

**CHAPTER – III**

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**UNDER SHAHU'S DIRECT RULE**  
**(1894-1922)**

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**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UNDER  
SHAHU'S DIRECT RULE 1894-1922**

At the age of 20 His Highness Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaja was invested with full powers of his high office on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1894. The Pomp and ceremony which accompanied the Investiture were fully in keeping with the historic importance of the occasion.

During the course of these celebrations, His Highness issued the following proclamation to his people.

“It is our earnest desire that our subject should always be Happy and Contented, that their welfare should increase from day to day and that our state should go on prospering in all respect.”

Shahu Chhatrapati was a myriad-sided personality. He was a ruler who made revolutionary social changes even at the risk of his crown and life. In building vast dams and launching ambitious schemes in the fields of agriculture and co-operative societies, he proved to be the *Father of the Green Revolution in India*.

He believed in modern agriculture and modern industrial development, and in building vast dams for irrigation and in starting co-operative societies to help the farmers and workers on account of this stupendous work he was aptly called the father of the Green Revolution in India.

Raosaheb Dajirao Amritarao Vichare L.C.E. was appointed as State Executive Engineer in October, 1896 in place of Mr. M. J. Shannon who resigned. Shahu's direct rule lasted for 28 years from 1894-1922 and during this period Shahu undertook some projects and building activities in his state through his Public Works Department. State Executive Engineer whole heartedly co-operative Shahu's plans and executed the idea of building dam and other public works which were useful to subject of the Kolhapur state.

In this chapter an attempt had been made to study the construction of Radhanagari Dam and other major works as well as minor works that were constructed by the Public Works Department under the direction of Shahu Chhatrapati.

### **Execution of Relief Measures Against Famine and Plague :**

Within 2 years of his ascending the throne, His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati had to fight against the severe distress caused to the people due to the serious conditions of famine and the rapid spread of virulent epidemic of Plague His Highness accepted the challenge and geared his administrative machinery to provide relief to the famine stricken and plague-affected people. His Highness<sup>1</sup> gave top priority to the work of fight against famine and with a view to understand the actual conditions he carried out extensive tours of scarcity areas in Gadhinglaj, Bhudargad, Raibag, Katkol

and Panhala Petas. His Highness was accompanied in these tours by the District and Forest Officers and the Executive Engineer, and visited all the relief works in progress and the poor-houses and also considered projects of relief work on the spot.

Accordingly His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati promulgated following administrative measures for giving relief to the people and cattle hit by famine :

- i. Feeding the cattle of the poor at the expenses of the state.
- ii. Selling fodder at cheap rates to the affected people.
- iii. Throwing open the protected forest of the state to the public for grazing purposes.
- iv. Sanctioning tagai loans to the needy cultivators, and
- v. Undertaking of public works like construction of new tanks and repairs to old tanks as relief measures.<sup>2</sup>

As regards combating the menace of plague which come to Kolhapur state from the adjoining districts of Satara and the states of Sangli and Miraj, His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati adopted following relief measures :

- i. Appointment of Special Plague Commissioner for the state.
- ii. Organisation of 'Quarantine Camps'
- iii. Provision of medical facilities
- iv. Provision of sanitation and cleaning facilities
- v. Provision of hut settlements outside Kolhapur town.

- vi. Supervision of houses in Kolhapur town
- vii. Making available the services of all Government Officers.

**The Works During 1897-98 :**

The following works were completed and some were in progress in the Kolhapur state under the supervision of P.W.D.<sup>3</sup>

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Total Expenditure
1.	Renewing Bidoba's chowk in old Rajwada	62,729
2.	New Paga in Somwar Peth, Kolhapur	18,851
3.	Filling certain arch-ways with iron jalli work in ground floor of New Palace, Kolhapur	2,087
4.	Additions to the Dispensary at Panhala	7,119
5.	New 2 <sup>nd</sup> class Dharmashala at Kasarwada	2,457
6.	New Police chowki in the 15 <sup>th</sup> mile of Kolhapur	1,674
7.	Doing petty works in the place at Panhala	1,228
8.	Constructing polo ground at Kolhapur	30,255
9.	Victoria Diamond Jubilee Hospital, I.L. Kolhapur	1,924
10.	Victoria Diamond Jubilee Laper Asylum at Uchgaon	271
11.	New road from Hatkalangda to Vadgaum	42,348
12.	New road from Vadgaum to Kodoli	10,503

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Total Expenditure
13.	Improving Kolhapur Anaskura road	9,742
14.	Road from Budhwar Peth – Panhala to Ambavada	5,582
15.	Improving Huzur Kachery at Kolhapur	1,181
16.	New Gymkhana, Panhala	2,185
17.	New road from Gargoti to Patgaon	22,832
18.	New road from Kaljivda to Kolic	1,830
19.	Road from Shirol road station to Udgaum	1,829
20.	Road from Tardal to Hatkalangda	4,563
21.	Road from Nesari to Gadhinglaj	5,604
22.	Road from Gargoti to Gadhinglaj	25,612
23.	Deepening and lining to the 2 wells near New Palace	3,754
24.	Improving Padgeri tank at Katkol	1,565
25.	Improving Abu tank at Raibag	5,793
26.	Constructing new tank at Vadgaum	71,602
27.	Improving tank at Torgul	3,275
28.	New school house for 250 boys on the site of the old State Press building at Kolhapur	12,087
29.	New school house at Patgaum	1,498
30.	New block of Infantry Lines at Kolhapur	11,369
31.	New road from Parita to Thickpoorli	7,997
32.	New road from Sallhalli to Sallapur	7,466
33.	Dharmashalla at Katkol	1,702

