

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The political history of Belgaum district as already surveyed in Chapter II reveals that it came under the Shatavahanas, the Kadambas of Banavasi, the Chalukyas of Badami, the Rashtrakutas of Malkhed and Chalukyas of Kalyana. During the later part of the Rashtrakuta rule, the various feudatories were administering parts of the district under the central power of Karnataka. These feudatories included the Rattas, the Kadambas of Goa, the Shilaharas of Kolhapur, etc. The Rashtrakutas had divided the Empire into Rashtra or Mandala, Vishaya or Nadu or district and Grama or village. In between the two were the Kampana, what can be considered in modern terms as a *hobli* or revenue circle. A Kampana may consist of 10 (Dashagrama), 12 (Dwadashagrama), 30, 36 or 70 villages. Belgaum district region was distributed among Koondi-3,000, Halasi-12,000, Belvola-300 and Karahada-4,000. The headquarters of Koondi-3,000, Koondi town has now vanished. The region has been described in a number of inscriptions as part of Kuntala Desha or Vishaya. (This shows that some of these administrative terms were used loosely). Anyway Kuntala stood for Karnataka or Rattapadi. Parts of Belgaum, especially in the north were described as in Karahada-4,000 in Kuntala Desha. The village Telsang (in the present Athani tq) is described as in Kuntala Desha, in which lay Karahada-4,000 and Kalambade-300 Kampana (*KI* II, No 18). Similarly, the village Nagaral is described as in Tungala-30 and Kalambada-300. In another inscription at Umrani in the neighbouring district, Kalambade-300 is called a *nadu*. Ramateerth village (Athani tq) is described as in Muvattarumbada (36 villages) Kampana in Karahada-4,000. Only some parts of Karahada-4,000 were included in the present Belgaum district, especially areas to the north of the Krishna.

The territory between the south of the Krishna, except the south-western fringe was called Koondi or Kuhundi-3,000 and this extended to the present Mudhol and Jamkhandi taluk regions too, now in Bijapur district. The village Mulagunda is described as in Sugandavarti (Saundarti)-12 Kampana of Koondi-3,000 in the Ratta records. Similarly in Koondi-3,000 was Horagatta-70 in which lay the village Enagi (1182 AD). Another division was Kundargi-70 in which lay the Onanur or Vannur village. The village Umbarani (Umrani, Chikodi tq) was in Koravalli Kampana of Koondi-3,000 in 1204. A record from Kerur (Chikodi tq) says that Koravalli-150 had Gokak as its headquarters then. Kankana-100, Sogala-30 and Kurumbetta Kampana in this Koondi division are also mentioned. The southern parts of the district were in the district called Belvola-300 which had Annigeri in Dharwad district as the headquarters. The area from the district in Belvola-300 were places like Hooli, Sirasangi or Kumudawada (modern Kalbhavi). Sirsangi was in Kolanur-30 (Konnur near Nargund), Kumudawada and Kadatanal were Kadaravalli-30 (modern Kadrolli). To the West was Palasi or Panasa Desha or Halasi-12,000. Utsugame-30 (Uchagaon in Belgaum tq), Kalagiri Kampana, Sallakunduru-70 were parts of Halasi also called Palasika Vishaya. Villages like Sindavalli, Kuppottaggarika (Kuppattageri) or Bhalika were in Kalagiri Kampana, as seen from the Goa Kadamba records. Velugrama-70 was also in Halasi-12,000. Later, the Seunas created a new province called Toragale-6,000 which continued as a province under Vijayanagara, but defining the boundary of the province is difficult, though Torgal was its headquarters. But the circles or hoblis of old time continued.

The rulers in ancient times had their officers like *sandhivigrahika* or foreign minister, *senapati* (commander), *pratihara* (door keeper) and senior officials. Every province like Koondi-3,000 or Halasi-12,000 had an imperial officer together with the local feudatory. *Nadus* or districts had *Nadagaudas* or *nada adhikaris*. Kampana had a *bhojaka* as seen from many Kadamba records. Village had a *gramabhojaka* and a *grama adhikari*. A *gramadhikari* is found at village Suvarnavada (Savadi) in 1167 (KI II No. 24). It is difficult to define the powers of *adhikari* and a *bhojaka*. The village accountant was called *senabova* or *karanika* during those days.

Under the Muslims, a province was called a *taraf* earlier, and *suba* under the Mughuls. The Bahmani kingdom had totally four *tarafs* under them earlier and this was increased to eight by Gawan.

