

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representa- tion in State and Union Legislatures

THE main political parties which played a dominant role in the public life of the district in recent years were the Indian National Congress and the Praja-Socialist Party. The Communist Party of India, the Swatantra Party and the Jan Sangh also contested in the 1962 General Elections in the district, but none of them won any seat. All these political parties have their affiliations with their all-India bodies. In fact, there is no party in the district which is of local origin.

General Elections--1957

The hold of the political parties in an area can be gauged by the results obtained by them in General Elections. In 1957, out of the seven Legislative Assembly constituencies in the district, which returned nine candidates, the Indian National Congress secured five seats, the Praja-Socialist Party three seats and the Socialist Party one. In the Chitradurga double-member constituency, both the seats went to the Congress, while at Hiriur the Praja-Socialist candidate defeated his Congress rival. The Congress captured a seat in Molakalmuru and also two seats in Challakere constituency. The Praja-Socialists were dominant in Harihar and Davangere, while the Socialist Party candidate was returned in Hosadurga. The Chitradurga Lok Sabha seat was contested by the Indian National Congress and the Praja-Socialists and the result went in favour of the Praja-Socialists. From the above account, it is seen that the Congress and the Praja-Socialists came out well in the 1957 elections. The contest was keen between the Congress candidates and the Praja-Socialists in most of the Assembly constituencies and also in the solitary Lok Sabha constituency.

The delimitation of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly constituencies for the 1957 elections was finalised by the Delimitation Commission in 1956. After assessing the local feelings, they published the final order on 19th December 1956 in accordance with sub-section (2) of Section 47 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, read with Section 6 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) of 1956. According

to the final orders, Chitradurga district was divided into seven constituencies with two double-member constituencies at Challakere and Chitradurga. The following statement indicates the names of the constituencies and their extent in 1957 :—

<i>Name of the Constituency</i>	<i>Extent of Constituency</i>	<i>Total number of seats</i>	<i>Seats reserved for</i>	
			<i>Scheduled Castes</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribes</i>
Molakalmuru	Molakalmuru taluk, Thallak hobli and Mallurahalli circle in Nayakanahatti hobli in Challakere taluk ..	1	..	..
Challakere	Jagalur taluk, Challakere taluk (excluding Thallak hobli and Mallurahalli circle in Nayakanahatti hobli), Turuvanur hobli and Bharamasagara and Yelagodu circles in Bharamasagara hobli in Chitradurga taluk ..	2	1	..
Davangere	Anagodu hobli and Davangere hobli (excluding Hadadi Circle) in Davangere taluk ..	1	..	..
Harihar	Harihar taluk, Mayakonda hobli and Hadadi circle in Davangere hobli in Davangere taluk.	1	..	..
Chitradurga	Chitradurga taluk (excluding Turuvanur hobli and Bharamasagara and Yelagodu circles in Bharamasagara hobli) and Holalkere taluk ..	2	1	..
Hosadurga	Hosadurga taluk ..	1	..	..
Hiriyur	Hiriyur taluk ..	1	..	..
Total ..		9	2	..

The total number of voters in the district at the time of the 1957 General Elections was 4,79,996. The following table indicates the number of voters in the various Assembly Constituencies.

<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Total number of voters</i>	
Chitradurga	..	1,02,300
Hiriyur	..	60,421
Molakalmuru	..	50,865
Harihar	..	52,905
Hosadurga	..	46,411
Challakere	..	1,13,172
Davangere	..	53,922
Total	..	4,79,996

In the 1957 General Elections, the percentage of votes polled in each of the constituencies was as follows :—

<i>Constituency</i>		<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>
Chitradurga	.. ..	46.04
Hiriyur	.. ..	69.92
Molakalmuru	.. ..	65.09
Harihar	.. ..	79.11
Hosadurga	.. ..	57.18
Challakere	.. ..	57.18
Davangere	.. ..	62.91

In the General Elections of 1957, the invalid votes polled were the highest in Challakere constituency and the lowest in Hiriyur. In the double-member constituencies of Chitradurga and Challakere, the invalid votes polled were 4,991 and 5,396 respectively, while in Hiriyur it was only 4. According to the figures supplied by the Deputy Commissioner, the invalid votes polled in other Assembly constituencies were as follows : Molakalmuru 13, Harihar 152, Hosadurga 154 and Davangere 28.

