

CHAPTER - II

GROWTH OF KOLHAPUR CITY

The development of urban core of the city Kolhapur is to be taken into account for better understanding of the fringes that have taken place in the surrounding areas of the Kolhapur. As said earlier, this city has got^a historical set up of about one thousand years and more, when the city was established by rulers of ancient India. The name of the city itself is said to be derived from its geographical settings. Kolham means a valley. In the historical bases, a settlement was located in the broad valley on the side of a river Panchganga. That settlement was called as the city in the valley, i.e. Kolhapur. Thus, it is significant from the point of view of geological set up. Another name to the city, i.e. Karvir, means the hands of a warrior. The brave Goddess has raised her hand and lifted this region from the valley bottom to make it convenient to carry by the people. From this legend the name of Karvir was assigned to this region. In 18th century, this settlement was occupied by Maratha rulers, and it acquired the status of capital. From^{then} onwards this city started flourishing. The city being located on the transitional belt between Konkan and Desh, it attracted the attention of different rulers, therefore, alongwith the importance of temple of Goddess Mahalaxmi (i.e., the city of religion), this city was also attached with the political importance, when the Britishers entered the political scene of India.

The British regime has made deep impact of their urban ideas on the city, especially, in the form of race-course, British

suburbs - Tarabai Park, then functional zones of that time. All the urban signs like residencial colonies - marketing lanes, functional areas, natural zones, roads and railway lines, started merging in the urban development of city Kolhapur. Many places in Kolhapur alike, Rankala, Padmale, Varuntirtha, Kapiltirtha, Khambale, Siddhale, Petale, indicate that this city was well occupied by an ennumerous lakes or water places. The projecting regions which are now called Shahupuri, Market-yard were rapidly occupied by the settlements. The settlement of Kolhapur started quite understandable at the nucleus point of Bramhapuri, near Panchganga river. The Jayanti stream flowing near Uma talkies was the second landmark of the city expansion. We can still find the orient-maker settlement along the bank of Jayanti stream. In the third phase, the city expanded towards Shahupuri, Rajarampuri, i.e. on the Eastern part of the city which is closer to Poona-Bangalore Highway.

Thus, it will be seen that the urban expansion of the Kolhapur city was mainly towards the Eastern part rather than the western one. The western side expansion suffered from two physical drawbacks, namely -

1. Physiography,
2. The increasing distance from the Poona-Bangalore highway.

Therefore, the orientation of the city expansion was continuously being away from the Panchganga river lane to avoid the physical barriers. Obviously, the Panchganga river lane is neglected for the urbanisation of villages and the suburbanisation process of the city. Normally we find that the

