

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Political history of Uttara Kannada as already discussed in Chapter II makes it clear that the district came under the rule of the successive dynasties like the Shatavahanas, Chutus (the feudatories of the former), Kadambas, Chalukyas of Badami, the Rashtrakutas, Kalyana Chalukyas, Vijayanagar Rulers, Keladi Nayakas, Adilshahis of Bijapur, Marathas and Haider and Tipu of Mysore until the advent of the British. It is rather difficult to outline the administrative arrangements of the district in detail. There is paucity of sources regarding the ancient period. The term Mahabhoji being addressed to Chutu Nagamulanika implies that this title referred to an administrative post. *Bhoga* was an administrative unit and *Mahabhoga* could be a bigger unit consisting of many *bhogas*, perhaps a *mandala* or a province. Under the Kadambas too one would come across the term *bhojaka*, presumably the one administering a region with many villages; similar is *gramabhajaka*, an officer administering a village. Besides these terms, there are also names of posts like *rajyuka* (holder of the rope) or surveyor and *ayuktaka*. These terms are interpreted variously. The other terms referring to posts like *sandhivigrahi* (foreign minister), *senapati* (commander), *rahasyadhikrita* (officer in charge of official secrets), *prathihara* (door keeper), etc., are mentioned in the records. Administrative divisions like *vishaya* (district) or *bhoga*, *dashagrama* or *dwadashagrama*, etc., of the nature of a *hobli* or revenue circle, are also mentioned in records. A *grama* was a revenue village with smaller hamlets attached to it, each hamlet being called '*palli*'. Sirsi plates of Krishna Varman II speak of Kamakapalli in Girigadagrama and Karvannadga Vishaya. Similarly we hear of 24 *pallis* in Tagara Mahagrama in Tagara Vishaya in the Tagare plates of Kadamba Bhogi Varman. (Though the record is

from Hassan district, it helps one to understand the administrative set-up under the Kadambas). It is difficult to trace the administrative arrangements under the subsequent dynasties like the Early Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas as not many records relating to them are found in the district. Nevertheless there is reason to believe that earlier arrangements continued. A record of the days of Chalukya Vinayaditya makes a mention of Salevoige *grama* in Edevolal Vishaya near Vijayanti (Banavasi); and another record of 692 A D mentions the village Kirugamasi in Edevolal Vishaya in Banavasi Mandala.

Under the Rashtrakutas too Banavasi became a *mandala* or a province, to be called Banavasi-12,000. But Banavasi-12,000 included in it most of the up-ghat regions of the modern Sirsi, Siddapur, Mundgod and Yellapur taluks and also some parts of Shimoga and Dharwad districts. Under the Chalukyas of Kalyana, Banavasi-12,000 became an important province in the empire with Belgavi (Balligame) in Shikaripur taluk as its headquarters. Some other parts of the district were included in Hanagal-500 (mostly, under the Kadambas of Hanagal), Konkana-900 and Halasi-12,000 provinces (that came under the Kadambas of Goa). Smaller administrative divisions like Maruvattagadalu (around Karwar) in Konkana-900, Kunduratte-70 (around Bedasgaon), Palambi-70, Kontakuli-70 (around Nandikatta), Kiriya Posanadu Eredelpattu (140; around Gunjavati), etc., in Hanagal-500, Nalage-70, Mahalige-70 (around Kondli), Tengere-30 (around Hulekal), Magale-70 (around Chipgi), Kabbunalige-70 (in Sirsi taluk), etc., had been included in Banavasi-12,000. Haive-500 which consisted of areas to the South of the Gangavali on the coast (Kumta, Honavar and Bhatkal taluks) is mentioned in the inscriptions as a separate province during this time. This province had territories only in Uttara Kannada. Palasige-12,000 comprised areas in Belgaum and Dharwad districts in addition to the areas in Uttara Kannada, viz., Supa, Yellapur and Haliyal taluks. Hanagal-500 had areas of Mundgod taluk and Dharwad district.