There were in all 502 polling booths in the district during the 1957 elections, of which Chitradurga had 104, Hiriyur 63, Molakalmuru 55, Harihar 54, Hosadurga 49, Challakere 124 and Davangere 53.

For the purpose of returning a member to the Lok Sabha, the Delimitation Commission fixed the extent of the Chitradurga constituency comprising Harihar, Davangere, Holalkere, Hosadurga, Hiriyur and Chitradurga taluks, excluding Turuvanur hobli and Bharamasagara and Yelagodu circles in Bharamasagara hobli, and Bhadravati taluk in Shimoga district. The total number of voters in this parliamentary constituency in the 1957 elections was 4,18,838, of whom 59.3 per cent voted. There was a contest between the Congress and the Praja-Socialist candidates and the Praja-Socialist candidate won the contest. There were in all 437 polling booths for this Lok Sabha constituency.

After the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, was passed, the double-member constituencies in the State were bifurcated into single-member constituencies.

Thus for the General Elections in 1962, the Assembly constituencies and their extent were as shown below :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Constituency	Extent
1	Molakalmuru	.. Molakalmuru taluk ; Thallak hobli and Mallurahalli circle in Nayakanahatti hobli in Challakere taluk ;
2	Challakere	.. Challakere taluk (excluding Thallak hobli and Mallurahalli circle in Nayakanahatti hobli) ; and Turuvanur Circle in Turuvanur hobli in Chitradurga taluk ;
3	Jagalur (Scheduled Caste)	.. Jagalur taluk ; Bharamasagara and Yelagodu circles in Bharamasagara hobli and Muddapura circle in Turuvanur hobli in Chitradurga taluk ;
4	Davangere	.. Anagodu hobli and Davangere hobli (excluding Hadadi circle) in Davangere taluk ;
5	Harihar	.. Harihar taluk ; Mayakonda hobli and Hadadi circle in Davangere hobli in Davangere taluk ;
6	Chitradurga	.. Chitradurga taluk (excluding Turuvanur hobli and Bharamasagara and Yelagodu circles in Bharamasagara hobli);
7	Holalkere (Scheduled Caste)	.. Holalkere taluk ;
8	Hiriyur	.. Hiriyur taluk and
9	Hosadurga	.. Hosadurga taluk.

The General Elections of 1962 were held in the month of February, and the statistical figures in respect of the elections held in Assembly Constituencies in the district are given below :—

Sl. No.	Name of Assembly Constituency	Total No. of electors in the constituency	No. of electors who voted.	Percentage	No. of contesting candidates	Party affiliation of the returned candidates	No. of polling Stations
1	Molakalmuru	58,104	41,282	71.05	3	Congress	66
2	Challakere	65,477	42,633	65.16	4	P.S.P.	75
3	Jagalur (Scheduled Caste)	57,899	31,468	54.35	6	Congress	66
4	Davangere	67,956	44,775	65.89	4	Congress	73
5	Harihar	63,401	46,400	73.18	3	Congress	69
6	Chitradurga	59,453	36,948	62.15	2	Congress	65
7	Holalkere (Scheduled Caste)	54,292	29,925	53.26	4	Congress	57
8	Hiriyur	72,361	53,023	73.28	5	Congress	82
9	Hosadurga	54,048	39,803	73.64	2	P.S.P.	61

The highest percentage of votes polled was in Hosadurga (73.64 per cent), whereas the lowest was in Holalkere (53.26 per cent). In the two Assembly Constituencies, *i.e.*, Chitradurga and Hosadurga, there were straight contests between the Congress and the Praja-Socialists. In Chitradurga, the Congress candidate and in Hosadurga, the Praja-Socialist candidate were elected.

