

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Situated in a commanding position in the Deccan Plateau with the projections of the parts of the Western Ghats and with the fertile river valleys of the Krishna, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha and the other tributary flows, Belgaum district region was destined to play a prominent part in the history of Karnakata and South India. Being near to the ancient capitals of Badami and Bijapur, it was a part of the core country of the Early Chalukyan and Adilshahi Empires. Being proximate to Banavasi, it enjoyed a similar privileged position even earlier under the Kadambas who had Halashi as their secondary capital. The scores of temples of the Later Chalukyan style, built not only by the Kalyana dynasty but also by their feudatories, the Rattas and the Kadambas of Goa stand in testimony to the political importance the region had under Chalukyas of Kalyana. The imperial traditions of the Shatavahanas, Badami (Early) Chalukyas, Rashtrakuta and Kalyana (Later) Chalukyas that had held the regions of modern Karnataka and Maharashtra states, together, helped the continuation of the regions on both the sides of the Krishna together under a single royal umbrella, and the Seunas had Belgaum under their control. Later, the Bahmanis, Adilshahis and the Mughuls too held this part of Karnataka under their rule though major parts of their territories were in Maharashtra. As for the Marathas, considerable parts of Belgaum district were under Shivaji. The Peshwas, the Kolhapur rulers and other Maratha potentates together held the whole district till their fall. The district played the most notable part in Karnataka in the history of freedom movement.

Puranic Associations

Many places in the district have been connected with puranic and mythological traditions. There are as many as five Ramateerthas in the district, 1) in the Parasgad fort, 2) at Mullur in Ramdurg taluk, 3) near Kanbargi in Belgaum taluk, 4) at Ramateertha in Athani taluk and near Halashi in Khanapur taluk which are described as visited by Rama who installed Ramalingas at these places. Ramdurg fort is ascribed to Rama and Shabarikolla near Sureban is described as the place where Shabari had lived and met Rama. Sogal is described as the place where one Sugolamuni performed penance. Yedur on the banks of the Krishna is claimed to be a place where Daksha performed a sacrifice, which was later obstructed by Veerabhadra. Godachi in Parasgad taluk also lays claim to be the site of this event. Shirsangi in Parasgad taluk is described as the place where Sage Rishyasringa had stayed. The Yellamma Gudda is called the site where Jamadagni had lived and the dramatic events of his son Parashurama beheading his mother Renuka at his father's bidding having taken place. Goddess Yellavva of Saundatti is identified with Renuka and worshipped. Jamboti is associated with Jambavati, Lord Krishna's consort and Jambavanta's daughter. Saptasagar, a pre-historic site is claimed to be the place where the Saptarshis had lived and the ashmond there is ascribed to the sacrifices they had performed. The Mugutkhan Hubli Narasimha temple is claimed to be the place where Sage Chavana had performed a sacrifice. Many passage chamber tombs that are found at Konnur and other places are ascribed to the Pandavas.

Pre-History*

The river valley and hill ranges with many gorges and caverns in the district were very favourable sites for the habitat of the pre-historic people. A few Lower Palaeolithic sites, the earliest stone age cultural stage of man, have been traced in the upper Malaprabha and the Ghataprabha valleys as well as their tributaries. For instance at Sutgatti in the Ghataprabha valley (Belgaum taluk) and Tallur (Parasgad taluk) on the Malaprabha are found stone tools of the Early Palaeolithic culture. Besides near Gokak (in the Ghataprabha valley) some of the animal fossils (of the Early Palaeolithic period?) were also found. But the relationship of these

* Script corrected by Dr A Sundara, Director of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Karnataka.

fossils with the contemporary human cultural remains if any are yet to be investigated.

The stone tools of these sites are made of quartzitic sand stone, the most common medium used for making tools by the Early Palaeolithic man in this region as known from the other sites. In these river valleys as elsewhere the most common tool types are hand-axes and 'U' shaped cleavers, technically of mid-Acheulian type. Dr. R. S. Pappu of the Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute has noted that the lower Acheulian tools are found at Halagatti, Sunnal and Chilamur and tools of the Acheulian type are located at Kolachi, Chilamur, Chinchkhand, Gonnagar and Sureban in the Malaprabha valley.

At Gonnagar, in a cave, tools of the Middle Palaeolithic stage were traced. Dr. Pappu had demarcated heavy concentration of the Middle Palaeolithic sites between Yadwad (Gokak taluk) and Lokapur (Mudhol taluk) in Bijapur District. Many more middle Palaeolithic sites have been located at Kolagi, Kundargi, Loslar, Mamadapur and Pachapur. Dr. Sundara had collected many middle Palaeolithic tools in a hill valley near Shabarikolla (with c 10-11th Cent. temple unusually having *shalashikhara*) in 1966.

In view of the fact that the Upper Palaeolithic stage in India has not yet been clearly and fully established over a major part of the country, in this region also Upper Palaeolithic sites are sparsely noted. The only one site is Yadwad with scrapers, burils, flakes, simple and backed blades, corls, etc.

At Gonnagar, Shabarikolla and Megundeshwar are found Mesolithic cultural remains. In a cave behind the Shabarikolla temple was noticed by Dr. Sundara a painting of a circle with dots inside. The Mesolithic culture elsewhere in Karnataka, example in Sagnakallu (near Bellary) is dated 5,000 B. C.

Neolithic sites in this region comparable to those in Sangana-kallu, and T. Narasipur (on the Cauveri valley, Mysore District) have not been traced so far in this region. Numerous Chalcolithic sites have been located by Dr. Sundara in the upper Krishna valley, for examples at Kadoli, Eksamba, Kudachi, Satti, Saptasagar, etc. Comparatively speaking these sites are very rich in black-on-red painted pottery of varieties in Karnataka different in types and fabrics from those of the Godavari valley (example: the Malwa and Jorwe

pottery). One of the varieties occurring in profession is similar to those from the earliest phase of the Neolithic in Chalcolithic stage in Brahmagiri i.e., Brahmagiri-IA. Another variety is intimately akin to that of Savalda in Tapi valley. Pottery with paintings in ivory black, white kaolin and brown are also found at Satti. Most occasionally occur pottery with paintings in scarlet red. Among these sites Satti and Saptasagar in Athani taluk, Kadoli, Eksamba and Kudachi are noteworthy. In some of these sites are traced remnants of mounds of scoriaceous ash, for instance at Kudachi, Konnur, Eksamba, etc. Ever since the discovery and the interpretation of these ash-mounds by Robert Bruce-Foote in the last decades of the 19th Century in the Raichur Doab sporadic and scientific investigations have been and are being carried out on finding out the causes for the formations of such ash mounds, the cultural association, purpose and date by especially Dr F. R. Allchin, V. R. Reddy, S. N. Rajguru, Mujumdar and Sundara. Accordingly various theories such as that these mounds are due to the periodical burning of cowdung accumulated in cattle-pens of the Neolithic people, iron smelting activities etc., are current. However the occurrence of the ash mounds in the Krishna valley of the Belgaum region, according to Sundara, seems to indicate the course of the defusion of this activity along the valley towards the Doab and it is probably associated with either the users of Sawalda pottery or the Iron-Age Megalithic passage chamber builders.

The beginning of the Iron-Age in Karnataka in general is marked with the use of iron in every day life replacing stone for making tools and weapons etc., and occurrence of numerous stone tombs built with rude stone slabs/boulders (with a passage for entering the tomb to collect human skeletal remains of the dead sometime after the first burial) with black-and-red ware vessels, iron objects etc., in them called megaliths. Many megalithic sites are traced mostly by Sundara in Belgaum region such as at Hidkal, Hunur, Nirvanahatti etc., (now sub-merged under the Hidkal irrigation dam), Ghodgeri, Godachinmalki, Saundatti etc. Earlier at Konnur an extensive Megalithic site had been noticed. The Megalithic tombs in most of the sites are passage chambers. There are two distinct types of passage chambers as known from the ground plan, orientation and mode of construction, typically represented in Konnur and Saundatti and therefore designated as Konnur and Saundatti types. At Hunnur, Ghodgeri, etc, there are large sized oval shaped barrows each concealing many passage chambers tombs,

probably representing family vaults through the ages. One such barrow in Hunnur was excavated in 1969 by the Archaeological Survey of India. Pottery vessels and bits of iron objects have been found in these tombs. One of these tombs have been transplanted and erected near the Circuit House in Hidkal. The tomb generally is trapezoidal in plan with a passage oriented invariably southwards or between south-west and south-east. It is usually raised from above the ground and occasionally, partly buried or almost completely buried depending upon the nature of the spot. The chamber consists of six undressed, thick and huge slabs, five on the sides and one on the top. If three slabs cover the three sides, on the South, there will be two orthostats lesser in width than the slabs on the other three sides. Between the two orthostats will be a gap leading to the chamber. This central gap or opening is approached by a passage formed by two flanking slabs, set up vertically. The entire structure is surrounded by stone-rubbles and earth heaped upon upto the capstone on the sides. The whole structure looks like a round barrow. These chambers are found in hundreds at Konnur in Gokak taluk and also in places like Ainapur, Hidkal, Ghodgeri, Savalagi and Godachinamalki. There are tombs of a slightly different type found at Sindhogi, Tallur and Saundatti also. These chambers were tombs and the passage is meant for the periodical offerings to the deceased by the relatives of the dead. Their date has been fixed as between 1200 to 700 B. C.

The pre-historic man of the Paleolithic Age was a nomad, a food gatherer or food hunter, using stone tools prepared by flaking. A distinct change is discernable from after the Mesolithic age. During the Mesolithic age as known from the investigations elsewhere in India for example Sahar Naharai, Lekhania (Uttar Pradesh), Langhanaj (Gujarat), etc., people seem to have developed certain traditions that bound them together and started dwelling at one place for a longer period collecting wild grains, constructing hut like dwellings, preparing ear-ornaments on animal bones and pottery vessels, etc. They had also developed fairly an elaborate ritual for disposing of the dead.

In the next stage tools, systematically flaked, ground and polished with sharpened working edges were produced and these were used for clearance of trees and plants and for agricultural operations. Consequently people became well settled and economically better. Very soon copper ores were prospected and smelted and the metal was

used for preparing tools besides polished stone tools and this stage is described as chalcolithic. Domestication of animals and developed cultivation improved the standard of life and pottery vessels were decorated with paintings in different colours and lapidary ornaments made on metals such as gold and copper as well as semi-precious stones like chalcedony, chert, jasper, etc., were manufactured and used for necklaces, etc.

In the Iron-Age, altogether a different variety of pottery both in types and fabrics were prepared and used. A variety of iron implements, such as agricultural tools, sickle, knife, weapons like swords, javelins and arrow-heads, vessels such as plates with loop handles etc., were in use. These indicate an advanced stage of the material life of man ready for developing full-fledged cities of the beginning of the historical period.

The Shatavahanas

Undoubtedly, Belgaum district area had been a part of the Mauryan empire during the historic period, as Ashokan edicts have been found to the east and south-east of Belgaum, in the districts of Raichur, Bellary and Chitradurga. But no definite records to indicate that the district formed a part of the empire are forthcoming. Such a statement could have also been made regarding the Shatavahana rule too despite the fact that the inscriptions of the Shatavahanas have been found further southwards in places like Banavasi, but for the discovery of a Shatavahana town at Vadgaon-Madhavapur near Belgaum where numerous coins of the Shatavahanas were also found in 1965 and subsequent excavations. Two alloy coins (of tin and zinc) of Sirisatakarni or Yajnyasri were found in that year. Of the other coins found there, the latest are those of Vasishthiputasa Pulumavi, Yajnyasri Shatakarni and Vasishthiputra Vilivayakura which were also notable. One copper coin which had an elephant on the obverse and the symbol of Ujjayini on the reverse is identified as of Shatakarni I. Two silver coins of the Kshatrapas and one silver coin of the Roman Empire were also found, and these coins must have been in currency in this region in Shatavahana times.

As for the Shatavahana history they ruled over the Deccan with Paithan (Pratishthana) as capital and their sway extended over the modern State of Maharashtra including the coast, Andhra and parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka including the district of Belgaum. They have left behind some of the finest

rock-cut shrines in Maharashtra at Nasik, Karle, Kanheri, Nanaghat and Junnar and *stupas* in Andhra Pradesh. The Panhala shrines are the nearest to Belgaum district. Most of the princes believed in Vedic religion and many of their queens professed Buddhist faith. The first prince of the dynasty was Simukha (30 B.C.) succeeded by Krishna or Kanna, and Kanheri (Kanneri) near Bombay is named after him. He was followed by Shatakarni. The copper coins found at Vadgaon are of his period (03 BC - to 15 AD). The invasion of the Shakas eclipsed Shatavahana power after Shatakarni. But Gautaimiputra (c 106 - 130 A.D.) retrieved the fortunes of the family. He defeated Shaka Nahapana and over stamped the latter's silver currency with Shatavahana symbols. His son Vashishthiputra Pulumavi (130-159) who succeeded him has left behind one Prakrit inscription at Banavasi, that being a memorial stone to his deceased queen and another in Bellary district. His coins found at Vadgaon have been referred to above. Shivasri (c 159-166), Shivaskanda (c 167-174) and Yajnyasri (c 174-203) were the successors of Pulumavi, and after Yajnyasri, there was a division in the family and Kuntala and Hala, two princes of the family are believed to have ruled from Kuntala or Karnataka, perhaps from Banavasi. Hala is the author of the work *Gata Sattasati*, a collection of Prakrit verses. By about 232 A.D., the Shatavahana rule ended and they were succeeded by Chutus at Banavasi and the Kuras or Ankuras in Kolhapur region. The coin of Vasitiputasa Vilivayakura mentioned earlier appears to be of a prince of this family. Vadgaon-Madhavpur appears to have been a flourishing trade centre, even having contacts with the Roman Empire as testified by the Roman coins found here. Buddhism and Shaivism were flourishing religions of the place, and the Vadgaon pillar inscription found here assigned to the first century B.C. speaks of the performance of Vajapeya and other sacrifices by a brahmin of Kashyapa *gotra* to indicate the popularity of the Vedic religion.

Who ruled in Belgaum district for some decades between the third century and till the advent of the Kadambas and the Bhojas, is not clear due to paucity of sources. Traditions mention a Jaina prince called Jakkadeva said to have ruled at or around Belgaum. But it is difficult to fix his date or even his sphere of authority.

The Bhojas

The Bhojas are mentioned in the traditional Sanskrit literature (*puranas*) as belonging to the Haihaya sub-division of the Yadavas

(of Dwaraka) and they appear to have been ruling from North Konkan as contemporaries of the Shatavahanas. A branch of theirs ruled from Chandor in Goa between the 4th and the 6th centuries. The Bhojas of Chandor appear to have been ruling over Goa, parts of Uttara Kannada and Khanapur and Belgaum taluk region. They had elephant as their emblem. Six records of theirs, all copper plates in Sanskrit, have been found, one of them being from Belgaum district.

The Siroda plates, issued from Chandor (*EI*, XXIV, p. 143) speak of Devaraja, the earliest known ruler of this branch. He appears to have ruled during the close of the third or beginning of the fourth century. This surmise is based on the palaeography of the record. Prithvimallavarman is the next ruler of the dynasty, spoken of in the Ponda and Bandora plates (both from Goa), and these records are assigned to the later half of the fifth century. The Hiregutti Plates (*EI*, XXVIII) speak of Ashankitaraja of the same dynasty, making a grant to a Buddhist *vihara* in Dipaka Vishaya. Another record of the same prince (Ashankitavarman) is from Belgaum district (Kapoli, Khanapur taluk, *EI*, XXXI) There is also a view that "this Ashankitavarman is considered to be different from his namesake of Hiregutti plates". The plates speak of Bhoja Kapalivarman, described as "Dharmamaharaja". This record is assigned to the early part of the sixth century, and Swamikaraja mentioned here is identified by some with Swamiraja of the Kalachuri family whom Chalukya Mangalesha claims to have defeated (Nerur plates, *IA*, VII). Thus we hear of five (or six) Bhoja rulers, ruling between the fourth and sixth centuries. "The relationship in which the five rulers of the family stood to one another and the order of their succession, if any, is not clear from the records". The rulers are, Devaraja, Prithvimallavarman, Ashankitaraja, Ashankitavarman, Prithvimallavarman and Kapalivarman. These records also speak of officers like *ayukta*, *bhogika*, *sarvatantradhikari* and *maharahasyadhikrita*.

The Kadambas

The Kadambas of Banavasi were a sovereign power who ruled over major parts of Karnataka and also parts of Goa and Maharashtra. The Gangas, their contemporaries, ruled over Gangavadi (South Karnataka) at the same time. They have called themselves as Brahmins, belonging to Manavyasagotra and the sons of Hariti.

The Talagunda inscriptions of crown prince Shanti Varman of

c 450 A.D. state that the originator of the family was Mayura Sharman, a young Brahmin scholar from Talagunda. Gudnapur record makes it clear that Mayura's father was Bandhushena and the latter had developed the character of a Kshatriya. Ten records of the family are found in Belgaum district, of which seven copper plates are from Halashi (Palasika) which was their secondary capital. Another secondary capital of theirs, Triparvata is identified by K. B. Pathak with Murgod.* Krishna Varman I, a Viceroy of this branch (c 430-60) later revolted and started ruling independently from Triparvata.

The first ruler of the Kadamba dynasty, Mayura Sharman, well versed in all the Vedas and the Angas, had gone to Kanchi, the capital of the Pallavas, which was a *ghatikasthan* or centre of higher learning. The Pallavas ruled parts of Karnataka in those days and Talagunda (in Shimoga district), the home of Mayura, was a part of the Pallava kingdom. Mayura was highly enraged and humiliated by the Pallavas. This made him to discontinue his studies, leave Kanchi and take to the life of a warrior. He succeeded in establishing himself in the forest of Sriparvata region after defeating the *antarpalas* or the guards of the Pallavas. The Pallavas failed to subdue him and were forced to recognise him as king over the regions stretching from the Western ocean to the river Prehara, identified as the Malaprabha.

Mayura Sharman (c 325 A. D.-345 A. D.) was succeeded by his son Kanga Varman in c 345 A. D. He is described as receiving obeissance from a number of chiefs and had to face terrible wars. Prof. Jouveau-Dubreuil feels that the Kuntala ruler described as defeated by the Vakataka king Prithvisena must be this Kadamba prince. Still Kanga Varman appears to have maintained his freedom. He was succeeded by Bhageeratha (c 365-385) his son, who is described as "born secretly in the Kadamba family" according to the Talagunda record. This indicates that Kanga Varman had lost his kingdom and Bhageeratha was born when he was away (in exile) from the capital. Perhaps the birth of this prince was not known to the people for long. Bhageeratha is described as "the sole Lord of the Kadamba land" and again the great Sagara himself, only to indicate that he retrieved the fortunes of his family. His son Raghu (c 385-405) who succeeded

* This identification is of doubtful veracity as Murgod is called Mudugade and Murugade in earlier records, not amenable to the interpretation *murukodu* (*triparvata*) or three hills.

him, is described as having punished the enemies of the kingdom and like Prithu, secured the land, to be enjoyed by the younger brother Kakustha Varman. The Talagunda inscription is of crown prince Shanti Varman, son of Kakustha. He must have also been the joint ruler (as the record calls him *nripati*).

Kakustha Varman: Kakustha the following ruler, was acting as the *yuvaraja* in the days of his brother, Raghu. He appears to have ruled for a long period, beginning with c 405. The Talagunda inscription and the Halashi copper plate are two important records of his period. "It may rightly be said that it was during the reign of this king that the Kadamba empire reached the acme of its greatness", says Dr. Moraes. The Talagunda record calls him the ornament of the Kadamba family and the one that had distinguished himself in the battle field. The Halashi plates of the 80th victorious year (of the Kadambas) record a grant of land by crown prince Kakustha Varman to a general Shrutakirti as a reward. The land was in the village Khetaka (Purukhetaka), perhaps the village Pur (Pura) in Bidi hobli.

An interesting aspect of his foreign relations was his having married his daughters in some of the leading royal families of India like the Guptas as suggested by the Talagunda inscription. Dr. P. B. Desai feels that the Kadamba ruler's daughter was married to Skandha Gupta son of Kumara Gupta. The Balaghat inscription of Vakataka Prithvisena states that his son Narendrasena was married to Ajitabhattarika, a Kuntala princess. Scholars have identified this princess to be the daughter of Kakustha Varman as he was Prithvisena's contemporary. Another Talagunda record (MAR, 1911) states that one of the daughters of the same king was married to a prince of the Bhatari family, a feudatory of the Kadambas. This princess Lakshmi, was the mother of Kakustha of the Bhatari family, mentioned in this record, whose husband was Pashupati. We also know from a later record that Ganga Avinita was the nephew of Kadamba Krishna Varman. This leads to the conclusion that Avinita's father Madhava had married another daughter of Kakustha Varman, as Krishna Varman was the son of the latter. Kakustha was a powerful ruler, strong enough to forge matrimonial alliances with some of the noble royal families of India.

Shantivarman, who was a joint ruler with his father must have succeeded his father as a sole ruler in c 430 A.D. He ruled for a

short time till c 450 A.D. He is styled as "the second sun of the Kadamba family" in one of the grants of his son Mrigesha. His younger brother Krishna Varman I was ruling as viceroy. Krishna Varman later revolted against him and started ruling from Triparvata. He performed horse sacrifice too. But he was later killed by the Pallavas. After this, his son Vishnu Varman succeeded his father as a viceroy of the Banavasi branch.

Mrigesha Varman, the eldest son of Shanti Varman, succeeded his father in about 450. He came into conflict with the Gangas and the Pallavas. Palasika or Halashi was a second capital in his time. He has made a grant of 33 *nivartanas* of land to the Jinalaya of the place. The Halashi plates which announce this grant speak of Bhanu Varman, his son who was perhaps the viceroy at Halashi and one Pandara, the *bhojaka* under the prince. Mrigesha Varman was married to a Kekaya princess, Prabhavati and he had three sons, of whom Ravi Varman succeeded him.

After Mrigesha, his brother Sivamandhatri appears to have ruled for a short while (according to Kudagere grant), perhaps during the minority of the former's son, Ravi Varman. After this regency (c 480-485) of his uncle, Ravi Varman succeeded to the throne and his rule is the longest among the Kadambas. He killed the ruler of Kanchi called Chandadanda, whom Prof. R. Sathianathaier identifies as Pallava Shanti Varman, who had perhaps come to the aid of the rival line of Triparvata. He also killed Vishnu Varman of Triparvata branch in c 490. He put an end to the vice-regality of the successors of his uncle Shivamandhatri, who must have tried to revolt and establish another rival branch from Ucchangi. Ravi Varman's younger brother Bhanu Varman was stationed at Halashi, and another brother Shivaratha at Ucchangi as viceroys. Ravi Varman has left behind at least 10 records, the Sirsi plates of his 35th regnal year being the last. The recently discovered Kelagundli record (in Kannada) speaks of his queen called Mallige who predeceased him. Two more copper plate grants of his found at Halashi speak of his grant to the Jinalaya at Halashi and his reviving a former grant made by Mrigesha Varman to Shrutakirti, now being issued in the name of the grandson of the last named called Jayakirti, a *pratihara*, perhaps at the palace of Halashi.

His son Hari Varman succeeded him in 519, and his Sangolli Plates, issued during his eighth regnal year, help us to get this

precise date. The Sangolli Plates announce the grant of a village called Tedava to 23 scholars, well versed in Atharva Veda. Two Halashi Plates of Hari Varman announce grants of the villages Vasanta Vatika and Marade to the Jinalaya at Halashi. He came to be killed in c 530 by Krishna Varman II of the Triparvata branch, and thus Hari Varman was the last prince in the line of Shanti Varman.

Triparvata branch: In the Triparvata (Murgod?) branch, Krishna Varman II, the second son of Kakustha Varman, had founded the line in c 430 and had performed *ashwamedha* sacrifice. He was succeeded by his son Vishnu Varman in c 460. Vishnu Varman's Hebbatta record informs us that he had come to the throne with the help of the Pallavas. His Birur plates speak of his being subordinate to Shanti Varman (of Banavasi) perhaps temporarily. He had a younger brother, Deva Varman. Vishnu Varman was killed by Ravi Varman of Banavasi and was succeeded by Simha Varman, his son, in c 490. Simha Varman's son, Krishna Varman II, who succeeded him in 516, captured Banavasi by killing Hari Varman, in about 530. But soon, Pulakesin I of Badami, who must have been a subordinate of Kadambas, over-powered him (c 540) and the sovereign rule of the Kadambas thus ended. Inscriptions later speak about Krishna Varman's son Aja Varman and grandson Bhogi Varman, but they ruled only as subordinate of the Chalukyas of Badami. The Konnur Rock Inscription of the 6th Century speaks of one Damodara (*nripa*) born in Kadamba family. He must have been a subordinate of the Badami Chalukyas. His relationship with the main line is not known. His name is written twice on the rock, once in the box-headed Kadamba script and again in the Early Chalukyan script, indicating that he lived in the times of the latter. The Bedkihal plates, ascribed to Shanti Varman are found to be spurious.