Under Vijayanagar, Honavar was one of the *rajyas* in the empire having a governor posted at the place. The feudatories like those of Gersoppa, Haduvalli, Bilgi and Sonda were permitted to administer their territories under the general control of this governor. The Empire was administered by officials called *adhikaris* under the Governor and they were posted at notable towns. A record speaks of three *chavadis* in Honnavara Rajya. Keladi started encroaching upon the territories of the feudatories after 1565 and Gersoppa and

Haduvalli came to be included in the Keladi territory in 1606. Territory to the north of the Gangavali was under the Adilshahis and later under the Marathas. Haider appeared to have continued the existing arrangement when the area came under his control in 1763-64. Under Vijayanagar, three regions-Haive, Tulu and Konkana are repeatedly mentioned with reference to the district and perhaps they had one *chavadi* (administrative office) each. Gersoppa (Nagire) was part of Tulu country or Tuluva. One record from Belambar in Ankola speaks of the place as in Maleyanadu or Haiverajya. The village Hanajibail is described as in Chikkamalligenadu. *Magane, sthala, nadu, venthe, sime*, etc., are divisions mentioned as below the *rajya* but is difficult to identify them, as inscriptions are not many pertaining to Vijayanagara days. *Nadu* is undoubtedly a division, smaller than a *rajya*. It is also called *sime*. Below the *nadu* was the *magane* or *sthala* which consisted of a group of villages. A record speaks of Manki Magane in Honnavara Nadu. Major towns or headquarters of *nadu* had an imperial officer, called *adhikari* and a revenue officer known as *nadkarni*. Smaller places (villages) had *urala* or *gramani* in place of the *gramabhojaka* (the village headman), and the *senabova* or *karanika*. A record from Kodkani speaks of the *senabova* of the place and also makes a mention of his *vahi* or the revenue records. Another record of 1433 from Shirali speaks of *nadasenabova* functioning at the place.

The Sonda Nayakas had similar system of administration. The kingdom was collectively called as Sudha Rajya or Rastra. The *rajya* was divided into several *simes*. Some epigraphs indicate that the Sonda principality included *simes* like Sivaguvali, Teroka, Jedar, Kumbetur, Sirsi, Bolur, Banavasi, Badanagodu, etc. *Nadgauda* was in charge of a *sime* and he was assisted by various officials of military rank. Similarly there were *nadkarnis*. When the coastal region was included in the kingdom of Sonda, the whole region was then known as 'Panchamahals'.

The Keladi rulers continued the arrangements obtained during Vijayanagar times with some minor changes. The *rajya* was generally the biggest administrative division of the kingdom. The *rajya* was divided into *sime, venthe* and *pal* by them. The villagers were brought under the administration of *pal*. There were six *rajyas* in the Keladi kingdom and one of these Bhatkal, Honavar and Mirjan were in Uttara Kannada. There were separate governors for the provinces of Honavar, Bhatkal and Mirjan. They seem to have had councils and secretaries, under them. A reference to one Venkata Mallya, the

governor at Honavar and his adviser Hari Kamath, a leading merchant of the place, is mentioned in a record of 1740.

Each province appeared to have been sub-divided into smaller units; and, the list of such units made available in *Haider Nama* during Haider's time, helps us to identify them. There were *paraganas* of Sadashivgad, Gokarn, Honavar and Basavarajdurga which are in Uttara Kannada from Haider's major province (*asofi*) called 'Nagara seeme'. Twenty-four units (*paraganas*) are listed under Sonde Samsthana which include, Herur, Nagnur, Nandikatta, Mundgod, Sirsi, Bharatanahalli, Sambrani, Yellapur, Banavasi and Ulvi. Supa Samsthana had seven units, viz., Haliyal, Mirjan-Ankola, Kasba (Supa), Baad, Kadra, Shiveshvar and Kadwad. At the village level the *Patel* or *gowda* and *shanbhog* (*karni*) functioned. Although details for the Adilshahi period pertaining to Uttara Kannada are not available, the Bijapur administration was in no way different from what prevailed under Vijayanagar, as both had inherited this system from earlier Hindu rulers. Bijapur had continued the local arrangements in this region, parts of Uttara Kannada being administered by the Bijapur governor at Bankapur and other parts from the one at Belgaum. Administration under the military state of the Marathas had a Desai functioning at notable villages. He was both a revenue and military authority.

