

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

THE Mysore Representative Assembly was constituted as early **Early period** as in 1881 and it was the first of its kind in India. Although its members, who were mainly land-holders and merchants, were not elected by the general public and it did not have legislative powers, the functions of the members were not to be regarded as mere petitioning or complaining. They were expected to submit observations and suggestions in the public interest and to bring to the notice of the Government the wants and grievances of the people. Gradually, the sphere of usefulness of this body was enlarged and the electorate broadened. All the taluks were represented and there were also separate representations for municipalities and special interests.

In 1898, the first Municipal Committee in the area constituting the present Mandya district was established in the town of Mandya. Later, such committees were set up also at other taluk headquarters towns and in 1902, Taluk Boards and District Boards were also ushered in. In bigger villages, Improvement Committees and later Panchayat Committees were formed. In all these local self-government bodies, the strength of the non-official and elected elements was increased gradually and these institutions were invested with more powers and responsibilities progressively. Meanwhile in 1907, a Legislative Council had been also established with a view to associating with the Government non-official gentlemen qualified by practical experience and knowledge of local conditions and requirements, to assist the Government in making laws and regulations.

The momentous events taking place in what was British India exercised a good deal of influence on the princely State of Mysore. Owing to pressure from the paramount power, the Dewans were following a very cautious policy and many a time resorted to suppressive measures in order to curb the aspirations of the people.

Nevertheless, several public-spirited persons like M. Venkatakrishnayya made pioneering efforts through the press, the platform and the Assembly in educating the people about their rights and obligations and for development of democratic institutions in the State. They tried also, as far as possible, to make the Dewans' regimes responsive to the wishes of the people.

In 1918, the Prajamitra Mandali, which had been formed to work for the advancement of backward communities and was led by H. Channaiah, Basavayya, M. Subbaiya and others, urged reformation of the Representative Assembly and the local self-government institutions so as to make them democratic. It was running its own journals to propagate its views. In 1921, branches of the Indian National Congress were also formed in the State and later a new local party, called the Praja Paksha, led by D. S. Mallappa and others, also came into being. The Prajamitra Mandali and the Praja Paksha were later merged to form the Praja Samyukta Paksha under the presidentship of H. B. Gundappa Gowda. This new body was also later merged in the State Congress.

Later period

As early as in 1919 and 1921, demands had been voiced for establishment of responsible government in the State. In the elections to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council held in 1927, a new generation of leaders emerged. The newly elected members like H. C. Dasappa, H. K. Veeranna Gowdh, D. H. Chandrasekharaiah demanded full-fledged democratisation of the Assembly and the Council and transfer of power to the people's representatives. Raiyat Sanghas were also started to work for the betterment of the lot of the agriculturists. The Visvesvaraya Committee appointed in 1928 recommended that a party system of Government based on the British model may be introduced in the State, while retaining the Dewan as Chief Minister for some years. However, the reforms suggested by this Committee were not accepted and steps were taken to place severe restrictions on civil liberties. After 1937, by which time the neighbouring British-governed provinces had made considerable progress in achieving democratic rights, the movement for constitutional reforms and establishment of representative form of Government in the princely State of Mysore gained fresh momentum and continued for a decade until the demand for responsible Government was conceded in 1947.

The district of Mandya, which has a tradition of a vigorous public life, took an active part in these public activities. One of its towns, *i.e.*, Srirangapatna, was the capital of a large kingdom in not too distant a past, and prior to 1939, the area constituting the present Mandya district was a part of a larger district with Mysore city as its district headquarters and this had also enriched its public life. The proximity of the district to the great metropolitan

centres of Mysore and Bangalore is naturally an added advantage in this respect.

The advent of independence, establishment of popular form of Government, democratic decentralisation and the considerable progress achieved in agricultural, industrial, educational and other fields in the district have helped to bring about an unprecedented awareness among the people which, in its turn, has given a good deal of impetus to public life. Elections to public bodies are keenly contested and public affairs are discussed with great interest in meetings of local bodies and parties and on the platform and in the press. **New impetus**

After the Indian Constitution came into force in 1950, arrangements were made to hold general elections throughout the country. Necessary statutes in this respect were framed and the Representation of the People's Act was promulgated. The first general elections were held in January 1952 and the first ministry under the Indian Constitution took office in April 1952.

