

## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

SOON after the police action in 1948, normal conditions were restored in the Hyderabad State by the Military Governor with the assistance of a team of Civil Administrators and co-operation of the general public. The provision of relief to the thousands of persons, who had been affected badly in the disturbances, engaged the earnest attention of the administration. Realising that it was a human problem, which called for the co-operation of one and all, the administration sought the assistance of non-officials and the latter extended unstinted co-operation and assistance. In Raichur district, as elsewhere in the State, peace committees were formed at several places, which helped in the restoration of normal conditions in the district. Pensions were granted to 57 persons who had lost their bread-earners, and free gifts of cloth, cooking utensils, zinc sheets, timber, etc., were made to a number of other affected persons. A Refugee Fund, sponsored by the Military Governor, evoked a good response in the district and a sum of Rs. 1.40 lakhs was collected towards it.

Though the feudal regime of the Hyderabad State was terminated in 1948 and later a full-fledged popular Government took over the reins of the administration in 1952, still the problems of the people of Raichur and other districts of Hyderabad-Karnatak region did not find a solution. There could be no satisfaction for them until the area was integrated with the other Kannada-speaking areas. So they directed their efforts towards the formation of a United Karnataka led by the State Congress and other political parties. Under the auspices of the Ryot Parishat of the Hyderabad-Karnatak also, a demand for the division of the Hyderabad State on a linguistic basis was strongly urged by the people of the area. The Karnataka Parishat, a cultural organisation of Kannadigas of the Hyderabad State, also played a prominent role in this regard. As a result of the untiring efforts of the leaders and the people of the area, three predominantly Kannada-speaking districts of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar were integrated in the new Mysore State which came into being on November 1, 1956, as a result of the States' reorganisation.

Since Raichur became a part of the new Mysore State, the general political situation in the district has been harmonious and peaceful. Communal harmony and peace are well maintained. There has been perceptible political and social consciousness among the people in general. With the establishment of the popular Government, people have had opportunities to see and know more of the Government and its plans and programmes and to criticise more freely and boldly than ever before. They not only co-operate with the Government in their developmental efforts, but also lend their hand in building schools, hospitals, roads and the like. For instance, the Merchants' Association of Raichur is said to be extending financial assistance for running a few educational institutions in the Raichur town. Similarly, in the community development blocks of the district, people are reported to have made substantial voluntary contributions, both in cash and by way of labour, for the execution of some of the development programmes. Besides, during the Chinese and Pakistani aggressions on our country in 1962 and 1965 respectively, the people of the district contributed considerable amounts to the National Defence Fund. As at the end of July 1969, the total money contributions of the people of the district towards the fund stood at Rs. 20,83,303 besides contributions in kind which included 6,159 grams of gold and 275.8 grams of silver. Then again, under the Bhoodan Yajna movement sponsored by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, some people of the district have donated lands to a total extent of 647.27 acres for distribution among the landless.

The quinquennial general elections to the Parliament and the State Legislature are very keenly contested by the various political parties and individuals. With the decentralisation of administration brought about by the enactment of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, a large number of people vie with one another to get elected to the Taluk Development Boards and the Village Panchayats. Similarly, the elections to the municipal councils are also keenly contested, so also elections to the co-operative institutions and all other elective posts.

During the second general elections held in 1957 (*i.e.*, the first general elections after the formation of the new Mysore State), the only well-organised political party in the district was the Indian National Congress. This party which had a strong hold on the electorate in the district, contested all the Parliamentary and Assembly seats in the district and emerged victorious in all of them. The Praja-Socialist Party, which contested a solitary seat, could not make a mark, so also the independents. The latter included also candidates put up by the Lok Sevak Sangh, a local party. However, in the third general elections held in 1962, the Congress Party met with a serious opposition from the Lok Sevak Sangh, which fielded candidates

**Political parties**

in all the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the district. The Swatantra Party also came on the scene and set up its candidates in two of the Assembly constituencies; but it met with failure in both the constituencies. But the Lok Sevak Sangh wrenched from the Indian National Congress one of the two Lok Sabha seats and three of the ten Assembly seats. Even in the fourth general elections held in 1967, the Congress Party could not regain its lost position, but it was able to maintain the *status quo* without conceding any more seats to the opposition parties.

Besides Indian National Congress, the other political parties which fielded their candidates in the fourth general elections were the Swatantra Party, the Samyukta Socialist Party and the Bharatiya Jan Sangh. There were also several independent candidates. While the Congress Party retained its one Lok Sabha seat and seven Assembly seats, the Swatantra Party won the other Lok Sabha seat and also an Assembly seat. The Samyukta Socialist Party, which contested a lone Assembly seat, came out successful in it. The remaining one Assembly seat was won by an independent candidate. The Bharatiya Jan Sangh failed to win the solitary seat for which it put up its candidate. A brief account of the last three general elections, together with particulars of constituencies, the number of contesting candidates, the number of votes polled by each of them, etc., is given in the following paragraphs.

