

CHAPTER 17

PLACES OF INTEREST

The district of Bidar is rich in ancient cultural traditions as well as in historical associations. Its several hallowed spots and monuments bring back to memory scenes of its glorious past. Many celebrated spiritual personages strode the earth, worked and taught in this area which witnessed various events of historical, social and religious importance. The district provides many attractions to scholars, pilgrims and others. A brief account of some of the more important places of interest in the district is given in the following pages in an alphabetical order.

Aliabad (Taluk Bidar): Aliabad is a town area positioned in Bidar taluk of Bidar district, located in urban area of Bidar district of Karnataka is about seven km north-east of Bidar town. According to Census 2011, Aliabad's population is 1602. Out of this, 821 are males while the females count 781 here. This town area has 230 children in the age group of 0-6 years. Aliabad has a small temple dedicated to Ishvara, also called Rameshvara, in front of which there is a natural water-spring and a pond called "Papanash" ("destroyer of sins"). According to a legend, the *linga* in this shrine is one of the *Jyothirlingas* and it was worshipped by sage Shukracharya and Ramachandra visited the place and worshipped at this shrine on his way back from Lanka to Ayodya. There are two niches in which images of Shiva

and Parvati made from polished black stone are kept. During the months of *Shravana* and *Phalguna* (about August-September and February-March), special poojas are performed here on Mondays. Some neolithic sites came to light here a few years back.

Alwai (Taluk Bhalki): Alwai is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 735 families residing. The Alwai village has population of 3,796 of which 1,963 are males while 1,833 are females as per Census 2011. It is about 35 km north-west of Bhalki town, has a small temple of goddess 'Lakshmi'. An attractive five days annual festival is held at this shrine about the month of January.

Andura (Taluk Bidar), is situated about 14 km west of Bidar town on Bidar-Humnabad road. Andura is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 783 families residing. The Andura village has population of 4213 of which 2143 are males while 2070 are females as per Census 2011. In Andura village population of children with age 0-6 is 529. The place has ruins of some Chalukyan temples. There is an inscription belonging to the period of Chalukya King Jagadekamalla II (1139-49 A.D) and it mentions the temple of Naraneshvara which was being visited by members of the Chalukyan royal family. This village has been selected for being developed as a Jayanti village.

Ashtoor (Taluk Bidar): is about four km east of Bidar town in the low lands. Ashtoor is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 542 families residing. The Ashtoor village has population of 2,747 of which 1,405 are males while 1342 are females as per Census 2011. In Ashtoor village population of children with age 0-6 is 365. The Bahamani monarchs, like other illustrious Sultans were fond of constructing huge Sepulchres. Several majestic mausoleums are found in this place.

Tomb of Ahmad Shah al-Wali Bahamani – This is a square shaped vast and lofty building with very thick walls. It has three entrances from north, east and south. There are arches constructed on a large scale and arched niches of varying sizes outside the tomb. Some of the niches have small arched openings through which air and light enter inside. The arches of the niches on the walls have verses written in gold colour with a dark background. The interior is decorated with fine paintings. It is interesting

to note that the *Swastika* symbol has been utilised for ornamentation in this mausoleum (on its southern wall), and on the tiles of Diwan-i-Aam in the fort at Bidar. The dome of this tomb is three-fourths of an orb in shape with an octagonal base at the roof-level). There is a large hall with arches on all sides. According to Yazdani, "..... The excellence of the paintings, however, does not consist in the variety of tints but in the lovely contrasts which have been shown in the colour schemes of the different panels. Again on the same wall, above the niche to the right of the door is a square panel painted in the style of a book cover with floral designs in the margin, geometric patterns in the middle, and an intricate Tughra device at the centre. The tints used in this panel show the skill of the artist in blending colour..." "Bidar- Its History and Monuments".

Ahmed Shah al-Wali appears to have been held in high esteem and an annual *urus* is held here in his honour even now. It is also called "Allama Prabhu *Jatra*" by the people. It commences on the twentieth day of the month in which the Holi festival is celebrated and lasts for three days. For this *urus*, the chief priest is a Veerashaiva Jangama, who comes from Madiyal village in Kalaburagi district, dressed as a darvesh in flowing robes and reaches this place by walking and inaugurates the celebration of the *urus*. Many people gather here at the time of *urus*, make offerings and perform religious ceremonies according to their own customs.

Tomb of Ahmad Shah's queen: is situated to the east of his tomb and is constructed in the same pattern. The entrance into it is from the south. It contains five graves, one of which is said to be that of Ahmad Shah's queen.

Tomb of Ahmad Shah's son is also built in the same style. Its interior has remains of stucco works of floral designs and religious texts. The ceiling is decorated with paintings in the same way as in his father's tomb.

Tomb of Sultan Alaud-Din Shah II was perhaps constructed by Sultan Alaud-din Shah II himself in advance. The tile panels and carvings on the black-stone margins of arches here are quite impressive. On a white background, blue, green and yellow colours are used for painting. There are three entrance arches from the south, east and north. The dimensions of the square base of this monument and of its dome are the same as those of the tomb of Ahmed Shah-al-Wali. The tomb has a square hall and several arches and niches. The ceiling of the dome has remains of paintings.

Tomb of Sultan Humayun: stands by the side of the tomb of Sultan Alaud-din Shah II. Its roof was destroyed by lightning some years back. The arches of this monument are of a different shape. The upper part of the walls inside has another series of smaller arches. The walls of this tomb are very thick and the monument is built entirely with black trap masonry.

Tomb of Malika-i-Jahan: is the tomb of the wife of Sultan Humayun Shah. Malika-i-Jahan means “queen of the world”. This monument lies to the south-west of the tomb of her husband. This is a smaller building. Its walls have arches the middle of which (in the south) forms the entrance. The arches are elegantly decorated with stucco work. This monument contains four graves, the second of which is said to be that of Malika-i-Jahan.

Tomb of Sultan Nizam Shah: is situated to the west of Sultan Humayun’s tomb. Its massive walls are built of trap masonry. It is square in plan, has three entrances from the east, north and south. In the South, there is a large arch for the entrance. In the west there is a niche where religious texts were recited at the time of the rituals.

Tomb of Sultan Muhammad Shah III: resembles the tomb of Nizam Shah. But the sizes of the arches are different to a small extent. The monument has three graves. The central one is said to be that of Muhammad Shah and the right one his wife’s.

Tomb of Muhammad Shah Bahamani: was constructed by Muhammad Shah Bahamani himself during his life-time. It is as stately as the earlier tombs of the Bahamani Sultans. It has massive walls and small arches arranged in three rows. The base of the dome in the roof is octagonal.

Tomb of Sultan Wali-Ullah: lies among the main group of the Bahamani tombs. It has strong walls. There are remains of a parapet. A small door in the south forms the entrance. The dome has eight facets. The interior is square in shape.

Tomb of Sultan Kalim-Ullah: is situated close to the tomb of Sultan Wali-Ullah and is similar in pattern. To the south-east of this monument, there is a small mosque which was used for saying prayers for the dead persons before their bodies were buried. The ceiling of this mosque has three compartments and there are also three arched openings of the same size.

Chaukhandi of Hadrat Khalil-Ullah: is the tomb of saint Kalil-Ullah who was the preceptor of Ahmad Shah. It is called Chaukhandi (four-storeyed building), but it is only two storeyed. It is erected on a high place which has many steps. The main vault has three graves, while the corridor has several more. A panel contains a religious text with decorated arches. The building is octagonal in plan. There are traces of fine decorations on the walls of the building. The thick walls are the black trap masonry and the interior walls have no plastering. A high octagonal enclosure surrounds the tomb proper. At the entrance, there is an exquisite inscription. The saint’s tomb is in the center of the interior of the monument. While internally, it is octagonal, externally it is square. This prominent building is altogether one of the excellent buildings constructed by the Bahamanis.

Besides these monuments, the visitor can also see the tomb of Shah Rukh Khan (?), the well which came to light recently in the low land to the south of the sepulchre of Ahmad Shah, the tombs on a platform under the need tree, the tomb of Shah Raju, etc.

Aurad (Taluk Aurad), about 42 km north of Bidar town and 712 km from Bengaluru, is the headquarters of the taluk of the same name. Aurad is one of the five taluks of Bidar district. Aurad is a large town located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 717 families residing. The Aurad town has population of 4,108 of which 2,056 are males while 2,052 are females as per Census 2011. In Aurad village population of children with age 0-6 is 494 This is an important centre of cattle trade. It has a well-known temple of Amareshvar, the *Jatra* which is held for seven days in February-March every year. This festival attracts a large gathering. The place has a high school, a junior college and a civil dispensary. Chintaki, a village about 16 km from Aurad, is noted for the dargah of Shaik Sahab. Another village Sangam, about 32 km from Aurad has an ancient shrine of Sangameshvara.

Aurad (Taluk Bidar), is a village about 25 km south-west Bidar town. It is known for red clay (red ochre locally called *geiro*) which is used for colour-washing of floors and walls. A fair of the local temple of Lakshmi is held about January once in three years.

Bagdal (Taluk Bidar), is about 24 km south-west of Bidar town. Bagdal is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,490 families residing. The Bagdal village has population of 8,499 of which 4,418 are males while 4,081 are females as per Census 2011. In Bagdal village population of children with age 0-6 is 1,141. It has a shrine containing the *samadhi* (tomb) of a reputed saint named Shripatananda Atmananda Swamiji who is stated to have composed songs in several languages. In his honour, an annual *jatra* is held about July. There is another shrine dedicated to Pandurang Maharaj, under the auspices of which also a *jatra* takes place about September for three days every year. The village has a high school and a health-unit type dispensary.

Basavakalyan: Basavakalyan is one of the five taluks of Bidar district, which is located at far north-east of Karnataka. Hyderabad is approximately 180 Km, Kalaburagi, the divisional Headquarters is 83 Km, Bidar, which is the District Headquarters, is situated 80 km north-east of Basavakalyan and the State Capital Bengaluru is about 743 km from Basavakalyan. It is the headquarters of the taluk of the same name.

Basavakalyan was until recently known as Kalyani and Kalyan and has been also called Qasba Kalyanabad in some Bahamani records. This place came to prominence towards the close of the tenth century A.D. when the capital of the later Western Chalukyas was shifted here from Malkhed. It extended over a large area and attained great celebrity as the metropolis of an empire, as a centre of wealth and prosperity, as a seat of learning and as an abode of spiritual wisdom hallowed by illustrious saints like Basaveshvara, Allama Prabhu, Akka Mahadevi, Channabasavanna and Siddharama. Vijnaneshvara, the renowned law-giver and the author of a highly valued treatise on law known as Mitakshara, was at the court of Chalukya Vikramaditya VI. He goes into raptures while describing the splendors of the capital city of Kalyana and exclaims that no other city like Kalyana existed in the past or present and would never exist in future. The great Sanskrit poet Bilhana who wrote "Vikramankadeva Charita" also adorned the court of Vikramaditya VI and he too has sung the glory of this city in glowing terms.

The later Western Chalukyas ruled an extensive empire till the end of the twelfth century with a break of a few years when the Kalachuris had seized

power. It was at this place that there was the upsurge of the revolutionary *Sharana* (Veerashaiva) movement led by Basaveshvara, Allama Prabhu and their associates, which attracted like-minded persons from various parts of India. The illustrious *sharanas*, who came from all strata of the society composed inimitable *vachanas* here and founded the "Anubhava Mantapa" where they carried on deliberations. This protestant movement, which aimed at radical religious and social reforms, gained formidable popular strength. When the traditionalists and the imperial power headed by Kalachuri Bijjala clashed with it and made violent attempts to suppress it, there was an upheaval which shook up the imperial authority and brought about a different chain of social and political events.