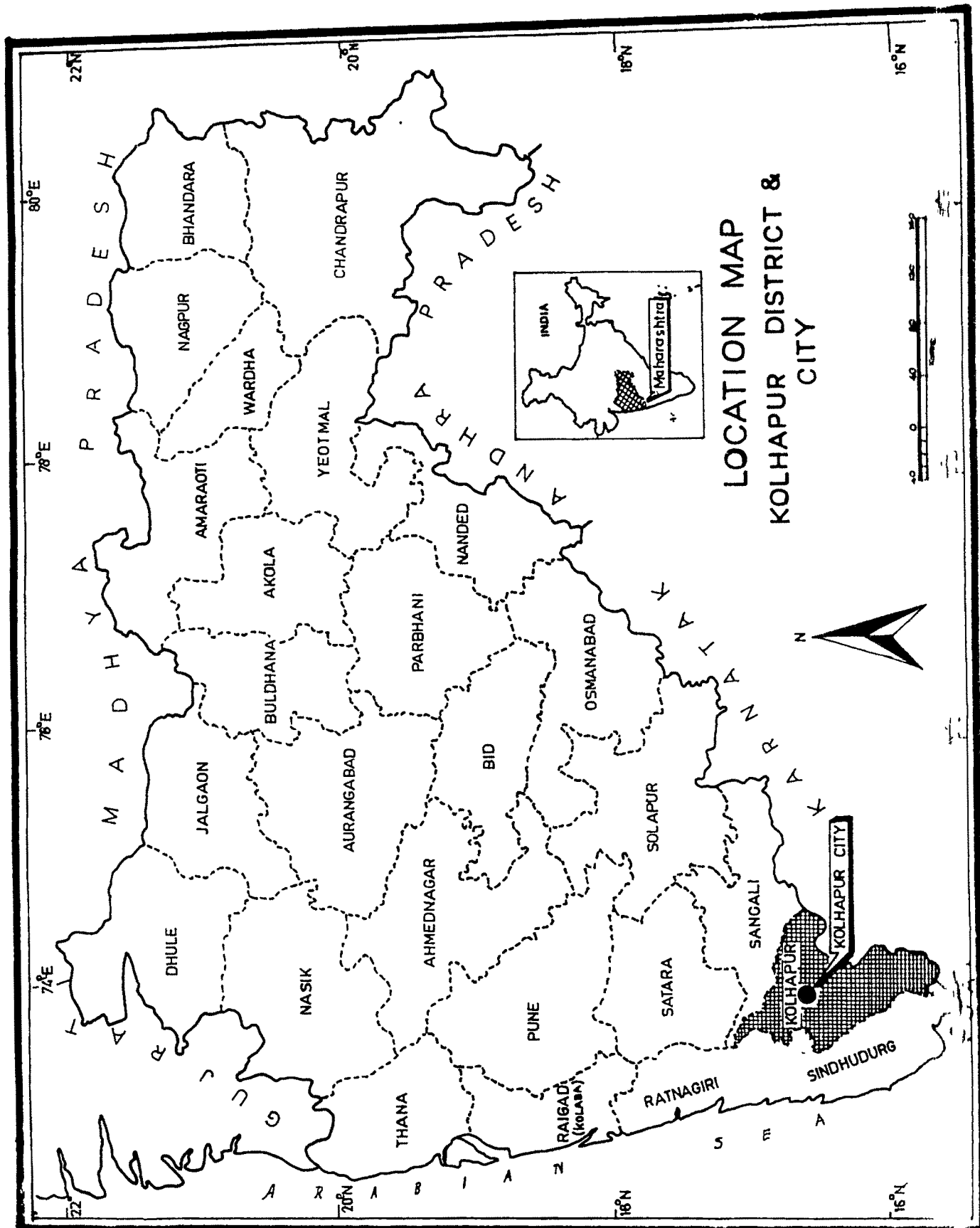


FIG. No. — 2.1

villages on the communication lines to the west and north-east, less influenced by the process of urbanisation as compared to the villages of the east and north-east parts of the city. It is, therefore, intended to see and analyse how far the urban sphere of influence has made its impact in different urbanisation orientation from the city^{of} Kolhapur. In this work, therefore, certain villages have been located to examine this impact further. To make the character of the city more clear a brief account of the city with regard to its climatic pattern and location and its internal setting is presented here.

: LOCATION SITUATION & SITE :

The city of Kolhapur is located in South Maharashtra. It is a head-quarter of the district of the same name, that falls on the border of the Mysore State.

The city lies to the east of the Western Ghats ^{the} (Sahyadris) in the transitional zone. In other words we say that it is situated centrally between the reigged terrain of the Western-Ghats to the west and the rolling plains to the east. The Vishal-Gad-Panhala range a spur of ^{the} Sahyadris is situated to the north of the city forming the watershed between the Panchganga and the Warana basins. The region is connected with ~~the~~ Konkan by a number of mountain passes. The important among these are the Amba and Phonda passes. Old records reveal that the Roman trade with some places of the Deccan plateau passed through Kolhapur. So that it is called ' Gate way of Konkan '. The towns in Konkan region can be reached via Kolhapur, only during the monsoon season when the sea is rough and the coastal shipping

services are suspended.

The site of the city of Kolhapur (Lat $16^{\circ}-42'$ and long $74^{\circ}-14'E$) affords several interesting facts for a geographer. Kolhapur is situated on the high bank not far away from the ford, on the river Panchganga. The important old road from Bijapur to the sea coast passed through Kolhapur. Several roads converge on the city from the east and west i.e. from the Konkan and the Desh.

The Kolhapur is the natural marketing centre for surrounding region. The city has been ^{an} important commercial centre of the region since remote past. The city of Kolhapur is at distance of 495 kms. from B Bombay, 793 kms. from Bangalore, 303 kms. from Poona and 45 kms. from Miraj by rail. The National Highway No. 4 passes through the eastern sector of the city.

Lastly, it may be pointed out that the city is mainly expanding towards north-east and east of the old town. This is because:

- i) The plain of river to the north is unsuitable for permanent settlement because of the fear of flood, and
- ii) The areas to west and south are also unsuitable for extensive settlement due to the ruggedness of the terrain. Availability of water in these comparatively higher areas would be another difficulty.