**General  
Elections,  
1957**

In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 47 of the States' Re-organisation Act, 1956, read with Section 6 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1956, and the rules and orders made thereunder, the Delimitation Commission issued a final order in December 1956, fixing the territorial constituencies of the district for purposes of the second general elections. By virtue of that order, Raichur district was allotted two seats in the Lok Sabha and ten seats in the Mysore Legislative Assembly. The ten seats to be filled up were distributed in nine Assembly constituencies including one double-member constituency. For purposes of election to the Lok Sabha, Raichur and Koppal were chosen as the two constituencies to elect two members. Except Raichur, all the rest—eight in number—were single-member constituencies relating to the Assembly schedule. In the Raichur double-member constituency, one seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

The following table indicates the extent of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to each :—

Sl. No.	Name of constituency	Extent of constituency	Total seats	Seats reserved for	
				Sche- duled Castes	Sche- duled Tribes
1		2	3	4	5

**Lok Sabha**

1.	Raichur	.. Raichur, Manvi, Lingsugur and Deodurg taluks of Raichur district; Shorapur and Shahapur taluks and Yadgir circle in the Yadgir taluk of Gulbarga district.	1	..	..
2.	Koppal	.. Koppal, Yelburga, Kushtagi, Sindhanur and Gangavati taluks of Raichur district; Hadagalli taluk, Mallapuram sub-taluk, Sirguppa taluk and Hospet taluk (excluding Kamalapuram firka and the villages in Kampli firka) of Bellary district.	1	..	..

**State Legislative Assembly**

1.	Raichur	.. Raichur taluk and Kurdi circle in Manvi taluk	2	1	..
2.	Deodurg	.. Deodurg taluk and Jalihalli circle in Lingsugur taluk	1	..	..
3.	Manvi	.. Manvi taluk (excluding Kurdi circle) and Gurgunta circle in Lingsugur taluk.	1	..	..
4.	Lingsugur	.. Lingsugur taluk (excluding Gurgunta and Jalihalli circles).	1	..	..
5.	Sindhanur	.. Sindhanur taluk and Karatgi circle in Gangavati taluk.	1	..	..
6.	Kushtagi	.. Kushtagi taluk	1	..	..
7.	Yelburga	.. Yelburga taluk	1	..	..
8.	Koppal	.. Koppal taluk (excluding Erkalgad circle and such of the villages in Hittanhal circle as specified.)	1	..	..
9	Gangavati	.. Gangavati taluk (excluding Karatgi circle and Erkalgad circle and such of the villages in Hittanhal circle as specified.)	1	..	..

The following statement indicates the number of electors in each constituency, the percentage of electors who voted, the number of contesting candidates and the votes polled by each of them in the second general elections in the district :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>No. of electors</i>	<i>Percentage of electors who voted</i>	<i>No. and party affiliation of contesting candidates</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled by each candidate</i>	<i>Successful party</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Lok Sabha</b>						
1.	Raichur ..	4,05,678	37.01	1. Congress .. 2. Independent	84,089 66,059	Congress
2.	Koppal ..	4,08,966	55.9	1. Congress .. 2. Independent	1,30,849 98,093	Congress
<b>Legislative Assembly</b>						
1.	Raichur (double-member)	97,258	52.0	1. Congress .. (S.C.) 2. Congress .. 3. Independent 4. Independent 5. Independent (S.C.)	15,044 13,744 8,254 7,583 6,797	Congress Congress
2.	Deodurg ..	52,836	31.0	1. Congress .. 2. Independent	9,595 6,940	Congress
3.	Manvi ..	54,337	35.0	1. Congress .. 2. Independent 3. Independent 4. Independent	9,023 4,964 2,839 2,343	Congress
4.	Lingsugur ..	43,593	44.32	1. Congress .. 2. Independent 3. Independent	12,672 5,151 1,502	Congress
5.	Sindhanur	55,399	45.26	1. Congress .. 2. Independent 3. Independent 4. Independent	11,752 8,129 3,503 1,049	Congress
6.	Kushtagi ..	54,753	48.11	1. Congress .. 2. Independent	18,226 7,840	Congress
7.	Yelburga ..	56,328	62.20	1. Congress .. 2. Independent	20,548 14,500	Congress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Koppal ..	39,242	53.63	1. Congress ..	10,222	Congress
				2. Independent	7,161	
				3. Independent	2,783	
				4. P.S.P. ..	878	
9.	Gangavati	48,964	43.93	1. Congress ..	12,862	Congress
				2. Independent	5,243	
				3. Independent	1,986	
				4. Independent	1,245	

It could be seen from the above statement that the Indian National Congress had set up two candidates to the two Lok Sabha seats who were opposed by two independents supported by the Lok Sevak Sangh. Similarly, the Congress party had fielded its candidates in all the Assembly constituencies, who were also opposed by several independents besides a lone candidate from the Praja-Socialist Party. Without any exception, the Congress candidates came out successful in all the constituencies and not a single independent candidate could win a seat in any of the constituencies.

For the third general elections held in 1962, the previous double-member Assembly constituency of Raichur was abolished under the provisions of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, and in its place two separate single-member constituencies of Raichur and Kalmala were created. The latter constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Under the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, the district was divided into two Parliamentary and ten Assembly constituencies as shown below :—

**General  
Elections,  
1962**

Sl. No.	Name of constituency	Extent of constituency
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1	2	3
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**Parliamentary Constituencies (Extent in terms of Assembly Constituencies)**

1. Raichur .. Yadgir, Shahapur and Shorapur in Gulbarga district and Raichur, Kalmala, Deodurg, Manvi and Lingsugur in Raichur district.
2. Koppal .. Sindhanur, Kushtagi, Yelburga, Koppal and Gangavati in Raichur district and Hadagalli, Hospet and Sirguppa in Bellary district.