The Indian National Congress, the Praja-Socialist Party and the Scheduled Castes Federation were the three political parties which participated in the second general elections held in the district in the year 1957. These parties are affiliated to the respective all-India bodies. Of these recognised political parties, the Indian National Congress had a considerable hold in the district. This party secured five seats out of the eight contested by it in the seven Assembly constituencies of the district. It secured both the reserved and the non-reserved seats in the Malavalli two-member constituency. It also captured the Lok Sabha seat, defeating its only rival, the Praja-Socialist Party, by a large margin of votes. **General Elections, 1957**

The Praja-Socialist Party contested five seats in Krishnarajpet, Pandavapura, Malavalli, Maddur and Nagamangala Assembly constituencies and was successful only in the Pandavapura constituency. The Scheduled Castes Federation contested only the reserved seat in the Malavalli constituency but without success.

Apart from these political parties, six independents contested the Assembly elections in Krishnarajpet, Pandavapura, Srirangapatna, Mandya and Malavalli constituencies and only two were successful in Srirangapatna and Mandya constituencies.

The sub-joined table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled, percentages

of votes secured and the successful parties, in respect of the general elections held in the district in 1957 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Constituency</i>	<i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>	<i>Successful party</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
LOK SABHA					
	Mandya ..	(1) Congress ..	1,42,066	61.36	Congress
		(2) P.S.P. ..	89,395	38.64	
		Total ..	2,31,461		
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY					
1.	Krishnarajpet ..	(1) Congress ..	17,419	59.57	Congress
		(2) Independent ..	7,323	25.05	
		(3) P.S.P. ..	4,497	15.38	
		Total ..	29,239		
2.	Pandavapura ..	(1) P.S.P. ..	12,677	43.92	P.S.P
		(2) Congress ..	8,837	30.65	
		(3) Independent ..	7,339	25.43	
		Total ..	28,853		
3.	Srirangapatna ..	(1) Independent ..	18,280	61.81	Independent
		(2) Congress ..	11,290	38.19	
		Total ..	29,570		
4.	Mandya ..	(1) Independent ..	17,910	46.81	Independent
		(2) Congress ..	16,035	41.90	
		(3) Independent ..	4,309	11.29	
		Total ..	38,254		
5.	Malavalli (Two-member)	(1) Congress ..	28,454	34.39	Congress
		(2) Congress (S.C.) ..	27,102	32.76	
		(3) P.S.P. ..	12,449	15.04	
		(4) Scheduled Castes Federation (SC).	9,723	11.75	
		(5) Independent ..	3,273	3.97	
		(6) Independent ..	1,723	2.09	
		Total ..	82,724		
6.	Maddur ..	(1) Congress ..	19,187	59.80	Congress
		(2) P.S.P. ..	12,900	40.20	
		Total ..	32,087		
7.	Nagamangala ..	(1) Congress ..	15,985	52.25	Congress
		(2) P.S.P. ..	14,607	47.75	
		Total ..	30,592		

The Election Commission were required, under section 3 of the Two-member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, to divide every double-member constituency in all the States, except Gujarat, into two geographically compact single-member constituencies, delimit their extent and make provision for the reservation of a seat in the constituency in which there is a concentration of population of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. They were further required under section 7 of the said Act to make such further amendments in the delimitation orders, as were necessary to carry out these and other provisions. Accordingly, the Commission amended the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, and issued the revised Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, on the 7th December 1961.

**General
Elections,
1962**

As a result of the revised order, the following changes were made in the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies pertaining to the district :—

- (i) Malavalli, which was formerly a two-member constituency, was divided into two single-member constituencies, Malavalli and Kirugaval, and a seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the latter constituency.
- (ii) Two villages in Elwala hobli in Mysore taluk of Mysore district were added on to the existing Srirangapatna Assembly constituency. These two villages formerly formed part of the Srirangapatna taluk and for administrative reasons, were transferred, in 1959, to Elwala hobli of Mysore taluk. Since it was not permissible to change the delimitation of the constituency which included the two villages, the description of the extent of that constituency was revised to reflect the change.

The following statement shows the names of the Assembly constituencies and their extent, as contained in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, which was in force for the general elections of 1962 :—

<i>Name of Constituency</i>		<i>Extent of Constituency</i>
1. Krishnarajpet	..	Krishnarajpet taluk, excluding Seelanere hobli.
2. Pandavapura	..	Pandavapura taluk and Seelanere hobli in Krishnarajpet taluk.
3. Srirangapatna	..	Srirangapatna taluk; Kothathi hobli in Mandya taluk of Mandya district and Maidanahalli and Koorgalli villages in Elwala hobli in Mysore taluk of Mysore district.