Death of Tipu Sultan resulted in the introduction of British administration and Uttara Kannada then known as Canara (including South Kanara) district was brought under the Madras Presidency. Later in 1800, it was divided into two, and North Kanara had Kundapur, Honavar, Ankola, Supa, Sonda, Banavasi and Bilgi sub-divisions (taluks) in it. In 1817 the two districts were united again. On the 16th April 1862 the district of North Kanara was created again, but with the exception of the Kundapur taluk which was in North Kanara between 1800 to 1817. North Kanara district was transferred to the Bombay Presidency. The General Administration of the district was entrusted to an Officer called Collector. The Collector was also the Chief Magistrate as also the executive head of the district. For fiscal and other administrative purposes the area under the Collector's charge was distributed over two sub-divisions. Each sub-division was under the charge of an Assistant Collector. These officers were also Assistant Magistrates. Under the supervision of the collector and his assistants, the revenue charge of each fiscal division or taluk of the District was placed in the hands of an officer

styled Mamlatdar, the predecessor of the Tahsildar. These officers were also entrusted with magisterial powers. Three of the fiscal subdivisions, Honavar, Yellapur and Supa also contained *pethas* or *mahals*, and they were under the charge of an officer styled *mahalkari*. The *mahalkari* had to exercise all the revenue and magisterial powers generally entrusted to a *mamlatdar* except the treasury. In 1882, the revenue and police matters of the villages were entrusted to the headman. Maintenance of village accounts, drawing up of statistics and such other duties were discharged by *shanbhoga* (for every five villages).

Administration before 1956

Collector : The Collector was the head of the General Administration of the district and was to function primarily, as the collector of land revenue and as a custodian of the State property. He was the controlling officer, directing the actions of his subordinates and executing decisions under Land Revenue Code ; also he was the head of the Police at the district level. He acted as the Returning Officer during elections. In regard to the administration of the Forest Act, ultimate responsibility, lay with him. The Collector was the Chairman of the Prohibition Committee of the district (as Prohibition was in force then). He was also in charge of the Treasury. In matters of Audit and Accounts the Collector (with the Treasury officer under him) was responsible to the Accountant General. He being the predecessor of the present Deputy Commissioner, wielded almost all powers including the quasi-judicial ones.

Prant Officer : Under the Collector, there were Prant Officers who were either Assistant Collectors or Deputy Collectors. There were two Prant Officers in Uttara Kannada District till 1955. The Prant Officer formed the connecting link between the Mamlatdar and the Collector. He being the predecessor of the present Assistant Commissioner enjoyed almost similar powers and status. In revenue matters checking boundary marks, assessing *anewaris i.e.*, estimates of crop yields, supervising the realisation of government revenue, succession to *watans* and land acquisition, etc., were among his revenue functions. The Prant Officer was helping the Collector in the work of food grain distribution in his Prant. He was also the Project Officer in charge of N E S and Community Development Blocks within his sub-division.

Mamlatdars and Mahalkaris : The Mamlatdar was the Officer in executive charge of a taluk and the Mahalkari has the executive charge

of a *mahal* or *petha*. The sub-treasury in every taluk or *mahal* was in charge of the Mamlatdar. There was no difference in kind between the functions and duties of a Mamlatdar and those of a Mahalkari. The revenue duties of a Mamlatdar are to prepare the ground-work for the Prant Officer and the Collector to pass orders. When these orders were passed, he has to execute them. The brunt of the work of collection of revenue, forest grazing fees, income tax, co-operative credit societies' dues and *tagai* dues were also resting with Mamlatdar. Applications for grant of *tagai* were generally received by the Mamlatdar who depended on the recommendations of the Circle Officer and Circle Inspector. The Mamlatdar was primarily responsible for the administration of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act within the area of his charge. The quasi-judicial duties which the Mamlatdar performed included both civil as well as revenue matters. The Mamlatdar was the *ex-officio* Taluk Magistrate and was also in charge of the management of the sub-jail. The Mamlatdar's main duty was to keep himself in constant touch with the Prant Officer and the collector and also inform them of all political developments. He was the *ex-officio* Vice-Chairman of the Taluk Development Association which was a registered body under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act (1925). The Mamlatdars and Mahalkaris were also working as Block Development Officers in charge of N E S and Community Development Blocks. The other technical staff like Overseer, Social Education Organiser, Assistant Co-operative Officer and Agricultural Officer, also worked under the aegis of the Mamlatdar.

Circle Officers and Circle Inspectors: In order to assist the Mamlatdar in exercising proper supervision over the Village Officers and Village Servants and to make local enquiries of every kind promptly, Circle Officers in the grade of *avalkarkuns* and Circle Inspectors in the grade of *karkuns* were appointed. The Circle Officer certified entries in the records of rights and thus relieved the Mamlatdar of a good deal of routine work. There used to be one Circle Officer and three Circle Inspectors (1955) in each taluk. Their duties comprised inspecting boundary marks, inspecting crops and detecting illegal occupation of government land, supervising the village officers in the preparation and maintenance of the record of rights, the mutation register and tenancy register; examination of land revenue receipts and supervision of the revenue collection and such other miscellaneous work were being attended to by *avalkarkun* and *karkun*. In the areas where N E S and Community Development had been

introduced, the Circle Officers and Circle Inspectors were replaced by Gramasevaks who were trained in Revenue, Co-operative, Agriculture and N E S. The Gramasevaks were put in charge of small circles for all round development of the areas.