1	2	3
<b>Assembly Constituencies</b>		
1. Raichur	..	Raichur and Yergera circles in Raichur taluk.
2. Kalmala (S.C.)	..	Raichur taluk (excluding Raichur and Yergera circles) and Kurdi circle in Manvi taluk.
3. Deodurg	..	Deodurg taluk.
4. Manvi	..	Manvi taluk (excluding Kurdi circle) and Gurgunta circle in Lingsugur taluk.
5. Lingsugur	..	Lingsugur taluk (excluding Gurgunta circle).
6. Sindhanur	..	Sindhanur taluk and Karatgi circle in Gangavati taluk.
7. Kushtagi	..	Kushtagi taluk.
8. Yelburga	..	Yelburga taluk.
9. Koppal	..	Koppal taluk (excluding Erkalgad circle and 19 villages in Hittanhal circle as specified).
10. Gangavati	..	Gangavati taluk (excluding Karatgi circle), Erkalgad circle and 19 villages in Hittanhal circle as specified.

The sub-joined statement shows the number of electors, the number of persons voted, the number and party affiliations of the contesting candidates and other relevant particulars in respect of the third general elections in the district :—

<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>No. of electors</i>	<i>No. of electors who voted and percentage</i>	<i>No. and party affiliations of contesting candidates</i>	<i>No. of valid votes polled by each candidate</i>	<i>Successful party</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6

#### Lok Sabha

1. Raichur	..	4,36,535	1,87,076 (42.85)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh.	95,424 80,099	Congress
2. Koppal	..	4,59,762	2,61,846 (56.95)	1. Lok Sevak Sangh. 2. Congress ..	1,25,018 1,20,737	Lok Sevak Sangh

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Legislative Assembly</b>					
1. Raichur ..	55,958	19,279 (34.45)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh.	9,699 8,317	Congress
2. Kalmala (S.C.)	50,584	11,561 (22.85)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh. 3. Independent	7,396 3,035 390	Congress
3. Deodurg ..	56,309	24,488 (43.49)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh.	16,143 6,583	Congress
4. Manvi ..	56,729	24,199 (42.66)	1. Congress .. 2. Swatantra .. 3. Lok Sevak Sangh.	15,139 3,856 2,918	Congress
5. Lingsugur ..	48,044	25,491 (53.06)	1. Lok Sevak Sangh. 2. Congress .. 3. Swatantra ..	13,289 7,551 2,741	Lok Sevak Sangh.
6. Sindhanur	62,651	32,057 (51.17)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh.	15,073 14,212	Congress
7. Kushtagi ..	57,425	31,924 (55.59)	1. Lok Sevak Sangh. 2. Congress. ..	15,233 14,194	Lok Sevak Sangh.
8. Yelburga ..	63,708	32,938 (51.70)	1. Lok Sevak Sangh. 2. Congress ..	16,104 14,310	Lok Sevak Sangh.
9. Koppal ..	44,452	23,196 (52.18)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh.	10,701 10,355	Congress
10. Gangavati	58,337	24,156 (41.40)	1. Congress .. 2. Lok Sevak Sangh.	15,823 6,027	Congress

An interesting feature of the third general elections in the district was the lesser number of contestants in the field as compared to the second general elections. While there were 30 contestants for the Assembly seats in the 1957 elections, there were only 23 in the 1962 elections. There were straight contests



in most of the constituencies, the predominant contesting parties being the Indian National Congress and the Lok Sevak Sangh. This was mainly due to the electoral alliance forged between the Lok Sevak Sangh and the independent candidates in their bid to oppose the Congress.

**General  
Elections,  
1967**

The Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1966, did not much vary the extents of the two Parliamentary constituencies in the district for purposes of the fourth general elections held in 1967. The only change effected was that the Sirguppa Assembly Constituency in Bellary district, which was included in the Koppal Parliamentary Constituency for purposes of the third general elections, was replaced by the Mundargi Assembly Constituency from Dharwar district. Some changes were, however, made in the extents of some of the Assembly constituencies as could be seen from the following statement :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of constituency</i>	<i>Extent of constituency</i>
1.	Deodurg	.. Deodurg taluk.
2.	Raichur	.. Gillesugur circle, Yergera circle (excluding Garaldinni and Dinni villages), Raichur circle (excluding Askihal, Rampur, Eklashpur and Kurabdoddi villages), Kuknur, Manslapur, Arlibenchi, Hasapur and Jalibenchi villages in Kalmala circle and Palkamdoddi village in Chandarbanda circle in Raichur taluk.
3.	Kalmala (S.C.)	.. Devarsugur circle, Chandarbanda circle (excluding Palkamdoddi village), Kalmala circle (excluding Kuknur, Manslapur, Arlibenchi, Hasapur and Jalibenchi villages), Askihal, Rampur, Eklashpur and Kurabdoddi villages, in Raichur circle, Garaldinni and Dinni villages in Yergera circle (all in Raichur taluk), Kurdi circle and 20 specified villages in Sirvar and Kallur circles, and the villages of Doddal, Katarki and Mudlapur in Manv circle (all in Manvi taluk).
4.	Manvi	.. Manvi taluk (excluding Kurdi circle and 20 specified villages in Sirvar and Kallur circles and the villages of Doddal, Katarki and Mudlapur in Manvi circle) and Maski circle in Lingsugur taluk.
5.	Lingsugur	.. Lingsugur taluk (excluding Maski circle).
6.	Sindhanur	.. Sindhanur taluk.
7.	Kushtagi	.. Kushtagi taluk.
8.	Yelburga	.. Yelburga taluk.
9.	Gangavati	.. Gangavati taluk and 12 specified villages in Hittanhal circle of Koppal taluk.
10.	Koppal	.. Koppal taluk (excluding 12 specified villages in Hittanhal circle).