Name of Constituency	Extent of Constituency
4. Mandya ..	Mandya taluk (excluding Kothathi hobli).
5. Malavalli ..	Malavalli and Halagur hoblis in Malavalli taluk and Chikkarasinakere hobli in Maddur taluk, excluding the following sixteen villages :— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Madarahalli 2. Haralahalli 3. Kadlavagilu 4. Singatagere 5. Karadakere 6. Settihalli 7. Sabbanahalli 8. Yadaganahalli 9. Arechakanahalli 10. Gopanahalli 11. Kadukothanahalli 12. Yaladahalli 13. Bujavalli 14. Gudige 15. Bidarahalli, and 16. Hosahalli.
6. Kirugaval (S. C.) ..	Boppagowdanapura and Kirugaval hoblis in Malavalli taluk and the sixteen villages in Chikkarasinakere hobli in Maddur taluk mentioned above.
7. Maddur ..	Maddur taluk, excluding Chikkarasinakere hobli, and Circle I in Devalapura hobli in Nagamangala taluk.
8. Nagamangala ..	Nagamangala taluk, excluding Circle I in Devalapura hobli.

These eight Assembly constituencies, in their turn, constituted the Mandya Parliamentary Constituency.

The following were some of the important changes made in the procedure relating to the conduct of elections :—

(i) No minimum qualifying period of residence in a constituency is necessary for purposes of registration as a voter in that constituency. It is sufficient if a voter is a resident in the constituency at the time of registration.

(ii) The process of elections was revised so as to enable completion of the elections in any constituency within a period of forty days, except in the case of uncontested elections where the process comes to an end within less than a fortnight.

(iii) The method of voting was considerably simplified by introducing the marking system of casting the votes.

- (iv) Rules were framed regarding corrupt practices and electoral offences. Certain restrictions were also imposed on the printing of pamphlets and posters, either for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of a candidate. Public meetings, both on the day preceding the election day and on the election day, were prohibited.

The Indian National Congress, the Praja Socialist Party and the Socialist Party were the three political parties which participated in the third general elections held in the district in 1962. The Indian National Congress continued to be the major political party in the district, although it did not achieve the same amount of success as in the general elections of 1957. It captured the Lok Sabha seat allotted to the district, and only four of the eight Assembly seats contested by it. The other two parties could not claim success even in any one of the other constituencies.

One of the noteworthy features of the general elections of 1962 in the district was the success gained by the independent candidates. Nine independents contested the elections from all the Assembly constituencies of the district (except Kirugaval) and of these, four of them were returned from Krishnarajpet, Mandya, Maddur and Nagamangala constituencies.

The table given below shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled by them, the percentages of votes secured and the successful parties, in respect of the general elections held in 1962 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Constituency</i>	<i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>	<i>Successful party</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6

LOK SABHA

Mandya	..	(1) Congress	..	1,48,523	51.08	Congress
		(2) Independent		74,200	25.52	
		(3) Do	..	33,674	11.58	
		(4) Do	..	25,967	8.93	
		(5) Do	..	8,361	2.89	
		Total	..	2,90,725		

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. Krishnarajpet	(1) Independent	18,236	53.17	Independent
	(2) Congress ..	16,040	46.83	
	Total ..	34,276		

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Pandavapura ..	(1) Congress .. (2) Independent .. (3) P. S. P. ..	14,089 11,084 5,914	45.30 35.64 19.06	Congress
		Total ..	31,087		
3.	Srirangapatna	(1) Congress .. (2) Independent .. (3) Independent..	23,809 9,389 427	70.81 27.92 1.27	Congress
		Total ..	33,625		
4.	Mandya ..	(1) Independent .. (2) Congress .. (3) Independent	23,299 22,639 3,304	47.31 45.96 6.73	Independent
		Total ..	49,242		
5.	Malavalli ..	(1) Congress .. (2) P. S. P. .. (3) Independent	21,167 11,149 707	64.15 33.78 2.07	Congress
		Total ..	33,023		
6.	Kirugaval (S. C.)	(1) Congress .. (2) P. S. P. ..	15,039 9,901	60.16 39.84	Congress
		Total ..	24,940		
7.	Maddur ..	(1) Independent .. (2) Congress .. (3) Socialist ..	24,269 22,313 1,884	50.11 46.00 3.89	Independent
		Total ..	48,466		
8.	Nagamangala ..	(1) Independent .. (2) Congress ..	19,275 15,050	56.16 43.84	Independent
		Total ..	34,325		

General Elections, 1967

For the general elections held in 1967, the following were the constituencies in the district under the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1965 :—

Name of Constituency		Extent of Constituency
1.	Krishnarajpet ..	Krishnarajpet taluk, excluding Seelanere hobli.
2.	Pandavapura ..	Pandavapura taluk and Seelanere hobli in Krishnarajpet taluk.
3.	Srirangapatna ..	Srirangapatna taluk and Kothathi hobli in Mandya taluk.