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Total Expenditure
34.	Branch road to join Belgaum – Bagalkot road from Dadebhavi	8,580
35.	New road from Katkol to Manoli	6,787
36.	New road from Menguli to Sunal	5,683
37.	New road from Kodoli to join Amba road	10,500
38.	Excavating Herla tank	5,421
39.	Improving tank at Vadinga	7,094
40.	Improving tank at Sonvada	3,083
41.	Improving tank at Bhedasgav	6,079
42.	Improving tank at Sarood <sup>4</sup>	8,620

The most important works undertaken during the year 1897-98 i) Tank of Wadgaon, ii) Tank of Atigra, iii) Hospital for the Kolhapur Infantry and 4) An Asylum for lepers.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover the following important works were completing before 1899 by the P.W.D.

1. Filling in certain arch-ways iron jalli work on the ground floors of the New Palace, Rs. 2,687.
2. Additions to the Dispensary at Panhala – Rs. 7,119.
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> class Dharmashalla at Kasarwada Rs. 2,457.
4. New Police Station in the 15<sup>th</sup> mile of Kolhapur Bhudargad road, Rs. 1,674.
5. Certain petty works in the Palace at Panhala Rs. 1,228

6. New school for 250 boys on the site of the old State Press building at Kolhapur Rs. 12,087
7. Latrine and store-room for the J.G. Technical School at Kolhapur Rs. 1,220.
8. New block for the Native Infantry at Kolhapur Rs. 11,369
9. Dharmshalla at Katkol Rs. 1,702
10. Road from Hatkalangda to Vadgaum Rs. 42,348
11. Road from Vadgaum to Kodoli.

#### **Famine Works :**

##### **1. Reserve Collection of Metal :**

The total amount spent on this work was Rs. 1,30,389 and the quantity of metal turned out (26,53,226) cubic feet. Most of this has been collected on quarry and the rest by road-side. A large amount was spent on this work in Katkol, Panhala and Bhudargad Petas where famine was much felt.

##### **2. Construction of New Roads :**

The total amount spent for constructing New Roads in the whole state amounts to Rs. 1,37,393, and the total length of the several roads nearly 75 miles giving an average of Rs. 1,832 per mile.



### 3. Improvements to Tanks :

The amount spent on this item of work is Rs. 77,191. The main works executed under this are the deepening of existing tanks by removing silt, strengthening and increasing the dam and improving them by pitching their slopes. In some cases the catchment areas are increased and in some cases inlets and waste weirs are also improved.

### 4. Construction of New Tanks :

The big tanks in the Alta Peta namely one at *Wadgaum* and one at *Atigra* were started as Famine works. These tanks are intended for the supply of water both for drinking and irrigation purposes. The works that were executed during famine time chiefly consist of excavating foundations for the dam and puddling it.

### 5. Removal of Prickly pears :

A sum of Rs. 14,315 was spent in Katkol Mahal for removing prickly pears when it was found that there were no sufficient works to meet the want of the people.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to the above works, works for Kasgi and Plague Department and contribution works were undertaken by this Department. There were 32 works executed from miscellaneous advances at a cost of Rs. 30,738.

### Quarantine Camps :

These are started in several places such as Shirol road station that is on Railway road from Poona, on road from Satara to Kolhapur, Kini, on Nipani-Phonda-Ghat road at Dajeepur and at the Raibag Railway station, and huts & C. construction for them. The expenditure incurred on account of this amount to Rs. 7,242 during 1896-97.<sup>7</sup>

### Famine :

An account describing the measures adopted in connection with the prevalence of the Famine in the state had been given in the 1890-97 report. The same measures were in the force until the middle of November 1897 when new crops were gathered. The outlay incurred on account of it is shown in the sub-joined table under principal items.<sup>8</sup>

No.	Name of Item	Amount		Remarks
		Rs.	a.p.	
1.	Relief works...	4,14,237	1-7	८ ५ ० ५
2.	Gratuitous relief to nonworking children	75,109	0-8	
3.	Poor houses	29,907	8-10	
4.	Village dole	6,828	3-10	
5.	Grain compensation to low paid servants	41,871	2-6	
6.	Contribution to the Guarantee Fund of the grain shop at Kolhapur	9,614	11-9	

No.	Name of Item	Amount		Remarks
		Rs.	a.p.	
7.	Boarding house for poor student	991	3-9	
8.	Establishment	20,161	6-5	
9.	Miscellaneous including cost of tools and plants & C.	33,790	8-11	
Total		6,33,510	8-11	

### **Famine Period Employment Measures :**

In the year of great famines that occurred in India as well as in Kolhapur state in 1896-97, 1899-1900, 1902-1903 and 1905-06, Extensive measures were taken by Shahu Maharaj to give jobs to the people. These included i) construction of new water works repairs to and improvement of old water works for irrigation and supplying water for drinking purposes, and

ii. Construction of new rural roads, repairs and improvement of old roads and bridges. During the famine and normal periods he constructed over 20 water tanks and over 185 miles of rural roads. He also envisaged the develop a major irrigation project on the river Bhogawati. In one of his letters written on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1907 to Lord Lamington, Governor of Bombay, he clearly states, "Although the contemplated scheme of constructing a big tank at Dajipur is beyond his means to finance. Yet it will be undertaken as it will remove all fear of famine from his state."<sup>9</sup>

