

## CHAPTER - II

=====

---

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF KOLHAPUR CITY

---

- .....
- Growth of population
  - Phases of development of Kolhapur
  - Growth of functions and functional areas in Kolhapur city
  - Cultural importance
  - Education
  - Finance
  - Occupational structure

References

.....

.....

In the urban system of South Maharashtra, Kolhapur city is one of the important urban centres. It is an important industrial and commercial centre of South Maharashtra, besides being an important educational centres. It is a focal centre of economic, administrative and social activities of the southern part of Maharashtra. The city performs a vast range of functions.

The city of Kolhapur is located in South Maharashtra. It is situated at 16°42' north latitude and 74°14' east longitude at an altitude of 650 meters above mean sea level.

The city stands on the right bank of the river Panchganga a tributary of the Krishna. It also enjoys a moderate climate with temperature rarely dropping below 15°C and occasionally rising above 38°C. Kolhapur receives fairly a good amount of rainfall.

The surrounding region comprises of deep fertile black soil and the five important rivers flowing in the district have brought over all prosperity to the entire umland of the city within a range of 30 kms. There are 10 sugar factories in the district. The development of irrigation and growth of sugar industry have transformed the entire umland of Kolhapur city. Since 19th century, Kolhapur has been recognised as an important religious and commercial centre of the region. In the spatial dimensions, it is at a distance of 495 kms. from Bombay, 793 kms. from Bangalore, 303 kms. from Poona, 123 kms. from Belgaum and 45 kms. from Miraj by rail. The western coast line is only 75 kms. away from Kolhapur. It is well connected by rail and road

routes. At present it has a University; several divisional headquarters, market yard, several wholesale shops and variety of industrial establishments (Fig.2.1).

Kolhapur is an ancient city. This place was the capital of king Vilvayakura during 150 A.D. It witnessed the rise and fall of several dynasties among which Kadamb, Chalukya, Rashtrakutas, Shilakaras, Yadav, Bahamani, Adilshahi, Maratha and British were the important ones.

Kolhapur is a city of great antiquity which has been able to maintain its ancient celebrity and distinction. The name of city was "Krostu". It was also known as "Kollaksetra" or "Karaveerpur" or "Karaveerpattan" or "Kollagiri". The ancient temple of Mahalaxmi was constructed during the 12th century. The city was surrounded by several tanks which were filled-up and the land was brought under urban use.

#### GROWTH OF POPULATION

Being an important cultural and commercial centre of South Maharashtra, the city of Kolhapur has expanded its area and population during the 20th century. According to the census of 1961, Kolhapur city ranked seventh in Maharashtra, but according to the census of 1971 it ranks fifth in Maharashtra. According to census of 1901, the population of Kolhapur city was 54,373. In 1911 it went down to 48,122; since 1921 the population of Kolhapur city shows continuous growing trend. In 1921 the population was 55,594 and in 1981 it has grown to 340,625. During 1901 period

