

GAZETTEER OF INDIA

KARNATAKA STATE
MANDYA DISTRICT

(Revised Edition)

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(Revised Edition)

Chief Editor
S.A. Jeelani, K.A.S.

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From Secretary's Desk

Gazetteers are normally described as Geographical Encyclopaedias and a veritable voyage of discovery of a given area or region. The word '*Gaza*' is from the Greek root meaning dictionary of places and the European countries introduced this in the format of Gazetteers. Under the British administration the compilation, editing, and publication of District Gazetteers was introduced in India. But, India had a grand tradition of preparing and publishing this type of works such as Kautalya's *Arthashastra*, Varahamihira's *Brihat Samhitha* and Abul Fazal's *Ain-i-Akbari*, etc. During the Pre-Independence period efforts were made to compile and publish district gazetteers by the British administration.

Princely Mysore State had a very rich tradition of publishing Gazetteers. Benjamin Lewis Rice prepared and edited the three volumes of Mysore and Coorg Gazetteers during 1876-1878. Earlier to this, the first-ever Mysore District Gazetteer was edited and published by Wellesly in 1869 as a pioneering effort. After a lapse of twenty years the revised edition of Mysore Gazetteer in two volumes was prepared by Lewis Rice and published by the erstwhile Government of Mysore in the year 1897. Recently these volumes have been scanned by using latest computer technology and published in the year 2004 by this department under the ongoing scheme for reprinting of Pre-Independence Gazetteers.

Under the ongoing scheme the department undertook the stupendous task of preparation and publication of District Gazetteers in accordance with a centrally sponsored scheme. This scheme was accomplished in 1990 by publishing District Gazetteers for all the then existing 20 districts of Karnataka. Subsequently, under the ongoing scheme revision of District Gazetteers and publishing them in Kannada was taken up. Later on the English version of these district Gazetteers also came to be published under the resolution of the Advisory Committee headed by the Chief Secretary. Under this on going scheme the English version of the Mandya District Gazetteer is

being published. Mandya district was carved out of the old Mysore District in 1939 and organized into a new district in the heartland of the Hoysala dynasty. It has rich architectural master pieces built during the Hoysala period. Temples at Maddur, Melukote, Kerethonnur, Basaral, Hosaholalu and Nagamangala may be stated as examples of the rich Hoysala art tradition.

The department of Gazetteers, in accordance with the State Government's Policy of e-governance has accomplished the task of scanning both the Pre-Independence and Post-Independence Gazetteer volumes in 2003 and released a set made up of nine CD's. These CD's have special search and highlighting facility. With an idea to take the knowledge of the Gazetteer volumes to the door steps of the scholars, four 'Touch Screen KIOSKS' have been installed at Karnataka Gazetteer Department in Cauvery Bhavan, Kannada and Culture Dept., Kannada Bhavan, Bangalore, Prof. Basavanahal Library at Karnataka University Campus, Dharwad, and the Directorate of State Archaeology and Museums at Mysore. Of late the department as a pioneering effort has also published a special multi - coloured and attractive edition of '*Karnataka Tourism Gazetteer*' for the four Revenue Regions of Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga and Belgaum in collaboration with the State Tourism Department.

This Mandya District Gazetteer is the English version of the revised Kannada edition published in the year 2003. It gives a comprehensive picture of the achievements made in various fields of activity. I personally appreciate the Chief Editor and the officers and other staff of the department and congratulate them for accomplishing this much useful work.

Bengaluru
Date: 13-11-2009

B.R.Jayaramaraje Urs, I.A.S.
Secretary
Kannada and Culture
Information Department

PREFACE

The Mandya District is endowed with rivers such as the Hemavathy, the Lokapavani, the Shimsha and the Veeravaishnavi being the tributaries of the Cauvery have made the Mandya district highly fertile and hence the district is called the land of five rivers. The district was noted for the Krishnaraja Sagara Dam built across the Cauvery (1932); the Belagola Paper Mills, formerly a chief industry ; Hydel Power Generating Station at Shivanasamudra (1902) and Shimsha (1939-40) have made the district a highly flourishing and prosperous one. Particularly Shivanasamudra Hydel Electricity Generating Station is considered as the First Hydel Power Station in entire Asia. The Krishnaraja Sagara Dam planned and executed by the then Dewan Sir. M. Vishveshvariah serves as the main water source to undertake agricultural operations in the district and it is noted for major crops like Paddy, Ragi, Sugarcane etc. The district is also known for the production of sugar and jaggary which together have given the synonym 'Sugar District' to Mandya. Earlier Mandya was the part of the then existing Mysore district, but due to administrative convenience Mandya was separated and constituted into an independent district in 1939.