The Chalukyas of Badami

Not many records of the Chalukyas of Badami are found in Belgaum district. Of the few that are found except the stone record found at Yekkeri in Paragad taluk, the rest are copper plates, and as the copper plates generally move to other places from the places of their origin, they might not contain any information connected with the place or region of its find spot. Of the copper plates, the Godachi plates of Kirtivarman I and Huli plates of Mangalesha are

worth mentioning. Dr. K. V. Ramesh feels that the Gokak plates of Rashtrakuta Dejjaraja also are of this period. The Yekkeri rock inscription, assigned to Pulakeshin II by Dr. Fleet is also ascribed to Pulakeshin I by Dr. Ramesh. But no information pertaining to this region can be culled out from records. Even the places mentioned in the Yekkeri rock inscription like Agariyapura, Benira and Dhutipura are difficult to identify. Badami being in Bijapur district is very near from Belgaum district and undoubtedly this was a part of the Chalukyan core country.

But Belgaum district was a part of the Chalukyan empire. Records from Dharwad area say that Kuhundi was a part of their territory. Goa and Ratnagiri district were also subjected to the rule of the Chalukyas and the seven copper plates of the dyansty found at Nerur near Kudal in Ratnagiri district are also famous.

The Chalukyas of Badami call themselves as belonging to Manavyasa Gotra and they had the divine boar or Varaha as their royal emblem. Their early rulers like Jayasimha and Ranaraga appear to have been feudatories of the Kadambas and Pulikeshin I of the dynasty performed *ashwamedha* (horse sacrifice) and made Badami his capital in about 540. The Yekkeri record announces a grant to Mahadeva temple and to a brahmin family. Belgaum district naturally came under his control by virtue of his having defeated the Kadambas of Banavasi. He was succeeded by Kirtivarman I (566-96), his elder son and reference has already been made to his Godachi plates wherein he has been called Kattiyarasa. He too claims to have defeated the Kadambas. Mangalesha, Kirtivarman's younger brother (596-609) had conquered the Konkan coast by defeating the Kalachuri Chief Buddharaja and taking the island Revatidwipa or Redi (also called Iridige) near Vengurla. As Mangalesha (who was only a regent) did not vacate the throne when his nephew (Kirtivarman's son) Pulikeshin II came of age, Pulikeshin revolted against Mangalesha, killed him and ascended the throne in 609. His victorious campaigns made him the master of the whole region between the Narmada and the Cauveri. He was termed Dakshinapatha Prithviswami and Parameshwara, and his defeating of Harsha Vardhana of Kanauj is too well known. Though Pulikeshin (609-642) was over-powered by the Pallavas of Kanchi in 642 and they conquered Badami, in 655, Pulikeshin's son Vikramaditya drove them back and reconquered the Chalukya empire.

Vikramaditya I (655-681) was succeeded on the throne by his son Vinayaditya (681-696), and grandson Vijayaditya (696-734) in succession. The last rulers of the dynasty, Vikramaditya II (734-744) and Kirtivarman II (744-753) also ruled over this region, in the case of the latter till his overthrow. Details regarding the activities of the Chalukyas in Belgaum district are not available due to paucity of sources. There are some temples of theirs at Gokak Falls and other places in the district.

The Rashtrakutas

The Empire founded by the Chalukyas of Badami later fell into the hands of the Rashtrakutas when Dantidurga, a feudatory of Chalukyas of Badami overthrew Kirtivarman II in 753. Later, in the days of Amoghavarsha I, Malkhed in Gulbarga district was made the capital of this imperial dynasty. Even of these Rashtrakutas, not many records are found in the Belgaum district region, and of the few found are of their feudatories, the Bhaisas, the Rattas and the Shilaharas.

Dantidurga who succeeded to the Empire in 753 was followed by his paternal uncle Krishna I (c 756-774) who in turn was succeeded by his two sons, Govinda II (c 774-780) and Dhruva or Dhora (c 780-793). Dhruva and his son Govinda III (793-814) are renowned in history for their expeditions in the North and their levying tribute on the rulers of Kanauj and also on the Palas of Bengal who came to the succour of Kanauj. The Nesri Plates of Govinda III speak of his granting of lands in Nesarika (Nesri) in Chandagada Vishaya to one scholar, Trivedi Nagabhatta from Ikshugrama (Belgaum) in 805 A. D. Amoghavarsha I (814-78) was the son and successor of Govinda II and he was known for his saintly temperament. His visits to Kumudawada (Kalbhavi in Kadaravalli-30 Kampana) and Kolhapur are known. *Kavirajamarga*, a creation of his times speaks of Vokkunda (near Bailhongal) as one of the four cardinal points of the core country of Karnataka ("Kannadada tirul"). Prithvirama of the Bhaisa family speaks of Krishna as his overlord in a record of 875-876 from Saundatti. This is Krishna II (878-914), son of Amoghavarsha, who is perhaps mentioned in the Saundatti record as he was the *yuvaraja*. Krishna II was succeeded by Indra III (914-929) his grandson and the Asuti record of his on the borders of Belgaum district (formerly in Ramdurg State) speaks of him as Indraballaha. No records of Amoghavarsha II (929-930) and

Govinda IV (930-936), sons of Indra III, and of Amoghavarsha III, (936-939), Indra's brother are found in the district. A record of Krishna III (son of Amoghavarsha II) is found at Kittur where he is called Akalavarsha, but the record is broken, and no details are available. The Rattas started their rule from the days of Krishna III from perhaps Sogal. Kolhapur plates of Krishna III speak of his grant of village Rikkala in Alatge-200 in Kuhundi province to a scholar in Saka 882. A record of Khottiga (967-972), Krishna III's brother is found at Kittur, and it is dated Saka 893 (c 971 A. D.). It speaks of Ereyamma the Governor of Puligere-300 and Belvola-300, and this latter province extended over parts of Belgaum district. Khottiga's nephew Karka II was the last ruler (972-973) of the dynasty. In addition to the Rattas, the Shilaharas of South Konkan and of Kolhapur were ruling over parts of Belgaum district in the days of the Rashtrakutas. Some temples at Sogal and Gokak Falls appear to have been built in the days of Rashtrakutas when their style is borne in mind.

The Chalukyas of Kalyana

The Chalukyas, who claim to be descendants of the Chalukyas of Badami, staged a come-back by overthrowing the Rashtrakutas. The earliest records of the family in the district are of 980, both of Taila II (973-997 A.D.), one from Sogal and another from Saundatti, and the former speaks of Ratta Kartaveerya I as the feudatory of the Chalukyas and latter of Shantivarman of the Bhaisa family. Both the Rattas and the Kadambas of Goa ruled over parts of Belgaum district as the feudatories of the Chalukyas. In addition, some areas were under the Shilaharas of Kolhapur and some others in the Belvola-300 district. The Bhaisas were administering only Saundatti-12 and they are not mentioned at the place after 980 and the Rattas looked after Kuhundi-3000 province and the Kadambas of Goa those parts of Belgaum district that were included in Palasika-12000.

Of the records of Satyashraya, (997-1008) or Sattiga (Irivabedanga), the Bedkihal copper plates dated 1000 A.D. issued by the Ayyavole trade guild is notable. No records of Satyashraya's nephews (brother Dashavarman's sons) Vikramaditya V (1008-1015) and Ayyana (1015) are seen in the district, but Jayasimha II is mentioned in the Gudikatti record when he was a prince (1007-08). His Kottalagi record of 1022 is the earliest of his reign period (1015-1044) and it announces a grant of land for choultry in a temple by the Muligas of

Kottalagi. The Kadatnal record of 1023 mentions one Mahamandaleshwara Bhaisa Bhimadeva administering Kadaravalli-30, and one Kancharasa of Ganga family as the feudatory of the Emperor. The record speaks of a gift to a temple. Another record from Konnur dated 1032 speaks of crown prince Someshwara I, and it announces a grant to the Kaliyadeva of Konnur by one citizen. Jayasimha's sister Akkadevi who was in charge of Kisukadu-70 personally conducted a campaign against a feudatory of Gokave (Gokak) and defeated him. She is called Ranabhairavi for her military exploits in a record of 1047.

Jayasimha II's son Someshwara I who succeeded his father in 1044 had titles like Ahavamalla and Trailokyamalla. He had to fight many wars against the Cholas. He had to conduct a campaign against Shilahara Mummuni of Kolhapur to subdue him and he had camped at Vagghapuri in 1049 (Sangli dt) and at Pannhala (Kolhapur dt) in the vicinity of Belgaum area in 1050. Even earlier he had camped at Kolhapur in 1046. His eldest son Someshwara II was in charge of Puligere-300 and Belvola-300 during 1049-54, and Belvola included parts of Belgaum district. There is a record of his at Huli of the second year of his reign. The Gudikatti record of 1051 speaks of the rule of Someshwara I when a grant of the days of his father for the upkeep of a tank was enhanced in that year. The grant was made by *srikarana* Arasimayya and Chattagaunda at the instance of Kadamba Jayakeshi, the feudatory from Goa.

There are not many records of his eldest son Someshwara II (1068-1076) in this region. The Saundatti record mentioning him as Bhuvanaikamalla is of Ratta Kartaveerya II, and its date is effaced. His Kadarolli record of Saka 997 (c 1075) mentions his commander Keshavaditya making a grant to the Shankaradeva temple of the place. During this period the Shilahara ruler Marasimha of Kolhapur (Karhad) was administering Koondi-3000 and Mirinje-3000 according to Somapur inscription of 1074 (*S I. I.*, XVIII, 13), and the Rattas were subjected to his supervision.

Someshwara II was overthrown by his younger brother Vikramaditya VI in 1076. Also known as Tribhuvana Malla and Permadi, this great emperor of Karnataka inaugurated a new era (Chalukya Vikrama Saka) on his coming to the throne in 1076. He has left over 20 records in Belgaum area, and Huli has quite a number of them. One of them, of 1082 is a grant to one Ravikamayya

Nayaka. The Vannur record (Sampgaon taluk) of his eighth regnal year speaks of his younger brother (Kumara), Jayasingarasa (Jayasimha), administering the region (Koondi-3000) from Jayanti-pura (Banavasi) and his establishing Jayasingheswara temple with eight lingas and making necessary grants. The place is called Onanur in Kundurgge-70. The Murgod record of his eighth regnal year mentions one Mahamandaleshwara Kongalvarasa, administering Koondi-3000 and Mirinje-3000 and completion of the Bhogishwara temple at the place. There are records of Vikrama VI at Raybag, Huli, Dodwad, Kittur, Avaradi, Asundi, Telsang, Hadli, Saundatti, etc., speaking of his Goa Kadamba or Ratta feudatories. One Kadarawalli record speaks of his feudatory Kadamba Guvalladeva. Of the Huli records, one announces grant to Yapaniya Jaina *sanyasis* and another dated 1119 announces grant to one Shobhana Nayaka for rebuilding the Vishnu temple. A record from Konnur dated 1087 mentions prince Jayavarma as administering Kundi-3000, and Ratta rulers Sena and Kanna are also mentioned in this record. The Ramatirtha record of 1115 (*KI*, II, 13) mentions crown prince Mallikarjuna administering Karhada-4000 province. Dandanayaka Chouvunayya was the Nadapergade of this province. This record registers a grant to Rameshvaradeva of the place by one Hemmadi-devi and this person is identified as of the Shilahara family by Panchamukhi. A later record of his dated 1174 A D from Umarani (in former Jatt State, now in Sangli district), indicates that he was ruling from that place. Vikramaditya had as his chief queen Chandaladevi, a princess of the Shilahara family of Kolhapur. His daughter Mailaladevi was married to Jayakeshi II of the Goa Kadamba family. Vikramaditya was succeeded by his son Someshwara III (1127-1139), also called Bhulokamalla and Sarvajnyabhupa for his scholarly accomplishments. *Manasollasa* is his famous Sanskrit encyclopaedia. Only two records of Bhulokamalla, undated, are found in Belgaum district region. One from Golihalli mentions him as the overlord of his brother-in-law, Jayakeshi II, Kadamba, and also his sister Mailaladevi. The record announces a grant to a *basti*. His Huli record without date is fragmentary.

Someshwara was succeeded by his son Jagadekamalla II (1139-49) also known as Tribhuvanamalla Permadideva. Of his records, one at Avaradi speaks of his queen Machaladevi who was administering Avaradi. His Huli record of 1145 makes a mention of his *pergade* Nemayya, and another at the same place undated is fragmentary. The Shirasangi record, dated 1148, speaks of

Dandanayaka Keshimayya administering Eradaarunuru, must be a mistake for Eradu-munnur (Belvola-300 and Puligere-300).

No records of his successor Taila III are found in Belgaum region, but from the west, Kalachuris were encroaching upon Chalukyan territory and issuing records without mentioning them as overlords. But the Goa Kadambas and the Rattas continued to administer these regions as loyal feudatories. After the Kalachuri Interregnum (1162-1184), when the Chalukyas staged a come-back with Someshwara IV (1184), son of Taila III reconquering Kalyana, his hold over the district is re-established as the Kadamba feudatories stood by him firmly. Thus some records of this prince are found in the district such as of Golihalli dated 1176 and of Shirasangi dated 1186. But soon Seuna Bhillama ousted him from Kalyana in c 1188, and Someshwara shifted his capital to Banavasi. Dr. B R. Gopal has pointed out that his last record is of 1200. But by then, he had ceased to wield any sovereign power worth the name as most of his territories had gone under the control of the Seunas and the Hoysalas.

The Kalachuris

The Kalachuris, who were feudatories of the Kalyana Chalukyas, later usurped power from them. Though the Kalachuris ruled over parts of Belgaum, they could not command the allegiance of the Kadambas of Goa, who defied Kalachuri authority. Earlier ruling as feudatories over Tardavadi-1000 with Mangalavedha in Sholapur district as the headquarters, the Kalachuris were also later assigned Karahada-4000 in the days of Vikramaditya VI as supervisors over the Shilaharas. Kalachuri Jogamarasa (1080-1118) was administering Karahada-4000 in 1087-88. His daughter Savaladevi was married to Vikramaditya VI. Jogama was succeeded by his son Permadi (1118-1130), and one of his records is seen at Kokatnur as the administrator of Karahada-4000, dated 1126. To this Permadi was married Vikramaditya VI's daughter, and his son Bijjala II was born of this daughter, and thus Bijjala was the grandson of Vikramaditya VI.

Many records of Bijjala are seen in Belgaum district, and of these one of the earliest is from Kerur in Chikodi taluk and in this record of 1149 Bijjala is described as charged with *melalke*, supervisory administrative authority. It also speaks of Ratta Kattamarasa (Kartaveerya III) and another officer, Hemmadadideva administering Koravalli-150 from Gokage and they are mentioned together with

Mahapradhana Jayadevayya and Mahamandaleshwara Jayasimhadeva. Another record not so clearly dated is from Jaganoor (Chikodi taluk), also speaks of Bijjala's *melalke* and refers to Kattamarasa and Dandanayaka Dhannugidevayya. The Balageri record of 1156 speaks of Tribhuvanamalla Bijjala and it also speaks of one minister Kalidasa Chamupa. The record registers a grant of lands in Umarani to the Narasimha temple of Balageri. Records of Bijjala as a sovereign ruler are found at Huli (1162), Madbhavi, Ramateertha (1167), Kokatnur, etc. The rule of his son Somideva is mentioned in a record of Kokatnur in 1169 and of Telsang in 1181. The records of other sons of Bijjala who ruled are not seen in the district, and after 1181, the area must have gone back to the Chalukyas. The Rattas continued as the feudatories of the Kalachuris during their rule. When Bijjala was killed in 1167 at Kalyana, there was a witch-hunt against the followers of Basavanna, his treasurer, and Channabasavanna and other *sharanas* passed through Belgaum district while reaching Ulavi. Many places on their journey are even today identified. Kakkeri is described as the place where Dohara Kakkayya is believed to have died, resisting the pursuing Kalachuri army. Kadarolli, Maradi Nagalapur and Tigadi are the places said to have been touched by them.

The Bhaisas

Two inscriptions of the Bhaisas, a minor dynasty ruling from Saundatti over Saundatti-12 first under the Rashtrakutas and later under the Chalukyas, are available. Later they were displaced by the Rattas of Saundatti before the close of the 10th century. A Saundatti record with the date 875-76 (SII, XX, No. 13) speaks of Prithvirama son of Merada having built a Jinalaya at the place in that year and made a grant of land to the basti from Mulagunda village in Saundatti-12 (*kampana*). This record also speaks of Ratta Kartaveerya I renewing the grant later. Prithvirama is described as a feudatory of Rashtrakuta Krishnaraja (Krishna II). The second record of 980 A. D. from Saundatti (*Ibid*, No. 18), speaks of Shantivarman, a feudatory of Chalukya Taila II building another Jinalaya at the same place and he is described as the grandson of Prithvirama and son of Pittuga. The record also states that he belonged to Bhaisa *anvaya*. These are the only records of the family, and it is not clear whether Merada had ruled. Between 875 and 980, Merada's son Prithvirama, grandson Pittuga and great grandson Shantivarman ruled from Saundatti-12. Pittuga's queen was

Neejikabbe and Shantivarman's was Chandikabbe. Some scholars have wrongly identified this line with the Rattas, but the Rattas succeeded them at Saundatti soon after 980, and the Bhaisa's are not mentioned subsequently at Saundatti. The record of 980 indicates that they had been subordinates of the Rattas whose rule had just started. Later in 1023, a Bhaisa Bheemadeva is found administering Kadaravalli-30 under Ganga Kancharasa who is a feudatory of Jayasimha II. His relationship with the earlier line is not clear.

The Rattas

The Rattas claim to be descendants of the Rashtrakutas, and their rule extended over Koondi or Kuhundi-3000, perhaps from the days of Rashtrakutas III, and their capital was later shifted to Belgaum (Venugrama). They continued to be the feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana and the Kalachuris, and after the fall of the Chalukyas, they tried to be independent and encroached upon the territories of the Kadambas of Goa. Kuhundi or Koondi included major parts of Paragad taluk and also the taluks of Gokak, Hukeri, Raybag, Chikodi, Sampgaon and Western parts of Mudhol and Jamkhandi taluks in Bijapur district. In addition to the Bhaisas whose rule ended early, two other subordinate feudatories of theirs were seen at Terdal (Terindal-12) and Banhatti (Bannahatti-18). Golden eagle (*garuda*) was their royal insignia.

The Rattas are mentioned for the first time in 980 in two records, one from Saundatti and another from Sogal. Both the records speak of Kartaveerya I, but they do not say from where he was ruling in that year, though there is a view that Sogal (Sol or Soval) might have been his headquarters. But they subsequently shifted their headquarters to Saundatti.

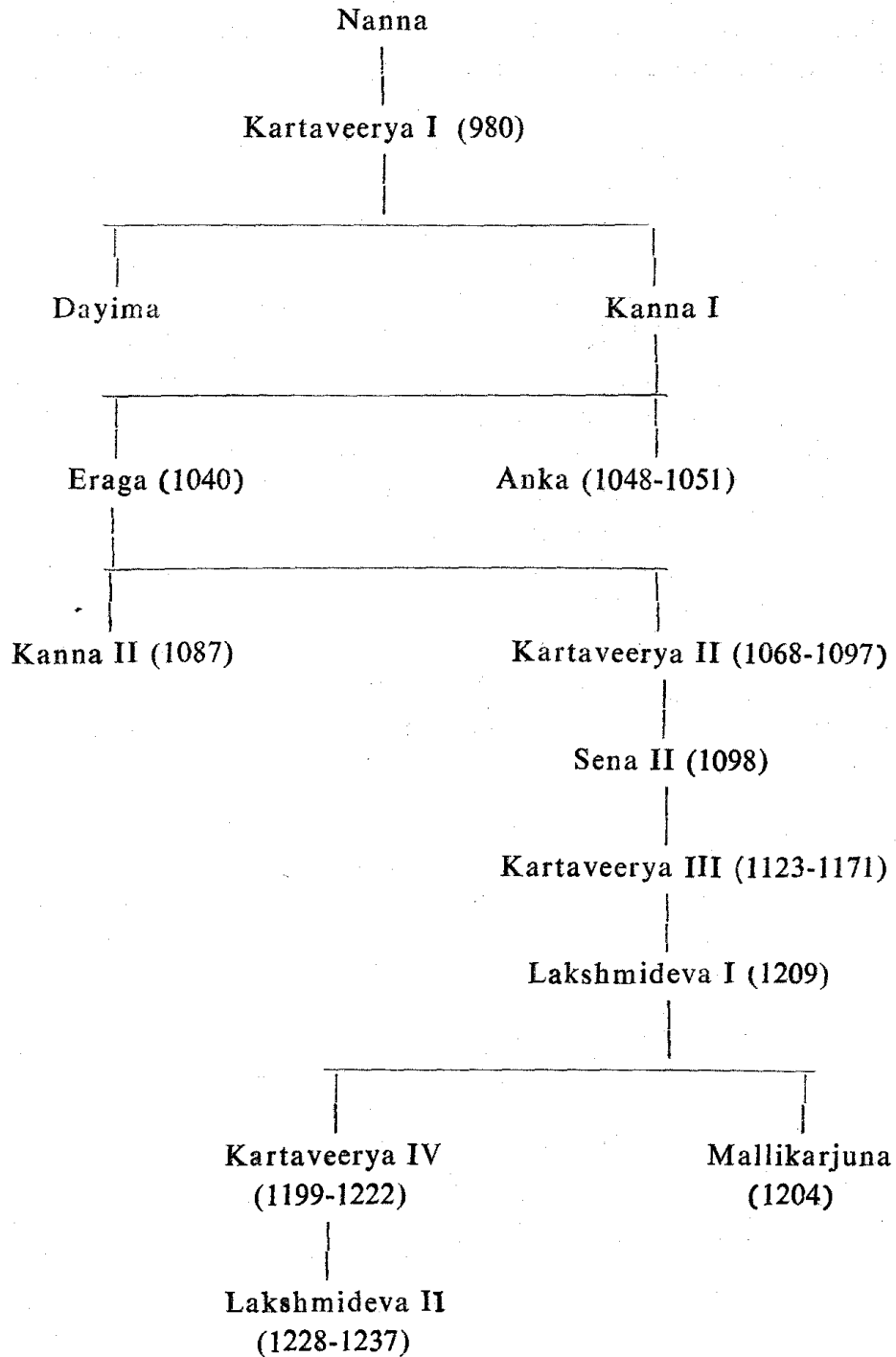
The Sogal record of 980 calls Kartaveerya as Katta and son of Nanna Narendra who is the first prince of the family. Nanna also might have been ruling from Sogal, and Kartaveerya was a feudatory of Chalukya Taila II. Earlier the family was under the Rashtrakutas. Kartaveerya who must have shifted the capital to Saundatti was succeeded by his sons Dayima (also called Davari in one later record, 1094) and Kanna and they were ruling jointly. Kanna was succeeded by his sons Ereyamma and Anka. A record from Mantur (Mudhol tq) dated 1040 speaks of Ereyamma alone and he is described as feudatory of Chalukya Jagadekamalla I (Jayasimha II). He played a prominent part in many campaigns of Jayasimha II. Anka must have

become a joint ruler soon after and two records (1048 and 1051) speak of this. A later record of 1087 speaks of the construction of the Ankeshwara temple at Saundatti by him earlier. In 1051 he made a donation to the Bellambi (Belavi) *agrahara* to run a choultry.

Sena I, Erega's son succeeded his father (or uncle). His queen was Mailaladevi. The Konnur record of 1087 mentions Sena and his son Kanna II as joint rulers and Prince Jayakarna (son of Emperor Vikramaditya VI) was his immediate superior administrative officer. The Saundatti Record of 1098 informs us that Erega's son, called Sena, also called Kalasena had two sons Kannakaira (Kanna II) and Kartaveerya II. A Chachadi record speaks of Kannakaira granting the village Nagarapala to the Bhogishwara temple. Similarly two records, one from Enagi and another from Bailhongal speak of Kartaveerya II. Kartaveerya II's son was Sena II. The Saundatti record (1098) speaks of a grant made to a *basti* at Saundatti by Sena II or Kalasena. An earlier record of 1097 informs that Kartaveerya II's queen was Bhagaladevi, and that he revived a grant made earlier by Anka in 1048 to the Ankeshwara temple of Saundatti. He also revived a grant made earlier by Prithvirama to a *basti* at Saundatti. Both these records mention him as subordinate of Chalukya Vikrama VI.

Sena II was succeeded by Kartaveerya III, whose records range between 1123 to 1171. During his time, the Chalukyas were overthrown by the Kalachuris at Kalyana. His Eksamba record dated 1171, making a grant to the Adinatha Jinalaya of Eksamba, mentions Bijjala as the overlord. His queen was Padmavati. In 1171, Kartaveerya III granted the village Kundanur (Konnur) to the Shiva temple of the place (now called the Mahalingeshwara).

