

REGIONAL & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

1.1 REGIONAL SETTING

Sangli Miraj Kupwad Municipal Corporation incorporates five settlements of Sangli district, which lies in the southern part of Maharashtra. Apart from the district head quarter Sangli, other settlements included are Miraj, Kupwad, Sangalwadi and Wanlesswadi. The bounded area lies between 16°46'30" -16°53'42" North Latitudes and 74°31'17" - 74°41'17" East Longitudes with the prominent settlements of Sangli and Miraj being located at:

- Sangli - 16.52 N Latitudes and 74.30E Longitudes
- Miraj - 16.49 N Latitudes and 74.41E Longitudes

Sangli is essentially a trading center for rich agricultural hinterland and cash crops such as sugarcane, grapes and various other fruits. It is also famous for turmeric and gur (jaggery) trade. Miraj is an important railway junction and a major center for various health facilities of varied specialties. It is also a famous manufacturing center for musical instruments.



As indicated in the enclosed regional setting map, the surrounding prominent settlements and their population are:

S No	Settlement	Population	Approx. distance from Sangli (km)	Nature of settlement
1.	Ashta	33190	23	Municipal Council
2.	Uran Islampur	58330	40	Municipal Council
3.	Satara	108043	120	Municipal Council
4.	Karad	56149	80	Municipal Council
5.	Madhav Nagar	10993	4	Census Town
6.	Tasgaon	33435	30	Municipal Council
7.	Vita	41797	42	Municipal Council
8.	Ichchal Karanji	80471	30	Municipal Council
9.	Kolhapur	497554	50	Municipal Corporation

Madhavnagar famous for its cotton mills is just 4 Kms. away from Sangli. Tasgaon & Ashta are the nearest towns to this area. Tasgaon is known for raisin making & also has a sugar factory. Islampur & Shirala talukas towards Satara are within 50 kms radius. Islampur is famous as a trading center & is the head quarter of Walva taluka. Iron goods factory (agricultural implements) are made at Kirloskarwadi. There are sugar factories in Sangli, Khanapur, Atpadi, Kavthemahankal, Shirala, Walva talukas. The Industrial Estates exist in Sangli, Miraj, Kupwad, Islampur.

Kolhapur is the nearest district town from the study area. It is about 50 km. with a population of more than one lakh. It has industrial areas around 7 is one of the developed city in the southern Maharashtra. Karad in Satara district is another major town with industries and is about 70-80kms.

Belgaum a major city in Karnataka with over 5-lakh population is at a radial distance of 125 km., while Bijapur & Bagalkot (famous for cement factory) in Karnataka area is also within 125 km., radius. The study area forms the focal point for this entire regime, which has lead to its development.

1.2 LINKAGES

1.2.1 Roads

The area is connected to all the neighboring towns by well-linked roads. It is linked to the Pune-Bangalore National Highway while passes through district via Kasegaon, Peth on the Highway. Miraj is one of the important rail-junction connecting major routes. Then main routes connecting important places in and around the study area are

1. Sangli-Peth Road –
The road meets the national highway at peth. The road connects Ashta Islampur to Sangli from the western direction and is a state highway.
2. Sangli-Vita Road
This state highway is he north direction passes throught Tasgaon, Vita and further to Karad in Satara district.
3. Sangli-Miraj Road –
This states highway is one of the major linkages between the two cities. The road passes through Vishrambag and Wanleswadi areas. There has been a major residential development along this road. This road further connects Pandharpur.
4. Sangli-Kolhapur Road –
This road connects the Pune Bangalore national highway which passes through Kolhapur.
5. Ratnagiri-Kolhapur-Bijapur Highway
This state highway passes through Miraj
Other roads include Sangli-Nandre Road, Miraj-Bedag Road, and Miraj-Malgaon Road.

1.2.2 Railways

Miraj is a major railway junction with 4 lines passing through it. The routes are –

- a) Miraj-Pune – This broad-gage line goes from Sangli, Karad, Satara & further to Pune.
- b) Miraj-Kolhapur – This line from Pune passes through Miraj to Kolhapur.
- c) Miraj-Belgum – This line broad-gage line connects Belgaon in Karnataka state.
- d) Miraj-Pandharpour – This narrow-gage connects Latur & further to Solapur district through Pandharpur.

1.2.3 Airways

The nearest airport is at Kolhapur, about 50km from Sangli.

Thus the routes connecting the major town & cities has helped in adding to the trading activities and importance of the study area leading to its development.

1.3 PHYSIOGRAPHY

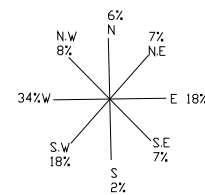
The SMKMC area lies in the Krishna basin, which flows through the eastern and southern parts. The region is on a relatively flat terrain and the average height of the three towns above mean sea level is:

- Sangli 545 m.
- Miraj 549 m.
- Kupwad 554 m.

