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THE GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS OF TOURISM IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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R e f e r e n c e s

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION :

Today tourism is becoming an important activity of man for his increasing demand on leisure and recreation. Unorganized growth of our cities has created gap between man and nature. Urban life has become too mechanical with result that man has turned into machine. It, therefore, becomes very necessary to bring the urban people in close proximity of nature and to enjoy natural air and sun. In this, regard it is necessary to consider the places of tourism. For this the consideration of basis of tourism is essential. Especially the thought must be given to the geographical basis such as location of tourism place, physiography, climate, accessibility, scenery, animal life, settlements, etc. In the present chapter the assessment of geographical basis is made which will help to analyse tourist places and potential tourist places in Kolhapur district.

### 3.2 LOCATION :

The location of Kolhapur district is favourable for tourism. It is located at the foot of the Sahyadrian range. The western side of the district is bounded by hilly ranges consisting of six tahsils of the district. The tahsils Shahuwadi, Gagan Bavada, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajara and Chandgad are well-known for its natural beauty. The deep valleys near the 'Vishalgarh' and 'Amba Ghat' in Shahuwadi tahsil, the steep scarps and cliffs of 'Gagangarh' in Gagan Bavada tahsil. 'Phonda Ghat' in Radhanagari tahsil are having beautiful landscape. The Chandgad tahsil has

many hill stations to develop as tourist centres. The Gandhar-garh, Kalanandigarh, Pargarh and Mahipatgarh have steep slopes, messas, buttes, cuestas are important attractions. Near 'Kodali Ghat' and 'Ram Ghat' the mountain view is very attractive. The Panhalgarh, Jotiba, Kanerimath, Bahubali hills are major points of tourism in Kolhapur district.

### 3.3 ACCESSIBILITY :

Ease of access is important factor in tourism. The tourists should attract when there is good accessibility. The locations which are inaccessible by normal means of transport have little value. The physical isolation and inadequate transport facilities are handicaps to tourism.

Kolhapur district is on the border of 'Desh' and 'Konkan'. The Konkan people mainly enter Kolhapur district by Amba, Anuskura, Karul, Bhui Bavada, Phonda, Amboli and Kodali Ghats. Besides these ghats Hanmanta and Ram Ghats are also in use. The Desh people enter Kolhapur district by National Highway Number 4 and many State Highways. With very few exceptions, the roads of the Kolhapur district are motorable. The most of tourist places are connected by tar roads. Some places are connected by kaccha road.

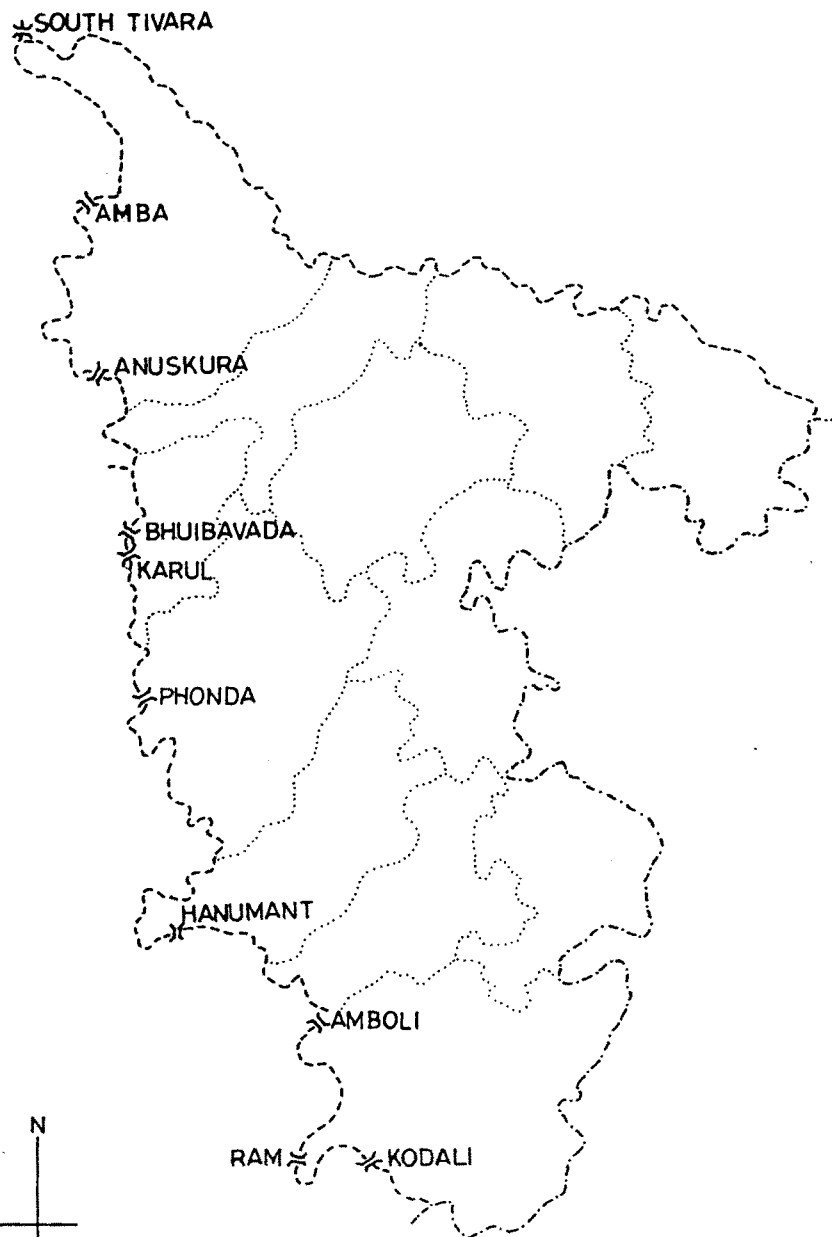
From 'Amba Ghat', the people of Sakharappa, Ratnagiri and Rajapur tahsils, enter the Kolhapur district. The 'Karul and Bhui Bavada Ghats' are useful for the people of Rajapur, Vijaydurg and Deogarh tahsils, to enter the Kolhapur district. The 'Phonda Ghat' is useful for the people of Deogarh, Kanakavali and Malvan tahsils

# KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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GHAT (PASS)

≡ GHAT (PASS)



