

CHAPTER - II

EVOLUTION OF CITIES IN MAHARASHTRA

The evolution and growth of settlements is the process governed by various socio-economic and political factors. Accelerated growth of urbanisation and diffusion of urban centres is one of the most conspicuous characteristic feature of the 20th Century, modern world. The systems of settlements are continuously under the process of evolution. In order to understand the present set up of cities in Maharashtra, it is essential to take an historical review of the socio-economic and political conditions prevailing in the past in which various cities have evolved. In this chapter, an attempt had been made to trace the evolution of cities, influenced by various factors at different periods of history. (Harriß and Ullaman 1945). h_{dw} ?

FACTORS OF URBAN GROWTH :

There are various factors responsible for the origin and growth of urban centres. Physical factors play an important role in developing and shaping of urban places. Social and economic factors also play an important role in the growth of urban places. The system of urban places in any particular area, evolves through various conditions of the area during a specific period.

Physical factors such as site, situation and location, environmental conditions, provision of water bodies and climate play an important role in the development of urban centres. (Smalls 1970)

Social and economic conditions which are also responsible for the growth of urbanization are related to technological change and economic organization of area. Social conditions which include tradition, customs, religions and political ideas also influence the growth and development of religious cultural and administrative cities. With changing political situation; the importance of urban centres also changes, it gives rise to several administrative and defence centres.

Localization of resources is another important factor which develops the urban centres. Resourceful areas attract more population and urban agglomerations are developed in such areas. (Deshmukh 1979).

In brief, we may say that physical factors develop health, resorts, recreation centres, collection centres and defence centre. The economic factors develop market centres, ports, transport cities, commercial centres and service centres. Such commercial centres are the places through which goods, people and commodities are exchanged. Social and cultural factors develop religious, cultural, art, administrative and educational centres. Localization of resources develop mining, manufacturing and industrial centres. These cities are the product of technological development and exploitation of economic resources.

The present work is an attempt to study the evolution and growth of cities of Maharashtra which have evolved through

various historical sequences in which social, economic and political conditions were different. According to 1981 census there are 25 Class I cities in Maharashtra. In the present study a review of their entire development has been taken individually.

EVOLUTION OF CITIES IN MAHARASHTRA

AMRAVATI :

The city of Amravati is one of the ancient urban centre of Maharashtra. In ancient period it was very important religious centre, where a temple of 'Ambadevi' which in existence during period of 'Mahabharat'. It is told that the daughter 'Rukhmi Raja ' of Vidarbha was kidnapped by 'Lord Krishna ' from this temple. City was the small place up to 18th century; where the dominance of Audumber trees was very much. Because of this fact the city is called "Umbaravati". In the real sense this urban place began to develop in 18th century. The old city consist of Tarkheda, Gambhirpur and Mahajanpur Settlement (Altekar 1934). In 18th century the city was under rule of Nizam. In 1804 he constructed a wall around city having five doors. City was a capital of Berar in 18th century. Due to its central location it was very important rural service centre of the area. The rich agricultural lands have given rise to various agro-based industries in the city. In the 19th century railway was constructed and city was well connected to Bombay

and Calcutta. From very ancient period this city has acted as a centre of religious, economic social and political activities of Vidarbha. In 1911 city was brought under the rule of British. The headquarter of Vidarbha Commissioner was established in Amravati. Since then the growth of urban population began to increase. At present Amravati is an important commercial and service centre of the area where various cultural and social activities have developed. It is a leading cotton collection and processing centre of Maharashtra. It was classified as a Class I town in 1961. At present the city has developed rapidly. The ancient city was inside the wall but today nearly 70% of the cities development is found to be outside the wall limit. The city has developed all along the highway towards Nagpur and all along the railway line towards Badnera. In 1983 Amravati has been declared as a Corporation city including a town-ship of Badnera into its limits. The figure no. 2.1 shows the growth of city in different historical periods. (Joshi 1976).