Kartaveerya III's successor was his son Lakshmidewa I whose Hannikeri record of 1209 informs us that his queen was Chandaladevi. The Hosur record announcing a grant to a *basti* built by Lakshmidewa also appears to be his. His son Kartaveerya IV assumed sovereign power as the Kalachuris and the Chalukyas was completely eclipsed before the close of the 11th century. Kartaveerya wrested Belgaum from the Kadambas of Goa and shifted his capital to Belgaum. His records are seen from 1199 and he must have been a joint ruler with his father Lakshmidewa I and later, perhaps after the death of the latter, Kartaveerya's younger brother Mallikarjuna became the joint ruler. But the Seunas wrested Saundatti region from him soon after,

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and there are Seuna records dated 1219 and 1222 at Manoli, a place near to Saundatti. Kartaveerya also made a grant to Adinatha Basti at Raybag in 1201. Belgaum was a major commercial centre in those days, as testified by two records of 1204. Kartaveerya's

minister built the Ratta Jinalaya at Belgaum and installed Shantinatha in it in 1204 and this is the beautiful Kamala Basti in Belgaum Fort. Many citizens and traders of Belgaum made generous donations to this Basti in 1204. Kannada poet Parshwa Pandita composed in 1222 *Parshwanatha Purana* under the patronage of Kartaveerya IV. His officer Hollaya Nayak made a grant to the Kalidevaswamy temple of Kabbur in 1204. Kartaveerya IV's also made a grant to a Shivalaya at Nesargi in 1219.

The next and the last ruler of the dynasty is Lakshmidewa II, whose inscriptions are found at Saundatti (1228), Belagali, (1233, near Mudhol), Eksamba (1235-36) and Bairapura (Sampgaon taluk 1237), this being his last record. The Rattas were overthrown by the Seunas, and a record of 1238 says that Seuna commander Vichana ended their rule.

The Rattas established a sound administrative system. Their records make prominent mention of the village assemblies, the *gavundas* connected with the administration of towns and the urban assemblies including the merchant guilds in Kuhundi-3000. They also encouraged religious activities, art and literature. Many temples and *bastis* were built, and of them the last was the one built by one of their feudatories, the Mallikarjuna temple near Saundatti in 1228. Near Badli, one of the princes founded the *agrahara* called Kartaveeryapura with 100 scholars. Many of their inscriptions are beautiful *khanda-kavyas* in Kannada like those of Saundatti and Belgaum and poets like Madiraja, Rudrabhatta and Sridhara were composers of these records. Nemichandra and Karnaparya, famous Kannada poets enjoyed their patronage. Towns like Manoli, Shirsangi, Saundatti, Belgaum, Kabbur, Raybag, Konnur, Nesargi, Eksamba etc., were flourishing commercial centres under them.

The Goa Kadambas

Claiming to be the descendants of the Kadambas of Banavasi, the Kadambas of Goa started their rule during the last phase of the Rashtrakuta rule as a feudatory dynasty. They displaced the Shilaharas of South Konkan from the Goa region. They called themselves as Masters of Banavasi (Banavasi Puravaradheeshwara), had lion as their royal emblem and were devotees of Saptakoteeshwara (Shiva) at Narve in Goa and of Varaha and Narasimha of Halashi. They administered Konkan-900 and Halashi-12000 which included

Belgaum and Khanapur taluk regions in Belgaum in addition to parts of Uttara Kannada and Dharwad districts. Their gold coins have titles like Malege Bhairava and Malevara Mari. Their early capital was Chandrapura (Chandargao in Goa) and later they shifted it to Gopakapattana, a port town, now called as Old Goa. Anilapura (Alnavar) and Kundur (Narendra) in Dharwad district and Sampagadi (also called Kirusampagadi) i.e. modern Bidi-Golihalli site (Khanapur taluk) were their subsidiary capitals. The Kadambas commanded a flourishing overseas trade and also maintained a navy. They also developed blood relationship with their overlords, the Chalukyas of Kalyana.

The first known member of the family is Shastha I (or Chatta) who appears to have been ruling over the Sanguem and Ponda taluks of Goa from Chandrapur by the middle of the tenth century. His son was Nagavarma. He was succeeded by Guhalla I who is described as having killed a tiger (Vyaghramari) and had a navy. He was a subordinate of Chalukya Taila II, and can be assigned a reign period of c 980 to 1006. He was succeeded by Shashtha II in 1006, and he was a subordinate of Chalukya Jayasimha II as stated in the Gudikatti record. He had married Kamaladevi, the daughter of Shilahara Vajrata II. His last record from Nulvi in Dharwad district, is of 1072 of the days of his son Jayakeshi I. Shastha II had associated his first son Guvala II with administration, as seen from a record of 1038, but due to this son's early death, his second son Veeravarma became joint ruler with his father. He is mentioned in the Curtorim (Kudtari) plates and Panjanakhani (Panaji) stone inscription, both from Goa, and he must have ruled between 1041 to 1054. It was during his time perhaps that the capital was shifted to Gopaka Pattana (Old Goa or Goa-Velha) as in 1049 it is mentioned as the headquarters. This was a port town to the south of the Zuari river.

The earliest date of Jayakeshi I's rule is 1052. He was the youngest son of Shastha II and succeeded to the throne as joint ruler with his father. He had trade relations with many overseas countries and appears to have helped Someshwara I in his wars against the Cholas, when his title 'Establisher of the Chalukyas' is borne in mind in his Halashi record. In the conflict for succession to the Chalukya throne, Jayakeshi not only sided with Vikramaditya VI against Someshwara II, but he even married his daughter to the former.

His son and successor Guvalavada III (1078-1125) is described as administering Konkana-900 and Palasige-12000 in his Kadrolli record. He also calls himself as Tribhuvanamalla after his Chalukyan master. But he appears to have tried to revolt against the Chalukyas around 1100 but was subdued. Palasige province was confiscated from him for sometime, and it was restored to the Kadambas when his nephew and joint ruler (brother Vijayaditya's son) Jayakeshi II was married (1103) to Vikramaditya's daughter Mailaladevi and Palasige-12000 was presented to him as dowry. A record of 1082 speaks of Anilapur as the capital. His Kadrolli record speaks of one of his Ganga subordinate Arikesarideva. In about 1125, he was succeeded by his nephew, Jayakashi II as the sole ruler and due to his marriage he also secured Kunduru (Narendra near Dharwad) in Dharwad district which was also his capital for some time. His Asoga plates of 1133 speak of his grant to the Galageshwara temple, and the temple has been identified as situated at Baloge near Khanapur. His Narendra record dated 1125 speak of his rule over Konkan-900, Halasige-12000, Konkuli-30, Hanangal-500, Velugrama-70, Utsugrame (Uchgaon)-30, Kadrolli-30, Sabbi (Chabbi, Hubli taluk)-30, Unkal-30 and Polalgunde-30. He might have revolted against the Chalukyas after the death of Vikramaditya VI or even a little earlier and Sinda Achugi of Yerambarage (Yelburgi) must have suppressed his revolt. Hoysala Vishnuvardhana also claims to have defeated him in a record of 1133, and perhaps he might have made some inroads into Jayakeshi's territories in Dharwad district, especially the Hangal region.

Two of his sons, Shivachitta Permadi and Vishnu Chitta Vijayaditya II succeeded him in 1147. An undated record from Golihalli speaks of Emperor Someshwara III, the queen mother Mailaladevi and the joint rulers together while making a grant to a *basti*. In 1160 Shivachitta's minister Chavayya built the Someshwara temple at Kirusampagadi (the secondary capital, present Golihalli). Two more records of Shivachitta, dated 1163 and 1179 record grants to the same temple. Shivachitta made a grant of land in Sindavalli in Kalagiri Kampana in Halasige Desha to God Anataveera Vikrama Narasimha in 1169 and in 1172 Vishnuchitta Vijayaditya II granted the village Bhalika in the same Kampana to the same God. Shivachitta's queen, Kamaladevi perhaps a Hanagal Kadamba princess, not only built the famous Kamalanarayana temple at Deganve, but founded a *agrahara* also at the place. The brothers defied the authority of Bijjala and remained independent. Their

sister Savitri was married to Hanagal Kadamba Taila. Vishnuchitta Vijayaditya's queen was Hampadevi and she was charged with some administrative responsibilities, with Sampagadi as her headquarters, as pointed by Dr B R Gopal, based on the unpublished Kulavalli inscription. Vijayaditya II was a lover of learning and inscriptions call him as Vanibhushana and Sahitya Nityotsava. Both the Kalachuris and Hoysalas (Ballala II) claim to have defeated the Goa Kadambas, but the latter did not lose any territories. The Hoysala-Seuna conflict that followed gave them some freedom. They supported the cause of Chalukya Someshwara IV, who conquered Kalyana and later, after his ouster from Kalyana, sheltered him in their kingdom. Shivachitta assumed the title Konkana Chakravarti after this. He appears to have outlived his brother, and the latter, Vijayaditya II was succeeded by his son Jayakeshi III in 1187. Dr B R Gopal, based on the Angadi (Uttara Kannada) inscription dated 1192 has said that the record appears to be the last of Shiva-chitta and it also speaks Someshwara IV as the overlord.

Jayakeshi III (1187-1225) founded the Varaha temple at Halashi in 1186-87 and also made a grant. During this period, he came into conflict with Seuna Singhana II and the former is Mangani inscription (1206) claims to have defeated him.

His successor was his elder son Shivachitta Vajradeva, who was joint ruler from about 1200 AD. A Dodwad record speaks of Shivachitta Vajradeva's servant (*dingariga*) Vijayama Sahani. But as this prince appears to have pre-deceased his father in about 1221, his younger brother, Tribhuvanamalla, (also called Sovideva) succeeded him in 1225 when Jayakeshi III expired. He in turn was followed by his son Shastha III in about 1246 and he is last heard of in 1264 AD in a Bankapur record. Not many details of these two last two princes' rule are known. Seuna Krishna appear to have subdued the Goa Kadambas and in the days of Mahadeva, they were completely exterminated.

The Shilaharas of Kolhapur

Ruling mainly over the present districts of Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur, the Shilaharas of Kolhapur are also called as Shilaharas of Karhad. Earlier they ruled from Kolhapur, but later shifted their capital to Panhala, Vala Vada also being their subsidiary capital. They call themselves as Tagarapuradheeshwaras, Tagare being modern

Ter in Maharashtra, and golden bull was their royal emblem. It was only during the second part of the 12th century that they came to have control over some parts of Belgaum district, namely parts of Athani and Chikodi taluks. Earlier rulers of the family were Jatiga I, Nayi Varma, Chandra and Jatiga II. They came into prominence in the days of the Rashtrakutas and continued as feudatories of the Chalukyas. The Miraj plates of Marasimha, the grandson of Jatiga II, inform us that his father Gonka I was ruling over Karhata (Karad) and Koondi. Gonka was contemporary of Chalukya Satyashraya (997-1008) and Jayasimha II (1015-1044). Gonka was succeeded by his son Marasimha in about 1050, and he appears to have revolted against the Chalukyas, but was subdued. Later Vikramaditya VI married Shilahara princess Chandralekha or Chandaladevi, identified as the daughter of this Marasimha.

Marasimha was succeeded by his sons Guhala II, Ballala, Gonka, Bhoja and Gandaraditya in succession, and they might have been joint rulers also. Bhoja appears to have revolted again, and Vikramaditya VI subdued him, as indicated by his Raybag record. Five records of the son and successor of Gandaraditya, Vijayaditya II (c 1138-1175) have been found in Belgaum district area. He appears to have helped Bijjala in his revolt against the Chalukyas, and later himself revolted against the Kalachuris. His two Jugul (Athani taluk) records are not dated, but he is described as ruling from Valavada. His Shedbal inscription of 1153 records a grant to a Jinalaya by a local guild. His two Eksamba records of 1139 and 1165 speak of him as a subordinate of Bijjala, and ruling from Valavada which can be Valve in Radhanagar taluk. He was succeeded by his son Bhoja II and grandson Vijayaditya II, whose last record is of 1212, and Seuna Singhana II overthrew this dynasty.

The Seunas

The Seunas or the Yadavas were earlier ruling from Sindiner (Sinnar) in Nasik district as feudatories of the Rashtrakutas, and later from Devagiri (Daulatabad) under the Chalukyas of Kalyana. They could penetrate into Belgaum district only after the fall of the Chalukyas of Kalyana when they became sovereign rulers. Only four princes of the dynasty ruled over parts of Belgaum district, namely Singhana I (1200-1247), Krishna or Kannara (1247-61), Mahadeva (1261-71) and Ramachandra (1271-1312). Over a dozen records of the Seunas are found in the district, though there are none of

Mahadeva and only one of Ramachandra. The Seunas succeeded in overthrowing the Rattas and started encroaching upon the territories of Kadambas of Goa, and overpowered the latter too after 1264.

The Hirepadasalagi record (Athani taluk) of Singhana II speaks of a grant made to a Shivalaya at Kotige (?) in 1216. The Manoli record of 1222 mentions the establishment of an *agrahara* Shivapura (an extension) at Manoli by Jogadeva, described as administering many provinces under Singhana II. The Bhavasudhadeva temple of Kokatnur received some lands from Basavarasa, the head of the *agrahara* of the place when Nagaraja was administering Kanambada-300, a sub-division of Karahad-4000 in 1235. The Madbhavi record of 1239 records a grant to a Shiva temple in the Madhabhavi *agrahara* by a trader. The Ekkanchi inscription speaks of Sahadeva Nayaka administering Kanambada-300 under Singhana. Except the Manoli record, the rest of the records are in Athani taluk, and Singhana seems to have had a firm hold over this region, formerly ruled by the Shilaharas of Kolhapur to the north of the Krishna.

Singhana's successor Krishna had wider control over Belgaum district as his records are found in Belgaum, Hukeri and Gokak taluks also in addition to the one from Manoli. The Bellubbi (Hukeri taluk) record speaks of Dalavayi Bhogadeva (Jagadeva) Yadava and mentions a grant made to the village deity. Tamrapuri (?) village in Venugrama Desha was granted to 110 Brahmanas by Kannaradeva (Krishna) in 1249 on the request of his minister Chaudisetti, and the donation was actually made in the presence of God Vishnu of Pundarikakshetra (Vithoba of Pandharpur) according to the Hirebagewadi plates. The Manoli record 1252 speaks of Torgale-6000 as a province under him. The Arjunawad record of 1260 is famous as it refers to Basaveshwara (Sangana Basava) and his elder brother Devaraja. It records a grant to Halabasavideva, great grandson of Devaraja. Halabasavideva was a spiritual leader and the grant was made at the instance of Chaudisetti, minister, mentioned above. Krishna's record in the district is of 1261, now found in the Sofa mosque of Belgaum, written in Nagari script and Kannada language. Seunas appear to have wrested Belgaum from the Rattas. The record announces a grant to the *mahajanas* of the *agrahara* Ikshugrama (Belgaum). No records of Mahadeva were found in the district except the lone record, and the last of the Seuna records in the district region is of Ramachandra dated 1306 from Kokatnur announcing a donation to a Shiva temple at Bellalige village.

The Vijayanagara Empire

The Vijayanagara Empire had only partial hold over the district, especially to the South of the Malaprabha, on portions of Sampgaon, Parasgad and Ramdurg taluks as most of their stone records are found in this region. The three records found beyond the Ghataprabha are also found in these taluks only, and of the days of Emperor Sadashiva. A record of Harihara I dated 1340 found at Badami indicates that his authority extended even to the north of the Malaprabha perhaps till the Krishna, till the establishment of Bahmani rule in 1347. In Belgaum district it might have extended atleast till the Ghataprabha. Parts of the western fringe of Khanapur and Belgaum taluks including Belgaum constituting the Palasige Rajya might have been under their control initially, though no records of Vijayanagara are found in this region. The earliest available record of the dynasty is of Harihara, not dated, and it can be assigned to Harihara II. It is found at Gorebal in Parasgad taluk and one Gangamamatya was stationed at Torgal during his time, and it also speaks of one Goparasa Dandanayaka. Torgal had been the headquarters of the province Toragale-6000 under the Seunas and Vijayanagara continued this very arrangement.

After the destruction of the Seuna kingdom and the weakening of the Hoysalas by the armies of the Delhi Sultan, Vijayanagara Empire came into existence in 1336 at Hampi, a holy city on the banks of the Tungabhadra, the founder of the new kingdom being Harihara I (1336-1356), followed by his younger brother Bukka I (1336-1377). It was in the days of Bukka that Madhava Mantri conquered Goa and extended the empire's hold over Konkan in c 1370. The Gorebal record already referred to appears to be of the days of Harihara II (1377-1404). "A Chronicle of Torgal" published by J F Fleet (*Indian Antiquary*, Feb 1876) speaks of Vira Bukka the 'universal emperor' and his minister Madhavamatya Vidyaranya. This is with reference to Bukka I, but Bukka II is not mentioned in the record. Other princes mentioned in it are Narasinga, Viranarasinga, Krishna, Achuta, Sadashiva and Rama. (There are some other irrelevant names too). The record says that Vira Bukka had appointed members of a particular family as astrologers at Torgal and also at Belgaum. This confirms that in early days Belgaum was under Vijayanagara. (Ferishta speaks of the Vijayanagara officer called 'Parketa' at Belgaum, overthrown by Gawan, later in 1472).

Harihara II was succeeded by his son Bukka II (1404-06),

followed by his younger brother Devaraya I (1406-22). The short rule of Devaraya's sons, Ramachandra (1422) and Vira Vijaya (1422-24) was followed by one of the brilliant princes of the Sangama dynasty, Devaraya II (1424-46) son of Vira Vijaya. There is one inscription of Devaraya in the district, at Chikkabudanur (Parasgad taluk) dated Saka 1358 (1436 AD) which commemorates the death of one Naganna. Devaraya was followed by his son Mallikarjuna (1446-65) and his nephew (son of Devaraya's brother Prataparaya) Virupaksha (1465-85) who were weak rulers during whose reign the empire also became weak. The Bahmani's under Gawan conquered Belgaum, Goa and Konkan. This weakening of power helped the usurpation of Saluva Narasimha (1485-91). He was succeeded by his sons Timma (1491) and Narasimha II (1491-1505).

Narasa Nayaka of the Tuluva family who was the regent on the death of Saluva Narasimha usurped power, and he (1491-1505) was succeeded on the Vijayanagara throne by his three sons in succession viz., Vira Narasimha (1505-09), Krishnadevaraya (1505-29) and Achutaraya (1529-1542). There is one inscription of the days of Krishnadevaraya dated 1514-15 at the Yellamma temple of Saundatti. The record speaks of Timmappa Nayaka, perhaps the door keeper of the Emperor (*rayara bagila Timmappa Nayaka*) constructing the stone *gopura* (*kallupparige*) of the western door.

After the death of Achutaraya, after a short rule of his son Venkata (1542) and Achutaraya's crazy brother-in-law Salakaraju Timmaraju, his nephew (brother Ranga's son) Sadashiva (1543-1570) came to the throne, and his administration is known for the *de facto* rule of Ramaraya, the son-in-law of Krishnadevaraya. Two records of Sadashiva are found at Murgod. One is of S 1473 (c 1551 A D) when a subordinate official made a grant to the Mallikarjuna temple of the place. Another from the same place dated S 1469 speaks of barbers of Toragala Nadu being exempted from certain taxes. A third record of Sadashiva of 1560 A D found at the Saundatti Yellamma temple speaks of one Vithoba, described as the Karyakarta of Venkatadri (Aliya Ramaraya's brother) making a grant of land, perhaps to the temple.

After the Battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi (1565) Vijayanagara's hold on the district ended, and the 'Torgal Chronicle', spoken of above, says that Torgal came under the control of Ali Adilshah. The Chronicle also says that some officers of Vijayanagara who had

taken shelter at the Huli fort in that year was 'treacherously' taken captive. (The officer is described as the younger brother of the 'kept mistress' of Nagaraja whose identity is not known).

Delhi Sultans

In 1310, Alla-ud-din Khilji sent an army under Malik Kafur to Karnataka, and his army reached Dwarasamudra, the Hoysala capital in Hassan district, defeated Ballala III (1311) and returned to Delhi with a rich booty. In 1312, he visited Devagiri again, put Seuna Shankaradeva to death (1313) and made further inroads into the Deccan including Konkan and the Belgaum area. He appears to have subdued Halashi-12000 and Goa. Devagiri (Daulatabad) was made the provincial headquarters of the Delhi Sultan's southern possessions. When Malik Kafur returned to Delhi (1314) Seuna Harapaladeva assumed independence. In 1318, the Emperor of Delhi, Mubarak led an expedition to Devagiri, captured and killed Harapaladeva and subdued the Senua territories again. He appointed Malik Yak Lakhi governor of Devagiri. Later Muhammad Tughluq led an expedition to the Deccan and made Devagiri his capital. He reached Chandor in Goa and destroyed the Kadamba town. A subsequent record of 1348 shows that he must have appointed one Malik Bahadur Timma Mantri as the governor of Goa region. Ferishta has pointed out that the Emperor appointed two officers in the Belgaum region, and one of them stationed at Raybag and another at Hukeri.

When Bahmani kingdom was founded in 1347 these territories to the north of the Ghataprabha which belonged to Delhi, came under the Bahmanis and those to the south of said river including Belgaum under Vijayanagara.

The Bahmanis

Alla-ud-din Hasan the founder of a new dynasty (1347-58) was formerly an *amir* under the Delhi Sultan in the Deccan. There is a view that he originally belonged to Kudachi in the present Belgaum district. He had a *jahgir* at the place. When the governor of the Delhi Sultan in Malwa executed *amirs* in his province on the pretext of their being rebellious, there was an adverse reaction leading to revolts in other provinces like neighbouring Gujarat. The Delhi Sultan instructed his governor at Daulatabad to summon and assemble all *amirs* of the Deccan. The *amirs* who went to assemble at

Daulatabad captured the town and elected one Ismail Mukh as the Sultan of the Deccan in 1346. One of these revolting *amirs* was Hasan Gangu who had his Jahgir at Miraj. He was made the Amir-ul-umra with the title Zafar Khan by the revolting *amirs*. He later captured Gulbarga. When the Delhi Sultan's army came to the south and camped at Daulatabad, Zafar Khan defeated it. Ismail Mukh abdicated in his favour, and Zafar Khan was crowned with the title Sikandar-i-Sani Alla-ud-din Hasan Bahman Shah al-wali in August 1347. The *amirs* who had revolted against Delhi stood by him, and the expeditions sent by him in the northern Deccan were all successful. Of his four Tarafs or provinces, his possessions in Belgaum were in the province administered by Malik Saifuddin Ghorî who was also the prime minister and the father-in-law of the next Sultan Muhammad I (1358-75), the son of the first Sultan. The reign period of Muhammad I saw many wars with the Vijayanagara Empire and the ruler of Telangana, Krishna Nayak and his son Vinayaka Deva.

Mujahid I (1375-78) son of Muhammad I had a short reign, and he was succeeded by his cousin Daud (1378) who was soon assassinated and was followed on the throne by Mahmud (1378-97), his younger brother. During his days Goa was lost to Vijayanagar. A scholar himself, Mahmud encouraged learning. The well-known 'Durgadevi famine' which ravaged the Deccan for nearly two decades (1378-97) had its grip on Belgaum area too, during this period. On his death, two of his sons Ghiyas-ud-din and Shams-ud-din followed him on the throne within a single year, and finally Firuz, a nephew of Muhammad I (his brother Ahmad's son) succeeded him in 1397. He had to war against Vijayanagara and the chief of the Khelna and face a rebellion at Sagar in Central India. Vijayanagara made peace with him, the Khelna chief was subdued. Sagar was conquered and named Nusratabad. In his another engagement in the days of Devaraya I against Vijayanagara, he had to lose. Though he nominated his son as his successor, his younger brother, Ahmad Khan, with the help of Sufi saint Bande Nawaz secured the throne in 1422. Firuz was a great ruler of the dynasty, being a scholar and poet too.

Shahbuddin Ahmad Shah I (1422-36) shifted his capital from Gulbarga to Bidar in 1424. His period saw the kingdom fighting wars against Gujarat, Malwa and Khandesh and also against Vijayanagar. A powerful faction of foreigners (Afaqis) at his court who were opposed to the local Deccanis enjoyed power at his court. He was

succeeded by his son Alla-ud-din Ahmad II (1430-58). In wars against Vijayanagara, he met a match in Devaraya II (1424-47) who could not be subdued in both the Bahmani campaigns. The Sultan's marriage with a princess of Sangameshwar incurred the displeasure of the Sultan of Khandesh whose daughter was the Bahamanshah's first queen. The faction fight between the Afaqis and the indigenous Deccani nobles (the latter being supported by the Habasis or the Blacks from Africa) saw many ugly scenes at the Bahmani court. Swamy Narasimha Saraswathi (the saint of Gangapur) described as an incarnation of Dattatreya is believed to have cured the Sultan of a serious boil from which he was suffering.

Alla-ud-din's successors were his son Humayun (1453-61) and grandsons Nizam Shah (1461-63) and Shamsuddin III (1463-82). The last two were mere boys when they came to the throne. But Kwaja Mohmud Gawan, who had risen into eminence and had become a prominent officer in the days of Alla-ud-din and Humayun became the Vazir in the days of these boy Sultans. Sultan Shamsuddin made him the Prime Minister in 1466. Gawan conquered major parts of Konkan, Belgaum district and also Goa in 1472. Kolhapur, Goa and Londa were presented as *jahgirs* to Gawan. The Vijayanagara governor of Belgaum ('Parketa' of Ferishta) tried to retake Goa in 1472, and Belgaum fell to the Bahmanis in 1473. Gunpowder was used to undermine the Belgaum Fort and Gawan and Yusuf Adil Khan participated in the attack. Muhammad III personally led this Belgaum expedition. The Bahmani possessions in the region expanded, and perhaps the Malaprabha became its southern boundary in the Belgaum area. The famine of 1472-73 caused great hardship and suffering to people during these days.

