

CHAPTER - II

(H)

KOLHAPUR CITY - A GROWTH PROFILE

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- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Location
- 2.3 Historical background of the city
- 2.4 Topography
- 2.5 Climate
- 2.6 Phases of development of Kolhapur
- 2.7 Population growth
- 2.8 Growth of functions and functional areas in Kolhapur city
- References



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2.1 INTRODUCTION :

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 centre. It is a focal point of economic, administrative and social activities of southern part of Maharashtra. The city performs a vast range of functions and specialised services.

2.2 LOCATION :

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 (Fig.2.1).

The city stands on the right bank of the river Panchganga, a tributary of the Krishna.

By rail it is 326 kms to the South of Pune, 48 kms to the southwest of Miraj. By road it is 50 kms from Miraj, 400 kms from Bombay, 612 kms from Bangalore, 240 kms from Poona, 250 kms from Solapur. The western coast line is only 75 kms away from Kolhapur. It is connected by rail and road routes to urban places and market centres of both the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka (Fig.2.2). The city commands such important position that has attracted the attention of geographers, urban planners, economists and sociologists to study this urban complex.

◉ LOCATION MAP ◉

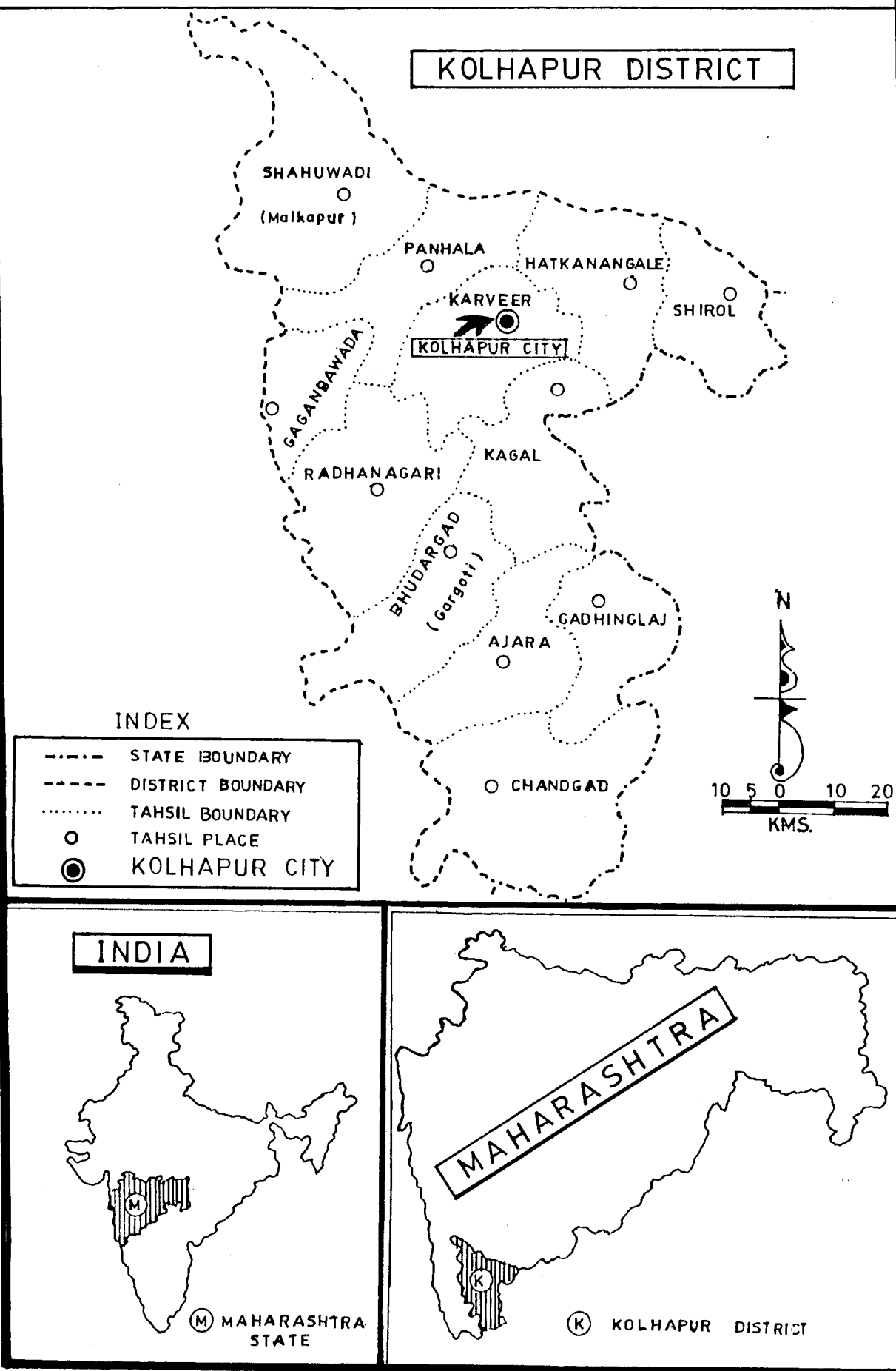


FIG 2.1

The city occupies 66.82 sq.kms area as municipal limit having 405,118 population, according to 1991 census, ranking 8th in the cities of Maharashtra. Presently the city is known as a large market centre and has several divisional headquarters, several wholesaleshops, University and variety of industrial establishments. Kolhapur has been the home of social and cultural movements, artists, writers and wrestlers. It has also been the birth place of Marathi film industry.

2.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CITY :

Kolhapur is a very ancient city having a long historical background. This place was the capital of king Vilvaya-yakura during 150 A.D. It witnessed the rise and fall of several dynasties among which Kadamb, Chalukya, Rastrakuta, Shilaharas, Yadav, Bohamani, 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' (Sanskrit). It was also known as "Kollaksetra" or "Karaveerapur" or "Karaveerapattan" or "Kollagiri" or "Kolhapur". 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.