AKOLA :

Another important city of Vidarbha, Akola lies on the bank of Morana river. The old town is situated on western bank of Morana. According to historical records the city was developed during the Muslim period. It is said that the city was established by ' Akolsing ' a Rajput sardar. During the 12th century, it mentioned in Ain-E-Akbari that Akola

MAHARASHTRA

EVOLUTION OF CITIES

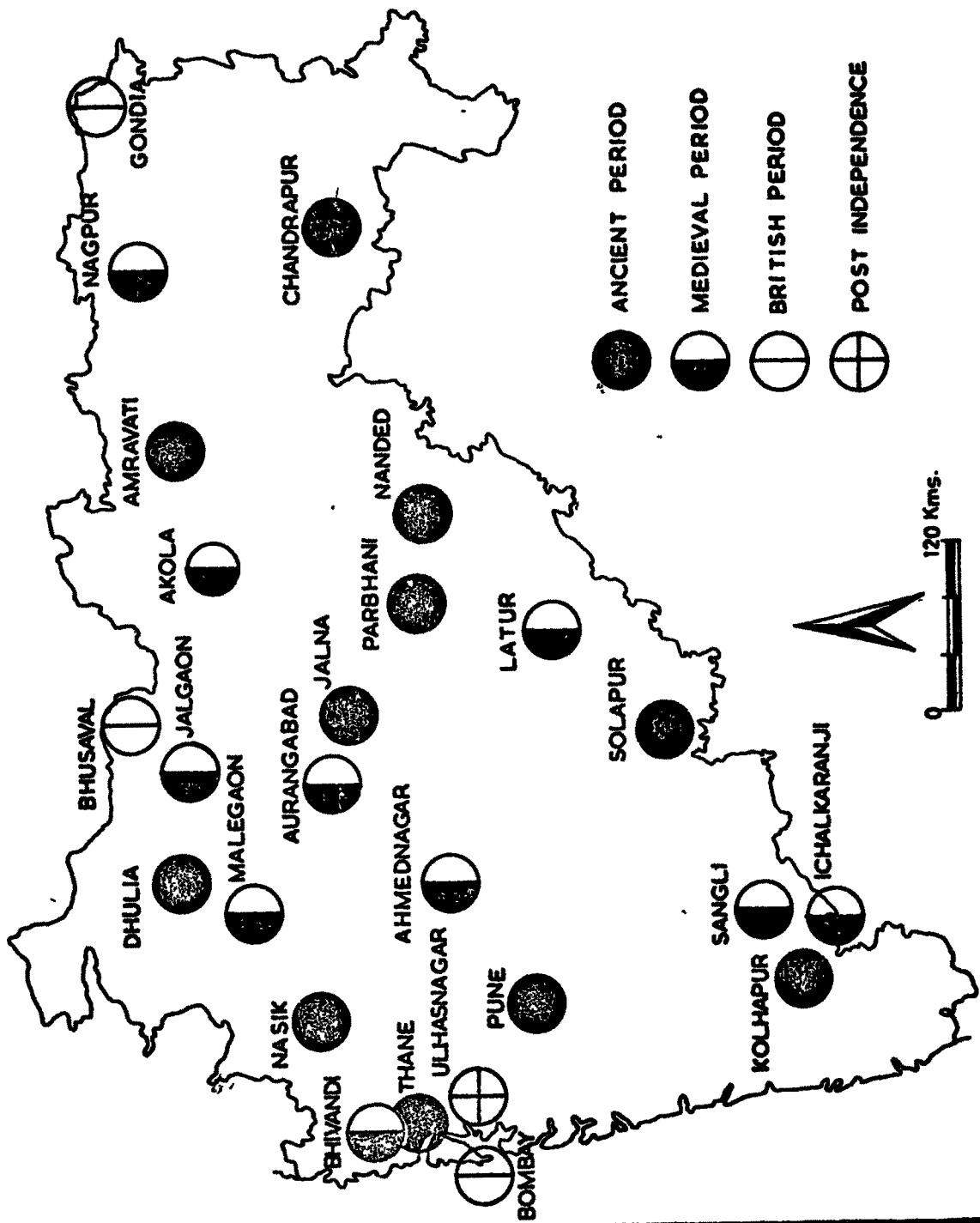


Fig 2-1

was a capital of Narnal Pargana. In 1853, British captured this city from Nizam. In 1868, Municipality was established. During the Moghal period in 1116, a fort was built near the city (Kamlapur 1961). It was destroyed in 1870. Akola is an important commercial centre located on Bombay - Calcutta rail route. It is well connected by roads to various important cities of Maharashtra. It is railway junction where Khandwa - Hingoli and Bombay - Calcutta rail lines are connected. The town is located in rich agricultural area and has developed as important commercial centre of Vidarbha. Presently there are two textile mills, several cotton processing factories and one important oil industry in Akola. It also includes several small scale industries. In 1969, Agricultural University has been established in Akola. Today the city is an important commercial and cultural centre of Vidarbha. Akola is classified as Class I city in 1961 (Gune V.T. 1962).

NAGPUR :

A primate city of Vidarbha, capital of old Madhya Pradesh and second capital of Maharashtra. City of Nagpur was established in 18th century by Bakht Bulland, a Gond Raja. It is located on the ' Nag ' river. The entire city was destroyed by Pendhari at the end of 18th century. During the Peshva regime, it was ruled by ' Raghuji Bhosala ! In 1818, after the fall of Peshava; British captured the city

and in 1861, it was made a capital of Madhya Pradesh. In 1960 Vidharbha was merged in to Maharashtra and Nagpur is designated as second capital of Maharashtra. Being a central location Nagpur has become an important centre of railway, road, airways and telecommunication. British government has encouraged the growth of several industries at Nagpur. Central location and rich agricultural infra-structure has developed Nagpur as an important commercial, industrial and administrative centre. University was established in 1923. Development of Khaperkheda and karadi