Gawan reorganised administration (1477) and the Bahmani kingdom now had eight Sarlashkars under four provinces (Tarafs). Belgaum area came under one Fakr-ul-mulk Gilani, who was in charge of the Sarlashkar of Junnar. Gawan also introduced many changes in the fiscal system. But the Deccani-Afaqi rivalry at the court resulted in a conspiracy being hatched by the Deccani party against Gawan, and a forged letter written in his name fell into the hands of the Sultan. The Sultan, Muhammad III, in a fit of anger, ordered the beheading of this remarkable statesman, and after his death in 1481, the fortunes of the Bahmanis waned. The Sultan had visited Belgaum in 1481 when he repulsed an attack made on Goa to recapture it by Saluva Narasimha of Vijayanagara. The Sultan died soon

of remorse due to the heedless act of killing Gawan and he was succeeded by his son Sihab-ud-din Mohamud (1482-1518). But this prince was presiding over the dismemberment of the Bahmani realm when the kingdom was parcelled out among the Governors, Belgaum area coming under the control of Yusuf Adil Khan, the founder of the Adilshahi dynasty of Bijapur. Kasim Barid and his son Ali Barid (from 1504) made the four successive sons of Mahmud only puppets. Their names were Ahmad IV (1518-21), Alla-ud-din III (1521-22) Vali-ullah (1522-25) and Kalim-ullah (1525-27).

In the meanwhile, Bahadur Gilani, the governor of the Bahmanis at Konkan (Kotwal of Goa) revolted and took Goa and Belgaum in 1489. He made Sankeshwar his headquarters and took Miraj and Jamkhandi also. Sultan Mahmud marched on Sankeshwar and took it in 1493. Bahadur Gilani was soon killed (1494) and his estate in Belgaum was conferred on Ein-ul-Mulk Gilani, the Governor of Konkan. The latter transferred his allegiance to Bijapur when Yusuf Khan declared himself free.

The Bahmanis had to rely mostly on local people, both for military and administrative purposes. Many *deshpandes* or revenue officers in the region were Brahmins, brought to this area from Bidar and other surrounding regions (vide Gangadhar Rao Deshpande's autobiography).

The Adilshahis of Bijapur

The circumstances leading to the establishment of the Adilshahi dynasty have been already discussed earlier. Yusuf Adil, who was initially a Georgian slave bought by Gawan, inherited the Belgaum possessions of the Bahmanis, and Belgaum, Hukeri and Raybag continued to be important administrative centres under him. After the death of Qasim Barid in 1504-05, his son Amir Ali Barid was at the helm of affairs at Bidar. He was neither as capable as his father nor was a match to the Tarafdars who were in a revolting mood. The uncertain policies at Bidar forced Yusuf to leave the capital and stay at his own provincial headquarters, Bijapur. In 1490 he declared himself free by causing *khutbah* to be read in his name. But he never called himself a Shah, and his records speak of him only as Adil Khan. He also occupied Raichur Doab (in 1493) which the Vijayanagara forces had taken just a year earlier from the Bahmanis. He made pretensions of allegiance to the

Bahmanis by marrying his child daughter to the crown prince Ahmad. Sagar, Kalyan and Gulbarga were also occupied by Yusuf in 1500. In 1503, he declared Shiaism as the State religion by instructing that *khutbah* be read in the name of the 12 Imams. But he gave full freedom to the Sunnis. Adil Khan came to have extensive territories including the Belgaum and Goa region and also the Konkan Coast. With the death of Kasim Barid in 1504, his authority became unquestioned. But the Portuguese, led by Alfanso Albuquerque conquered Goa in Feb 1510, and loss of Goa was a major blow to the interests of the Adilshahis on the West Coast. Though Yusuf recovered Goa in May 1510, the Portuguese retook it in Nov 1510.

When Yusuf died in 1510, he was succeeded by his son Ismail. Regent Kamal Khan's efforts to recapture Goa proved futile. As the Portuguese were trying to conquer Dabhol in Konkan, a peace was concluded with them in 1512, recognising their hold on Goa. Soon Kamal Khan tried to appropriate power for himself. But Dilshad Agha, Ismail's aunt managed to have the regent killed. This caused a revolt at Bijapur led by Safdar Khan, Kamal Khan's son. But Safdar was soon killed and all his supporters, the Dakhnis and Habashis, were dismissed from service. A leader of the Pardeshi (Afaqi) party, Muhammad Lari, who had stood by Ismail during the strife was honoured with the title Asad Khan, and was also made the Governor of Belgaum. Till his death in 1549 Asad Khan was closely associated with Belgaum's history. Asad Khan was physically strong, gallant and a capable administrator. Arabic and Persian inscription in the Sofa Mosque of Belgaum Fort dated 1518 speaks of its foundations laid in that year by Asad Khan.

During this period of strife, Krishnadevaraya occupied Raichur Doab. (There is a view that Yusuf had actually died in a war with Krishnadevaraya in 1510). Amir Barid with the help of Golconda and Ahmadnagar invaded Bijapur. But Asad Khan repulsed them. Ismail's effort to recapture Raichur Doab resulted in his defeat at Kembhavi in 1520 at the hand of Vijayanagara. On the advice of Asad Khan, Ismail's sister was married to the neighbouring ruler of Ahmadnagar, Burhan Nizam Shah in 1524, but this marriage did not help improve the relations between the two powers and Burhan invaded Sholapur and Asad defended it. Bijapur had to keep on fighting with Ahmadnagar for Sholapur and the Vijayanagara Empire for Raichur Doab. Later, Asad Khan even arrested Amir Barid of Bidar who was a source of annoyance

to Bijapur and Bidar was for a time added to Bijapur territory. In 1530 Raichur Doab was also recovered. On the death of Ismail, Asad returned to Belgaum as the next Sultan Mallu (1524-35) distrusted him. In fact, Asad Khan had been appointed the young prince's regent by Ismail. But Mallu, Ismail's first son, soon became unpopular with the palace and the court. He was blinded and imprisoned, and he soon died. Ibrahim I, Mallu's younger brother was only 15 years old at the time of his accession (1535), and Asad remained the Chief Minister for next five years. Ibrahim I assumed the title Shah in 1538-39, ending formal allegiance to the Bahmanis. He restored Sunni usages and started giving preference to the Dakhanis. Many Afaqi officers came to be dismissed except Asad Khan.

Soon after the death of Achuta (1542), there was a civil war in Vijayanagara and Ibrahim and Asad were invited by one party to interfere. Ibrahim received rich indemnity from his friendly party but the rivals of Sakala Tirumala (who had invited Ibrahim) had an upper hand at Vijayanagara i.e., the party led by Rama Raya. Asad led an attack on Adoni and during this attack, there grew some misunderstanding between him and Ibrahim and Asad retired to Belgaum in 1542. This news of misunderstanding between Asad and Ismail made Burhan Nizam Shah to take Sholapur and proceed towards Bijapur. But Asad remained loyal to Ibrahim despite the latter doubting his loyalty and with the help of Imad Shah of Berar humiliated Burhan and his ally Amir Barid who died during these engagements. Again in 1543 Burhan, in alliance with Golconda and Vijayanagara, attacked Bijapur. On Asad's advice, Ibrahim befriended Rama Raya and ceded Sholapur to Burhan and got over the storm (1543). Asad marched till Golconda and wounded Jamshed Qutabshah.

There was a revolt of nobles led by prince Abdullah against Ibrahim, and Abdullah sought the help of Ahmadnagar, Golconda and the Portuguese, and he sought shelter at Goa. Despite Ibrahim I suspecting the loyalty of Asad Khan and Burhan Nizam trying to wean him away from Ibrahim, Asad Khan remained loyal to Ibrahim. When Asad Khan was sick, Abdullah and Burhan Nizamshah attacked Belgaum. They were defeated, and Abdullah had to return to Goa. Soon Asad Khan died in 1549, and his son Muhammad Kishwar Khan was recognised as his successor with authority over Belgaum, Raybag and Hukeri. Asad Khan's tomb is seen at Belgaum.

In 1550, one Sher Khan added a new extension, Shahpur, to Belgaum originally called Shahpet. It grew to be a commercial centre.

Prince Abdullah's rebellion continued. The Portuguese even plundered some of the Adilshahi ports in Konkan, and took Bardez and Salsette. Ibrahim made peace with them in 1548. Encouraged by the news of Asad Khan's death, Burhan with the help of Ramaraya took the fort of Kalyana and laid siege to Sholapur, which too Bijapur lost in 1552. Raichur Doab was also taken by Ramaraya. Burhan even attacked Bijapur, the capital city, and Ibrahim had to take shelter at Panhala. But Burhan died in December 1553. Though the siege was withdrawn, Ibrahim made friendly overtures to Burhan's son and successor Hussain. Ibrahim's own nephew and Hussain's half brother Ali sought Ibrahim's help to support his cause to Ahmadnagar throne, and there was to be no peace between Bijapur and Ahmadnagar. This brought Bijapur closer to Ramaraya. The rebel prince Abdullah, with a Portuguese contingent, attacked Ponda and made further intrusions in the Bijapur territory. Ramaraya's army led by his brother Venkatadri helped Bijapur to take Ponda back and Abdullah was driven back. The Portuguese made peace with Bijapur, and soon after Ibrahim I died in 1558, to be succeeded by his son Ali. Ali restored the Shiah cult and welcomed the Afaqis into service. Being keen on recovering Kalyana and Sholapur, he allied himself closely with Ramaraya who even adopted Ali as his son as Ramaraya had lost one of his sons during the time. In the war that followed between Bijapur and Ahmadnagar, Ali got Kalyan back, but it was taken back by Ahmadnagar again. Though Bijapur again humiliated Ahmadnagar with Ramaraya's help, Ali had to surrender Yadgir and Bagalkot to Ramaraya. Expansion of Vijayanagara to the north of the Krishna created panic among the Sultans, and finally the Deccani Sultans formed a confederacy against Vijayanagara in 1565, and Ramaraya was killed at the Battle of Rakkasa-Tangadi and Vijayanagara capital was deserted by Emperor Sadashiva and Ramaraya's brother Tirumala. Ali played a notable part in forming this confederacy against Vijayanagara, and in Belgaum region, Torgal and other areas to the South of the Malaprabha too fell into Bijapur hands. Ali I had appointed Muhammad Kishwar Khan, Asad Khan's son the commander-in-chief. Kishwar Khan played a notable role in forming the confederacy against Vijayanagara before the battle of 1565. Vitta Gaunda, the Desai of Shirsangi (then of Navalgund) had joined the

confederacy, and Kokatnur region was added to his territory for his services and he was made the Sardesai of Torgal in 1566. In a campaign against Ahmadnagar in 1568, Kishwar Khan was killed. The efforts of Ali to take back Goa from the Portuguese in 1570 with the help of Ahmadnagar and the Zamorin proved futile. In 1573, Adilshahi army marched on Dharwad and Bankapur and extended their boundaries further southwards. Revolting Vitta Gaunda of Torgal was killed. A paper record from Torgal dated 1732 (edited by Fleet) says that Ali took over Torgal in about 1577 (*Ind. Ant.*, Feb 1876). The record gives a list of Havalgars of the place till 1686. Ranadaula Khan was granted Hukeri as *jahgir* in 1569.

Ibrahim II who came to the throne in 1580, continued to hold Belgaum. As he was young and Chand Sultana, the aunt (wife of Ibrahim's paternal uncle Ali's queen) was the regent, a combined effort to annihilate Bijapur was made in 1582 by Golconda, Ahmadnagar and Bidar. But, they were driven back. On way back from Bijapur, the retreating Ahmadnagar army plundered Hukeri and Raybag. Ralfe Fitch who visited Belgaum (1583) speaks of Belgaum's flourishing trade especially in precious stones. In 1593, there was a revolt at Belgaum spearheaded by Ibrahim's brother Ismail (who was held prisoner in Belgaum) in league with the local Governor. Nizamshah supported him and also won over Belgaum Commandant Savant Rao. But Bijapur general Elias Khan suppressed the revolt. Ein-ul-mulk, the officer in charge of Hukeri next rose in support of Ismail. They all reached Raybag, waiting for Nizamshahi army. Ain-ul-mulk was defeated and killed by another Bijapur general Hamid Khan who captured prince Ismail and the latter was taken to Bijapur, blinded and done to death.

Ibrahim II was a highly cultured and a far sighted prince. He married Taj Sultana, a Golconda princess, and his own sister was married to Ahmadnagar prince. He helped Ahmadnagar to check Mughul advance by sending his army to their help. Later, Mughuls defeated his army at Sonepur. But when he found that resisting the Mughuls was a formidable task he concluded a peace treaty with them and married his daughter to Mughul prince Daniyal, son of Akbar in 1600. Two inscriptions of Ibrahim are seen on the fort of Torgal, one of them bilingual (Persian and Kannada). He conquered Bidar in 1619 and merged the Baridshahi territory into his domain. Ranadaula Khan was succeeded by his son Rustam Zaman at Hukeri. During the last part of his rule Malik Ambar, the Regent at

Ahmadnagar threatened the very existence of the Bijapur kingdom as Bijapur had allied itself with the Mughuls. In 1624 he defeated the combined army of Bijapur and the Mughuls at Bhatwadi, and after this marched through Bijapur territory unhindered and even laid siege to Bijapur. But during these days of victorious campaigns, Shahji (Shivaji's father) who was in Ahmadnagar service deserted Malik Ambar and joined Bijapur service, and Malik Ambar died soon after (1626). Ibrahim died the next year and was succeeded by his son Muhammad (1627).

The rivalry and warfare between Ahmadnagar and Bijapur continued. This resulted in Bijapur allying with the Mughuls in their effort to dismember Ahmadnagar kingdom. But this alliance was short-lived, and Bijapur again allied with Ahmadnagar and in 1630, Bijapur army forced the Mughuls to raise the siege on Parendā, an Ahmadnagar fort. Mughul army, led by Asaf Khan, laid siege to Bijapur City in 1631, but was beaten back. While they were retreating, Bijapur army pursued them, and Murari Pandit, Bijapur general captured Parendā and brought the famous canon, Mulk-i-Maidan to Bijapur from there. A Persian record of 1633-34 describes Abdul Hussain as the Amin of Belgaum and his undertaking of the repair of fort wall. By 1636, Mughuls captured Ahmadnagar kingdom and annihilated the Nizamshahi dynasty, and Mughul Empire now touched the borders of Bijapur. Shahji, in the meanwhile had left Bijapur and had joined Mughul service, again returned to Bijapur service. The Mughuls led by Khan Zaman came as far as Raybag in 1636 and plundered it. Bijapur agreed to sign a deed of submission to the Mughuls. This prevented the activities of Bijapur across its northern boundaries and in 1637 a campaign led by Ranadaula Khan the Jahgirdar of Hukeri and Raybag was sent to the south till Basavapatna, and the next year Ranadaula accompanied by Shahji reached Bangalore and Srirangapattana, Shahji was granted the Bangalore *jahgir*. Bijapur also made inroads in south-east and reached Nandyal in 1644. Vellore (the then) Vijayanagara capital was also conquered in 1646, and in 1648 Jinji surrendered. Huge amounts of money by way of tribute and booty reached Bijapur. The Dutch founded a factory at Vengurla in 1637 after securing a firman from the Adilshah. A Persian inscription from Belgaum speaks of one Yaqub Ali Khan repairing the fort wall of Belgaum. But Shivaji had already started his encroachments on the northern borders of Bijapur by first capturing the Torna fort in 1646, and by the time of Muhammad's

death in 1656, his activities had proved a menace to the kingdom. Belgaum was granted as a *jahgir* to Siddi Rehan during this time.

Muhammad's son Ali (1656-72) had to face Aurangzeb who had arrived in the Deccan as Commander of Shah Jahan's army and Aurangzeb also tried to win over some Bijapur nobles. In 1657, he conquered Bidar and Kalyana and laid siege to Bijapur. But Bijapur was saved by the recall of Aurangzeb from Delhi. Ali also conducted a campaign in the South and collected dues from Keladi ruler (1663). Shahji who had joined him in this campaign died soon after. The Mughul army that had been sent against Shivaji, after signing the Treaty of Purandar with him, proceeded against Bijapur in 1665. Raja Jai Singh led the Mughul army which had to face stiff resistance and had to retreat in 1666. But due to the increased activities of Shivaji, Bijapur was forced to sign a treaty with the Mughuls ceding Sholapur to them. Soon after, Ali II died in 1672 and a mere child of five, Sikandar was raised to the throne. The "scorched earth policy" followed in 1665 during Jai Singh's campaign had crippled agriculture, and warfare and payment of dues, had drained Bijapur's treasury. Shivaji captured Panhala and Satara and looted Hubli. Bijapur had to face Mughul Commander Bahadur Khan before it could deal with Shivaji. The nobles at Bijapur turned either pro-Shivaji or pro-Mughul. There were faction fights and murders of nobles. The Mughuls succeeded in making further conquest of Bijapur territory. The Afghan soldiers behaved in a very unruly manner in the capital against Sidi Masud, the Commander. There were revolts in Karnataka and Tamilnadu possessions too. Shivaji captured Ponda and territories till Ankola on the coast. He allied himself with Golconda and conquered many Bijapur territories like Jinji in far South. Way back, he conquered many territories in Dharwad and Belgaum districts. In the meanwhile Dilir Khan, Mughul general, intrigued and brought pressure on Sidi Masud to sign one more treaty by which Sikandar's sister was married to Mughul prince Azam. Dilir Khan demanded the retirement of Masud from office. On refusal he invaded Bijapur in 1679. Shivaji's army harassed him from behind on Masud's request. Finally Dilir Khan was recalled by Aurangzeb in 1680.

Shivaji also died in the same year, but this had only removed a Bijapur bulwark against the Mughuls. Aurangzeb personally came to the Deccan in 1681, and unable to bear the internal problems Sidi Masud retired to Adoni in 1683. The Mughul army laid siege to

Bijapur in April 1685, and after a prolonged siege, Aurangzeb personally came to guide it in July 1686. Sikander surrendered in September 1686 and Bijapur monarchy thus ended.

Belgaum, Hukeri, Raybag, Athani, Sampgaon and other places in Belgaum district have many buildings of Adilshahi times. The mosques at Belgaum, Hukeri, Raybag, Sampgaon, Tigadi and Athani are some of the fine buildings of the period. The Siddeshwara temple and the Zami mosque at Athani are ascribed to Ali II. New industries like production of paper and agarbatti were started. Tobacco cultivation was also begun, which was introduced by the Portuguese. Trade flourished due to contact with ports where Europeans came to trade. English founded a factory at Raybag and Athani developed connection with the English factory at Karwar. Vengurla, where the Dutch had a factory, had connections with Belgaum and other centres. Portuguese at Goa had a lion's share of trade of this region. Many Hindu Desais administered their respective territories in the region and revenue administration was mostly taken care of by Brahmin Deshpandes.

The Mughuls

It has already been noted how Bijapur rulers had to encounter the Mughuls from the days of Akbar and how Ibrahim II had agreed to marry his daughter to prince Daniyal and concluded a treaty with the Mughuls. Bijapur's alliance with Mughuls resulted in Bijapur incurring the displeasure of Ahmadnagar and Ahmadnagar defeating the combined army of Bijapur and the Mughuls at Bhatwadi in 1694. But Bijapur assisted Ahmadnagar against the Mughuls to prevent the dismembering of the former kingdom by the Mughuls, in 1630, and having incurred the displeasure of the Mughuls, the Adilshah had to face an attack on Bijapur city itself in 1631, which of course was repulsed. After the fall of Ahmadnagar to the Mughuls, in 1636, the Mughul army led by Khan-i-Zaman, busy pursuing Shahji, who had deserted Mughul service plundered Miraj and Raybag in Bijapur territory and secured large booty. This was followed by Bijapur signing a 'Deed of Submission' (*Inaqiyadnama*) with the Mughuls in that year and Bijapur agreeing to pay a lumpsum tribute of Rs 20 lakhs in return for some territories from Shah Jahan.

Later, Aurangzeb, under orders from his father, conquered Bidar and Kalyana (Basava Kalyan) in 1657 and advanced towards

Bijapur. But the siege was withdrawn as Aurangzeb was recalled and Shah Jahan fell sick, and Bijapur signed a treaty. Raja Jai Singh's activities in Bijapur territory in 1665-66 have been already noted, and Shivaji's alliance with the Mughuls (Treaty of Purandhar, 1665) made matters worse for Bijapur and Sholapur was surrendered to the Mughuls as a result.

Dilir Khan was deputed against Bijapur in 1678. During this campaign he was joined by Shivaji's rebel son Sambhaji (Dec 1678). Dilir Khan plundered Honwad, Telsang and Athani and tried to sell some Hindu inhabitants of Athani into slavery. This enraged Sambhaji who parted his company and rejoined his father in Jan 1680. Dilir Khan was recalled from Bijapur in Feb 1680.

After Shivaji's death, when Sambhaji succeeded him, Aurangzeb's fourth son, Akbar, who had rebelled against his father, sought shelter in Sambhaji's territory and the two met at Padshahpur on 13th Nov 1681*. But Sambhaji realised that Akbar was not a strong ally against Aurangzeb and the two parted company and Akbar left for Goa and finally reached Persia. "Akbar neither had the capacity nor the means that could be utilised by the Maratha king, this uninvited guest hastened the invasion of the Mughal forces even before Sambhaji had time to consolidate his own position", says Dr Kamal Gokhale (*Chatrapati Sambhaji*, page 69).

On the very day, when Sambhaji and Prince Akbar had met, 13th Nov. 1681, Aurangzeb descended on the Deccan with three of his sons, mainly to punish his son Akbar and Sambhaji. Many battles between the Mughuls and Sambhaji followed during this period. The Mughuls conquered Dharwad in 1683 and prince Muazzam took Sampgaon in 1683 and Gokak in 1684. Gokak was named Rahimgad. Dodwad and Belwadi were also conquered by the Mughuls before July 1686. Aurangzeb tried to win over many Bijapur nobles, telling them that he needed their help in suppressing the Marathas, and even persuaded his daughter-in-law, the Bijapur princess Padshah Bibi to write letters to Bijapur court to this effect. As Bijapur did not respond favourably, siege was laid to the capital, and Bijapur fell after 17 months, in Sept. 1616. Belgaum automatically came under the Mughuls after the fall of Bijapur and became part of

* The 1884 Edition of *Belgaum Gazetteer* says that this Padshahpur was the one in Belgaum District (Pachapur in Hukeri taluk). But it was a place of the same name in Raigad district, Maharashtra.

Bijapur Suba which was one of the six Mughul Subas (provinces) in the South. It became Azamnagar Sarkar with 15 Paraganas or Mahals in it (as can be made out from one of the late 18th century records, and this must have been the case even earlier under the Adilshahis, who had named Belgaum Azamnagar). Some sources speak of Raybag as a separate Sarkar with 12 Paraganas, and of these Raybag Mahal alone had 82 villages. Athani was in Bijapur Sarkar (vide *Bombay Gazetteer, Belgaum District*, p 383). Almost the whole of Belgaum district except Athani were handed over to the administration of Abdul Rauff Khan (son of Abdul Karim Khan, an Afghan general, who had been put in charge of Karnataka by Ali Adilshah II in 1672). Abdul Rauff Khan entered Mughul service in 1686 and Bankapur, Torgal and Mustafabad (Belgaum, renamed after Mustafa Khan, a Bijapur General) came under his control. He was appointed the Mansabdar of 22 divisions or Mahals. His headquarters was Bankapur, and he is the future founder of the family of Nawabs of Savanur to which place he shifted his headquarters from Bankapur later. A paper record from Torgal ('Chronicle of Torgal', *Ind. Ant.*, Feb. 1876) says that in Kshaya Samvatsara (1686), Kasim Khan came and the region of the Mughuls extended over the people of Torgal, and he gives the name of four successive Killedars of the place. By about 1709 (Sarvadhari Samvatsara) "the illustrious Subedhar Siddi took Torgal and Ramdurg by parley", the record says, but does not clarify who this Siddi was. From that day one Shinde is described as the Havaladar of the place, apparently under Kolhapur.

Fall of Bijapur was followed by the attack on Golconda and its fall in Sept. 1687. Next the Mughul forces were directed against the Marathas and Sambhaji was taken captive and executed in March 1689. Thus Aurangzeb had all his ambitions in the Deccan fulfilled. He was victorious every where. But J N Sarkar puts it thus: "All seemed to have been gained by Aurangzeb now, but in reality all was lost. It was the beginning of his end".

Shivaji and the Marathas

Shivaji who was the son of Shahji had been staying in the Pune region in his father's *jahgir*. He started encroaching upon the territories of Bijapur. The areas he controlled in Belgaum district were limited to the north of the Krishna including Kolhapur, but Athani was no part of his territory. In the West he had parts of Khanapur taluk

under his control, Bhimgad being one of his strongholds. In the south, parts of Sampgaon and Parasgad taluks were also under his sway. Of his forts, in the north Vallabhgad near Sankeshwar (near the Hiranyakeshi was his border) and Murgod, Huli and Parasgad forts can be mentioned. He also fortified Ramdurg and Torgal together with Nargund. In 1662, Bijapur agreed to surrender to him the territories in the up-ghats from Pune to Miraj and the Konkan area to the west from Kalyan to the borders of Goa. By then he had conquered Sankeshwar also. In 1673, Shivaji plundered Belgaum on his way from Panhala to Hubli. The forts at Parasgad (near Saundatti, perhaps a fort of the Rattas was renovated) and Huli were built by him in 1674-75. His son Sambhaji, in 1675 sacked Raybag while returning from Hubli. In 1675, Shivaji captured Kolhapur. A report from the Raybag Factory of the English reports on his activities in Jan 1677: "By reason of the lamentable devastation which Sevagee hath made in Raybag, Hantene (Athani), Callapore, etc" cloth was not procurable nor European goods be sold (*English Records on Shivaji*, II, page 62). On his return from his campaigns in Jinji, Tanjore and Bangalore in 1677, Shivaji passed through the southern parts of Belgaum district, when he had an encounter with a lady, the wife of the Desai of Belavadi, called Mallavva. The place is in Sampgaon taluk.