After a period of Sevuna and Kakatiya rule, the city of Kalyana passed into the possession of the Tughluqs, Bahamanis, Barid Shahs and Adil Shah and then in 1656, it was captured by Aurangzeb. Later, it became a part of the Nizam's dominion and was given as a jagir to a Muslim nobleman. Most of the many splendid monuments of Kalyana of the Chalukyan times do not now exist. From a few epigraphs that have been hitherto found at Kalyana, it is gathered that the city had temples of Bhimeshvara, Madhukeshvara, Hatakeshvara, Mahakaleshvara, Pampeshvara etc. Some stone images of Chalukyan times such as those of Nataraja, Bhairava, Varaha, Mahishasuramardini, Surya, Ananthashayana, Keshava, Shiva-Parvati, Tirthankaras, Ravana, etc., and other sculptural remains that survived here and there have been now kept inside the fort. Several remains believed to be associated with the memories of eminent *sharanas* of the twelfth century, such as caves and shrines were in recent years, renovated by the efforts of Shri Channamallappa Warad and others.

Fort: In the north of the town, there is an old strong, spacious and interesting fort situated on rocky ground. It appears to have been originally constructed by the Chalukyas of Kalyana, and it was renovated and altered later. It has ancient gates. Inside there are some small canons, besides a big one measuring about 694 cm in length which is popularly called as Nav-gaz. There are also several other canons of which one is 435 cm and another is 277 cm in length. There is a shrine having no image, but it is said to have been dedicated to Lakshmi. This temple was closed during the Muslim rule covering it with stones. Later, it was discovered. The inner

shrine and its roof are in good condition and it is adjacent to what is pointed out as a palace of Bijjala. At the top of the frame of the shrine, there is an icon of Ganapati. There is a wheel which is called “*Charaka mota*” with the help of which buffaloes were used to draw water from a well. There is a wooden railing or wooden platform, which, it is said, was a court of justice of the Bahamani Period. On the walls of the fort, some Hindu and Jaina icons can be seen. There is a single approach to the fort, which is from the south, “..... defences of the fort are so cleverly arranged that the fort was almost impregnable against the war apparatus of those days. If one takes a walk along the glacis, the several tiers of fortifications, one above the other, present one an impressive sight” (“The Deccan Forts” by J.N.Kamalapur, Bombay, 1961,). Most of the bastions found here are circular in shape and a few are square or octagonal. Some of the bastions are still mounted with pieces of ordnance few of which are of extra-ordinary size.

Basaveshvara Temple is situated in a central place of the town. Many devotees from far and near visit this well-known place of worship. Every Monday devotees gather here for special worship. An annual fair is held under the auspices of Shri Basaveshvara Devasthanam Samiti of Basavakalyan in the month of *Vaishakha*.

Parusha-Katte is located to the north of the Basaveshvara temple. It is a stone platform. Parusha means philosopher’s stone. It may be incidentally started here that the Singiraja Purana mentions six extra-ordinary *parushas* (powers) of Basaveshvara. According to a tradition, this spot was hallowed by its use by Basaveshvara who used to sit here and give alms to the needy persons and also sometimes initiated his disciples and composed *vachanas*. Near this *Parusha-Katte* can be seen reliefs of a Chalukyan temple. Now a school is being run here by Shri Basaveshvara Devasthanam Samiti, Basavakalyan. An icon of Durga was discovered while digging the earth near this place. Close by there is a mosque.

Prabhudevara Gaddige – Allama Prabhu Deva, the illustrious seer the associate of Basavanna, known by for his profound spiritual attainments, is believed to have resided here. He presided over the deliberations of the renowned *Anubhava-Mantapa*.

Tripurantaka Lake – This is a well-known ancient lake situated about

five kms from Basavakalyan town proper. It is associated with the hallowed memories of the Sharanas of the twelfth century. On the bank of this tank, there is a temple of Ishvara called Tripurantakeshvara and Nandi. A Kannada epigraph which was found here, records that one Basava, a royal washerman of king Tailapa III, made a grant to *Madivala Makeya*. This inscription is now kept in the fort. There are many laterite caves nearby the lake in which, it is stated, *sharana* saints used to meditate. A village called ‘Tiprant’ (derived from the word *Tripurantaka*) is closeby. It has a small shrine of Hanuman.

Akka Nagamma’s Cave: has some elegant stone pillars. Akka Nagamma was the sister of Basaveshvara. Inside this cave, there is another cave which is said to be that of Channabasavanna who was her son. The local also say that this cave contains the samadhis of Chalukya Ayyana and his *guru*.

Basaveshvara Mahamane ground, Arivina Gavi and Arivina Mane: are pointed out behind Akka Nagamma’s cave. Mahamane means great Abode which was respectfully called so by the people. It is believed that Basaveshvara resided here. The words Arivina Gavi signify cave of knowledge where he is stated to have spent some of his time meditating in seclusion. Arivina Mane means House of Knowledge. It is in the form of an old mantapa by the side of the *Arivina Gavi*. It is narrated that numerous sharanas used to visit the Mahamane for spiritual deliberations and to seek spiritual guidance and blessings from Basaveshvara and that a large number of people were daily fed here freely. There is a temple of Ishvara and Nandi and a student’s hostel nearby.

Nuliya Chandayya’s cave: is a spacious one. He was famous for his intense devotion to kayaka and composed many *vachanas*. **Ghanalinga Rudramuni’s cave** is in the midst of a bilva-vana. Rudramuni was a Vachanakara Sharana contemporary of Basaveshvara. The Panchasootra Cave is closeby. *Vijnaneshvara Cave* is also near Rudramuni’s cave. It is said that Vijnaneshvara, the great ancient authority on Hindu Law, used this spot for his sadhana. There are several other caves of sharanas.

Madivala Machayya’s Honda (pond), is situated near south of Prabhudevara Gaddige. This pond is believed to have been used by Madivala Machayya, a valiant disciple of Basavanna, for washing the clothes of

his sharana associates. He was a washerman by occupation. A shrine is dedicated to him here. There are two Shivalingas in its 'garbha-griha'.

Bandavara Oni: in Sastapur is said to have been the street where there were rest houses for visiting sharanas. Nearby there is a pond called Channabasava-Teertha which is considered holy and is used for Shivapooja.

Kambli Matha is named after Kambli Nagadeva, a noted Sharana. It is said that he used to sit on a blanket spread on the ground and do meditation here.

Siddeshvara temple: is located about two kms from Basavakalyan town on the way to Shivapur. As saint siddharama is said to have taken his *Lingadeekshe* here, it has also been called Siddharama or Siddarameshvara temple. A shrine of Revanasidda is also situated closeby.

Basava Vana is near Prabhudevara Gaddige. On the occasion of Basaveshvara Eighth Centenary celebrations in 1967, 770 plants of different categories were planted here in memory of 770 *Amara Ganagalu* who lived at the time of Basaveshvara. It is maintained by the Horticulture Department. There is an idol of Nandi here.

A new spacious *Anubhava Mantapa* is being constructed behind *Rudramuni's cave* by the Basava Samiti, Bangalore, its foundation-stone was laid by the late Maharaja of Mysore. The building is in the shape of a huge Shivalinga. The shikhara (tower) of this structure can be seen from a long distance. It is proposed to have a central library and a museum, and cottages for Sadhakas and visitors, here. It is said that the renowned ancient *Anubhava Mantapa* of the twelfth century was situated about his place.

Mahanta Matha (also called Gosai Matha), is situated near the fort. The fore fathers of the Gosais are stated to have migrated from the north and established this *matha* at Basavakalyan, Bhalkeshwara *Matha* at Bhalki and third one at Chitaguppa. They are traders by profession. Their tombs built in north Indian style of architecture are found near Basavakalyan, Bhalki, Chitguppa and Humnabad.

Sadananda Saraswati Matha with Peetha is the chief seat of Ananda Sampradaya founded by a seer and mystic named Sadananda.

It is of Dattatreya Parampara and has much following in Karnataka and neighbouring states. A tradition says that Sadananda as a boy was in intense devotee of god Vishwanatha of Varanasi and when he came to Kalyana in the course of his pilgrimage, he heard the echo of the namasmarana of Datta and felt a spiritual urge to settle down here as a monk which he did. One Ramanand of Varanasi also came to Kalyana and became his disciple. Swamy Sadananda is credited with having performed some miracles by his *yogashakti*. A Veerashaiva householder built this monastery for the saint. Swami Sadananda Saraswati took "Jeevanta Samadhi" (got entombed as a living person) on a *Vaishakha Shuddha Panchami*. A monk of a particular order heads this institution by succession. The monastery has a temple which has many images.

There are some relics of a Chalukyan temple on the main road in the bazaar where the large Jame Masjid now stands. In the potters colony ruins of a Jaina temple are found scattered. There is a big mosque in the same place. There is a big shrine called Urilingapeddi *matha* on a small hill near the town, which contains a *samadhi* said to be that of sharana Urilingapeddi. Largely Harijans visit it.

Quazi's Mosque or Peer's Dargah-On: the way to the fort through the main road, there is a graveyard of the family of the former Nawab of Kalyan. It includes a big mosque and a tomb of a Fakir named Peer Pasha. This place is also called "Peer Pasha Bunglow". The tomb has a big hall of pillars of the Chalukyan style, in which there are other small tombs also. There is a pond behind this monument on the bank of which are lying some sculptures of Chalukyan temples. It is believed by the local people that Madhukeshwara and Bhimeshwara temples of the Chalukyan period were situated here.

Sher Sawar or Bagh Sawar Dargah: is situated very near to the present inspection bungalow. Syed Tajuddin was born in Khorasan, a city of Iran and came to Kalyan in 1387 A.D. when the Bahamani king Muhammad Shah II was ruling from Gulbarga. Legends say that he rode on lions and used snakes to tame the lions. He became famous as Sher Sawar or Bagh Sawar. His tomb was built by a Bahamani Sultan. An annual *urus* is held in the month of Shawwal (three-weeks after the Ramzan), when thousands of Hindus and Muslims gather here to pay homage to his memory. The town

is also a commercial and educational centre. There is Khuba Basaveshvara College of Arts and Science, a general hospital, an inspection bungalow, a tourist home and a dharmashala.

108 ft statue of Basaveshwara: A 108 ft Statue of social reformer Basaveshwara built at Basakalyan in Bidar District at a cost of over Rs.9 Crore by *Maate Mahadevi* of the *Basava Dharma Peetha*. Basaveshwara, who came to Basavakalyan, made it his *karma Bhoomi* and launched the Kayaka movement against social evils such as caste system.

Basavakalyan is a historical place that embodies several monuments that reflect the cultural progress of this region under various dynasties. Some ancient structures that represent our rich heritage are the pride of Basavakalyan. Apart from these, Basavakalyan was a centre of learning and spiritual knowledge. This place also has a great potential as a tourist attraction. This fact has been realised by the Government as well as other social and religious organizations. A 108 ft tall statue of lord Basaveshwara has been set up here by the efforts of Maate Mahadevi. Basavakalyana Development Board (BKDB) has established a *Sharana Sahitya* library and *Sabha Mantapa* in addition to undertaking a good deal of renovation work in the town. Basavakalyan is also a big business centre.

Belkhera (Taluk Humnabad): *Belkhera* is a large village located in Humnabad Taluka of Bidar district with total 537 families residing. The *Belkhera* village has population of 2,932 of which 1,473 are males while 1,459 are females as per Population Census 2011. In *Belkhera* village population of children with age 0-6 is 431. *Belkhera*, about 16 km south-east of Humnabad town, is famous as the birth-place of several *sharanas*. Veerasangayya is said to have been a native of this place. Rudramuni shivacharya, who was the Rajaguru of some Chalukya and Rashtrakuta kings, hailed from *Belkhera*. There is a hill called by the local people as Renukara-gudda (Renuka's hill). The village has a Veerashaiva *Matha* in which the Gaddiges of many *sharanas* can be seen.