Bijapur rulers continued the same arrangement. Under the *taraf* or *suba* was a *paragana* or *taluk*. Marathas continued the system and called *paragana* a *taluk*. Below the taluks were *karyats* (modern hoblis or revenue circles), and a revenue village was a *mauza*. The number of villages in a *karyat* varied and Dr K N Chitnis has pointed out that in Kittur territory Karyat Kadaravalli had seven villages and Karyat Belavadi 54. The Tarafdar or Subedar was the viceroy. The villages had Kulkarni or Pande, the village accountant and Patel or Patil, the headmen, the Karyat had Deshpande and Desai or Deshmukh. The so-called princes of Kittur, Belavadi or Sirsangi, were in fact *desais*, holding the positions hereditarily. The forts had special arrangements with a Killedar and his subordinate staff which were mostly under the direct control of the provincial government. The petty village servants were called *volekar* (messenger), *shetsandi* or *talvar* (watchman). The Muslims did not change the earlier administrative arrangements radically. Only names of offices came to be Persianised. The Marathas also continued this arrangement.

Under the British the general administration of the district was originally entrusted to the Principal Collector of Dharwad till 1836. With the passing of the Regulation VII (1830) of the Government of Bombay, the 'Southern Maratha Country' was brought under the above Regulation. The territories were formed into one Collectorate called the Dharwad District or Zilla. This included besides the present Dharwad district, the parts of the later Belgaum, Bijapur and Sholapur Collectorates. On the recommendations of Dunlop, the then Principal Collector of Dharwad, Belgaum was formed into a separate collectorate with effect from 28th April 1836. It consisted of ten talukas viz. Parasgad, Sampgaon, Padshapur (Pachapur), Chikodi, Bagalkot, Indi, Muddebihal, Hungund, Badami and Bidi. But Dharwad continued to be the District headquarters with a bifurcation effected as Southern and Northern districts. On the 3rd May 1836, Raven Scroft was made the Assistant Collector of Belgaum. Soon after this in 1838-39 the Indi and Muddebihal sub-divisions were transferred to the new district of Sholapur. The number of sub-divisions (taluks) in the present Belgaum district was increased by the formation of the two new sub-divisions of Athani and Gokak. On the 9th March 1838 Belgaum was made the district headquarters separating it from Dharwad. Between 1836 and 1864 the Belgaum District continued to receive constant additions by the lapse of *jahgirs* or alienated villages. In 1864 the sub-divisions of Bagalkot,

Hungund and Badami were transferred from Belgaum to the new Collectorate of Kaladgi. In 1866 Padshapur taluk was re-named as Belgaum and in 1881 Bidi taluk re-named as Khanapur though the taluk centre had been shifted from Bidi to Khanapur in 1829, on the consequence of the taluk *kacheri*, being burnt by Sangolli Rayanna. Hukeri was a Mahal under the Chikodi taluk till the year 1908, when it was constituted as a separate taluk. Similarly, Raybag was a Mahal under Shirol taluk of Kolhapur State and it is not known when it was made a taluk. Ramdurg taluk was included in Bijapur district in 1948 and later in 1951 it was transferred to Belgaum district.

The general administration of the district was entrusted to an officer called Collector. He was the Chief Magistrate and the executive head of the district. Belgaum was made the headquarters of the Southern Division in 1878. But earlier it was called Kanarese Division with Dharwad as its headquarters. Between the years 1950 to 1956, the Commissioner's office was called the office of the Director of Local Authority, Southern Division, Belgaum. Thereafter the office was redesignated as the Divisional Commissioner, Belgaum, from 1st November 1956 i.e., after the Reorganisation of States. The Commissioner was in-charge of the General Administration of the Division and exercised control over all the revenue officers and revenue courts in the division.

Commissioner : The Commissioner discharged the duties conferred under the Land Revenue Code and also any other law that governed the division. He was the controlling, supervising and co-ordinating officer at the divisional level, the appellate authority, who heard appeals against Collector's decision and enjoyed the power of revision. The Commissioner had to supervise the proper execution of Government policies in the actual administration of the districts committed to his charge. The Southern Division comprised of five districts such as Belgaum, Dharwad, Kaladgi, Kanara (north) and Ratnagiri. In the Bombay Presidency there was no Board of Revenue as in Madras. The Commissioner was the channel of communication between the district and the Government.