<i>Extent of Constituency</i>	<i>Name of Constituency</i>
4. Mandya ..	Mandya taluk, excluding Kothathi and Basaral hoblis.
5. Malavalli (Scheduled Castes Constituency).	Malavalli taluk, excluding Kirugaval hobli.
6. Kirugaval ..	Kirugaval hobli in Malavalli taluk, ⁷ Chikkarasinakere hobli and the following twenty-five villages in Maddur hobli in Maddur taluk.— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ajjihalli 2. Melagaranahalli 3. Kuligerepura 4. Borapura 5. Sedhalalu 6. Kuduregundi 7. Uppinkere 8. Somapura 9. Gejjalagere 10. Budakuppi 11. Alur 12. Dadaga 13. Byadarahalli 14. Chandahalli 15. Honnalgere 16. Nilakanthanahalli 17. Hagalahalli 18. U. N. Doddi 19. N. Iyengardoddi 20. Bhimanakere 21. Kabbare 22. Hallikere 23. Chunchaganahalli 24. Hulikere, and 25. Bellur.
7. Maddur ..	Maddur taluk, excluding Chikkarasinakere hobli, and the above-mentioned twenty-five villages in Maddur hobli and Basaral hobli in Mandya taluk.
8. Nagamangala ..	Nagamangala taluk.

These eight Assembly constituencies, in their turn, constituted the Mandya Parliamentary Constituency.

In the general elections of 1967, the Indian National Congress, the Praja Socialist Party and the Republican Party contested, while there were as many as 15 independent candidates, in the district. Among the recognised parties, only the Indian National Congress came out successful and it won five Assembly seats as also the Lok Sabha seat. Three of the independent candidates were elected to the Assembly. A table showing the party affiliations of candidates, the number of valid votes polled and the successful parties in the general elections of 1967 is given overleaf :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Constituency</i>	<i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Successful party</i>
LOK SABHA				
	Mandya	.. (1) Congress .. (2) Independent ..	1,92,706 1,46,222	Congress
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY				
1.	Krishnarajpet	.. (1) Independent .. (2) Congress .. (3) Independent ..	28,512 11,048 776	Independent
2.	Pandavapura	.. (1) Independent .. (2) Congress .. (3) Independent ..	19,460 15,599 2,234	Independent
3.	Srirangapatna	.. (1) Independent .. (2) Congress .. (3) Independent .. (4) Independent ..	13,887 13,794 9,651 4,332	Independent
4.	Mandya	.. (1) Congress .. (2) Independent ..	25,462 22,099	Congress
5.	Malavalli (S.C.)	.. (1) Congress .. (2) P.S.P. .. (3) Republican Party .. (4) Independent .. (5) Independent .. (6) Independent ..	21,079 7,316 1,273 1,900 910 443	Congress
6.	Kirugaval	.. (1) Congress .. (2) Independent ..	27,077 12,039	Congress
	Maddur	.. (1) Congress .. (2) P.S.P. .. (3) Independent ..	27,148 22,714 2,189	Congress
8	Nagamangala	.. (1) Congress .. (2) Independent .. (3) Independent ..	24,428 16,219 1,771	Congress

The figures given below show the total number of electors, the total number of valid votes polled and percentages in respect of the general elections held in the district in 1957, 1962 and 1967 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Constituency</i>	<i>Number of electors</i>	<i>Total No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>
1957				
LOK SABHA				
	Mandya	.. 3,87,265	2,31,461	59.75
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY				
1.	Krishnarajpet	.. 47,625	29,239	61.40
2.	Pandavapura	.. 47,789	28,853	60.37
3.	Srirangapatna	.. 50,395	29,570	58.68
4.	Mandya	.. 60,107	38,254	63.65
5.	Malavalli (double-member)	83,528	82,724	49.53
6.	Maddur	.. 52,209	32,087	61.45
7.	Nagamangala	.. 45,612	30,592	67.07
	Total	.. 3,87,265	2,71,319	60.31 (average)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Constituency</i>	<i>Number of electors</i>	<i>Total No. of valid votes polled</i>	<i>Percentage of votes polled</i>
1962				
LOK SABHA				
Mandya	..	4,51,406	2,90,725	64.28
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY				
1. Krishnarajpet	..	56,663	34,276	60.49
2. Pandavapura	..	54,928	31,087	54.42
3. Srirangapatna	..	61,358	33,625	54.63
4. Mandya	..	69,709	49,242	70.62
5. Malavalli	..	48,502	33,023	68.06
6. Kirugaval (S.C.)	..	48,103	24,940	51.84
7. Maddur	..	62,500	48,466	77.54
8. Nagamangala	..	50,643	34,325	67.77
Total	..	4,52,406	2,88,984	63.17 (average)