As in the general elections of 1962, the Kalmala Assembly Constituency continued to be a reserved constituency for the Scheduled Castes in the 1967 general elections also. The statement given below shows the results of the fourth general elections in the district at a glance :—

Sl. No.	Name of constituency	No. of electors	No. of electors who voted and percentage	No. and party affiliations of contesting candidates	No. and percentage of valid votes polled by each candidate	Successful party
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Lok Sabha</b>						
1.	Raichur ..	4,95,088	2,35,984 (47.67)	1. Swatantra ..	1,17,272 (52.56)	Swatantra
				2. Congress ..	1,05,833 (47.44)	
2.	Koppal ..	5,19,702	3,27,016 (62.92)	1. Congress ..	1,66,690 (53.98)	Congress
				2. Independent	1,42,088 (46.22)	
<b>Legislative Assembly</b>						
1.	Deodurg ..	61,678	32,492 (52.68)	1. Swatantra ..	19,074 (63.73)	Swatantra
				2. Congress ..	10,857 (36.27)	
2.	Raichur ..	65,308	24,710 (37.84)	1. Samyukta Socialist party.	14,637 (63.24)	Samyukta Socialist Party
				2. Congress ..	5,463 (23.60)	
				3. Bharatiya Jan Sangh.	2,034 (8.79)	
				4. Independent	736 (3.18)	
				5. Independent	275 (1.19)	
3.	Kalmala (S.C.) ..	52,482	10,506 (20.02)	1. Congress ..	6,001 (61.28)	Congress
				2. Independent	2,690 (27.47)	
				3. Independent	1,102 (11.25)	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Manvi ..	60,111	27,347 (45.49)	1. Congress ..	15,032 (60.63)	Congress
				2. Independent	9,760 (39.37)	
5.	Lingsugur ..	60,769	31,607 (52.01)	1. Congress ..	20,024 (67.66)	Congress
				2. Swatantra ..	9,573 (32.34)	
6.	Sindhanur	55,807	39,180 (70.21)	1. Independent	23,389 (64.39)	Indepen- dent
				2. Congress ..	12,936 (35.61)	
7.	Kushtagi ..	63,359	35,950 (56.74)	1. Congress ..	17,485 (51.98)	Congress
				2. Independent	16,150 (48.02)	
8.	Yelburga ..	67,607	42,114 (62.29)	1. Congress ..	24,256 (61.92)	Congress
				2. Independent	14,126 (36.06)	
				3. Independent	792 (2.02)	
9.	Gangavati	71,117	39,272 (55.22)	1. Congress ..	22,014 (60.75)	Congress
				2. Independent	14,221 (39.25)	
10.	Koppal ..	65,715	39,522 (60.14)	1. Congress ..	18,770 (51.05)	Congress
				2. Independent	17,998 (48.95)	

It could be seen from the foregoing statement that, for the first time, the Samyukta Socialist Party and the Bharatiya Jan Sangh entered the election arena in the district during the fourth general elections. However, the real fight this time was between the Congress and the independents, as only a candidate each was set up by the Samyukta Socialist Party and the Bharatiya Jan Sangh. The Swatantra Party also contested only three seats, a Lok Sabha seat and two Assembly seats. Though the independents contested most of the seats, they could win only one Assembly seat. Among all the Assembly constituencies in the district, the electors of the Sindhanur constituency were the most franchise-conscious inasmuch as 70.21 per cent of its voters exercised their right of franchise, while the corresponding

percentage was the lowest in the Kalmala constituency, which was only 20.02.

During the general elections held in 1957, there were in all 475 polling stations in the district. In keeping with the increase in the number of electors in the 1962 and 1967 elections, the number of polling stations was also considerably increased to 585 and 641 respectively. The statement given below indicates the constituency-wise number of polling stations put up in the district during the third and fourth general elections held in 1962 and 1967 respectively.

Polling Stations

Sl. No.	Name of constituency	Number of polling stations	
		1962 Elections	1967 Elections
1.	Raichur	55	61
2.	Kalmala	55	56
3.	Deodurg	62	69
4.	Manvi	62	69
5.	Lingsugur	49	57
6.	Sindhanur	67	55
7.	Kushtagi	57	63
8.	Yelburga	67	72
9.	Koppal	50	66
10.	Gangavati	61	73
	Total	585	641

Journalism has not made any appreciable headway in the district though some workers in the field have made sporadic attempts to start a few regional language weekly papers. Some weekly papers which made a good start could not survive for long, owing to financial difficulties and the small number of subscribers they could get. Prior to 1940, there were no newspapers or periodicals published anywhere in the district. However, a few copies of Urdu and Kannada newspapers were being received in the district from Hyderabad and Bombay-Karnatak area respectively. One of the earliest Kannada newspapers that was being received at Raichur during the twenties of this century was *Shubhodaya*, a weekly published from Dharwar. It was very

Newspapers and Periodicals

popular for its style, humour and trenchant criticisms. After it ceased publication in 1921, *Kannadiga*, another Kannada weekly, published from Bagalkot, became popular in the district. The Karnataka Sangha of Raichur, which was established in 1928, took up the agency of this journal and was selling about 200 copies of the same in the district, the price per copy being three pies. In 1933, it was merged with *Samyukta-Karnataka*, then started as a weekly from Belgaum and soon converted into a daily, a few copies of which were also being received in the district. The first correspondent of a Kannada newspaper in the district was R. G. Joshi. He was first appointed as a correspondent for *Kannadiga* in 1922-23 and for *Samyukta-Karnataka* in 1933-34.