Bhalki: Bhalki is a Town Municipal Council city in district of Bidar, Karnataka. The Bhalki city is divided into 23 wards for which elections are held every 5 years. The Bhalki Town Municipal Council has population of 40,333 of which 20,741 are males while 19,592 are females as per report

released by Census India 2011. Population of Children with age of 0-6 is 5,091. Bhalki is an important town situated about 40 km, north-west of Bidar town. It is one of the five taluks of Bidar District and the headquarters of a taluk of the same name. The place has been called Bhallunke, Bhaliki and Bhalikki in inscriptions. Kumbara Gundayya, a potter by occupation and a well-known saint, hailed from this place. A chieftain named Ramachandra Jadhav built a fort here. It was the headquarters of a *Paigah* taluk held by a family of nobleman known as Khursheed Jah under the Nizam. The town has an Ishvara temple known as Bhalkeshvara in which there are small shrines dedicated to Basaveshwara, Balamuri Ganapati (a rare figure with its trunk turned to the right side and in the standing posture) and Kumbheshvara. The temple holds an annual fair about March-April. There are old Veerashaiva monasteries known as Channabasava Hirematha, Bhalkeshvara *Matha* and Mahanteshwara *Matha*. There is an inspection bungalow, a civil dispensary, two high schools and Channabasaveshvara College of Arts and Science.

Bhatambra (Taluk Bhalki): Bhatambra is a large village located in Bhalki Taluka of Bidar district with total 1,564 families residing. The Bhatambra village has population of 8,070 of which 4,160 are males while 3,910 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Bhatambra village population of children with age 0-6 is 922. Bhatambra is about km north-west of Bhalki town. It has an old, large and strong fort. The place has a temple of Veerabhadra which holds an annual *jatras* for two days during April-May and a Gurubasaveshvara *Matha*. The village has a high school. The Hyderabad-Karnataka Sahitya Sammelana was held here in 1955.

Bhimalkheda (Taluk Humnabad): Bemalkheda is a large village located in Humnabad Taluka of Bidar district with total 1,569 families residing. The Bemalkheda village has population of 7,834 of which 3,966 are males while 3,868 are females as per Census 2011. In Bemalkheda village population of children with age 0-6 is 1037. Bemalkheda is a village about 41 km south-east of Humnabad town. It has an ancient cave in which some *Sharanas* are said to have meditated and two temples, one dedicated to Veerabhadra and the other to Hanuman. A *jatras* is held for Hanuman about the month of April. There is a high school and a veterinary dispensary.

Bidar: Bidar is situated about 740 km north of Bengaluru, 116 km north-east of Kalaburagi and 130 km, north-west of Hyderabad. It is the taluk headquarters, sub-division headquarters and district headquarters town of the same name. It is on a highly elevated and healthy Deccan plateau and it enjoys a fine climate. A traditional tale says that the history of the place goes back to the days of Mahabharata. The place is also associated with the legendary story of Nala-Damayanti.

In 1321-22 A.D, the town of Bidar was taken by Muhammad bin-Tughluq who was then a prince. Later in 1341 A.D when he was the Sultan at Delhi, he gave it to one Shahab-ud-din who rebelled against him in 1345 A.D. In 1347 A.D., Allaud-din Hassan Bahamani made it a part of his kingdom. Sultan Ahmad Shah Wali Bahamani (1422-36 A.D.) transferred his capital from Gulbarga to Bidar for various reasons such as its fine climate, central position and natural defences and renamed it as Muhammadabad.

Athanasius Nikitin, a Russian traveller, who was in the Deccan with the assumed name of Khwaja Yusuf Khurasani from 1469 to 1474 A.D., spent many months at Bidar as a Persian Shi'ah. He has described Bidar as "the chief town of the whole of Mohamedan Hindusthan". The town was about 24 km long. There was brisk trade in horses, cloth, silk and pepper. The court of justice was situated within the fort of Bidar. The nobles lived a luxurious life.

After the decline of the Bahamanis came the Barid Shahi Sultans. Ali Barid, who became the ruler in 1543 A.D., played an active role in the confederacy of the Deccan Sultans which inflicted a crushing defeat on Vijayanagara in 1565 A.D. The Adil Shah of Bijapur sent an expedition against Bidar and took it over in 1619 A.D. Malik Amber, having entered into an agreement of neutrality with Qutb Shah of Golconda, attacked Bidar and pillaged it. In 1631 A.D. a Mughal army led by Asaf Khan occupied Bhalki and laid siege to Bijapur. But it was repulsed. In 1636 A.D., Adil Shah, having acknowledged the overlordship of Mughals, has control over the border tracts of Kalyana, Bidar, Chitguppa and Bhalki. In 1656 A.D. Aurangzeb captured Bidar and Kalyana and renamed Bidar as Zafarbad, and Shahjahani coins were issued with the mint name of Zafarabad on them. It continued to be under the control of the Mughals of Delhi; in 1724

A.D., Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah of Hyderabad established his authority over the area, as their Subedar of the Deccan.

The Bidar Fort: It is considered one of the most formidable forts of the country and is an interesting bulwark. It is said that Sultan Ahmad Shaha Bahamani constructed a large and strong fort at Bidar between 1426 and 1432 A.D. on the site of an ancient fort which is even now known as the *Purana Qila*. It is situated in the eastern part of the town and has within it ruins of palaces, mosques and other buildings which had been built of trap rock. Stone and mortar were used to built the fort-walls. Yazdani says, "...engineers and architects of various countries were employed on its design and construction." (Bidar, Its History and Monuments). He carried out a detailed survey of the monuments at Bidar for the Nizam's Government. The fort is entered from the south-east by a zigzag passage protected by three gateways. The entrance gate has a lofty dome, the interior of which had been painted in bright colours. Traces of these paintings can be seen on the pilaster. The external circumference of the fort is about 4.0 km.

There are about 37 bastions. There are some large guns on the big bastions which contain the names of their manufacturers. One of them is 4.72 metres long, 63.5 cm across the muzzle and 48.26 cm in bore. There is a very huge gun-bastion in the fort. On the eastern side of the bastion is a shrine named after Veera-sangayya, the *shikhara* of which has a modern appearance. It contains the *Samadhi* of Veerasangayya, a local hero who was a Veerashaiva devotee. There was a large number of magazines in the fort for storing arms, and explosive materials, the remains of which may still be seen behind the ramparts near all the important bastions.

Burjs: There are about seven gates besides the main entrance from the city side. They are (1) the Mandu Darwaza, (2) the Kalmadgi Darwaza, (3) and (4) anonymous, (5) the Delhi Darwaza, (6) the Kalyan Darwaza and (7) the Karnataka Darwaza. A good view of the Kalyan Burj, which stands in the west, can be had from the court of the Delhi Darwaza. Towards the south of the Kalyan Burj, is the Petla Burj. It was called so on account of its curtains. The Lal Burj or the red bastion was built out of red masonry. About three-fourths of a furlong from the Lal Burj is Kala Burj. It was called so as it was built of dark trap masonry. The object of these *burjs* was to strengthen the defence line at this point of the protection of the Takht

Mahal against cannons. Muttamma Burj is to the west of the town and is octagonal in shape. Its roof has been destroyed.

There was arrangement in the fort to pour out boiling oil on the invaders outside. There were separate parts reserved for storing gun-powder. There are many tunnels inside the fort. There was a deep well which was the source of supply of drinking water. The fort is surrounded by a big trench. A *Karez* was laid out for water supply to Bidar town and a line of manholes commencing from Fateh Darwaza to the moat of the fort can still be seen. This fort was constructed in much the same way as the fort of Gulbarga. A French traveller named Thievenot, who had come in Bidar in 1667 A.D., has also described the fort.

Takht Mahal: (Throne palace) had two side pavilions with lofty arches. It had a spacious hall, at the back of which was the Sultan's room. The building had stately dimensions and exquisite surface decorations. The coronations of several Bahamani and Barid Shahi Sultans were held here.

Tarkash Mahal: is said to have built for a Turkish wife of the Sultan. From the remains of the decorative work found in the ornamentation of the walls, it can be said that the Mahal was built or extended by the Barid Shahi Sultans who had kept large harems of ladies of different nationalities.

Rangeen Mahal: literally means the coloured palace. Its walls were originally decorated with tiles of different colours. The walls of this Mahal are very thick and are of black stone. It is noted for its artistic quality.

Shahi Matbakh (royal kitchen) adjoins the Rangeen Mahal towards the west. Originally it appears to have been the residence of a prince or some dignitary. The *Shahi Hamam* (royal bath) is situated very near the royal kitchen. Quite close to the royal bath there was a *Lal Bagh* (red garden) so named on account of its beautiful layout or due to the red flowers grown there.

Gagan Mahal ("heavenly" palace) was originally built by the Bahamani kings and some alterations and additions were made by the Barid Shahi rulers. It has two courts. The outer court was used by the male staff and guards. In the inner court also, there are rooms in either side of the covered passage for the accommodation of the guards. The main building of the palace was for the use of the Sultan and his harem.

Diwan-i-Am (Public Audience Hall) – was also called Jali Mahal. It is situated to the west of the *Zanana* enclosure. The building has two entrances, one through the east and the other through the west. At the backside of the main hall there are three rooms. The central room was probably the Sultan's chamber where he sat before coming into the audience hall. The spacious halls adorned with tile work were perhaps meant for ministers and other top officers of the court.

Solah Khamb Mosque which is said to have been built in 1423-24 A.D. by Qubli Sultani is on the western side of the Lal Bagh and is known so as it has 16 pillars in the middle part of the prayer hall. It is also called *Zanana Masjid* as it is situated near the *Zanana* enclosure. It was an important mosque as the Friday prayers and state functions of a religious character were held here. It is about 90 meters long and 24 meters wide. There is a well beyond the southern wall of the mosque.

Old Naubat Khana appears to be residence of a commander of the fort. It has a spacious hall with a room to the west and platform in the front. In the north, there was a reservoir to which water was supplied from the well. The hall has beautiful windows in its back which a good view can be had of the city wall and the buildings of the town on that side. The platform, which is in front of the building, is very extensive and was a place of pleasantness.

In view of the considerable strategic importance of the town, there must have been old enclosure walls which were, however, demolished. The present ramparts and bastions of the town appear to have been added during the 15th century A.D. The town is entered by five gateways.

Shah Ganj Darwaza - The older name of this gate was Makki Darwaza (Mecca Gate). During the time of Nasir-ud-Daula Bahadur, a grain market by name Shah Ganj was constructed, and the gate was renamed as Shah Ganj Darwaza. The gateway consists of two arches out of which one is fitted with a pair of massive wooden doors studded with iron knobs and bands. The Munda Burj is very near to this gate.

Fathe Darwaza is situated at a distance of about one km. from the Munda Burj. This important entrance to the town was constructed with great care. The name, which means victory gate was given by Aurangzeb when his army marched through the town triumphantly in 1656 A.D. Its former name was Nauras Darwaza.

Mangalpet Darwaza has been built at about a km from the Fathe Darwaza. It was rebuilt in 1850 A.D. Its doors are strengthened by iron bars and are studded with iron pikes.

Dulhan Darwaza is to the north of the Mangalpet Darwaza, (Dulhan literally means a bride. Dulhan darwaza, therefore, signifies either the bride of the gateways or the gateway associated with some unknown bride). It appears to have been rebuilt in recent times, but its wooden doors are missing.

Talghat Darwaza is situated at a distance of roughly one km from the Dulhan Darwaza. It is the most picturesque of all the gateways of the town. It has two lofty arches, one on each side of its inner and outer faces.

