CHAPTER - 6

Observations and Conclusion
6.1. Was the Vasai Campaign of Marathas a Religious War Against Portuguese?

The victory of Vasai achieved by Chimaji Appa and Peshwa Bajirao I against Estado da India in 1739 A.D. is considered as an important milestone in the military history of Marathas. The famous Annals of Sashiti ("साष्टीची बखर") authored by Gangaji Naik deplores in the strongest tone the religious atrocities being committed by orthodox Portuguese in the North Konkan against the followers of other religious such as Hindu (Jadhav 2011). It is also mentioned in the Annals of Mahikavati ("महिकावतीची बखर") that how first Portuguese after acquiring the Vasai region from the Gujarat Sultanate did not interfere in the social-religious issues of the local population and continued the traditional estate rights of the eligible regional landed elites but after some duration, changed their stand and started strictly enforcing the religion of Christianity on the local people without caring for their wish (Rajwade 1991). The ultra-orthodoxy of Portuguese in the Medieval period of India is a well established fact and is generally considered as one of the prime factors for their decline in the Indian subcontinent. The Portuguese monarchy was a theocracy like any contemporary period monarchial polity but due to the peculiar circumstances in the social-economical development of Europe as briefly mentioned in the Chapter one, had adopted the ultra-orthodox version of Christianity and this contemporary Portuguese policy can be better explained in the famous remark of Vasco da Gama "Vimos buscur Christaos e especiaria" (We have come to seek Christians and spices) (Edwardes 1909).

No discussion about the Portuguese bigotry, it's causes and effects is attempted here as a large number of literature is already available on this topic. This section specifically makes a brief observation on the issue of whether Peshwa Bajirao I and Chimaji Appa had any religious motive against Portuguese for launching their offensive in the Province of the North or was it guided by the contemporary geo-politics? A section of researchers such as D.B. Parasnis (Parasnis 1900) G.S. Sardesai (Sardesai 1931 and 1933), Y.N. Kelkar (2008) and B.V. Kulkarni (2009) hold the view that the Vasai campaign launched by Peshwa Bajirao I and Chimaji Appa was primarily a war of religion ("धर्मयुद्ध"). Considering their assertion, it should be noted here that the spread of Christianity was the official policy of the Estado da India and it was continued in the various forms in the 18th century also in the North Konkan. The dominance of Church over the State apparatus in the Estado da India is a well documented fact and the several Portuguese Viceroyos and Governors had conveyed to the regional rulers of their helplessness and inability in
interfering in the issues of religious practices. Due to their extreme intolerance of other religions and the practice of discontinuation of traditional estate rights and holdings in the North Konkan, Portuguese had already alienated a large section of regional landed elite who mostly were the upper caste Hindus and who had conspired with Marathas against Portuguese. As elaborated in the previous chapters, Marathas had attacked the Province of the North twice (first in 1723 A.D. and for second time in 1730 A.D.) but nowhere the issue of religious freedom to Hindus is found in the treaties concluded with Portuguese. Also we have seen in the previous chapters that though the Maratha commanders such as Govind Ram Thakur, Mahadaji Shevni and Vyankatrao Ghorpade had demanded persistently for the religious freedom for Hindus in Goa, no mention of it is found in the treaties concluded with Portuguese in Goa in 1739 A.D. In the last treaty concluded by Chimaji Appa with Portuguese in Vasai on 16th May, 1739 A.D. we do not find any reference to the religious issues except the article seven and twelve which is related to offering religious freedom to Christians in Vasai and maintenance of three churches located in the Vasai Fort, Vasai town and Sashti island. In the one more treaty which Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao (Nanasheb Peshwa) concluded with Portuguese related to possession of Revdanda and Korlai Forts on 18th September, 1740 A.D. does not contain any issues related to religious freedom to Hindus in the Portuguese controlled territories of Daman or Goa. It is true that Chimaji Appa was praised in the letters for establishing *Maharashtra Dharma* in Vasai after Maratha victory in the Province of the North but the same is not reflected in the Maratha diplomacy of the contemporary period. We have already seen in the previous chapters of how the regional geo-political issues with a wide historical background, in originality were the driving factors behind the Vasai campaign of Marathas and they do not need repetition here. The same fact, after the careful scrutiny of the contemporary documents is endorsed by the researchers such as Pandurang Pissurlekar (1967) and A.R. Kulkarni (2008).