: CLIMATIC CONDITIONS :

The climate of Kolhapur plain is one of the best in Western India and is much similar to other districts of

Maharashtra falling in the transitional zone between ^{the} high Sahyadris to the west and the drier plain to the east.

The city lies in Upper Krishna basin and is situated to the south tropic of cancer, i.e. it lies within the hot tropical zone. Kolhapur enjoys an equable and invigorating climate, except from March to May, when hot wind prevails. Even during the summer season the westerly breeze, which gets in ^{the} afternoon, makes the evening cool and pleasant.

The year may be divided into 3 periods that are -

1. Cold weather period (November to February)
2. Hot weather period (March to May)
3. Season of General rains (June to October).

1. Cold Weather Period:

The cold weather period starts during the first week of November. From November to January the climate maintains a tolerably uniform and steady character. The winds are mainly from north-east and east. The mornings are still and cool and frequently cold.

The mean temperature during the four winter months, ranges between 72° F and 75° F . However, the daily mean range of temperature is considerably high due to low percentage of cloudiness. January is a beautifully fine month with a bracing air. Extensively irrigated fields surround the city on three sides. These together with the surroundings, lakes, and river Panchganga may be responsible for low early morning temperatures to some extent.

Some rainfall occurs during the months of November. The rest of 3 months are almost dry. During the period of 67 years, (1891- 1957) ~~5.15~~ registered small amount of rainfall during this month. This place being closer to west coast and to the south of the tropic of cancer is fairly away from the cyclonic activities of the north.

2. Hot Weather Period:

The beginning of the month of March ~~may~~ is marked by a rapid rise in temperature. It is the beginning of hot season, which is sometimes sudden and wellmarked. The maximum temperature is reached during the month of April which is ^{the} hottest and most drying month of the year.

The diurnal range of temperature is high and range varies from 30.7° F in March to 22.7° F in May. During the hot season the early mornings are calm and serene and the air is pleasant until about seven or eight O'clock; after which the heat begins to increase rapidly. Often~~ly~~, when heat becomes extremely oppressive, there is a shower in the evening which brings down the temperature immediately.

The Mean Relative Humidity increases during these three months of hot weather period. The percentages of M. R. H. ~~is~~ in recorded at 0830 hours in 72 percent.

The thunder storms are not in frequent during the months of April and May attended with easterly, north easterly or southeasterly winds. Generally, about four big showers occur during the month of April or till the first week of May.

It is very useful for preliminary agricultural operations.

3. Season of General Rains:

Kolhapur received 40.62 inches of an annual rainfall and marks of the transition between the wet Sahyadris and the drier interior plateau. Normally the monsoonal rains commence in this part of the country during the 1st week of June. With the onset of monsoons the season of general rains starts, lasting for five months. Maximum amount of rainfall in a single month obtains, usually in July. The average number of rainy days for June, July, August, September, and October are- 9, 20, 16, 4, & 10 respectively. The weather gets chilly and damp during these periods. The weather is cool equable and very agreeable.

The mean monthly values of relative humidity recorded at 0830 hours are always above 80%.

The direction of winds during this period, like other stations adjoining the Western Ghats on the leeward side, is predominantly westerly. A change over in direction of winds is noticed in October when they are mainly from north east to east. The winds are light and changing. The month of October connects the season of general rains and the cold season.

The percentage of rainfall during the three seasons at Kolhapur is as follows:

1. 5.00 Percent from November to March.
2. 7.5 Percent from April to May.
3. 87.5 Percent from June to October.