Chaubara means a building facing in four directions. This is an old cylindrical tower, constructed probably as an observation post. It rises to about 22 meters above the ground-level commanding a fine view of the entire plateau from the top. The base of the tower is circular in shape, measuring 55 meters and is about 5.2 meters high with arched niches built along its lower parts. There are several steps from the east leading to the terrace of the basement. The girth of the tower at the terrace level is 34.77 meters. Sufficient space at the foot has been left all round for visitors to walk round. A winding staircase of eighty steps leads from the northern side to the top of the tower. The base of the upper parapet of the tower measures 26.23 meters in circumference. Light and air can pass through the four rectangular openings.

Madrassa of Mahmud is an imposing building of the Bahamani period. It is a unique monument both in plan and in the general style of architecture. In the reign of Muhammad III (1463-1482), Khwaja Mahammad Gilani (Mahmud Gawan) built this *Madrassa* (college) at Bidar in 1472 A.D. It has a high basement and occupies an area of 62.53 meters by 54.9 meters and is entered by a large gateway on the east. In its front, it has two lofty towers of about 30.50 meters high. It is a three-storeyed building housing a mosque, a laboratory, lecture halls, professors' quarters, students cubicles looking on to an open courtyard. The front of the building is adorned with tiles of various hues and shades. There are also two stately minarets on each side, the height of each one being 43.53 meters. These are decorated with tiles

arranged in a zigzag pattern which used to lend a unique charm to the building. There is a big pillar which is 39.96 meters long in the premises of the madrasa. Extracts from the holy Quran have been engraved on some parts of the walls, the remains of which can be seen. The students of this institution were taught Arabic and Persian languages, theology, philosophy, mathematics etc. They were given free boarding and lodging facilities besides free education. The teaching staff also lived with the students.

Though the building suffered much damage due to lightning, in 1696 A.D. negligence and climatic conditions, it still retains much of the original architectural features. It was later used as a barrack for cavalry. The rooms near the left minar were utilised as a powder magazine. The powder by some accident exploded and blew up greater part of the edifice, destroying the tower and entrance and causing dreadful havoc around.

Jami Masjid comprises a court hall measuring 44.23 meters from north to south and 43.31 meters from east to west. The prayer hall which is divided into seven arches has an imposing facade towards the court. The central one is slightly larger in dimensions. The arch-heads, supporting the ceilings, rest on low but massive columns. The *mihrab* from where the Imam conducted the service has a pentagonal plan at the base projecting from the hall. The height of the dome including its final is about 10 meters from the level of the roof and 20 meters from the floor of the prayer hall. The chain and pendant device of the Barid Shahi architecture can also be seen.

Kali Masjid is situated at roughly one km to the south-west of Bidar railway station. As its trap masonry is of dark colour, it has been called the *Kali* (black) Masjid. The dome of the mosque rests on the high square base having an open arch on all sides. It has a main hall with two minarets. The arches of the facade of the mosque have large spans. The towers are octagonal in shape with neat bands. The vaults of the ceiling in the interior are elaborately decorated with plaster-work and one of them adjoining the *mihrab* is divided into many squares. Diffusion on Hindu and Muslim workmanship can be seen in the building. According to a Persian inscription dated 1694 A.D. the mosque was built by an architect named Abdur Rahman Rahim during the reign of Aurangzeb. There is a small dome called the Mint to the south of the Madrasa. This little building might have

been used for minting of coins in a larger structure which was probably adjacent to it. However, there is now no trace of the latter.

Takht-i-Kirmani is very near to the *madrassa* towards the fort, It is called so as it contains a couch which was associated with the saint Khalil-ullah Kirmani. The gateway has a large arch. The main arch has four smaller arches, built in its sides. The smaller arches have been arranged in two rows, one above the other. It is noteworthy that a series of form of *Rudraksha* beads have been engraved along the border of the arch-head. There is a hall measuring 9.46 meters by 10.98 meters and it is divided into three apartments by arches. In the center of this hall, the couch is placed on one wooden platform, which is well-carved and gilded in the Persian style. The local people highly rever this couch, and many people visit it during the month of *Muharram*.

Manhiyar Talim: In the old days, there were four physical training schools (*Talim Khanas*) at Bidar, out of which one was housed in this building which is now in a dilapidated condition. Here, the pupils were taught wrestling, club exercises and fencing and such others as are displayed during the mock fights of Muharram festival in India. The *Ashur-Khana* here consists of a hall with three arched openings in the front and a small room at the back. These *Talim Khanas* were also called *Tahdid Khanas* (punishment houses), as the culprits received punishments under the surveillance of the staff of these institutions.

Khanqahs (monasteries)- The *Khanqah* of Hazrat Nursammani has a large hall, which was used for accommodating the disciples and a mosque for their praying. The hall has a cell at its back in which perhaps the Shaikh used to meditate. The *Khanqah* of Hazrat Shah Abu'l-Faid has a large enclosure and is approached through an arched gateway. The posts and the arch-head of this gateway are made of polished black stones. The *Khanqah* of Shah Wali-Ullah-al-Husaini has a spacious hall with three arched openings. Masonry pillars support the arch-heads. There is a small dome in the east, which is approached through a large arch. The monastery of Shah Ali Husain Qutb II is near that of Shah Wali-Ullah-al-Husaini. It is built of trap masonry and has an arched gateway.

The great monastery of Mahbub Subhani has several buildings, among

which a mosque is of special interest. The parapet of this mosque has overlapping arches and the prayer hall has three arched openings. There is another monastery of this saint, which is called *Chhoti Khanqah* as it is the smaller one. It has a gateway, a mosque and a hall with a court in front of it. It *Khanqah* of *Makhdum Qadiri* is close to the *Chhoti Khanqah* of Mahbub Subhani. This has several buildings within an enclosure. The main block has a double hall with five arched openings. The tomb of Makhdum Qadiri is situated on the Bidar-Chidri Road. Very near to the *Khanqah* of Makhdum Qadiri stands the *Khanqah* of Hazrat Minnat-Ullah Bi. An epigraph here states that the original monastery was built by Yad-Ullah Shah and it was later renovated by Min-Allah Shah in 1696 A.D.

The Baridi tombs lie about two kms west of Bidar town. There were formerly gardens around them. The first tomb is of qasim Barid. It resembles the sepulchers of Wal-Ullah Bahamani and Kalim-Ullah Bahamani. It is built on a platform with a flight of well-polished steps. Its dome has a tapering shape and is divided into eight facets. Amir Barid, it appears, began construction of his tomb during his own life time. But he died suddenly at Daulatabad and his tomb remained incomplete. This is an imposing edifice constructed on a platform, with lofty portals in the south. There is a spacious hall without roof in this tomb. Ali Barid too built his own tomb which shows great improvement upon the Bahamani mausoleums. Its platform measures 47.28 meters on each side. The enclosure walls rise to a great height. There is a large dome with a circular base decorated with niches and moldings. A mosque consisting of an open court, a cistern, a prayer hall and an arcade, is attached to his tomb.

The sepulchre of Ibrahim Barid is of the same type as that of his father. Ali Barid, and likewise presents a stately appearance. In this building, there are three graves, the central one being that of Ibrahim Barid and the other being of his wives. There are here other tombs of the members of Ibrahim Barid's family. The tomb of Qasim Barid II faces the grave of Ibrahim Barid. It has been built on a 1.83 meters high platform with well-dressed steps. The circumference of its dome measures 25 meters. The walls on each side have a big arch. The tomb of the wife of this Sultan is also by the side of her husband's tomb here.

Khan Jahan, who was the son of Qasim Barid, might have constructed

his mausoleum during his own life time. It is built with well-chiselled masonry and has steps on all four sides. The dome rests on a circular drum. *Tomb of Abdullah Maghribi* is of a saint of that name who lived during the period of Barid Shahs. This tomb built on a platform has a large enclosure and is crowned by a dome.

Barber's Tomb-This is an elegant structure built in the shape of a pavilion. G.Yazdani says that it could not be ascertained from contemporary history whether the designation of the tomb was correct or not.

Jharani Narasimha Cave Temple: This is an old Hindu temple dedicated to Narasimha. It is excavated in a tunnel and now just above adjacent to it there is the Farah Bagh Mosque. A legend says that Vishnu after killing Hiranyakashipu, slew another giant named Jharasura; at the time of breathing his last, Jharasura beseeched Vishnu to reside in the cave in which he was living and to grant boons to devotees; granting this last wish of his, Narasimha came to this cave. There is a roughly carved image of Narasimha on a stone wall at the end of the cave. For seeing this image, the visitor has to wade through a canal, the length of which from the steps to the shrine is about 91 meters, the breadth being about 2 meters. The flow of water in the channel is continuous. The depth of the water in the channel is generally 1.37 meters. A good number of devotees visits this temple.

Nanak Jhira Sahib-The water spring here, which nestles amidst serene and enchanting surroundings is situated at about three km from the Bidar Town. It has become widely famous as Guru Nanak Jhira Sahib with its recently constructed sprawling and splendid Gurudwara complex. It is attracting numerous pilgrims and visitors from many parts. A *sarovar* (lake) and *Amrut-kund* have been built. Several suites and rooms have been provided for lodging the pilgrims. There is a *Guruka-Langar* where free food is served during certain hours, irrespective of castes and creeds. A hospital called the Guru Nanak Hospital is also being run.

Guru Nanak (1469-1539), the celebrated social and religious reformer from the Punjab, who was the first of the series of ten Sikh Gurus, undertook extensive tours to preach harmony and goodwill to all sections of the people in a crucial period of Indian history. In the course of his travels

accompanied by a Hindu follower and a Muslim follower, named Bala and Mardana respectively, it is stated, he visited Bidar and stayed below a rock. Many people of the City congregated there to have his *darshan* and to listen to his *Hari-Kirtan* and message. According to a legend, at their instance for fine water to drink, the saint, renowned for his spiritual attainments, touched the rock with one of his wooden sandals and removed a rubble, as the result of which there was a continuous gush of nice water. Two *fakirs*, it is stated, named Jalal-ud-din and Yakoob Ali, who were residing nearby, also met him and became his admirers. (vide."Gurdwara Sri Nanak Jhira Sahib", Bidar)

This spring is also said to have been associated with the name of saint Sayyid Muhammad Hanif "owing to an inscriptional tablet fixed into the wall above the mouth of the spring" according to G.Yazdani (vide his "Bidar-Its History and Monuments"). It appears that this Sayyid migrated from Gilan in Iran to the Deccan during the time of Ahmad Shah-al-Wali, became an influential person and was called Hazrat Sayyid-us-Sadat. His tomb, which is located near the tombs of later Baridi kings, is much venerated. Actually, there are two tombs here of similar size, in one of which he is interred, while in the other are buried his wife and daughter and a son of his.

The Basava Mantapa at Bidar is a center of cultural, literary and histrionic activities. This institution was founded in 1968 by the efforts of Swami Lingananda, Shri Channabasava Swami Pattadadevaru and others. It arranges lectures by learned persons and group-discussions on the various aspects of Karnataka's past and present and encourages youngsters to develop their talents by providing them facilities at the Mantapa to display their proclivities. The institution has its own spacious building in a central locality of the Bidar town. Later, several such *Mantapas* were started in the various other towns of the district.

Bidar is symbolically described as *City of Whispering Monuments*. The mountaintop city that served as the capital of medieval Deccan, has 98 monuments of which four national monuments are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India and 14 by the State Archaeology Department, Karnataka.

Bidar earned a place on the World Monument Watchlist 2014. Of the 741 proposals received from 166 countries, 67 sites from 41 countries

were finally selected which were announced by WMF president Bonnie Burnham in New York on October 8, 2013. Along with “the historic city of Bidar”, two other sites in India to figure in the list were the house of Sheikh Salim Chisti in Fatehpur Sikri and Juna Mahal in Rajasthan.