6.2. Understanding the Settlement Pattern of the Province of the North with the help of Historical Geography -

After the creation of the Province of North, it was necessary for Estado da India to defend the territory from the enemy advances. Therefore, before discussing the defense management of the Province of the North in the Portuguese period, it is important to understand the geography and
settlement pattern of the region as it existed from the 15th to 18th centuries and which along with the rivers and geographical features is briefly discussed in the earlier chapters. Back in the 15th century, Mumbai (Bombay) was a group of seven islands, namely, Colaba, Old Woman’s island, Bombay, Mazgaon, Varli, Mahim and Parel whereas, the Sashi (Salsette) island which located to the North of Bombay group of islands had many small islands within itself such as Trombay, Vandre or Bandra, Juhu, Vesave or Versova, Madh, Marve, Dharavi (present Utan and its surroundings), Rai and Murdhe (near Bhayandar, on Utan road) etc. The creeks formed by the rivers Ulahas and Vaitarna were navigable inland up to Kalyan, Bhiwandi (presently in District – Thane) and Manor (presently in District – Palghar) respectively. At the mouth of the Vaitarna creek was the Arnala island. To the South-East direction of the Bombay (Mumbai) island were the Butcher, Elephanta, Hog (Nhave) and Karanja islands with the Amba river flowing past the Karanja island. These islands had a mixture of hilly and plain terrain with the all having either beautiful sandy beaches or the marshy tidal swamps. On the extreme South, at the mouth of the Kundalika creek was Revdanda, the site of the Portuguese Fort with Korlai at its South-Western side. The coastal strip on the North of the Vaitarana creek and the Sashi island was again a region characterized by the straight continuity of the hilly terrain on the East and mostly the sandy beaches on the West with marshy swamp inlands. This region had major estuaries and creeks such as Danda, Mahim, Dahanu, Sanjan and Damanganga etc. This entire region of the North Konkan was famous for its fertile land and salt pans, especially that of the Sashi and Bombay islands. This geographical situation of the region is reflected from the aquatint entitled “An Elevated View of the Islands of Bombay and Salsette, with the Surrounding Country” made by J.S. Barth in 1803 (Image – 53). Within this geographical setting were situated many hamlets, villages, ports, cities divided into the traditional administrative cum revenue divisions like Kasba, Paragana, Mandavi, Wadi, Pakhadia etc. which the Portuguese too adopted in their administrative set up. It appears that the Portuguese did not interfere much with the age old administrative divisions in the North Konkan. Hence, the settlement pattern outlining the small hamlets, villages, small and big ports, towns and the principal cities emerges. Apart from the ancient places of prominence such as Sopara, Kalyan and Chaul, some new centers of strategic and economical importance such as Mahim, Thane and Vasai emerged in the medieval and in the late medieval period, the feature which is retained during the Portuguese period. Vasai and Thane emerged as the principal urban centers during the Portuguese period. From 1534 – 1739
A.D. the generations of Portuguese living in the Province of North dotted the region with the forts, bastions, watchtowers, villas, fortified mansions, churches, chapels, convents etc. in addition to the already existing places and structures of the importance. As far as the political condition of the region immediately to the East and South-East of the Province of North is concerned, it is to note that during the 16th century, the Eastern region was mostly controlled by the local Koli kings from Rampur and Jawhar while that on the South-East was under the control of Ahemadnagar Sultanate, whereas, from the middle of the 17th century, the Eastern region was generally commanded by the Koli kings and the region to its immediate South and South-East were governed by the English, Marathas and the Mughals respectively.

Despite enriched with a good number of textual evidences, there are many missing links in the narratives which restricts in a considerable sense the actual re-construction of the life and region during the time of the Province of North and the issues related to the settlement and defense pattern stand at the forefront. There are certain issues, which often pop up as far as the exact demarcation of the extent of the Province of North is concerned. Though the Province of North’s Southern limit is well fixed, i.e. Revdanda and Korlai but the question like up to what extent it was spread in the Northern and Eastern direction and what are the supporting material evidences apart from those textual references in this area, is so far not treated well. How many villages, towns and cities containing the relics and ruins of the Portuguese period survive still today and which among them carry their primary identity? Among already known Portuguese sites, is any new evidence coming up which can shed more light about the various aspects of the Province of North? What type of defense strategy cum management did the Estado da India adopt to safeguard this region? And finally, what is the present condition of these sites? Issues like these, to be fair, are not answered in the detailed manner in any of the available studies on the region.