Bahadur Khan, the Mughul commander in the South had been bought over by Shivaji during his own expeditions in far South. Later Dilir Khan came to the post of Bahadur Khan. In the year 1679 Shivaji exerted maximum strength to save Bijapur from Mughul attacks by various diversionary moves. Sambhaji succeeded his father in 1680 and captured Raigad from Rajaram's party. He held the territories he had inherited from his father in Belgaum almost intact till his death. The Desai of Hukeri (later Wantmuri) was also under his control, and in 1685 Aurangzeb made maximum efforts to win this Desai over his side. Records and correspondence prove that Desai of Murgod was also very loyal to Sambhaji. Manappa Desai of Murgod had even defeated the Mughul officer Rahimad Khan of Padshapur and rendered Sambhaji's officer, Yadav Koneri, the Sarsubedhar of Bhujbalgad all help in his campaigns against the Mughuls in 1686 in the Dharwad region. But after the conquest of Bijapur (1686) and Golconda (1687), Aurangzeb concentrated all his energy against Sambhaji. Sambhaji was taken captive in 1689 and executed. His son Sahu (Shivaji II) and one of his queens Yesubai were also taken captive from Raigad when the Mughuls laid siege to

the Maratha capital. Till the death of Rajaram, the second son of Shivaji who succeeded Sambhaji in 1700, and even after that. Aurangzeb's efforts to cow the Marathas down did not succeed. Rajaram's wife Tarabai, assisted by dare-devil generals like Santaji Ghorpade and Dhanaji Jadhav, harassed the Mughul army. The Mughuls found it difficult to defend the places they had conquered, and from Pune to Jinji, the mighty swift moving Maratha army fought many battles with them. Many Mughul officers bought peace from the Maratha army. The Mughul army lost one lakh soldiers every year, in these campaigns in the Deccan, says the Italian traveller Manucci and adds that "fields were left devoid of trees and bare of crops".

On the death of Aurangzeb in February 1707, the Mughul armies were on retreat from everywhere, falling back towards the North, Mughul prince Azam released Sahu in May 1707. When he returned to Satara, the then seat of Maratha power, the Regent, Tarabai refused to accommodate him. The Maratha kingdom created by Shivaji was lost by Sambhaji, Sahu's father and it was recreated by Rajaram; Sahu had no claims over it, Tarabai argued. Thus set in a schism between the House of Satara led by Sahu and Kolhapur led by Tarabai and her successors in future years, and Belgaum district saw some of the worst kind of fights and intrigues during the succeeding generations as a result. Sahu entered Satara victorious in January 1708, and Tarabai fled to Panhala. Among the appointments of Sahu, at his court was one of Balaji Vishwanath, who was posted as *mutalik* or deputy to the Sachiv (one among the eight ministers, the latter post having been conferred on a child following the principle of heredity).

Balaji Vishwanath was raised to the position of the Peshwa in 1713. The new Peshwa succeeded in winning over Kanhoji Angre, the Maratha admiral from the side of Tarabai to that of Sahu. But Sahu had to engage himself in fight with Nizamulmulk (Chin Qilich Khan) who was sent to the Deccan as the Subedar of the Deccan in 1713, to secure his privilege of collecting *chaut* from the Mughul territory. But Nizamulmulk was recalled in 1715 and Sayyad Hussain Ali took his place. Hussain Ali, one of the two famous Sayyad brothers was forced to agree to Sahu's proposal for granting the authority to collect *chaut* and *sardeshmukhi* from the six Deccan Subas of the Mughuls including the Suba of Bijapur in which major parts of Belgaum district lay. Of the sixteen districts recognised

as Sahu's Swaraj or old territory, Khanapur area in the Phonda panch mahals was also included. But the hold of the Satara branch over Belgaum region was very weak. Secondly for the collection of *chaut* and other dues, the territory was parcelled out among the various Maratha commanders, and this was the inauguration of "Maratha Confederacy" (with seats of power at Nagpur, Baroda, Indore, Gwalior etc.)

Balaji Vishwanath died the next year and his son Bajirao I became the next Peshwa. Being a brilliant general and diplomat, he played a major part in the politics of Deccan and India. Sahu, having been brought up in the luxurious surroundings of the Mughul camp, could not pay much attention to the details of administration, and the Chatrapati thus became a figurehead and the Peshwa the real head of the Maratha State. Nizamulmulk became the Subedhar of Deccan in 1724 and he was the founder the future State of the Nizam.

Bajirao conducted two campaigns in Karnataka, one in 1725-26 when he reached Chitradurga and another in 1726-27 when he reached Srirangapattan to collect *chaut*, and during his second campaign he reached Belgaum on 22-11-1726, Manoli on 23rd Nov and *via* Kittur and Itgi, marched into the Sonda territory in Uttara Kannada. Way back from Srirangapattan, he returned to Satara *via* Belgaum district, passing through it in April 1724. Chatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur considered these campaigns as an encroachment upon his rights. He played into the hands of the Nizamulmulk, being unable to reconcile himself to Sahu's superiority, and depending on Nizamulmulk' (who had shifted his headquarters from Aurangabad to Hyderabad), promise that he would support Sambhaji's cause against Sahu. Sahu's claims over *chaut* were disputed by the Nizam and he tried to review the dispute in the background of the succession to Maratha power. This caused a war between the Peshwa and the Nizam and Sambhaji of Kolhapur sided with the latter. The Nizam was routed in Feb 1728 by Bajirao, and by the treaty that followed the Nizam agreed to recognise Sahu as the sole king of the Marathas and concede his claims of *chaut* and *sardeshmukhi* over the six Subahs. Sambhaji of Kolhapur, abandoned by the Nizam, but secretly incited by him, declared war on the Peshwa, but the latter defeated him in 1730 and by the Treaty of Varna that followed in 1731, Sambhaji was forced to confine himself to his then territory and to be a subordinated ally of the Marathas (Satara). The major parts of Belgaum district except Athani region (which was in the hands of Sahu) came under

Kolhapur. Jayappa Desai of Navalgund who was granted regions in Saundatti-Ramdurg belt was a feudatory of Kolhapur. These areas were granted in view of his help to Kolhapur. (He built the fort in Saundatti town in 1734). But Kolhapur's hold on Belgaum, except on the Chikodi, Nagar Manoli belt was only nominal. "Sambhaji and his successors indeed seem to have made hardly any attempt to assume the sovereignty of the whole of the district thus made over to them, and some thirty-four years after the date of the treaty, the Peshwa granted to the Patwardhan family a large *saranjam*, a very considerable portion of which was in these very districts" (*Kolhapur District Gazetteer*, 1960 pp: 72-3). In 1736, Peshwa was conferred with the office of Sardeshpande over the Deccan. This gave him scope to interfere with the affairs of Belgaum area also. Annual farming of the collection of the dues of the areas between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra was resorted to by the Peshwa. In 1740, Bajirao, the remarkable warrior who extended Maratha supremacy in the North too died, and his son Balaji II or Nanasahab succeeded him. Sahu had grown very old by then, and after his death in 1749, the Peshwa became absolutely free to decide about the affairs of the Maratha State.

The political history of Belgaum district turned kaleidoscopic during the latter half of the 18th century. The Peshwa and his subordinate Patwardhan of Tasgaon on the one hand, the Chatrapati of Kolhapur on the other, and the Nawab of Savanur on the third, and finally Haider Ali and Tipu entering the fray, and the Desais of Hukeri (Wantmuri), Navalgund (later Shirasangi), Kittur, Nipani and many others trying either to hold their own or to expand their power in the region made the district a hot bed of fights and intrigues.

Belavadi Mallavva

Belavadi was a Desgati under Bijapur, and when Ishaprabhu was ruling it, Shivaji arrived at Sampgaon during the early days of 1678. When his army had a skirmish with the guards of this territory in connection with securing some supplies to the camping army, Ishaprabhu opposed them, and was killed in an encounter with the Marathas. When the Marathas tried to storm his fort at Belavadi, they faced stern resistance. Belavadi fort was protected by Mallavva, the wife of Ishaprabhu, and she was a princess of Sonda, being the cousin of Madhulinga Nayaka (1639-65). It took them 23 days (27

according to some other authority) to storm it. "He (Shivaji) is at present besieging a fort" and he has "suffered more disgrace than ever did from all power of the Moghul or Deccan; he who hath conquered so many kingdoms, is not able to reduce this woman Desai", the British factory at Rajapur in Konkan wrote to the Surat factory over the incident on 28-2-1678 (Factory Reports, Surat, Vol. 107, Fol. 60). Mallavva was brought as a captive before Shivaji, but Shivaji honoured her and released her. A sculptural representation of Shivaji feeding Mallavva's child with milk is seen at Yadwad in Dharwad district (Later, in course of time, Belvadi Desgati came under the Mughuls in 1686 and merged with Kittur).

The Savanur Nawabs

The son of the Bijapur Commander Bahlol Khan, Abdul Rahim was the *Jahgirdar* of Koppal. His son Abdul Karim rose to be a powerful noble at Bijapur and Sikander Adilshah later conferred on him a *jahgir* of 22 *mahals* and posted him at Bankapur. His son Abdul Rauff Khan (1686-1719) accepted the overlordship of the Mughuls after the fall of Bijapur, and he was conferred with the title Diler Khan Bahadur Dilerjang by Aurangzeb and his *jahgir* consisted of the Sarkars of Bankapur, Azamnagar (Belgaum) and Torgal. The Desai of Kittur and Navalgund were among his subordinates. He made Savanur his headquarters. His son and successor Abdul Gaffar Khan (1719-25) was forced into submission by Bajirao's commander Raste. His territories were extended between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra except north-western parts of Belgaum district. The northern boundary was a line running from Belgaum, Pachapur, Gokak and Yadwad till the Krishna. His son Abdul Majid Khan's (1725-54) effort to shake off the overlordship of Nizam did not bear fruit. His territories extended over the whole of Dharwad and parts of Belgaum, Raichur and Bijapur districts. "About 1745 a triangular struggle was going on in the area of Savanur among the Peshwa, Sambhaji of Kolhapur and the Nizam of Hyderabad for supremacy over Karnatak, and the Nawab of Savanur was caught in the political whirlpool," says of K N Chitnis. When a Maratha army under Babuji Naik was sent, to collect dues, Majid Khan resisted it in 1746. But the Nawab was forced to make peace with the Peshwa when Maratha army under Chimaji Appa came and he agreed to surrender to the Peshwa many Mahals including those in Belgaum district. But the areas were not actually transferred. The next Nawab Abdul Hakim Khan (1754-95) again

tried to defy the Peshwa, and Peshwa Balaji II defeated him and imposed a treaty on him in 1756. By this, the Peshwa acquired Belgaum and its fort, and of the areas permitted to be retained by the Nawab from the Belgaum region were the fort and village of Parasgad and Sampgaon only. In 1764 Haider Ali defeated the Nawab and took Sonda area from him. Later Haider gave his daughter in marriage to Hakim Khan's son Khair Khan in 1779, and used him as an ally in his campaigns northwards. But after Haider's death the Nawab allied himself with the Peshwa's Government. This resulted in Tipu pouncing upon Savanur and plundering the Nawab's town and property. But Tipu was forced to restore Savanur to the Nawab in 1787 by the treaty of Gajendragad. Savanur territory now came under the full control of the Peshwa and the Nawab stayed at Pune, receiving a pension till his death in 1795. In 1799, after Tipu's death, some of the Savanur territories in Dharwad district were restored to Abdul Khair Khan, Hakim Khan's son.

In the meanwhile, the Peshwa who had conquered Gokak in 1754 and gained other territories from the Belgaum district region, created a *saranjam* with Miraj fort as headquarters for Govind Haripant Patwardhan to take care of these areas in 1765. This was one more political entity that was to wield power in the region. The mosque in the fort and the *ganjikhana* on the river bank at Gokak are ascribed to the Savanur Nawab's times.

Kolhapur Chatrapatis

Sambhaji II of Kolhapur, discussed already, was the son of Rajasbai, another wife of Rajaram. Rajasbai by a palace revolution of 1714, had her co-wife Tarabai and her son, then recognised heir, Shivaji II, subjected to confinement. Sambhaji II was a capable prince. He had appointed Siddhoji Ghorpade, the nephew of Santaji (the latter's brother Bahirji Hindurao's son) the Nadagauda of Chikodi. In addition, Torgal in Belgaum district with a group of villages around it was also under his control. Subhanrao Shinde was Kolhapur's Jahgirdar at Torgal. Chandra Sen Jadhav (son of Dhanaji Jadhav) who was envious of the increasing power of the Peshwa, left Satara, joined the Nizam, and tried to add to the misunderstanding between the houses of Kolhapur and Satara. It has been seen how Sambhaji II played into the hands of Nizam-ul-mulk, opposed Sahu of the Satara Branch and how the Peshwa

forced Sambhaji to sign the Treaty of Varna in 1731. Thus Kolhapur, in principle had secured control over major parts of Belgaum district by the treaty. (The Treaty had acknowledged his sovereignty over the territory lying between the rivers Krishna and the Varna on the north-east and the Tungabhadra on the South). But Sambhaji did not transfer the parts of Miraj and Athani as per the Treaty, but Sahu later captured these areas. The Ghorpades of Ichalkaranji, who were the neighbours of Kolhapur (the place is on the very borders of the present Chikodi taluk, but in Kolhapur district) were subordinate *jahgirdars* of Kolhapur and were also relations of the Peshwa. This family also proved to be an irritant in the establishment of normal relationship between Kolhapur and Satara. Sahu of Satara died in Dec 1749. Previous to this, there had been serious efforts to have Sambhaji of Kolhapur being nominated as the successor to Satara too. Though Peshwa, Balaji Rao, welcomed it, Tarabai, who was then at Satara, was opposed to it as Sambhaji II was her stepson who had deprived her own son of power. Tarabai brought forth a claimant called Ramaraja, described as the son of her own son, Shivaji, and he was accepted as the successor to the Satara throne. Still Peshwa Balaji tried his level best to maintain cordial relations with Kolhapur. He got his own cousin Sadashivabhau appointed Peshwa at Kolhapur. Five forts, which included Bhimgad and Vallabhadra in Belgaum district were also transferred to the Peshwa by Sambhaji II. Balaji conducted a campaign (1754) against Savanur to force the Savanur Nawab pay the dues to Kolhapur for the territories over which Kolhapur had rights in the present Bijapur, Dharwad and Belgaum district. (In Belgaum, Gokak is mentioned as one such sarkars or district). But as his own case for succession to Satara was not considered, Sambhaji II remained dejected and affairs of the State were now looked after by his fourth queen, Jijabai, a member of the Torgal Shinde family.

Ichalkaranji *Jahgir* granted to Venkatrao Ghorpade by Kolhapur had an ambitious lady, Anubai, Balaji's aunt (Bajirao's sister married to Venkatrao) at the helm. She was always keen on increasing her power and prestige. She joined Balaji in his southern campaign in 1756 and secured territories like Dharwad from Balaji which he took from Savanur. A subordinate of Kolhapur, Ranoji Ghatge of Kagal, sought her help in his grievance against Kolhapur. He, with the help of Anubai and some contingent sent by Patwardhan of Miraj, a subordinate of the Peshwa, created lot of trouble in and around Chikodi, in Kolhapur territory. Still the Peshwa and Jijabai

maintained cordial relations and exchanged courtseys regularly. In 1760 Sambhaji II died. As he was childless, an adopted child, Shivaji III succeeded. In 1761, Govindrao Patwardhan was granted Miraj in the neighbour of Kolhapur a *jahgir*. This added to the misunderstanding Kolhapur court had against the Peshwa. Following the disaster of Panipat in Jan 1761, Peshwa Balaji died in June, and during the days of his young successor, Madhavrao, the intrigues of his uncle Raghunathrao (Balaji's brother, known as Raghoba) and emergence of Haider as a powerful potentate worsened the relations between Kolhapur and the Peshwa and Belgaum saw many battles in the ensuing period.

Shivaji III (1760-1812), a mere child of five had Jijabai as her regent and the young and thoughtful Peshwa Madhavrao's had given consent to his adoption and also granted the income from the Kasba of Belgaum to Queen Mother Jijabai. In 1762, the Peshwa agreed to pacify the recalcitrant chieftains of Kolhapur in the Paraganas of Hukeri, Chikodi, Kagal and (Nagar) Manoli in return for Rs seven lakhs. Though the Peshwa did bring these territories under control, Jijabai had borrowed money for paying Rs seven lakhs to the Peshwa. When the Peshwa found that the money lenders were pestering the queen, he farmed out Chikodi and (Nagar) Manoli to Parashurambhau Patwardhan, the member of the Miraj Patwardhan's family (1764). But this led to bitter feuds between Kolhapur and the Patwardhans. Farming out of the territory was resisted by Kolhapur and the Peshwa sent his army to help Parashurambhau. This army captured Bhoj, Eksamba and Kagal and even approached Kolhapur. Jijabai signed away the two Paraganas and paid a cash compensation of Rs 1.10 lakh. But as the two taluks were handed over to the Peshwa only temporarily for policing them and as he had recovered his policing fees, on request of Jijabai for their return, the Peshwa instructed in 1767 that they be returned, but the Patwardhans did not obey. Peshwa Madhavarao fell sick in 1770 and he died in 1772. But his successor and younger brother, Narayanrao, again ordered for their return in Jan 1773. Soon after Jijabai died Yeshwantrao Shinde became the administrator of Kolhapur.

But things took a queer turn at Pune, when Peshwa Narayanrao was assassinated in September 1773; his uncle Raghoba succeeded him. But Raghoba was ousted by a Council of Regency called Barabhais headed by Nana Phadnis. This weakened the administration at Pune, and petty chieftains and Jahgirdars started mischief.

The Ghorpades of Ichalkaranji started inroads into Kolhapur territory, and Shivaji II resisted. As the Pune Court did not effectively interfere, Kolhapur allied itself with the Desai of Kittur, Veerappa Gauda who was in a revolting mood against the Peshwa, and also Haider Ali. Konher Rao Patwardhan was appointed by the Pune Durbar to safeguard Ichalkaranji in the dispute between Ichalkaranji and Kolhapur. This further aggravated the crisis. Konher Rao marched against Kittur, defeated Veerappa Gauda at Maldinni near Gokak and inflicted a heavy fine on him. Due to some offensive movements of Kolhapur (a fight at Bagewadi in Jan. 1774 in which Patwardhan forces had been defeated) Konher Rao laid siege to Kolhapur and returned after only plundering a Matha there in March. Next Kolhapur allied itself with the ousted Peshwa Raghoba. They also drove out Patwardhan's forces from Chikodi and (Nagar) Manoli. This forced the Pune *darbar* send an army led by Mahadaji Sindhia against Kolhapur. Kolhapur came to terms (1778), agreed to pay an indemnity of Rs 15 lakhs and Chikodi and Manoli were given as security. This was followed by a revolt in the Bhudargad Fort of Kolhapur which surrendered to Parashurambhau Patwardhan.

In 1782, Shivaji III who lived at Panhala till then, came to Kolhapur and this became his capital. There was comparative peace in the region (except a campaign of Parashurambhau against Katkol) till 1792, but soon after the Third Anglo-Mysore War, Parashurambhau again started encroaching upon Kolhapur. Though his son Ramachandra was taken prisoner at Alta and later released, he led his forces till and Kolhapur collected an indemnity of Rs three lakhs. At Pune, the boy Peshwa Madhavrao II committed suicide (1796). Raghoba's son Bajirao II succeeded to the post. Nana Phadnis, who was at the helm of affairs at Pune had some misunderstanding with Parashurambhau. He encouraged Shivaji III to attack him and the Kolhapur army not only attacked Parashurambhau's town Tasgaon, but even burnt his palace, recovered Bhudargad fort, and also Chikodi and Manoli, which had fallen into the hands of the Nipanikar Desai. Then Shivaji III planned to proceed into Karnataka and after taking Shahpur, Anigol and Kurbet, he laid siege to Gokak, and took it in Jan. 1798. Next he took Hubli (Mugutkhan Hubli) and planned to march on Satara. Soon, Nana Phadnis and Parashurambhau reconciled themselves. The Peshwa also supported Parashurambhau as he was apprehensive of Shivaji's movements. Parashurambhau while marching on Kolhapur *via* Gokak and Chikodi

was killed at Pattankudi in 1799. (His tomb is there in the outskirts of this town in Chikodi taluk). An army led by Ramachandra Patwardhan, supported by the army of Pune and Sindhia of Gwalior attacked Kolhapur and laid siege to the town for over three months. In the meanwhile Nana Phadnis died at Pune (1800) and Bajirao II ordered the withdrawal of troops. But by the treaty that followed, Chikodi and Manoli were to be restored to Kolhapur by the Peshwa. But actually the territory in the possession of Nipanikar Desai who had captured it on behalf of Sindhia. Kolhapur allied with Chandrappa Desai of Tallur and encouraged him to attack Manoli which he did. Tallur Desai even marched towards Nipani.

A war Kolhapur waged against Sawantwadi helped Nipanikar Desai to seize Chikodi and Manoli in 1806. Next Nipanikar defeated Kolhapur in 1808 at Sawgaon, and his marriage with a Kolhapur princess did not improve matters. Encouraged by Bajirao II, Nipanikar attacked Kolhapur in 1812, and thus forcing the Chatrapati to accept the protection of the British and renouncing claim over Chikodi and Manoli. Shivaji's III's successor Shambhu (1812-21) got Chikodi and Manoli back in 1818 in return for his support to the English in their war against the Peshwa. His brother and successor Shahji (1821-37) incurred the displeasure of the British by increasing his army and other disloyal acts. In 1827, Chikodi and Manoli were taken away from him. He was succeeded by Shivaji IV (1837-66). Kolhapur by then lost its hold on major parts in the present Belgaum area. But Raybag Mahal in the former Shirol taluk (31 villages) and the *jahgirs* of Katkol and Torgal (total 14 villages) remained under their control till 1947 (when they were merged in Belgaum dt). Similarly 11 villages (Khadaklat, Pattankudi, etc were also included in Chikodi tq) (See Chapter I, p : 68)

The Patwardhans

The Patwardhans, who played a prominent part in the history of the Marathas and Karnataka were descendants of Harbhatt, family priest of the Ghorpades, the Jahgirdars of Ichalkaranji. Govind, Ramachandra and Trimbak were their names and the first two were in the service of Balaji Vishwanath, and the last named with the Bhonsle of Akkalkot, but later joining the Peshwas. Of these, Govind with his son Gopal played a prominent part in the days of Balaji Bajirao, and as Gopal distinguished himself in a campaign against the Savanur Nawab, the Peshwa gave him in 1761 as

jahgir, a part of the territories he secured from the Nawab to Gopal and another part to Raste (the *Jahgirdar* of Anantpur near Athani). Govind became the *Jahgirdar* of Miraj and when he died at 1771, his brother Gangadhar inherited the Miraj *Jahgir*. His another son Pandurang and Pandurang's son Chintamanrao became *jahgirdars* of Sangli. Son of Ramachandra was the famous Parashurambhau, who died at the battle of Pattankudi (1799) fought against Kolhapur, and Tasgaon was his headquarters. His son Ganapatrao inherited Tasgaon and another son Hari became the head of Jamkhandi. Sons of Trimbak, Nilkanth and Konher Rao also played a prominent part in Maratha history, and Nilkanth's descendants were the future heads of Kurundwad and Kagwad-Shedbal States.

In 1761, Peshwa Madhavrao granted the fort of Miraj to Govindrao together with some other *thanas* to help him maintain some troops. When Raghoba came to the fore, he caused lot of discomfiture to Govindrao and his brothers as they had always supported Madhavrao in the rivalries at Pune. In 1763, lands fetching an annual rent of Rs 25 lakhs were assigned to Govindrao and his nephews Parashuram and Nilkanth for maintaining 800 horses. The *saranjam* was apparently created to checkmate Kolhapur and Haider (part of their *saranjam* was on the borders of Mysore on the Kundgol-Shirhatti-Lakshmeshwar-Gudigeri belt). They were actively engaged in the campaigns against, Haider Ali. Nilakanth, son of Trimbak, died at the Battle of Moti Talao in 1771. Pandurang, son of Govind had been wounded in an action against Haider, taken as prisoner to Srirangapattan where he died in 1771. Patwardhans had to constantly fight against Kolhapur over the issue of Chikodi and (Nagar) Manoli. Parashurambhau had played a prominent part in Peshwa's war against the British in repulsing Gen Goddard.

