Mapping Administrative Units into Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies

Maharashtra

October 2022
To bring coherence between administrative and electoral boundaries, with the objective of facilitating public engagement with fiscal governance issues at the grassroots level.
Public availability of granular fiscal information on development schemes can potentially improve implementation and outcomes by increasing engagement between citizens and their elected representatives; the situation in this regard is uneven across Schemes and States.

For effective data representation, both fiscal and outcome information need to be organised by constituencies and made available in the public domain.

However, there is no comprehensive and up-to-date database as yet that maps administrative units into ACs and PCs.

Even in development schemes where granular fiscal data is available publicly, it’s organised only by administrative units (e.g. districts, blocks, GPs and ULBs); and not presented by constituencies. This limits effective engagement of elected representatives and citizens.
Geographical Profile of Maharashtra

Administrative Units

- Districts: 36
- Blocks: 352
- Gram Panchayats: 28,840
- Villages: 43,722
- Urban Local Bodies: 401
  - Municipal Corporations: 27
  - Municipal Councils: 241
  - Town Panchayats: 133

Electoral Units

- Assembly Constituencies: 288
- Parliamentary Constituencies: 48

Mapping Administrative Units into ACs and PCs > Maharashtra
Stage 1: Listing and aligning the administrative units across the constituencies

1. First Round of Mapping of Administrative Units into ACs and PCs
2. Updating and Refining the Geo-files
3. Further Refinement of the Geo-files

Stage 2: Validation of the Geo-files through multiple sources

4. Validation and Finalisation of the Geo-files
How We Prepared the Geo-files: Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)

Stage I: Listing and aligning administrative units into constituencies

**STEP 1**
Studied Delimitation Commission Report (2008) to understand how ACs and PCs were constructed for Maharashtra

**STEP 2**
Collated information on administrative units (districts, blocks, gram panchayats) falling under ACs and PCs. Listed all administrative units spread across multiple ACs/PCs

**STEP 3**
Reviewed the website of Local Government Directory (LGD) to list RLBs created after the Delimitation Commission Report 2008, and mapped them to their constituencies

**STEP 4**
Reviewed the GPDP and SECC websites to list missing RLBs and to remove double entries

**STEP 5**
Reviewed the website of the Panchayati Raj Department of Maharashtra to list additional GPs and map them to their constituencies

**STEP 6**
Cross-validated the listing of RLBs with the latest scheme databases / MISs (e.g. MGNREGS, PMAY-G) by block-wise sorting of GPs

**STEP 7**
Additional GPs added and mismatched cases realigned to constituencies suitably

**STEP 8**
Validated the refined listing with the information available on district websites, CEO websites of Maharashtra and UDISE+ dataset

Stage II: Validation of the Geo-lists through multiple sources
How We Prepared the Geo-files: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

Stage I: Listing and aligning administrative units into constituencies

**STEP 1**
Studied the Delimitation Commission Report (2008) to understand and document how ULBs in Maharashtra are aligned into ACs and PCs

**STEP 2**
Reviewed websites of the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, Government of India, to identify ULBs created after the Delimitation Commission Report 2008

**STEP 3**
Reviewed the website of the Urban Livelihood Mission, Government of India, to finalise the listing of ULBs in Maharashtra

**STEP 4**
Reviewed the website of the Municipal Council Administration Directorate, Government of Maharashtra, to prepare a complete list of ULBs across its districts

**STEP 5**
Additional ULBs added from the latest National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) database for Maharashtra to finalise ULB names across districts

Stage II: Cross-checking the information to validate the listing

**STEP 6**
Cross validated the refined lists with district websites and the website of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Maharashtra

**STEP 7**
Cross validated with the U-DISE+ database to confirm constituencies for ULBs created post Delimitation Commission
Sources of Information Referred for Listing, Aligning and Validation of the Geo-files


9. Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)- List of GPs: https://secc.gov.in/homepage.htm

10. Reports from the NSAP scheme website - List of ULBs compiled from the Disbursement Abstract: https://nsap.nic.in/

11. Website of the Chief Election Commission of India: https://eci.gov.in/

12. CEO Maharashtra Website- Constituency Maps, list of Voting Centres and Polling Booth List https://ceoelection.maharashtra.gov.in/ceo/


14. Website of Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Maharashtra: https://www.mahapanchayat.gov.in/

15. UDISE Database on Education

16. District-wise list of Revenue Circle

17. District Website for all the districts in the Maharashtra
Challenges Faced

No data source has complete and up-to-date information on ACs/PCs

While the Delimitation Commission Report provides detailed information on the constituencies, there have been changes in the administrative units in subsequent years (in terms of their numbers, names and categorization). Such changes for the administrative units in Maharashtra were identified from the data available across MIS of schemes, programme documents and other sources. This necessitated referring to multiple sources to make the geo-files up-to-date and complete.

Inconsistencies across different sources

There were inconsistencies in the information across different official sources, making it essential to cross validate the information from multiple sources manually.

Increase in the numbers of local bodies over time

New RLBs and ULBs formed since 2008 had to be included to complete the Geo-file listing. Given that the information in this regard is scattered, it was challenging to compile a complete and accurate Geo-file for Maharashtra.

Mismatches of names across sources

Names of some of the administrative units have been changed from time to time, and therefore needed to be cross-checked with the latest sources of information. Sometimes, Marathi words written using English alphabets created confusion when referring to multiple sources of information.

Mismatches of categories over time

Types of some of the local bodies have changed over time. For example, Panchayats progressing to towns and upgraded as ULBs. Similarly lower levels of ULBs upgraded to higher tiers. Aligning these was a challenge.
Consultations with the frontline government staff
Cases of local bodies for which constituencies remained unidentified were resolved, with the information obtained from frontline government staff (mostly school teachers and Anganwadi workers) located in those administrative units. We consulted with resource persons/experts in the field to resolve these cases.

Cross Validation by referring to multiple official sources
Mismatches in spellings of names, numbers and types of administrative units were addressed by referring to government websites that provided the most updated information for Maharashtra. It was assumed that the number/name/spelling that appears similar in more than one government sources is correct and hence appropriate for the listing.
Developed a rigorous methodology for mapping administrative units in Maharashtra into ACs and PCs.

Created a comprehensive and up-to-date geo-listing for Maharashtra that can be used for a range of policy relevant analysis.

Integration of Geo-files into MIS of existing schemes

Such Geo-files should be integrated into the MIS of important schemes that are providing fiscal and physical information in the public domain. Application programming interface (API) integration should be facilitated following the standards of National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) guidelines.