1967				
LOK SABHA				
Mandya	..	5,03,529	3,55,772	70.6
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY				
1. Krishnarajpet	..	60,201	43,479	72.1
2. Pandavapura	..	61,708	40,617	65.8
3. Srirangapatna	..	69,646	45,963	65.9
4. Mandya	..	68,831	50,415	73.4
5. Malavalli (S.C.)	..	59,854	34,419	57.5
6. Kirugaval	..	54,902	34,689	55.9
7. Maddur	..	65,338	54,621	83.5
8. Nagamangala	..	63,049	44,667	67.3
Total	..	5,03,529	3,48,872	69.2 (average)

There were in all 394 polling stations in the district during the general elections of 1957. This number was increased to 498 and 549 in 1962 and 1967 general elections, respectively, in order to cater to the convenience of voters whose strength increased. The following table indicates the number of polling stations located in each of the Assembly constituencies in the district, during the general elections of 1957, 1962 and 1967 :—

**Polling
Stations**

Sl. No.	Name of Assembly Constituency	No. of Polling Stations		
		1957 Elections	1962 Elections	1967 Elections
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Krishnarajpet ..	43	64	66
2.	Pandavapura ..	51	57	77
3.	Srirangapatna ..	49	66	72
4.	Mandya ..	64	76	72
5.	Malavalli ..	82	56	67
6.	Kirugaval	54	59
7.	Maddur ..	54	68	68
8.	Nagamangala ..	51	57	68
Total ..		394	498	549

Cost of elections

The total expenditure incurred on the conduct of the third general elections in the district, in 1962, was about Rs. 54,670, whereas the corresponding figure for the general elections of 1967 was about Rs. 63,580.

Newspapers and Periodicals

As the majority of the daily newspapers published at Bangalore reach Mandya, which is only at a distance of about 60 miles, fairly early in the mornings, there has not been any incentive for publication of daily newspapers in the district. Consequently, journalism has not made much head-way in the district, although some enthusiastic workers in the field made some sporadic attempts to start weekly newspapers and other periodicals. Several of the newspapers published in Bangalore have their correspondents in the district.

Five Kannada journals started publication in Mandya just on the eve of the third general elections. They were (1) "Dalithavani" edited by Sri M. S. Siddappa, (2) "Harijana Bandhu" edited by Sri D. Manchaiah, (3) "Chavati" edited by Sri Krishna Gowda, (4) "Samaja Kalyana" edited by Sri V. Krishnaswami Gowda and (5) "Pouravani" edited by Sri K. Gundanna. But they did not survive for long. Two of these papers, viz., "Harijana Bandhu" and "Pouravani", have been revived by the same editors. Besides, there is a Kannada monthly by name "Sahakara Jyoti" edited by Sri H. V. Veere Gowda and an English-Kannada bilingual quarterly called "Mysore Sakkare" edited by Sri Rame Gowda.

Though journalism has not made any appreciable progress in the district, newspapers, magazines and periodicals published outside such as the Prajavani, Tainadu, Janavani, Samyukta-Karnataka, Sudha, Prajamata, Karmaveera, Prapancha, Janapragati,

Gokula and Kasturi among the Kannada journals and the Deccan Herald, Indian Express, Hindu, Mail, Illustrated Weekly of India, Blitz and Mysindia among the English journals have a wide circulation in the district. Tabloid Kannada newspapers published in Mysore city are also popular in the area. Film magazines published in Bombay and Madras have a good circulation. The Azad, Pasban and Salar, the Urdu newspapers from Bangalore, and the Ananda-Vikatan, Kalki and Kumudham, the Tamil magazines from Madras, have also a reading public in the district.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The humanitarian urge to organise voluntary associations for serving a social purpose received a considerable impetus with the advent of independence. It has been the Government policy to encourage voluntary efforts in every possible way. There are a good number of voluntary institutions in Mandya district serving the social needs of the people in a variety of ways. These bodies are playing an important part in the development of the district. Several of them have attained a certain degree of stability and won Government recognition, assistance and guidance.