The WMF in its *current watch site* for “the historic city of Bidar” says “challenges to the site include a lack of integrated conservation and maintenance, environmental pollution, and the construction of new developments and roadways that encroach on the historic fabric. Current land use regulations also threaten the economic livelihood of many of the city’s residents, and it is hoped that revised, context-specific planning policies would both protect Bidar’s historic assets while also supporting the future of its local population. It is hoped that Watch-listing will spur documentation and analysis of the city’s conditions, followed by policy development and applied conservation interventions that will reveal and maintain Bidar’s rich heritage, as well as support a robust and sustainable tourist industry.

Bidar city is very far about education sector shaheen group of institutions is one of the big group of institutions in bidar city and one more group is coming far in bidar city about education field the Royal group of education providing quality education. Beside these another education institution that is famous and widely recognised in Bidar is Kendriya Vidyalaya Bidar which was founded in 1975 and still excelling in every field. Mahmud Gawan Madarsa (The ancient university); Future Kids School; Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University; Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS); SB Patil Dental College & Hospital; Shanthinikethan Instt. Of Physiotherapy; Guru Nank Dev College Of Engineering Bidar; Lingraj Appa Engineering college, Chitta Bidar; Karnatak Arts, Science and Commerce College, Bidar; Akkamahadevi Mahila Mahavidyalaya for women’s; Royal degree college bidar; Red rose public school; Everest degree college mailoor road bidar; B.V. Bhoomareddi College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Gumpa Road Bidar; Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul International School; The Millennium Public School Bidar; Shaheen public schools and colleges Bidar; Shaheen Degree college for women; Noor Educational Trust, Bidar; Air Force school, Bidar; Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bidar; seventh day Adventist high school Bidar; seventh day Adventist higher - primary school Bhalki.

Bidar is home for the second biggest Indian Air Force training centre in the country. The IAF Station, Bidar is used for advanced jet training of prospective fighter pilots on BAe Hawk aircraft.

Bidar city is known for its Bidri handicraft products, and its rich history. Bidar is also considered one of the holiest place for Sikh pilgrimage. Unlike other places in the region, Bidar is the coldest and wettest place in north Karnataka. For the year 2009-10, Bidar was ranked 22nd among the cleanest cities in India, and 5th cleanest in Karnataka. SH4 passes through Bidar and the whole city is integrated with 4 lane road.

Once a home to many cottage industries, such as cotton and oil-ginning mills, there are now few industries that draw on local raw materials or skills. Even the well-known form of local artcrafts, bidri ware is in a state of decline. Increasing prices of materials, especially silver, and declining sales have meant that many of the hereditary artisans are no longer employed in the production of such ware. Bidar city is famous for a large industrial area i.e. kolhar industrial area in which one of most successful US FDA approved company i.e. Sai Life Sciences and so many successful pharma companies like vivimed, corvine pharma, shreegen pharma, santho carrels pharma, shreevan chemicals and so on. one of most famous products of RSPL Group Uttar Pradesh i.e. Ghadi Detergents Powder and cake ‘s Unit factory is also located at bidar city.

Ancient Karez System in the city have been recently discovered. One of the most unusual features of Bidar is the historic water supply system, called karez , (also known as qanat), which is a water harnessing technology that originated in Persia.

The technology was brought to the Deccan by the Bahmani kings of the 15th Century CE, the *karez* system was built by Bahmani kings in 15th Century in Naubad village in Bidar, in Kalaburagi, Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts in Karnataka and also in Burhanpur district in Madhya Pradesh. Muslim dynasties, with ruling class descending from Persia or having influential connections with Persian kings may have invited expert engineers from Persia.

The **karez** consists basically of a network underground canals, punctuated by vertical shafts to the surface, The *karez* taps into the

ground water sources (or natural springs) and transports it through the underground tunnel to the settlement, ending in a surface canal and/or pools in the village for various uses like drinking, washing, ablution, watering livestock, and also further used for irrigating fields, orchards and gardens.

The rocky soil in Bidar makes access to drinking water very difficult and the *karez* was built in order to provide drinking water to civilian settlements and the garrison inside the Bidar. The system in Bidar has 21 vertical shafts and extends for about 2 km (1.2 mi). A few *karez* shafts have been closed by builders and developers, leaving only 17 visible at present. (Source: Wikipedia).

Byalhalli (Taluk Bhalki), is about 20 km south-east of Bhalki town. Byalhalli is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district, with total 610 families residing. The Byalhalli village has population of 3280 of which 1,672 are males while 1,608 are females as per Census 2011. In Byalhalli village population of children with age 0-6 is 431. A dam is being constructed across the river Karanja here.

Chalkapur (Taluk Bhalki), lies about 30 km south-east of Bhalki town. Chalkapur is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district, with total 844 families residing. The Chalkapur village has population of 4,149 of which 2,097 are males while 2,052 are females as per Census 2011. In Chalkapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 488. There is a temple of Chalkamma which has some impressive modern wall paintings of various saints and deities. The *Chalkamma-gudda* (hill), which is nearby, has small shrines of *Moola-Chalkamma* and *Ishwara*. A *jatra* is held for Chalkamma twice a year, in October and April. Another fair takes place for Hanuman in April.

Chandakapur (Taluk Basavakalyan), is a village about 20 km south-west of Basavakalyan town. Chandakapur is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 447 families residing. The Chandakapur village has population of 2,242 of which 1,128 are males while 1,114 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Chandakapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 237. According to a legend, Ramachandra, the hero of Ramayana, had camped at this place during his

exile. There are two ponds called *Amrit-Kund* and *Seeta-Nahani kund* and shrines of Ramalingeshvara, Somalingeshvara and Revanasiddeshvara. An annual *jatra* of five days long is held for Ramalingeshvara about the month of March. There is also a shrine of Chandikadevi after whose name the village is called.

Changler (Taluk Humnabad), is a village situated about 38 km south-east of Humnabad town. Changler is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district, with total 784 families residing. The Changler village has population of 4,839 of which 2,414 are males while 2,425 are females as per Census 2011. In Changler village population of children with age 0-6 is 703. It has an old shrine dedicated to Veerabhadreshvara for whom a *jatra* is held about November. At the main entrance to the temple, there is a pond called *Teertha-kund* with an *Ishvara* shrine. Nearby there are images of Basaveshvara, Etala and Betala.

Chidri, Bidar taluk : Medara ketayya is one of the Sharanas of 12th century. He used to prepare bamboo basket, winnowing mara and perform dasoha out of the earnings got by marketing bamboo items. Even after several cuttings, bamboo used to sprout profusely. So it was called *Chiguru* in kannada and later on the name of the village came to known as *Chidari/Chidri* village. Other sacred places near Chidri are Aliyabad Siddeshwara and Honnikeri Siddeshwara.

Chintaki (Taluk Aurad): Chintaki is a large village located in Aurad Taluk of Bidar district, with total 623 families residing. The Chintaki village has population of 3,557 of which 1,835 are males while 1,722 are females as per Census 2011. In Chintaki village population of children with age 0-6 is 543. Chintaki, about 16 km, south-east of Aurad is noted for the *Dargah* of Shaik Sahab in whose honour an annual *urus* is held for about two days. The village has a health-unit type dispensary.

Chintalgera (Taluk Bidar): Chintalgera is a medium size village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district, with total 288 families residing. The Chintalgera village has population of 1,435 of which 718 are males while 717 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Chintalgera village population of children with age 0-6 is 173. Chintalgera is at a distance of about 22 km south of Bidar town. Under the auspices of the local temple of

Veerabhadra, an annual jatra is held here. On the hill closeby is situated a shrine of Venkateshvara, under the auspices of which an annual fair is held about January.

Chitguppa (Taluk Humnabad): Chitguppa is an important town situated 12 km south-east of Humnabad town. Chitguppa is a Town Municipal Council city in district of Bidar. The Chitguppa city is divided into 23 wards for which elections are held every 5 years. The Chitguppa Town Municipal Council has population of 25,298 of which 12,906 are males while 12,392 are females as per report released by Census of India 2011. Population of Children with age of 0-6 is 3,371. It is noted for its handloom industry and was formerly the headquarters of the *Paigah* taluk held by Nawab Moinuddowla and was also, known as Moinabad. There is a *dargah* (tomb) of a saint Salar Makdoom, in honour of whom an annual *urus* takes place for two days. There is another *dargah* of Karimulla Shah for whom also an annual *urus* is held. Another important annual event here is a fair held to venerate Baloba about the month of August. There is an ancient cave said to be of *sharana* Madivalappa. The town has the *samadhi* of another saint named Mahaduappa Devarshi who died in 1967. He was celibate and was much venerated by people of surrounding areas. His life-size marble statue has been installed in his *matha* at Chitguppa by the Gowlis (dairymen). There is a high school, a Government junior college and a civil dispensary here. Recently Chitguppa was upgraded to a Taluk by a recent Government Order.

Chondi Mukhed, Aurad Taluk : Chondi Mukhed village of Aurad taluk is surrounded on all sides by the villages of Maharashtra state. It is linked to Karnataka state by the road belonging to Maharashtra. It is an Island village and has one Lingayat mutt and about 35 houses. There are no facilities to learn Kannada and only Marathi is taught in the school. Even though the village belongs to Aurad taluk, Udayagiri of Maharashtra is preferred for Trade and Commerce.

Dhari Hanuman Mandir : Dhari Hanuman temple is located to the north of Ladha village and the temple is said to be 500 years old. Sri Sri Sri Gurudev Datta Manikeshwar idol is established in this temple. This temple has idols of Shiva, Parvati and Shivalinga.

Jatra will be held 11 days before Bharatha Hunnime after conducting Saptaha. Jatra will be held for one week and about 10-15 thousand people from nearby areas will assemble during Jatra.

Mahadeva Mantapa serves the purpose of performing marriage functions. About 500 students are studying in the nearby Jnana Bharathi Gurukula Residential school. There is a big tank constructed near this mandir.

Dhoopatha Mahagao : Dhoopatha Mahagao is situated about five km from Ladha village of Aurad taluk and it has a temple dedicated to Sharane Goggavve towards southern part of this village. Temple is constructed by using black stone and has been worshipped by Biradar family as their tutelary deity. It is said that Guggala (dhoop) was supplied by Sharane Goggavve at pooja time to the villagers and so the village was called as Dhoopatha Mahagao.

Panduranga Mandir is situated in the centre of Dhoopatha Mahagao and this mandir is said to be built 1000 years ago. Jatra will be held during Kottige Hunnime and pot containing curd will be broken during jatra time as a customary practice. Singing of Bhajans and distribution of prasadam is also done during jatra period.

Dubulgundi (Taluk Humnabad): Dubalgundi is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,915 families residing. The Dubalgundi village has population of 10,133 of which 5,059 are males while 5,074 are females as per Census 2011. In Dubalgundi village population of children with age 0-6 is 1512. Dubulgundi was previously called as Karimabad, 14 km north east of Humnabad town, is well-known for its old Veerashaiva monastery called *Kumbarageri Matha*.

Fathepur (Taluk Bidar): Fathepur is a medium size village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 246 families residing. The Fathepur village has population of 1,340 of which 682 are males while 658 are females as per Census 2011. In Fathepur village population of children with age 0-6 is 160. Fathepur, about 12 km north-east of Bidar town has a lofty tomb of Fakhr-ul-Mulk Gilani who was one of the dignitaries of the Bahmani court. The monument is erected on high, spacious and long-stepped platform. The shape of the dome represents an intermediate stage between the

hemispherical dome of the early Sultans of Delhi and the stilted turnip shaped dome of the Mughuls. The walls here have decorations with two series of arches. Some faded traces of paintings are visible on the ceiling of the monument.

Gadwanthi (Taluk Humnabad): Gadawanti is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 786 families residing. The Gadawanti village has population of 4,194 of which 2,145 are males while 2,049 are females as per Census 2011. In Gadawanti village population of children with age 0-6 is 572. Gadwanthi, about two km north-west of Humnabad town was the birth-place of Basavantappa Swami, a reputed *sharana* of the 19th century. The place has a well-known Veerashaiva Matha associated with his name (*Basavantappa Swami Samsthana Matha*).