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10 5 0 10 20 KM  
SCALE

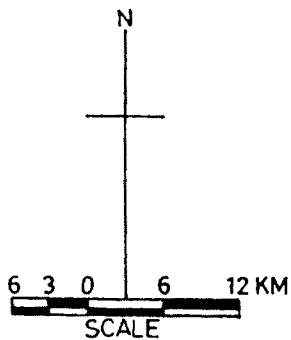
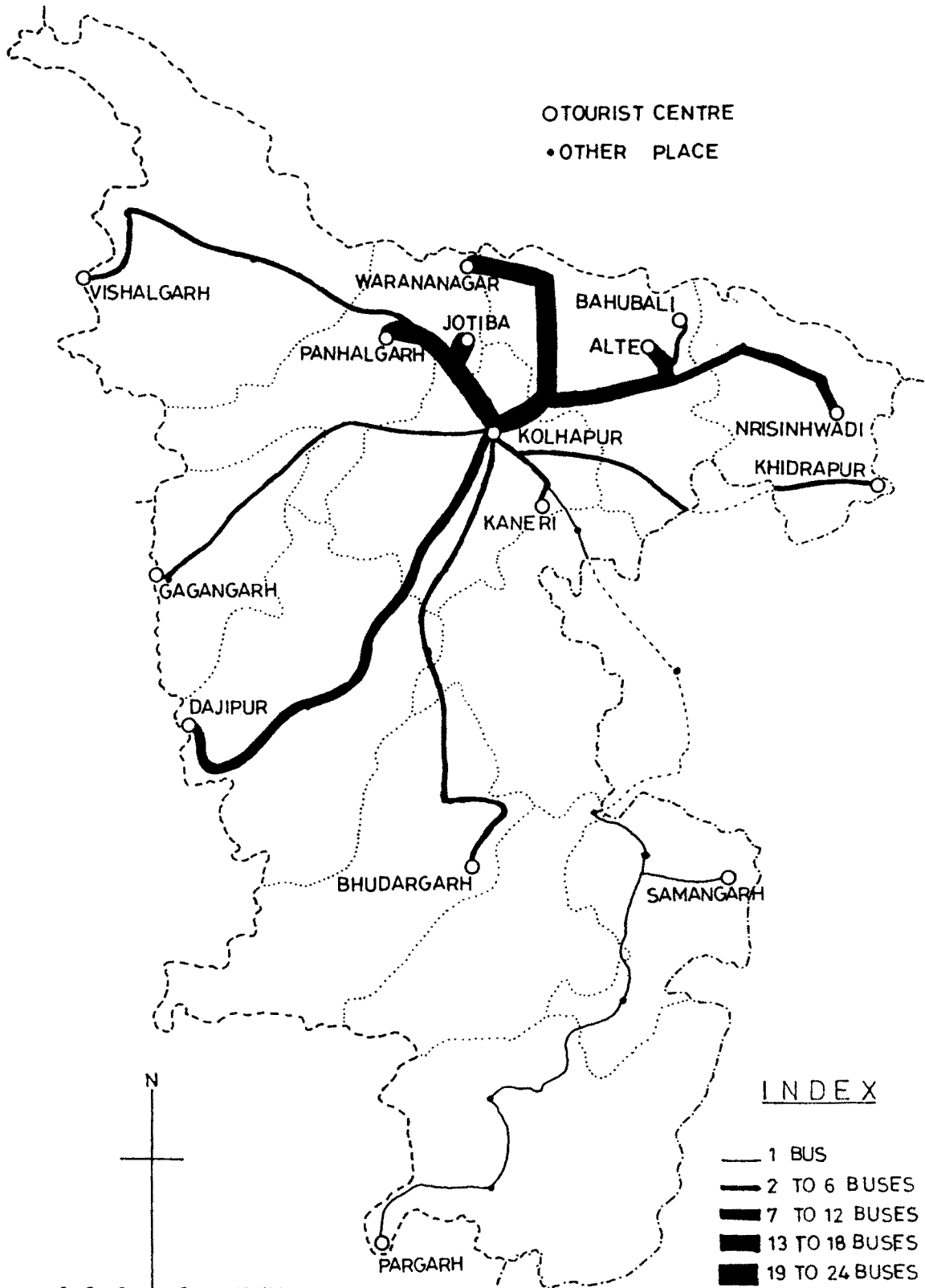
to visit the Kolhapur district. Amboli Ghat is useful for the people of Sawantwadi, Vengurla and Kudal tahsils. The Kodali Ghat is very useful to the people of Doddamarg, Reddi and Goa to enter the Kolhapur district. Other minor Ghats are also useful to the people of Konkan (Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district and Goa) to enter Kolhapur district (Map 3.1).

Panhalgarh, Jotiba hill, Nrisinhwadi, Warananagar are well connected by tar road to the Kolhapur city. Vishalgarh Fort is connected by tar road only upto Gajapur. Gajapur to Vishalgarh there is kaccha road having length of 7 kms. Bahubali is connected by tar road upto Hatkanangale. From Hatkanangale to Bahubali there is kaccha road. Alte is connected by tar road. But road between Alte and Ramling temple is kaccha road. Upto Rendal there is tar road, and Rendal to Khidrapur, there is kaccha road. Kanerimath is connected by tar road upto Kaneri. Kaneri to Kanerimath there is kaccha road having length of 2 kms. Gagangarh is well connected by tar road upto Gagan Bavada. From Gagan Bavada to Gagangarh there is foot path, having length of 3 kms. Dajipur is connected by tar road, but the 'Abhayaranya' is connected by kaccha road, having about 20 kms length from Dajipur, Bhudargarh is connected by tar road upto 'Pal' village. Pal to Bhudargarh there is kaccha road, about 5 kms in length. Samangarh fort is connected by tar road upto 'Bhadgaon'. Bhadgaon to Samangarh fort there is kaccha road having length of 5 kms. Pargarh fort is connected by tar road upto 'Here' village. Here to Pargarh, there is kaccha road, having length of 10 kms.

# KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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BUS FREQUENCY TO SELECTED CENTRES



The bus service finds every corner of the Kolhapur district. The Kolhapur city is connected by National Highway Number 4 to all main cities of Maharashtra and India (Map 3.2).

Kolhapur city is connected with all other cities in Maharashtra. It is southern end of the South Central Railway. Especially, this city is directly connected to Pune, Bombay, Nagpur in Maharashtra. Miraj junction is only 50 kms from Kolhapur which is well connected by bus service. Bus frequency to Miraj is at every half an hour. It is connected by passenger rail also. From Miraj junction any tourist can reach upto Jammu and Kashmir towards north and Bangalore, Mysore, Kanyakumari towards south directly (Table 3.1).

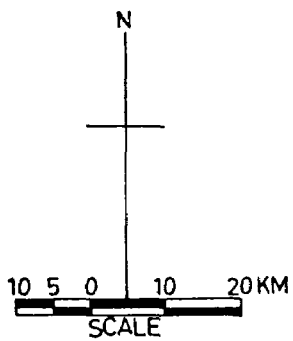
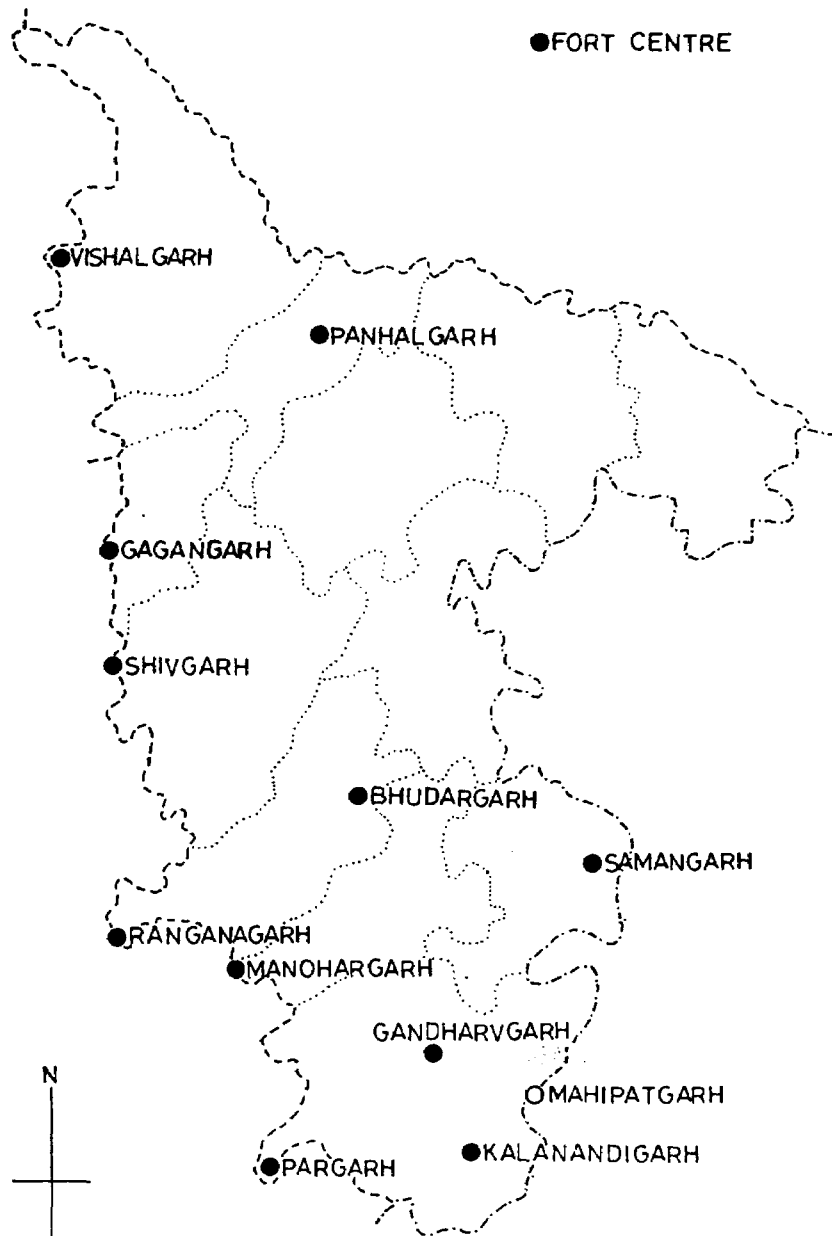
**TABLE 3.1** : Railway Time-table at Kolhapur (1.11.1987).