A brief account of some of the important social service organisations in the district is given in the following paragraphs. The particulars are of interest not only in regard to the institutions concerned but also as regards the pattern they represent. 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 activities could be collected.

The establishment of the People's Education Society at Mandya can be said to be a highly important voluntary effort made in recent years for the progress of the district. Encouraged by the idea of an over-all educational advancement of the district envisaged by the Five-Year Plans, eminent social workers of the area, under the guidance of Sri K. V. Shankara Gowda, founded and registered this public institution in 1958, with the following objectives :—

**People's
Education
Society,
Mandya**

- (1) Promotion and encouragement of education including basic and nursery education, training of children and adults for citizenship and of women in domestic science and training in handicrafts, cottage industries and other useful crafts and arts amongst the population of the locality to be determined by the rural areas.

- (2) Harnessing of the energies and resources of the people to promote civilized life and social service and for the instruction in and diffusion of useful knowledge.
- (3) Establishment of colleges, schools and other educational institutions of various kinds in important places as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Management.
- (4) Establishment and maintenance of or giving of grants to organisations, *ashramas* and institutions of any kind connected with any of the aforesaid activities.
- (5) Establishment and maintenance of or giving of grants for the benefit of poor homes for women and children, maternity homes, child welfare centres and other institutions of similar nature such as ante and post-natal clinics.
- (6) Taking over or affiliation of colleges, schools, hostels and student-homes belonging to or managed by other institutions or *sanghas* or local self-governing bodies or the State Government for purposes of management and control.
- (7) Training of men and women for carrying out any of the aforesaid activities.
- (8) Rendering of help by grant and contribution to any existing institution or that may be established hereafter or to any person or persons carrying on or undertaking to carry on such activities in the locality to be determined by the Board of Management from time to time.
- (9) Any other activity incidental or germane to the aforesaid activities.
- (10) All activities, institutions and organisations maintained or assisted from the funds of the Society shall be non-communal and non-political.

The Society made strenuous efforts for collection of funds for starting an Engineering College and with active public support established the P.E.S. College of Engineering at Mandya in 1962. Training facilities in three major branches of engineering, *viz.*, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical, have been provided in this College. About 60 acres of land on the south-western boundary of Mandya town were secured and a campus for this College has

been developed on this land. This College has about 450 students at present (1967). In 1964, the Society opened a Polytechnic at Mandya. However, at present admissions to this institution have been discontinued and only the final year students are being coached. The Society took another forward step by establishing a College of Science at Mandya in 1966. This College has nearly 160 students at present (1967-68).

The Society has collected funds by way of membership fees, donations, etc., and has invested about 30 lakhs of rupees on buildings and equipment for the laboratories and workshops. It has an Executive Committee with a president, a secretary and 17 other members.

The Mahila Samaja, Mandya, was founded in the year 1935 and registered in 1936. Its main objective is to promote the welfare of women and children. It was managed during the year 1965-66 by a committee of twelve persons, which included a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. There were one hundred members in the Samaja during that year, each paying a monthly subscription of one rupee. The institution gets grants-in-aid from the Departments of Industries and Commerce, and Education. It imparts training to women in tailoring, embroidery, feather work and manufacture of *agarbathies*, so that after training, the trainees could earn their livelihood. About a hundred women were receiving training every year in these crafts.

**Mahila
Samaja,
Mandya**

In addition, arrangements had been made for teaching music and dance. Condensed S.S.L.C. Course classes for adult women were started in 1963-64, with the assistance of the Central Social Welfare Board; 24 women were admitted to the course which lasted for a period of two years. During 1965-66, training in weaving was revived. The State Social Welfare Advisory Board gave to the Samaja a grant of Rs. 2,000 during 1966-67, for running craft classes and a *Balawadi*.

The Rotary Club, Mandya, was started in the year 1953, being sponsored by the Rotary Club, Bangalore. It is essentially a service organisation covering four avenues of service, namely, service to members, vocational service, community service and international service. It was managed, during the year 1965-66, by seven committees which were allotted different functions. It has a president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries and a board of four directors. There were thirty members on the rolls, during that year, belonging to various classifications. The Club was mainly responsible for implementing the urban pilot projects sponsored by the Central Social Welfare Board.

