

CHAPTER - II

SOLAPUR CITY

AND

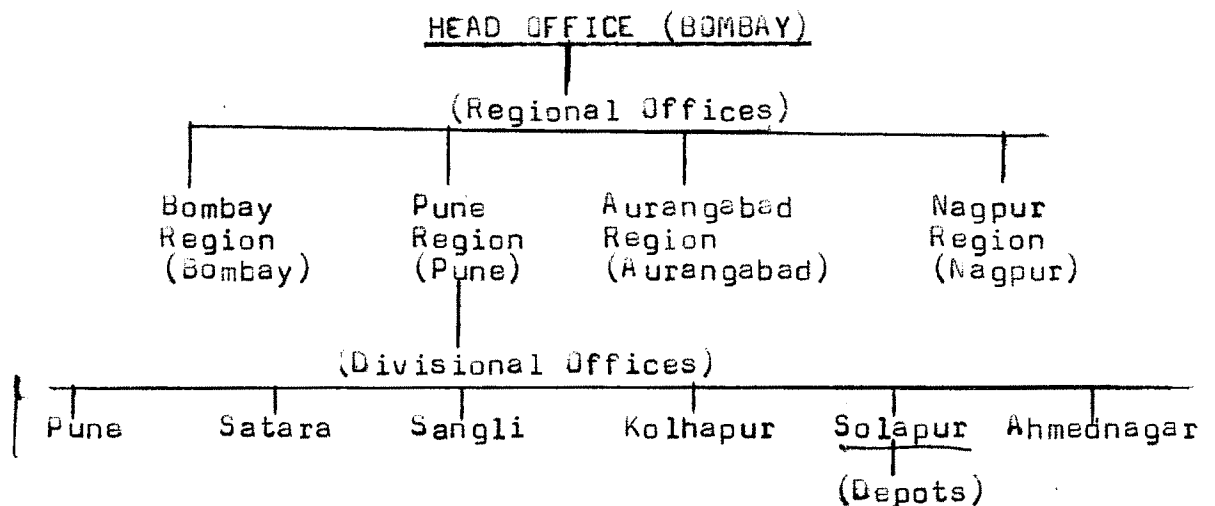
SOLAPUR DISTRICT

C H A P T E R - II

SOLAPUR CITY AND SOLAPUR DISTRICT.

Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation mainly operates in the state of Maharashtra. However the S.T. buses ply between places outside the state also, For example, Hyderabad (Andhra), Bijapur, Belgaum (Karnataka State), etc. The corporation for its operation purposes is divided into four regions viz. Bombay, Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur. The region is further divided into divisions. The Pune region comprises of the following divisions.

- i) Pune, ii) Satara, iii) Sangli, iv) Kolhapur,
v) Solapur, vi) Ahmednagar.



- 1) Akkalkot, 2) Akluj, 3) Barshi, 4) Karmala, 5) Kurduwadi
6) Mangalwedha, 7) Pandharpur, 8) Sangola, 9) Solapur.

Thus, the Solapur District is one of the division coming under Pune Region. This study covers various aspects of Personnel Administration of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation with special reference to Solapur Division. Therefore, it will be pertinent to study geographic, economic and cultural setting of this district. A brief historical review of this region also may be useful as a background for the study.