The parties which contested the seats for the Assembly in the district were (1) Congress, (2) Praja-Socialist Party, (3) Jan Sangh, (4) Communist Party of India and (5) Swatantra Party. There were a number of independent candidates also. The Praja-Socialists contested in eight Assembly Constituencies, *i.e.*, except in Holalkere, whereas the Congress contested for all the nine seats. Out of the nine seats, Congress won seven and the Praja-Socialists two.

Out of the nine Assembly Constituencies, the highest number of rejected votes was in respect of Jagalur Constituency, (*i.e.*, 3,458), the percentage being 10.99, whereas the lowest was in Hosadurga Constituency, (*i.e.*, 1,512), the percentage being 3.83.

Parliamentary Constituency

After the bifurcation of the double member constituencies into single-member constituencies, the position changed. There was one Parliamentary Constituency called the Chitradurga Parliamentary Constituency to which (1) Davangere, (2) Harihar, (3) Chitradurga, (4) Holalkere, (5) Hiriyur, (6) Hosadurga, (all in Chitradurga district), (7) Channagiri and (8) Bhadravathi (in Shimoga district) Assembly Constituencies were allotted. The other three Assembly Constituencies in the district, *viz.*, (1) Molakalmuru (2) Challakere and (3) Jagalur were included in the Bellary Parliamentary Constituency.

As regards the election from the Chitradurga Parliamentary Constituency, there were 5,02,170 electors, out of whom 3,30,704 electors actually voted, the percentage of voting being 65.85. There were three candidates, one Congress, one Praja-Socialist and one Independent. The Congress candidate won in the election.

As in 1957, the elections to the State Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha were simultaneously held. Thus, the polling stations set up were used for both the elections.

No bye-elections were held from any of the nine Assembly Constituencies in the district after the General Elections of 1962.

No election petitions either in respect of elections to the State Legislative Assembly or the Lok Sabha were filed after the elections of 1962 in the district.

The growth of journalism in the district has been rather tardy. In the entire district, Davangere and Chitradurga are the only two places, where some papers are published. According to the annual report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India for 1964, there was only one Kannada daily newspaper published in Davangere, called "Khiladi". This paper gave its readers a summary of local news and comments. There was also a Kannada weekly called "Dasha-vatara". Yet another Kannada weekly called "Satyajyothi" was being published from Chitradurga town. There were only two monthlies in the whole district—"Jagriti" from Davangere and "Krista Agamanaduta" from Chitradurga.

**Newspapers
and periodicals**

Newspapers published in Bombay, Bangalore and Hubli have a good reading public. The Kannada papers, which have a wide circulation in the district are Prajavani, Tainadu, Samyukta Karnatak, Vishwavani, Vishala-Karnatak, Janavani, Prapancha, Karmaveera, Prajamata, Janapragati, Sudha and Kasturi. Among the English dailies, the Deccan Herald, Hindu, Indian Express and Times of India are popular. The periodicals which have a good circulation are the Illustrated Weekly, Blitz, Bhavan's Journal and Mysindia. The film magazines coming from Bombay and other places have also a good circulation.

In the old days, the Hubli newspapers reached Davangere earlier than Bangalore papers and so had a larger circulation. Later on, all the big daily newspapers in Bangalore began to send their morning editions in motor vans to reach Chitradurga and Davangere much earlier than before. The vans which start from Bangalore in the early morning reach Chitradurga by 8 or 8-30 A.M. and Davangere an hour later. This method of quick transport was helpful to the readers and increased the circulation of those newspapers.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

With the dawn of India's independence, there has been an increasing urge to care for the under-privileged. Many voluntary organisations in the district have been rendering good service to the community in a variety of ways. These social service organisations can be broadly classified under three categories, the orphanages, welfare institutions and the institutions for community development like the Mahila Samajas and youth organisations. The following are some of the important social service organisations in the district. Although it has not been possible to include every institution functioning in the district, an attempt has been made to include as many of them as possible, particulars of whose working could be collected.