Patils or Village Headmen: Patil or Village Headman was the principal official in a village. There are no hereditary Patils or Talathis in this district. The Patils were stipendiaries appointed for a period of five years at a time. There were many quasi-magisterial functions appertaining to the police patil. In a majority of villages both the police patil and the revenue patil used to be the same man. The police patil was responsible for the maintenance of the birth and death register. He had to afford police officers, every assistance in his power when he was called upon to do so in their duties of maintaining law and booking criminals. In case of unnatural or sudden death of a person, the police patil was to arrange for an inquest. In regard to the procurement of foodgrains from the levy *khatedars* of his village, he must assist the Talathis and Circle Officer or Circle Inspector. His revenue duties were in conjunction with the Talathi (Village Accountant) who should collect the revenue due to government from the ryots.

Talathis (Village Accountants): A Talathi was appointed for two or more villages which were under his charge. His main duties consisted of maintaining the village accounts relating to collection of the revenue and also arrears of land demand, payment of arrears for land revenue dues if any. He would possess the record of rights and all other village forms prescribed by Government; in addition to these, a Talathi would inspect crops and boundary marks, prepare agricultural statistics and levy lists, help the Patil in the collection of land revenue and do other clerical work including that of the police patil when the latter is illiterate; he would procure food grains on behalf of Government.

Village Servants: In addition to the village officers mentioned above there was one more class of village servants who were called Ugranis (The word *ugrani* literally means one who is in charge of a *ugrana* or godown, in the days when revenue was collected in kind). These village servants helped the village Patil and the Talathi in the collection of revenue and did all the duties in connection with village administration, by working as messengers, carriers of records, and land survey materials, etc. They also helped the village Patil in discharging his duties connected with the police administration.

After 1956

The district in 1956 consisted of 11 taluks viz., Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honavar, Bhatkal (below the Ghats), Sirsi, Siddapur, Yellapur, Mundgod, Haliyal and Supa (above the Ghats). (Also see Chapter I - General). The administration of the State in general and district in particular, came to be uniformly revamped. The New State was divided into four divisions, and the Uttara Kannada district was brought under one such division Belgaum, which was under the administrative control of the Divisional Commissioner. Uttara Kannada was placed under a Deputy Commissioner. The district of Uttara Kannada has been divided into three revenue sub-divisions of Karwar, Kumta and Sirsi (from 1955) each under an Assistant Commissioner.

Divisional Commissioner

After the Reorganisation of States in 1956, the posts of Divisional Commissioners were created. The Divisional Commissioner at Belgaum is the head of the Revenue Administration who plays a pivotal role in the general administration of the division in respect of both revenue matters and functioning of the various other departments in the Division. He acts as a link between the State Government and the district authorities, particularly with regard to all development and public welfare activities. The Divisional Commissioner exercises special powers to supervise the general activities of all the Departments.

In recent times the posts of the Divisional Commissioner has gained great importance as a consequence of the developmental activities initiated by the Government through special programmes and Five-Year Plans. The Divisional Commissioner is also the Joint Development Commissioner who functions directly under the Development Commissioner of the Government. He has to co-ordinate various development programmes and review them periodically. He also exercises overall supervision over the local bodies within his jurisdiction. When natural calamities like floods and droughts occur, the Divisional Commissioner is required to be vigilant and to bestow his attention in organising relief measures. He has to be vigilant in effecting remedial measures whenever there is rise in prices and scarcity of food grains and other essential consumer goods.

The Divisional Commissioner is the main channel through whom the Deputy Commissioner has to send all proposals pertaining to

revenue matters, community development programmes, Municipal administration, etc., to the State Government. As the administrative head of the Divisions he is responsible for distributing and re-appropriating budget grants to revenue offices, the community development blocks, the taluk development boards and to some extent to the Municipalities also. The Divisional Commissioner is the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioner in matters of revenue administration, both in regard to revenue laws and disciplinary proceedings relating to the revenue staff. In a nutshell, it may be said that his functions are supervisory, controlling, co-ordinating and appellate.