thermal power stations have also encouraged the industrial growth of city. The old city of Nagpur lies on the eastern side of railway line. New city has developed on the western side. At present there are five textile mills and 9000 power looms in the city. It is an important orange distribution centre. Several defence establishments are located in city. The city has two medical colleges, two engineering colleges and several educational institutes. It is observed that city of Nagpur is classified as Class I city since 1901 (Dixit 1970).

CHANDRAPUR :

It is one of ancient city of Vidarbha. The historical record show that during 4th to 12th century it was a capital of Vakatak Kings. In 18th century, The Gond Raja at 'Ahairi' has established his rule . In 1751 it was captured by Marathas. During the 12th century wall was constructed around the city. It is located on Nagpur-Madras railway line 118 km. away from

Wardha. The city is well connected by roads to other towns of the area. The old capital of Vakataka Kings, " Bhadravati " (Bhandak) is located near Chandrapur. Previously the city was called as " Chanda ". During the British period several mining towns were established around Chandrapur. After independence several industries have been established in Chandrapur. The city is located in the area where coal, iron, or maganese, sand and severl other minerals are found. The city is an important timber collection centre and a place of tourist interest. Two important forest sanctuaries are located near Chandrapur. In the recent years Asia's biggest thermal power station has been established near the city. Considering all these facts one may conclude that; Chandrapur once flourishing town of the area has a very bright-future. It is classified as Class I town according to 1981 census. (Joshi 1976).

GONDIA :

The city of Gondia located in Bhandara district is recently classified as Class I town. It is on the Bombay - Calcutta rail line. It is also connected to Jabalpur and Chandrapur by narrow gauge railway line. It is an important trade centre developed during British period where the trade of rice, tobacco, timber and tendu patti is transacted. There are several 'bidi' manufacturing and rice cleaning industries. Gondia is an important rural service centre and commercial centre of Vidarbha (District Gazetteer of Maharashtra, 1960).