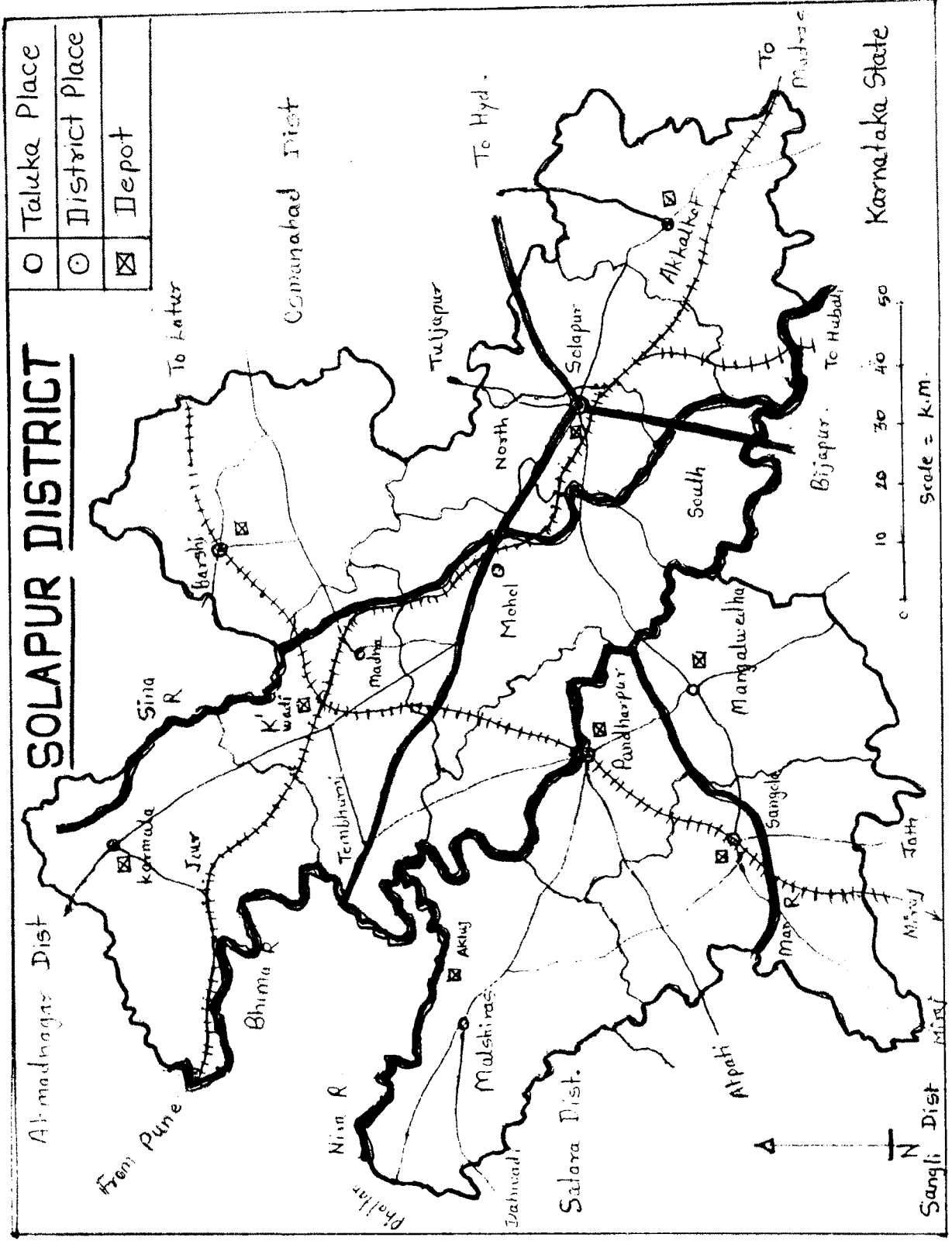
The Head quarter of this district is located as its name reveals at Solapur. The city of Solapur naturally occupies an important position in this district the historical and other aspects of Solapur city.

LOCATION :

Solapur district is one of 31 districts of Maharashtra State. Its location is peculiar. It is situated at the South-east corner of the state. This district is at the periphery of the state boundry touching the boundaries of Karnataka State. It is also well connected with Andhra Pradesh though not directly geographical proximity. The Solapur district was established in 1869. ¹

1. Maharashtra State Gazetteer, Solapur District 1977, P.2

SOLAPUR DISTRICT



The area of the Solapur district is 14,845 sq.K.M.¹
Solapur city is the Head Quarter of the district. The
district is divided into 11 Talukas ² Namely -

1) Akkalkot, 2) Barshi, 3) Karmala, 4) Madha,
5) Palshiras, 6) Mangalwedha, 7) Mohol, 8) North
Solapur, 9) Pandharpur, 10) Sengola, 11) South Solapur.

At the heart of the city there is the Siddheshwar
Temple which is the presiding deity of the city, The
temple is built in the midst of a tank known as 'Siddheshwar
Talav' Saint Siddheshwar got this tank dug for the water
supply to the 'Shramdan' (Voluntary free labour) There
is a fort the ramparts of which are still intact. The
city is also very famous as trading centre for the last
century or so.

People from Andhra Pradesh, Karnetaka regions
migrated to Solapur for seeking employment in trade and
handloom industry. They have contributed a lot to the
development of Cheddar industry in Solapur. The Chadders
are famous for their quality and variety through out

1. 'Maharashtratil Zille' Solapur P-02

2. Ibid - 42

India. Besides this industry, there are spinning and weaving mills which produce a quality cloth of different varieties. All these factors have contributed to the increase in transport facilities.

