

PREFACE

THE Mysore District Gazetteer had been published in 1869 in days of the Commissioner's Rule. It was edited by H. Wellesly, the Superintendent of Ashtagram Division. It was of the then existing district which included the present Mandya District also. Subsequently, Lewis Rice in his Mysore Gazetteer published twice, 1876 and 1897 and C. Hayavadana Rao in his Mysore Gazetteer published between 1927 and 1930 in five volumes, for the whole princely State had also surveyed the district. But the present Mysore district is quite different from what had been discussed in all these publications as Mandya district was separated from the old district in 1939, and in 1956, the Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district in the former Madras Presidency was added to this district. The district as in the present form or size came into existence in 1956, and it had no district gazetteer till now. It is a matter of pleasure that under the scheme of bringing out new series of district gazetteers after Independence, Mysore District Volume is being released as the 18th in the district series beginning with the Dharwad district volume published as the first such publication in 1958. In addition to these 18 district volumes, this Department has also published the Karnataka State Gazetteer in two parts (1982-83) and a Kannada version of the same in three parts (1983-85). Only two more districts, Bangalore Rural and Bangalore remain to be covered and the work of collection of material for both the volumes and drafting of the Chapters of the former are in progress, and the whole series will be completed by the end of the VII Plan.

Mysore is the southern-most district in Karnataka, the Western Ghats touching its western and southern fringe. The Cauvery and her numerous tributaries have enriched it. It stands second among the districts of Karnataka in forest cover (3.38 lakh ha), and this helped the growth of forest based industries and tourism (with its sanctuaries). It has one of the 11 centres of Project Tiger in the country. In tribal population it stands third among the districts of Karnataka with a variety of peoples like the Soligas, Jenu Kurubas, Kadu Kurubas, Betta Kurubas, etc., and to this anthropological variety of late are added the Tibetans. The district has the highest incidence of bonded labourers and a Special Officer has been appointed exclusively in the district for their rehabilitation. In sericulture, the district stands first, the art being introduced here as early as in the days of Tipu. It stands third in raising the much needed pulses (81.00 lakhs ha in

1986-87) and first in cattle wealth (9.89 lakhs in 1986-87). Amritmahal is a special breed here. In poultry farming, the district's place is third (10.96 lakhs in 1986-87) and in inland fisheries second, next only to Bellary. The labour force in organised industries was 61,500 in 1986-87, placing the district third in this respect. In infra-structure it stands third in road mileage, though there is no national highway in the district. It has flourishing crafts and cottage industries like the charming inlay work, stone carving, silk weaving, agarbathi and beedi rolling. It has unique factories like Ideal Jawa producing motor bikes and Vikrant Tyres, manufacturing rubber tyres. In growth rate, its place is the third in the State.

Culturally, Mysore had been in the vanguard, having been the seat of one of the most enlightened royal houses in modern India whose enthusiasm for fine arts and learnings had few equals. Even earlier, the Gangas, Cholas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagar Emperors and the various petty Palegars did not lag behind in encouraging scholarship and fine arts through the *agraharas* and temples. Mysore grew as a great centre of Carnatic music, and the Mysore dynasty did not lag behind in encouraging Hindustani and European music. The Oriental Manuscript Library founded during the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria (1887) secured Mysore world fame when *Arthashastra* of Kuatalya was published by its Curator, Mahamahopadhyaya R. Shama Shastri. Mysore saw the sixth University in India (1916) which was the first to be started among the Indian princely States in which eminent scholars like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan found a footing. The wonderful palaces, parks and buildings in Mysore have made it a veritable haven for tourists. Its colourful Dasara festival is also world famous. Equally important are the pilgrimage centres, some of them at attractive confluences of rivers or captivating hilly forest tracts like the Chamundi Hill, Nanjangud, T. Narasipur, the Malemahadeshwara Hills, the Gopalaswamy Betta, the Biligirirangana Betta, Talkad and Bettadapura. The Shivasamudra falls and the Somanathpur temple are equally notable.

Academic institutions of all-India importance like the Directorate of Epigraphy, the C.F.T.R.I. and D.F.R. Lab., the southern regional office of the Central Institute of Indian Languages, etc., have been working here in tune with the academic importance of city which had been a great centre of traditional learning also.

This challenging task of compilation could be possible not only by the hard labour of my colleagues, but also due to the co-operation of the Deputy Commissioner Sri V. P. Baligar and his successive Headquarters Assistants who worked as our Liaison Officers. All heads of departments at the district level, both of Central and State

Government and their subordinate staff have also been highly co-operative. Among the scholars and knowledgeable men, special mention has to be made of Dr. G.G. Manjunathan, Dr. A.V. Narasimha Murthy and Sri. M.C. Vasantakumar of the Mysore University, Sri. M. N. Jois, Sri. H. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, Sri. Agaram Rangiah, Sri. I. Srinivas Rao, Sri. C. V. Dwarakanah, Sri. P. R. Tippeswamy, Sri. N. M. Gaffar Ali Khan (descendant of Tipu Sultan's family), Rev. Father Gregorious, Sri. P. Basavanna, His Holiness the Swamiji of the Kuntur Matha, Sri. Immadi Shivabasava Swamy, Sri. K. R. Nanjappa and Sri M. V. Gopalakrishna. They have to be specially thanked among the hundreds of other persons for their kind help and co-operation. Dr. B. Narasimhaiah, Superintending Archaeologist, Mid-Southern Circle, A.S.I. placed at our disposal unpublished survey reports of the Department on the district. Dr. M. S. Nagaraja Rao, Director of Archaeology and Museums and Sri M. R. Srinivas Murthy, Chief Secretary, Zilla Parishad have been of immense help. Fr. (Dr.) C. J. Saldanha, botanist of repute, has placed us under his obligation by drafting the section on *flora*. My colleagues in the Department Sri. S. A. Jagannath and Sri T. G. Narasimha Moorthy, Editors, and Sri. Stephen Paul and Sri. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigators have attended to proof-reading work at the press, and are being specially mentioned for their devoted work though it is a part of our work, and all my colleagues (list given separately) have spared no efforts in bringing out this volume.

The staff of the Government Press, the Director Sri. E. Krishna Narayan, Joint Director Sri G. Gangaiah and Assistant Directors Sri M. Chalapathy and Sri K. M. Bhuvanesh to mention only the topmost have been highly co-operative and have earned our gratitude.

The erudite members of the Advisory Committee headed by the Chief Secretary Sri T. R. Satishchandran and later Sri A. B. Datar have been our sources of inspiration and guidance. The Additional Chief Secretary Sri K.N.S. Murthy took special interest in our work. Our heart-felt thanks are due to all the members (A list of the Advisory Committee Members is given separately). This office is now busy drafting the chapters of the recently created Bangalore Rural District.

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Chief Editor.