Ghatboral (Taluk Humnabad): Ghatboral is a large village located in Humnabad Taluka of Bidar district with total 1,675 families residing. The Ghatboral village has population of 9,067 of which 4,645 are males while 4,422 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Ghatboral village population of children with age 0-6 is 1,269. Ghatboral is a village about 16 km north-west of Humnabad town. It was also called Ghattada-Boriville in an inscription dated in the year 1082 A.D. This is famous for its Shankar Tala fair which takes place about August and attracts a good gathering. The village has sugarcane and jaggery production units. There is a high school, a primary health centre and a veterinary dispensary here.

Ghodwadi (Taluk Humnabad): Ghodwadi is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 675 families residing. The Ghodwadi village has population of 4,499 of which 2,338 are males while 2,161 are females as per Census 2011. In Ghodwadi village population of children with age 0-6 is 643. Ghodwadi also called Ghodwadi Shareef, about one km, north-west of Humnabad town, has *dargah* of a well-known Muslim saint name Ismail Khadri in whose honour an *urus* is held every year in the month of *Muharram*.

Gornalli (Taluk Bidar): Gornalli is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 368 families residing. The Gornalli village has population of 2,043 of which 1,080 are males while 963 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Gornalli village population of children

with age 0-6 is 228. Gornalli lies about three km, south of Bidar town. The tomb of Mahmud Gawan, the celebrated prime minister of the Bahamanis who was beheaded under tragic circumstances by orders of Muhammad Shah III, is about one km from here. The tomb which is located on a hillock amidst a cluster of neem trees has a platform, with a square design.

An inscriptional tablet mentions that Mahmud Gawan, who was innocent was murdered. There are also several small-size tombs here which are perhaps of his relatives and teachers of the *madrassa* which he had established at Bidar. About a km south-west of the tomb of Mahmud Gawan, there is a pretty mosque with a rectangular court. It has an epigraph of Amir Barid II. Close by there are two tombs constructed on a platform. They appear to be of some distinguished persons.

Gorta (B) (B=Buzruk) (Taluk Basavakalyan), Gorta is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district, Karnataka with total 605 families residing. The Gorta village has population of 3,144 of which 1,599 are males while 1,545 are females as per Census 2011. In Gorta village population of children with age 0-6 is 347 situated about 18 km north-east of Basavakalyan town, has been called Goreute in inscriptions. It was an *agrahara* village and a centre of learning. There was a Rudreshvara temple near the present Hanuman shrine said to have been constructed by Rudra Mishra, a preceptor of Chalukya Vikramaditya VI. There were also Nagareshvara and Malleshvara temples and Jain *basadis*. The place has an old Mahadeva temple constructed in rock stones. Each of the pillars of this temple is made of a single stone. The temple has a ruined *mantapa* called *Nartakiya Mantapa* which has a sculpture of Nandi. Under the auspices of this temple an annual yatra takes place for two days about March-April. There are also shrines of Gorakhnath and Mahalakshmi, the annual fairs of which attract a large gathering of devotees. The village has a high school.

Hanakuni : Hanakuni is situated seven km south of Humnabad. It is said that king Ramachandra has constructed a small fort to store his treasure. Hence it is called Hanada kuni as per the sayings of folklorists. Nearby Masat kurb was the habitat of Aadimaanava as per researchers.

Hallikhed (B) (Taluk Humnabad): Hallikhed is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 3,732 families residing.

The Hallikhed village has population of 20,163 of which 10,280 are males while 9,883 are females as per Census 2011. In Hallikhed village population of children with age 0-6 is 2,665. Hallikhed, a large important village, situated about 22 km north-east of Humnabad town was formerly the headquarters of *Paigah* of Ikbat-ud-Dowla. It has a co-operative sugar factory. The place is noted also for its temple of Naganathaswami and its annual *jatra* which is held about October. According to a local legend, the wife of the headman of the area vowed that if a child was born to her. Naganathaswami would be fed with milk by the child. But after the birth of the child, she forgot to do so and the child died by the bite of a snake. In front of the temple of Naganathaswami, a *samadhi* for the child was constructed which is venerated by people of the area. There is another temple of Sangameshvara which has at present no idol of the presiding deity. There is a shrine dedicated to Vishvambharanand Swamiji, which holds an annual fair about January. A Dam is being constructed near this village across the river Karanja. There is a high school and a primary health center here.

Hallikhed (K) (K=Khurd) (Taluk Humnabad): Hallikhed is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district, Karnataka with total 796 families residing. The Hallikhed village has population of 4,337 of which 2,219 are males while 2,118 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Hallikhed village population of children with age 0-6 is 610. Hallikhed, situated about 13 km south-west of Humnabad town is important for the bore well sunk here which yields 20,000 gph. and is an artesian conditions and overflowing. The overflow is about 3,000 gph.* the village has a panchayat. (*gph= gallons per hour. 1 gallon=4546 litres.)

Harkud (Taluk Basavakalyan): Harkud is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 485 families residing. The Harkud village has population of 2,535 of which 1,279 are males while 1,256 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Harkud village population of children with age 0-6 is 333. Harkud lies about 35 km south-west of Basavakalyan town. It has a well-known *matha* (monastery) of Channabasaveshvara in honour of whom a *jatra* takes place about the month of January when wrestling matches are also held. Wrestling bouts are also arranged on the occasion as an added attraction. The village has a high school.

Hilalpur (Taluk Humnabad): Hilalpur is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 375 families residing. The Hilalpur village has population of 2,015 of which 1,029 are males while 986 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Hilalpur village population of children with age 0-6 is 300. Hilalpur which is about 12 km north-east of Humnabad town, has the ruins of a Chalukya temple. There is an old mutilated stone inscription here which appears to mention about the existence of a Shiva temple here.

Hudgi (Taluk Humanbad): Hudgi is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,765 families residing. The Hudgi village has population of 9,528 of which 4,715 are males while 4,813 are females as per Census 2011. In Hudgi village population of children with age 0-6 is 1,249. Hudgi is an important progressive village about five km east of Humnabad town. It has a mechanized co-operative milk dairy. The village has a noted Veerashaiva *matha* which is giving encouragement to Sanskrit education. Two temples here of Karibasaveshvara and Venkamma hold a *jatra* about April-May of every year. There is a high school and an Ayurveda dispensary here.

Humnabad (Taluk Humnabad): previously called Jayasingapura, situated at a distance of 52km south-west of Bidar town, is the taluk headquarters town of the same name and a trade centre. It is said to have been built by a Chalukya king Jayasimha in 1040 A.D. It was formerly in the Paiga Taluk of Chincholi and has a ruined fort. There is a well-known old temple of Veerabhadreshvara here facing east. Veerabhadra has a sword in his right hand and hero's tabor or a valiant shield with silver covering in his left. Just below the right hand an idol with folded hands having the head of a goat can be seen which is called by the local people as Dakshabrahma. By the side of the *garbhagriha* are shrines dedicated to Bhadrakali and Nandikeshvara. The shikhara of the *garbhagriha* contains the figures of the 28 *leelas* of Shiva, ten incarnations of Vishnu and the stories of the *puranas*. There is a pond near the temple, which has been beautifully constructed. The *jatra* of Veerabhadreshvara is held for seven days about January-February. There are two huge pillars on either side of this temple one of which rotates and is known as the 'Swinging Pillar' as a gentle push appears to make it sway a little. The town has a high school, a

junior college, an Industrial Training-cum-servicing Centre, an inspection bungalow and a civil dispensary.

Jalsangi (Taluk Humnabad): Jalsangi is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 534 families residing. The Jalsangi village has population of 3,043 of which 1,502 are males while 1,541 are females as per Census 2011. In Jalsangi village population of children with age 0-6 is 416. Jalsangi is an ancient village about ten km north-east of Humnabad town. A local legend says that this place was the capital of the kingdom of Virata of the Mahabharata times, where the five Pandava brothers spent some time of their exile. On the bank of the tank at this place there is a notable temple of Ishvara which is in ruins. According to a lithic record, this monument was constructed during the reign of the Chalukyan monarch Vikramaditya VI. Its outer walls contain some fine sculptures one of which is remarkably well engraved figure of a lady who is depicted as inscribing a Sanskrit epigraph in Kannada characters, which is of about 1100 A.D. and refers to the wearing elegant ornaments. There are also images of Ganesha and a goddess which is pointed out as that of Parvati by the residents of the village. There are relics of several other buildings at this place.

Janawada (Taluk Bidar): Janawada is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,177 families residing. The Janawada village has population of 6,031 of which 3,062 are males while 2,969 are females as per Census 2011. In Janawada village population of children with age 0-6 is 751. Janawada is an important village about 12 km north-west of Bidar town. It is said that in eighteenth century, two Jagirdars of this village, namely, Bala Rai and Rustum Rai, who were imprisoned by the Marathas got freed by favour of Guru Govind Singh, the tenth *guru* of the Sikhs. These two persons along with Mai Bhogoji, a highly respected saintly Sikh lady, came here thereafter. According to her desire, after her death here, her ashes were taken to Nanded and placed there where Guru Govind Singh's shrine stands. The place is considered holy by the Sikhs who have built here a Gurudwara where the holy book called Guru Granth Sahib is read daily. The village has a high school and a primary health centre. Certain villages are being developed as Jayanthi villages.

Kallur (Taluk Humnabad): Kallur is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 676 families residing. The Kallur village has population of 3,554 of which 1,790 are males while 1,764 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Kallur village population of children with age 0-6 is 480. Kallur is about four km south-west of Humnabad town. According to a tradition, Basaveshvara had camped at this place and had bathed in the pond here, which thereafter became well-known as Basava-teertha. Nearby this Basava-teertha, there is Basava-Teertha Mandir and a Veershaiva *Matha*.

Kamalnagar: Kamalnagar taluk is carved out from Aurad taluk of Bidar district with effect from 1st January 2018. Kamalnagar is a small town occupying an area of 16 sq.km and is known for trade and education facilities in the border area of the state.

The original name of kamalnagar was 'Doddamuruga' and 'Chikkamuruga' village is located nearly Kamalnagar. This place is related to Chandeshwara village found in Hunter story in 'Shivalilamrutha'. It is known that kamala pasha gave this village as 'jagir' and as a result, the village was renamed as kamalnagar.

Dr. Channabasava Pattadevaru, who is fondly called as kannadada pattadevaru, along with Madhava Rao Patil and Venkata Rao kulkarni demanded to change the village name to 'Kamalnagar', or else retain the old name Doddamuruga. As the public also demanded to change the name to Kamalnagar, the town came to be called as Kamalnagar and Railway station was called as Kamalnagar station. This town is also the birthplace of Dr Channabasava Pattadevaru and is the last Railway station of Karnataka state. Travel facility is available from this Railway station to reach Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Aurangabad, Nanded, Mumbai, Latur, Pune, Kalaburagi, Shirdi and other places. Railway might have started since 1936 as the residents saying. Conversion of Nanded – Bidar state Highway into National Highway is in progress. The town has good transport facilities, schools and colleges, community health centre, Nada Kacheri, circle Inspector of police, state bank of India, Krishna Grameena bank, etc.,.

Kamalnagar town has Basaveshvara, Kalleshwara, Somalingeshwara, Ramalingeshwara, Panduranga Mandir, Hanuman Mandir, Santhoshi Maa, Shanidevaru and Bhagyavanti temples. It has also Masjid and Durga. Methodist church was established in 1949 in the town Chasnnabasava kere and Deoni river are nearby the town.