The first Kannada newspaper that was published in Raichur district and for that matter, in the entire Hyderabad-Karnatak region, was *Dakkan Prabhat*. The first issue of this weekly was released on November 9, 1940, its editor being P. Rachotaiah. It is said that efforts were made to convert the newspaper into a daily, but without success. After serving the needs of the Kannadigas of the region for about four to five years, the paper ceased publication owing to financial and other difficulties. The next paper to be started in the district was *Nagarika*, another Kannada weekly edited by S. Hanumanta Rao. It was first started at Gulbarga and later shifted to Raichur. This weekly also did not survive for long. Another Kannada weekly called *Seva* was started by Kalinganath Hiremath after the police action. It also survived only for about four to five years. J. K. Praneshacharya, a veteran Congress leader, started another Kannada weekly called *Sadhana* to voice the grievances of the Kannadigas of Hyderabad-Karnatak. This paper, which was being published from Hyderabad, was shifted to Raichur after the States' re-organisation. Though a popular weekly of a fairly good standard, it also could not survive for long and ceased publication after a few years.

Another Kannada weekly, *Lokavani*, was being published from Koppal by Sri Nandalike for a few years. It was subsequently shifted to Raichur and became defunct after some time. *Sevaka* was yet another Kannada weekly published from Raichur by P. Rachotaiah and Kotrabasaiah. It is also defunct now. Two more weeklies, viz., *Tungbhadra* and *Sandesh*, were being published in the district for some time and were also later closed down. The only weekly that is now being published from Raichur is *Samaja Vikas*, which was started only recently by Sri Shamarao Deshpande.

The Karnataka Sangha, Raichur, was publishing a Kannada monthly called *Vijaya* during the fifties of this century. The monthly, which was started sometime during 1953-54, ceased publication after five to six years. Another Kannada monthly,

*Amaravani*, started publication from Yadgir in Gulbarga district in January 1949 and was later shifted to Raichur in December 1954, its editor being *Vidwan B. M. Veereshwara Shastri*. It is the only journal which has survived for over two decades in the area and which is still in existence. The editor has his own press for printing the journal. A quarterly literary magazine called *Prateeka* is being published from Raichur since October 1969 by a Board of Editors under the auspices of Prateeka Prakashana, Raichur, the main object of the magazine being the encouragement of local literary talent. All the existing periodicals in the district have only a small circulation.

Though the field for journalistic enterprise has not been yet congenial in the district, some of the newspapers published outside the district seem to have a good circulation. Among the Karnataka daily papers which come from outside, the *Samnyukta-Karnataka* of Hubli, the *Prajavani* and *Kannada Prabha* of Bangalore have become more popular. Weekly and monthly journals like *Kannaveera*, *Sudha*, *Prajamata*, *Kasturi*, *Mallige* and *Mayura* have a good appeal among the Kannada-reading public in the district. With the gradual rise in the literacy percentage, the number of readers of the Kannada newspapers and periodicals has also increased in recent years. English dailies like the *Times of India* and *Free Press Journal* of Bombay, the *Hindu* of Madras, the *Deccan Herald* of Bangalore, the *Indian Express* of Bombay and Bangalore are popular among the readers of English newspapers in the district. The *Andhra Prabha*, a Telugu daily, has some circulation among the Telugu-reading population. The film periodicals published in Bombay and Madras are becoming more and more popular among the younger generation.

Urdu newspapers from Hyderabad were coming to Raichur in large numbers a few years back; but now their number has considerably decreased. After the reorganisation of the States, the news-reading public of the district look to papers from Bangalore, the capital of the State. However, among the Muslim population of the district, a few of the Urdu newspapers like *Rahnuma-e-Deccan* and *Siyasat*, published in Hyderabad, are still popular. Among the other Urdu newspapers, which have a fair circulation in the district, are the *Inqilab* of Bombay and the *Salat* of Bangalore. *Nasheman* of Bangalore is popular among the Urdu weeklies.

The papers published outside the district and which circulate in the towns and villages of the district have their own distributing agents. Most of the daily newspapers reach their readers in Raichur by the same afternoon and several among them have their own correspondents at Raichur.

## VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Organised social activities form a particular feature of the non-official endeavour in the district, and there are several voluntary organisations doing good work in catering for the social needs of the people in a variety of ways. However, it may be said that their number is not large when compared with the size of the district, which is the third largest in the State. These organisations not only complement and supplement governmental efforts in several fields but also cover some fields of ameliorative service which Government agencies alone cannot fulfil. Many of these social service organisations have won official recognition, assistance and general guidance. Several public-spirited pioneers took up the task of organising social service bodies, by starting programmes to uplift the less fortunate groups in the social fabric of the district. Medical aid, educational facilities, Harijan welfare and women's and children's welfare have been among the subjects to which earnest attention is being paid by these organisations.

The following are some of the important social service institutions in the district whose activities are given in a nutshell. It has not been possible to obtain details from each and every institution. However, attempts have been made to include as many institutions as possible, about whose activities particulars could be collected.

**Mahila Samaja,  
Raichur**

The Mahila Samaja, Raichur, a women's welfare institution, was started by a band of public-spirited workers in February 1954 and registered in October 1955. There are about 60 members on the rolls of the Samaja, paying a nominal fee of Re. one to Rs. three per annum. The main objects of this institution are to guard the social interests of women and to look after the welfare of children. One among the important social service organisations in the district, this Samaja is also running a Shishu Vihar as an adjunct. In the beginning, the Shishu Vihar had only three children, but now the number has exceeded a hundred. This children's section is manned by three teachers and one maid servant. Two cycle-rickshaws are maintained by the Shishu Vihar to bring the children from their homes to the institution. A small grant-in-aid from Government is received by the Vihar. Contributions to the Mahila Samaja and the Shishu Vihar are also received from the Central Social Welfare Board, the local Merchants' Association and Government. A tailoring class has also been opened for the benefit of the members of the Mahila Samaja.