Deputy Commissioner

The post of the Collector was redesignated as Deputy Commissioner after the Reorganisation of States. The functions of the Deputy Commissioner may be broadly classified as 1) Revenue, 2) Law and Order, 3) Development, 4) Co-ordination and 5) Public Welfare in general. He is the custodian of all Government properties in the district. The Deputy Commissioner is not only the head of the general administration, but also the revenue administration of the district. The power of collecting and accounting of all such revenues from agricultural, non-agricultural and miscellaneous lands vests with the Deputy Commissioner. He is invested with wide powers under the Land Revenue Act and Rules. The collection of fees and taxes under various other enactments, e.g., Stamps and Registration Act, water rate in respect of irrigation, etc., and other arrears due to the State Government or Central Government could be recovered by him in the same manner as land revenue under the provisions of the relevant tax laws. He is also required to estimate the loan requirements of his district under the Land Improvement and Taccavi Loans Act and disburse and recover them.

The Deputy Commissioner as the administrative head of the district, would exercise various powers under the several acts and rules such as the Land Reforms Act, Land Acquisition Act, Irrigation Act, Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Excise Act, Public Health Act, Essential Commodities Act, etc., and Rule thereunder, Old Age Pension Rules, Freedom Fighters Welfare Rules, Government Servants Welfare Fund Rules and so forth. While disposing of Revenue disputes, he would exercise quasi-judicial functions. Of late, the responsibility of the entire collection of revenue from lands has been assigned to the Taluk Development Boards and Village Panchayats.

The responsibility of allocating these funds to these institutions vests with the Deputy Commissioner. He is also empowered to survey and settle boundary disputes relating to lands. The Deputy Commissioner is the custodian of all Muzrai Institutions in the district and is also concerned with the Small Savings Scheme. Recently, he has been invested with powers to inspect all Government Offices, except judicial and police offices, in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner as the District Magistrate, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. But, consequent to the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the District Magistrate would not deal with dispensation of justice in the trial process. As he is the head of all executive magistrates in the District, he has extensive powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, Karnataka Police Act, etc., for the maintenance of law and order. The Deputy Commissioner in his capacity as the District Magistrate directly controls the police force at times of protecting public peace. He has also supervisory powers over the administration of jails and lock-ups in the district. He is empowered to maintain law and order through the police and by regulatory and penal actions; he has special powers to make use of preventive detention or get persons bound in the interest of public safety.

Being the head of the executive machinery in the district, he issues licences and permits under the Indian Arms Act, Indian Explosives Act, etc., with powers to supervise the general administration of these Acts. He is authorised to issue licences under the Cinematograph Act and exercise powers vested with regard to the Prevention of Untouchability Act and the like. He should also look after proper implementation of various instructions of the Government, given from time to time under the Foreigners' Act, in respect of visas, passports, etc.

Development Functions: The Deputy Commissioner is also the Deputy Development Commissioner, who has to co-ordinate the efforts of several departments in the district and to supervise personally the execution of all the development programmes. He is in over-all charge of all the development blocks. He has to convene periodical meetings of all the district and block-level officers and review developmental programmes. He is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the district's developmental activities of several departments, and also

of the taluk development boards which assist the Community Development Programmes. The Deputy Commissioner should discharge the responsibility of successful implementation of many schemes taken up under the Five Year Plans and also Social Welfare Schemes.

Under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Rules, he has been vested with special powers of procurement of food grains and proper management of food and civil supplies. He is also the District Registrar, in which capacity, he has to supervise the working of the various sub-registry offices. The Deputy Commissioner is the head of several bodies in his capacities, such as (1) Chairman, Regional Transport Authority, (2) Chairman, Family Welfare Action Committee, (3) Chairman, District Library Authority, etc.

Co-ordination Committee

There is a District Co-ordination Committee at the district level, and eleven co-ordination committees at the taluk level have been formed in order to help implementing various programmes. The Deputy Commissioner has to work for the all-round development of the district through co-ordination of efforts.

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a Headquarters Assistant who is of the rank of an Assistant Commissioner who also functions as the Additional District Magistrate. The Deputy Commissioner is also assisted by one District Development Assistant and, a Food and Civil Supplies Assistant. There is a Gazetted Officer Class II K A S Cadre for supervising the Subordinate staff of the office and a District Planning officer to assist in Planning Matters.