AURANGABAD :

The city of Aurangabad a district headquarter and capital of Marathwada division is located on the river ' Kham & tributary of the river ' Godavari ! The city was established in 1604 A.D. by Malik Ambar. He defeated Moghals at this place which was known as " Khadaki ". Then Aurangajeb recaptured it and named it as Aurangabad. When it was again captured by Nizam it has become an important cultural centre of Marathwada. To the surround area of the city there are several caves which shows great resemblance to the carvings of Ajantha and Ellora caves. During Muslim period, the city was important art and trade centre where the manufacturing of silk and metal wares was a traditional activity of the people. The "Himru" work of Aurangabad is very famous. It is a university town with several educational institutes. In the british period it has become an important tourist centre. In the recent years a new industrial township has been established by ' CIDCO ' as a part of Aurangabad city. The town is well connected to all important cities of Maharashtra by rail, road and airways. In 1971 it is classified as Class I town of Maharashtra. (Gupta 1973) (Joshi 1976).

JALNA :

City is located on the right bank of the river Kundalika. It is one of the ancient town of Maharashtra and the mention of city is found in many Indian epics. During the muslim rule

it was one of the important city of Marathwada. In 1725, a fort was built at Jalna. The city was completely looted in 1679 by Shivaji and in 1700 by Rajaram. Jalna was an important military centre of Nizam during 1827 to 1903. At present city is an important trade centre of the area of the area. It is classified as Class I town in 1981. (Gupta 1983).

NANDED :

Second important town of Marathwada Nanded, is classified as Class I town in 1971. It is one of the ancient town of the area and historical data gives the references of this town during the period of Mahabharata. It is recorded that the king ' Nand ' was ruling this area during 4th and 5th century hence the town was called " Nandtar " and at present it is called Nanded. The city was ruled by ' Andhrabhrutya " Satavahana, Chalukya, Rashtrakut, Kakatiya and Yadav rulers. During the Bahamani period city was destroyed by Moghals in 1725. It was ruled by Nizam of Hyderabad. Nanded is located on meter gauge railway line and connected to Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of Maharashtra. During the ancient times it was an important cultural centre and place of sanskrit literature. In muslim rule the 10th guru of sikhs, the Guru Govindsingh was murdered at this place. Sikhs have built a Gurudwara at Nanded. From this time the city has become very famous as an important religious place of sikh religion. The city shows mixed cultural traits of

Hindu, Muslim and sikh religion. It is an important textile centre of Marathwada. It was classified as Class I town in 1971. It is a district headquarter and important trade centre of Marathwada. (Karve, Jogalekar and Joshi 1954)

PARBHANI :

A district headquarter and an important town of Marathwada is a religious centre. The ancient temple of " Prabhavati " which was built in 7th century has given rise to the development of this city. The city is located on the confluence of Dudhna and Purna rivers. At present city is an important educational centre and the market centre of the area. Municipality was established in 1943. The city began to grow since independence. Before that it was a small place. It was classified as class I city in 1981. (Joshi 1980)

LATUR :

Latur is an important agricultural centre where marketing of agricultural commodities takes place from the muslim period. The place is well connected to other towns of Marathwada and developed as an important place as a service centre of Marathwada. It is classified as a Class I town in 1981.

KOLHAPUR :

One of the ancient town of Western Maharashtra, Kolhapur is located on the river Panchganga. It is a district headquarter and well connected by rail and road routes to southern

and northern parts of India. The historical records shows that the city was ruled by Satvahan, Kadamb, Chalukya, Rashtrakut, Shilahar, Bahamani rules in the ancient and medieval periods. The place has a great religious importance and known as " Southern Kashi ". The records show that during the first and second century it was a flourishing town of the area. During 9th century, it was destroyed by earth-quake. The old city includes Brahmapuri, Uttareashwar, Khol Khandoba, Rankala Padmala and Ravaneshwar Villages. At the centre of all these villages " Mahalaxmi " temple was constructed in the 9th century (Bhandarkar 1928). During the 10th and 12th century the city was ruled by Shilahars. After 1730 Maratha rule was establish and second Maratha capital was established at Kolhapur. During the Maratha and British period city has developed as a cultural and trade centre of the area. The industrial development of city took place during and after the British rule. Today it is an important cultural and commercial centre of South Maharashtra. It was classified as Class I town in 1951 (District gazetteers of Maharashtra 1960, Gupta 1973, Gune 1962).