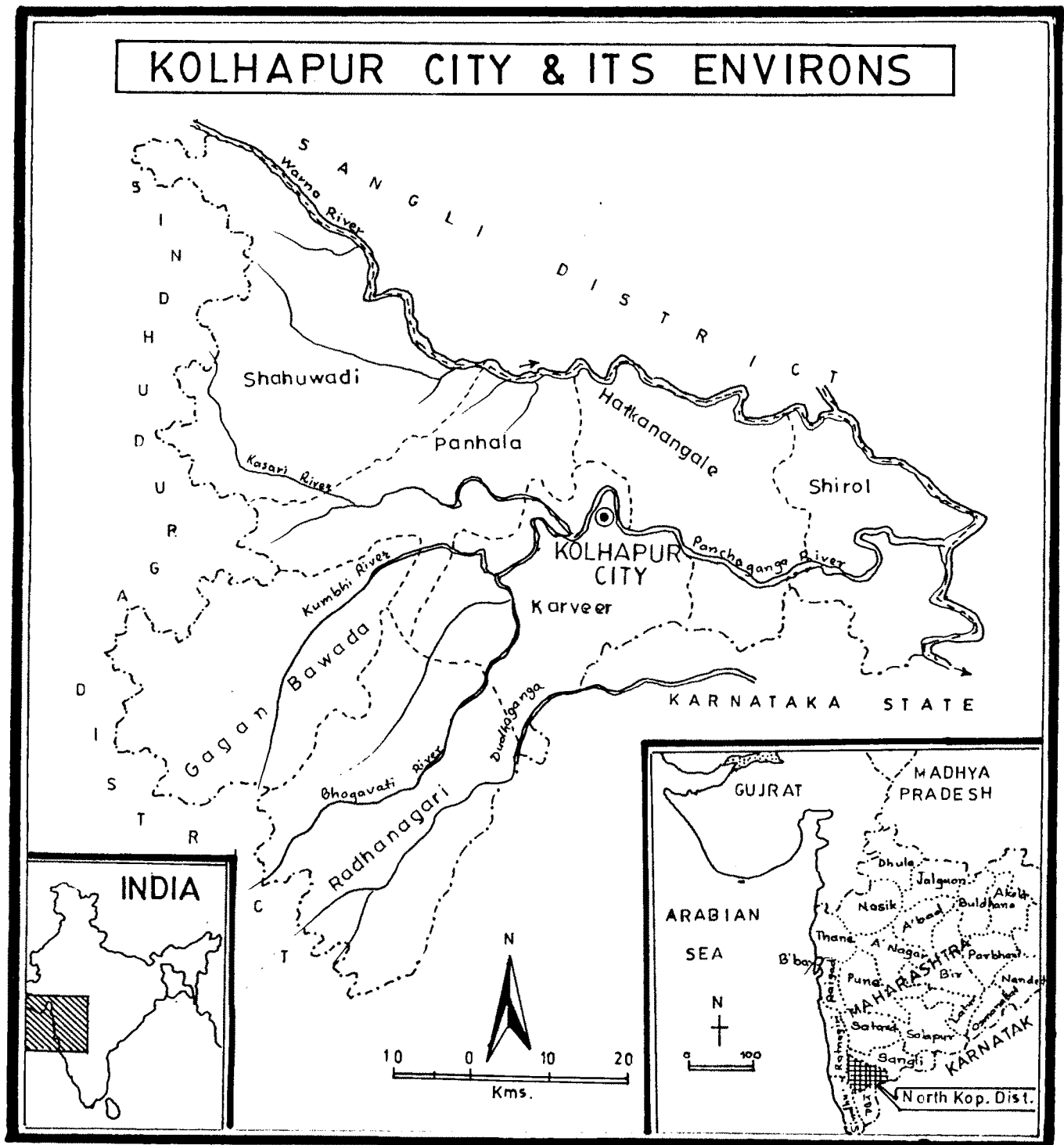


FIG 2-2

After independence Kolhapur flourished as a railway station, a market yard and as a district headquarter. The administrative, commercial, educational functions and other several facilities increased the regional importance of the city.

2.4 TOPOGRAPHY :

From the topographic point of view the city presents a typical example of the dominance of the physical features. It is full of ups and downs. The city is located on high ground on the banks of Panchganga river. The general level of the city is at an altitude of 650 meters above the mean sea level. The highest point of 2025 ft. (618 M.) is found near the Kolhapur-Belgaum road, not far away from the Rajaram tank in the south-east. In the southwest corner of the city the height of 600 M. is reached near Kalamba village. From the line formed by joining these two high points the altitude goes on decreasing towards north, as is evident from the direction of the streams tributary to the Panchganga river. The slope is steep till one reaches Rankala tank, Padmala pool and the foot of the Tembalai hill. However, it is generally low to the north of these places. The 549 meter contour line sends a wedge in the bend of the river. It is on this low, sloping, uneven land that the city is located.

Two low water divides may be recognised in the city. The surrounding region comprises of the deep fertile black soil and the five important rivers flowing in the district have brought overall prosperity to the tentative umland of the city within a range of 50 kms.

The streams are more in the Kolhapur city. The one that flows near Jadhavwadi drains rain water from Bavada, Sadar Bazar, Race Course, Tarabai Park and the adjoining localities. The water is received through three small streams flowing eastward. The second stream flowing in south to north and the third stream flowing in south to north, the main stream joins the Panchganga river (Fig.2.3).

2.5 CLIMATE :

Kolhapur, being situated on high plateau on east of the Western Ghats, enjoy a moderate climate (except from March to May, when hot winds prevail) with temperature rarely dropping below 15°C and occasionally rising above 38°C. Kolhapur receives fairly a good amount of rainfall.

The climate is generally of moderate temperature. The range of temperature between maximum and minimum is comparatively small. The maximum temperature in hot season rises upto 38°C and the minimum temperature in winter season not below 12°C.

The city is situated to the East of the Sahyadri mountains in the rainshadow area and hence receives relatively moderate amount of rainfall. The average annual rainfall is about 1000 mm. The maximum rainfall recorded was 1989.1 mm. in 1946, while minimum 512.8 mm. in 1905. The rainfall statistics of 1990 shows that the amount of rainfall received in this place is 1040 mm. The prevailing wind direction is generally west-east.

2.6 PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT OF KOLHAPUR :

Looking into the phases of development of Kolhapur city, since 1800 it is observed that the Mahalaxmi temple was the centre of Kolhapur city, and around this core the expansion of the city began. In 1800, the city was very small and most of the population was living in the close area of the temple (Fig.2.4-A).