In order to see that labourers take famine works seriously Shahu Maharaj took various measures like I) Providing shelter for workers and cattle, ii) Government regulated grain shops at places of work, iii) Payment of wages in kind, iv) reasonable piece work, wages to able bodied persons, v) Special care of weak persons, women and destitutes and many other humanitarian measures which were not provided for in the G.O.I. famine code. He personally visited site of famine relief works, grain shops, hospitals and government poor houses frequently.<sup>10</sup>

**Letter from Political Agent Jackson regarding Satisfactory Famine arrangement in Kolhapur State :**

In April, 1900, Mr. Jackson, then the P.A. writes :

“I have no doubt your conclusions regarding the Hill Tribes are correct and I agree with every word you say about allowing the free export of fodder. I saw the Mamlatdar at Katkol on my way through and gathered from what he said that the people of the Taluka have not done badly this year. I heard much the same at Torgal. You must allow me to congratulate you on the personal attention you have given to the administration of famine relief in your state and on the success that has so far attended your efforts.”

He writes again on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1900 :

“Many thanks for allowing me to see the enclosed famine and plague report and map. they show that your arrangements are very complete. The District Officer’s remarks on the working on

the cheap grain shop in 1896-1897 are especially interesting because they show he has a firm grasp of the principle that Government trade in grain in famine time does more harm than good a principle which is now accepted.”<sup>11</sup>

Administrative affairs received full attention. Famine, as I have shown, was added to plague in 1899-1900 and the need of giving relief to the people and the cattle stricken by famine was the principal anxiety of His Highness in these two years. In December of 1899, he issued orders permitting his subjects to leave all the cattle that could not be fed by them in the Thattis of the state where they were to be properly taken care of at state expense. Tagai advances were sanctioned to the extent of three quarters of a lakh. For the relief of human sufferers His Highness sanctioned during these times the construction of three new tanks at Vadgaon, Rukadi and Shirol and the repairing of five old ones, the total cost of the whole programme being four lakhs of rupees. The P.W.D. also did good work during this period. Besides the irrigational tanks referred to above, three large bridges were completed on the Nipani-Dajipur road and a hundred miles of new pucca roads were constructed.<sup>12</sup>

#### **Settlement of Shahupuri :**

In 1895 only the Shahupuri project pertaining to the development of a new settlement area on the extensive tract of land

near the Kolhapur Railway Station was launched with a view to relieve congestion in the old city of Kolhapur and provide marketing and other facilities for trading in jaggery, ground nuts and other major agricultural products of the state. This new area of land was divided into about 250 plots and these plots were distributed to the public in accordance with the rules and conditions laid down in the Government Notification of the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1896 soon the buildings were erected on these plots and a new market suburb of Kolhapur came into existence and was named as *Shahupuri*.<sup>13</sup> Thus by 1902 A.D. the Shahupuri market became a reality and within two years it became a valuable emporium of Kolhapur state, attracting to itself considerable trade in the export of jaggery, ground-nut and similar agricultural produce which consequently rose in their market value and contributed to the expansion of sugarcane cultivation in the state and increased the wealth of the ryots. In this connection the following information given in the Report on the General Administration of the Kolhapur state for the year 1904-1905" is worth noting.<sup>14</sup>

"135 Enormous trade transactions are reported to have been made at the new market at Shahupuri. The chief article of export from this market was jaggery. The amount in value of jaggery exported to Bombay and other places by railway has been estimated at Rs. 37,08,000. Besides this turmeric, chillies,

groundnut, tobacco, ghee, cotton-seed oil, bones and other articles all worth about Rs. 5,16,000 were exported. Hundj Transactions were reported to have been conducted worth Rs. 8,50,000.”

In this way firm foundations for the rapid and planned development of commerce in the state were laid at the Shahupuri market which later on assumed a place of all India importance.

The Shahupuri extension project was undertaken in 1895 and by the close of the career of His Highness, the project became an accomplished fact.<sup>15</sup> Shahupuri is now a thriving centre of commerce and industry as well as the fashionable quarters of the higher classes in Kolhapur. It will be one of the finest memorials of the Maharaja whose name it bears.

#### **Remarks of A.B. Latthe regarding Shahupuri Settlement :**

A.B. Latthe was English professor of Rajaram College and occupied important post in the Kolhapur State under Shahu Chhatrapati. After the death of Shahu Chhatrapati in 1922, he wrote monumental Biography of Chhatrapati in two volumes at the instant of Kolhapur state. He writes about the development of Shahupuri as follows :

“It may not be out of place here to say a word about the thriving suburb of Shahupuri – a fitting memorial to Shahu Maharaja – which was an established and successful fact in 1905. Though the idea was as old as 1895, it was not taken up seriously

until 1902. Within a couple of years, the barren plains around the Railway Station were turned into a valuable emporium of the Kolhapur State, attracting to itself considerable trade in the export of Jagree, groundnut and similar agricultural produce which consequently rose in their market value and contributed to the expansion of sugarcane cultivation in the Konkan tracts and increased the wealth of the ryots on that side. The quantity of sugar and jaggery (out of which the first was only inconsiderably) export from Kolhapur station which means the Shahupuri Market in 1921, the last year of His Highness, was 470,224 maunds which was worth approximately Rs. 30,00,000. In 1894-95, the same article as exported was valued at Rs. 6 lakhs. This is enough to show at a glance the increased wealth of the agricultural population in the state.”<sup>16</sup>

But now this original Shahupuri is became a residential place and market was shifted to other place as called as “Shahu Market Yard” near new national highway.