Since 1962-63, the Samaja has undertaken a scheme of conducting condensed courses for the benefit of women desirous of taking up the seventh standard and S.S.L.C. examinations.

It is a scheme sponsored by the Central Social Welfare Board aimed at helping widows, deserted wives and destitutes above 20 years of age to earn their livelihood. Twenty-five women are admitted to each of these courses, and the third batch of women was attending these courses in 1969. A small children's library has also been established recently. The CARE organisation has donated milk powder for distribution among the children of the Vihar. For the orderly management of the institution, a fifteen-member working committee, including a president, a vice-president and a secretary has been constituted.

The Sharada Mahila Mandal, Hanammasagar, in Kushtagi taluk, was established in July 1963 with the main object of promoting the welfare of women and children of the area. There are about 50 members in the Mandal and is managed by a committee consisting of a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary, an assistant secretary and three other members. Arrangements have been made for teaching tailoring, embroidery, clay modelling, making of flowers and other designs out of coloured papers, etc., to interested women in the Mandal. A *Balawadi* has been started as an adjunct to the Mandal, with effect from 1st December 1968, under the charge of a lady teacher. Educational toys and other equipment have been purchased recently for the use of children attending the *Balawadi*.

The Bhagini Samaj, Yelbarga, was established in March 1964 with the help of contributions from the generous public of the area with the object of achieving the welfare of the women of the area, especially in the social, cultural and economic spheres. There is a managing committee of seven members to look after the affairs of the Samaj, which meets about once a month. Handicrafts like tailoring, knitting, embroidery, etc., are taught to women so as to enable them to supplement their family incomes. About 30 women were attending these classes during 1969.

By July 1969, about 80 women had completed their training in these handicrafts, of whom nearly 30 were provided with sewing machines at half the cost with the help of the local Taluk Development Board. Earlier, the Board had also given a financial assistance of about Rs. 4,200 to the Samaj for purchasing sewing machines and other equipment required for running the handicraft classes. The institution is getting an annual grant from the Government and also the local bodies. Proposals are under way to start a *Balawadi* as an adjunct to the Samaj.

The Mahila Mandal, Rajoor, in Yelbarga taluk, was started in February 1967 with the main object of promoting the economic betterment of the women of the area. At present, there are



about 20 regular members in the Mandal. A managing committee, consisting of five members, looks after the affairs of the Mandal. The funds required for running the institution are raised from the Taluk Development Board of the taluk and subscriptions from the members.

Tailoring and a few other handicrafts are taught to interested women for which there is a lady instructor. Two sewing machines and other equipment are provided by the Samaj for the benefit of the trainees. The first batch of ten trainees has already passed out of the institution and the second batch is now undergoing training.

**Kasturba  
Anathashram,  
Mancherla**

The Kasturba Anathashram is an orphanage for the welfare of Harijan pupils and is located at Mancherla, nine miles from Raichur town. Though a small orphanage, providing accommodation to about 20 inmates, the institution is rendering good service to the under-privileged members of the community. Free food and education is provided to all the inmates. Mostly, orphan children are admitted into the Ashram for whom every possible assistance is given in order to make them fit and useful for discharging their future obligations to the society. Discipline and character-building form an integral part of the education imparted in the Ashram.

**Kasturba  
Kendra,  
Gunjahalli**

The Kasturba Kendra, Gunjahalli, in Raichur taluk, is a children's welfare institution, located about thirteen miles away from Raichur town. The main objects of the Kendra are to cater for the social, economic and educational needs of children belonging especially to the poor class. The poor and the under-nourished children have a safe abode in this Kendra where particular attention is paid to their health. A dispensary is also attached to the Kendra and is doing useful work.

**Kasturba  
Maternity  
Centre,  
Gunjahalli**

The Kasturba Maternity Centre, Gunjahalli, in Raichur taluk, was opened in January 1955 under the direct patronage of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust. The object of this welfare institution is to provide free maternity and medical aid to the people of Gunjahalli and the surrounding villages. A large number of out-patients are treated in the centre every year. In addition, antenatal, post-natal and delivery cases are also attended to. The midwife attached to the centre also attends to private calls, at the request of expectant mothers. The Maternity Centre is directly under the supervision of the provincial representative of the Memorial Trust. An auxiliary committee is formed to guide and help the workers of the institution. The centre receives a grant from the Central Social Welfare Board and also from the Raichur Taluk Development Board.

The Harijan Sevak Sangha, Raichur, was established during 1949-50. It is affiliated to the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangha, New Delhi. The Sangha has set up a few branches in the district to ameliorate the lot of the Scheduled Castes. Under the auspices of the Sangha, volunteers go round the villages to inculcate a spirit of self-help and self-respect in the minds of this backward community. Lectures are given to wean away Harijans from the habit of drinking and to instil in them habits of cleanliness and personal hygiene. With the assistance and co-operation of the State Social Welfare Department, the members of the Harijan Sevak Sangha undertake various kinds of ameliorative work in the fields of education, housing, agriculture, etc.