In 1850, another phase of expansion began (Fig.2.4-B), most of the area of Panchganga and towards Rankala was occupied by the city.

In the recent period from the year 1900 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.2.4-C).

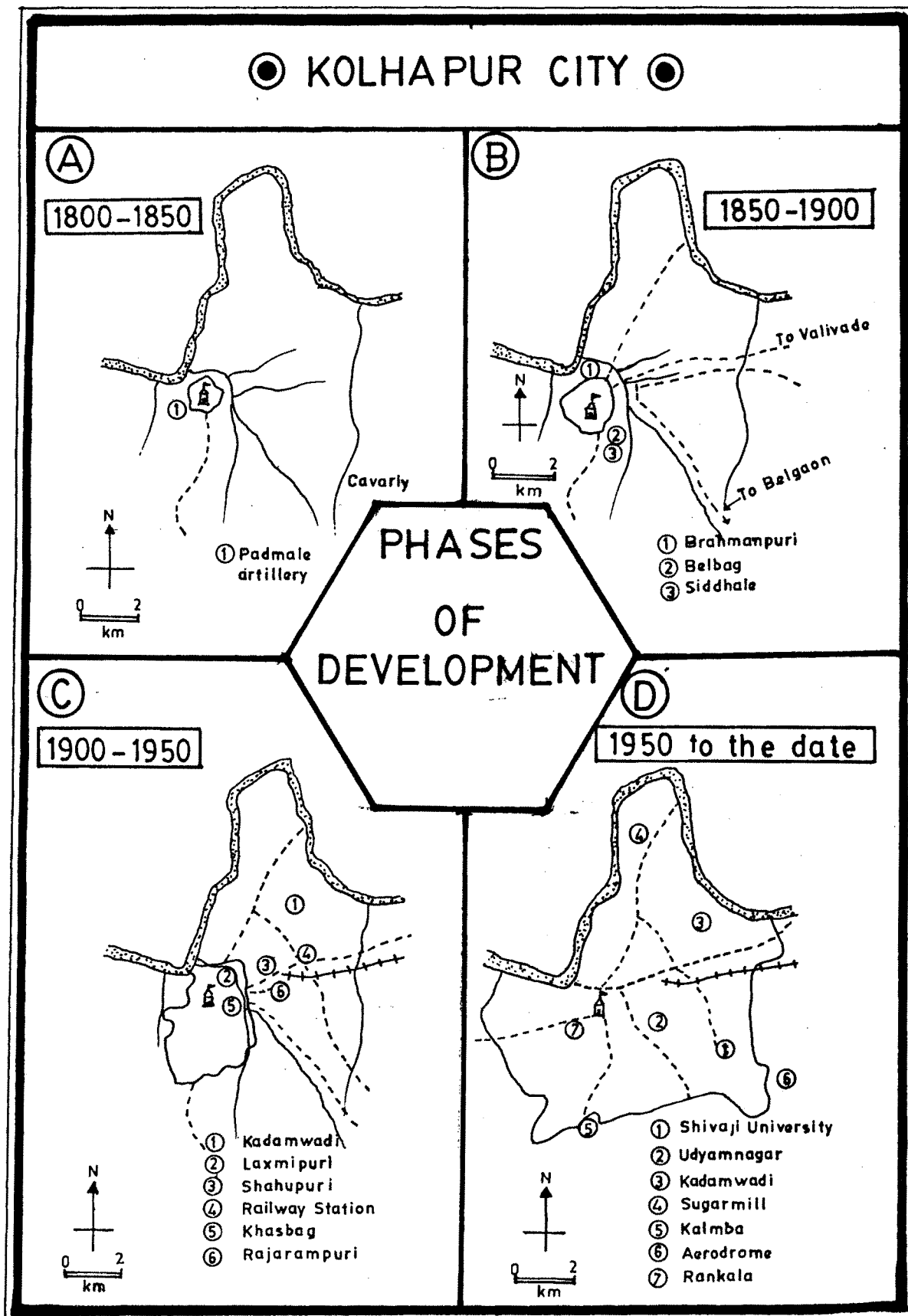


FIG 2.4

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.2.4-D).