**Rotary Club,
Mandya**

The Club gave a donation of Rs. 25,000 in 1956 for the construction of the building of the Government Intermediate College, now up-graded into a First Grade College. It also sponsored a *Shramadan* camp in co-operation with the Scouts of Mandya and constructed, during the same year, a school building at Sundahalli (situated at a distance of five miles from Mandya). With the co-operation of the Mandya Municipal Council, the Club conducted two eye camps in 1954-55 and 1959-60, at which more than 1,000 patients were treated free of all cost. An expenditure of about Rs. 30,000 was incurred by the Club in conducting these two eye camps. A gruel centre was opened by the Club in 1953-54 in which hundreds of poor people were fed. The Club has a scheme of having a children's park and a children's library. It has also selected Muddanahalli as the Rotary village.

**Red Cross
Society,
Mandya**

The Indian Red Cross Society is a voluntary organisation constituted under a Central statute and has branches in all the States. Its activities are directed towards improvement of health, prevention of disease and mitigation of human suffering.

A branch of the Society was established in Mandya in the year 1932. Its day-to-day administration is being carried on by an advisory committee consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman and a treasurer, besides official and non-official members. The Deputy Commissioner of the district is its *ex-officio* chairman. Among the noteworthy achievements of the Society in Mandya may be mentioned that it secured a first prize for Red Cross work in the year 1936.

**Bharat Seva
Dal, Mandya**

The Bharat Seva Dal is an off-shoot of the Hindustani Seva Dal founded by Dr. N. S. Hardikar in 1923. It commenced functioning in March 1950, as a non-political and non-party youth organisation. A branch of the Seva Dal was established at Mandya in 1952. The objects of the institution are :—

- (i) to improve the health and physique of the youths through physical culture and training ;
- (ii) to instil the qualities of self-discipline, self-reliance and service in the youths of the country ; and
- (iii) to train the youths for organised national service and to promote national development and social reconstruction by rendering service.

The Seva Dal is managed by a Central Committee consisting of a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, an organising secretary, a treasurer and a *dalapathi*. During the year 1965-66, a committee consisting of seven members had been constituted to look after the work in Mandya district. The Seva

Dal at Mandya has trained more than 100 students in national development works so far.

The Karnataka Sangha, Mandya, was started in the year 1936. Its main objects are the promotion and propagation of Kannada literature, expansion of cultural activities, diffusion of knowledge through the media of literary classes and lectures, conducting of *Nada-habba* and other allied activities. The Sangha is managed by a committee of 12 members including a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a joint-secretary. It has a library consisting of about 2,000 books and runs a free reading room also. The institution possesses its own building constructed at a cost of about Rs. 15,000. The Town Municipal Council, Mandya, is giving it a grant of Rs. 200 annually.

The Kirana Sahitya Sangha, Mandya, was established in 1950 with the object of conducting literary and allied activities. Lectures by noted authors and dramatists are arranged periodically. During the year 1954, the Sangha organised an All-Karnataka Fine Arts Exhibition. Again in 1957, another exhibition was held during the *Nada-habba* celebrations. The Sangha also arranges literary festivals, *Kavya-vachana*, staging of dramas and the like.

The Janapada Seva Trust, Melkote, was founded in August 1960. The main aims of the Trust are :

- (i) to strive to improve the socio-economic conditions of the villages and to ameliorate those who form the weaker section of the society;
- (ii) to establish educational and rehabilitation centres;
- (iii) to work for the success of Panchayat Raj organisations, and
- (iv) to publish magazines and useful literature.

It is the object of the Trust to conduct its work on Sarvodaya principles. Some of the programmes which the trust is conducting in pursuance of its objectives are :

Karuna Griha, Melkote.—This is a school for orthopaedically handicapped boys. It provides free schooling, boarding and lodging facilities, besides supplying text books and the like. This Griha was inaugurated in August 1963. In 1966, it had 13 inmates coming from different parts of the State and efforts were being made to provide facilities to about 30 boys. Particular attention is paid to teach crafts and agriculture to the inmates. The Mysore State Social Welfare Department and the Central Social Welfare Board are giving financial help to the Griha.

Sri Krishna Sishuvihar, Melkote.—This is a nursery school meant for children of the age-group of 3 to 5. It was started in December 1958 by the Nekara Sarvodaya Sangha and later on transferred to the Janapada Seva Trust. There were two trained nursery teachers and two helpers on the staff. The strength of the Sishuvihar during 1966 was 50. A craft section is also being conducted with ten trainees. The State Social Welfare Advisory Board gave a grant of Rs. 1,500 to this Sishuvihar during 1966-67.

Visvesvaraya Kaigarika Kendra, Melkote.—This Kendra was established in the year 1962. It provides training in mat-weaving and making of bamboo articles. The articles prepared are sold in shandies and the realisation credited to the Trust funds. This institution has been helping a large number of trainees to learn these useful trades and earn their livelihood.