#### **Public Works During the year 1899-1900 :**

The total outlay incurred on public works during the year amounted to Rs. 12,791-11-10 against Rs. 5,136-4-6 of which Rs.10,455-12-5 were spent on repairs to school-buildings Dharmashala, wells, repairs to road to roads and C.<sup>17</sup>



Further the said report gives the following account about public works :

“During the last famine a very large number of small works were opened to give relief to people near their homes. The works chiefly consisted of reserve collection of metal and the destruction of Prickly Pear. Two new tanks were also started. This time it was thought desirable to concentrate people on larger relief works. The works opened were therefore construction of new tanks, improvement of old ones and the earthwork of the approaches to bridges, which were under construction or soon to be constructed under an agreement with the British Government on the Nipani Phonda Ghat road.”<sup>18</sup>

**Total Expenditure on Public Works (1900-1901) :**

The following table will show the total expenditure incurred during the year 1900-1901 on original works and repairs.<sup>19</sup>

## Kolhapur (Proper)

Sr. No.	Description of work	State Funds			Local Funds			Add expenditure of Famine Relief works	Grand Total
		Original	Repair	Total	Original	Repair	Total		
1.	Building State and public other than educational	44337	35810	80147	3866	2469	6335	-	86482
2.	Roads bridges and culverts	27305	24651	51956	386	20191	20577	-	72523
3.	Road side trees	2154	-	-	-	-	-	-	2154
4.	Water works	24410	4718	29128	-	621	621	13787	43535
5.	Boats	490	-	490	100	1612	1712	-	2102
6.	Educational buildings	479	644	1123	-	2744	2744	-	3967
7.	Kolhapur Infantry	548	412	960	-	306	306	-	1266
8.	Miscellaneous including furniture, tools and plants	190	1424	1614	-	305	305	-	1919
9.	Establishment	-	22090	22090	-	-	-	-	22090
	Total	99918	93067	192985	4352	28362	32714	13787	239486

**Irrigation Works (1902-1903) :**

During the year 1902-1903 nearly 16 tanks were surveyed for irrigation purposes. The extent of land that can be safely given for irrigation under the tanks of Sarud and Bhedasgav was determined. Urgent repairs were made to the tank at Sarud. The plans of the irrigation channel from the tank at Atigre were prepared. The plans of other tanks surveyed and also ready. The amounts spent on

survey of the tanks and establishment charges were respectively Rs. 153 and 520.<sup>20</sup>

### **Public Works During the Year 1906-1907 :**

The Public Works Department of the Kolhapur state was undertaking new works as well as repairing old one. The following extracts from Kolhapur administrative report gives details regarding this.

The total outlay on public works amounted to Rs. 4,14,825 against Rs. 3,55,210 of which Rs. 2,12,879 were spent on original works and Rs. 2,01,945 on repairs.<sup>21</sup>

### **Buildings :**

The following major works were either in progress or completed during the year.<sup>22</sup>

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Cost Rs.
1.	Making additions to contagious ward and constructing 8 rooms for nurses in the A.E. Hospital	6,033
2.	Building a Memorial of Her Majesty the Late Queen Empress of India	2,434
3.	Additions to the Panhala Mamledar's Katchery	4,440
4.	Additions to the Huzur Record Office	1,145
5.	Erecting a Japanese Bungalow	2,332
6.	Works in connection with His Highness' Palaces at Kolhapur, Panhala and Rajputwadi	22,000
7.	Constructing 4 schools for boys	4,200

### **Roads and Bridges :**

Three bridges over the Chikotra, Valivada and Savarda Nallas were constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,831,499 and 1,165 respectively.<sup>23</sup> Rail girders to open drains on the Kolhapur state Railway line were provided at a cost of Rs. 2,565.

### **Water Works :**

The Kalamba tank bund was improved at a cost of Rs. 38,722. The inlet of the Kalleswar Tank at Shirol was widened at a cost of Rs. 7,657. One 9" pipe from Kalamba tank to the Reservoir at Kolhapur was laid at a cost of Rs. 4,140. The catchment areas of Atigra and Rankala tanks were enlarged at the cost of Rs. 2,400.<sup>24</sup>

### **Irrigation :**

The work done in connection with this was making survey of two tanks, one by damming up the Bhogavati river at Fejivade and the other by damming upto the Dudhaganga river near Pharale in Bhudhargad taluka. The work of preparing projects has been entrusted to Mr. Miter L.C.E. specially appointed for the purpose.<sup>25</sup>

### **Public Works During 1907-1908 :**

The total outlay on public works fell from Rs. 4,14,825 to Rs. 3,65,437 of which Rs. 1,70,479 were spent on original works.

## 1. Building & C.<sup>26</sup> :

The following major works were either in progress or completed during the year.