2.7 POPULATION GROWTH :

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 ranked fifth in Maharashtra. In 1981, it has grown to 340,625 population and in 1991, it has grown to 405,118 population. During 1901-11 period 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 of 1941 to 1951. During the decade 1971 to 1981 the growth of population of Kolhapur city shows 31.49 percent increase and in the last decade (1981 to 1991) the growth of Kolhapur city shows 164,493 population increase. It is interesting to note that there is a addition of 164,493 persons in the city population during the 1981-1991 decade. The decade growth rate of the population has represented in Fig.2.5.

Here an attempt is made to consider a population growth review for last hundred years i.e. 1891 to 1991.

Table 2.1 shows the population of Kolhapur city. It also indicates the decadal variations and growth rates for last hundred years.

Table 2.1 : Population growth of Kolhapur city
(1891-1991).

Year	Population	Decadal variation	Percent decadal growth
1891	47,372	-	-
1901	54,373	7,001	14.78
1911	48,122	- 6,251	- 11.50
1921	55,594	7,472	15.53
1931	72,492	16,894	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
1991	405,118	164,493	48.29

Source : District Census Handbook, Kolhapur District, 1991.

A cursory glance at the growth of population of the Kolhapur city indicates that the city has experienced a upward trend of the population growth for the last hundred years except a little decline of population in the year 1911 (Fig.2.6).

