The above details indicate that agriculture was main livelihood for the people in the region.

### 2.2.3 LAND UTILISATION:

Even though total geographical area of the taluka was 1,25,177 hectares and about 70.90 percent of the total geographical area was cultivable. Out of this cultivable area 34989 hectares ( 27.19 percent) was barren land. About 54830 hectares of land was not used for cultivation because of some or other / reason.

### 2.2.4 CROPPING PATTERN:

The cultivable land available in the taluka was good for paddy, Ragi, and vari cultivation. Paddy was the main crop of the region and it occupied more than 1/3 of the land under cultivation. Table No.2.1 gives details of the different crops cultivated in the taluka.

TABLE No. 2.1.

Cropping pattern of Sangameshwar taluka. (area in hectares)

Details	Area
Paddy	11058
Ragi (Nagli)	4902.6
Vari	1596
Other Grains	1959
Oil seeds	466
Other cereals	564
Spices	16
Fruit and vegetables	1234.4
Sugar cane	23
Grass and other crops	12095
TOTAL	33912

#### 2.2.5 HORTICULTURE

Total area under horticulture was about 637 hectares of which 192 hectares of land was under cashew cultivation and 445 hectares of land was under mango cultivation. The area under other horticultural crops like bahana, cocum, Jackfruit etc. is not available. The area available for horticulture is about 11278 hectares but only about 5.65 percent of the available area is under cultivation.



### 2.2.6 FOREST RESOURCES

The area under forest was only 1200 hectares. The forest area not even 1 percent of the total geographical area. The forest resources are declining mainly because of cutting down of existing trees and there is no fresh plantation. Since last few years many restrictions are imposed on cutting trees but these restrictions are not much effective because of loopholes there in. The existing forest resources consist of various types of trees which includes trees, shrubs, climbers, ~~and~~ bamboos, Grasses etc., useful for manufacture of furniture, paper and medicine. Thick forest areas are there on the slopes of Sahyadri mountain. The forest products account for Rs. 35000 per annum.

### 2.2.7 INDUSTRY

The industrial scene of the taluka includes one large scale industry at Deorukh and number of cottage and small scale industries spread all over the taluka. The main feature of these small scale and cottage industries was that these industries were agro based industries. The cottage and small scale industry includes processing of jungle product such as preparing cocum syrup, banana chips, and saw mills. Even though the taluka holds first place according to population in the district. Industrially it was one of the backward taluka of the district.

Ratnagiri district is well known for its laterite stone every house is build up with laterite stones and Sangameshwar Taluka is not an exception to it. Due to shortage of dwelling houses and construction momentum of the dwelling houses, the business of laterite stone mining has increased since last few years. It is one of the major business, specially on barren land. Majority of the workers engaged in this business are mostly migrated from the Ghat area.

### 2.2.9

#### TRANSPORT FACILITIES

The important means of communication in the region was roads. National high way No.17, that is Bombay-Konkan-Goa highway passes through this taluka. The taluka headquarter Devrukh is connected to Ratnagiri the district place, other taluka places and other important cities of the state like Kolhapur, Pune, Bombay etc. by roads. There are large number of villages which do not have all wether roads. Number of places of the taluka re isolated during the mansoon. The important parts which connects Ghat and Ratnagiri districts that is Amba pass lies in this taluka. The villages are interconnected by Kachcha roads, the roads are constructed and maintained by different authorities like Grampanchayat Zilha Parishad, State Government and Central Government.

The roads are over burdened mainly because there is no other means of communication.

2.2.0 REVIEW OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT :

Maharashtra State Government has been providing facilities and concessions through various schemes for farmers to increase agricultural productivity. A number of farmers are illiterate and economically weaker. Therefore, Government has been providing maximum facilities to these sections of farmers. With all these sections mentioned above, the government is providing facilities and concessions to the common farmers also. But generally, maximum number of farmers do not know about these schemes therefore, they are deprived from the all facilities and concessions which are given through the various schemes. Maharashtra State government has been implementing all these schemes through various agriculture departments. From all these schemes following schemes have been implementing in Ratnagiri district .

1. Grafting on local mango and ber trees.
2. " Gharkul Yojana " for economical weaker section and marginal farmers, ( for tree plantation )
3. Capital subsidy scheme for horticultural plantation.
4. Revival of old fruit gardens.
5. Cashew protection scheme sponsored by Central Government.
6. Mango protection scheme sponsored by Central Government.
7. Minikit of vegetable crops/seeds.
8. Floriculture scheme.
9. Subsidy to coconut plantation by Coconut Development Board, Cochin.
10. Special components scheme for SC/ST. who are below the poverty line.
11. Minikits scheme for small and minor farmers.

12. Oil seeds development project.
13. Spices development scheme.
14. Crop insurance scheme.
15. Plant protection scheme.
16. Subsidy to purchase modern implements of the Agriculture.
17. Soil conservation d scheme.
18. " Krishi Pandhari Yojana " .
19. Visit and Training scheme.
20. Crop competetion
21. Bayo- Gas development scheme.
22. (Kaju) Cashew / mango Plantation, Nala Bunding,  
Nala Training, Canal Building schemes are available with  
the Soil conservation department.