In the campaigns against Tipu, Parashurambhau played a prominent part during the Third Anglo-Mysore War and being the head of the Maratha forces, he marched with Capt Little, laid siege to Dharwad and captured it in April 1791. At the Battle of Kharda too, he and his son played a prominent part. On the death of Peshwa Madhavrao II, suspicion between Nana Phadnis and Parashurambhau grew over the issue of succession. Nana persuaded Kolhapur to invade his territory. This finally resulted in Parashurambhau's death in 1799 in the war that followed. Parashurambhau's son, Ramachandra sought the help of the Peshwa and the army sent from Pune drove the Kolhapur prince back to Panhala. The Peshwa

issued order to his Sarsubedhar in North Karnataka, Dhondopant Gokhale, to help the Patwardhans have their territories restored. As Gokhale was busy fighting against Dondji Wagh, the Patwardhans joined him. Gokhale was killed in action, and Chintamanrao Patwardhan joined Col. Wellesley in the campaigns against Wagh, and after the campaign was over, Wellesley returned the Patwardhans territories taken by Wagh. But complete restoration of all their *jahgirs* was delayed till 1811 due to the cunning duplicity of Peshwa Bajirao II. Elphinstone in 1811 restored the Patwardhans of their estates, and they in turn promised to serve the Peshwa in fidelity.

But when the British fought the final battle against the Peshwa, Elphinston instructed Gen. Thomas Munro "To treat the country under the Peshwa and the *jahgir* of Gokhale as hostile and that of all Jahgirdars as friendly". The Patwardhans left the Peshwa's camp before the final engagement of 1818. After their accepting British overlordship, Jamkhandi was divided into two, Chinchani in Belgaum district being the new branch, and it was later merged into the British territory in 1839 on the death of the issueless incumbent in 1836. Kagwad, a branch of the portion that had been inherited by Ganapat-rao, grandson of Nilkanth was later merged into British territory in 1857. When Parashuram Patwardhan of Tasgaon died in 1848, some of his territories like Savadi (now in Athani taluk) and Yadwad (now in Gokak taluk) were merged into Belgaum district in 1863. Kurundwad belonging to another grandson of Nilkanth called Trimbak was divided and a new branch called Junior Kurunwad with centre at Vadgaon near Belgaum was created in 1854. The Patwardhan territories that were merged into Belgaum District in 1947 were seven villages from Sangli (Molwad, etc) in Athani taluk; Dodwad in Sampgaon taluk; 54 villages like Shahpur, Anigol etc., in Belgaum taluk; from Miraj two villages (Mole and Banjwad) into Athani taluk and Bavachi into Raybag taluk; Khilegaon in Athani was from Miraj Jr. From Kurundwad, three villages were merged into Athani and 18 villages into Belgaum taluk, and from Jr Kurundwad (Vadgaon) 20 villages into Belgaum taluk. (See Chapter I p: 67).

Haider and Tipu

Emergence of Haider as a powerful political force in the South could be possible due to the defeat of the Marathas at Panipat (1761). Haider conquered Keladi (1763), entered Sonda territory victorious (1764) and proceeded against Gutti and Savanur. All these were

allies or subordinates of the Marathas. Madhavarao Peshwa defeated Haider in 1765, and Gutti was returned to Ghorpade. Haider gave up his claim over Savanur and agreed to pay Mysore's share of Maratha dues. But Haider soon tried to instigate Raghoba and Janoji Bhonsle against the Peshwa. Peshwa sent Gopal Patwardhan against Haider, and later personally came to the South. Though Peshwa had to return to Pune, his commander Trimbak Pethe defeated Haider at Moti Talav near Melkote. Haider concluded a treaty by which his northern boundary was reduced (1772).

The death of Madhavarao Peshwa in 1772 emboldened Haider. He attacked forts under the Marathas like Madhugiri and Hoskote. After Peshwa Narayanrao's assassination in 1773, Raghoba signed the Treaty of Kalyandurg with Haider. But the dissensions at Pune emboldened Haider. His army crossed the Tungabhadra and captured Gutti (1776) and imprisoned Murar Rao (who was killed in 1779). Next he took Bankapur, won over the Desai of Kittur and the Nawab of Savanur. Irappa Desai of Kittur marched on Gokak. Haider also sent financial aid to Kolhapur when they were facing the army of Sindhia in 1777. Marathas recognised Haider's position in the region during II Anglo-Mysore War when they allied with him, but later deserted him. After the war Tipu captured Ramdurg in May 1785 and laid siege to Nargund in July. His commander Burhan-ud-Din took Kittur in 1785. After capturing Dodwad, Sampgaon and Jamboti, his army reached almost till the Krishna. But Tukoji Holkar soon captured Kittur and the Maratha army proceeded towards the Tungabhadra. By the Treaty of Gajendragad of 1787, Badami, Nargund and Kittur were returned to the Marathas. But Tipu retook Kittur soon after and arrested the Desai Mallasarja. In 1790, during the III Anglo-Marathas War Tipu's army was expelled from Belgaum region, and Tipu could not cross the Tungabhadra after this war.

Fall of the Peshwa

The Peshwa, representing the Maratha power, had parts of Belgaum district including Belgaum under their control. This the Peshwa had secured from the Savanur Nawab in 1754, when Balajirao on his return from his second Karnataka expedition (till Chitradurga) attacked the Savanur Governor at Belgaum called Ilachi Beg, and Belgaum came directly under them. Belgaum became a Sarkar with 15 Paraganas under the Peshwa. Parts of it like Gokak and Yadwad

were given to Patwardhans in 1765. Belgaum area was later under Dhondopant Gokhale who was appointed administrator (Sarsubedhar) by Peshwa Bajirao II (1796-1818). Gokhale was killed in the action against Dhondji Wagh. Earlier he had marched against Kolhapur with an army the Peshwa had sent to help Ramachandra Patwardhan after the death of the latter's father at Pattankudi in 1799. Soon after, Peshwa Baji Rao II was driven out of Pune by Sindhia and Holkar, and Bajirao was forced to sign the Subsidiary Alliance with the English in 1802. Belgaum area came under seven administrations, viz., Kolhapur, the Patwardhans, Nipankars, Peshwa's representative Sadashiv Pandit at Belgaum, Kittur, Peshwa Bajirao's adopted son Amritrao who held Parasgad, and another representative of the Peshwa-Bapu Gokhale. Later, after the Battle of Kirkee when the Peshwa was defeated by the English (1817), Gen. Munro marched from Bijapur district reducing Badami and Bagalkot and took Gokak on 7-3-1818. Belgaum town was taken by him on 20-3-1818 and after 22 days of resistance, the Belgaum fort fell on 12th April. With the fall of Belgaum, all the Peshwa's territory came under the English.

Belgaum was included in the Collectorate of Dharwad, but a separate Belgaum Collectorate was created in 1836, and Ravenscroft the Asst. Collector took charge on 3rd May as the new Collector. Belgaum was fixed as the headquarters of the district in 1838, after considering the case of Gokak, Ankalgi, Murgod and Manoli. The territories under Kittur (1824), Chinchani (1836), Nipani (1840), Tasgaon (1848) and Kagwad (1857) were merged into Belgaum area when the British decided to lapse these States. The London Mission started an Anglo-Vernacular school in 1832 at Belgaum. The first high school founded in Belgaum district was the Sardars High School at Belgaum in order to impart English education. There was a severe famine 1876-78, and this was responsible for the laying of the railway line connecting Belgaum with Pune. The highway connecting Belgaum with Satara was also laid soon after the district came under the British. Rat plague appeared in 1878-79 in the district. The cotton boom of the 1860s helped the establishment of the Gokak Mill in 1885 and the Hydro-electric Unit at Gokak Falls in 1887.

Dondji Wagh

The uprising of Dhondji Wagh was a major event in Karnataka soon after the fall of Tipu in 1799. A free-booter that he had been,

Dhondji Parwar (nick-named as Wagh or Tiger), born at Chennagiri in Shimoga district, was in Tipu's service, and Tipu had imprisoned him. After Tipu's fall, he was released in 1799, and reaching his native Shimoga district, he gathered a huge band of followers and declared himself as a free ruler, calling himself as Ubhaya Lokadheeshwara (Master of Two Worlds). The chief of Balam in Hassan district, the head of the fort at Jamalabad in Dakshina Kannada and many groups in Sonda in Uttara Kannada joined him, and he marched into Dharwad district and proceeded towards Belgaum. Col Wellesley pursued him, crossing the Tungabhadra in June 1800. There were several engagements between his men and the British assisted by the forces of the Peshwa (led by Bapu Gokhale) and Patwardhans in Sandatti region in July. Dhondji passed through Manoli, Kittur, Khanapur and Shahpur and marching along the Ghataprabha, he reached Badami and he was finally killed at Konagal in Raichur district on 9th Sept. 1800. There were several engagements between him and the English in the month of August in Belgaum district. The Killedar of Manoli under Kolhapur and many minor chieftains helped Dhondji, and Wellesley was assisted by Peshwa's army and six other local Maratha potentates. Dhondopant Gokhale, Peshwa's officer was killed in an engagement at Londa during the campaign against Dhondji on 30th June.

Kittur Desagati

Of the many Desais administering various territories in the area, that of Kittur was one founded in the days of Bijapur (1585) with Sampgaon as the headquarters, from where four persons administered the region, viz., Hire Mallasetty (1585-91), Hire Naganagouda (1591-1634), Chikka Naganagounda (1634-1656) and Biccagatti Chinnappa (1656-60). In the days of Allappa (1650-81), Kittur became the headquarters. Mudimallappa (1681-86), Chikka Mallapa (1686-1717), Shivanagouda (1717-34), Malarudra (1734-49) and Veerappa (1749-82) were later administrators. Veerappa played into the hands of Haider, occupied Gokak of the Patwardhans, who later siezed the Desai and he died at Miraj. His successor Mallasarja (1782-1816) had to lose his territory to Tipu (who also held him captive between 1785-87). But the Peshwa extended support to Mallasarja. His territory was restored to him, but between 1813 to 1816 he was imprisoned by the Peshwa. His son Shivalingasarja (1816-24) cultivated friendship with the British and helped the British in their action against the Peshwa in 1818. The territory had 285

villages and annual revenue of Rs 4.10 lakhs in 1793. When Mallasarja died childless in 1824, he had adopted a son before his death. But Thakeray, the Collector at Dharwad held this adoption as invalid or false and he came to Kittur, sealed the treasury, put guards to watch it and made his own arrangements to administer the territory.

Channamma's Resistance

The deceased Desai's step mother Channamma (Mallasarja's wife), a daughter of the family of Kakati Desai, was enraged by this, protested against this act. Thakeray came to talk to her on 24th Oct 1824, but his high-handed attitude enraged the heroic queen. She ordered the closure of the fort gate. Thakeray moved canons to break the gate open, and gave an ultimatum of 20 minutes to open it. An enraged soldier fired at Thakeray and killed him, and many others of Thakeray's entourage like Captain Black, Captian Sewell and Lt Dighton were also killed, and two British officials were taken captive.

The Commissioner for Southern, division Chaplin made every preparation to sieze the state by moving armies from Rayalaseema, Bellary, Vengurla and Sholapur. Channamma wrote to him stating that the adopted boy might be permitted to administer Kittur and that she intended to fight no war. The two arrested British officials told her that if they were to be released, they would seek justice for her. Chaplin also wrote to her saying that on release of the arrested and surrender of Kittur forces, there would be no war. Channamma had prepared herself for a fight and forces had been gathered in the fort. She appealed to her neighbours including Shahji of Kolhapur for help. But she wanted to settle the matter by negotiations. She released the two British officials, Elliot and Stevenson on Dec 2. But Chaplin demanded the surrender of all within the fort. This enraged Channamma, who opened the door of the fort and attacked the enemy. This was on 3rd Dec and British with their superior force and weapons defeated Kittur army and took Channamma captive. Kittur territory was merged into Belgaum district and Channamma was kept in confinement at Bailhongal where she breathed her last in 1829.

But the Kittur family was held in high esteem by its subjects. Channamma's heroic resistance was a source of inspiration.

A servant of the Kittur State called Rayanna, gathered round him a considerable band which included a Siddhi called Gajaveera revolted (1829). He burnt the taluk kacheri of Bidi. Iravva, the deceased Desai's wife was taken out from Bailhongal. This caused another disturbance at Anigol, where 1,000 people gathered to resist her removal. Some of them later joined Rayanna. Rayanna was later overpowered, arrested and hanged (1830) at Nandgad. In 1833 one Shankaranna rose in revolt. In 1836 Narappa Gajapati, Savayshetty and Rudrappa Kotgi revolted in the name of the royal family and tried to secure the help of the Portuguese in Goa. Khodanpur Linganagauda who had betrayed Sangolli Rayanna and helped his arrest was killed in 1837 and another minor uprising followed. All these testify to the loyalty and love the Kittur family enjoyed from its subjects.

Ramdurg State

It is believed that Shivaji had built the fort at Ramdurg in about 1676, and this and another fort at Nargund were put in the charge of one Ramachandra Suru. Though Aurangzeb captured the forts in 1692, they were recaptured in 1705 by the Marathas. Soon after, it came under the hegemony of the Kolhapur rulers and Ramarao Dadaji Bhave was put in charge of it. From 1715 Bhave started levying certain dues from the region between the Gataprabha and the Tungabhadra, which were earlier collected by Kolhapur. Ramarao Bhave was succeeded by his son Dadaji at Nargund in 1740 and in 1742 his son Yogirao succeeded him. In 1744 Nargund *samasthan* was divided into three parts, and of this Ramdurg with 11 villages was granted to Yogirao. In 1762 Peshwa Madhavrao jointly granted Yogirao and Bhaskar Rao the *sarnajam* (military fief) of Nargund and Ramdurg. When Tipu took Venkatrao of Nargund and Kalopant Pethe, his Diwan captive, Ramarao of Ramdurg fled to Patwardhan's territory and Ramdurg was under Tipu's control in 1785. After the Treaty of Gajendragad (1787), when Venkatrao was released, Nargund and Ramdurg were jointly granted to Ramrao and Venkatrao by Peshwa Madhavarao II. In the days of Narayanrao (1800), son of Ramarao, Peshwa Bajirao II partitioned Nargund and Ramdurg in 1810 between Narayanrao and Venkatrao, and Narayanrao of Ramdurg secured 41 villages (then rated Rs 87,385) and this included 17 villages transferred from Nargund. Ramdurg was to maintain a contingent of 133 troops. In 1820, Narayanrao accepted the East India Company's suzerainty.

After the death of Narayanrao, between 1827 to 1857, Radhabai the widow of Narayanrao administered the State and Ramarao, her adopted son, took the reigns of administration in 1857. On his death in 1872, his minor adopted son Yogirao succeeded him, and he in turn was succeeded by his minor son Venkatrao and a joint council of Karbhari's ran the administration. On Venkatarao's death in 1907, his minor son Ramarao succeeded him, and till 1915 the administration was looked after by the British Government. From 1915 till 1948 Ramarao personally managed the affairs of the State. There were certain tragic developments in the State in 1939, when the peoples' movement in the State turned violent. The State had 42 villages including two personal villages of the Bhave family, and of these 33 were included in the Ramdurg taluk (See page 70 Chapter I).

Siddhojirao of Nipani

The Desagati of Nipani originated in 1685 when the Mughul Governor at Azamnagar (Belgaum) granted 14 villages as Inam from Hukeri province, and these villages were from the *paraganas* of Kabbur, Sollapur, Lat (Khadaklat), Soundalaga, Sangany and Jugul. A *sanad* was issued by the Peshwa in 1771 restoring the villages confiscated earlier to the Desai. The territory later came under Kolhapur. It is Siddhojirao Nimbalkar who actually created modern Nipani, the headquarters of Desagati and the new town grew to be an important commercial and industrial centre, and sugar, oil and clothes were notable products of the town. The Desai had considerable tracts in the present Belgaum, Dharwad and Bijapur districts. But due to some misunderstandings between him and the Kolhapur prince, Siddhojirao allied himself with the Patwardhans and fought on their side both at Pattankudi (1799) and later at the siege of Kolhapur. Nipani was taken away from him. It was at the instance of Sarjerao Ghatge, Kolhapur representative and his son-in-law Daulatrao Sindhia that the Peshwa had agreed to restore Chikodi and Manoli to Kolhapur. As Shivaji III was obliged to Sarjerao in view of his successful negotiations with the Pune court, Sarjerao succeeded in persuading Kolhapur to restore to Siddhojirao, the *jahgir* of Nipani (confiscated from him due to his hostile moves against Kolhapur earlier). Later Peshwa Bajirao II also urged the Kolhapur chief to hand over Chikodi and Manoli to Siddhojirao. As this was not done, Siddhoji seized the two *paraganas* in 1806, defeated Kolhapur in 1808 at Sangany and forced

the Kolhapur ruler to give the Kolhapur princess in marriage to him. He attacked Kolhapur again in 1812, and Chatrapati had to accept British suzerainty as a result. Chikodi and Manoli remained with him between 1812 to 1818. But they were returned to Kolhapur in 1818, and Siddhojirao could not get them though the region was later taken back by the British. During the British war with the Peshwa in 1817-18, Siddhojirao took sides with the Peshwa. But soon after, he surrendered to the British on May 7. On the death of Siddhojirao in 1839, his military estate was resumed by the British in 1840 and was included in Belgaum and the neighbouring districts. His territories included Athani, Nipani and other surrounding villages.

Siddhojirao was physically an outstanding personality. He built many temples in Nipani and the one at Mamadapur built in imitation of the Chalukyan temples is a remarkable work. The palace he built at Nipani has fine mural paintings. Hala Siddhanatha, the the Natha Panthi saint was his contemporary. The British have described him as cruel and sadistic, and listed many "misdeeds" of his. But without knowing the other side of the picture, nothing can be said with certainty. On his death, his adopted son Murar Rao was permitted to succeed to his private estate worth Rs 15,000 a year. Siddhojirao's widows with the help of his step brother Raghunathrao instigated a band of 300 Arabs who took possession of the fort and defied British authority on 20th Feb. 1841. The revolt was crushed and the fort was dismantled. In 1842, when Gopalrao of a branch of the Miraj Patwardhan family died issueless, nine village of his including Ainapur on the Krishna were merged in Belgaum district in 1863. Similarly on the death of Govindrao Patwardhan of Tasgaon branch in 1834, several villages of his around Yadwad were merged in Belgaum in 1839.

Gadkari Revolt

There had been anti-British revolts at Kolhapur and Savantwadi in 1844-45. The Kolhapur revolt was spearheaded by the Gadkaris or the garrison of forts against the economy measures introduced by the Kolhapur administration. The Budargad garrison plundered Chikodi and robbed the Mamlatdar's treasury on 10th Oct 1844 and troubled continued till December. There were disturbances at the Samangad fort too near Hukeri (between Oct and Dec). The Savantwadi Uprising caused disturbances at Bhimgad, Parwad and Kankumbi in 1844-45.

1857-58 Uprisings

Though the South was comparatively quiet in 1857-58, it was not free from disturbances. One Muslim *munshi* in the army at Belgaum, who had been a Wahabi was discovered instigating the Belgaum Sepoys in Aug 1857; five sepoys were executed and four others transported for life in this connection. One Mahipalsingh was deputed by Raja Venkatappa Nayaka of Shorapur (Gulbarga dt) to instigate the sepoys of Belgaum Native Regiment. He succeeded in persuading considerable number of soldiers to agree to revolt. But soon his plot was discovered, he was arrested (on 23-8-1857) and later hanged. There was an attack on the British army at Kolhapur led by 500 men on Dec 4, 1857. Prince Cheemasahab, who was instigating the insurgents had been in touch with Nanasaheb Peshwa and he had sent agents to incite the Native Infantry of the British at Belgaum, Dharwad and other places. The prince was exiled to Karachi.

Bhaskar Rao Bhave of Nargund planned a revolt against the British and his men attacked a contingent led by Political Agent Manson at Sureban village near Ramdurg and killed Manson in May 1858. An army led by Col. Malcolm surrounded Nargund in June and Bhaskar Rao escaped from the fort. He was caught at Torgal and was hanged at Belgaum. His *samadhi* is found in Belgaum.

Phond Savant of Savantwadi (Vengurla dt) and his sons had revolted against the British in 1844, and subsequently his sons had been confined to Goa. On hearing the news of the uprisings in the North, three of them escaped to Supa taluk, and were joined by three brothers of the Phadnis family, originally from Belgaum District and certain number of Siddhis. They revolted against the British by attacking some of their *chaukis* in Supa taluk and also the *chauki* at Talevadi (Talavade) in Khanapur taluk in Feb 1858. They had 100 to 200 men with them, and they attacked Varkund on 8th Feb and customs house at Dudval was burnt. They took strong positions at the Darshanigudda and Talevadi pass. They caused unrest in Khanapur-Bidi area too, A company of the 29th Regiment of Native Infantry sent under Major Nutt lost one native officer in encounters with them. They camped at Hemmadge. The disturbances were strong in Supa area of Uttara Kannada. By the close of 1858, the trouble ended. The Savant brothers had clearly stated in one of their letters that they were the followers of Nanasaheb Peshwa. Savant Brothers were caught by the Goa administration and were deported to Timor

Island. Trouble started again in Supa-Khanapur region in 1859 and prizes were announced for the apprehension of the insurgents. Chintoba Phadnis was killed in July 1859 in Hamod forest of Supa. Finally their number came to 50 and Lieutenant Giertzon and Drever in their combing of the area in Bidi and Khanapur had three insurgents killed in a skirmish and later by December, Ravba and Shanta Phadnis were arrested. By December, the uprising ended. The British records call this "Bund".

Rise of Nationalism

The peace that followed these developments saw the consolidation of British rule and the rise of new nationalism. The Revenue Settlement that was started in the district in 1848-49 and ended in 1873-74 displeased the land owners and peasants as the dues were regularly collected. The famine of 1876-78 period embittered peoples' feelings against Government. The action against plague 1878-79 was equally severe. The Forest Act of 1878 caused inconvenience to peasants in the eastern tracts of the district. The abolition of many inams by the Inam Commission of 1852 had turned the expropriated landlords anti-British. The ending of States like Kittur, Chinchani, Tasgaon, Kagwad and Nipani enraged many subjects of those princes and their retinue. Marathi newspapers like *Kal*, *Navakal*, *Kesari*, *Induprakash*, etc., and Kannada newspapers like *Rajahamsa*, *Karnataka Dhananjaya*, etc. propounded nationalist feelings. Thus, when Congress was started in 1885, it had already many silent followers in Belgaum dt and Tilak had substantial number of admirers, who were readers of *Kesari*.

Beginnings of Congress

Undoubtedly the impact of Tilak and his *Kesari* (1881) was mainly responsible for mobilising men into action and turning their attention towards Indian National Congress. Another such Marathi magazine was *Indu Prakash*. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande has said that in his boyhood days, Vishnupant Natu, an advocate was a noted nationalist worker from Belgaum who had been a legislator in Bombay in 1880s, and was a follower of Gopalakrishna Gokhale. Bhausahab Bhat, another advocate from Belgaum had gone as a delegate to Bombay in 1885 to the founding session of the Indian National Congress. There used to be patriotic lectures by Gopalrao Deshpande Indapurkar from Pune at Belgaum in those days, and he was a leader of the Sarvajanik Sabha of Pune.

Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, who had just appeared for his Matriculation examination, attended the Madras Congress in 1887. Over 25 people including Gangadhar Rao's father attended the Madras session. Among the Belgaum delegates were four or five Muslims. By seeing the arrangements at the Congress session and the patriotic fervour of the people that had assembled, 'we were highly inspired', says Gangadhar Rao. He and many others also attended the Allahabad Congress (1888) and also the Bombay session (1889). Prior to Bombay Congress, Gangadhar Rao and his friends started at Belgaum Rashtra Hitaishini Bala Sabha with Vamanrao Velanekar as President and collected funds for the Bombay Congress. One hundred rupees were collected from the peasants around Hudali alone. Later, Gangadhar Rao and Dattopant Belvi went to Pune for college studies and were highly influenced by the nationalist atmosphere in the city. They came into personal contact with Tilak, Gokhale and other leaders.

In 1893, A O Hume visited Belgaum to propagate Congress ideals. In 1895, Bombay State Political Conference was held at Belgaum with Dinsha Wacha as President. Perhaps Tilak also attended it. A nationalist Marathi newspaper, *Dhureena* was started by Gangadhar Rao and Mangeshrao Telang in 1897, and its circulation rose to 1,000. But the journal had to close down due to difference of opinion between the two editors. When Tilak was tried for sedition at Pune, funds to assist him were collected at Belgaum. A public meeting was held in a theatre at Belgaum in 1905 to congratulate Japan over its victory in the Russo-Japanese War, Vishnupant Natu presiding. Later, after the division of Bengal Gangadhar Rao organised public meetings in 1905 and this helped him to gather round himself a group of patriotic youngmen who included Govindrao Yalgi. Gangadhar Rao also opened a shop to sell Swadeshi goods at Bombay called Deccan Stores in 1905 and a branch of the shop called Swadeshi Stores was opened at Belgaum. Good public speaker Shridhar Nagarkar and two leaders of the Maratha community, Bhemrao Patil and Balwantrao Lad were other colleagues of Gangadhar Rao. Due to a communal clash in 1890, Hindus had stopped participating in Moharrum when they used to put on disguises and go round entertaining people. This practice was revived during the Holi festival by Gangadhar Rao from 1905, and these programmes helped mobilising uneducated people too towards national movement.

