

## 2.1(i) General Information about SOLAPUR Airport/Station

Solapur is a city situated in the southwest corner of [Maharashtra, India](#). The population of Solapur city was more than 12 lacs , as per the 2014 census. Solapur also serves as the headquarters of the [Solapur district](#). As is the case in most of the Maharashtra cities, the main language spoken in Solapur is [Marathi](#). Solapur is situated at the border of state of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka near the Holy places like Pandharpur, Akkalkot and Gangapur..

### History

The Solapur District was ruled by various dynesties 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, Muhammadpur, Ranapur, Sandalpur, Shaikpur, Solapur, Sonalagi, Sonapur and Vaidakwadi.

Recent research work however shows that the name SOLAPUR is derived not from the congregation of sixteen villages. 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 inscriptions 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 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 Sholapur and hence the name of the district.

The present Solapur district was previously 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 Sub-divisions. In 1864 this Sub-district was abolished. In 1871 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. After the State reorganisation in 1956 Solapur was included in Mumbai State and it became a full fledged district of Maharashtra State in 1960.

The importance of Solapur is unique in the history of India in the sense 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 irate 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 security of citizens was on the shoulders of congress party leaders. Then 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 .Secondly, 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 irritation 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 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.

## **Geography and climate-**

Solapur is located at [17.68°N 75.92°E](#). It has an average elevation of 458 metres (1502 feet). It is bordered by [Ahmednagar district](#) on the north; [Osmanabad district](#) on the north and northeast.

[Gulbarga district](#) on the southeast and [Bijapur Districts](#) on the south of Karnataka State, [Sangli district](#) on the south and southwest; [Satara district](#) on the west, and [Pune district](#) on the northwest. It is situated at a distance of 410 km (250 mi) from the Maharashtra State Capital of [Mumbai](#) by road and train.

Solapur is at a distance of 245 km (152 mi) from [Pune](#) and 305 km (190 mi) from [Hyderabad](#). Solapur is situated on the [Deccan plateau](#).

Solapur falls under the category of dry (arid and semiarid) climate according to the [Köppen climate classification](#). The city experiences three distinct seasons: summer, [monsoon](#) and winter. Typical summer months are from March to May, with maximum temperatures ranging from 30 to 40 °C (86 to 104 °F). The warmest months in Solapur are April and May. The typical maximum temperatures being 40 °C (104 °F) or more. The highest temperature ever recorded is 46.0 °C (114.8 °F) in May 1988. Although summer does not end until May or even the midst of June, the city often receives locally developed heavy [thundershowers](#) in May (although humidity remains high). The monsoon lasts from June to the end of September, with moderate rainfall. The city of Solapur receives an average rainfall of 545 mm (21.5 in) per year. Winter begins in November and lasts until the end of February, with the temperatures occasionally dropping below 10 °C (50 °F). Solapur lies very close to the seismically active zone around Killari, [Latur District](#), about 100 km (62 mi) east of the city.

## **Culture**

Solapur is a city with multi-linguistic and multi-cultural features. Solapur has a mixture of [Telugu](#), [Kannada](#), [Marathi](#) , [Hindi](#) and [Urdu](#) language speakers.

## **Education**

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The colleges and the institutes in center of [SolapurUniversity](#) at Solapur was functioning with the three departments [Polymer Chemistry](#), Applied [Physics/Electronics](#) and Geology with the masters courses and M. Phil, PhD research in these areas. The center was located

on the old campus of [Dr. V. M. Government Medical College](#) that was later on relocated to Police Golibar Maidan. The center was transformed to the university to serve the students of Solapur district and was formally inaugurated on 3 August 2004.

### **Colleges**<sup>[-</sup>

Solapur is home to 14 engineering, 2 medical colleges, 1 dental college and 1 architecture college; it also has another 40 colleges in the city extent.

### **Science Museum**

Solapur has a Science Centre, which is a Science Museum and is the third in the state after Nehru Science Centre, [Worli](#) in Mumbai and Raman Science Centre in [Nagpur](#). The Science Centre is located at Kegaon, Hiraj Road, near Solapur University beside the Pune-Solapur National Highway. The Centre works with the motto of propagating science to the masses. Night sky observation through telescopes is one of the many programmes of the Centre.

### **Tourism**

[Pandharpur](#) is a holy and famous pilgrimage place dedicated to Lord [Vitthal](#) and Shri. [Rakhumai](#) goddess<sup>[74]</sup> prominently worshipped among [Varkari](#) community. It is also one of the [Kuldaivat](#) of Maharashtra State. It is located at a distance of 72 km by road from Solapur District headquarters. An important tourist destination is Siddeshwar Temple, the abode of [Siddheshwar](#) (Siddhrameshwara) built in the 16th century. It attracts 3.5 million pilgrims yearly. Solapur is also famous for its Markandeya Temple built in 1893, the Venkateshwara Temple built in 1970, and the Rupa Bhavani temple built in the 19th century, Shri Shankar Temple. Solapur has a land based fort in the city centre. and also, [Akkalkot](#) was the home to Shri Swami Samarth Maharaj, a 19th-century saint who is believed by his devotees to be an incarnation of Lord Dattatreya.<sup>[2]</sup> Akkalkot State during the British Raj, was a princely state ruled by the royal Bhonsale dynasty.