Pandharpur and Akkalkot two taluka head quarters are very famous religious centres. They attract a large number of devotees. Thus, these places are connected by the road to almost all important places in this and adjoining states. The Maharashtra state Road Transport Corporation ply buses to and fro from these places.

The city of Solapur is well connected by railway with major centres in the South such as Madras, Mangalore, Bangalore, Trivendram, Kochin and Hyderabad etc. and some places West and North, such as, Bombay, Pune, Nagpur New Delhi, Jammu etc. The city head quarters of Solapur division of the Central Railway, as well as there is a separate railway station governed by the South Railway.

Solapur city has branches of all the important nationalised banks and local co-operative banks. All these factors have contributed to growing transport needs. This district is well developed educationally. In Solapur, besides a number of primary, secondary schools and arts, science, commerce colleges, there are

a medical and an engineering college also. This city is having well equipped hospitals, All these factors again attract passengers from various places.

The population of the Solapur district is 25,88,139 as per 1981 census and the population of the Solapur city is 5,14,860 as per 1881¹ census and the population of Solapur city accordingly to the latest figures is placed at 7,08,471² Talukawise population as in 1992.

TALUKAWISE POPULATION AS IN 1992

(Provisional Population figures)

| | | |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| 1. | Akkalkot | 339617 |
| 2. | Barshi | 339751 |
| 3. | Karmala | 218859 |
| 4. | Madha | 237505 |
| 5. | Malshiras | 351170 |
| 6. | Mangalwedha | 128854 |
| 7. | Mohol | 203990 |
| 8. | North Solapur | 196189 |
| 9. | Pandharpur | 324813 |
| 10. | Sangole | 242644 |
| 11. | South Solapur | 196570 |

1. Census of India-1981

District Census Handbook, Solapur City.

2. Tarun Bharat, Solapur (Daily), 5th May, 1992

Pandharpur, Akkalkot and Barshi are important towns in the district, The municipality of Solapur was one of the oldest municipalities in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency. In 1964¹ this municipality was replaced by a municipal corporation. Recently, the area of the municipal corporation extended further at present cover 180.69 sq. Kms.².

This district and particularly city of Solapur has a good portable water supply thanks to the Ujani dam across the Bhima river.

The city has mill sectors belonging to the private as well as co-operative sector. Two mills are run by private companies i.e. Laxmi-Vishnu Cotton Mills and the Jam Mill and one is run by Government i.e. Narshing Giraji Mill. The co-operative sectors consists of five important spinning mills viz. - 1) Yeshwant Sahakari Soot Girani (Solapur), 2) Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girani (Solapur), 3) Shri.Swami Samarth Sahakari Soot Girani (Valsang), 4) Shetkari Sahakari Soot Girani (Sangola)

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1. Udgiri Vinayak (Ed.) 'Solapur Guide' , P.3
 2. Sanchar (Daily) Solapur, 5th May, 1992

5) Shri.Jagdamba Sahakari Soot Girani (Madha) Besides this there are 8 sugar factories in this district viz.

- 1) Siddheshwar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, (Kumathe)
- 2) Bhogavati Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Irle (Vairag),
- 3) Bhima Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Takli (Shikandar),
- 4) Shri.Vithal Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, (Gursale),
- 5) Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Mohite Patil Sakhar Karkhana, Shankar-nagar (Akluj),
- 6) Shri.Shankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Sadashivnagar,
- 7) Saswad Sugar Factory, Malinagar,
- 8) Brihan Maharashtra Sugar Factory, Shripur. ¹

In brief the various factors which increased the need of transport facilities may be summed up as follows :-

1) PILGRIM CENTRES

In the district there are several pilgrim centres, Devotees go there many times in a year. This helps to increase the road transport.

1. *Maharashtratil Zille, Solapur P-P 25,44,45

2) TRADE :

Solapur and Barshi is famous for trade and commercial activities. People from nere by villages go to these places. Thus it will increase of road transport.

3) HEAD QUARTER :

Solapur is thehead quarter of the district. There are amany offices and business places located in this city. Due to which people from nearby villages visit this place frequently.

4) EDUCATION :

In the city of Solapur, there are many educational institutions. The students from nearby villages and states come to Solapur for taking education.

5) INDUSTRY :

In the Solapur city there are many industrial units of various types, people from nearby villages and states come for employment here.