Sri Taralabalu Jagadguru Orphanage, Sirigere, was started in 1946 by His Holiness Sri Taralabalu Jagadguru Sri Shivakumara Shivacharya Mahaswamigalu of the Sirigere Matha for upliftment

**Taralabalu
Jagadgurus
Orphanage**

of orphans and to inculcate in them ideas about dignity of labour and value of education and to build up their character. The governing council or the managing committee consists of six members with His Holiness as the Chairman. A part of the revenue of the Sirigere Matha is spent for the maintenance of the Orphanage. There were about 175 inmates in the institution in 1965, who were provided with free food, clothing and lodging. The institution is open to all castes and communities. The inmates are obliged to go out during vacations to assist voluntary organisations doing social work.

**Ashakta
Poshaka
Sangha,
Davangere**

The Ashakta Poshaka Sangha, Davangere, was started in 1943 and was registered under the Mysore Societies Act III of 1904 and V of 1939. The public-spirited citizens of Davangere felt the need for an orphanage and established this institution. This orphanage is managed by a local committee with a president, vice-president and 20 members. The finances for running the institution are derived from Government grant, municipal grant, public subscriptions, rent from the buildings and the interest from the Government endowment deposit. There were about 20 inmates in 1965 but the number varies from year to year.

**Anatha
Sevashrama,
Malladihalli**

The biggest of the voluntary social service organisations in the district is in Malladihalli which is not far from the Holalkere Road railway station on the Bangalore—Poona metre gauge line. This Sevashrama was started in 1943 by Sri Raghavendra Swamiji, a *brahmachari*, who has dedicated his life to the service of the people. He received his training in yoga, physical culture and medicine under revered yogis and was also associated with the freedom struggle. In 1943, he established this centre of constructive activities at Malladihalli, a village in the interior of the district. The aim of this institution is all-round development of the rural population. The Sevashrama is managed by a board of trustees with a president and a secretary and is financed by public donations. The chief activities in the Malladihalli Sevashrama are the running of a residential multi-purpose higher secondary school, a teachers' training college, a sishu vihara, a free Ayurvedic medical centre, organising of camps to train boys in physical culture and conducting of courses in yoga for the benefit of the community. There were 25 teachers and 15 other staff members in the Sevashrama in 1965. Printing, sewing and agricultural practices are some of the vocations taught in the institution. The institution is also running a printing press and a hostel. The Sevashrama is maintaining a gymnasium, a tapovana and a yoga mandir. A *Gokula* is also being run with 50 cows and a breeding bull. It is a unique institution in the State and is working on a secular basis.

**Akkamahadevi
Seva Samaja,
Chitradurga**

The Akkamahadevi Seva Samaja, Chitradurga, was started in 1944 to advance the social, religious and economic interests of women in the district. It had a membership of 65 in 1965. The State Department of Industries and Commerce had given a grant

to purchase six sewing machines. Forty girl-pupils were receiving instruction in tailoring. In the year 1964-65, 30 pupils were trained and occupations were secured for them. The Seva Samaja offers facilities not only for its members but also for others without caste distinction. Hindi classes for Prathama, Madhyama and Rashtrabhasha examinations were also being conducted. Recently, a music class has been started. A good library is being run for the use of the members. The affairs of this welfare institution are being managed by an elected committee with a president, a vice-president and an honorary secretary. The Samaja had provided facilities for 80 orphan children also to pursue their education. The institution had received grants totalling Rs. 27,900 from the Central Welfare Advisory Board upto 1964-65.

