Preface

Significance of the study

It has been observed that few historians and archeologists have stated in their books that Maratha planners and rulers were not aware of any own architectural style and also they were lacking in developing the good systems of town and city planning.

It has been also observed while discussing about these subjects with many researchers colleagues, who are regularly studying Maratha history that they were also carrying the same impression.

While discussing this issue with the teachers in colleges of architecture, surprisingly it was found that they all were under the impression that there is no independent system of Maratha town planning. In their opinion, Maratha town planning was done haphazardly, without implementation of any system.

Since, looking to many good examples of architecture especially Wadas and temples, created in the towns and even in remote villages, by Maratha rulers, during 18th century, it will not be proper to conclude so easily that Maratha did not develop an independent style of architecture. Even when it is observed that town planning of Maratha villages is significantly different than the usual systems adopted by the other contemporary rulers, one should realized that there is some potential and thoughtful concepts behind this type of planning.

It can be surely said that Maratha also did a successful effort for developing their cities in their own style and also developed many fine cities accordingly, the growth and development of which started from a small village.

Therefore, now it is necessary to collect and compile correct and authentic information about the Maratha systems of development of villages and Maratha town and city planning by making research and to present it to the people, which will wipe out the misconceptions about these subjects.
A survey of previous work done in the research area
And need for further research

Unfortunately it is found that, no body has paid serious attention to the subjects like Maratha architecture and town planning. Even the architectural historians have neglected to think and write about these subjects being felt not that important. Even there is no book available that would give the correct and consolidated information about both these subjects because no body has studied this particular style that keenly.

But it can be surely said that alike the independent style of architecture, Marathas also did a successful effort for developing their villages, towns, and cities in their own style and also developed many fine cities accordingly.

While making study of the contemporary documents references, pertaining to Maratha history and also searching references about the overall developments of the cities and villages, the fast developments made in Pune city, particularly in 18th century, can be found very surprising to any researcher.

During 17th century and even in early 18th century, Pune was treated as a 'Kasba village' but because of the efforts taken by Peshwa Nanasaheb and Peshwa Madhavrao for its development, it was called as 'Shahar Pune' in late 18th century.

That time in Maratha province, only two cities, Satara and Pune, were treated as a 'Shahar'. But the expanse of Pune was much more than Satara.

While studying all these facts and developments, it was understood that considering the graph of its developments, Pune is the city that bears a great importance in Maratha city planning system.

Rather, the development of Pune city could be considered as a representative example of the development of any village of the Maratha province pertaining to 17th and 18th centuries.
Research on the development of Pune city has been also recently completed by the present researcher, still, it was always felt that more research should be made on the systems of Maratha town or city planning, because it would become a base for the study of the development of any Maratha city or town.

A question was always arising that, why the planning has been made so different than the usual style followed by the modern planners but the study of the development of Pune city offered the right answer to this question.

Therefore, it will be more appropriate to use the research made by the present researcher on the development of Pune city being a base for this research.

**Objectives of the study**

It is a genuine need to concentrate more, mainly on the study of Maratha city planning systems, for many reasons.

1. Firstly, to establish that there are independent own style and techniques developed by Maratha architects and planners.

2. Secondly, a study of Maratha town development systems should be done in a systematic way that would help to wipe out the misconception that Maratha didn't know anything about the town planning.

3. A system of categorization of different village according to their status and importance refers back for centuries. Satavahan Dynasty started a tradition of making divisions of the kingdom for the administrative conveniences in Maratha province since 1st century B. C. and with little changes that was followed by Chalukya, Rashtrakuta, Shilahar, and Yadav Dynasties up to 13th century. During the Islamic rules, Sultanates like Bahamani, Nizamshahi and Adilshahi, also adopted these systems by making few changes.
4. Maratha style and systems were mainly developed and established during 17\textsuperscript{th} century but it is found that there is a definite link between the city planning and the systems of village development and administration.

5. The old system of division wise classification adopted by Maratha is still in use and existence even today, though almost all these fine administrative systems were totally changed by the British rulers during 19\textsuperscript{th} century, replacing with new concepts. At the same time, British also totally discarded the Maratha city planning style and adopted and implemented their own town planning systems in Maratha province.

6. Now a day, though the Maratha planning systems had already lost its existence, the old style of village planning can be still observed in the small villages. But the scenario of the villages and cities is changing very fast. The movement of changing the old town planning by converting it into modern style and systems has already started in majority.

7. After couple of decades, even memories of these fine old concepts will virtually vanish. It is a need that something should be carefully noted and documented right now, by which at least information and details of these styles will be studied in future.

8. It is necessary to make aware architects and historians and also to common people about the approach and system adopted by Maratha for their town planning system.

Since, no consolidated information about this subject is available nor any previous research has been made, this research should be presented before the society.
Methodology and techniques to be used

This being a research on the historical subject, it will not be possible to achieve conclusions by making experiments. It will be totally depending on the documentary and physically visual evidences.