Kamthana (Taluk Bidar): Kamthana is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,920 families residing. The Kamthana village has population of 11,179 of which 5,704 are males while 5,475 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Kamthana village population of children with age 0-6. Kamthana village which lies about eleven km south-west of Bidar town, has a noted old Jaina *Basadi* dedicated to Parshvanatha, under the auspices of which an annual fair is held about February. White clay, which is available at this place, is made use of for manufacturing pots and other utensils.

Karaknalli (Taluk Humnabad): Karaknalli is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district, Karnataka with total 459 families residing. The Karaknalli village has population of 2,319 of which 1,196 are males while 1,123 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Karaknalli village population of children with age 0-6 is 357. Karaknalli village about 42 km south-east of Humnabad town, has the *samadhi* of Bakka Prabhu, a famed saint and a temple dedicated to him. A jatra is held for five days about March for paying homage to him.

Khanapur (Taluk Bhalki): Khanapur is a medium size village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 202 families residing. The Khanapur village has population of 1,023 of which 511 are males while 512 are females as per Census 2011. In Khanapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 161. Khanapur popularly called Mailara, is a small village about 26 km south-east of Bhalki town. It has an old and well-known temple dedicated to Mailaralingeshwara (Mailara Mallanna) called Mahabhairava Mailara in an inscription. A Chalukya king Jagadekamalla II had donated to this temple some lands on the eve of his coronation and also in the name of his father and is said to have also built the *Shikhara* of this temple. It is said that the eastern main gate of the temple was erected by Ahalyabai Holkar who also donated some lands to the temple. The temple is situated in the midst of fine natural surroundings, on the bank of a pond

at a short distance from a stream. A jatra is held here about December-January for four days, which is attended by people from various parts of Bidar and Kalaburgi districts and also from the neighbouring districts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Khatak-Chincholli (Taluk Bhalki): Khatak Chincholi is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,347 families residing. The Khatak Chincholi village has population of 6,955 of which 3,541 are males while 3,414 are females as per Census 2011. In Khatak Chincholi village population of children with age 0-6 is 853. Khatak Chincholli village at a distance of about 24 km south-west of Bhalki town, has a Veerashaiva *Matha* called Hulikunte Matha which is said to have been founded in the 13th century. The first chief of this matha is stated to have been Shantalingeshwara in whose honour a *jatra* is held about August. Branches of this matha are also at Basavateertha and Handikhera (both in Humnabad taluk) and Dhanura and Janti (both in Bhalki taluk). The village has a *gaddige* of Saint Siddaraj Manik Prabhu, which is visited by a large number of his followers. The village has a high school.

Kherda (B) (Taluk Basavakalyan): Kherda is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 600 families residing. The Kherda village has population of 3,204 of which 1,614 are males while 1,590 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Kherda village population of children with age 0-6 is 449. Kherda (B) lies about 14 km south-east of Basavakalyan town. A medium-sized irrigation project called the Upper Mullamari project is taken up here for providing irrigation facilities in parts of Bidar and Kalaburagi districts

Kinni (Taluk Basavakalyan): Kinni is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 617 families residing. The Kinni village has population of 3,441 of which 1,793 are males while 1,648 are females as per Census 2011. In Kinni village population of children with age 0-6 is 513. Kinni is a village at a distance of about 22 km south-east of Basavakalyan town, where a well-known annual fair is held in honour of Sharana Basaveshvara about February.

Kohinoor (Taluk Basavakalyan): previously called Kolur and Kollur, is about 35 km south-west of Basavakalyan town. It has a *dargah* (tomb

shrine) of Hazzat Zindasha Madar, which is held high reverence. An annual *urus* is held in honour of the saint for three days. There is a high school and a health-unit type dispensary here.

Ladha village, Aurad taluk : Mahadeva Mandir (somnath temple) located in Ladha village is one of the major historical place in Bidar district. It is built by using black stone along the Manjra river towards southern direction of the village. It is said to be 1000 years old. The temple has doors on all the four directions namely east, west, north and south. Shivalinga made of stone is inside sanctum sanctorum.

Before performing marriage function, people will generally visit this temple for worship God and start marriage activities. Since the temple is located in the river, it is considered very sacred. People will perform customary practices in this temple. Lagna Akshata programme for god Mahadeva will be conducted every year after ugadi, on Chaitra shudda dwadashi and devotees will be offered free food (Anna Prasada). Bhajans and keerthanas will be sung through out night by devotees.

Lakhangaon (Taluk Bhalki): Lakhangaon is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 967 families residing. The Lakhangaon village has population of 4,634 of which 2,369 are males while 2,265 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Lakhangaon village population of children with age 0-6 is 635. Lakhangaon, about 23 km north-east of Bhalki town, has Someshvar Samsthan Matha. A festival called Barasia conducted here about the month of April. There is a high school and medical sub-center here.

Macimada : Macimada which is situated 20km from Bhalki is the birthplace of teacher Vijnaneshwara of king Vikramaditya VI as discovered by R.M. Shadaksharaiah. Vijnaneshwara has written famous ancient law book namely ‘ Abhilashitaartha chintamani (mitakshara). This place name is derived from ‘ Mashyalalinga ’ as per the legend. This place has kareppa Muthyana gudi (temple).

Malkapur (Taluk Bidar): Malkapur is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 427 families residing. The Malkapur village has population of 2,366 of which 1,251 are males while 1,115 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Malkapur village population of children

with age 0-6 is 302. Malkapur, about eight km south-east of Bidar town, is noted for two tombs, one of which is assigned to Sayyid Shah Muhib-Ullah and the other is that of Shah Habib-Ullah. The first one resembles the mausoleums of the Bahamani kings. The face of the walls on all sides of the building have arches. This monument is in a dilapidated condition. The second tomb has three entrances from north, east and south and on the west there is a *mihrab*. The walls inside have some plaster decorations, and Quranic verses are carved on the arch heads and alcove of the *mihrab*.

Manik Nagar (Taluk Humnabad): Maniknagar is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 382 families residing. The Maniknagar village has population of 2,362 of which 1,402 are males while 960 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Maniknagar village population of children with age 0-6 is 287. Manik Nagar situated amidst idyllic surroundings about three km north-west of Humnabad town, is a fine modern village. According to a tradition, in olden days, this place was called Manichuru Kandara. The village has the *Samadhis* with shrines of the renowned and highly venerated saint Manik Prabhu, who is called “Sakalamatacharya” for the catholicity of his religious outlook, Yogi Manohar Manik Prabhu, a scholar-saint, Martand Manik Prabhu and Shankar Manik Prabhu. The latter three were descendants of the first. Shri Martand Manik Prabhu launched the work of development of Manik Nagar and got the shrines of the first Manik Prabhu and of saint Venkamma constructed. In honour of the first saint Manik Prabhu, a jatra Datta *Jayanti* (birth-day of patron saint Dattatraya) is also celebrated on a grand scale here under the auspices of the Manik Prabhu *Samsthan* establishment which is headed by a successor of the first Manik Prabhu. The *Samsthan*, which receives help from devotees spread over many places, is running a noted residential public school, a high school and a Hindi Vidyalaya here.

Matala (Taluk Basavakalyan): Matala is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 2,030 families residing. The Matala village has population of 10,569 of which 5,405 are males while 5,164 are females as per Census 2011. In Matala village population of children with age 0-6 is 1364. Matala, about 15 km south-west of Basavakalyan town had according to a legend, the hermitage of sage Markhandeya. A good number of *sharanas* are said to have stayed in this place. It is now

called after saint Manteshvara who lived and died here. There are shrines dedicated to Balakrishna. Anjaneya and Basaveshvara. A ruined fort also can be seen here. The village has a high school and a primary health centre.

Mirkhal (Taluk Basavakalyan): Mirkhal is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,185 families residing. The Mirkhal village has population of 6,422 of which 3,314 are males while 3,108 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Mirkhal village population of children with age 0-6 is 745. Mirkhal, about 19 km north for Basavakalyan town, has a temple of Anantashayana constructed recently and inscription dated 1097 A.D. refers to this place as Markhal and mentions that Manevergade Dandanayaka Mahadevabhatta donated lands to the local deity Someshvaradeva. The image of Vishnu in the Anantashayana temple is a fine one made out of granite stone and is well polished. Vishnu is lying on Adishesha and Lakshmi is sitting beside him. The remains of an old temple, which appears to be of the Chalukyan times, can still be seen here.

Molkhera (Taluk Humnabad): Molkhera is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 463 families residing. The Molkhera village has population of 2,851 of which 1,458 are males while 1,393 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Molkhera village population of children with age 0-6 is 452. Molkhera, seven km west of Humnabad town, is noted for a spacious and beautiful cave of a famous Veerashaiva saint called *Molige* Marayya. He was a ruling chief from Kashmir and his original name was Raja Mahadeva. He gave up his all and came to Kalyana (Now Basavakalyan) being attracted by the teachings of Basaveshvara and lived a saintly life. For the living, he was doing *molige-kayaka* (occupation of fetching pieces of fire-wood from the jungle and selling). An annual *jatra* is held here in his honour. The village is included in the group-panchayat of Manik Nagar.

Morkhandi (Taluk Basavakalyan): Morkhandi is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 992 families residing. The Morkhandi village has population of 5,140 of which 2,576 are males while 2,564 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Morkhandi village population of children with age 0-6 is 721. Morkhandi which lies at a distance of about 16 km west of Basavakalyan town, is known for ruins

of an ancient Chalukyan temple constructed on the bank of a tank. There are only a dilapidated *mantap* and a *garbhagriha* which has no image. The village has also relics of a Jain basadi (temple).

Muchalam (Taluk Basavakalyan): Muchalam is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 941 families residing. The Muchalam village has population of 4,533 of which 2,267 are males while 2,266 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Muchalam village population of children with age 0-6 is 504. Muchalam about 12 km north-east of Basavakalyan town, was the birth-place of saint Nagabhushana Shivayogi. There is a small shrine containing his marble image. In his honour, an annual fair is held about December. He was delivering impressive *pravachanas* (discourses) in many places of the area for the benefit of the common people who loved and respected him greatly. He founded an *ashram* at this place. There are shrines dedicated to Ramalingeshvara and Mahadeva also. There is a high school and a medical sub-centre here.

Mustapur (Taluk Basavakalyan): Mustapur is a medium size village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 48 families residing. The Mustapur village has population of 271 of which 132 are males while 139 are females as per Census 2011. In Mustapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 26. Mustapur lies about nine km north-east of Basavakalyan town. A project is being executed here across the Chulki-nala stream which is a tributary of the Karanja river, for providing irrigation facilities in the taluks of Bhalki and Basavakalyan.

Naguru Baabaji : Present Naguru Baabaji is an historical village of Aurad (B) taluk. It was preciously located on the hill near Siddeshwara and idol of Hanumantha God is still found on the hill. As per the legend , a big cobra lived in the village and used to bite all the visitors and kill them. To overcome the difficulties, all the villages vacated the village under the leadership of Baabaji of nogoji family and settled in the present village i.e Naguru, the village has temple dedicated to naganna and milk is offered to Naganna temple during Nagara panchami by the women folk of the village. This village is said to be the home town of 7 Goddesses.

Nandgaon (Taluk Humnabad): Nandagaon is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district with total 736 families residing. The

Nandagaon village has population of 4,347 of which 2,242 are males while 2,105 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Nandagaon village population of children with age 0-6 is 602. Nandagaon, eight km north-east of Humnabad town, is noted for the tomb-shrine of saint Hassan Peer in whose honour an annual *urus* is held.