Moreover, the sanitation of that area was improved as the

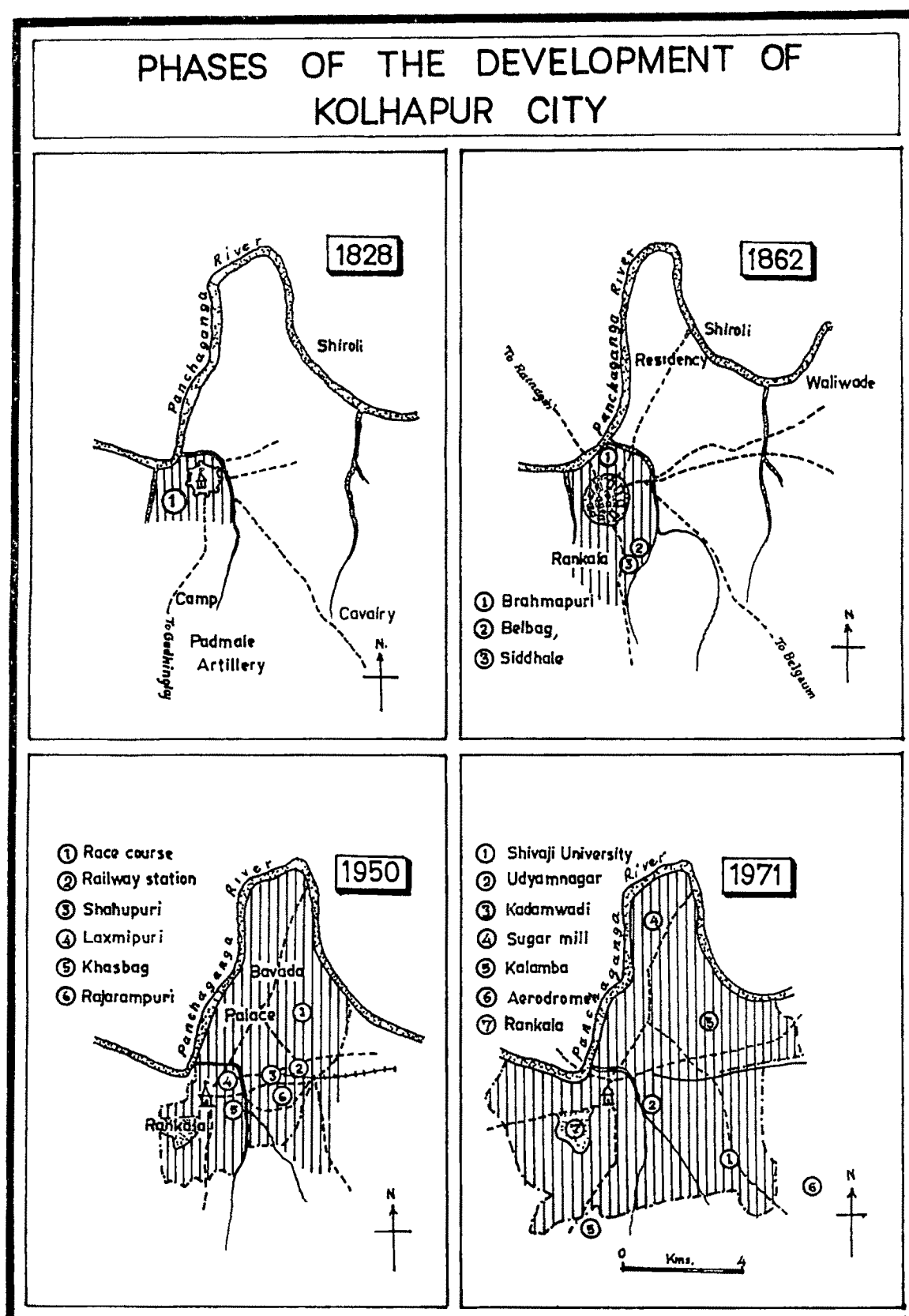


FIG. NO. — 2.2

breeding places of mosquitoes were eliminated. The sites of the filled up pools are now mostly given to playgrounds, educational institutions, new colonies, and parks.

Another important event was the inauguration of Shahu Chhatrapati Spinning and Weaving Mills on 27th September 1906, near the Kotitirtha. It is located near railway station, because cheap land was available, water supply was available from Kotitirtha tank and finished goods could be exported with ease. It also ~~has~~ helped in settling the mal areas at Rajarampuri. These areas had low land values in those days.

Rajarampuri Scheme ^{was} sanctioned in year 1929. The location of Rajarampuri is to the east of textile mills on the uneven mal land not far away from a railway station. The area has low values and water could be made available by sinking wells and the roads and drains were constructed by the government. So within a short time it had been settled.

Shivaji Udyamnagar was sited on the open land between textile mills and Jitti Stream during the years 1945-46. The area is bounded by the stream to the west, settled area to the north and Shahu Mills area to the east. Naturally, it can expand only to the south on the Sagar Mal to some extent. It is an industrial estate where several small factories have sprung up during the past 25 years.

The Phulewadi Scheme was sanctioned and implemented during the years 1941-48. It is situated to the west of Rankala lake and the city. But, it has not attracted people so much as it

is far away from the heart of the city or down a town and Poona-Bangalore Highway as well.

: SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY :

The latest development in process of evolution of city is the founding of a University at Kolhapur. The university is located on the extensive, uneven, mal land along the national highway near the city limit. The main city looks to be at a distance from the heart of the city in the midst of extensive open land has enabled to develop this area as the educational sector of the city aptly called Vidyanagar. The new Rajaram College, Polytechnic and some more educational institutions have come up near it. The net result of it is that the Sagar mal is being settled speedily beyond and new housing societies are being formed towards Kagal beyond the University Campus. It means that the south-eastern sector of the city is developing rapidly due to it.

The old town circular in shape, was located at a bend of the Panchganga river only a hundred years back. Today with its expansion towards east and in great inverted 'U' shaped bend of the river, it has become an intra-river bend city, not unlike Surat.

: INDUSTRIAL AREA :

The Prince of the old Kolhapur State had the vision of inaugurating an industrial estate named Udyamnagar in year 1945. The estate was sited on open ground immediately to the east of the Jitti-stream on a fertile piece of land, at a distance from

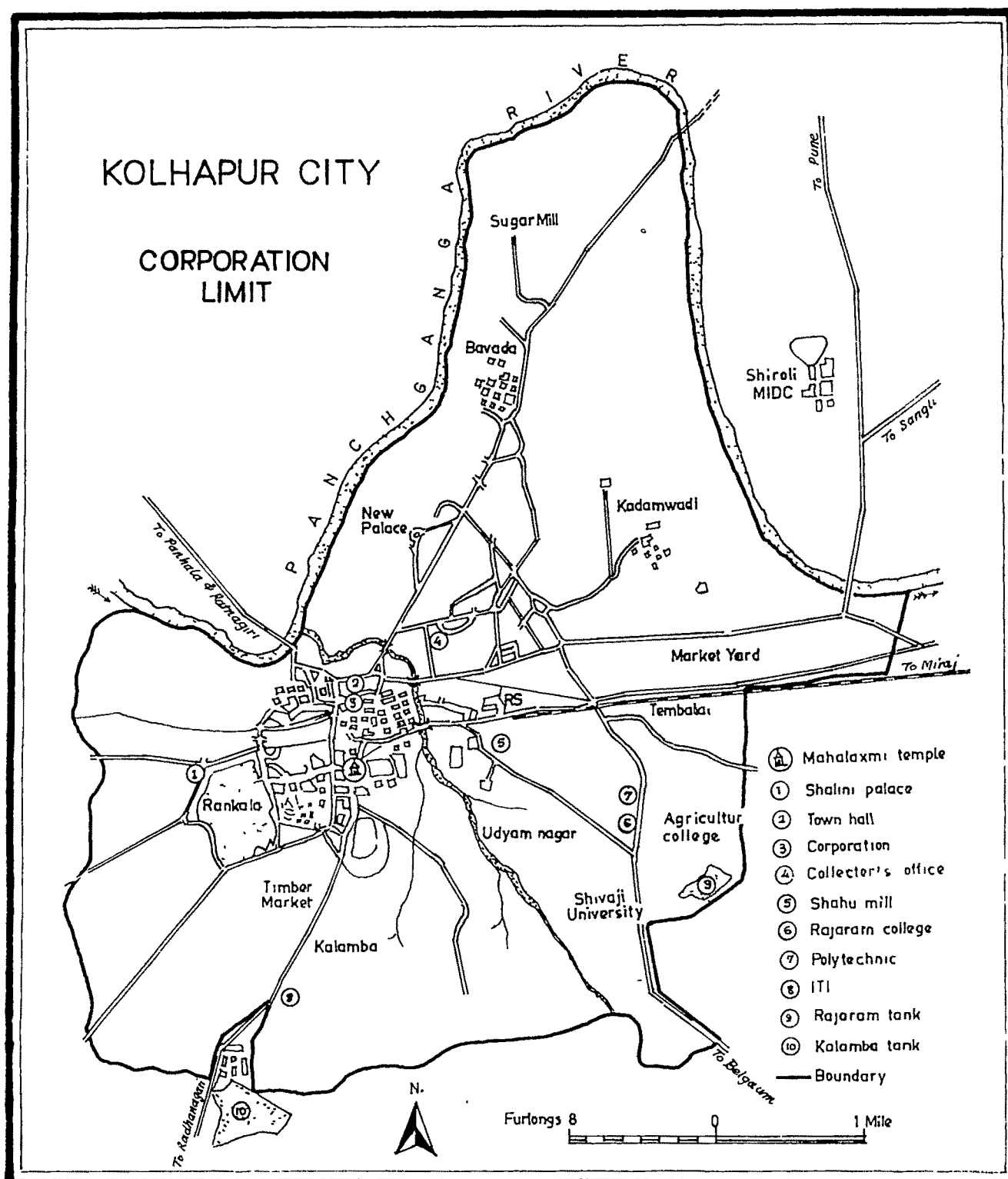


FIG. NO. — 2-3

the old city. But as the area is already full with industrial units of Varina sizes, it is necessary to make provision of new units of industries or expansion of units which have already existed.