As far as the geographical spread of the Province of North is concerned, Daman is naturally taken as its Northern limit and Chaul as its southern point with no fix boundary in the consideration of its Eastern side. We know that under the jurisdiction of Vasai, the capital of the Province of North, the extreme Eastern most divisions of the Province used to come. From the North to South, Administrative divisions of Manor (a Pragana de Manora), Asheri (A Pragana de Asserim), both in the present situated in Palghar Taluka of Palghar district and Anjur (Pragana Anjor) in the present located in Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane district were placed under the control of Vasai. Manor had the forty two villages and one Sarretor, Asheri had the thirty
eight villages and six *Pacarias* and finally Anjur had the eighteen Villages and seven *Sarretor* (Cunha 1993). The investigation made by the author to understand and know the Eastern boundary of the Province of North has provided good evidences with the available material remains. It is found from the extensive fieldwork that the inland Eastern most point of the Province of the North was extended up to the village of Pimpalasgaon (Taluka - Bhiwandi, District - Thane), where the remains of Portuguese period chapel on a small hillock near the Kalyan creek which face directly towards the city of Kalyan are found. In the village too, there was a small fortress or outpost which villagers have destroyed some time before. Therefore, apart from the known Eastern points of the Province of the North with the corresponding material remains at Ashri and Manor, Pimpalasgaon has emerged as the extreme Eastern most point of the Province with the extant material remains. In the all probability, it seems that it was a one of the villages under the *Pragana of Anjor* or Anjur. In the North too, with the help of the material remains found during the fieldwork, it can be said that the Northern boundary of the Province of North's was extended much beyond the Daman Fort. The famous Parnera Fort at Atul in Valsad district of Gujarat was under the Portuguese attacks in 1558 A.D. The remains of a coastal fortified mansion is found at Bhimpore in the Union Territory of Daman, whereas, at the mouth of Kollakh creek in Kollakh (Taluka - Valsad, District - Valsad, Gujarat), a fortified outpost existed which the villagers have pulled down recently. The another place of prominence to the North of Kollakh was Badla Paradi (Taluka - Valsad, District - Valsad, Gujarat) where the Portuguese Fort once existed and which according to the Maratha records was won by Satvoji Jadhav, the son of Pilaji Jadhav on 16th February, 1739 A.D. After capturing the Portuguese fortification at Badla Pardi, the Maratha enlarged the older fortification. Thus, from the Material evidences available at the present, it becomes clear that the Portuguese settlements and fortifications existed in the area even to the North of Daman and they were spread in the Southern portion of the present Valsad district in Gujarat.

6.3. The Indo-European Defense Architecture in the North Konkan - A Brief Overview -

From the description and list of sites and monuments provided in the Chapter five, it is evident that a large number of structures, in the defense, religious and civil categories were constructed in the Province of North from 1516 A.D. to 1739 A.D. A rich exchange of art and architectural
traditions of the East and the West can be seen in the structures built in this period. It is important to note here that the region of North Konkan is associated with one of the earliest Indo-European structural and architectural activities of the late medieval period in the Indian subcontinent and which, sadly have received a little attention from the researchers in Archaeology. Before the arrival of the Portuguese in the North Konkan, how the defense of the Western coastal strip was managed by the Gujarat Sultanate and Ahmednagar Sultanate, especially in Thane, Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban and the upper part of Raigad is not much known and found, though we come across a few references of the minor fortifications at Mahim, Thane, Vasai etc. We know that the Portuguese destroyed much of the fortifications belonging to the period of Gujarat Sultanates and Ahmednagar Sultanate and used the material from the destroyed defense sites for the construction of a new forts and fortifications. A continuous chain of coastal defense structures presently seen right down from Revadanda in Raigad district to the Southern portion of Valsad district in the North owes its origin mainly to the Portuguese period. Further, this intense defense network was also spread inward. The term Indo-European art and architecture is coined and used by the Author at many instances in this thesis to treat the equal participation of the European and indigenous art and architectural traditions in the conceptualization, construction and the final outcome of the structural activities undertaken profusely in the region of the Province of the North in the period under consideration. Despite the parent European conceptuality and inspiration, it is well evident that due to the execution of the art and architectural projects in the North Konkan at the majority level in the hands of the indigenous artisans, masons, artists and supervisors, a rich syncretism of the Western and Eastern art and architectural styles and traditions can be noticed in the final products. Up to the what extent this exchange was done and in what degree it is reflected in the extant Indo-European art and architectural specimens of the North Konkan, is a domain of further study and research. The analysis of Indo-Portuguese art and architecture in the categories of defense, religious and civil, can reveal some important clues. After the thorough and detailed fieldwork conducted in this region, the encouraging positive results have come forward. It is observed that the Portuguese had spun a web of intricate defense structures of the various categories to defend this region from the enemy attacks as well as from the pirates. But before venturing into some details of the probable defense hierarchy in the Province of the North, it is important to understand that the apart from some mega defense structures, the majority of extant defense architecture does not fit
into the traditional concept and terminology of defense structures in the Indian Subcontinent where a fort is generally construed as a big structural entity provided with the massive fortification, large bastions with all living amenities furnished inside the fort.