Sr. No.	Rail Nature	Rail Name	Railway station	Rail No.	Arrival	Rail No.	Departure
1	Express	Mahalaxmi	Bombay	303	07.30	304	21.00
2	Express	Maharashtra	Nagpur	.84	14.45	83	13.15
3	Express	Sahyadri	Bombay	311	06.45	312	22.15
4	Express	Koyna	Bombay	307	21.45	308	08.00
5	Passenger	-	Sangli	272	09.50	313	15.10
6	Passenger	-	Miraj	314	12.20	277	20.15
7	Passenger	-	Miraj	274	17.15	273	10.20
8	Passenger	-	Sangli	276	20.00	275	18.30

# KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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GARH(FORT)





Kolhapur has no air-ways service. But there is a ready Airodrome at Kolhapur. There is a need of air service to Kolhapur.

To reach the tourist places inland Kolhapur district, there is only bus facility. There is no alternative at present.

### 3.4 SCENERY :

Scenic attractions are most important factor in tourism. Dramatic mountains scenery exert a strong fascination to the tourist. The physical majesty attracts the tourists. When water is added, beauty is added to sheer physical splendour. There are three main factors of scenery.

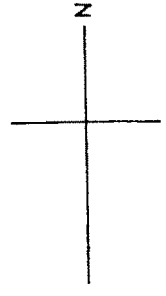
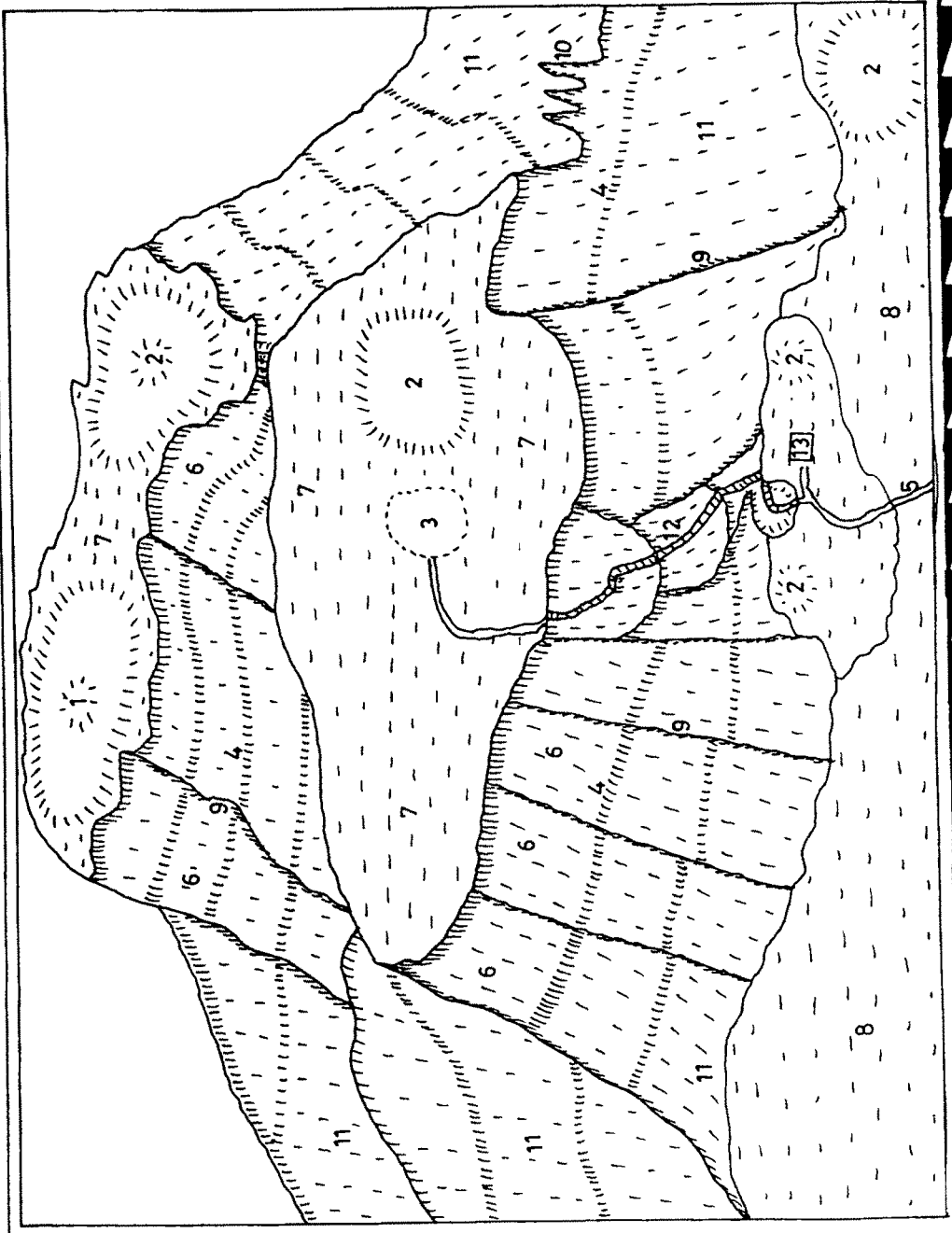
#### 3.4.1 Mountains :

Mountains play very important role in tourism. The Kolhapur district has this natural gift. Western side of Kolhapur district is completely bounded by the Sahyadri mountains. There are number of scenic places on the Sahyadrian mountains. Today many places are used as hill stations. The forts are important for the tourism development in Kolhapur district (Map 3.3).

Vishalgarh fort is located in Shahuwadi tahsil. The tourists can enjoy there with the beauty of deep valleys, layers of the rocks of the hills and hill ranges of Sahyadri. Tourists can observe the beauty of natural landscape around the fort. The fort is on the crest of Sahyadri. One can enjoy the scenic beauty of Konkan on the west from this place. The Vishalgarh is in remote area and not well-linked, therefore, it remains undeveloped. Accessibility, proper infrastructure and communication facilities should be