KOLHAPUR CITY

⊙ POPULATION GROWTH ⊙

1891 — 1991

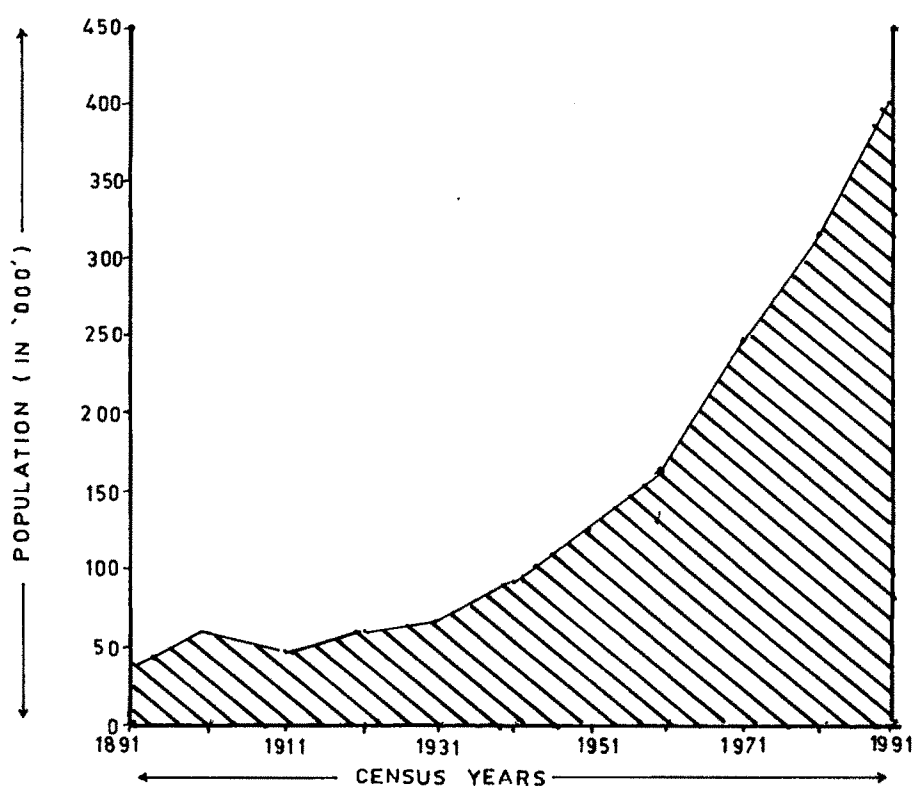


FIG 2.5

● KOLHAPUR CITY ●

POPULATION GROWTH RATES

1891-1991

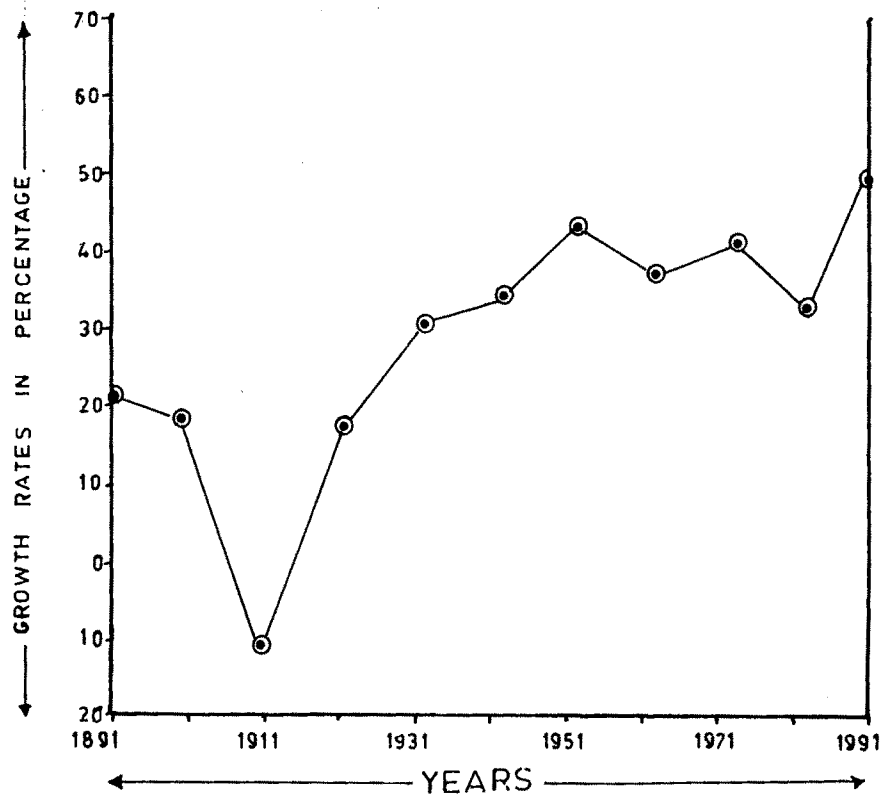


FIG 2-6

After independence it was classified as a one lakh city. In 1961 the population reached to 1.87 lakhs, considering this phenomenal growth in population and expansion of the city limits, the municipal council felt the need of separate bus transport system for the city and in 1962 the municipal council started the operation of its own city buses. Fig.2.5 shows the growth of population of Kolhapur city and Table 2.1 gives the details of population and rate of growth.

It is obvious that during the last four decades the population of Kolhapur city has an accelerated growth rate due to the growth of industries, commercial establishments, adequate water supply, social amenities and public facilities. The population growth trend is indicated in Fig.2.5.

2.8 GROWTH OF FUNCTION AND FUNCTIONAL

AREAS IN KOLHAPUR CITY :

The municipal areas of Kolhapur city is divided into five wards. The 'C' ward is centrally located. It is not far away from Mahalaxmi temple and it constitutes the principal shopping zone of the city. Several important roads from this ward spread in various direction. The 'B' ward has a favourable location adjoining the 'E' and 'C' wards. The National Highway passes through 'E' ward. The big industrial units are located in this zone. Moreover,

the Udyamnagar, wholesale marketyard etc. are located in 'E' ward (Fig.1.7). Some broad functional areas are as follows.

1) Commercial areas :

The principal business area of the city lies to the west of the Jiti stream. The Tarabai road, Gujar, Gangaves, Mahalaxmi temple and Mahadwar road form the major commercial core of the city. Shivaji road, Bhausingji road, Mahadwar road, Laxmi road, Rajaram road, Station road etc. have also the commercial activities.

2) 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.

3) Industrial area and Industries :

- a) Shahu Spinning and Weaving Mill is located in the 'E' ward along Rajaram road.
- b) The Kolhapur Sugar Mill is located to the North of Bavada village, deep into the bend of river Panchganga.
- c) Oil Mill - Along the National Highway, near Market Yard.
- d) Light Engineering Industries - are located in 'E' ward, Udyamnagar areas.