Sr. No.	Name of the Works	Amount spent during the year Rs.
1.	The memorial of Her Majesty the Late Queen Empress of India	672
2.	A Mandap for the Wedding of His Highness daughter at the Old Palace	16,107
3.	An elephant stall at Radhanagari	16,315
4.	A modikhana at Kolhapur	7,159
5.	Additions to the Huzur Record Katchery	7,159
6.	A Record room near Mamletdar's Katchery at Panhala	3,756
7.	Additions to the contagious ward in the A.E. Hospital	565
8.	Works in connection with His Highness' Palaces & C.	18,000
9.	An elephant car	9,708
10.	2 Schools for boys	2,365

## 2. Roads and Bridges<sup>27</sup> :

A bridge over the Dudhaganga river at Saravade on the Nipani –Phonda ghat road was built at a cost of Rs. 2,847 and a bridge over the Chikotra Nalla at a cost of Rs. 1,492. The culvert in mile No. 18 of the Kolhapur Gaibi-Khind road was reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 875.

### 3. **Water Works<sup>28</sup> :**

The Kalamba tank bund was improved at a cost of Rs. 2,435 and the water of the Kalamba tank was supplied to Shahupuri at a cost of Rs. 844. Besides 47 connections of pipes were made to the homes of private persons in the town during the year.

### 4. **Irrigation<sup>29</sup> :**

The big project of Shri Laxmi tank at Fejivade was surveyed during the year at a cost of Rs. 2,147. This was shown to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay during his visit to Kolhapur in March, 1908 and met with His Excellency's approbation. His Excellency took the trouble of personally visiting the site of the tank.

### **"Foundation of Ambitious Irrigation Dam" Radhanagari Dam, 1909:**

While dealing with the serious situation of famine in the state in 1897-98 His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati soon realised the utmost importance of constructing water channels and large tanks as measures of effective protection against famine and decided to increase in future the irrigation facilities of different kinds in the state by preparing a Master Plan of Irrigation for the state. In this direction he issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1902 a Government Notification announcing his *Mass Irrigation Policy* for the State containing both the short term and the long term measures to be

adopted for making available adequate supply of water to the agriculturists throughout the year.<sup>30</sup>

Accordingly His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati immediately took the following steps :

1. A separate "Irrigation Division" was created in the Public Works Department of the state.
2. Mr. Shankar Sitaram Gupte was appointed as Irrigation Officer of the state.
3. The Irrigation Officer was ordered to carry out a detailed *Irrigation Survey of the State* to collect all relevant information village-wise about the existing condition of irrigation facilities in the state.
4. The Irrigation Officer was also asked to submit a list of Irrigation Projects which can be implemented soon by the state so that the agriculturists can derive immediate benefits and the State Government can get some revenue from the Irrigation Project.<sup>31</sup>

Professor A.B. Latthe gives the following information regarding the foundation of Radhanagari Dam.

"Early in 1907 His Highness made up his mind to undertake a large irrigation project for his state by damming the Bhogavati near Dajipur, about thirty miles to the West of Kolhapur. The idea seems to have occurred to him while he was touring in England five

years back. As he himself told the writer, the one thing that struck him there was that every source of wealth and power was being utilised by the British with a care and forethought which ought to be emulated by every one in India. Large rivers drained away the plentiful rainfall in the Ghats to the deep seas and we are allowing this water to be thus wasted. While the rich black soil of the eastern Desh was simply thirsting for it. This showed, as he said, where we mainly differed from the people of Europe. How deeply he had fixed his heart upon the project may be illustrated by what he said on that occasion. *My life's work*, he said, "Will have been done when I complete this Project." The survey work was undertaken in April, 1907 for which a special Engineer was appointed. When Lord Sydenham visited Kolhapur in March of the following year, he was taken there to inspect and advise on the scheme. The preliminaries of building the dam were commenced in 1909 at the hands of Her Highness the Maharani saheb after whom the tank thus formed is named.<sup>32</sup>

As the Report Observers in 1909-10 :

"The works in connection with the Shri Maharani Laxmibai Tank properly commenced in November 1909. The work is being done partly by piece-work and partly by departmental agency system, under the direct supervision of His Highness' brother, the Jahagirdar of Kagal Senior, who has been helping the Darbar



working as Director of the Tank works. The services of Mr. Gupte, Assistant Engineer and Mr. Mitter, Supervisor, have been placed at the disposal of the Director.”<sup>33</sup>

The excavation of the foundations rapidly progressed during the year and good sound rocks have been struck and exposed in the deepest portion of the site for the dam. Masonry work is also being put up at those places where the rocks have been exposed. The main amount of work done during the year might safely be said to consist of the various preliminary arrangements, such as the opening of stone mines, the laying out of light rails, the erection of mortar mills and the opening of different distant depots for collection at convenient centres of kankar, sand etc. required for the work. About 2,000 people were working during the season on all the various branches of the works till the end of March, 1910 was Rs. 66,000.

“Mr. A. Hill, C.I.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, visited the tank site just after a little of the masonry work was done and was much pleased to see that the foundations were sound and that the masonry work was being satisfactorily done with good materials.”<sup>34</sup>

The construction of Radhanagari Dam was going on some subsequent years. How this work was in progress is given below.

In 1910-11 questions about the financial soundness of the project arose for solution and His Highness had to spend much anxious labour over them.