# VISHALGARH

LANDSCAPE

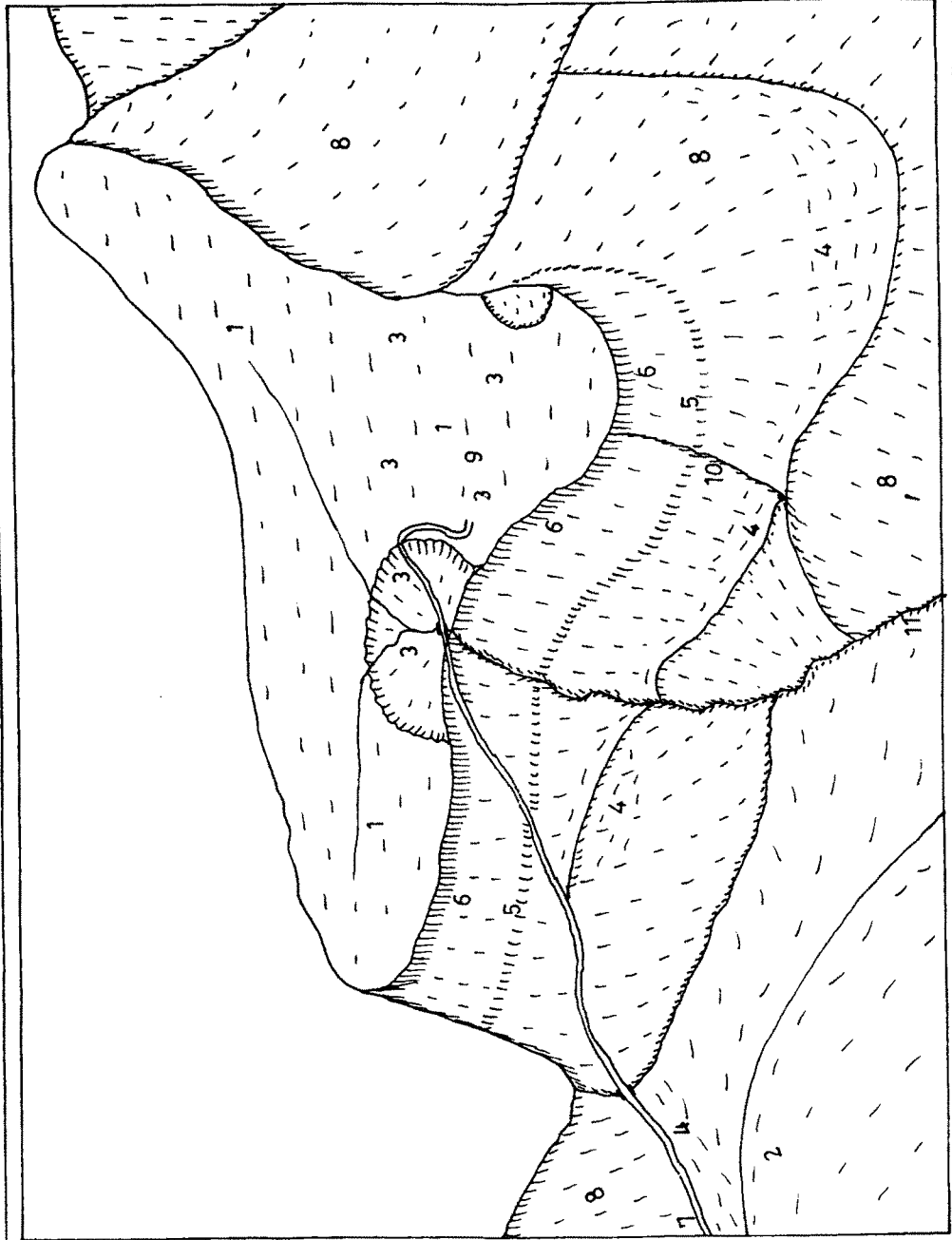


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- 13 S. T. STAND

# PANHALGARH

LANDSCAPE

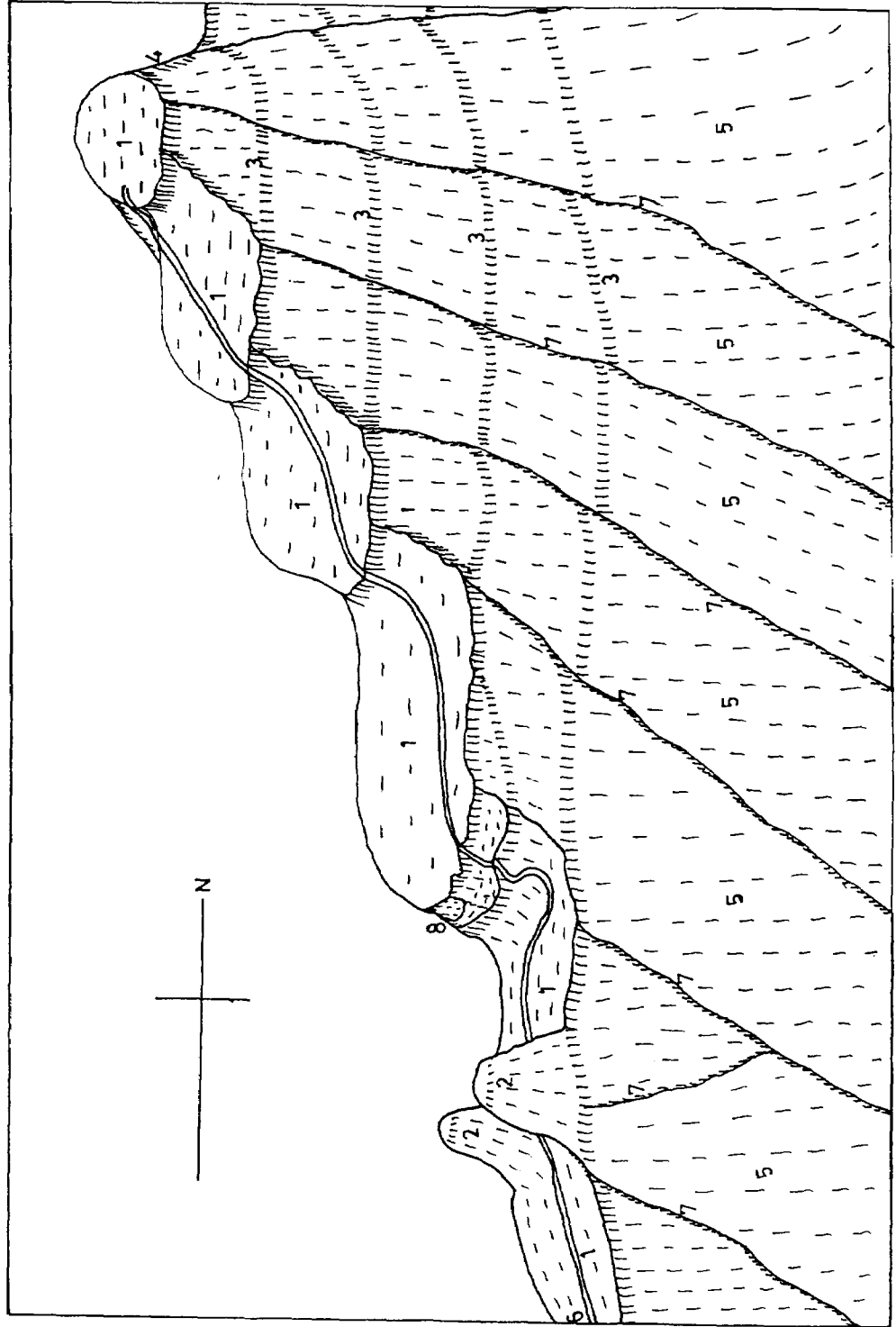


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# GAGANGARH

LANDSCAPE



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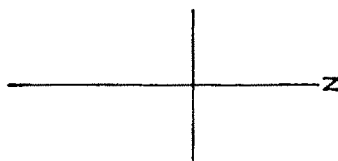
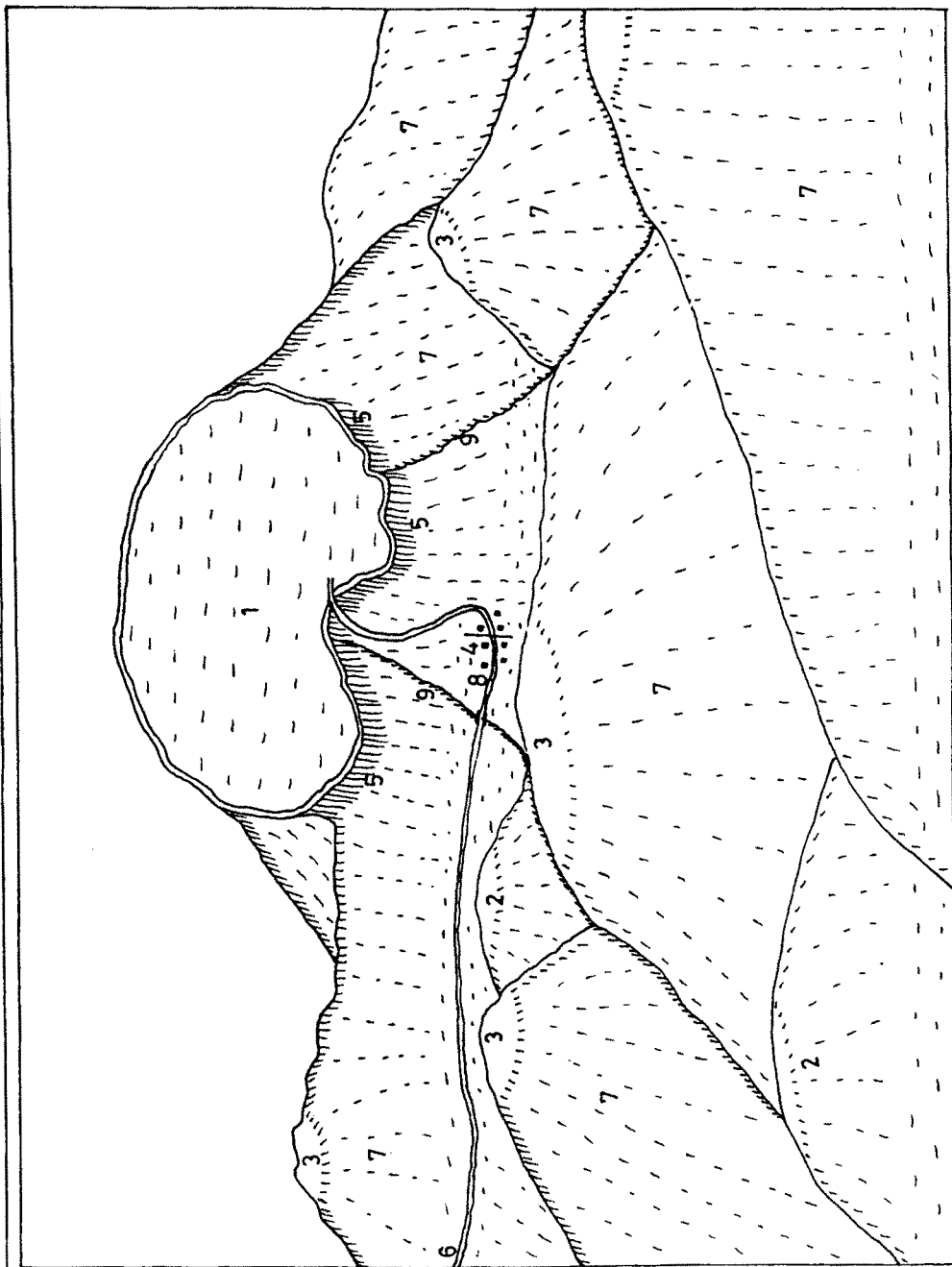
- 1 FLAT LAND
- 2 TOR
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- 6 ROAD TO G BAVADA
- 7 RAPID
- 8 CAVE