Tilak's visit

In 1906, following the example of Pune and other places, public Ganapati festival was organised at Belgaum, Tilak attending the function. A committee to welcome Tilak with Vishnupant Natu as chairman was organised and with Sripadrao Chatre and Dattopant Belvi, two advocates as members and Gangadhar Rao as the Secretary. Tilak "came, saw and conquered" men to the national cause by addressing many meetings in Belgaum and its suburbs (Anigol, Shahpur, etc.) during his three-day visit, and during the same year Tilak was also invited to visit Gurlhosur, and he, with Shivarampant Paranjpe (Editor, *Marathi Kal*, a nationalist paper) visited Gurlhosur via Dharwad, and addressed public meetings in many places including Karikatti, Bailhongal, Hosur, Hooli and Murgod, and Krishnarao Mudvidkar of Dharwad translated his speeches into Kannada. "Thousands attended the meetings", says Gangadhara Rao, and "Tilak sowed the first seeds of nationalism in that area", he recalls speaking of the intense national movement that was evidenced at these places in 1930-32. Tilak advised Gangadhar Rao on the occasion to address public meetings only in Kannada in the region and also know Veerashaiva religion better, as he had to work in the region where the religion was popular. Soon after, Gangadhar Rao and Govindrao Yalgi started organising Shivaji Utsav in Belgaum. By then, Gangadhar Rao had also started visiting other places in Belgaum district for nationalist work and he speaks of Sakharam Kulkarni of Chikodi and Narayanarao Joshi of Athani, both advocates, who were taking active part in Congress work, and the latter was assisted by a rich merchant Nurundappa Shetty. Gangadhar Rao also attended the Calcutta Congress in 1906 with a number of delegates from Belgaum, and later, at the famous Surat Congress (1907), the delegates from Karnataka including those for Belgaum (Gangadhara Rao and Govindrao Yalgi) participated actively on Tilak's side when there was a physical scuffle between the Extremists and Moderates. Belgaum district, by then, had become famous as "Tilak's District".

Swadeshi Movement

Picketing of liquor shops was also resorted to in Belgaum in 1908 as a part of the Swadeshi movement. Hundreds participated, and the fines imposed on arrested volunteers, totalling Rs 500 on the very first day were paid by the local merchants. Later, volunteers

refused to pay fine even by raising contributions and 15 people including Govindrao Yalgi courted imprisonment.

There was excitement in Belgaum over the news of Tilak's arrest (1908) and his deportation to Burma. Seventeen persons were arrested in Belgaum for holding a procession on the latter occasion. When Tilak was imprisoned, Gangadhar Rao was requested by him to manage the newly started Marathi daily *Rashtramata* from Bombay, and it continued as the mouthpiece of the nationalists under the aegis of Gangadhar Rao for some years.

During 1908, Govindrao Yalgi and his friends started Mazzini Club, a secret revolutionary association to train youth in the use of weapons for an armed struggle. They also established contacts with the Shivaji Club of Kolhapur. Yalgi had met Barindra Ghosh (brother of Aurobindo) at Surat and had been inspired by him. The work of the society resulted in the involvement of Gangadhar Rao and his another trusted colleague Hanamantrao Deshpande (who was arrested) in a very serious case in 1909, charging them with a conspiracy to kill Ferris, Political Agent at Kolhapur. Though Gangadhar Rao was not convicted, both he and Hanamantrao Deshpande had to suffer heavy loss as their huge *vatans* which were tax-free, were assessed to huge revenue. This did not deter these brave men from continuing national work. But this vindictive act of the government terrorised many landlords who were taking part in national movement.

Another important development of the period was the starting of the national school, the Ganesha Vidyalaya at Belgaum which was attended by 60 students, and Krishnaji Dikshit, Nagpurkar and Kaka Kalelkar (hailing from Shahpur near Belgaum) were its teachers. The Bombay Government suppressed all such schools by an order of 1910.

Communal Controversies

As the Congress was gaining ground, the Brahmin-Non-Brahmin controversy set in in a very severe way. The controversy over the procession of Vyasa's Arm (*Vyasana tolu*) by Lingayats resulted in the

Brahmins filing a suit in the Athani Court in 1913.* The suit prolonged, appeals being filed at the district court, and the High Court, where the Brahmins finally won. But this prolonged litigation fanned ill feelings for long. Equally notable was the suit at the Yedur Veerabhadra temple, where Lingayat priests had the right to worship. Many Brahmins whose family deity this God had been, opposed this service by Lingayat priests, filed a suit against the practice, and the Lingayat priests won, as testified by Gangadhar Rao. The British, upset by the nationalist movement gaining ground, taking advantage of the fact that many leaders of the Congress were Brahmins, dubbed Congress as a Brahmins' Organisation and the national movement an effort to revive the rule of the Peshwa. The propaganda gained ground.

The acute misunderstanding that had developed between Tilak and the Kolhapur palace due to a variety of reasons added a new dimension to these communal misunderstandings. The prince of Kolhapur, Shahu Maharaj to demonstrate his loyalty to the British on the one hand and settle his 'accounts' against Tilak (whose *Kesari* was critical of the prince), hated Congress. The admirers of Tilak and Congressmen turned critical and even hostile to Shahu Maharaj. The suit (Bomb case) filed against Gangadhar Rao and Hanmantrao Deshpande, it is alleged, was mostly at the instance of Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur. Thus, the admirers of Shahu Maharaj, mostly Marathas, and Lingayats joined hand and organised Brahmanetra Parishat. Though the main aim of the Parishat was to mobilise the backward classes and help them get educated and secure jobs, it grew to be an anti-Congress movement. Its conferences were held at Hubli with Sir Siddappa Kambli as the reception committee Chairman, and also at Belgaum. In 1918, Indian Maratha Political Conference was organised at Belgaum. But, as resolutions supporting Congress were passed, efforts were soon afoot to wean the Maratha leaders away from Congress. The attitude of the leaders

* Gangadhar Rao in his autobiography (Vide Kannada version by Wadavi pp : 476-77) summarises the controversy thus : When Vedavyasa was questioned whether Shiva or Vishnu was superior, Vyasa raised his right hand and declared Vishnu as superior. Shiva's vehicle Nandi bit his arm and severed it. To get his severed arm back Vyasa had to write a *Purana* propounding Shiva's superiority. To celebrate Nandi's victory over Vyasa (Basaveshwara being the incarnation of Nandi), followers of Basaveshwara used to take a procession of Vyasa's severed arm on occasions by attaching an arm stitched with cloth to a bamboo, to the discomfiture of the Brahmins, especially the Madhwas.

of the non-Brahmin community towards Congress is illustrated by a statement quoted by a veteran Congressman Paramanna Hosmani of Karjigi, who speaks of a discussion held at Athani where an advocate spoke to him thus: "Now the British government has been honouring our people by offering them good posts and respectable titles. They are providing scholarships to our children and helping them to achieve progress. In such a situation, if we support Congress, we will have to remain backward. In case we are to attain Swaraj immediately as a result of this movement, most of our people being uneducated and Brahmins being mostly educated, the latter will occupy important posts in free India and try to keep our people in ignorance." (*Swatantrya Sangramada Smritigalu* III, pp 382-83). The plight of the Lingayat community and its eagerness to extend educational facilities to its youngmen is reflected in the founding of the K L E Society in 1916 at Belgaum (vide Chapter XV).

It was an uphill task for Congressmen to popularise the Congress ideals among the majority communities and the rural sections. Congress, for long remained an urban movement, and was dubbed as a Brahmins' organisation. But leaders like Gangadhar Rao were men with vision and foresight. Though the Bombay High Court gave verdict banning the procession of Vyasa's arm, during the 1920s, and Brahmins were jubilant, Gangadhar Rao and some of his colleagues went to Athani, met leaders of both communities, and made them agree that Brahmins should not oppose the taking out of such processions where there are no Brahmin residences, and made the Lingayats too to agree to stick to such constraints. Leaders of both the communities took an oath in front of the *samadhi* of a Swamy, venerated by both the communities (1922). This is only one instance, and Congressmen made serious efforts to win over the non-Brahmin groups. Veteran Lingayat Sir Siddappa Kambli was invited to preside over the first Karnataka Unification Conference held at the venue of Belgaum Congress (1924). The Brahmanetara Parishats Conference was also held at the time of Belgaum session, Arcot Ramaswamy Mudaliar presiding over it. Serious efforts were made to organise aggrieved groups in the rural areas like the village servants (Shetsandis and Volekars) and peasants.

Home Rule League

When Tilak founded the Home Rule League in 1916, the

meeting for launching it was held at Belgaum, Dadasaheb Khaparde presiding. Tilak made Belgaum the headquarters of the Karnataka Unit of the League and addressed Dattopant Belvi who was the reception committee Chairman "the Governor of Karnataka". Gangadhar Rao was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the All-India League. Mahatma Gandhi also visited Belgaum during the occasion of this Conference. Tilak also visited Sankeshwar, Chikodi and Nipani soon after (1917) and launched branches of the movement in those places. At Chikodi, a district political conference had been organised with efforts of Sakharampant Kulkarni, and Dadasaheb Karandikar, Tilak's colleague from Pune, presided over it. One more such district conference was held at Athani in 1918 with Nurundappa Shetty as the chairman of the reception committee and Krishnajipant Khadilkar was the President. Tilak also attended the conference. A resolution urging efforts to eradicate untouchability was also passed at the conference at the instance of Vithalrao Sindhe, a Maratha leader, who had attended the conference with many other Maratha leaders. Next important event was the holding of the similar district conference at Sankeshwar in 1919 with Madhavrao Aney presiding over it, and Tilak also attended this conference. There were efforts by Moderates, supported by non-Brahmin leaders like Latthe, Chaugule and Tammanna Chikodi to pass a resolution supporting (or opposing the resolution boycotting) Council entry. But the Extremists had their way and a resolution opposing Council entry was passed.

Belgaum till then had been with Tilak in national movement, except for a few Moderates. Though Gangadhar Rao was a Moderate in the beginning, after coming into contact with Tilak, he became an Extremist. Other leaders of the Tilak Era in the moffusil areas of Belgaum were Annakaka Kokatnur, Nurundappa Shetty and Narayanrao Joshi from Athani (the last named later settled in Belgaum), Rashivadekar and Sakharampant Kulkarni both advocates from Chikodi, Vamanrao Hebbalkar from Sankeshwar, Appaji Despande, Vamanrao Despande and Dr. Ramachandra Joshi from Pachapur, Virupakshappa Muttur and Narasimhacharya Punekar from Kittur, Vamanrao Kamat from Bailhongal and Ganapatrao Kirloskar from Gurlhosur.

Gandhian Era

The call by the Government to celebrate Peace Day in

December 1919 was opposed by Muslims all over as the World War had ended the Caliphate. "Anti-Peace celebration movement so far effected Belgaum city only in this district, with the exception of Chikodi pleaders", says a confidential government report.

On the death of Tilak on 1st of August 1920, there was hartal and processions in places in Belgaum district. At Belgaum, a public condolence meeting was held with Ardesar Naoroji in the chair on 1st August amidst heavy downpour. There was a public meeting on the 13th August also at the Maruti temple after a bare-head procession of mourning. Many young men took oaths, nationalist in spirit, like giving up the use of sugar, using only *swadeshi* goods, etc. Gandhiji visited Nipani on 8-11-1920. At a public meeting, a local leader (Maruti Ravan) questioned Gandhi over the propriety of his joining hands with the Brahmins in the national movement. Gandhiji argued that identifying Congress with the Brahmins was a mistake, and said that somebody had even called the British Government as a government of the Brahmins. On the same day, he also visited Belgaum (via Chikodi, Hukeri and Sankeshwar) and addressed a public meeting attended by 15,000. Shaukat Ali too had accompanied him. When he asked for donation for Tilak Swaraj Fund, many ladies present at the Belgaum meeting removed their jewellery and donated them to the fund. "I cannot express with words the impact of this event on my mind", the Mahatma reacted to this. He also visited Khanapur and Nandgad on the same day and addressed public meetings. Rs 44,000 were collected in Belgaum district for Tilak Swaraj Fund. Khilafat Movement attracted many Muslims towards Congress.

At the Nagpur Congress of 1920, Congress agreed to form a new provincial committee for Karnataka and Gangadhar Rao became the first President of the K P C C. In response to the call for non-cooperation, Gangadhar Rao, Dattopant Majali and Krishnarao Karguppi of Belgaum gave up their legal practice. Dondo Yallo Kulkurni, Venkatrao Jalihal, Dayananda Aralikatti and Venkanna Nagar resigned their government jobs. For those who gave up schools, national schools were started at Belgaum, Nipani (Tilak Rashtreeya Pathasala), Yamakanamardi, Nandgad, Pachapur (1923) and Hudali. The one at Belgaum was a high school, the rest were primary schools. (Though all these closed down in four or five years, the Nipani school continued till 1936). Swarajya Ashram with Pundlikji Katgade as its head was founded at Belgaum to train workers. A similar *ashram* was also started at Kumeri near Hudali

by Gangadhar Rao. A newspaper (weekly) *Tarun Bharat* (1928) was started in Belgaum by Baburao Thakur and others, and *Belgaum Samachar* of considerable antiquity came to be edited by nationalists like Shankar Rao and his son Prabhakar Parulekar. Boycott, public meetings, processions and picketing of liquor and foreign goods' shops were resorted to in many towns and villages of the district.

A district political conference was organised at Gokak in June 1921, Srinivasrao Kaujalgi of Bijapur presiding. The Belgaum District Khilafat Conference was also organised at the same time and Ali Brothers and Dr Kichlew attended it. Ali Brothers were honoured with a civic address by the Belgaum municipality. Soon after, Gangadhar Rao was tried under Sec 124A of IPC for a speech he had delivered at Navalgund in Dharwad district and sentenced to six months' R I. Dattopant Majali, Keshavarao Gokhale, Ramachandra Joshi, Baburao Thakur and Shivrao Koppal, were among those imprisoned from Belgaum during the Non-Co-operation movement. Hanumantrao Naik from Nandgad, Vishwambhar Deshpande from Pachapur, Dinkar Dambal from Athani, Tammanna Mahajan, Umar Kachi and 15 others from Gokak were convicted. Belgaum district's share of the imprisoned was about 25 out of a total of about 70 from Karnataka during the Non-Co-operation era. Activities like propagation of khadi were vigourously pursued. Khadi production centres were opened not only at Kumari Ashram, but also at Pachapur, Bhagojikop, Hoskoti and Gurlhosur. Khadi received a good momentum in the district as propaganda was conducted among the Lingayats that wearing clothes not spun and woven by a Lingayat was against the tenets of the religion.

To the Flag Satyagraha organised at Nagpur in 1923, a batch of 10 led by Damu Anna Lengde was sent from the district with volunteers from Pachapur, Nandgad, Athani and Chikodi and these were all arrested and convicted at Nagpur. Lengde became an important worker of Hindustani Seva Dal, launched by Dr Hardikar soon after.

There was no regular Swaraj Party in Karnataka when Congress had split, but Dattopant Belvi contested the seat for Central Assembly from Belgaum region and won. (Congress had not contested the election as per its Non-Cooperation programme). For the Bombay Council Gangadhar Rao supported a Maratha leader called Dalvi.

Leaders of the Non-Brahmin (Brahmanetara) Party, Latthe and Chikodi, who were sitting members lost, and Dalvi and another independent, Angadi, won (1923). This added to the prestige of the Congress in the district.

Belgaum Congress

The next historic event in Belgaum was the organising of the 39th Congress session at Belgaum in 1924. This was the only occasion when Congress held its session in Karnataka before Independence, and the session was unique as Mahatma Gandhi presided over it. Belgaum Congress (December 26-28) was a highly successful session organised on a grand scale and in an inspiring atmosphere. The venue of the Congress was called Vijayanagara, raised in a 85 acre site in memory of the famous Karnataka empire, the tank sunk especially for the supply of water to the venue was called Pampa Sarovara (with 50'×40'×40' dimensions), the entrance was decorated in imitation of the *gopura* at the Hampi Virupaksha temple and profusely illuminated with electric lamps. The pandal and the platform had been tastefully decorated. The Hindustani Seva Dal volunteers, both men and women, maintained orderliness at the venue and all programmes including serving of food were managed with utmost discipline and care. All national leaders, of whom people had till then only read in newspapers, or only heard, were present and people from the nooks and corners of Karnataka thronged to Belgaum to have a glimpse of them. As it was K P C C that was hosting the session with Gangadhar Rao as Chairman of the reception committee in which members from all regions of Karnataka including the princely areas were represented, and all regions had contributed their mite by way of men (both delegates and Seva Dal volunteers), money and materials, participation of people from Karnataka was also on an unprecedented scale. Even the Mysore durbar had helped the session indirectly.

Though Belgaum Congress was historic from the national point of view on many counts including the Swaraj Party coming back into the fold of Congress ("I am stooping to conquer", said Gandhiji over his negotiations with the Party), it is more important from the point of the substantial growth of Congress as its result, not only in Belgaum district but also in Karnataka. In certain sections of Non-Brahmin leaders, who were opposed to Congress as such, some kind of change of heart had begun as a result, though its impact was

not felt immediately. (Sardar) Veeranagouda Patil, one of the founders of the K L E Society who had also started a boarding for Harijan boys in Belgaum met Gandhiji in 1924 and asked his permission to jump into the movement. "This is also constructive work, you go ahead", the Mahatma is said to have advised him. "In the thick of such a movement nobody could believe that such an advice might be tendered by Gandhiji. In Karnataka, the Veerashaivas are a very huge community. Congress work had a communal colour. What shall I do was the point worrying me", says Patil. (Later, in 1930, he resigned his life membership of the K L E Society, joined Congress and left Belgaum: *Atma Nivedane*, page 24-26).

To the men and women, young and old, who were already sympathetic towards Congress, the session had the effect of surcharging them with an enthusiasm of an unprecedented scale, and making them active, committed workers to the cause of nationalism. Almost everybody who went to the session was 'indoctrinated' to the cause of nationalism in some form or the other, whether it is S Nijalingappa, V Venkatappa or H K Veeranna Gauda, leading freedom fighters of later years from Mysore State. A boy in his teens then, noted Congress worker Shankar Kurtkoti narrates even after 50 years (*S S Smritigalu*, III, p. 637): "The huge gathering there, the drill of the volunteers, the movement of leaders like Dr. Hardikar moving around on horse-back, the speeches of the leaders—having seen all this, I too was inspired and enthused with the idea that I too should toil for the country".

Belgaum Congress gave solid impetus to nationalist work in the district and the State. Rs 30,000 were saved after the session, and these funds were available to the K P C C for its work in the State for the remaining part of the 1920s.

Mass Base

Though the withdrawal of the Non-Co-operation movement in 1922 by Gandhiji had brought about some kind of inertia in Congress all over the country, in Karnataka, the Belgaum Congress and its impact helped the keeping of Congressmen engaged in national work. In Belgaum district khadi work was taken up vigourously, the Ashram at Kumari being active in the field. Gangadhar Rao also mostly stayed at Kumari from 1925. Hundreds of peasant women in rural areas were engaged in spinning. This was one of the factors helping

Congress to secure a mass base. Anti-Simon Commission meetings were also held in Belgaum and other centres in 1928. Bharat Vaibhav Samaj, an association started by Baburao Thakur, and a students' association, under the guidance of Simon Master, a teacher of the local Mission High School of Belgaum (run by American Missionaries) mobilised youths for national work during the period by founding Students' Union (1928). The students engaged themselves in khadi hawking, and a huge anti-Simon Commission procession was also organised by them at Belgaum.

The success achieved by Bardoli Satyagraha, organised by Sardar Patel convinced the peasants of the Congress's identity with cause of the masses. (Sardar) Veerangauda Patil who had personally gone to Bardoli has said that having seen the No-Tax campaign organised by Sardar Patel, the son of a peasant, his enthusiasm and faith in the national movement doubled. He decided to return from Belgaum to his native Hirekerur taluk in Dharwad district and to work on similar lines among the peasants.

Congress propaganda, and the selfless work of the young workers among the rural folk helped Congress to reach grass-root levels despite the propaganda against it that it was a movement of the urban elite. The staging of the plays like "Kittur Chennamma", "Sangolli Rayanna" and "Vijayanagara Samrajya" during this period aroused anti-British feelings on an unprecedented scale. Gangadhar Rao and Vali Chennappa have testified to this. Vali says that he had attended Belgaum Congress, but it had little impact on him. But when his drama troupe staging these dramas created such a reaction among the people that he could not keep himself away from the movement (*S S Smritigalu*, I p 1054). Nationalist *keertankars* like Patwardhan, Onkarmath and Masali also roused the public.

Civil Disobedience

As per the decision of the Lahore Congress, Independence Day was celebrated on 26th Jan (1930) by hoisting the tricolour in places in Belgaum district when thousands gathered to take oath to fight for freedom. This was soon followed by Salt Satyagraha personally launched by Mahatma Gandhi at Dandi. Gangadhar Rao sold contraband salt he had prepared at Malvan at Belgaum on 6-4-1930 at a public meeting on the very day when Gandhiji broke the salt laws at Dandi. Forty persons representing all communities bought

the salt, and Gangadhar Rao, Jivanrao Yalgi, Narayanrao Joshi and Anantrao Dabade were arrested the next day, the last three for buying the contraband. A batch of 25 volunteers, led by Keshavrao Gokhale went on foot from Belgaum to Ankola to participate in the Salt Satyagraha being organised by the K P C C. Many more volunteers from Kittur, Nandgad, Nipani and Chikodi joined them. *Prabhat pheris*, 10,000 strong, were being organised daily in Belgaum, with people including women from various streets and extensions joining it, coming in separate processions and people welcomed them with buntings and *rangavallis* daily. Such daily processions were a common feature in other towns too. Efforts to stop such processions by promulgating prohibitory orders in Belgaum and by resorting to lathi charge proved futile, and the *pheris* continued. Four batches of ten each were sent by foot from Belgaum to moffusil areas to conduct propaganda. The batch leaders were, Vamanrao Bidri, Annu Guruji (B Y Deshpande), Ramchandra Wadavi and Baburao Thakur. These batches visited nearly 100 centres in the district, organised meetings and processions, sold contraband salt, and courted arrest in late April and May.

Initiative was taken by people of the moffusil areas too. Ravajeppa Sonavalkar from Mudalgi says that hundreds of people from his town had attended Belgaum Congress. In 1930, he participated on a *padayatra* from Hudali in a batch of 18 volunteers led by Ramchandra Wadavi, Alisab Warimani and Gangappa Yamakanmardi. This batch visited (Basavana) Kudachi, Marihal, Nesargi, Deshnur, Vannur, Murkibhavi, Naganur, Yaragatti, Sattigeri and many other places where they organised meetings and sold contraband salt. "In many places people did not even know who were ruling over the country". Later, in May, he travelled by a car and organised meetings at Mamadapur, Mudalgi, Yadwad, Hoskoti, Kuligod and Tondikatti and sold contraband salt. Nearly 300 people courted arrest in the district during the Satyagraha, and soon other forms of Civil Disobedience like Jungle Satyagraha (cutting a twig from trees in a reserved forest or felling toddy trees), Hullu Banni Satyagraha or refusing to pay grazing fees, picketing of liquor or foreign goods' shops were resorted to. Wali Channappa courted arrest with 17 others by picketing shops at Sogal *jatra* selling foreign bangles and sweet meats (made of mill sugar). Chinmayaswamy Onkarmath, a *keertankar*, addressed a public meeting on May 1 at Hunasikatti (Sampgaon taluk) which was followed by the bon-fire of foreign cloth in which clothings worth thousands of

rupees were burnt. One peasant who had bought a new silk brocaded turban at Bailhongal on the same day, threw it into the bon-fire. He organised a similar programme at Neginal. A day later, he organised a programme at Mugutkhan Hubli, his own place, where toddy trees were cut and a bon-fire of foreign goods was also organised. He also addressed meetings at Ambadagatti and Kittur soon after. When an arrest warrant was issued on him, he went underground, and conducted propaganda. On his arrest on 10-10-1930, there were protest hartals at Karikatti, Mugali, Asundi, Badii, Gurlhosur and Saundatti against his arrest. Srinivasacharya Katti of Athani says that he with eight others auctioned contraband salt at Saptasagar (Athani taluk) for which they were arrested and let on bail. On 10-9-1930, people from Athani organised a Satyagraha to cut toddy trees at Antyal and Badgi when people from Athani, Ainapur, Adahalli, Aigali, Ramteerth, Savadi, Satti, Saptasagar, Shedbal, Mangsuli, Kagwad, Jugul, Ganeshwadi, etc. joined in large numbers. These are some illustrations. Six ladies including Shantabai Sohni were convicted for four months for leading *prabhat pheris* which were banned in Belgaum. At Naganur, Asst Commissioner Wells who trampled Gandhiji's photo in a house was thrashed by shoes by a brave peasant woman Nagavva.

When the liquor shops in the district had to be auctioned at Belgaum on 14-6-1930, due to intense picketing, government suffered loss of one-third of its excise revenue.