He describes his confusion frankly in March 1911 :

“I had some six months back asked for an experienced Engineer. No one was available then, but Mr. Dalal, who built the markanavi dam in Mysore, is now likely to be obtained. We have not made him any offer. It would look on my part very ungrateful if I did so without consulting Mr. Hill, Mr. Dalal finds fault with everything.

- a. Sand however washed, bad
- b. Line is not hydraulic
- c. Stones small in size
- d. Lime is used in his dam at Markanavi was not slaked. But this may be slaked.
- e. Lime stones are of inferior quality and should be burnt with charcoal instead of fuel which is very expensive and on Bhandari dam, fuel is used.
- f. He proposes surkee instead of sand should be used in mortar to improve mortar.<sup>35</sup>

According to his opinion he thinks the foundation is weak and therefore the section of the dam at the bottom should be widened. Mr. Hill and Mr. Godbole had approved of these

materials. I think, as a layman, there is a little exaggeration in what he says. I would like to stick to Mr. Hill.

The progress of this year's work is thus described :

“About 200,000 cubic feet of masonry work was done upto the end of the year, the total construction from the commencement of the work being about 423,200 cubic feet. The expenditure on the tank works upto the end of the year amounted Rs. 68,299. About 3,000 masons and labourers were working on all the various branches of the works.”<sup>36</sup>

The project was so big a one for the resources of the state that, through pushed forward with all possible speed, it went on from year to year till in 1915-16 we learn :

“The expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 1,99,167 against Rs. 2,07,968 last year. The total amount spent from the commencement of the work came to Rs. 8,93,243.”

The quantity of masonry of the dam done during the year under report was 761,000 cubic feet against 912,977 cubic feet in the year preceeding, the total construction work from the beginning being 3,215,589 cubic feet. The total number of masons and labourers working on all the various branches to the works remained the same as last year, viz. 3,000.

Mr. B.P. Jagtap, L.C.E. M.R.S.I. Executive Engineer was in-charge of the tank works during the year 1916-17.<sup>37</sup>

The following year i.e. 1916-17 we hear :

“The work in connection with Radhanagari tank work was in progress for some months during the year under the supervision of Meherban Pirajirao Bapusaheb Ghatge, C.S.I.C.I.E. Jahagirdar of Kagal (senior). The establishment consisted of one Executive Engineer assisted by 4 supervisors, 10 clerks, 4 accountant clerks etc.

The expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 33,964 and the total amount from the commencement of the work was Rs. 13,36,130.

About 61,128 cubic feet of masonry were construct during the year. The total construction work from the beginning was 4,386,028 cubic feet.<sup>38</sup>

During the period of 8 years from 1909-1910 to 1916-1917 about Rs. 1302.2 thousand were spent and the dam was raised the height of 40 feet.

About two to three thousand labourers annually worked on the construction of dam during corresponding years. Owing to the outbreak of first world war, the financial stringency was created and the work of the dam had to be suspended after March 1917. It was again resumed in 1919. But the construction activity gathered momentum only after 1946 and was completed in 1957 with hydroelectric reservoir. However during 1930's (after the death of

Chh. Shahu in 1922) Chh. Rajaram constructed two weirs (dams) on Panchaganga river near Kolhapur as sufficient water could be stored in Laxmi Tank and which flowed down the river Bhogawati into Panchaganga. these weirs supplied water for irrigation of lands which were used for the cultivation of sugarcane. The result was the establishment of Kolhapur sugar factory in the private sector with massive Kolhapur state assistance in 1933. It is needless to point out that were Chh. Shahu still alive this sugar factory might have been started as a co-operative enterprise.<sup>39</sup>

#### **Visits of Distinguish Guests to the Laxmi Tank :**

Mr. A. Hill C.I.E. Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Bombay, P.W. Department visited the tank site just after a little of the masonry work was done and was much pleased to see that the foundations were sound and that the masonry work was being satisfactorily done with good materials.”<sup>40</sup>

“Colonel Scadamore, Superintending Engineer S.D. Dr. Harold H. Mann, Principal, Agricultural College, Poona, and Mr. J.A.W. Cooper, Executive Engineer, Belgaum visited the tank works during the year 1912-1913.”<sup>41</sup>

“His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, Honourable Sir Richard A. Lamb, Member of the Executive Council of H.E. the Governor of Bombay and Count Hoyas of Austria visited the tank works during the year 1913-1914.”<sup>42</sup>

"His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and Her Excellency Lady Willingdon, His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharaja, Mr. B. Krishnarao, Superintending Engineer S.D. Mr. Taylor, Assistant Engineer, Satara Division, Mr. S. Cadambi, Superintending Engineer, Deccan Irrigation. Mr. Wright, Superintending Engineer, S.D. Mr. Kunthe Assistant Engineer, Gwalior and the Chiefs of Mudhol and Jamkhandi visited the tank works during the year 1914-1915.<sup>43</sup>

"Mr. Wright, Superintending Engineer, S.D. Mr. Jairma, Assistant Engineer, Gokak Canal projects, Mr. Sawant, Executive Engineer, Baroda State visited the tank works during the year 1915-1916.<sup>44</sup>

Even though Radhanagari Dam was not completed during the life time of Shahu Chhatrapati, became one of the living monument of Shahu Chhatrapati. As told earlier this dam completed in the year 1955, and irrigative the lands of Kolhapur Districts where more than 7-8 sugar factories are now working on the water of this tank. This is the greatest contribution of Shahu Chhatrapati therefore historians called him *as the father of Green revolution of India*.

