



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA STATE GAZETTEER

BIDAR DISTRICT GAZETTEER
(Revised Edition)



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PREFACE

Gazetteers are mostly mistaken for or confused with the Gazettes. They are indeed poles apart; however, the words Gazette, and Gazetteer are cognate terms. It appears that in Greek, “Gaza” meant a treasury of news. Gazetteers are distinctly reference volumes of lasting value while the Gazettes are official newspapers or bulletins. Earlier, a Gazetteer signified a geographical index or geographical dictionary or guide book of important places and people. But with the passage of time its range has vastly widened, and it had come to mean a veritable mine of knowledge about the numerous aspects of life of the people and of the Country or region they inhabit.

Some books of yore such as the work of Stephen of Byzantium of the 6th century A.D., Doomsday Book compiled for William the Conqueror, Brihat-Samhita of Varaha Mihira, Vayu Purana and Abdul Fazl’s Ain-I-Akbari are cited as having in them some resemblancing elements of Gazetteers. But the system of Modern Gazetteer literature arose in Europe in the wake of the new intellectual ferment brought about by the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution. Germany and France led the way in this respect. The colonial British administration in India took up military, revenue and statistical survey to help stabilize its position in the country. The earliest Gazetteers to appear in India were the East India Gazetteer in 1815 and the Gazetteer of the territories under the Government of the East India Company in 1854 which were prepared by two private authors Walter Hamilton and Edward Thornton. A few years later, by 1866, Richard Temple published the first official Gazetteer of the Bhandara District of the Central Province. This set the pace and there appeared several Gazetteer volumes for the various parts of the Country.

For the Princely State of Mysore and Coorg, B.L. Rice published three volumes in 1877-78. They presented remarkable studies and served as a model. He revised the two volumes twenty years later. The subjects dealt were physical geography, flora including crops and cultivation, fauna, ethnography, history, religion, language, art and industry, administration, particulars of districts and important places. They had even maps and pictures. For the districts of Bombay and Madras Provinces, Gazetteers were brought out between the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decade of 20th century. Infact B.L. Rice has himself recorded in his preface to the Vol.I of Mysore and Coorg Gazetteer that, the first Gazetteer for Mysore was compiled by Arthur Wellesley in 1867 and later K.Krishna Iyengar compiled and edited the Kolar District Gazetteer in 1869, which are the pioneering publications in this series. He further records that manuscripts were prepared for

Tumakuru District by Major C. Pearse, for Chitradurga district by Mr. Krishna Rao, for Hassan District by Major W Hill and for Shivamogga District by Captain Gordon Cumming, were compiled and edited but never published.

In the meanwhile, the first edition of the Imperial Gazetteer of India was published in nine volumes in 1881 edited by Sir. William Hunter. It was augmented to 14 volumes in 1885-87 and to 26 volumes in 1907-1909, when a provincial series was also issued. As B.L. Rice had done a splendid job for Mysore already during 1877-78, his work was extolled even by Sir. William Hunter as better than anything he himself had been able to do even for Bengal. The third decade of 20th century saw the publication of the Mysuru Gazetteer in five volumes comprising eight parts under the editorship of Sri. C. Hayavadana Rao, which also kept up a high standard.

The first repatterned series after the attainment of Independence started rolling out in 1975. These new District Gazetteers are being published by the State Government in accordance with an all-India plan at the instance of the Central Government, which gave grants for the purpose to all the State and Union Territories. This District Gazetteers were part of the Gazetteer of India and are hence superscribed as the Gazetteer of India. In order to have a broad and basic uniformity in the pattern of the new Gazetteers, the Central Gazetteer Unit in consultation with the State Units devised a common plan of contents to enable a wide coverage of various aspects which would not be otherwise feasible in volumes devoted to the State or the Country as a whole.

In 1880, the Nizam Government had proposed to prepare a Gazetteer for each of the districts of his dominion. Later in 1909, in the provincial series of the Imperial Gazetteer of India, the British Government published a Gazetteer volume of about 320 pages on the erstwhile Hyderabad State, in which 11 pages were devoted to the then larger district of Bidar. Then in 1925, a booklet of 35 tables of Statistics and thereafter in 1940, a book of about 400 pages of statistics were published by the Department of Statistics of the Nizam's Government for the former bigger district of Bidar, calling both of them, however as Gazetteers.

The full-fledged Gazetteer of Bidar District was brought out by the Karnataka Gazetteer Department in 1977. This was part of the series of the Karnataka District Gazetteers which are all, in their turn, parts of the Gazetteer of India. Hence, they are superscribed as the Gazetteer of India.

After the lapse of 40 years, the Department is bringing the revised version of Bidar District Gazetteer incorporating the various developments in different areas like Agriculture and allied activities, Banking, Trade and Commerce, Transport and communications, Education, Health Facilities etc. The information has been updated including the latest statistics wherever available. The list of Scholars who have contributed for drafting the updated chapters has been given in the contents and the list of Advisory Members for Bidar District Gazetteer is appended.

The Department acknowledges the great support of our Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Kannada and Culture Sri D.K. Shivakumar and the previous Minister of State, Kannada and Culture, Women and Child Development, Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Smt. Jayamala, to this department and in the publication of this book.

Further, the Department is also highly indebted to our Principal Secretary Basavaraju, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Transport, Kannada Culture and Information for his guidance.

The department also thank the Director, Economics and Statistics, and Planning Departments in particular, whose reports have been extensively used in this book. The Department also acknowledges M/S. Lavanya printers pvt Ltd., Bengaluru for printing this book in time.

To conclude, I fully acknowledge the work and compliment to the Editorial staff of my office, as well as the other office staff in my Department, who have joined hands in accomplishing this task successfully.

N Chandrashekar

Chief Editor

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1	Principal Secretary to Government of Karnataka Kannada, Culture and Information Department Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.	Chair Person
2	Prof. Vasanth Kushtagi M.I.G. 26, Adarshanagar, 1 st Stage Kalaburagi - 585 105.	Member
3	Dr. Chennanna Walikar L.I.G. 120, Badepura Colony University Road, Kalaburagi – 585 705	Member
4	Dr. Krishna kolhar Kulakarni 633, “Mahipathi”, Keerthinagar, Bijapur – 586 101	Member
5	Abdul Aziz, U. Rajput Bijapur	Member
6	Chandrappa Hebbalkar # 9-12-410, Vidyanagar Colony Bidar	Member
7	Vishvanath Gandigudi , Retired Professor “Vishvashree”, # 19/1/229 Mahadev Colony, Shivanagar (South) Bidar – 585 401	Member
8	Shivaraj Kadode # 19-6-240, NGO Colony Shivanagar (North), Bidar – 585 401	Member
9	Vikram Visaji Assistant Professor Department of Kannada Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi	Member
10	Dr. Mallikarjun V. Alagavadi Dean and HOD , Department of Business Management Studies Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi	Member
11.	Chief Editor Karnataka Gazetteer Department Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru	Member Secretary