Started in September 1956, the Child Welfare Committee, Naraganahalli, in Davangere taluk, is doing good service in the interest of child welfare by setting up shishu vihars and implementing other cognate schemes. It is the policy of this welfare organisation to inculcate in the minds of the children, the paramount need to develop a spirit of sacrifice and to be brave in facing odds. Through a proper study of child psychology, various institutional schemes were initiated to remove illiteracy and ill-health. The welfare committee is elected from amongst its members and there are the president, a vice-president and a secretary to look after the day-to-day administration of the organisation. The finances for the institution are secured by membership subscription, public donations and donations received from other social service organisations. The welfare institution was taking care of 150 children belonging to several communities. The membership of the institution was about 100 in 1965. The organisation has set up a library containing attractive literature mainly for improving the knowledge of children and a separate childrens' journal was also being published periodically. Dramas, specially suited to children, are put on the stage now and then. Debates in which only children are allowed to participate are held periodically. Ample scope is created for children to write stories and poetry and to give recitations and the like. A special feature of this welfare organisation is the promotion of agricultural and horticultural pursuits amongst children. During the holidays, the inmates are taken out for short sight-seeing excursions. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as also the Indian Children's Welfare Fund were pleased to extend generous grants to this organisation. The Central Social Welfare Board, the Indian Red Cross Society, the International Youth Library in Germany and the National Extension Service Blocks gave help as and when necessary. The Child Welfare Committee was also conducting scout and girl guide activities and these had become popular.

The Karnataka Sangha, Mayakonda, was started on April 14, 1942 by public-spirited men, officials and students of Mayakonda with the object of fostering a spirit of love for Kannada literature

**Child Welfare
Committee,
Naraganahalli**

**Karnataka
Sangha,
Mayakonda**

and to conduct various literary and cultural activities in the area. The Sangha is registered and it has a managing committee consisting of 15 members elected by the general body. The finances of this institution were secured by membership fees, voluntary contributions made by philanthropic men, grants from local boards and help from Government. The number of members of the Sangha varied from year to year. As on 1st January 1965, there were 75 members on the rolls. A good library of about 1,000 volumes, open to members, was being run. The Sangha is affiliated to the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Bangalore. The Mysore University was arranging extension lectures through the Sangha. The members tour the villages for cultural propaganda and meetings are arranged under the auspices of several panchayats. This institution was running a nursery school, a ladies section, music and Kavya Vachana classes.

**Mahila
Samaja,
Malebennur**

The Mahila Samaja, Malebennur in Harihar taluk, was started on 27th August, 1956 with a view to training women in the rural areas to learn some occupations and to use their leisure hours profitably. The Samaja had no other revenue except the membership fees. A governing body looks after the management with a president, a secretary and managing committee members. There were 35 members in 1965. The Samaja was also running an adult literacy class. For the benefit of members, classes in knitting, embroidery and tailoring were being conducted. The block area officials visit the Samaja periodically and guide its welfare activities.

**Kasturba
Centre,
Kodaganur**

The Kasturba Centre, Kodaganur in Davangere taluk, was started in 1947 under the auspices of the All-India Kasturba National Memorial Fund. The aim of this welfare organisation is to help in the upliftment of women and children living in rural areas. Originally, the centre was located in a rented building. Due to the generous financial help extended by the Bharat Sevak Samaj, the Centre has now a separate building of its own built at a cost of Rs. 6,000. The Centre is running a *Balawadi*. Children come to the centre after finishing their school hours and participate in cultural and physical culture activities and the like. Women who desire to learn some avocations are trained in spinning, weaving, embroidery and other useful handicrafts. In addition to these welfare activities, the centre was running a separate midwifery class; after training, the midwives go to villages for doing ante-natal work. The rural women in the surrounding villages have also much benefited by the helpful activities conducted by this centre.