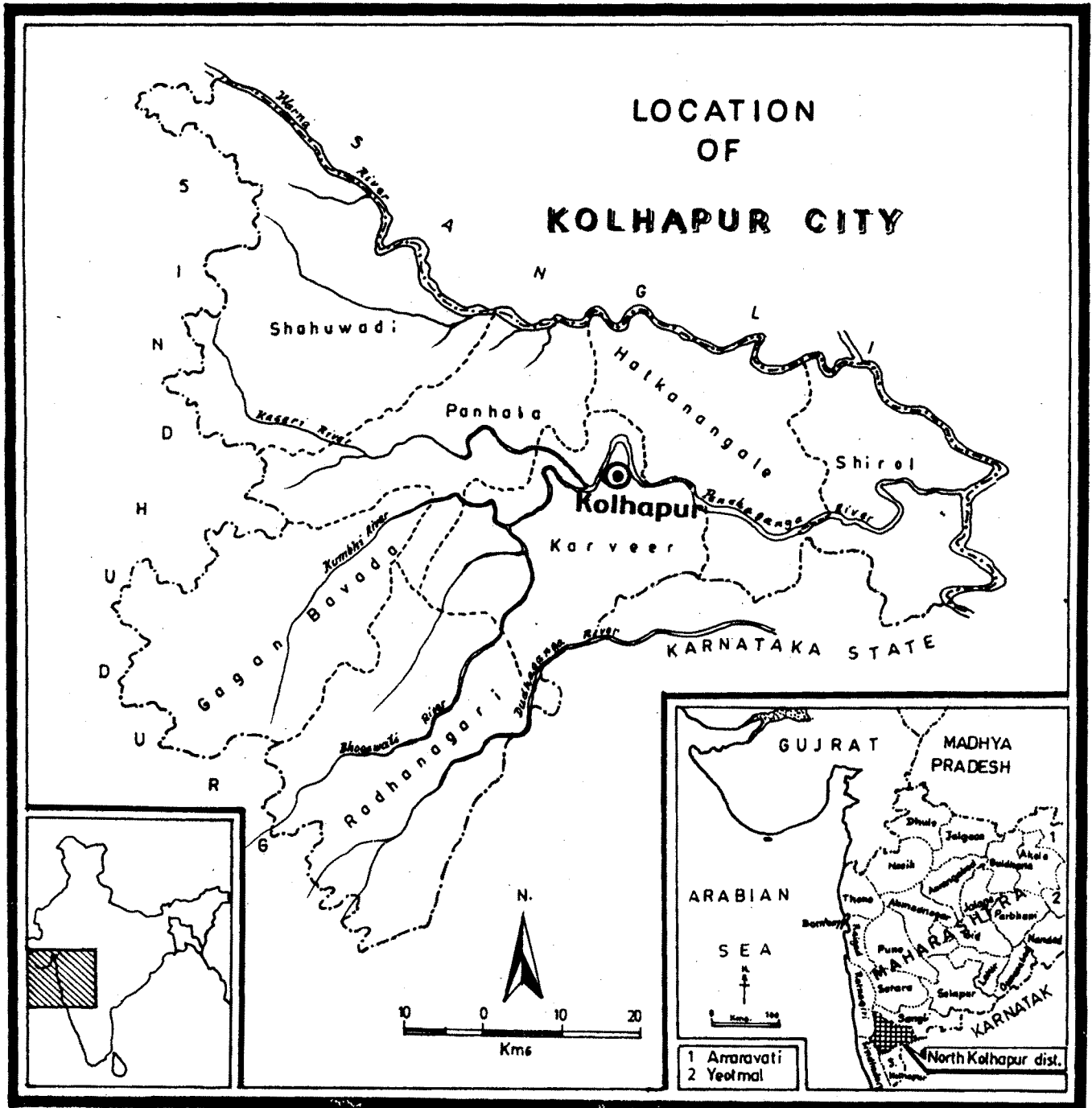


Fig. No. 2.1

due to several epidemics, the population of Kolhapur city showed 11.50 percent decrease. The growth rate indicates 42.66 percent growth during the decade 1941 to 1951. During the last decade (1971-1981) the growth of Kolhapur city shows 31.49 percent increase (Table 2.1).

TABLE 2.1 : Growth of population of Kolhapur city.

Year	Population	Decadal change	Growth rate in percentage
1872	41,033	-	-
1881	39,910	- 1,123	- 2.74
1891	47,372	+ 7,462	+ 18.70
1901	54,373	+ 7,001	+ 14.78
1911	48,122	- 6,251	- 11.50
1921	55,594	+ 7,472	+ 15.53
1931	72,492	+ 16,898	+ 30.40
1941	95,918	+ 23,426	+ 32.31
1951	136,835	+ 40,917	+ 42.66
1961	187,442	+ 50,607	+ 36.98
1971	259,050	+ 71,608	+ 38.20
1981	340,625	+ 81,575	+ 31.49

After independence it was classified as one lakh city. In 1961 the population reached 1.87 lakhs, considering this growth in population and expansion of the city limits, the municipal council