The defense architecture is more functional in nature as it has to address the wider issues of security and enforcement and therefore, it needs to adjust with the local geography and the climate to serve the such purposes in the most capable manner. Moreover, the economical, social and political factors also play a major role in this overall process. But at the same time, these Indo-European defense monuments and sites undoubtedly retain their uniqueness when compared to the defense structures built by the indigenous polities in the same geographical and climatic background. For instance, in the Indo-Portuguese defense architecture, a distinguished Portuguese feature like the arrow-tipped shaped bastions are retained while adjusting it with the local background. In the overall Portuguese defense constructions across the North Konkan, it is observed that it was only for the big forts/fortifications that the dressed stone masonry was used.

Inside the fortifications, many structures were built in the undressed stone and random rubble stone masonry, the feature which it mostly maintains in the other categories of constructions. The next issue is of the size, location of the fort with the amenities inside. Curiously, if compared to the size of the forts built by the local polities of the contemporary period, excluding the forts at Vasai, Chaul, Thane and Daman, very few Indo-Portuguese defense structures in the North Konkan can really be included in the category of forts. The construction activity of any defense structure is determined by the strategic value of the location, which it is supposed to guard. Therefore, be it at the mouth of a creek or inside it, on the island, on the riverside which controls the inland trade, on the hills or the hillocks which can give a clear view of the surroundings, on the highest levels at the border of the village or inside the Village etc. the Portuguese wove a net of sophisticated defense structures everywhere in the Province of the North. Below is provided brief features of the different categories of Indo-Portuguese Defense Structures as noticed in the fieldwork in the North Konkan.

**Forts -**

For the large sized forts, we need to keep in mind that these forts were not constructed in a single period of time but took decades for completion. On the various occasions, they were subjected to
repair and alteration. These forts are generally spread over an area of more than 75 acres, are provided with at least 10 big sizes Bastions, 10 to 15 meter thick fortification walls and all kinds of civic amenities. The arrow-tipped, octagonal, circular shaped bastions are found in the majority of the Portuguese forts situated in the North Konkan. These forts at Chaul, Vasai, Thane and Daman served as the principal centers of the defense and administration in the Province of the North. Among these forts, construction for the fort at Thane was started in 1734 A.D. and before it could complete, Marathas conquered it and later completed its half-left construction. The capture of Thane marks the successive beginning of Maratha’s Vasai campaign. The Portuguese fort at Sanjan (Taluka - Umbargaon, District - Valsad, Gujarat) and at Tarapur (Taluka - Dahanu, District - Palghar, Maharashtra) is an example of a middle-sized fort, which served ably to cater the Portuguese defense needs. Tarapur Fort was enlarged and repaired by Marathas and the two phases of construction activities can be noticed at Tarapur Fort. These large forts are mostly found at the mouth of a creek, touching the coast line. Besides the above listed original Portuguese defense structures, the Portuguese also got control of a few prominent hill forts, of which origin probably dates back to the early medieval period. The Asheri Fort (Taluka – Palghar, District – Thane) is the best example of it. Portuguese enlarged this remote and relatively inaccessible fort as per their need and convenience and this extra layer of the Portuguese workmanship can be still discerned today.

**Fortresses -**

Apart from the relatively large forts at Chaul, Vasai and Daman, Portuguese built numerous small fortresses in the Province of the North. These small fortresses acted as watch and custom posts despite lacking in the water storage facilities. These fortresses are generally constructed on a rectangular or square plan. They are provided with the bastions at the four corners and the curtain walls are provided with the gun holes and slits. The thickness of the wall in the most cases varies from 0.75 to 2 meters. These small fortresses are found at the sea shore, at the mouth of a creek or inside the creek and on the riverside. The Portuguese fortress at Kharbao (Taluka – Bhiwandi, District – Thane), Kambe (Taluka – Bhiwandi, District – Thane), Mandavi (Taluka – Vasai, District – Thane), the extinct fortress at Dativare (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Manor (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Kelve (Taluka – Palghar, District – Palghar),
Mahim (Taluka – Palghar, District – Palghar), Shirgaon Fortress (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar) etc. come in this category. In Shirgaon Fortress, the two phases of construction activities can be seen, one that of the Portuguese period and the second of the Maratha period. The original Portuguese construction was majorly built of the undressed stones in random rubble masonry and was coated with lime plaster while the construction of Maratha period is marked with the dressed stone masonry. Hence, it becomes clear that the size of original Portuguese period Shirgaon Fortress was much smaller than its present version.