Collector : The Collector was the head of the general administration of the district. His primary duty was the collection of land revenue and he was also the custodian of the State property. He was the controlling officer, directing the action of his subordinates in executing decisions under Land Revenue Code, serve as the head

of the Police and as the returning officer during elections. The vicissitudes of trade, administration of justice, progress of public works, working of local bodies like municipalities, and other local boards affecting materially the interests of the people of whom he was the guardian.

Prant Officer : The Collector had under him the Prant Officers who were either Assistant Collectors or District Deputy Collectors. There were three Prants in Belgaum located at Belgaum, Chikodi and Sampgaon. The Prant Officers formed the connecting link between the Mamlatdar and the Mahalkaris and the Collector. Special training in maintenance of land records, survey and settlement matters etc, were given to the Probationary Assistant and Deputy Collectors. The Assistant Collector or Prant Officer had to undergo training in horse riding before joining regular service. He exercised powers under the Land Revenue Code. The Prant Officer could execute certain contracts and leases and *sanads* given for tree planting. The Assistant or Deputy Collector was also the Sub-Divisional Magistrate who could transfer the cases from one Court to another, if he had appellate powers.

Mamlatdars and Mahalkaris : The head of the taluk administration was the Mamlatdar, and Mahalkari had the executive charge of a Mahal or Petha. The Mamlatdar was in charge of the Sub-Treasury in every taluk or Mahal. There was little difference in the style of functioning and duties of a Mamlatdar and Mahalkari. The revenue functions of a Mamlatdar are to prepare the ground work for the Prant Officer and the Collector to pass orders thereupon. He had to execute all such orders, directions, etc, with regard to the annual demand of Land Revenue; he had to prepare all the statements necessary for what was called the making of the Jamabandi of the taluk. The brunt of the work, like collection of revenue, forest grazing fees, income tax, co-operative credit societies' dues and *tagai* dues also vested with Mamlatdar.

The quasi-judicial duties which the Mamlatdar performed included both civil and revenue matters. The Mamlatdar was the *ex-officio* taluk Magistrate and tried cases at the taluk level. He was in charge of the management of the Sub-jail. He was also the Sub-Treasury Officer. The Ayal Karkun was called in local language in the Central division as 'Fadnis' and in the southern division 'Sheristedar'.

Circle Officers and Circle Inspectors: The Circle Inspector was the supervisor who assisted the Mamlatdar and Mahalkari in the general administration. There were more than 20 to 25 villages in charge of one Circle Inspector. Normally either a Kulkarni or a Talati was promoted to work as a Circle Inspector or a Karkun from Collector's Pranth or Mamlatdar's office was deputed to do this work. The Circle Inspector had to inspect every village repeatedly during the year and acquaint himself with the efficiency and conduct of the village officers, the state of the crops and condition of the villages and to report promptly to the Mamlatdar any matter that required orders of the superior officers. While preparing the Anewari statement, he had to see that the opinion of the Committee or Panchas was carefully recorded and the procedure was correctly followed. He had to inspect the boundary marks and check the encroachment register. He checked all records of vital statistics and inspected the Tagai works. The Circle Inspector had to examine the Village Accountant's cash balances and verify the remittance to the Treasury.

Village Officer: In the village, Patil was the most important functionary. The Patil was the head of the administration of his village on a small scale. The Patil who was appointed under the Hereditary Officers Act could have his *watan* and the family share in the land and privileges and one member in the family who receives remuneration (*mushahira*) officiated. The Patil had to attend to any work when summoned by Government officers and aid them in the execution of their public duties. The important functions as village police with respect to the prevention and detection of crimes were given in the Village Police Act. The Police Patil had to maintain the Birth and Death Register.

Kulkarnis: The Kulkarni was the village registrar or accountant. The hereditary village accountant was called Kulkarni and the stipendiary one is called Talati. In Belgaum district the hereditary Kulkarnis functioned under the Hereditary Officers Act. The main duties of the Kulkarnis were the maintenance of the Record of Rights up-to-date by recording mutations and clearly write all crops in the village, both kharif as well as rabi. He had to prepare all the statistical and fiscal returns. All the prescribed village forms were to be written and completed. Agricultural, Economic and Vital statistics were to be prepared periodically. During the early

days, the Kulkarnis also kept the accounts of all the cultivators and they acted as the notary public.