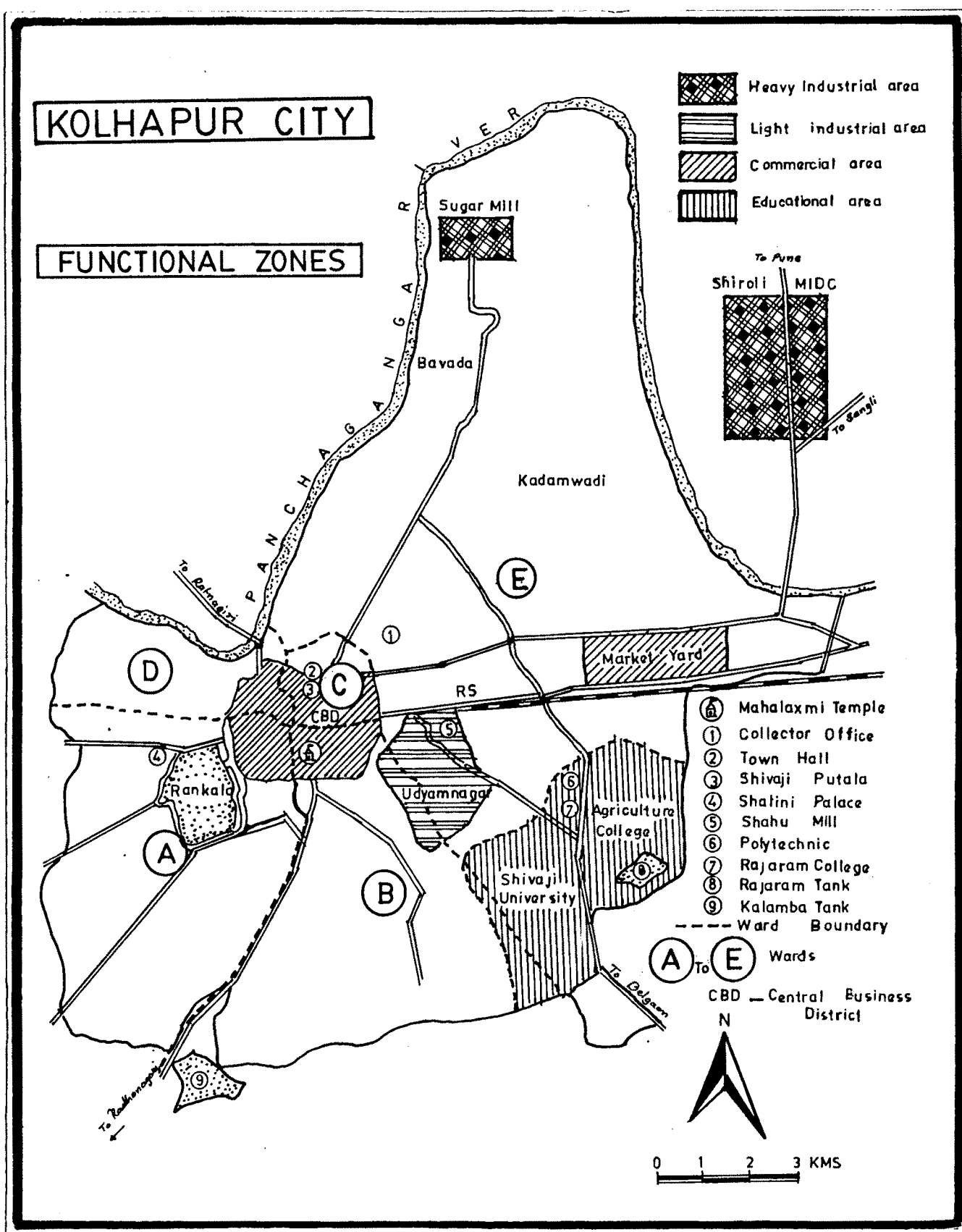


FIG. 2.7

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 smithy and ice factories.

Cultural importance :

Kolhapur, being the seat of the old Maratha princely state, has 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 27 colleges including Engineering, Agriculture, Medical, 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 more than 40 branches of various nationalized and scheduled banks.

Occupational structure :

Of the total population, workers constitute 27 per-cent. 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.2.7 shows the functional areas in Kolhapur city.

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