**Bastions and Watchtowers -**

Next and the important category of the Indo-Portuguese defense structures observed in the North Konkan is of bastions and watchtowers. Portuguese are responsible for the construction of numerous solitary pentagonal, octagonal, square, circular shaped bastions, watchtowers and wooden stockades. The sizes of all these structures vary. Unfortunately, none of the fortified wooden stockades have survived but from the Portuguese, Maratha and British records, we come to know about the famous wooden cum palm stockades at Saivan and Nalasapora (both in Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar). For the all structures in this category, no permanent entry by the way of steps or staircases is provided and one has to enter inside by using a ladder. The bastions are generally of the two types, the first one which is filled with the solid materials inside and the second are those which are hollow from inside. Those in the first subcategory are provided with the parapet wall above, with the regular intervals for the gun-holes and gun-slits. These structures are equipped with an approximate 0.60 to 1 meter thick wall. In some cases, a room for the guards also can be found on these bastions. From the evidences available at the present, it can be said that the original Portuguese period fort at the Madh island/Versova (District - Mumbai Suburban) was nothing but a such type of the large pentagonal bastion. The original pentagonal bastion, in the post-Portuguese period was repaired and enlarged by the Marathas and the British. This bastion still stands inside the fort at the Madh island. The pentagonal shaped bastion near the Customs Office at Kelve (Taluka – Palghar, District – Palghar) and at Mahim (Taluka – Palghar, District – Palghar), are the examples of this type. In the second category, the bastions/watchtowers are hollow from inside and in some cases are provided with the multiple floor-tiers made inside with the help of wooden floors. In this type too, gun-windows and gun-
slits are provided at the regular intervals and in the case of circular bastions, the usual parapet wall pierced with the gun-windows and gun-slits is provided. The structures with an approximate wall thickness of 0.75 to 1 meter in this second sub-category are usually bigger in the size than that of the first sub-category. The circular shaped bastion cum watchtower at the Madh island (District - Mumbai Suburban), the square shaped bastion cum watchtower at Belapur (Central Business District of Belapur, New Mumbai), the square shaped bastion cum watchtower with an enclosure wall at Firangpada (Taluka – Bhiwandi, District – Thane), the circular shaped bastion cum watchtower at Arnala (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar), the square shaped bastion cum watchtower at Edwan (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), the pentagonal shaped bastion at Danda (Taluka – Palghar, District – Palghar), the circular shaped bastion at Buruzpada, Chinchani (Taluka - Dahanu, District - Palghar), the square shaped watch tower with an adjoining structure at Aasangaon (Taluka – Dahanu, District – Palghar) and an extinct Portuguese bastion cum watchtower at Umbargaon (Taluka - Umbargaon, District - Valsad, Gujarat) are the few representative examples of this category. The extinct Portuguese forts Sao Pedro and Sao Jeronimo which stood in Thane creek were originally the circular bastions. From the Aasangaon watchtower, it appears that majority of them were roofed. The bastions and watchtowers belonging to the above mentioned categories are usually found on the coastal islands, sea shore, at the mouth of a creek or inside and at riverside. It is observed that a very few of them are found in a land-locked area.

**Outposts -**

The military outposts form the next category of Indo-Portuguese defense structures in the North Konkan. These simple single entry square or rectangular humble looking outposts (generally 8 × 7 meter to 12 × 10 meters in size) were proved to be of immense security utility for the Portuguese controlled area. Varying in the wall thickness ranging from 0.60 to 1 meter, these structures are generally provided with the gun-slits. They are mostly found located in inland, either on a small hillock overlooking the nearby area or on a plain land either inside or on the boundary of a village and away from the coastal area. The outposts such at Junadurkhi (Taluka - Bhiwandi, District – Thane), Nagale (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar), Shilottar (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar), Maljipada (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar), Dahisar (Taluka -
Palghar, District - Palghar), Duktan (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Girala (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Nawaze (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Boisar (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Kudan (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Maroli-Phanse (Taluka - Umbargaon, District - Valsad, Gujarat) etc. are the specimens of this category.