SOLAPUR :

The ancient history of Solapur dates back to the 20th century. Solapur was a small village during the Satavahan, early Rashtrakutas and Chalukyas regimes. Solapur began to flourish during the 11th and 12th centuries as an important religious centre. During 1318 A.D. Alauddin Khilji opened

the way to the south but upto 1818 Solapur could not gain any importance expecting the religious importance. The fort of Solapur as built by Adilshahi Sultans of Bijapur. It was built by Ali-Adilshah I in 1578. After that Solapur became an important military centre. From 1430 to 1870, it witnessed several battles of five Bahamani off-shoots. In 1694, Rajaram captured the fort of Solapur. But in 1724 Nizam recaptured and donated it to Mughal empire. In 1758, the fort was handed over to Peshwa for Rs. 25,000. British captured this fort in 1880 and Solapur was included in Poona Collectorate. The municipality was established in August 1852. The area of the town was about eight sq. miles with a population of 54,744 persons and 8,791 houses in 1883. In 1925, electricity was introduced to the city. The development of the roads in Solapur started in 1933. The real growth of population in Solapur started after 1948. The Razakar regime in Hyderabad drove several refugees out of the state and many of them took shelter in Solapur.

Apart from its importance as religious centre, it also started developing trade and commerce from the very old times. Solapur city is situated on historical routes. It is well connected with the important urban centres of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Its location between Pune and Hyderabad metropolitan cities has made it an important urban centre. When South-east branch of Great Indian Peninsula (G.I.P.) Railway was established in 1889. Solapur became an

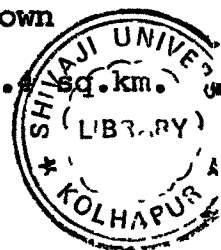
important commercial centre and its commercial zone of influence was extended upto Gulbarga, Bijapur, Barsi, Latur Nanded and Jalna areas.

With the growth and development of cotton, production of dyes became an important activity of Solapur city. Today it is an important textile centre of South Maharashtra. The handloom industry in the city was established in 1820. The first weaving and spinning mill was started in 1877.

Apart from its religious and industrial importance, Solapur has become an important cultural centre of South Maharashtra. In 1853, the first high school was established in Solapur. The municipal authorities have given careful attention to the progress of education in the town. It was classified as a Class I city in 1921. (Kamalapur J.M. 1961).

SANGLI :

Sangli, a prospering urban centre of Southern Maharashtra, is located on the bank of river Krishnai at the height of 545 meters. The city has a considerable historical significance which also has a reflection on the present urbanization of the town. The origin of this town is due to political events in the historic time, on 10th of June 1764 this small Sangli village was given to Govind Hari Patwardhan by Madhavrao Peshwa I to maintain 8000 horsemen. During that period the area of present city was hardly 1.5 sq.km. In 1807 new Sangli town was established by Patwardhan family having an area of 2.4 sq.km.



and population of 4070 persons. In 1808 Ganesh Durg a strong fort was constructed by Patwardhan family. The city began to spread all around the fort in 1931 the first printing press was opened, first dispensary was established in 1855, in 1844 Ganesh temple was constructed on the bank of river Krishna. The first Marathi and English medium schools were started in 1864. In the year 1875-76 municipal council was founded. During the span of nearly seventy years the city was developed in respect of several facilities and it has also increased its area from 2.4 sq.km. to 12.8 sq.km. and the population from 4070 to 14798 persons.

From 1905 to 1929 under the able administration of Richard C. Bruck and others, the city was developed in various respects. In 1907 state railway has connected Sangli to Miraj Junction, it considerably influenced the growth and development of city. In 1913 water work was completed. In 1922 Irwin Bridge was constructed on the river Krishna, it increased the accessibility of the city. During the same period first weaving mill was set up in Sangli. The first college was opened in 1917. Upto this time city has developed several industries and was well connected to surrounding areas. From 1920 to 1951 several developments took place in Sangli city. In 1937, electric power was made available, it has helped further in the development of several new industries. In 1947 accession of Sangli state has brought the city out of the influence of local ruler.