Village Servants: Apart from the above mentioned village officers, there were lower level village servants in the district like the Talwars, Mahars, Sanadis and Kolkars or Olekars. The Talwars functioned as village watchmen. The Mahars were helping the Village Patil and the Kulkarni in the collection of revenue and did all duties in connection with village administration such as working as messengers, carriers of records, land survey materials, etc. They attended on the Mamlatdar and other higher officers when they visited the village. The Sanadis were also assisting the revenue Patils and Police Patils in the discharge of their duties. The Kolkars or Olekars were the messengers doing revenue duties. The Mahars were appointed by the Mamlatdars or the Mahalkari for rendering only Government work. The Talwars also helped the Village Patil in the discharge of his duties connected with the police administration.

After 1956

The district of Belgaum in 1956 consisted of ten taluks viz, Belgaum, Khanapur, Chikodi, Raybag, Athani, Sampgaon, Gokak, Parasgad, Hukeri and Ramdurg. During this period the general administration of the State in general and the district in particular came to be thoroughly revamped. The new State was divided into four divisions and Belgaum which had earlier been the headquarters of the Southern Division under the Bombay Presidency (in 1878) was made a division and divisional administration was entrusted to the Divisional Commissioner. The district of Belgaum has been divided into three revenue sub-divisions viz, Bailhongal, Chikodi and Belgaum, each under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner.

Divisional Commissioner

The Divisional Commissioner's office was established at Belgaum in the year 1878. Earlier Dharwad was the headquarters of the "Kanarese Division". During the period from 1878 to 1950 this office was styled as the office of the Commissioner, Southern Division. Again from the year 1950 to 1956 it was called the Office of the Local Authority, Southern Division. Thereafter the office was redesignated as the office of the Divisional Commissioner, after the Reorganisation of States. The Divisional Commissioner is the head of the Revenue Administration who plays a pivotal

role in the General Administration of the district in respect of both revenue matters and functioning of the various other departments in the division. He acts as a link between the State Government and the district authorities. The Divisional Commissioner exercises special powers to supervise the general activities of all the departments and also gives instructions and guidance to them. He is the Chief Revenue Officer in the Division. The Divisional Commissioner is the Joint Development Commissioner, who personally supervises all the development departments by periodical review. He also exercises over-all supervision of the local bodies within his jurisdiction. When natural calamities like floods and droughts occur, the Divisional Commissioner is required to be vigilant and to bestow his attention in organising immediate relief measures.

The Divisional Commissioner is the main channel through whom the Deputy Commissioner has to send all proposals pertaining to revenue matters, community development programmes, municipal administration, etc, to the State Government. As the administrative head of the Division he is responsible for distributing and re-appropriating budget grants to lower offices. The Divisional Commissioner is the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioner in matters of revenue administration both in regard to revenue laws and disciplinary proceedings relating to the revenue staff. The main functions of the Divisional Commissioner are: maintenance of Record of Rights, recovery of land revenue and all other kinds of Government dues, conducting of Jamabandi every year, maintenance of law and order, administrative control over the districts, supervision of elections to Parliament, State Legislature and Local Authority constituencies, conducting of Census, boosting of collections under National Savings, etc, in the four districts under him. In a nutshell, it may be said that his functions are supervisory, controlling, co-ordinating and appellate.

Deputy Commissioner

After the Re-organisation of the State of Karnataka in 1956 the post of Collector was redesignated as Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner inherited all powers and responsibilities of the former Collector. Deputy Commissioner heads the district administration. The main functions of the Deputy Commissioner may be broadly classified as revenue, law and order, development, co-ordination and public welfare in general. He is the custodian of

all the Government properties in the district. The Deputy Commissioner is not only the head of the general administration but also the revenue administration. He is vested with the power of collecting and accounting of all such revenues from agricultural, non-agricultural and miscellaneous lands. Besides this, the Deputy Commissioner will supervise the works like maintenance of record of rights by updating them from time to time, disposal of Government waste lands noticed under Karnataka Land Grant Rules, detection and removal and regularisation of unauthorised occupation of Government lands, periodical inspection and repairs to boundary marks under decennial programme and land acquisition matters. He will also grant relief to victims affected by floods, fire, famine and such other natural calamities. The Deputy Commissioner supervises the periodical revision of electoral rolls. He also inspects procurement and proper distribution and control over the essential commodities including cement and petroleum products. He is invested with wide powers under the Land Revenue Act, grant of Arms Licences under Indian Arms Act, Karnataka Land Reforms Act, Land Acquisition Act, Irrigation Act, Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Old Age Pension Rules etc.