Ease of procuring raw materials, ease of transportation ample supply of water and cheap land are some of principal needs of the modern industries. Some flourishing concerns in the city have already purchased spacious plots along the rail-line at Vikramnagar and Unchagaon in the east for the expansion of their industries. Land values decreased outwards from the heart of the city in all directions. The difficultness of regged terrain, long distance from railway line and Poona-Bangalore Highway and difficulty of procuring water supply due to comparatively higher level of land occur in south and west of the city. An industrial estate has already been inaugurated in north, close to Shirol, village beyond the Panch-ganga river along the National Highway at a point where the Miraj road takes off. The land is level 'mal' occupying a model position. Water supply also can be had from river. The huge volume of traffic between Kolhapur to Poona and Kolhapur to Miraj passes along this point.

NEW industries have come into existence recently along the National highway, viz. - M/s. Menon Ancillaries, M/s. Mayur Industries, M/s. Kolhapur Steel Works, etc. The M.I.D.C. has also reserved a sizeable plot in fork of the old Poona road and present Highway on mal land.

Thus, a linear development of industries is witnessed in this quarter. The river water shall have to be lifted by means of pumps for industries. The villages of Top, Shiye, Shirol, and Nagaon shall have to be developed as residential areas for workers.

Considering the present rate of growth of the city and the direction of growth, it seems probable that Top in north-east along the national highway, Rukadi in east, Ujalaiwadi as well as Gokul-Shirgaon towards south-east may develop as satellite towns in near future. Top which is not far away from new industrial area at Shirol may develop on this account as^a satellite. So far as Rukadi is concerned, it has a bright future in developing as a satellite of Kolhapur. It depends mainly upon the development of roads in Chinchwad area and the construction of bridge over the Panchganga river to join the main city area directly with Rukadi and Miraj. Further it enjoys the advantage of being located along the broad-gauge railway line as well as that of being to the newly suggested industrial areas.

Further process of expansion of a city implies-

1. Absorption of the best satellites, main body of the city.
2. Promotion of new centres as satellites along outer fringe of the city. Some centres of Kolhapur like Bawade, Jadhavwadi, Bhuyewadi, Temblaiwadi, Ambewadi, Kalambe, etc. that were once distant suburbs of Kolhapur city, have already been almost incorporated in the present city levels. Moreover, the centres of Shirol, Unchgaon, Gandhinagar, Shiye, Bhuye, etc. are likely

to be included in the Municipal area of Kolhapur, in near future.

Considering present growth of the city and the direction of the growth, it seems probable that Top, in the north-east, along national highway, Rukadi just beyond Panchganga and the Ujalaiwadi, as well as Gokul-Shirgaon, towards south east, may develop satellites in the near future. It seems unlikely that Kagal which is at a distance of 12 kms. from Kolhapur, as well as Hatkanangle at a distance of 15 kms. from Kolhapur and influenced by Bhogawati Sugar Factory will come into prominence and will develop rapidly as a satellite. During the two decades as they lie for a separate river valleys towards south and east, they will be x satellites. But, Top which is not far away from the new industrial estate at Shirol, may develop on this account as a satellite. The axes of industrial area at Shirol, has encouraged expansion of M.I.D.C. industrial area, from Shirol, towards Gokul-Shirgaon and hence, in near future that will be the main access of urban development. So far as Rukadi is concerned; it has also a bright future in development as a satellite of Kolhapur. It depends mainly upon development of roads, in the Chinchwad, area and the construction of Panchganga river to join main area of the city, directly with Rukadi and Miraj. In this satellite, separate detailed account has been presented of the villages Chinchwad, as the landmark of the fringe development of Kolhapur city. Chinchwad is taken as a main link of the interaction between city and unland. It is hypothesised that the Chinchwad may stand as a significant location, indicating a

major stage in the expansion of a city Kolhapur. In the foregoing chapters a detail account of the surrounding region of Kolhapur with special reference to villages merging as either urbanised villages or suburbs is presented to show different functional zones demarketed in this surrounding regions and separating main functions in the city. The band of different villages around Kolhapur city and the special case study of Chinchwad village , are signified to show the changing nature of urban fringe of Kolhapur city.