Sangli commands a very important position in the social and economic development of the region. It is an important trade and commercial centre of South Maharashtra the city commands such an important position, that it has given rise to the growth and development of towns, namely - Madhavnagar, Jaysingpur and Miraj these three towns are well connected to Sangli city by local transport service and they play very important role in the growth and development of Sangli city. It is classified as Class I city in 1971. (Deshmukh and Kulkarni 1978).

PUNE :

Pune, the important urban centre of Maharashtra is a district and divisional head quarter of administration. It is well connected by rail, road and air routes to all parts of India. It is one of the ancient city of Maharashtra located on the confluence of the Mula and the Mutha rivers. Historical events indicates the development of civilization and existance of town for the last three thousand years. According to the records of Rashtrakuta the town was known as " Punya ", " Punak " or " Punakvishaya ". During the 10th century it was an important cultural centre of the area. After the defeat of ' Yadavas ' it was under the Bahamani rule till 1490. Then under the rule of Nizam till 1636. In 1624, Poona was given to Shahaji Bhosala. In 1632 Vijapur Dynasty destroyed the city. The city began to flourish and developed after the firm establishment of

maratha rule. It was a capital of Maratha rule during the Peshawa period. In 1856 it was connected to Bombay by railway. In 1886, it was connected to Miraj by railway. British knowing the importance of the place have also developed various activities in Pune. Since independence the old face of Poona city as a centre of culture and administration began to change and during the last thirty years growth of industrial activity in and around Pune made it an industrial city of Maharashtra. Since independence various national institutes and cultural organisation have been developed in the city in which Indian Metereological Department, National explosive, National defence academy, central water and power research centre and Poona University are some of the very important institutes established in Poona. (Gune 1962, Joshi 1980). It is classified as Class I city since 1901.

AHMEDNAGAR :

Ahmednagar is district administrative head quarter, located on northern bank of Sena river. The city was established by 'Ahmedshah' in 1494. The city is named after him. The city developed during the Nizam rule of 150 years. In 1759 city was captured by Maratha rulers and in 1843 it was captured by British and established an army head quarter. The city has a historical fort built by Chandbibbi. During the British period fort was used as army headquarter (K^malapur - 1961). The city is well connected to parts of Maharashtra. It is an important trade centre of the area. After independence,

the strategic importance of Ahmednagar was given due importance and defence testing unit has been established at the place. It is classified as Class I city in 1961. (Bhandarkar 1928).

ICHALKARANJI :

An important industrial town of South Maharashtra, Inchalkaranji is 23 kms. away from the city of Kolhapur. The town has developed during the Peshawa regime but the real growth of the town as a industrial centre started in the British period. Today it is called ' Manchester ' of South Maharashtra. During the peshawa rule it was a capital of small state. Since independence the town has developed several manufacturing and household industries. It has nearly 35000 power looms. Recently 3 spinning mills have been established in the city. Ichalkaranji become Class I city in 1981.

NASIK :

Nasik is an ancient town of Maharashtra. The reference of the city is found in the inscription of 200 B.C. The name Nasik is also mentioned in the Mythological stories of Ramayana. According to ancient stories the name of Nasik is related to its location in the nine hills. Hence it was called " Nav Shikh ". Today it is known as Nasik. It is located on both banks of the river ' Godavari '. In spite of its mention in the ancient records the city of Nasik has

really developed since 1874. It is well connected by road and rail to the city of Bombay and other parts of Maharashtra. During the British period " Police Training School " and " Security Press " were established in Nasik. Since independence Nasik and Nasik Road area were occupied by several industrial establishments.

Nasik is an important religious centre of India, often called as " Western Kashi ". During the 6th century Yadavas were living in this city. It was under the influence of Yadavas till 14th century. Then it was captured by Bahamani sultans. In 17th century it was under the rule of Moghals. Maratha captured Nasik in 1747 and constructed several temples along the bank of river. The place named " Panchavati " is a part of Nasik. To day it an important industrial centre of Maharashtra. Nasik is classified as Class I city in 1961. (Joshi 1979, Karve, Jogalekar, Joshi 1954).