#### **Palace Theatre (1913-15) :**

In 1902, when Shahu Maharaj went on his tour of England, he visited Rome, seeing its wrestling field and amphitheaters he

felt that he should plan something like that for Kolhapur. This idea found shape in the Khasbag ground and the Palace Theatre. The same Palace Theatre was named after Keshavrao Bhosale as a memorial to him by the Maharashtra Government in the post-independence period. The Maharaja got the plan for this theatre prepared by the overseer Jivba Krishnaji Chavan of Kagal. It was constructed by Balkrishna Ganesh Pandit. The steel girders for the Theatre were imported from abroad. The plan of the theatre, acoustics and visibility of the stage from any part of the theatre were all personally supervised by Shahu Maharaj.<sup>45</sup> Many experts, eminent artists and others have often opined that this is an unique theatre in India. Shri Rajgopalachari praised unrestrainedly the architecture and construction of the theatre. When presiding over the annual gathering of the Rajaram College, the construction of the theatre commenced in 1913 and it was completed in just two years in 1915. This theatre was inaugurated at the hands of the heir-apparent Prince Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj on a Dussera day in 1915 by playing of the Kirloskar Play *Manapman*. At the time of the inauguration Shahu Maharaj felicitated all the labourers, contractors and everyone who had participated in the construction of the theatre. The Kirloskar Company was invited for this occasion. Ram Ganesh Gadkari had accompanied the Kirloskar Company on this occasion. He conceived the idea of writing of his play *Rajasanyas* when he sat chatting with

Chintamanrao Kolhatkar on the lawns of the Khasbag ground. At the back of this theatre Shahu Maharaj build a bungalow for the lodging and boarding facilities of the visiting dramatic companies.<sup>46</sup>

Dhananjay Keer the Biographer of Shahu furnish the following information about Palace theatre.

“In May 1914 Shahu laid the foundation stone of a theatre in the Khasbag. A great admire and supporter of the Marathi stage, Shahu helped it in various ways, providing the actors with necessary material; including able actors to join certain dramatic companies, or helping the companies with money. Govindrao Tembe, who was a peerless harmonium player in India, received encouragement from Shahu. The theatre was completed and was named the Palace Theatre. Years after it was renamed after the great actor-singer Keshavrao Bhosle, in whom drama, music and acting mellowed into a unified whole.”<sup>47</sup>

Palace theatre or Keshavrao Bhosale Natgriha is one of the leading recreation theatre in southern Maharashtra number of plays, dramas, various entertainments programmes, public functions speeches of eminent orators are arranged in this theatre therefore this theatre built by Shahu Maharaj is one of the asset of Kolhapur.



### **Khasbag Wrestling Arena :**

In 1902, when Shahu Maharaj went on his tour of England, he visited Rome seeing its wrestling fields and amphitheatres he felt that he should plan something like that for Kolhapur.<sup>48</sup>

Kolhapur is known for wrestling to encourage wrestling a special wrestling arena has been built by the former Kolhapur state. The arena is between Subhash Cauk and Keshavrao Bhosle Natyagraha (Old Palace Theatre). It is a circular open place with a pavillion at one end and circular sloping ground all around. The ring is in the middle. The area can accommodate 20,000 persons at a time. The arena is now owned by Government and has been leased out to the Kolhapur Sports Association, which arranges bouts periodically.”<sup>49</sup>

A spacious arena has been erected in Khasbag right in the heart of the city. It is large enough to seat more than twenty thousand people and there throughout the year matches of renowned wrestlers used to be held.<sup>50</sup>

Shahu was the great patron of wrestling. During his life time wrestler from all over India flocked to Kolhapur and wrestling matches were held every year in Kolhapur. Playing wrestling match in Kolhapur was honour to every wrestler.

To encourage this wrestling matches Shahu undertook so many activities and extended monetary help to various wrestlers. Irrespecting of cost; creed or region, more than hundred wrestling Akhadas or Talims were built by Shahu in Kolhapur. But the construction of Shahu Khasbag Akhada is unique one in South India.

**Palace Theatre and Wrestling Arena at Kolhapur**

Sr.No. of Building	Sr. No. of subsidiary Structure	Name of Building	Source of Funds from which purchased or erected	Funds from which maintained	Date of erection or purchased enter also date of erection as nearly as can be ascertained	Record value	By whom or how occupied	Nature of Building			Number of Storeys	Superficial plinth area including verandas	Cubic contents	Remarks
								Walls	Roof	Floor				
		Palace Theatre and Wrestling Arena at Kolhapur												
		A.G.A.S.	-	-	-	32000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
378		Palace Theatre A.G.A.S. and (New Keshavrao Bhosale Natya Griha)	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	128000 + 30589 158000 1652*	P.W.D.	Ilnd sort and B.B.	M.tiled and G.C.I. sheet	Shahabad and T.W. pleaks	Two storeyed	8835	353400	*Provided water suppl. arrangements
	378/1	Wrestling Arena at Kolhapur	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	60000	P.W.D.	Ilrd sort		Murum	-	-	-	
	378/2	Ticket Office	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	3000	P.W.D.	B.B.	G.C.I.	Shahabad	Single	410	4810	
	378/3	Tea stall (of palace theatre)	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	4000	P.W.D.	B.B.	G.C.I.	Shahabad	Single	410	6380	
	378/4	Urinals for male	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	1200	P.W.D.	B.B.	G.C.I.	Trap stone	Single	162	1458	
	378/5	Urinals for female	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	800	P.W.D.	B.B.	G.C.I.	Shahabad	Single	98	872	
	378/6	Pavelling for Royal families	Kolhapur state	Provincial	1914	8000 2578	P.W.D.	Ilnd sort	M. tiled	Shahabad	Two storeyed	857	18854	