He reviews periodically the enforcement of all the Government policies and programmes. Recently he has been invested with powers to inspect all Government Offices, except judicial and police offices. The Deputy Commissioner as the District Magistrate is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. But, consequent to the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, the District Magistrate does not deal with dispensation of justice with the trial process. As the head of all executive Magistrates, he has extensive powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, Karnataka Police Act, etc, for the maintenance of law and order. He also exercises supervisory powers over the administration of jails and lock-ups in the district. He should supervise the proper implementation of various instructions of the Government, given from time to time under the Foreigners Act, in respect of visas, passports etc.

Development Functions: The Deputy Commissioner is also the Deputy Development Commissioner, who has to co-ordinate the efforts of several departments in the district and to supervise personally the execution of all the development programmes of the

Government. He being in charge of all development blocks, reviews various developmental programmes. He is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the district developmental activities of several departments in the district and also of the taluk development boards which help in the development of the Community Development Programmes. The Deputy Commissioner has to discharge the responsibility of successful implementation of the schemes taken up under the Five Year Plans and also social welfare schemes. He is also the District Registrar in which capacity he has to supervise the working of the various sub-registry offices. The Deputy Commissioner is the head of several bodies in his capacity as Chairman, Regional Transport Authority, Family Welfare Action Committee, District Library Authority, etc.

Co-ordination Committee: The District Co-ordination Committee at the taluk level have been formed in order to help implementing various programmes. The Deputy Commissioner has to work for the allround development of the district through co-ordinated efforts. Steps have to be taken to stimulate production, to speed up procurement and to streamline the distribution of essential commodities.

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a Headquarters Assistant who is of the rank of an Assistant Commissioner, and he also functions as the Additional Magistrate. He will assist the Deputy Commissioner in all matters of administration and also supervise the proper functioning of the entire Deputy Commissioner's office. The Deputy Commissioner is also assisted by one District Development Assistant and a Food and Civil Supplies Assistant. There is a Gazetted officer in the rank of a Tahsildar for supervising the Subordinate staff of the office and a District Planning Officer to assist in planning matters. Presently Belgaum district has three Special Deputy Commissioners functioning for Revenue, Development and RHN respectively. The Special Deputy Commissioner (Development) is also the *ex-officio* Project Director, District Rural Development Society. He is assisted by several specialists in the cadre of junior scale officers drawn from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Agriculture. He is also assisted by a Gazetted Manager, Accounts Superintendent and other necessary staff. (See p 285 and also chapter IX).

Assistant Commissioner

The district has three sub-divisions—Balgaum, Bailhongal and

Chikodi. Each Sub-division is under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner, who functions as supervising officer for both revenue and development matters. The post of the Pranth Officer or Deputy Collector or Assistant Collector was re-designated as Assistant Commissioner after the Reorganisation of States. He is the immediate superior authority of the Tahsildars, Chief Officers of Town Municipal Councils and Chief Executive Officers of the Taluk Development Boards. The Assistant Commissioner exercises both Revenue as well as Magisterial powers and he is also the Land Acquisition Officer and Settlement Levy Officer. In executing the development works he will supervise all such works and other activities of the Taluk Development Boards. The Assistant Commissioner will exercise special powers invested with him under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. In his capacity as the Returning Officer, he conducts elections for Taluk Development Boards. As the head of the general administration of the sub-division, he discharges several magisterial duties. He is the *ex-officio* Sub-divisional Magistrate and is empowered to investigate cases on his own initiative and also the cases referred to him by the Deputy Commissioner and the Divisional Commissioner. At the taluk-level, he is the presiding authority of several committees and also member of several committees at the district level. The Assistant Commissioner is normally assisted by a Manager, First Division Assistants, Second Division assistants, Stenographers and other necessary staff.

Tahsildar

Every taluk is under the charge of a Tahsildar (formerly called Mamlatdar). He is responsible to the Assistant Commissioner of the sub-division and through him to the Deputy Commissioner. The Tahsildar functions as the head of the general administration at the taluk level and as such is invested with enormous revenue as well as magisterial powers. In matters of revenue, the Tahsildar will have to conduct enquiries and submit reports to the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. He has to execute orders passed by them. He has to personally supervise the collection of land revenue and other Government dues such as recovery of *tagai* loans, irrigation charges, *pot-hissa* measurement fees and the like. Under special conditions he can grant lands and building sites. The Tahsildar has to discharge duties and responsibilities vested in him under the Land Revenue Act, Land Reforms Act and such other Acts