Unfortunately, no book is available that would give the correct and consolidated information about this subject but while making researches on the other subjects, invariably many references came across that were giving correct and authentic information about the Maratha systems of administration adopted in the villages as well as in the cities.

Still, it is also necessary to refer the authentic contemporary references like, lists of accounts, correspondences, letters, lists of events and happenings, duly published by the great veteran historians by transforming all these original 'Modi' scripts into 'Devanagari' format that will be useful to understand the political history of the development of such villages or cities. But without depending only on these references, a study of some other documents, especially the maps of different cities and villages is required. Simultaneously, physically visiting few villages and study the settlement patterns will also help to achieve the conclusions.

Today, Internet facility and goggle websites, have made possible to view any part of the world. It is also easier to refer views and maps of many cities and villages by using this facility that also may help a lot during this research.

Depending on these scripts and also considering their authenticity, finally, all these information shall be compiled in a systematic format in accordance with the historical events and happenings.

While compiling all these information it should be strictly decided to consider certain basic formality that is, initially, not to trust immediately on the legendary stories and even on any written script.
Many times, it happened that the original history is different but by the additions of such legends it had been changed in totality. So, it is always necessary and advisable that all these findings should always be compared with the few other authentic contemporary references before deriving any conclusive opinion. When this process was applied for the earlier researches, it was found that the historical information given by the Gazetteers of different districts and states in the context of villages, towns and cities, particularly of the establishments, was not based on proper contemporary evidences and sometimes misleading the correct facts. But these Gazetteers are giving correct information of those places as per actual observations. Therefore such information may be accepted to limited extent.

Sometimes, defined statements can be referred made in the books written or edited by the veteran historians but the supporting references are not given. In such cases instead of trusting the authenticity of the writer or editor, it is necessary to find out the correct information from other sources. If those also not found then such statements should be accepted only as their opinions and not as authentic evidence. While doing the research on the Maratha city planning some other documents alike may be found, to which the same rule must be followed. Also, a basic principle should strictly be followed that 'the evidences should never be collected suitable to any basic guess' instead, 'any basic guess should always be made depending upon the collected evidences', which will also be followed while doing the research on the Maratha city planning.

This research shall take care of narrating correct information considering all the above facts and restrictions and shall also narrate consolidated information about the Maratha systems of village development, and also town and city planning, which is not yet put forward to the people. It will also be useful for the students as well as the new researchers those want to do further work on the development of any Maratha village or city.
Plan of the research

Many times, the questions are asked like,

'What are the criteria that differentiate a Mouja and a Kasba village?’ or

'What is the difference between a Bazaar and a Bajarpeth?

'In 18th century, why all the large towns of Maratha province were called as 'Kasba' but never called as 'Shahar'? 

Even a question was always arising in the mind, 'why Pune city was called as 'Kasba Pune' even up to A. D. 1765 though it was hugely developed than any other contemporary town of Maratha province and why it was started referring as 'Shahar Pune' in late 18th century?'

Therefore, in this research initially, it is necessary to narrate information about the old systems of administrative divisions adopted by Hindu kings and then in the next chapters about the administration and development of a village made by Maratha during 17th and 18th centuries, followed by the information of the physical development of a village and the changes in the planning made accordingly during this period.

Initially, it was decided to write this research thesis in Marathi language because almost all the references exist in Marathi documents. It was much easier for me to explain the contemporary colloquial Marathi words and their meanings in Marathi rather than in English but again it was found that a majority class of the students of planning and architecture and also researchers of the young generation interested in studying history, may not understand it because they are not that conversant to the old Marathi language. Therefore it has been decided to write all this research in English.

In this research, all the references to be given will be explained in English but to avoid discrepancies, original Devanagari scripts of all these references will also be given wherever required. By which, at least the readers who can read Marathi language may understand their meanings in correct manner.
Another intension behind giving the original scripts of these Devanagari references is that it has been observed that most of the documents have to be referred are very old, rare and only available in the library of Bharat Itihas Samshodhak Mandal, Pune. After few years these documents may not remain in good readable condition and also may not be made available to the researchers in the library. That time, these Marathi - Devanagari scripts stated along with the references in this research will definitely help to understand the exact original wordings and language printed in such rare books.

As much as all possible information that will be found in these scattered Marathi documents will be given in English, as correctly as possible, along with the interpretations of the colloquial Marathi words often used to describe the contemporary meanings.

This research work is done firstly with the intension that henceforth, there shall not be any difficulty remain for the students and new researchers those want to do further work on the development of any Maratha village or city and secondly, to wipe out the misconceptions about the Maratha town planning.

There are thousands of documents written in ‘Modi’ script, lying in the Daftars of many institutes and also in government archives, just waiting for somebody to read and understand them. Till today any contemporary map or master plan of a village or a town, made by Maratha planners, has not been found. Such evidences may also be found in future to any researcher that are hidden in this treasure.

Hopefully, any architect, town planner, and historian will find out something more from this unread treasure and may submit some additional findings and also try to further develop this subject. At that time, this research will help them being a base for the future study.