The old Mandya district Gazetteer was published in English by this Department in 1967. Earlier to this it finds an important coverage in the Mysore Gazetteers published as a pioneering effort by H.Wellesly (1869) the Mysore and Coorg Gazetteers was published twice by Benjamin Lewis Rice in two volumes in 1876 -1897. The Mysore and Coorg volume III concerning Coorg was separately edited and published by B.L.Rice in 1878. This district also finds a thorough mention in the Imperial Gazetteers series 'Provincial Gazetteers of India' Edited by Sir William Wilson Hunter during 1881-1907. It must also be mentioned that Rao Bahadur C. Hayavadana Rao gave a considerable coverage to this region in the five volumes of Mysore Gazetteers published between 1920-30. All the above mentioned Gazetteers gives a comprehensive picture of the district covering History, People

and Social Life, Education, Economic Development, Religious, Literary and Cultural life and such other varieties of cultural dimensions of this rich district including places of Interest have been well documented.

When all the above mentioned fragile volumes became extinct due to lapse of time in several Libraries, the Department undertook the task of scanning and reprinting these rare volumes as a part of the on-going scheme. This entire scheme is already through and during the current year the department has taken up the reprinting of Mysore Gazetteer, edited by C.Hayavadana Rao and three volumes of Francis Buchanan's Travels. Under the revised scheme of publishing District Gazetteers, the revised edition of the Mandya district, in Kannada was taken up and published in 2003. Later on under the on-going scheme of translating it into English, now the Department has accomplished the publication of this English version of the revised Mandya district Gazetteer, 2003. This is being done with a view to exchange them with other states on reciprocal basis and also for the benefit of non-Kannadigas.

This volume deals with Seventeen chapters concerning Natural resources, History, People. Agriculture and Irrigation, Industries, Banking and Trade, Transport and Communication, Economic Trends, Administration and Revenue, Education and Sports, Law and Order, Other Social Services, Literature and Culture, Medical and Health Services and several striking places of interests gives a panoramic picture of the district in the recent times. Several surveys and tours have been undertaken in the preparation of this volume and sincere attempts have been made to give a coverage about several aspects in a nutshell. So far as the statistical figures are considered though they are limited to 2002 March, as per the earlier edition, updated figures upto 2008 March have been appended in the addenda given at the end of the book. Another feature of this volume is the multi coloured illustrations given chapterwise running into 80 pages and printed with attractive high resolution photographs. To facilitate the

readers and scholars a scientific list of Select Bibliography, Index and Village List have been given at the end of the Book.

The objective of publishing District Gazetteers includes reflecting several activities, schemes and programmes of the Government and covering all the facets of District Administration with accuracy and authenticity. They are thus compiled with utmost care and perfection. I personally thank each member of the State Advisory (a list is appended separately) Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka and the successive Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of the Kannada and Culture, Information Department. I am indebted personally to the Chief Secretaries like Sri B.S.Patil I.A.S., Sri P.B.Mahishi I.A.S., Sri Sudhakar Rao I.A.S., and the present Chief Secretary Sri S.V.Ranganath I.A.S., They have been our beacon of light in all our academic pursuits. I thank the Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of Kannada and Culture Dr. C.S.Kedar I.A.S., and Sri. I.M.Vittalamurthy I.A.S., Sri. Subhir Harisingh I.A.S., and the present Secretary Sri.B.R. Jayaramaraje Urs I.A.S., for the continuous co-operation and guidance. Such a stupendous task has been undertaken with the sincere and great efforts of the Editors and Investigators of this Department who have been supporting in all such endeavour. I would like to place on record the services of Sri T.G.Narasimhamoorthy Senior Editor (I/C) (till 23-07-2009) and Sri S.A.Jagannath Senior Editor (I/C) and Sri S.Y.Bettegowda Editor, who have striven hard in seeing this big volume through the press with care and interest. I also thank the other staff of the Department who have been behind me in accomplishing this project. I finally thank M/S. Lavanya Printers, represented by Sri. G. Gopala Krishna the proprietor and his staff for doing a neat job with utmost care.

Bengaluru
Date : 13-11-2009

S.A.Jeelani, K.A.S.
Chief Editor
Karnataka Gazetteer

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Editor : S.N Raju

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(Investigator)

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