# BHUDARGARH

LANDSCAPE

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- 5 SCARP
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- 7 STEEP SLOPE
- 8 S. T. STOP
- 9 RAPID



necessary to make an attractive tourists centre (Landscape 3.1).

Panhalgarh, a fort, is located in Panhala tahsil. The tourists can observe the natural landscapes and cultural landscapes around. Towards west the Sahyadri is at stone throwing distance. Masai Pathar (plateau) is to the west of Panhalgarh as on equal height. To the north of Masai Pathar there is Pandav Darah Caves. The landscape of Masai Pathar is very colourful. It has grander scenery. One can get pleasure by observing the scenic beauty of the place (Landscape 3.2).

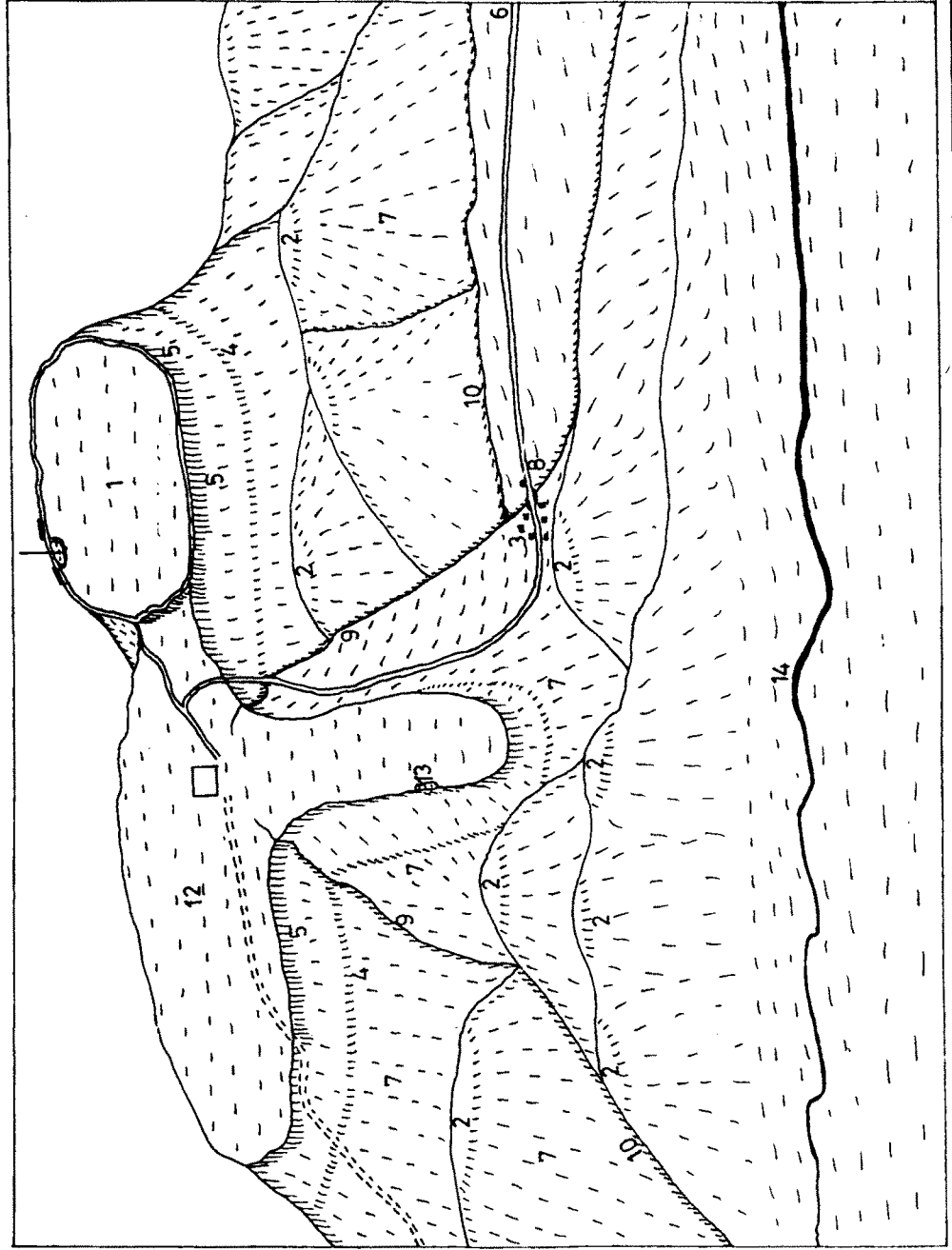
Gagangarh fort is in Gagan Bavada tahsil. It is on the crest of the Sahyadri. It is conical hill station. The deep valleys, cliffs and vegetative cover are the attractions of this fort. The tourists also can observe the hill ranges of Sahyadri, Konkan view, Karul and Bhui Bavada Ghats and 'Shuk' river basin in upper course (Landscape 3.3).

Bhudargarh Fort is in Bhudargad (Gargoti) tahsil. There is a small plateau on the top of the fort. The cliffs are gigantic. Tourists can observe the natural landscape of landforms towards south and east. They can see the romantic view of Vedganga river basin and Gargoti settlement towards the west and north respectively (Landscape 3.4).

Samangarh fort is in Gadhinglaj tahsil. The plateau on the fort is, 'T' shaped. It is projected fort over the Hiranyakeshi river basin. One can observe the natural landscape of all sides (Landscape 3.5).