Of the men convicted in the district in 1930-31, 191 were from Belgaum taluk (including eight women), 24 from Khanapur taluk, 149 from Sampgaon taluk, 22 from Gokak taluk, 94 from Parasgad taluk, 48 from Athani taluk, 48 from Hukeri taluk and 88 from Chikodi taluk, bringing the total to 664 according to a K P C C publication. (Dr Jayadevrao Kulkarni says that actual number was 750, as many names could not be submitted in time when the report was compiled in a hurry in June 1931). The K P C C report gives a total figure of 1,739 convicts for the whole state (seven British districts including Kodagu) and of these Belgaum topped the list with 664. While speaking of the movement in the state, the Revenue Secretary of Bombay State had remarked "Karnataka is worse than Gujarath". In Belgaum, boycott call resulted in only two pro-government candidates contesting for the two seats in the state legislature in the election. Census boycott was also successfully resorted to.

Karnataka Political Conference with Jamnalal Bajaj as President was organised at Hukeri in 1931, M P Patil being Chairman of the reception committee.

The Movement Again (1932)

The movement was withdrawn after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, and the Civil Disobedience was started again in 1932 when Gandhiji returned from London Round Table Conference. Forest Satyagraha and picketing of liquor and foreign goods' shops was pursued more rigourously in Belgaum district. The movement by then had instilled more and more confidence among the rural masses. The Brahmanetara Parishat at its conference held in Belgaum in May 1930 passed a resolution in support of the movement, urging its members to join Congress. Similarly, the Veerashaiva Parishat held at Haveri in August 1930, Hardekar Manjappa presiding, also urged the Veerashaivas to join Congress. Veerashaiva leaders like Hosmani Siddappa of Haveri, Veerangauda Patil, K S Patil and M P Patil of Hukeri joined Congress and actively propogated its ideals by conducting tours. Venkareddy Hooli, an important non-Brahmin leader from Parasgad taluk jumped into the movement and was convicted for 10 years' R I, though he was released after 2½ years.

The total number of people convicted from Belgaum taluk were 113 (of which, 23 were from Hudali and 27 from Hirebagewadi), nine from Khanapur taluk, 39 from Sampgaon taluk, 159 from Parasgad taluk (of which 51 from Manoli, 27 from Hosur, 19 from Hooli and 36 from Karikatti), 119 from Hukeri taluk (of which, 27 from Sankeshwar and 45 from Pachapur), 50 from Gokak taluk (of which 18 from Akkatangerhal including four women and 16 from Ankalgi), 36 from Chikodi taluk (of which, 27 were from Nipani) and 30 from Athani taluk, bringing the total to 555 (Annu Guruji, *Belagavi Jillyalli Swatantrya Samara*, II pp: 25-35). Another 23 persons were convicted in 1934 when Individual Satyagraha was launched as a part of Civil Disobedience.

The atrocities perpetrated by the police, the high-handedness of the administration and the sufferings, both physical and mental, and material losses suffered by the freedom fighters were so serious that it only added to the public wrath against British rule and popular sympathy towards the movement. It was also reflected in the

elections held to the Central Assembly in 1936 and Bombay Assembly in 1937 as per the Federal Act of 1935.

Harijan work

When Gandhiji undertook fast for the cause of the Harijans when he was in Yerawada jail in protest against the Communal Award in 1932, movement against untouchability was launched by Congress in Belgaum with great enthusiasm and fervour. Annu Guruji and Jayadevrao Kulkarni conducted a *padayatra* with five volunteers in the district, and in nearly 100 places arranged for temple entry and opening of wells and tanks for Harijans to draw water. When a *mathadhipati* conducted a campaign against this, these people issued a questionnaire and shut his mouth. Of the temples opened to Harijans, Maruti temple of Nipani was notable. Keshavrao Gokhale, B K Patwardhan, Baburao Thakur, Chinmayaswamy Onkarmath and Pundalikji Katgade also conducted such campaigns against untouchability in the district. A group of volunteers led by B N Datar, Keshavarao Gokhale and Baburao Thakur cleaned the public latrines in Belgaum town for one month to impress that scavenging is not a low profession.

During his all-India 'Harijan Seva Tour' Gandhiji came to Belgaum district in Jan 1934 and stayed for two days in Belgaum, and addressed many meetings. In Belgaum alone he could collect Rs 50,000 for the Harijan fund. Temples or wells were opened to Harijans at Hire Ulligeri, Bailhongal, Yamakanamardi, Hukeri, Shedbal and Athani during his visit. He also spoke at Chikodi. At Nipani, he urged the people to support Brahmachari Ramateertha who was running an Ashram and hostel for Harijans. The Harijan Sevak Sangh founded in 1933, started functioning in Karnataka also.

Elections

In 1933 was launched Samyukta Karnataka, a nationalist Kannada daily through the efforts of Keshavarao Gokhale, B N Datar and Narayanrao Joshi. It had been a weekly in the beginning. It served nationalist cause to a great extent in years to come in Karnataka. At the Elections to the Bombay Assembly held in 1937, Congress won all the six general seats from Belgaum district and Annasaheb Latthe became the Finance Ministers in Kher Ministry. Other members elected were Narayanrao Joshi, M P Patil, Keshavrao

Gokhale, Parappa Jakati and K S Patil. M P Patil became a parliamentary Secretary and Joshi Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. Gandhiji visited Hudali for one week to participate in the conference of Gandhi Seva Sangha from 16th April, 1937. An Agricultural Exhibition with Vamanrao Bidari as the Convenor was organised at Belgaum by Congress in 1938. The students' organisation initiated by Simon Master of Mission School became a branch of the All India Students' Federation in 1935. An all-India Conference of the Federation was held at Belgaum in 1938, Subhaschandra Bose attending it. The Gokak Mill strike which went on for one full year in 1938 and the Ramdurga Tragedy ('duranta') in the princely State in which a procession of the States Peoples' Conference (Praja Sangha) turning violent and resulting in bloodshed were two incidents of the period which created lot of misunderstanding in two groups in the Congress organisation. The Ramdurg Episode took place on 7th April 1939, when a huge procession of peasants organised to demonstrate their grievances against the durbar was fired on, and the infuriated mob attacked the police and the jail. Eight persons were killed and many workers of the Praja Sangha came to be later prosecuted and nine of them hanged.

As the British Government involved India in the Second World War, the Congress Ministries at States resigned in 1939, and soon Individual Satyagraha against the war was launched. Over 400 people courted arrest in Belgaum district in 1940 and 1941 (and this is out of the 1,700 courting arrest in Karnataka). Record was made by Paragad taluk by holding Satyagraha in all places in the taluk on a single day in 1941, thanks to the efforts of Venkareddy Hooli and Sriranga Kamat. Among these Satyagrahis there were 100 peasant women.

Quit India

In the Quit India Movement of 1942, a mode of operation called "Karnataka Pattern" became famous, and Jayaprakash Narayan praised this and recommended it to other states too, and even the Central Government's confidential reports mention this "Karnataka Pattern". This practice was very successful in Belgaum district, Dharwad standing next to it. The Bombay Secret Abstract repeatedly speaks of the movement being very strong in Belgaum and Dharwad districts, long after its having cooled down in other districts of the Presidency (including Maharashtra and Gujarat areas).

Well organised underground batches of freedom fighters, leaving their hearths and homes, successfully organised sabotage work for nearly two years. They stayed in fields or hills, wandered from place to place, being chased all the time, spent days without food, shelter and proper clothing and still fought against the alien rule non-violently. This had been planned in advance in Belgaum district. Annu Guruji at a district-level meeting held at Belgaum of all Congress members, on 5-8-1942 (before the Bombay A I C C) had said that the next movement was going to be something different from all previous movements, and advised all workers not to stay in their houses on the night of 8th Aug and subsequent days to evade arrest so that they could remain outside the jails and engage themselves in the movement. This advice was heeded by a majority of leading workers, and the movement did not become leaderless, and almost all trained and experienced workers could guide the movement with skill and care. The articles published by K G Mashruvala and Kaka Kalekar in the *Harjan* weekly, in the issue of 23rd of Aug gave a call for subversive activities with a view to defeat war efforts, and at the same time, not doing harm physically to any individual.

Equally careful were some of the senior leaders of Karnataka who had gone to participate in the A I C C in Bombay. Soon after the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi at the dead of the night on 8th August, senior leaders like R R Diwakar and others from Karnataka evaded arrest and an action committee for Karnataka with Channabasappa Ambli as Chairman, R R Diwakar as Secretary and R S Hukkerikar, D P Karmarkar and U S Mallaya as members was formed with Bombay as its headquarters. Other workers like Shankar Kurkoti, Sriranga Kamat, R Srinivasrao, Bindumadhava Buri and Narasimha Dabade served as links between the Central Committee and the district. An office to keep in touch with the various underground groups in the district was also started at Belgaum headed by Jayadevrao Kulkarni and Sushila Kulkarni, M S Kulkarni, Mahadeva Mathad, Vishnu Puranik and Pramila Deshpande assisted him. All this was not pre-planned. Everything took shape slowly, in the course of the spontaneous outburst of the movement which took the form of processions, demonstrations and public meetings and their soon turning violent in the shape of attack on government buildings, cutting telegraph wires and other forms of subversive activities. The mass base Congress had acquired was very much evidenced by the support it gained during the movement. The underground

workers could not have otherwise sustained in this long-drawn struggle.

First Reactions

First reaction to the news of Gandhiji's arrest was huge demonstrations by students by boycotting classes in Belgaum. Shops were also closed. There was a public meeting at Tilakwadi where some student leaders were arrested. There was also a meeting in the Maruti temple of Belgaum and Dayananda Aralikatti was arrested. The mob turned unruly and was lathi-charged. Keshvarao Gokhale at Sankeswhar, Basappa Argavi at Nandgad and Dr Kadalagikar at Gokak, Venkareddy Hooli at Hooli, Latthe, Bhimrao Potdar, K S Patil, Jeevanrao Yalgi, Krishnarao Yalgi, Anantrao Mandgi Shankar Kamat, Shantinatha Ingle, D L Adhyapak and Shanmukhappa Angadi were arrested in Belgaum (*Samyukta Karnataka* dated 10th and 11th Aug 1942). Hartal was observed by closing of shops and schools in the district. Schools and colleges remained closed for long, and before the heat of the events of 9th August could cool down, news came of the death of Mahadevbhai Desai. Meetings and processions and the police resorting to lathi charge and bursting of tear gas shells became scenes in all urban centres and even villages. Gangadhar Rao was arrested on the 15th Aug on his return from Bombay. On the 15th of August, Police fired and killed a young man, Satappa Topannavar at Kadivi Shivapur, a village in Parasgad taluk while a procession was on, and he was Karnataka's first martyr of Quit India movement. There was firing at Bailhongal on 17-8-42 when a batch of workers were arrested and people gathered in hundreds to stop the vehicle taking the arrested and seven persons (Siddappa Sattigeri, Shivalingappa Kotambari, Ramappa Dodwad, Dattu Matade, Mallappa Hireholi, Rachappa Hebbal and Shivappa Belagavi) were killed. On the same day, a henchmen of the police fired on a mob surrounding government offices at Nipani and Shankara Pangire, a young man died. As these public methods of protest were continuing, cutting of telegraph wires and attempts to remove railway line and other forms of sabotage were resorted to.

Underground Batches

By the end of August, some kind of district-level underground organisation emerged. Sixteen regular underground batches came to be organised, as listed by Annu Guruji with following places as

their centres and persons mentioned as leaders. 1) Pachapur and Akkatangerhal: headed by Vamanrao Bidari and Annu Guruji, 2) Hudali: Ramachandra Wadavi; 3) Belgaum: Jayadevarao Kulkarni, Gajanana Yalgi, Nath Pai and Sadashiv Paranjape 4) Sampgaon-Hirebagevadi: Channappa Vali, Chinmayaswamy Onkarnath, Basavannappa Angadi and Bapusaheb Patil 5) Kittur: Jagadevappa Duggani, Gurubhatta Joshi and Shivappa Malshetti (of Tigdolli) 6) Belavadi: Fakirgouda Patil and C B Murgod 7) Sankeshwar: Appanagouda Patil and Shankar Sarwadi 8) Nipani: Anantrao Katkol and Pandit Patankar 9) Bedkihal: Sidgouda Patil and Annaji Bedge 10) Akkol: Appasaheb Kage, Keshavrao and Kamate 11) Hosur-Murgod: Veerappa Sutgatti, Ramchandra Kulkarni and Padmaraja Bogar 12) Hooli-Manoli: Govindareddy Hooli, Panduranga Mirajkar, Channappa Walikar 13) Katkol: Viraktaswamy and Basavaraja Divatgi 14) Nandgad: Muralidhara Nayik, Jeevannavar Master and Dattaram Jadhav 15) Raybag: Balappa Nayik Master, Shivappa Ninganure, Gundopant Kulkarni 16) Athani-Satti: Prahlad Kulkarni, A S Kulkarni, Ningappa Dalavayi. In addition Gangadhar Dodmani of Gandigawad had a batch of men working mostly with Kittur and Tigdolli group.

The first meeting of the underground workers was held at Pant Balekundri during the last days of August and future plans were chalked out. The railway stations of Suldhal, Raybag, Desur, Gunji and Sulebhavi were burnt. Workers from the district also participated in the burning of railway stations in neighbouring districts of Dharwad, Sangli and Kolhapur. At Sulebhavi the Police who were on guard with guns were disarmed. This was followed by the burning of *grama chavadis*, school buildings, rest houses and Dak bungalows. Snatching mail bags from runners and also from mail buses was resorted to. The damaging of Post Offices of Nipani, Saundatti, Sampgaon and Neginal, and snatching of mail by stopping buses near Kotbagi, Kabbur, Adimallayya Hill, Nanadi, Mahalunge, Manoli, Katkol and Maradi Matha are notable events. At Manoli guns were snatched from four policemen who guarded the mail bus. On Dec. 16, telegraph lines between all railway stations from Miraj to Harihar were cut as pre-planned. "Nine postal runners were robbed of their mail bags by hooligans in the districts of Dharwad and Belgaum between 14th and 10th October" says one report in Secret Abstract. "In Belgaum district, the political situation has further deteriorated, since the saboteurs have for the present concentrated their energies on acts of incendiarism and further damage to railway

property" (Para 988 S A 1942 October last week). "The house of eight Congressmen were searched at Shahapur" (Para 988). Four railway stations-Tavaragatti, Gunji, Suldhali and Hulkoti (the last one from Dharwad district) are reported damaged on 31st Oct. (Para 988). In the middle of November, the Secret Abstract reads thus: "In Belgaum district, Saboteurs continue to indulge in destructive acts of every type. The people in general are in full sympathy with hooligans and give them food and shelter" (Para 1035). "Subversive elements in Karnatak, however appear to be extremely active, in spite of imposition of collective fines and military raids designed to effect the arrest of saboteurs and their satellites. In Belgaum district particularly, heinous crime has assumed serious proportions. Belgaum and Khanapur talukas appear to have gravely affected" (Para 1052-last week of November). A report of early 1943 reads: "Belgaum district continues to be troublesome" (Para 1, 1943). A report of same period (Para 18) speaks of the destruction of village *daftars* at Ankalgi, Gujnal, Yadalgi, Suldhali, Panjyanhatti, Godal-Kundargi, Akkatangerhal, Madval, Hudali, Upparatti and Maldinni. A report, later in January, says that "In Belgaum district village records are being removed to Taluka Kacheris in order to prevent further damage by saboteurs" (Para 40). This illustrated the fact that more and more village records were being snatched and burnt with a view to prevent collection of revenue. During the last week of January, the report for the whole Bombay State states that "The Civil Disobedience Movement activity during the week was not marked except in the districts of Belgaum and Dharwad.....Saboteur gangs in Belgaum and Dharwar districts appear to have concentrated on the burning of village chavdis and theft of arms on large scale" (Para 97).

As the movement was gaining momentum, the Government was unable to apprehend many of the leaders. Prizes were announced over the heads of many important workers. Anybody who provided a clue for the arrest of Channappa Wali, Sriranga Kamat, Annu Guruji or Ramachandra Wadavi was to get a prize of Rs 5,000 each. The prize for the arrest of each one among Vamanrao Bidari, Appanna Gowda Patil, A S Kulkarni and Chinmayswamy Onkarnath was Rs 2,000 each. Prize for the arrest of Veerappa Sutgatti, Sidgowda Patil, Bapusaheb Patil, Jagadevappa Duggani, Shivappa Malsetty and Govindareddy Hooli was Rs 1,000 each. European military, consisting of Australian soldiers was also posted at Gurlhosur, Bailhongal, Kittur and Pachapur to assist the police. The usual forms of civil

disobedience were also going on. Processions were organised in Belgaum and other centres on the 9th of every month, celebrating 'Gandhi Day' to protest against Gandhiji's arrest on 9th August. Clandestine bulletins were in circulation to overcome press censorship.

With the dawning of summer, collection of land revenue started. Already revenue records had been seized from many village officers. Revenue was collected in a central place for a group of 20 to 30 villages, having safety in mind. At Tolagi, one such centre in Khanapur taluk, the revenue collected from several villages was seized in broad day light on 20-1-1943 and Rs 2,200 confiscated by freedom fighters. Sir Roger Lumley, the Bombay Governor, who was on a visit to Belgaum on that day exclaimed: "Belgaum is acquiring an unenviable reputation of being foremost in maintaining gangs which are financed by Congress funds". Within four days (on 24-1-1943) a Sub-Inspector camping at Kini village of Belgaum taluk was relieved of his uniform, revolver, a typewriter and a watch, and also guns and uniform of a few of his constable colleagues. In February last week, the jeep of Dy S P, Thornhill, who visited Tigdolli was burnt at Basarkod where it had been parked. These were daring acts to show that administration was weak and non-existent and thus insulted the British Government. The furious government imposed a punitive fine of Rs one lakh on Nipani, and on other places like Pachapur, Hebbal, Akkatangerhal, Hudali, Hirebagewadi, Mugutkhan Hubli and Hosur fine ranging between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 was levied and it was collected with merciless harassment and persecution. Innocent suspects and relations of the absconding including women and the old were arrested, detained, beaten and tortured. A whole platoon of military was deployed in the early hours of the morning on many villages and houses searched and villagers including women were indiscriminately beaten or tortured to settle score for some act of sabotage nearby or for searching underground leaders. Those in jail had to once face a devastating disease like gastroenteritis and quite few a persons died of it in Belgaum Central Jail.

"The greater part of the province was quiet during the week. The situation in Karnatak is still unsatisfactory" says the Secret Abstract (1943, Para 182, 3rd week of Feb). "Another daring outrage occurred on the night of March 10 when a gang of 25 masked men saboteurs armed with pistols and other lethal weapons assaulted

unarmed Police Constables on duty at the Thalakwadi Police Chowki (Belgaum Cantonment) and relieved them of their uniform' (1943, para 201). On March 22, three British Soldiers were relieved of their revolvers by a mob of 300 in Belgaum (1943, para 217). The Police succeeded in arresting the important leaders one by one. Srirang Kamat and Jayadevrao Kulkarni were arrested on 23 Feb 1943. Fakirgouda Patil Sawatgi was arrested on April 25, Appangouda Patil, Sankeshwar on May 27, Channappa Wali on June 11 at Bangalore, Bapusaheb Patil of Gejpati on June 13, Annu Guruji on June 18 at Bijapur and so on. "There was a slight increase in subversive activity" in Belgaum and Dharward districts, says a report of September last week (Para 791). Shivappa Malshetti of Tigdolli was arrested on Feb 6, 1944.

A mail runner being relieved of his bag on Jan 31 (1944), burning of toll *naka* at Kuthali on Feb 3, looting of the village Chavdi at Saundalga and taking away six swords, Rs 550 in cash (revenue collected) and finally setting the Chavadi on fire on Feb 13, a group 150 raiding the Eksamba Village Chavadi and taking away Rs 740 (revenue collected) in Feb 16, destroying a liquor shop at Manakapur on Feb 9, are all incidents reminding one of the movement being continued even in 1944. The District Magistrate ordered the removal of village records to taluk offices and withdrawal of all fire arm licences (1944, Para 173). Soon after Shankar Kurtkoti was arrested on April 24 and Ramachandra Wadavi on May 1, 1944 in Belgaum. On 5th May, the Kulkarnis of Sutgatti and Yenagi were relieved of cash by 15 men. Such activities continued in Belgaum district till 28th July 1944, when Gandhiji issued a statement denouncing sabotage and advising all underground workers to discover themselves. Accordingly R R Diwakar and Channabasappa Ambli, office bearers of the Central Action Committee surrendered themselves to the Police at Hubli and Bagalkot respectively on 9-8-1944, ending the two-year old movement in Karnataka. A dozen underground leaders including Vamanrao Bidari, Lingappa Karlingannavar, A S Kulkarni and Yamunappa Arabhavi surrendered to the Police on the same day. According to an estimate, 1300 freedom fighters and about 1200 suspects and relations of absconding freedom fighters were arrested in Belgaum and either convicted or detained during these two years (1942-44). But the freedom fighters did not indulge in any type of physical violence despite their holding firearms and other weapons.

Merger of Princely States

When it was certain that freedom was to dawn, there was a lot of uncertainty and confusion regarding the future of the princely states. The Deccan States Peoples' Conference had been organised as early as in 1921 at Pune with N C Kelkar as the reception committee chairman and Raosaheb S B Bapat as president. The third such conference had also met at Belgaum in 1923 and till 1938, 12 such conferences were held. Many States in the Deccan including those in Belgaum area had individual Praja Parishats or Peoples' Associations affiliated to, and being guided by this body. These individual associations were agitating for securing various facilities and concessions from their states administration. Later, Indian National Congress itself took up the work being undertaken by this body. In 1943, there was a proposal to merge all Deccan princely states under a single separate administrative province. But the princes did not agree.

Later, in 1947, when the future of the princes became uncertain, such a proposal was considered acceptable by them. But some young workers of the Deccan States Peoples Conference like Jayadevarao Kulkarni, Vasant Rao Patil, Sadashiv Rao Bhosale and Tarachand Shah vehemently opposed this idea aimed at perpetuating feudal traditions. On the princes signing the Instrument of Accession, the various princely states were merged into the neighbouring districts with whom they had contiguity. Ramdurg, the headquarters of a princely state became a taluk by the merger of the state's villages into some other earlier British villages and also some neighbouring villages of Kolhapur state. Raybag, the headquarters of a Mahal in Kolhapur State also became the headquarters of a taluk. Clusters of villages from former states, falling within the perimeter of Belgaum were merged in various taluks like Athani or Belgaum.

Unification Movement

It was Gen. Munro who called the Bombay Karnatak area as "Southern Maratha Country" for the first time. But he himself realised that giving such a nomenclature to a purely Kannada-speaking region was a mistake. He suggested in 1826 that the then Dharwad district (which included the modern Belgaum district) "was bounded on the east and west by Madras districts and, therefore its transfer to Madras was advisable on administrative ground".

(Uttara Kannada was a part of Canara district till 1862, and was in Madras province). He had further stated that "though the district had been over-run by Marathas it was not a Maratha district" and that "the people were a portion of the same Kanarese nation who lived in Bellary, Sonda and Mysore, speaking the same language and differing from them in no respect". The region being "transferred to a country of Marathas with whom they had no natural connection", was considered a mistake by him as this was done to suit the convenience of the Maratha Chiefs (princes) "who should continue to look to Poona and Bombay for redress". The Bombay Government in 1835 took a decision to use Kannada as against Marathi as the language of administration and education in the so-called 'Southern Maratha Country', and Belgaum was a part of the Dharwad district then.

After the creation of Belgaum district in 1836, the Bombay Presidency treated the district as a Kannada region ("Canarese" district). The Kannada Gazetteer brought out by Venkata Rango Katti in 1893 which covers the Kannada regions in Bombay Presidency includes Belgaum District and is called "Gazetteer of the Bombay Karnatik".

When Tilak launched the Home Rule League, Belgaum was made the headquarters of the Karnataka unit of the League. When K P C C was formed in 1920, Belgaum district was included in the new province, and Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, popularly known as "Lion of Karnataka" was its first President. Belgaum Congress of 1924 was hosted by the K P C C and members of the Reception Committee were drawn from all Kannada-speaking areas. First Karnataka Unification Conference with Sir Siddappa Kambli as President was held in Belgaum in 1924. Congressmen of Belgaum launched *Samyukta Karnataka* weekly in 1929 to work as the mouth organ of both freedom movement and Unification movement. The district also hosted the fourth Unification Conference at Belgaum in 1929, Ranganatha Mudaliar presiding. The fifth Conference was held at Hukeri, Dr Pattabhi Sitaramaiah being the President. The seventh Conference too was held at Belgaum, Dr U Ramarao of Madras presiding.

Even after Independence, Belgaum district had been in the forefront of the Unification movement. Some of the prominent

leaders of the Akhanda Karnataka Rajya Nirmana Parishat like Channappa Wali, Tallur Rayana Gauda and Chinmayaswamy Onkarnath were from the district. For the plan of the Satyagraha these leaders wanted to launch from August (1953) demanding Unification, these leaders had been detained under Act IV of 1950, and they even filed a Writ in the Supreme Court and the court ordered their release. The Fazl Ali Commission which was appointed to look into the demand, recommended the formation of linguistic states and Unification of Karnataka. Leaders like Gangadhar Rao Deshpande had supported the idea of Unification and inclusion of Belgaum district in Karnataka when the Fazl Ali Commission recorded their evidence. Except the taluk of Chandgad, the whole of Belgaum district was transferred to Karnataka when the new State was formed on 1-11-1956.