**Fortified Mansions -**

Besides the pure defense structures like the forts, fortresses, bastions, watchtowers and outposts, the Portuguese nobles and landlords also built the numerous fortified villas and mansions, which in addition to the luxurious residences of the nobles also undertook the responsibility of the defense of the area. These fortified villas/mansions are usually the multi-toom and one storey structures with the maximum wall width of 1 meter. The gun-slits are found in these structures. These grand structures encompassing the minimum area of 2500 square feet are found everywhere, be it at the beautiful places like on the hillock looking across the creek, sea, river or inside a village or on its boundary. One should not forget about the fortified manor house at the Bombay island in the first half of the 16th century owned by the celebrated Portuguese Botanist and Medical Scientist, Dr. Garcia da Oarta. The most of the such fortified houses are destroyed but some of the surviving portions can give a clue about their bygone splendor. It is only at Dongaripada, near Kaman (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar) that one such house located on the top of a hillock is still under the occupation. It is approximately 14 meter × 10 meter in dimension with 60 C.M. wall width. The fortified mansion at Sasunavghar even has the remains of in-built small chapel but at the present, it stands in dilapidated condition. The Ghodbandar Fort was originally a fortified mansion built by the landlord of Ghodbandar village. The remains of such fortified villas/mansions are found at Nagale Bandar and Gaimukh (Taluka - Thane, District - Thane), Sasunavghar (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar), Ju-Chandra (Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar), Khamloli (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Danda (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Kurgaon (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Kolavali (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Koliwade (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Kumbhavali (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Wengani (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Padgam (Taluka - Umbargaon, District - Valsad, Gujarat), Bhimpore (the Union Territory of Daman) etc. These Villas cum Fortified Mansions too played an important role in defense of the Province of North.
Fortified Church/Convents/Chapels -

The religious structures like the Churches, Convents and Chapels built in the Portuguese period too performed the duties of defense in the time of emergency. It is a recorded fact that the Portuguese Churches in the Province of the North were heavily armed and fortified. A well known English writer and traveler Dr. John Fryer talks about a fortified convent at Bandora (present Bandra/Vandre, District - Mumbai Suburban) in 1665 A.D. The Marathas talked in an awe about the fortified Churches and its clergy fighters. In the attack of Sambhaji on the Province of the North in 1682 -1684 A.D. a large number of churches were destroyed by Marathas due to their fighting capability. The Bandra Fort which resisted Maratha attacks for two long years from 1737 to 1739 A.D. was originally a fortified Jesuit convent. These Churches and Chapel complexes occupied a huge space (minimum 2000 square feet area) and its walls had the width ranging from 0.60 to 1 meter. The remains of these fortified churches, chapels and convents still survive in the North Konkan. The remains of fortified churches, convents and chapels are found at Trombay (District - Mumbai), Mandapeshvar (Borivali, District - Mumbai Suburban), Erangal (District - Mumbai Suburban), Manori (District - Mumbai Suburban), Pimpalasgaon (Taluka - Bhiwandi, District - Thane), Virathan Budruk (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar), Jalsar (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar) and at Kelve (Taluka - Palghar, District - Palghar) etc.

From the above discussion, it becomes clear that the Portuguese defense system in the Province of North was highly organized. In the first-tier, there were major forts backed by the middle-size forts and the small-size fortresses. In the second-tier, there were numerous bastions, watchtowers, wooden stockades supported by the military Outposts. In the final-tier were the fortified mansions/villas supported by the fortified church complexes. It is obvious that the Estado da India had to arrange for the defense of such vast territory in the North Konkan in the background of the available finance and resources and the same is completely reflected in the size, typology and the construction methodology adopted for the various categories of the defense structures. It is significant to highlight here that these small and tiny looking Portuguese defense structures consumed the maximum energy of the Maratha forces than the large forts during the Vasai campaign (1737 - 1739 A.D.). As a subject matter of the present chapter is to
understand the settlement and defense pattern cum management of the Province of North, therefore, an introductory discussion is attempted here to highlight the different varieties of the Portuguese defense architecture in the background of the settlement pattern, with its broad characteristic features and representative examples. The descriptive analysis of the monument and the site specific architectural, historical features is presented in the previous chapter. These sites and monuments belonging to the earliest phase of the European expansion and colonialism in India, depict in-itself nothing but a journey of the Province of North from its birth to the end.