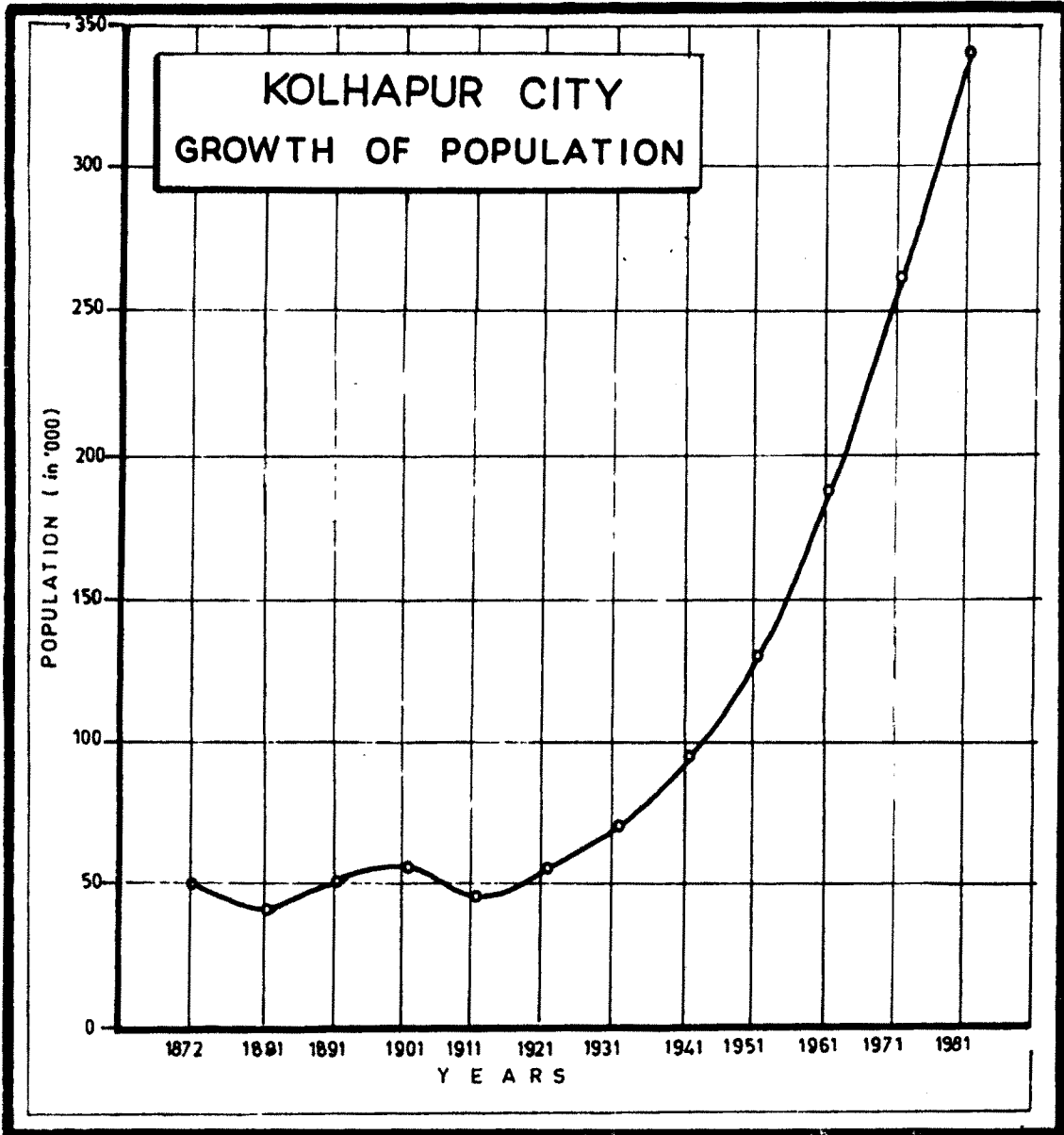


Fig. No. 2-2

felt the need of separate bus transport for the city and in 1962 the municipal council started the operation of its own city buses. Fig.2.2 shows the growth of population of Kolhapur city and Table 2.1 gives the details of population and rate of growth.

#### PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT OF KOLHAPUR

Looking into the phases of development of Kolhapur city, since 1828 it is observed that the Mahalaxmi temple was the centre of Kolhapur city, and around this core the expansion of the city began. In 1828, the city was very small and most of the population was living in the closed area of the city (Fig.2.3-A).

In 1862 another phase of expansion began (Fig.2.3-B), most of the area of Panchganga and towards Rankala was occupied by the city.

In the recent period from the year 1950 the city has been expanding towards the railway station and to the east including Rajarampuri, Khasbag and Shahupuri area. These were developed during the first half of the 20th century (Fig.2.3-C).

At present, after the establishment of corporation in 1977, the city limits have expanded in all directions and an area of 66.82 sq.kms. has been included within the city limits (Fig.2.3-D).

#### GROWTH OF FUNCTIONS AND FUNCTIONAL AREAS IN KOLHAPUR CITY

The area of Kolhapur city is divided into five wards. The C ward is centrally located. It is not far away from



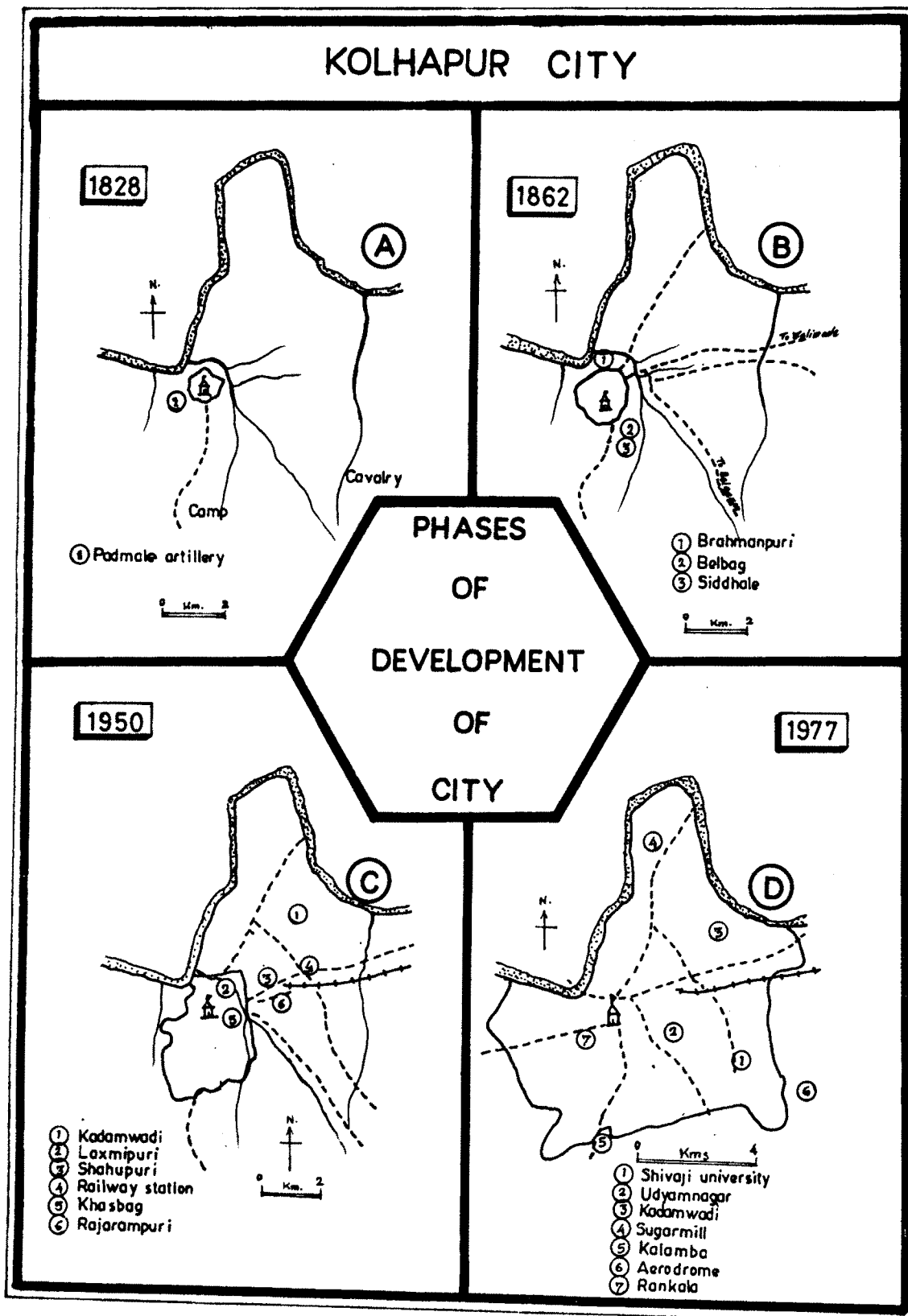


Fig. No 2-3



Mahalaxmi temple and it constitutes the principal shopping zone of the city. Several important roads from this ward go in various directions. The B ward has a favourable location adjoining the E and C ward. The national highway passes through E ward. The big industrial units are located in this zone. Moreover, the Udyamnagar, Wholesale market yard, etc. are located in E ward. Some broad functional areas are as follows :-

i) Commercial area

The principle business area of the city lies to the west of the Jiti stream. The Tarabai road, Gujari, Gangaves, Mahalaxmi temple and Mahadwar road form the major commercial core of the city.

Shivaji road from Venus corner, Bhausingji road from Nagarkhana to Municipal office chowk, Mahadwar road from Papa's corner to Khari corner, etc. have also the commercial activity.

ii) Wholesale and retail trade

The main wholesale trade establishments are found in Shahupuri, Laxmipuri and Market yard areas which are located along the important roads.

iii) Industrial area and Industries

(i) Shahu Spinning and Weaving Mill - It is located in the E ward along Rajaram road. (ii) The Kolhapur Sugar Mill - is located to the north of Bavada village, deep into the bend of river Panchganga (iii) Oil Mill - Along the national highway, near the Market yard (iv) Light Engineering Industries - are located in E ward, Udyamnagar areas.