# SAMANGARH

LANDSCAPE

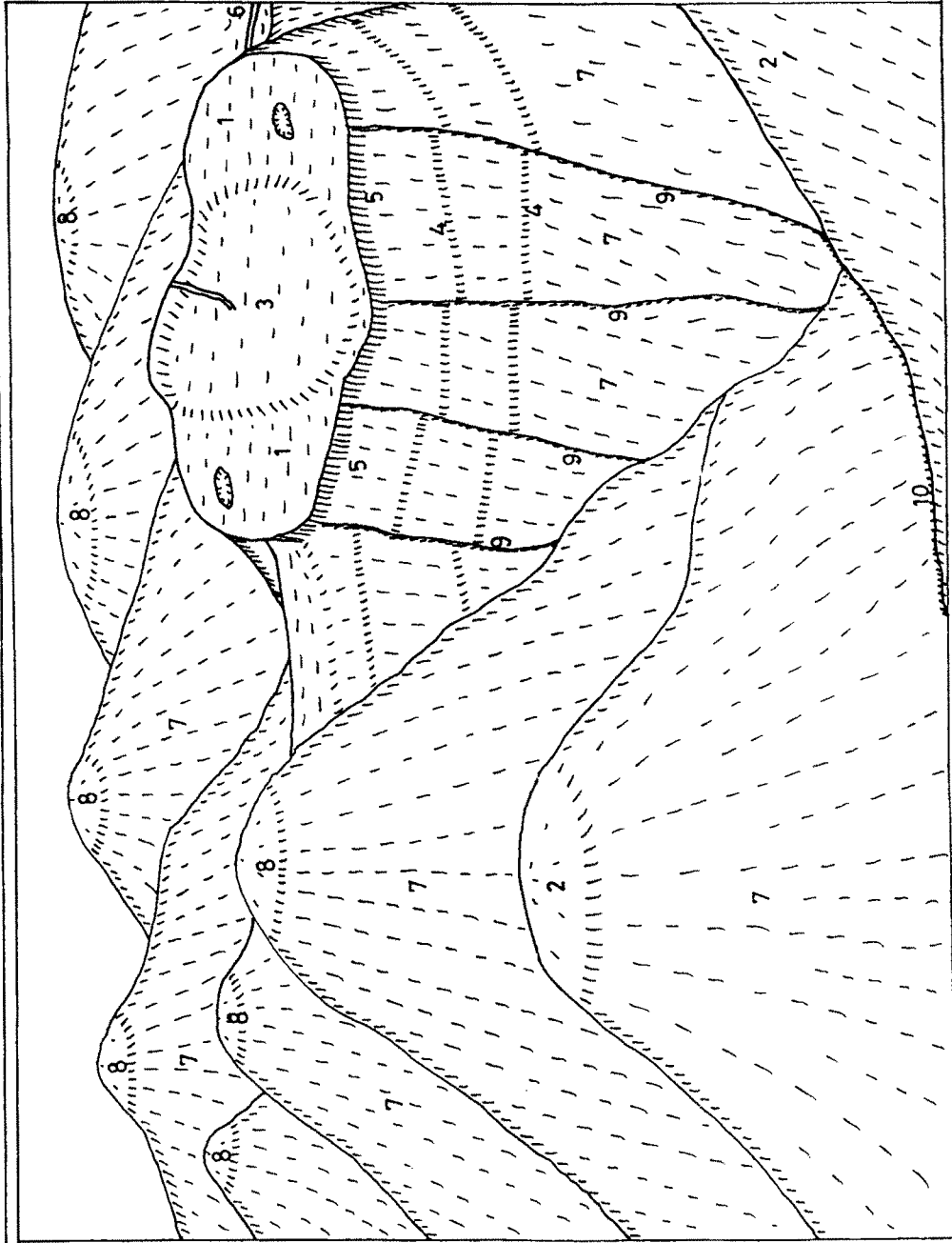


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# PARGARH

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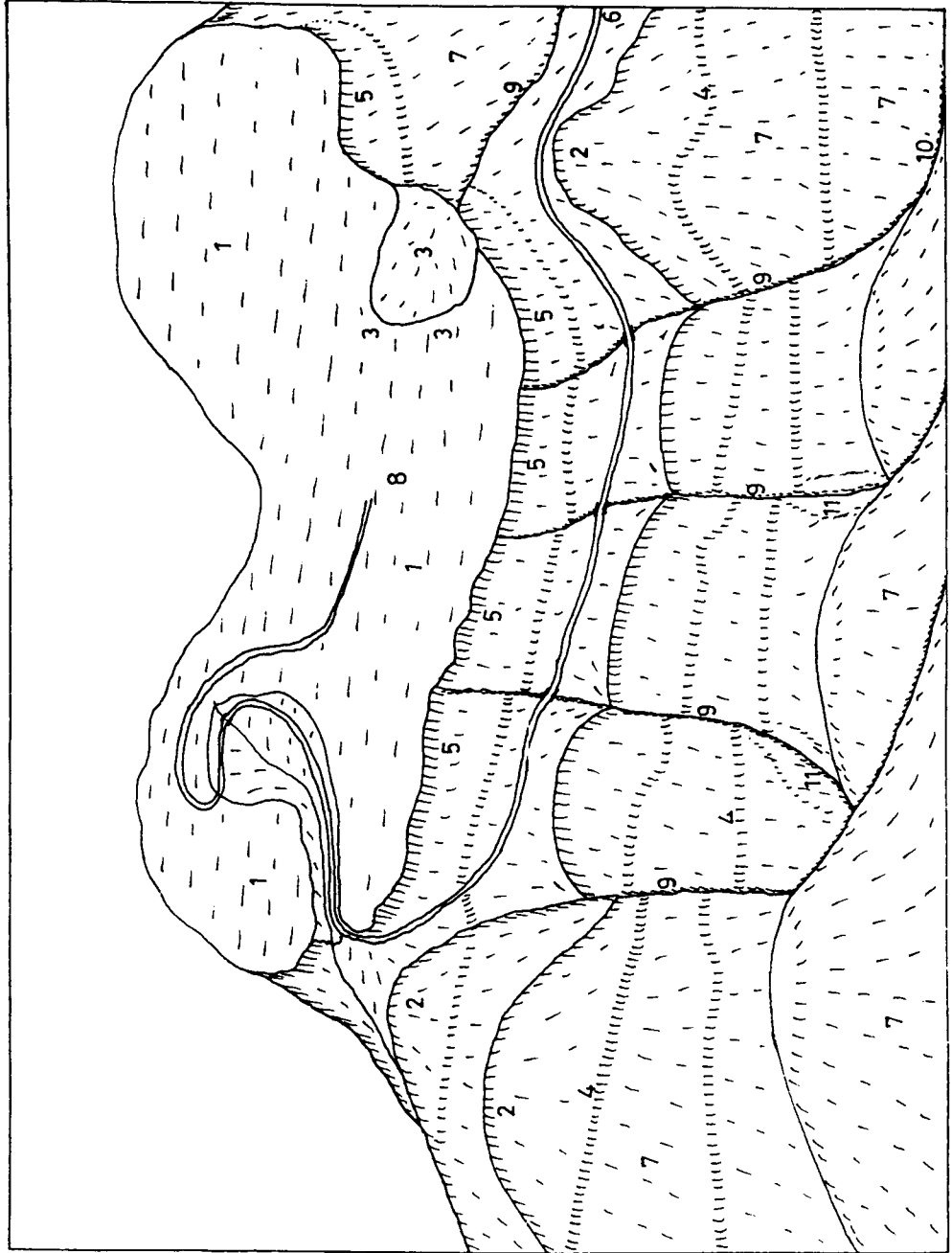