DHULIA :

The historical documents clearly indicate that Dhulia was an important settlement during the ancient period. It was ruled by Chalukya, Yadavas and Khiljis and several muslim rulers. Raja Malik Karaqi has develop the town in 1540. During 1803 Dhulia was deserted due to drought conditions. But in 1810, " Balaji Balawant " has again established this city. In 1819 british resident captain Brigges knew the importance of the place made it district head quarter and

develop trade and commerce. Municipality was established in 1862. Today it is administrative headquarter and commercial centre of " Khandesh region ". The city is classified as Class I town in 1971. (Dixit 1970).

JALGAON :

Jalgaon, an important cultural, commercial and transport centre of western Maharashtra is located on Bombay - Calcutta railway line. It's geographical situation locates it in Girana - Tapi Doab. The city was developed during the Maratha period. When British captured it since then it began to flourish. During the British period four textile mills and several cotton processing factories were established in Jalgaon. It is an important rural service centre and acts as a supply point to Greater Bombay. Recently it is ~~reclassified~~ classified as Class I city.

BHUSAVAL :

Bhusaval an important transport centre of Maharashtra has developed as an urban centre during the British rule. It is a important railway junction connecting north - south and east-west rail routes. Due to its nodal location Bhusaval has developed as transport centre. Recently it is developing trade and commerce function. Nearly 33% population is engaged in transport activity. Bhusaval is classified as Class I city in 1981.

THANE :

Thane is one of the ancient town of Maharashtra. During the 13th century it was a capital of Yadavas. It is located on the creek of Ulhas river and was an important port up to 16th century. During the 15th century it was ruled by Shill and Bimb dynasty. It was used as an army base. That must be a reason to call it Thane. In 1532, it was captured by a Portuguese and constructed an underground fort. The fort was captured by British in 1774. (Kamlapur 1961) During the Maratha period of history it was a capital of western part of the empire and was used as army base. The first railway line of India was constructed between Bombay and Thane in 1853.

Thane city began to develop as an important administrative head quarter and industrial city from the British period. The real growth of city industrial complex began after independence. Today in Thane district several small industrial towns have developed around Thane city and a travel from Bombay to Thane clearly indicates that it has become a part of Greater Bombay urban complex. It is classified as Class I town in 1961.

(Dixit 1970).

ULHASNAGAR :

The city of Ulhasnagar is the product of post independence political situation. During the British period Ulhasnagar was the army base camp. After independence several migrants from Sindh were rehabited in Ulhasnagar camp. The locational advantages of the place, its accessibility to Bombay and Pune;

and hard working and industrious nature of Sindhi community has developed this town ship in to a large industrial complex. At present it is an important industrial and commercial city of Western Maharashtra. It is classified as a Class I city in 1961.

MALEGAON :

An important cotton textile centre of Maharashtra, was ruled by Muslims during the 15th and 16th century. That time also it was known as important textile centre of the area. Muslim kings have given encouragement to the development of textile manufacturing. It is a place where very high percentage of muslim population is found. During the Peshwa period Malegaon was given to " Naro Shankar Raje Bahadur ". At present Malegaon has more than 40,000 power looms and 15,000 handlooms. A fort of Malegaon was constructed in 1536. It is a taluka head quarter and located on Bombay - Agra national highway . It is classified as Class I town in 1961. (Bhandarkar 1928).

BHIVANDI :

Bhivandi, taluka headquarter of Thane district, was very important trade centre during the muslim period. The Subedar of Kalyan has developed Bhivandi as an important trade and textile centre. In old days most of communication between Thane and other places was through Bhivandi. During the British period powerloom industry has developed in Bhivandi. At present it is an important industrial complex and it

is almost connected to Greater Bombay Metropolitan area.

It is classified as Class I city in 1981.

BOMBAY :

Bombay is not only the capital city of Maharashtra, it is a primate city also. It is ranked first in Maharashtra, Second in India and fifth in World. Bombay is ~~principal~~ a natural sea-port, of Western India, situated on the mouth of river Ulhas. The exact geographical location of Bombay is latitude $18^{\circ}55'$ N and longitude $72^{\circ}54'$ East.