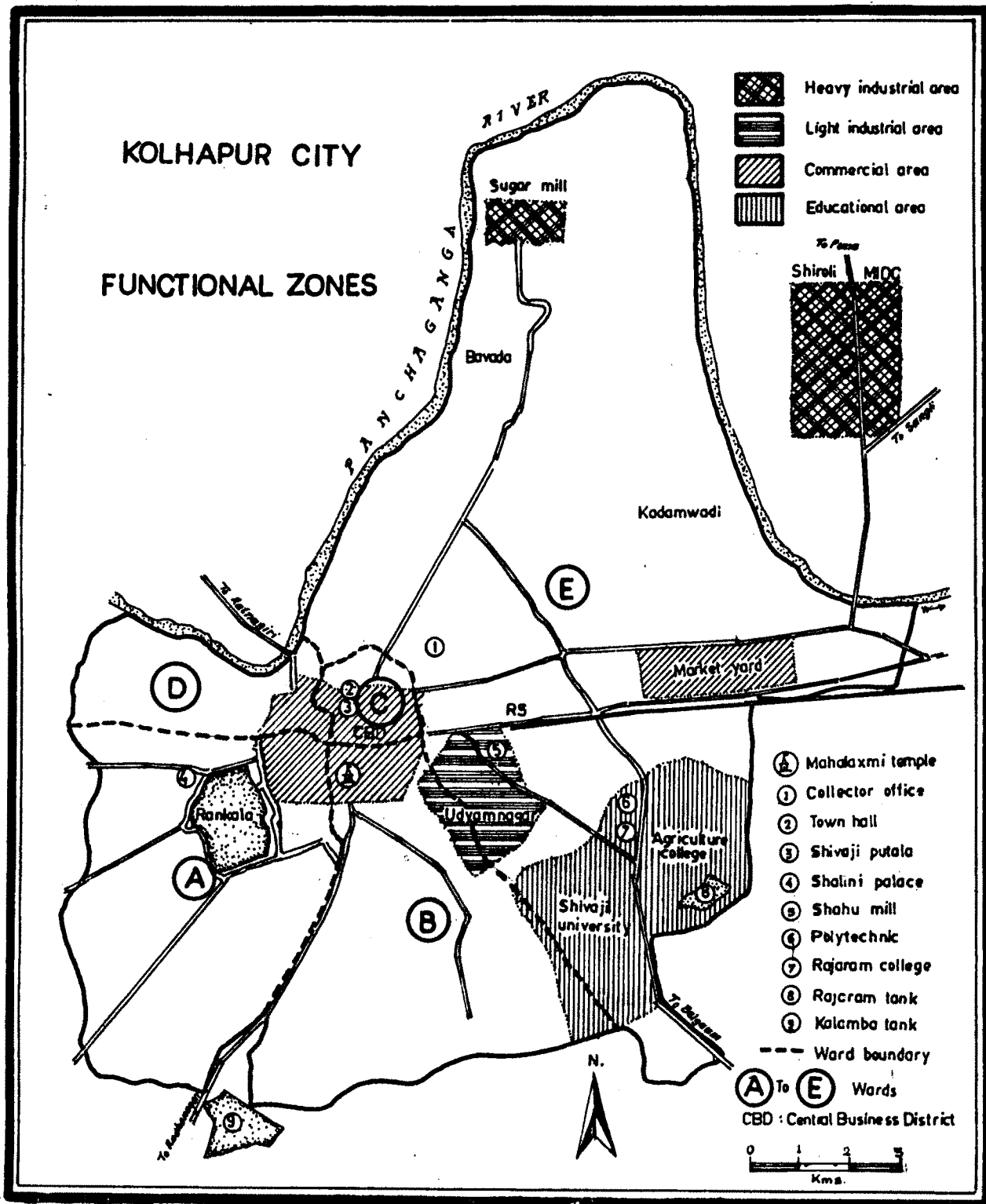


Fig. No. 2.4

Some of the other industries are distillery, cotton textile industry, oil mills, bidi factory, umbrella factory, saw mills, leather goods, production of diesel engines, brick kilns, pharmaceuticals, gold smelting and ice factories.

#### CULTURAL IMPORTANCE

This being the seat of the old Maratha princely state, it has the historical importance. Socio-culturally also it stands out prominently. It was the centre of reform movement under the late Chh. Shahu Maharaj who was a progressive ruler. Kolhapur is also well known for art, music, drama and films.

#### EDUCATION

It is also an educational centre. There are nearly 18 colleges including engineering, agriculture, science, arts, commerce, law, education and polytechniques. It is a University headquarter and colleges from Sangli, Satara, Solapur and Kolhapur districts are affiliated to Shivaji University.

#### FINANCE

Kolhapur city has 16 branches of various nationalized and scheduled banks.

#### OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

Of the total population workers constitute 27 percent. A large majority of them are engaged in industry, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication and other services which are the main functions of the city. Fig.2.4 shows all main functional areas in Kolhapur city.

REFERENCES

1. Census of Maharashtra (1961, 1971 and 1981) : Govt. of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay.
2. Kolhapur District Handbook (1971 and 1981) : Govt. of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay.
3. Maharashtra At A Glance (1979) : Govt. of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay.
4. Malshe, P.T. (1972) : Kolhapur - A Study in Urban Geography.
5. Socio-Economic Review And District Statistical Abstract of Kolhapur District (1981-82) : Governement of Maharashtra Publication, Bombay.