Makkala Mandira, Santhebachahalli.—This institution was started in August 1960. There were 30 pupils studying in the nursery class as on the 31st March 1966, in charge of a trained teacher. Toys and other materials were provided for the benefit of the children. The Mysore State Social Welfare Advisory Board sanctioned a grant of Rs. 500 to this institution in 1966.

The Trust conducted a two-year condensed course for 22 women for the S.S.L.C. examination during 1962-64. In 1965-66, there were 30 women undergoing this course. There were four teachers. During May 1966, a holiday home for school-going boys of lower income-groups was organised. Discussions and conferences on voluntary work and Panchayat Raj movement are also organised.

**Vanitha
Samaja,
Melkote**

The Vanitha Samaja, Melkote, was started in August 1960. The main objects of the Samaja are to promote the social well-being of women and to provide training to them in arts and crafts. It was running classes in tailoring and embroidery. During the year 1965-66, sixteen ladies were being trained in these crafts under the guidance of an experienced instructor. The Community Development Department has placed at the disposal of the Samaja three sewing machines for the benefit of the trainees.

**Kannada
Sangha,
Melkote**

The Kannada Sangha, Melkote, came into being in the year 1935, with the object of studying Kannada literature and of assisting its enrichment. The Sangha is managed by a committee consisting of a president, a secretary, a joint secretary, a treasurer and two other members. It runs study circles and arranges discourses and discussions on Kannada literature.

The Ubhaya Vedanta Pravarthana Sabha, Melkote, was founded in the year 1902 with the object of encouraging religious studies, its aims being :—

**Ubhaya
Vedanta Pra-
varthana
Sabha,
Melkote**

- (i) to encourage the study of Vishishtadwaita works ;
- (ii) to hold an annual series of examinations at Melkote and to award certificates and prizes to successful candidates ; and
- (iii) to facilitate the propagation of Vishishtadwaita philosophy by providing for holding of religious classes and lectures and for employment of itinerant teachers and preachers and by encouraging authors of suitable publications.

The headquarters of the Sabha is at Bangalore, while Melkote has its branch. The examinations of the Sabha are held at Melkote in three branches of studies, namely, Veda, Vedanta and Divya Prabhandham (Tamil religious works). There were about 600 members on the rolls of the Sabha during the year 1966, including 86 donors and 518 life-members. The Managing Committee of the institution, during the year 1965-66, consisted of 15 members including a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

Sri Sharada Mahila Samaja, Nagamangala, was established and registered in 1962. The objects of the institution are to improve the social, physical, cultural and educational well-being of women and children, irrespective of caste, creed or social status. It had about 35 members on its rolls in 1966. It was managed by a committee consisting of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a joint secretary, a treasurer and five other members.

**Sri Sharada
Mahila
Samaja,
Nagamangala**

Crafts such as tailoring, needle work and embroidery are taught in the institution, for which a small nominal fee is charged. Twenty ladies were trained in these crafts during 1965-66. The Samaja is also conducting a training course in Ambar-charkha spinning. The Samaja has also undertaken the management of a Sishuvihar since 1963.

Further expansion programmes of the institution include the starting of a condensed course for coaching women for the S.S.L.C. examination and starting of cottage industries.

Several Mahila Mandals have been functioning in the rural areas of the district. Their object is to promote social welfare of women and children. All these Mandals had started the pre-primary *Balawadi* classes for the benefit of children. The villagers evince much interest in these classes and are actively co-operating in the various activities of the Mandals.

**Mahila
Mandals**

Maternity health service is another important service which these Mandals are attending to. The craft programmes are next in the order of priority. The Bekkalale, Dundenahalli and Hebberalu Mahila Mandals received a grant of Rs. 1,500 each from the Mysore State Social Welfare Advisory Board, while the Kesthur Mahila Mandal was given Rs. 1,000, in 1965-66. The Board has been helping these centres with a view to promoting the welfare of women and children, more particularly, of the rural areas.

The State Social Welfare Board conducted training camps for the benefit of the office-bearers of the Mahila Mandals. The courses were organised to impart training in the maintenance of accounts and the effective implementation of welfare services according to specified standards.

**Sarvajanika
Vidyarthi
Nilayas**

It is noteworthy that in recent years, a net-work of Sarvajanika Vidyarthi Nilayas (students' hostels) has been organised on a co-operative basis by public-spirited workers in the district. This has given a considerable fillip to educational efforts in the area.