From 1670 B.C. to up to 17th century Bombay was a group composed of seven islands, They are from the north - as Bandra, Mahim, Parel, Warli, Mazagaon, Castle, Old Women's island and Kolaba. These islands remained unaltered in shape until the eighteenth century.

Bombay is 1184 km. to S.W. from Delhi and 1632 km. to west from Calcutta. The area covered by Bombay is 438 sq.km.

Historically Bombay is an ancient city and was inhabited by the aboriginal Koli-fisherman tribe. The name of 'Mumbai' (Bombay) is related to the ' Goddess Mumbadevi ', the patron diety of Koli - fisherman. Still there is a shrine of Goddess Mumbadevi to the South of Dongri.

The historical documents clearly indicate that Bombay was ruled by Shilahay between 810 to 1260. They built the

temple of Walkeshwar and Prabhadevi.

During 1294 to 1534 Bombay was under Muslim sovereignty. The three temples - Mahalakshmi, Mahakali and Mahasarwati - were destroyed during the period of Muhammadan domination.

At the end of 16th century Bombay was captured by Portuguese. But no progress was done in this period.

Bombay was donated to British by Portuguese in 1661, on behalf of the marriage between Charles II, the King of England and Enphanta Catherin, a Portuguese girl.

In 1668, 'East India Company' was established in Bombay and after that the real growth of Bombay as a sea-port was started.

In 1818, after the fall of Peshava rule, British captured the city. British government appointed, Elphinstone and Fryer as a Governor for Bombay. At the same time the permission for trade and commerce was given to all Europeans in India.

The first railway line of 272 km. was constructed to connect Bombay and Thane in 1853.

For the development of sea route trade; the first dock - Sassoon dock - was built in 1875. Then Princes dock (1880) Victoria dock (1888) and Alexandria dock (1914) were built. Construction of railway and docks made Bombay a progressive raw material export sea port.

Bombay is leading commercial and industrial centre not only of Maharashtra but of India also. Variety of factories were established in Bombay. Due to the concentration of cotton industry, Bombay became a " Manchester of India ". At present there are more than 65 cotton mills. Besides that there are two rayon factories, two oil refineries, three automobile industries in Bombay. Ship building, Radio and Transistor, Medicine, Fertilizers, Agro-impliments, Colour and Chemicals factories are established in Bombay.

Being an international sea port Bombay exports 41% , and imports 18% of the India's total import and export. Bombay is second in India as a sea-port. presently a new sea port, Nhava Shiv is under construction to release the heavy pressure on Bombay port.

Bombay is well connected to all the parts of India by rail, roads, airways and telecommunication.

Bombay is important educational centre. University of Bombay was established in 1857. There are so many other institutes like - Hafkin Institute, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Royal Institute of Science, I.I.T., J.J. School of Arts and T.V. Centre. Bombay is well known for Film Industry.

Concluding the salient features of the evolution of cities in Maharashtra one may point out that, out of the 25 cities of Maharashtra 11 cities are of ancient origin.

It is observed that out of these 11 cities Amravati and Chandra pur from Vidarbha; Jalna, Nanded and Parbhani from Marathwada; Kolhapur, Solapur and Pune from Pune Division and Nasik, Dhulia and Thane from Bombay division are classified as ancient cities. During the medieval period 10 cities of Maharashtra have emerged on the landscape. Some of them have grown during the Muslim period, while some have developed due to Maratha rule. Out of these 10 cities Akola and Nagpur are from Vidarbha; Aurangabad and Lature are from Marathwada; remaining six towns are from the Western Maharashtra. They include Sangli, Ahmednagar, Ichalkaranji, Jalgaon, Malegaon and Bhivandi. During the British period three important cities have developed in Maharashtra, of these, Gondia is from Vidarbha, Bhusaval from Khandesh and Bombay from the west coast of Maharashtra. The city of Bombay has its origin during the British period. But its rate of growth was so fast that it has become a primate city of India. During the post independent period all cities have developed at a very high rate and only one city Ulhasnagar has developed during the post independent period.

R E F E R E N C E S

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