**Mahila
Samaja,
Kondajji**

The Mahila Samaja, Kondajji in Harihar taluk, was started on 18th April 1958, with the help of the National Extension Service Block, Harihar. The membership of the Samaja was only 15 at the time of inauguration. It had risen to 45 in 1965. There are

an elected president and a secretary to look after the day-to-day affairs of the institution. Materials for embroidery and sewing are being supplied by the Extension Block. The Lady Social Education Organiser frequently visits the Samaja to give talks on child welfare, personal and environmental hygiene and such other subjects. Tailoring and embroidery classes were being run for ladies. Demonstrations are conducted in soap-making and lice control. As part of the cultural programme, *janapada geethas* were being taught.

'Vijayakalavidaru', Hiriya, was started in 1945 with the object of promoting literary and cultural activities in the area. The affairs of the institution are managed by an executive committee consisting of nine members. Since the inception of the organisation, it has conducted a progressive writers' conference, a literary conference, Kannada *Sahityotsava* and dramatic competitions. This association has also staged benefit dramas in aid of construction of school and hospital buildings in the area.

**Vijayakalavi-
daru, Hiriya**

The Silver Jubilee Orphanage, Chitradurga, was started in 1928. In 1965, the orphanage had accommodation for 37 boys. Due to insufficiency of funds more admissions were not possible. Orphan boys who are unable to pursue their studies are being housed here and the boys so admitted are given free boarding, lodging and educational facilities, upto the S.S.L.C. standard. The Central Social Welfare Board is paying a contribution to this institution. Upto 1965, the orphanage had helped 420 boys to receive their education. The Deputy Commissioner of the district is looking after the institution with the help of a secretary. The orphanage is managed by a warden who does his work honorarily. The finances of this orphanage are obtained through grants and public donations. The normal income from all sources was about Rs. 4,000 annually. The municipalities, taluk boards and various co-operative societies were helping the orphanage.

**Silver Jubilee
Orphanage,
Chitradurga**

The Mahila Seva Samaja, Chitradurga, was started on 5th April 1928. It was registered on 5th October 1932, under the Mysore Societies Registration Act. The Samaja has patrons, life members, ordinary members and concessional members. The aims and objects of this welfare organisation are to establish nursery schools for the pre-primary children, to train adult women-folk in sewing, knitting, cutting and embroidery, to propagate literary interest and to serve the community in general through social welfare activities. Other handicrafts like spinning, weaving, mat-weaving, agarbathi-manufacture and carpet-making are also taught. The Mahila Seva Samaja members also attend to distress relief work, when necessary. The Samaja is housed in its own building built at a cost of Rs. 50,000. There were about 125 members on the rolls in 1965. The Samaja has several sections for Ambar charka, textiles, weaving, agarbathi-making,

**Mahila Seva
Samaja,
Chitradurga**

woollen-carding and music. The Central Social Welfare Board has given a generous grant of Rs. 22,500 for the equipment of the industrial sections attached to the Samaja. In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Mahila Seva Samaja is maintaining a library of its own with a reading room. In the year 1956, the Silver Jubilee of the Samaja was celebrated. Liberal grants were given by the Town Municipal Council, the former District Board and the State Education Department. Her Highness the Maharani of Mysore was the patron-in-chief of the institution.

**Social Welfare
Centre,
Maradihalli**

The Social Welfare Centre, Maradihalli in Chitradurga taluk, was started in 1955 with the help of the Mysore State Social Welfare Board. The object of the centre is to mould the character of children and to impart a spirit of social service in the minds of rural women. There is a local committee consisting of officials and non-officials to carry on welfare activities in the taluk. The finances for this centre are raised from public contributions and also a generous grant from the Central Social Welfare Board. Women are given intensive training in tailoring, mat-weaving, foot-rug making, flower-making, charkha spinning and toy-making. A nursery school is being run by the Centre. A small library is also attached to the centre from where books are being lent to the rural population. Once a week, bhajans are conducted. Folk songs and classical music are regularly taught.