Narayanapur (Taluk Basavakalyan): Narayanapur is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,730 families residing. The Narayanapur village has population of 9,152 of which 4,705 are males while 4,447 are females as per Census 2011. In Narayanapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 1151. Narayanapur is an important ancient village three km east of Basavakalyan town. The village has been mentioned as Tribhuvana-Tilaka Shri Rama Narayanapura and Raya-Narayanapura in inscriptions. Probably, Rayanarayana was one of the titles of a Chalukyan king. The village has a Shiva temple of the Chalukyan times, constructed with a *trikutachala* (three-cell) design. Only its *garbhagriha* and a pillared *mantapa* are now remaining and they are in a dilapidated condition. There are some fine *madanike*-like figures in different poses. It appears that the presiding deity of this temple was originally Vishnu. The place has ruins of several other shrines also. Relics of many images are lying scattered in the vicinity of the local tank. There are a few small shrines of Amba Bhavani, Ishvara, Hanuman, Lakshmi and Madeppa Swami. An annual *jatra* is held here in honour of Madeppa Swami for two days about the month of July. Recently, two exquisite female figures of stone came to light at this place.

Nawadgi (Taluk Bhalki): Nawadgi is a medium size village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 316 families residing. The Nawadgi village has population of 1,731 of which 867 are males while 864 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Nawadgi village population of children with age 0-6 is 253. Nawadgi about 12 km south-west of Bhalki town, was the birth-place of a famous *sharana* named Revappayya who lived a few decades back. It has his *samadhi* over which a building has been constructed. Under the auspices of this shrine, a fair is held for three days about the month of December every year.

Partapur (Taluk Basavakalyan): Partapur is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 903 families residing. The

Partapur village has population of 5,077 of which 2,586 are males while 2,491 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Partapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 616. Partapur about three km north-east of Basavakalyan town, is known for ruins of Shiva temples of the Chalukyan times. Perhaps, the name of this place is derived from one of the Chalukyan titles, which was Pratapa-Chakravarti. A handsome Chalukyan image of Surya (the Sun god), which was found here, is now kept at the Goswami Matha in Basavakalyan town. It is carved in a standing posture and its workmanship is admirable. The Veerabhadreshvara shrine here, which is of recent times, holds an annual fair about the month of March.

Rajeshwar (Taluk Basavakalyan): Rajeshwar is a large village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 2,995 families residing. The Rajeshwar village has population of 16,349 of which 8,348 are males while 8,001 are females as per Census 2011. In Rajeshwar village population of children with age 0-6 is 2,351. Rajeshwar is a large village about 20 km south-east of Basavakalyan town. It has a temple of Ramalingeshvara and another of Mallinatha, also called Mallikarjuna built recently. Out of the two, that of Ramalingeshvara, which is a stone structure, deserves a special mention. Its floor and roofs are built with large slabs of black stones. There is a marble image of Nandi. The place has the shrine of saint Jagannath Maharaj in honour of whom an annual fair is held about April. There are dargahs of Hazrat Chutte Shahwali and Ibrahim Shahwali. The village has a high school and a health-unit type dispensary.

Ranjolkheni (Taluk Bidar): Ranjolkheni is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 692 families residing. The Ranjolkheni village has population of 3,911 of which 1,961 are males while 1,950 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Ranjolkheni village population of children with age 0-6 is 507. Ranjolkheni lies about 19 km south-west of Bidar town. The Sinda feudatories appear to have ruled in this area and constructed several fine places of worship. From a lithic record it is evident that this place had ancient temples dedicated to Hajjeshvara, Hemeshvara, Bibbeshvara and Brahmeshvara. Some relics of such monuments are found in the village.

Sadhughat (Taluk Bidar): is about a km from the main village called Nagora situated about ten km south-west of Bidar town. There are shrines

of Panduranga and Hanuman and two samadhis, one belonging to Eknath Maharaj and the other to Siddhupant Maharaj. A fair is held here for seven days about March. Annual aradhana ceremony in honour of Siddhupant Maharaj takes place about October.

Saigaon (Taluk Bhalki): Saigaon is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 1,059 families residing. The Saigaon village has population of 5,170 of which 2,631 are males while 2,539 are females as per Census 2011. In Saigaon village population of children with age 0-6 is 630. Saigaon is at a distance of 24 km north-west of Bhalki town and has a temple dedicated to Hanuman in veneration of whom a jatra is held about October-November. There is also a temple of Siddalingeshvara here under the auspices of which a jatra is held about February-March which is attended by a large gathering.

Sangam (Taluk Aurad): Sangam is a medium size village located in Aurad Taluk of Bidar district with total 261 families residing. The Sangam village has population of 1,295 of which 671 are males while 624 are females as per Census 2011. In Sangam village population of children with age 0-6 is 193. Sangam, a small village about 32 km south-west of Aurad, lies at the confluence of the Karanja and the Manjra rivers. There is an ancient shrine here of Sangameshvara. On the right and left sides of the walls of the *mantapa*, in front of the *garbhagriha*, there are paintings of some figures done in modern times which are pointed out as those of Gangadharesvara. Akka-Mahadevi, Narayana, Neelambike, Ganapathi, Lakshmi and Basaveshvara. A *jatra* is held here for a week at the time of the Shivaratri festival.

Santhpur (Taluk Aurad): Santhpur is a large village located in Aurad Taluk of Bidar district with total 865 families residing. The Santhpur village has population of 4,831 of which 2,499 are males while 2,332 are females as per Census 2011. In Santhpur village population of children with age 0-6 is 616. Santhpur about 11 km south-east of Aurad has the headquarters of the Aurad Taluk Development Board. It has an ancient temple of Mahadeva under the auspices of which an annual fair is held for three days about the month of April. The place has a high school and a primary health centre.

Siddeshwar (Taluk Bhalki): Siddeshwar is a large village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 683 families residing. The Siddeshwar village has population of 3,494 of which 1,790 are males while 1,704 are females as per Census 2011. In Siddeshwar village population of children with age 0-6 is 424. Siddeshwar, located about nineteen km south-east of Bhalki town, is noted for its temple of Siddeshwara. Just near this place of worship, there is the *samadhi* of Imam Sahib, who was a devotee of Siddeshwara. He is held in high respect by the local people. The temple holds an annual fair about March-April for two days.

Shamrajapur (Taluk Bidar): Shamrajapur is a medium size village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 170 families residing. The Shamrajapur village has population of 806 of which 411 are males while 395 are females as per Census 2011. In Shamrajapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 93. Shamrajapur which was formerly called Agrahara, is about two km north of Bidar town. A large temple built here recently contains an impressive Anantashayana image of the Chalukyan period. The figure of Vishnu as Anantashayana is reclining on the couch of Adishesha, the primordial serpent. An image of Brahma with four faces is found sitting on a lotus that has emerged from the nabhi (navel) of Vishnu. On one of the prabhavalis of Vishnu, there are elegant carvings of the ten divine incarnations. At the end of the icon is goddess Lakshmi. An annual festival is held under the auspices of this temple for a day about the month of February. The place has also a shrine of Mahadeva.

Shivapur (Taluk Basavakalyan): Shivapur is a medium size village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 221 families residing. The Shivapur village has population of 1,147 of which 571 are males while 576 are females as per Census 2011. In Shivapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 134. Shivapur a small village about two km south-east of Basavakalyan town, is noted for its old temple of Siddheshvara, also called Kundaleshvara, situated on the bank of a lake. It appears to have been constructed in memory of a famous sharma named Siddharama. It is referred to by poet Harihara who says that Keshiraja Dannayaka worshipped at this temple.

Sirsi (Taluk Bidar): Sirsi is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district, Karnataka with total 732 families residing. The Sirsi village

has population of 3,831 of which 1,956 are males while 1,875 are females as per Census 2011. In Sirsi village population of children with age 0-6 is 542. Sirsi, about 24 km south-west of Bidar town is well-known for its red clay which is used for colour-washing of floors and walls.

Tajlapur (Taluk Bidar): Tajlapur is a medium size village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 242 families residing. The Tajlapur village has population of 1,206 of which 595 are males while 611 are females as per Census 2011. In Tajlapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 129. Tajlapur, popularly called also as Dattanagar, is a small village about three km south-east of Bidar. There is a *matha* of Dattananda Swamiji and shrines of Ishvara (also called Dakshinamurthy) Hanuman and Ganesha. There is a small cave inside the matha which is said to contain the samadhis of Swami Dattananda Maharaj and his disciples. A fair is held in honor of Dattananda Maharaj for two days about January.

Taranalli : Taranalli is situated at 15 km south of Bhalki. Shivaramu of Taranalli is an expert in treating broken bones and Ligaments of humans and other animals. He has customers from surrounding villages and neighbouring states also.

Tugaon (Chalkapur) (Taluk Bhalki): Tugaon is a medium size village located in Bhalki Taluk of Bidar district with total 372 families residing. The Tugaon village has population of 1,992 of which 1,040 are males while 952 are females as per Census 2011. In Tugaon village population of children with age 0-6 is 222. Tugaon lies about 31 km south-east of Bhalki town. The river Karanja flows close to this village. During the month of Phalguna (February-March), devotees assemble on the banks of this river and offer worship to a Shivalinga here. A fair is held in honour of Hanuman for about two days in April.

Tugaon (Halsi) (Taluk Bhalki), Situated at about 31 km north-west of Bhalki town, has a Lakshmi temple, the annual fair of which attracts many devotees. This festival is held for three days about the month of December.

Udbal (Taluk Humnabad): Udbal is a large village located in Humnabad Taluk of Bidar district, Karnataka with total 836 families residing. The Udbal village has population of 4,424 of which 2,235 are males while 2,189

are females as per Census 2011. In Udbal village population of children with age 0-6 is 595. Udbal, about 16 km south-east of Humnabad town, is well-known for its temple of Yellammadevi which is frequently visited by devotees.

Umapur (Taluk Basavakalyan): Umapur is a medium size village located in Basavakalyan Taluk of Bidar district with total 214 families residing. The Umapur village has population of 1,148 of which 593 are males while 555 are females as per Census 2011. In Umapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 172. Umapur, is a small village situated about 18 km south-west of Basavakalyan town. It derives its name from its temple dedicated to Umamahesvara. The stone image of Ganapati here is of a height of about 2.5 metres. It is standing on a stone platform. In front of the temple, there is a small pond in which one can see the reflection of Ganapati. The place has also a Jaina basadi with an icon of Padmavati.

Yadlapur (Taluk Bidar): Yadlapur is a large village located in Bidar Taluk of Bidar district with total 359 families residing. The Yadlapur village has population of 2,026 of which 988 are males while 1,038 are females as per Census 2011. In Yadlapur village population of children with age 0-6 is 260 a small village about ten km southwest of Bidar town, is noted for its monastery called by Charapattadhyaksha Shankarlinga Shivacharya Samsthanada Matha. It was founded by a Veerashaiva saint named Rudramuniswami who was born at Sirsi of this district in 1785 A.D. The portions pertaining to archaeological remains are based largely on "Bidar-Its History and Monuments" by G.Yazdani, 1947; "Antiquarian Remains in Hyderabad State", 1953; "History and Legend In Hyderabad", 1953; and "History of Medieval Deccan (1295-1724)", Vol. II, edited by H.K.Sherwani and P.M.Joshi, 1974 (all Government publications from Hyderabad Deccan).

Yaranalli village: Yaranalli village is one of the historical village in Aurad taluk and is situated near Manjra river. Its name is derived from 'yara'-'yeri' meaning black fertile soil. Later on the name yaranalli became popular.

The village has Hanuman mandir, Jeet Beera Durga, Mahadev mandir, Mallikarjuna mandir, Vittal-Rukmini and Manikeshwara temples. Great sage Manikeshwara belongs to this village and sage had performed 50 years

tapassu / penance at Dhari Hanuman of Aurad taluk, Gaymukha of Bhalki taluk, Amrukunda of Basavakalyan taluk and karakanalli of Humnabad taluk before attaining. Lingyka (merging with God) at kalmuda belonging to Kalaburagi village. Manikanth fair is held at yaranalli, after 7 days from ugadi and after 9 days at kalmuda and Dhari Hanuman.