# JOTIBA HILL

LANDSCAPE

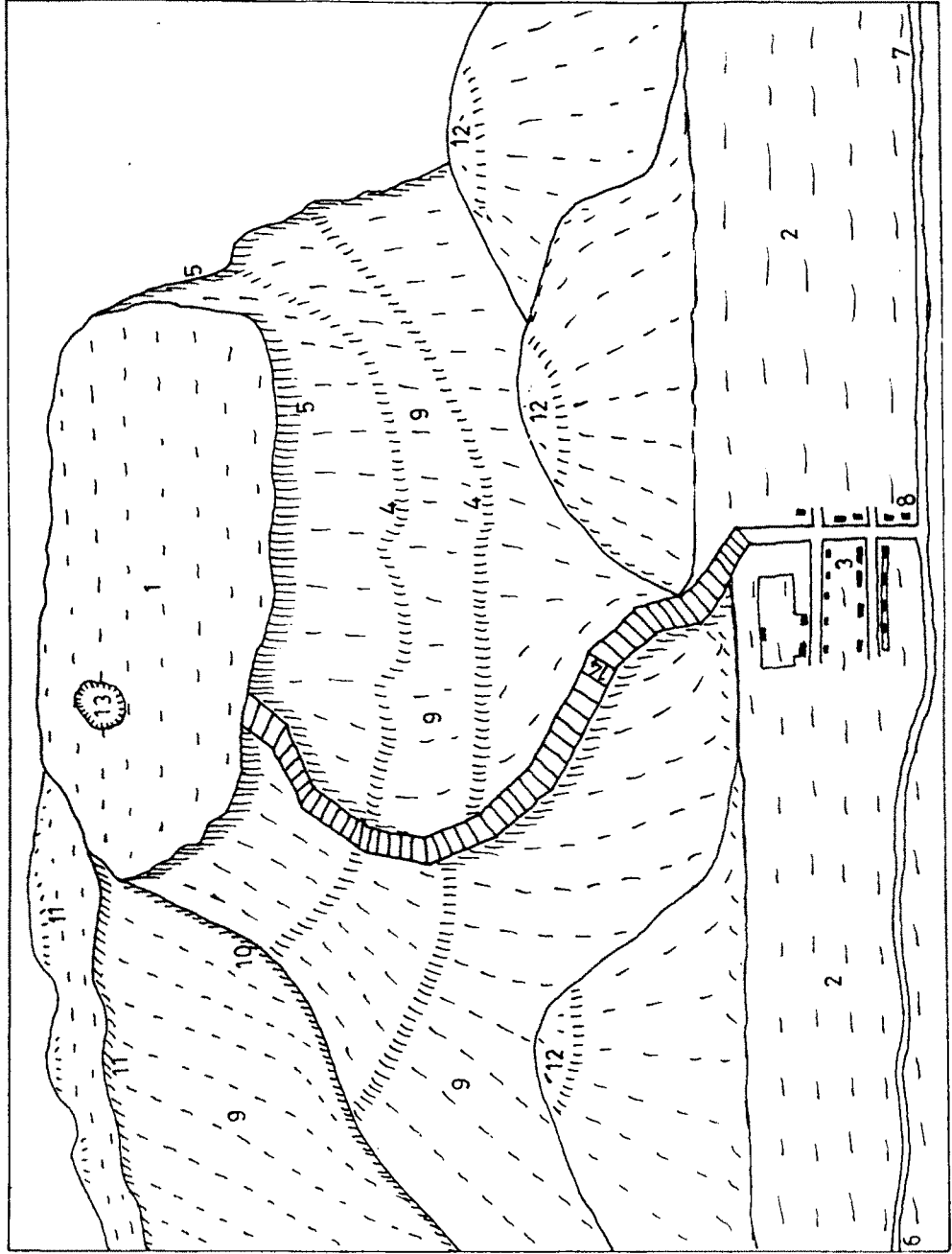
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# KUMBHOJGIRI

LANDSCAPE



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- 7 ROAD TO VADGAON
- 8 S. T. STOP
- 9 STEEP SLOPE
- 10 RAPID
- 11 HILL
- 12 HILLOCK
- 13 WELL
- 14 STEPS



Pargarh fort is a southern most fort of the Kolhapur district. It is in Chandgad tahsil. The fort is surrounded by rich forest cover. Tourist can observe the Konkan landscape, Goa lights at night and beautiful sunset. The Tilar river valley towards the south of the fort is visible (Landscape 3.6).

The Jotiba hill is also important one. It is in Panhala tahsil. It has small butte, from which one can observe Kolhapur city, Pavangarh, Panhalgarh and Warana Complex. The Panchganga and Warana rivers are seen from hill top. The agriculture pattern of Panchganga and Warana river basins is seen very colourful in Kharif season (Landscape 3.7).

Bahubali or Kumbhojgiri is also a hill station in the region. The tourists can observe the landscape of the Alte hill ranges and Deccan plateau towards north, east and south (Landscape 3.8).

Besides, these hill stations, Pavangarh, Gandharrgarh, Shivgarh, Mahipatgarh, Kalanandigarh, Ranganagarh, Manohargarh are the important forts which can be developed as local tourist centres.

#### 3.4.2 Water Bodies :

Water areas are also important scenic places. Rivers, lakes, waterfalls, geysers and seas are important water bodies. The rivers like Krishna, Panchganga, Warana, Dudhganga, Vedganga, Hiranyakeshi, Gattaprabha, Tamraparni and Tilar are few attractive water bodies in Kolhapur district (Map 3.4).

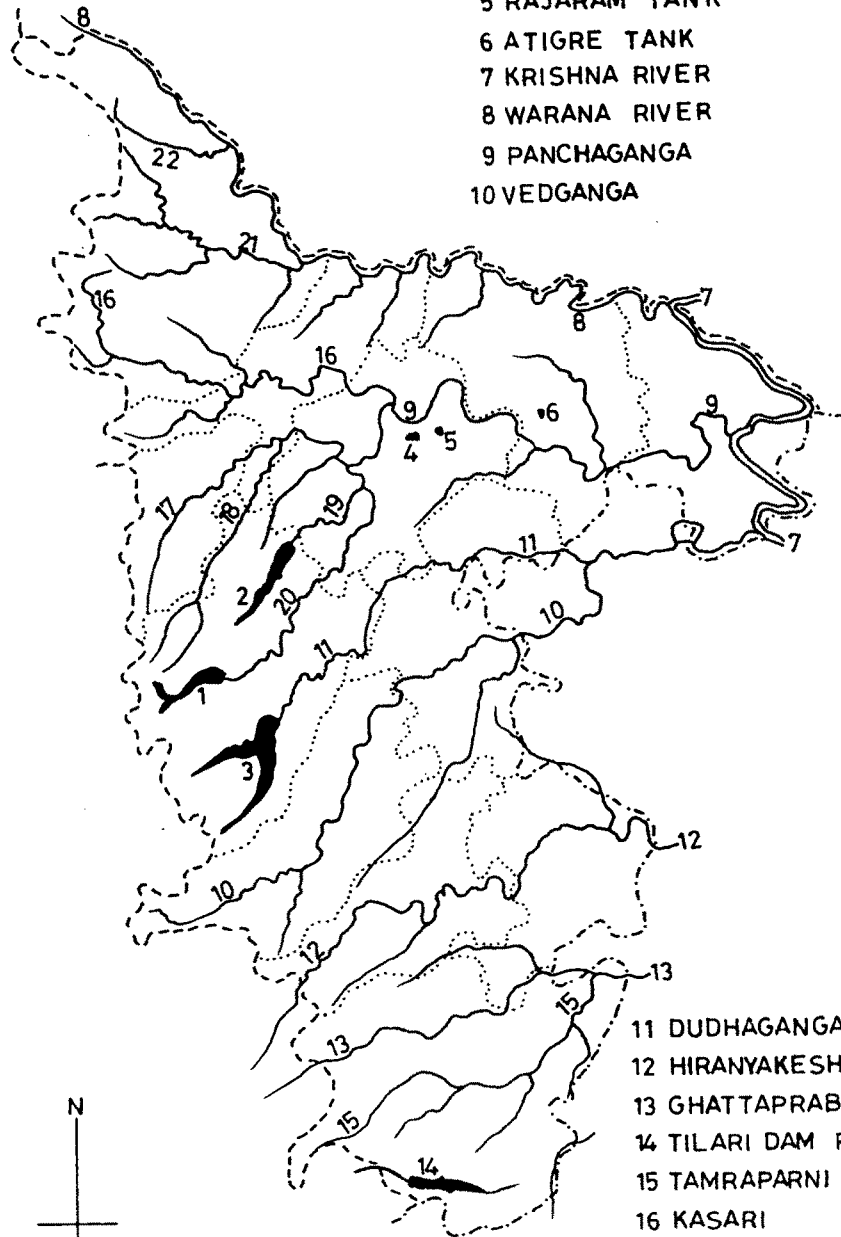
# KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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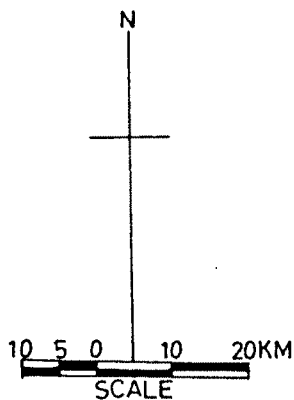
## WATER BODIES

### I N D E X

- 1 RADHANAGAR DAM RESERVOIR
- 2 TULASI DAM RESERVOIR
- 3 KALAMWADI DAM RESERVOIR
- 4 RANKALA TANK
- 5 RAJARAM TANK
- 6 ATIGRE TANK
- 7 KRISHNA RIVER
- 8 WARANA RIVER
- 9 PANCHAGANGA
- 10 VEDGANGA



- 11 DUDHAGANGA
- 12 HIRANYAKESHI
- 13 GHATTAPRABHA
- 14 TILARI DAM RESERVOIR
- 15 TAMRAPARNI
- 16 KASARI
- 17 KUMBHI
- 18 DHAMANI
- 19 TULASI
- 20 BHOGAWATI
- 21 KADAVI
- 22 KANASA



The confluence of the Krishna and Panchganga rivers near the Nrisinhwadi is an attraction to the tourists. Khidrapur is surrounded by Krishna river from three sides. In rainy season Khidrapur becomes an Island.