### **Sports**

Indira Gandhi Stadium in Solapur, formerly known as *Park Maidan* hosts [Ranji Trophy](#) matches and is the home venue for [Maharashtra cricket team](#).<sup>[76]</sup>

### **Environment**

Solapur is one of the most-polluted cities in Maharashtra due to the effluent chemicals produced as the waste products from the textile industries in its region. As many vehicles

in the city utilize diesel fuel, it also generates tremendous smog emitted by sugar factories and heavy textiles industries in the city's suburb. Various efforts are being made by [Maharashtra Pollution Control Board](#) (MPCB) to reduce air pollution and its environmental effects. The city has launched a GO-GREEN scheme by planting trees in the city and developing greenery with the help of various eco-friendly people in the city.

## **Transport-**

### **Rail**

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[Solapur railway station](#) is the main railway hub within the city. The [Solapur Railway Division](#) is an important division connecting South India to Western & North west India. Trains from Ahmedabad, Jaipur, New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune etc., ply to Southern states (Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Kerala) via Solapur.

It is served daily by Solapur Bangalore Express, Solapur Nagpur, Solapur Pune [Hutatma Express](#), Solapur Mumbai, Solapur Jaipur Superfast express and Solapur Goa Express. [Hotgi Junction](#) and [Kurduvadi Junction](#) are two junction railway stations present in the [Solapur district](#).

### **Road**

[NH9](#), the [Pune-Machilipatnam](#) highway at the outskirts of Solapur.

Solapur is well-connected by road with major cities of [Maharashtra](#) as well as the adjoining State Capital of [Hyderabad](#) and important cities in [Karnataka](#) by four [National Highways](#) – [NH 9](#) highway connecting [Pune](#) with [Vijaywada](#) via [Hyderabad](#), [NH-13](#) connecting Solapur to [Mangalore](#), Karnataka and [NH-211](#) connecting Solapur to [Dhule](#). Ratnagiri-Nagpur National highway NH-204 passes through city, connecting Solapur to other important cities in Maharashtra like Nagpur, Sangli, Kolhapur and Nanded. Recently sanctioned National Highways- (Solapur - [Kalaburagi](#)) and Ratnagiri-Solapur-Yavatmal-Nanded-Nagpur. (Solapur-[Bijapur](#)) Road section in [NH-13](#) is proposed to be improved by its four laning. The Solapur-[Aurangabad](#) national highway is also proposed for its four laning to reduce the time and cost in traveling from Solapur to Aurangabad.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT SOLAPUR AIRPORT**

**Solapur Airport** is the domestic airport of Solapur district, Maharashtra. It is operated by Airports Authority of India and its IATA code is SSE & ICAO code is VASL. This airport handles only domestic traffic. There are no international airlines operating from this airport. International travelers can opt for Mumbai Airport or Pune Airport or Bengaluru Airport .

**Location of Solapur Airport** Solapur Airport is located at a distance of 9 km from the city of Solapur in the state of Maharashtra. Its geographical coordinates are Latitude: **17° 37' 39.55" N** and Longitude: **75° 56' 02.54" E**. Runway length of this airport is 2097m/6878.16ft. and ARP Elevation is 482.92m/1584ft.

**Terminal of Solapur Airport** Solapur Airport has a single domestic terminal. The terminal has a peak hour passenger handling capacity of 72. Domestic airlines operating from this airport are Kingfisher Airlines with flights to destinations like Mumbai.

## Technical Data of the Airport:

### SOLAPUR

<b>Airport Name</b>	Solapur Airport
<b>City Name</b>	Solapur
<b>State</b>	Maharashtra
<b>Distance and Direction from the City</b>	08 Kms.
<b>Airport Operator</b>	Airports Authority of India (w.e.f. 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013) (Previous operator was MIDC).

### Aerodrome Reference Code

<b>Code No.</b>	3
<b>Code Letter</b>	C

### Reference Point

<b>Land Area</b>	289Acres
<b>Elevation</b>	1584 ft.

### Terminal Capacity

<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Departure</b>
75	75

### Runway

<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Bearing Strength of Pavement - LCN/PCN</b>
15/33	6878.16 ft X 147.6 ft	PCN -22/F/B/W/T

### Parking Apron

<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
200 ft X 150.88 ft	One ATR-72

### Navigation Aids

<b>NDB/VHF</b>	Available
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### Ground Lighting Facilities

Not Available