and Rules relating to the administration of the taluk as a revenue unit. He has to supervise the procurement of food grains and its proper distribution through the fair price shops. He has to personally supervise the government stocks of food grains held by different mill owners TAPCMS and such other agencies. He has been vested with several powers under the Essential Commodities Act and Rules. The Tahsildar is also empowered to sanction old age pensions. He is the Taluk Magistrate, in which capacity he exercises certain magisterial powers for the maintenance of law and order in his jurisdiction. As the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer, it is his responsibility to prepare and maintain the electoral rolls. He heads the election machinery at the taluk level as the Assistant Returning Officer. The Tahsildar is assisted by Taluk Sheristedar, Revenue Inspectors, Special Revenue Inspectors, Record Keepers and other necessary staff. There had been Special Tahsildars working with separate establishment for the purpose of effecting Land Reforms, Twenty Point Economic Programme works, etc.

Block Development Officers

Each taluk is considered as one Development Block and is under the charge of a Block Development Officer, also of the rank of the Tahsildar. He has to look after the development activities of the taluk, besides discharging duties as the Chief Executive Officer of the Taluk Development Board. He has to draft development programmes for the taluk and co-ordinate their implementation after securing approval. He supervises the work of Extension Officers and other officers connected with various schemes. In his capacity as the Secretary of Taluk Development Board, he has to implement its resolutions. He has several statutory powers to exercise under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959. The Block Development Officer is assisted by one Manager, seven extension officers, First and Second Division Assistants and other necessary staff.

Revenue Inspector

The taluks are further divided into *hoblis* or revenue circles, and the Revenue Inspector is in charge of each one of them. The ten taluks of Belgaum district have been further sub-divided into 35 revenue circles. In the administration of revenue matters, the Revenue Inspector is directly responsible to the Tahsildar. He has to attend to the works like recovery of land revenue, betterment levy,

water rates and other Government dues, loans and advances, procurement and distribution of food grains etc. He is the main field revenue official who will be instrumental in the proper execution of the orders of the Government in revenue matters. The Revenue Inspector has to supervise the work of the Village Accountants in charge of the villages and also has to inspect the boundary marks, Government lands and encroachments thereon. Building up records of land grants, land acquisitions and other revenue matters, old age pensions etc, are the other functions of the Revenue Inspector.

Village Officers

The administration at the village level is entrusted to the Village Accountant, who was also the Secretary of smaller village panchayats when they existed. He is the lowest revenue functionary working at the village level. Village Accountants were appointed as full-time Government officials under the Village Accountants (Recruitment) Rules 1970. The Patils were continued for some years without hereditary rights, and performing only police duties of the former Patils. The Village Accountant is assisted by Village Assistants who displace the former *olekars* and other such minor village officials. Registration of births and deaths in the villages is a part of his duties.

Nada Kacheris

With a view to decentralise revenue administration and ease the pressure on the taluk offices whose powers and functions have increased enormously, Nada Kacheris or hobli level offices have been opened on an experimental basis in one hobli of each taluk in the State from the 15th August 1986 and each office is headed by one Deputy Tahsildar and the necessary staff. Out of the 21 revenue functions of the Tahsildar, nine have been delegated to this office at present. The places where these offices have been opened in the district are Hirebagewadi, Bidi, Yamakanmardi, Kittur, Kaujalagi, Murgod, Chandargi, Kudachi, Kagwad and Chikodi.

District Training Institute

The District Training Institute of Belgaum was initially started at Hidkal on 10th January 1977. The Training Institute was shifted to Shahpur, Belgaum City on the 1st December 1981. The aim of the Institute was primarily to impart training to the newly recruited junior and senior assistants and also to the in-service officials working

in the various State Government Departments. As the first step towards restructuring of the training programmes, training at the taluk level was introduced. This innovation ensured training on the spot without hindering the routine work of the office. Subsequently, as the training programme intensified, the Institute expanded its training curriculum and the classes' pattern. The Institute at present imparts training in courses like special training course for officials of the Revenue department, job course for ministerial staff of all State Government Departments, job-course for Village Accountants, refresher course for Commercial Tax Inspectors, Senior and Junior Assistants of the Commercial Tax Department, etc. In all there are twenty three training courses in its curriculum and 2,563 officials have received training as on March 1986. The Institute is functioning under the direct control of the Director, Administrative Training Institute, Mysore. The Institute is headed by a Principal of the Group A Junior rank and is assisted by a Vice-Principal, Accounts Superintendent, Sheristedar (revenue), Survey Supervisor, Panchayat Extension Officer and other necessary staff. The Training Institute is also publishing a quarterly called *District Training News*.