### **Shahu Chhatrapati Mill 1905-1906 :**

His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati also adopted a policy of providing all-possible help to private companies for starting Cotton Textile Industry in the Kolhapur state from the very beginning of his rule. As such some private parties did come forward to take the advantage of facilities provided by the ruler.

Accordingly, a new cotton Mill near the Shirol road station was started on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1905 and its opening ceremony was performed by His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj.<sup>52</sup>

Similarly, by the order issued on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1905, His Highness Chhatrapati accorded consent to establish a company to be known as *Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mill Company* under the patronage of Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur and granted sanction to provide following main facilities to the Company :

1. A suitable plot of land near the Kotitirth area or the Bungalow of Balasaheb Kagalkar may be granted free if it is a fallow land in the possession of the Government.
2. Pipe water may be made available to the Company at the rate of Rs. 36 per month.
3. Protection may be granted to the Company by not allowing any other Company to start a similar Mill in the Kolhapur state for a period of 30 years.

4. The Company will have to pay octroi duty according to rules in force.
5. The State Government can invest Rs. 50,000 in the beginning by purchasing necessary shares of the Company.
6. The Company may be allowed under certain conditions to construct a railway line upto the Mill.

As a result of these encouraging facilities provided by His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati, the proposed Company was soon established and registered in Kolhapur. In this connection the following information had been published in the "Report on the General Administration on the Kolhapur State for the year 1905-1906."

"Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Spinning and Weaving Manufacturing Company has been lately established at Kolhapur and has been registered under the Indian Companies Act of 1882 during the year under report. The Company is going to start a spinning and weaving mill with a capital of lacs of Rupees His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharaja has been pleased to grant a plot of ground for erecting a building for the Mill near the Kotitirth Tank and to make some other concessions to the Company."<sup>54</sup>

In this way the Shahu Chhatrapati Mill came into existence during the year 1905-1906 with the active help and personal guidance of His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati and thus Kolhapur

was brought on the Textile Map of India at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Establishment of a Township at Jaysingpur (1916-1917) :**

His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati always harboured reverential regards for his father, Abasaheb Ghatge, the Chief of Kagal, who had a premature death at the age of thirty only, i.e. on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1886, after giving his eldest son Yashvantrao (later known as Shahu) in adoption on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1884 to Queen Mother Anandibai Ranisaheb, the widow of Chhatrapati Shivaji-IV. Naturally, Shahu Chhatrapati, known as Yeshwantrao alias Babasaheb before adoption had a strong desire to perpetuate the loving memory of his father Abasaheb alias Jaysingrao who had also a very successful career as the Regent of Kolhapur state before Shahu's adoption in the Kolhapur Royal Family.

As a step in that direction Shahu Chhatrapati decided to establish a new settlement Jaysingpur, in honour of his father Jaysingrao, near Shirol road Railway Station, adjacent to the boundaries of Sangli and Miraj states and eventually to develop it into a town and especially a trading centre in tobacco and other cash crops. Accordingly, on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1916, special orders were issued by the Revenue Department of the Kolhapur state to demolish and clear the entire village area of the village

Phadegaon near the Shirol road Railway Station for having a new settlement on that area.

Later in a special Government Resolution, Revenue Department No. 111, dated the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 orders were issued to make specific arrangements for the establishment of a new settlement to be known as 'Jaysingpur' on the open land reserved on the south side of and near to the Shirol road Railway Station.

Further in a Government Declaration of 12th October, 1917 detailed information was given about the Government and Rayat (i.e. private) lands acquired by the Government for a new 'Jaysingpur' settlement to be established on the reserved land near Shirol road Railway Station at Kasaba Udagaon in the Hatkanangale Taluka of Karveer state.

Accordingly, the owners and cultivators of these acquired lands were asked to stop making use of these lands further and they were allowed to remove and take possession of the existing crops on the land.

As a result of these preliminary measures adopted with foresight by His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati the new project of establishing 'Jaysingpur Settlement' began to take shape and in course of time it developed in 'Jaysingpur Town' and ultimately became a flourishing trading town and a thriving educational and cultural centre. Obviously, the origin and rise of Jaysingpur town

is a tribute to the capacity of His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati to plan and execute new Project.

D. A. Vichare was the State Executive Engineer of Kolhapur state (1896-1919) and succeeded by S.S. Gupte, who continued the work of Public Works Department and completed some projects in the Kolhapur state.

The amount spent on public works during the year fell from Rs. 7,08,156 to Rs. 4,59,124. Of this amount, Rs. 2,62,212 were spent on original works Rs. 1,65,813 on repair works and Rs. 31,099 on establishment charges.

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