The entire region is comprised of Deccan Trap with inter-trappean beds. Fertile black soil 2 m to 10 - 15 m deep is predominant in the area, especially towards west, northwest and southwest. Shallow murrum soil exists towards east, northeast and southeast. Topography and soil details are described in detail in Section IV on Land Use.

1.4 CLIMATE

The climate of the area is generally dry in the major part of the year with a maximum recorded temperature of 41.5 °C. and a minimum of 12.4 °C. The maximum humidity is 60 %, prevailing in the months of June-September during which the region gets its maximum rainfall. The average annual rainfall ranges between 500-700mm. The minimum humidity is 39. Winds are light to moderate except in the rainy season (south west monsoon season). The maximum



wind direction is from the west with 34% of total wind and from south- west & east with 18% each.

1.5 HISTORICAL BACK GROUND

Sangli Municipal Council was established in 1876 whereas Miraj Municipal Council was established in 1875. Both states of Miraj Mala and Sangli were merged in the Indian Union in 1947. Kupwad is the new Municipal Council situated between Sangli and Miraj with a large industrial area being developed by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (M.I.D.C) whereas Wanlesswadi owes its origins to the setting up of Sir Wanless Mission Hospital in Miraj, and Sir Wanless Chest Hospital and T.B. Sanatorium in Wanlesswadi. Now it also has the famous Walchand College of Engineering. Sangli was the cradle of the co-operative movement in western Maharashtra has the largest sugar factory in Asia known as the Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana.

The history of this region dates back to 1024. The Shilahar Kings then ruled these areas, which included Mirinch (Miraj), Karnatak (Karad) and Southern Konkan. Later on in 1250-1318, the Yadavas of Devagiri ruled these areas. After the Yadavas the Muslim Dynasties of Tughlaks, Khiljis had established themselves here. In the 14th century the Adilshah of Bijapur conquered the fort of Miraj from the rules of Vijaynagar. The town flourished during the regime of Adilshahi. The famous Mirasaheb Darga was constructed in the year 1355 AD. Many other buildings such as Jumma Masjid, Kali Masjid etc is, in fact outcome of peace & stability that then prevailed.

In 1659, Chattrapati Shivaji captured this region and later on after 1672 this region came under the Maratha rule. During the region of Madhavrao Peshave, in 1762, the fort of Miraj & surrounding areas were handed over to Gopal hari Patwardhan. Since then the areas came under the control of Patwardhan family. Gajirao Peshve II then allowed to divide the feudal state which came to be known Miraj, Miraj Mala, Soni, Suparibag. In 1768, Sangli was a village with population of a mere 1000 with six streets around the old Hanuman temple. Later Shrimant Chintamanrao Appasaheb Patwardhan made Sangli as his capital in 1799. He constructed the temple of Shri Ganpati (1806) in the North, fort on the east outside the old town & also built temples and ghats on the riverbank. In 1807, the integral streets were planned around the market and the real settlement began. The Ganesh Fort was completed in 1811. The Ganpati peth and other residential

areas around gaonbhag, pethbhag etc were also developed. Ganesh Mandir of Sangli was completed in 1844. From 1846 to 1850 Shri Chintaman Patwardhan Sarkar developed 25 gardens including Aamrai, Miraj mala and Ganesh mala. The more or less flat land on the East and North of the old town came then to be occupied and the facilities of communications with other towns by means of the through roads to Kolhapur on the South, to Miraj on the East, to Tasgaon beyond on the North, to Karad, Satara and Poona on the West, Helped in gradually adding to the trading activities and importance of the town. In 1853, due to the worst ever floods of the Krishna River, settlement started in the Khanbhag area.

In 1876 the Sangli Municipality was formed. During the regime of Captain Burke (1901-1910), the administrator appointed by British Government, several works of Public importance were carried out. The branch line of M. S. M. railway from Miraj to Sangli (1905-1906), Turmeric market in 1905, construction of Sangli water works, Jubilee electric Works (1910) along with new areas of Vakharbhag were developed. In 1910 Captain Burke handed the administration of the state to Chintamanrao Appasaheb II. During his tenure, many landmarks of the city like establishment of Willingdon College (1919), construction of Irwin Bridge (1929) over Krishna River, many institutes, mills were carried out & started. Leading to development of these areas. In Miraj, Laxmi market was constructed in 1933. After the independence, the feudal states were merged into the Indian Union and then Sangli became part of Maharashtra State. The first master plan of Sangli was initiated in 1947. The Sangli Co-operative Sugar Factory was established in the year 1956.

Sangli and Miraj became a major broad gauge station on the Pune route in 1971 and in 1998 the Sangli - Miraj – Kupwad Municipal Corporation was formed.