**Harijan Sevak  
Sangha,  
Raichur**

The Ramakanya Pathashala, Raichur, was started in 1945. The objects of the Pathashala are to help remove illiteracy among the poor, to spread Hindi, to teach domestic science to girls, to help poor widows and destitute women and to prevent juvenile delinquency. These objectives are sought to be achieved with the help of honorary workers. Free education is imparted both in Hindi and Sanskrit. Handicrafts are taught both to the children and adults. As a result of a carefully prepared scheme of training, many destitute women have been able to become earning members. Poor girls, who cannot manage to pay for their education, have also been benefited by the Pathashala. It has also a small library of its own. The Pathashala receives some grants from the Central Social Welfare Board, the State Government and the Raichur Taluk Development Board. Among the handicrafts taught in the Pathashala are tailoring, knitting, embroidery, paper-work, carpet-making, tape-making, etc. The institution is looked after by a managing committee.

**Ramakanya  
Pathashala,  
Raichur**

The Sarvajanika Vidyarthi Vasati Gruha, Kushtagi, was started in January 1943 by the generous public of the place with the object of providing free educational facilities to orphans and other economically handicapped youths of promise. It provides hostel facilities to students who come from far off villages for study in the taluk headquarters. There is an elected managing committee for the institution. This institution, which was registered in the year 1958, is run by donations raised during the harvest season from the producers and traders of the area either in cash or in kind. The institution is receiving a grant from the State Government. There are at present about 50 inmates in the hostel who are obliged to do *shramadan* in addition to their studies. The local Municipality has granted an acre of land, free of cost, for the institution. The Gruha is non-communal in character and admission is made strictly on grounds of poverty. So far, more than 150 students from this hostel have passed their S.S.L.C. public examination.

**Sarvajanika  
Vidyarthi  
Vasati Gruha,  
Kushtagi**

**Gavisiddheshwara Vidya-  
vardhaka Trust,  
Koppal**

The Gavisiddheshwara Vidyavardhaka Trust, Koppal, is being run under the auspices of the Sri Gavisiddheshwara Matha at Koppal. The Matha, said to have been established as early as 1008, is one of the oldest in the State. The present Swamiji of the Matha is the sole trustee of the Vidyavardhaka Trust, the main objective of which is the promotion and spread of education. A college, two high schools and two primary schools are being run by the Trust, of which one high school is at Kuknur and the rest are all in Koppal. A students' free boarding home is also run by the Trust within the premises of the Matha, wherein about 100 to 150 poor students are provided with free boarding and lodging facilities. In addition to the subjects taught in the respective educational institutions, the students residing in the boarding home are also taught Sanskrit.

**New Education  
Society,  
Raichur**

The New Education Society, Raichur, is of recent origin, having been established in 1968. It is a registered organisation, the aims and objects of which are the promotion of education, science and literature by establishing educational institutions from the nursery to the college level. Starting of libraries, reading rooms and students' hostels is also among its objectives. However, the Society has so far been able to start only a middle school called Naya Madarasa.

**Bharat Sevak  
Samaj, Raichur**

The Raichur unit of the Bharat Sevak Samaj was started in the year 1952. This all-India social service organisation has, as its main objective, the service of the nation, irrespective of caste, creed or political beliefs. Between 1953 and 1958, the branch in the district took up the work of organising student labour and setting up social service camps. Each year, about eight to ten such camps were organised—separately for boys, girls, teachers, etc. These camps, organised in co-operation with the local community development blocks, aimed at inculcating the spirit of social service and dignity of labour in the minds of young men and women of the district. During these camps, construction of approach roads, wells, field channels, community halls, soak pits, compost pits, etc., were undertaken in addition to village-cleaning. An important item of work done during these camps was the excavation of about 20 miles of field channels to lead water from the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal, to irrigate about 5,000 acres of land. The programme of conducting such camps was discontinued after 1962. Thereafter, the Samaj switched over its activities to the organisation of family planning camps, Lok Karya Kshetras and the like. The latter programme was also discontinued since 1968.

A cutting and tailoring centre for women was started by the Samaj at Raichur in 1961-62. The centre has been getting a grant from the State Government since the last three years. A Shishu Vihar, in memory of the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,

was also established by the Samaj at Raichur in 1964. The Raichur unit of the Bharat Sevak Samaj is under the charge of a District Chairman assisted by a Secretary.

Scouting is a voluntary movement which is international in character. It aims at the physical, mental and social development of boys and girls through systematic training. Hence, with a view to rejuvenating the movement in the educational institutions of the district, two Assistant State Organising Commissioners, one for boy scouts and another for girl guides, have been posted to Raichur from September 1968, with jurisdiction over the districts of both Raichur and Bellary. Since then, 20 units of boy scouts consisting of 640 members and 10 units of girl guides with 320 members have been organised in the several educational institutions of the district and more and more units are expected to be organised in the coming years.

**Bharat Scouts  
and Guides,  
Raichur**

With a view to encouraging this movement, 25 per cent of the sports fees collections in the educational institutions has been permitted to be utilised for scouting activities under an order of the State Government. There is a District Scouts Association in Raichur with the Deputy Commissioner of the district as its president, the District Commissioner (Scouts) as the convener and the District Educational Officer or the District Physical Education Inspector as the secretary. There are about 110 members in the Association, consisting of both officials and non-officials. A Scouts and Guides Bhavan, costing approximately Rs. 25,000, is being constructed by the Association at the district headquarters. A contingent of the District Scouts and Guides participated in the Fifth All-India Jamboree held at Kalyan in West Bengal in December 1967. Another contingent is being trained for participation in the Sixth All-India Jamboree proposed to be held in Bombay sometime during 1970. The Assistant Organising Commissioners for boy scouts and girl guides work under the control of the State Organising Commissioner and the State Chief Commissioner at Bangalore.