During the rainy season green fields of Panchganga and Warana river basins are main attraction of the tourists. Local people visit Panhala fort and Jotiba hill when severe rainfall occurs for three continuous days. The water, everywhere in grainary land, a fantastic view, gives great pleasure to the people. "Machindri" at the Shivaji bridge over Panchganga in north-west of Kolhapur is the main attraction to the children as well as to the old people. Machindri, the Panchganga water flows over the Shivaji bridge, and penetrates in the north-west part of the Kolhapur city. This scene of the Panchganga river from the picnic point gives unlimited pleasure to the people. Such a beauty of Panchganga is awaiting every year by the people of Kolhapur and the surrounding villages of Kolhapur.

Dams and tanks of the Kolhapur district are important scenic places. The Radhanagari dam is on the Bhogawati river. The dam site is very beautiful. The different types of birds and animals are seen in the periphery of Radhanagari dam. Besides this, Tulsi dam, Kalamwadi dam, Tilari dam, etc. are important.

There are lakes in the Kolhapur district like Rankala, Rajaram, Kalamba, Atigre, etc. The Rankala lake in Kolhapur city is a main attraction of the people. The western side of the tank is occupied by beautiful garden where tourists can enjoy beauty of Rankala, especially in the evening.

### 3.4.3 Vegetative Cover :

The western part of Kolhapur district has considerable forest cover. On the crestline of Sahyadri and surrounding areas of the forts have attractive vegetative cover. The vegetative cover near the Vishalgarh, Radhanagari dam, Kalamwadi dam, Bhudargarh, Ajara and Chandgad tahsils are very significant where we can meet the wild animals.

The Dajipur Abhayaranya is a main attraction of the tourists, in Radhanagari tahsil. The forest is very beautiful for wandering and observing the nature's beauty and scenery. The 'Manora' (Tower) place is very good for observing the forest. The forest cover of this place gives the pleasure to the tourists. Dajipur Abhayaranya is extended in 1985. Now it is known as 'Radhanagari Abhayaranya'. Total area of the Radhanagari Abhayaranya is 351.16 sq.kms. which includes about 29 villages, under catchment area of Radhanagari dam and Kalamwadi dam. Radhanagari Abhayaranya is rich for vegetative cover. Tourists can see the various types of trees and enjoy the green scenery of the forest.

Bhudargarh, Pargarh and Ranganagarh forts have also good vegetative cover.

### 3.5 CLIMATE :

Climate is an important ingredient of tourism. A favourable climate is a decessive factor of the tourism. Good weather is very important ingredient in holidaying. In tropical climate the cool upland areas develop as "hill station resorts". The fine exhilarating climate supports tourist areas.

The nature has given gift of climate, especially to the western Kolhapur district. The climate of Kolhapur district is mild and temperate. The range of temperature is comparatively small. In the hilly west, with large forest areas and heavy rainfall, the weather of Kolhapur district is always humid during the rainy season and cool in summer. The hill traps temper the hot winds prevalent in April, May and June, and maintain a pleasant climate. This pleasant climate attracts the tourist in all seasons. There is no extremity of climate. All seasons are favourable for tourism in Kolhapur district.

The region has a pleasant climate throughout the year. The places in Kolhapur district, like Panhalgarh, Jotiba hill, Bhudargarh, Gagangarh, Vishalgarh etc. provide healthy climate throughout the year.

### 3.6 ANIMAL LIFE :

The animal life is one of the attractions of the tourists. The wildlife gives great pleasure to the tourists. The proximity of Sahyadri ranges to the Kolhapur district is favourable for the wildlife. Especially, in the forest of hilly region the wildlife is seen.

The main place of attraction of the wildlife in Kolhapur district is 'Radhanagari Abhayaranya'. Formerly, it is known as 'Dajipur Abhayaranya'. The Pata's Dang, Surangi, Rametha, Kaya Dang, Wakighol etc. are the places in Radhanagari Abhayaranya, which are famous for wildlife. The tourists can see the wildlife

in the jungle. The forest is mostly famous for 'Gava' (Bison). The other important animals, the Tiger, Panther, Sambar, Boar, Fox, Wolf, Bear, Monkey, etc. are seen easily here. Similarly, various types of birds are found in this Abhayaranya.

The forest near the Vishalgarh fort has much of the animal life. The 'tiger-spring' region is famous for Tigers and many other wild animals.

The western parts of the Ajara, Chandgad and Bhudargad tahsils have dense forest cover. The tourists can see the Bisons, Bears, Monkeys, Boars, Foxes etc. The Bears are found in large number in this forest area.

### 3.7 SETTLEMENTS :

The Kolhapur district has a historical, religious and industrial settlements.

#### 3.7.1 Historical Settlements :

The Kolhapur district has historical importance. The Panhalgarh was a second capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Panhalgarh fort is a historical settlement. The tourist can see the historical monuments and buildings here. The famous historical monuments are Teen Darwaja, Wagh Darwaja, Char Darwaja, Sajja Kothi, Ambarkhana, Dharmakothi, Sambhaji temple, Ambabai temple and statue of Baji Prabhu. The settlement is covered by mortar wall. It has many 'Buruj' (Tower) like 'Doulat Buruj', 'Dutondi Buruj', 'Kali Buruj' etc. These are attraction points on Panhalgarh.



Vishalgarh is also historical settlement. It has also religious importance. Tourists can see the Mirasaheb Dargah, Ram temple, Vitthal temple, Ardha Chandra well and mortar stone wall to the west.

Gagan Bavada (Gagangarh) is a crestline settlement. On the top of the Gagangarh fort, tourists can see the Gainisaheb Dargah, Datta temple, Gagangiri Maharaj temple, Mahadeo temple and ruins of old palace.

Bhudargarh fort has Bhairavnath temple, Mahadeo temple and mortar wall for protection surrounded the fort, are the main attractions of the tourist.

Samangarh fort has, Bhimsasgiri (Maruti) temple, an old cave, ruins of buildings and mortar wall surrounding the fort. These are main attractions of the tourists.

### 3.7.2 Religious Settlements :

There are many religious settlements in Kolhapur district. The some religious settlements referred from ancient times i.e. Karvir, Jotiba etc.

Kolhapur (Karvir) is a riverside (Panchganga) urban settlement. It is largest urban settlement in the Kolhapur district. The settlement has remarkable historical monuments. Tourists can see the historical buildings like Old Palace, New Palace, Shalini Palace, Mahalaxmi temple, Binkhambi Ganesh temple etc. In addition, Rankala Choupati and Shivaji University are the attractions to the tourists.

Nrisinhwadi is a riverside settlement. There is a Datta temple, which is the main attraction to the tourists. Bahubali, the hill top and hill foot settlement. It is known for the statue of Bahubali and Jain temples. Tourists can see the historical architecture in Khidrapur. Jotiba (Wadi Ratnagiri) is famous for its Kedarnath temple, Yamai temple. Kanerimath is a place on a hillock. The Kadsiddheshwar temple and surrounding area is an attraction to the tourists.

Alte is well known for its temple complex. Tourists can see the Ramling (Shiva) temple, Allam Prabhu temple, Dhuleshwar temple, Ramzan Dargah and Renuka temple. In near future a regional park is going to be set up here which will enhance the attraction of the place.

### 3.7.3 Industrial Growth Centre :

The Warananagar is an industrial growth centre in the Kolhapur district. It is an emerging growth centre. Tourists can see the Warana Sugar Mill, Warana Shetkari Bhavan (Model of 'Sansad Bhavan), Warana Poultry, Warana Dairy, Warana Paper Mill, Warana Bank and Warana Colleges. It is a unique example of complex.

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