The Rotary Club, Raichur, was started in June 1957 as a member of the Rotary International. It is essentially a service organisation covering four avenues of service, *viz.*, service to members, vocational service, community service and international service. In Raichur, the Club's activities are mainly directed towards rural services like help to poor boys studying in schools and opening of a night school in Raichur town for Harijan boys. In the night school, thirty students were receiving primary education, and this institution was maintained entirely by the Rotary Club. On national holidays like Republic Day and Independence Day, fruits are distributed by the members of the Club to the in-patients of the civil hospital. Clothes are also distributed among poor patients. The Club also organises a 'Mr. Raichur'

**Rotary Club,  
Raichur**

physique contest every year and awards prizes to the winners. It also awards a gold medal to the student who secures the first rank in the district in the annual S.S.L.C. examination. The Club has also organised a children's service and has established a children's park called Nehru Balavana.

The Club has a managing committee consisting of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a joint secretary and three directors.

**Lions Club,  
Raichur**

The Lions Club, Raichur, was started on September 15, 1966, with the main object of rendering social service to the community in the fields of education, health and the like. During 1969, there were about 45 members on the rolls of the Club including its Board of Directors. Among the Board of Directors are a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a lion-tamer, a tail-twister and four directors. The activities of the Club are conducted by funds raised through subscriptions from members, donations and benefit performances.

Under the auspices of the Club, so far, about 2,000 children have been given triple antigen injections; besides, another 3,000 children have been immunised against polio by administering them with oral polio drops. The Club has also undertaken a programme of constructing bus-shelters, one in each year, on the Bangalore—Hyderabad National Highway. Elocution and essay competitions for students are conducted every year during the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations respectively, and prizes are awarded to the winners. During the annual Dasara festivities, fruits and sweets are distributed among the in-patients in the local Civil Hospital and the inmates of the local Remand Home.

**Lions Club,  
Gangavati**

The Lions Club of Gangavati is of recent origin and it was inaugurated on January 1, 1969, by Lion M. J. Vispy Engineer, Lions International Representative, Bombay. Fellowship and service are among the objectives of the Club, which has about 40 members on its rolls. The Club is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of thirteen members and its activities are financed from contributions from members and the general public.

In 1969, the Club organised a polio vaccine and triple antigen camp at Gangavati for the benefit of children, and about 300 children were covered under this programme every month. A kindergarten school was established in the town during the month of August of the same year. A notable service rendered by the Club during the year was the help rendered to the fire-victims at the Odderhatti and Sanapur camps. About 140 distressed families in the former camp were provided with cooking utensils, besides

making financial contributions to the funds of the relief committees set up for the purpose. It also conducted a free eye-operation camp of Dr. M. C. Modi in September 1969, at which 9,800 free meals were served to the eye-patients attending the camp, besides supplying free medicines to about 470 patients. In all, about 3,990 patients were examined and 234 were operated. The Club also organised a 'children's health day' during June 1969 and 176 children were medically examined on that day.

The Raichur Junior Chamber was established on December 11, 1966, with about fifteen members on its rolls. The number has now increased to about 30 ; one of its activities is the training of individual citizens for leadership. The activities of the Junior Chamber, which is affiliated to the National Chamber, are financed from subscriptions from its members and contributions from the public. In the month of November every year, the Chamber conducts a 'children's on-the-spot painting competition' with a view to developing the latent artistic talent in the children. About 20 prizes are awarded to the winners every year.

**Raichur Junior Chamber**

In pursuance of its objective of training the individual citizens for leadership, the Chamber organised a symposium on "You and your M.L.A." in August 1967. The legislators and prominent citizens of the district participated in the symposium. It also conducted a free eye-operation camp of Dr. M. C. Modi at Raichur during the month of October 1968, at an expenditure of about Rs. 17,000. In all, 4,760 eye-patients were examined on the occasion, of whom 771 patients were issued medicines free. Besides, about 6,480 free meals were provided to the patients attending the camp. Among the proposed future programmes of the Chamber is a plan for the establishment of a Leprosy Colony at Raichur with the help of the local City Municipality.

The Kranthi Club, Raichur, is a premier sports club of Raichur district started in the year 1947. The main objects of the Club are to promote, among its members, interest in wholesome outdoor physical activities, to set up a high standard of sportsmanship among them and to improve their standards of efficiency in games and athletics. There are about a hundred members in the Club, mostly youths, who are interested in sports and games.

**Kranthi Club, Raichur**

The Club provides for most of the major games, particularly kabaddi and volleyball. It has been a champion in these latter two games in the district Dasara festival sports. It has produced some leading sportsmen like Sri G. Timma Reddy, a national player in volleyball, besides some University players in kabaddi and volleyball. The Club conducted an All-India Volleyball Tournament at Raichur during 1967-68. It had a unique record

of presenting a ladies' team at the volleyball court of Raichur. The Club raises the funds required for its activities through subscriptions from the members and contributions from the public.

Besides these some voluntary social service organisations, there are several other similar institutions in the district, mostly in urban areas, which strive for the social, cultural, educational and economic uplift of the various sections of the society in their own way. There are also organisations like the Rashtreeya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Arya Samaj, the Vishva Hindu Parishat, the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Tameer-e-Millat, etc., which seek to promote their respective social and cultural objectives. A number of Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, Farmers' Forums, Radio Rural Forums and the like have come up in recent years, especially in the rural areas, thus adding lustre and strength to the social fabric of the district.

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