There are nine sections in the establishment of the Deputy Commissioner. In the Revenue Section, there is one Headquarters Assistant, one Office Assistant, one Senior Steno, five Sheristedars, one Rent Control Inspector, and other subordinate staff. In the N S S organisation, there are three Development Officers for each Sub-Division, and one Development Officer for N S S (Central Government). In the Development Section, there is one District Development Assistant, one Tahsildar for Municipality, one Accountant, and other subordinate staff. The Registration Section has one Headquarters Assistant to the District Registrar, and other staff. The Food Section has one Food Assistant, one Food Tahsildar, one Accounts Superintendent, and other staff. In the Planning Section,

there is one District Planning Officer, one Assistant Director of Planning, one Assistant Statistical Officer, and other staff. In the Section of Social Welfare for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there are one District Officer, two Office Superintendents, and other staff. The Section of Backward Classes and Minorities has one Office Superintendent, one Development Inspector, one Backward Classes Inspector and other officials. The Section on Social Welfare comprises of one Assistant Director of Social Welfare, one Social Welfare Officer, one Office Superintendent, two Social Nutrition Programme Inspectors and other group 'C' and 'D' servants.

Special Deputy Commissioner

The post of the Special Deputy Commissioner (Development) for Uttara Kannada was created in October, 1981 with his headquarters at Karwar. He is also the *ex-officio* Project Director, District Rural Development Society, Karwar. The Office of the Special Deputy Commissioner (Development) comprises of three specialists in the cadre of Junior Scale Officers drawn from the Departments of Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Agriculture. There is one Gazetted Manager, two Account Superintendents, and other necessary staff in this office. The main functions of the District Rural Development Society is to function as the nodal agency to implement the various development programmes sponsored by both Central and State Governments. The major schemes handled by the District Rural Development Society are: NREP, RLEGP, REGS, IRDP, Anthyodaya, Negilu-Bhagya, 100 wells, Bio-Gas, Special Component Plan, etc. The important purpose of DRDS functioning is in its two-pronged attempt in area development and target group development. In the area development schemes implemented by DRDS an effort is made to create community assets, which would give the necessary infrastructure. Among the new schemes taken up by DRDS, Karwar are percolation tanks, smokeless ovens, Rabbit Farming, Sprinkler Irrigation and micro-hydel projects. Finally, District Rural Development Society, Karwar is the first society in the State which has its own Computer Cell. This Computer was installed at Karwar in October 1984 at a cost of Rs 70,000. The cell has been helping in the reviewing of the programmes of IRDP and other schemes.

Assistant Commissioner

The Sub-Division is under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner who is responsible to the Deputy Commissioner. The

Assistant Commissioner is the immediate superior authority over the Tahsildars, Chief Officers of Town Municipal Councils and Chief Executive Officers of the taluk development boards. He exercises both revenue and magisterial powers. He is also the Land Acquisition Officer and Settlement Levy Officer. Besides discharging several Revenue functions, the Assistant Commissioner has to supervise the developmental works and such other activities of the taluk development boards. He will exercise special powers invested in him under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. In his capacity as the Returning Officer, he conducts elections in respect of Legislative Assembly constituencies and of presidents of the Taluk Development Boards.

Magisterial Powers : Being the head of the General Administration of the Sub-division, the Assistant Commissioner also discharges magisterial powers. He has been designated as the Sub-divisional Magistrate. He investigates cases on his own initiative and also cases referred to him by the Deputy and the Divisional Commissioners. At the taluk level, he is the presiding authority of several committees. He is also a member of several committees at the district level. At the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Karwar there are two managers and at Kumta and Sirsi one each together with other subordinate staff.

Tahsildar

The Tahsildar (formerly known as 'Amildar' or 'Mamlatdar') is in charge of each of the taluk. He is responsible to the Assistant Commissioner of his sub-division and through him to the Deputy Commissioner. In several matters of revenue, he may have to conduct enquiries and submit reports to the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. He has also to execute the orders passed by them. He is generally regarded as the representative of the Government at Taluk level in the administrative set-up. Collection of land revenue and other Government dues such as recovery of *tagai* loans, irrigation charges, *pot-hissa* measurement fees and the like are the responsibilities of the Tahsildar. Under Special circumstances he can grant lands and building sites. The Tahsildar has to discharge duties and responsibilities vested in him under the Land Revenue Act, Land Reforms Act and such other Acts and Rules relating to the administration of the Taluk as a revenue unit.

Tahsildar, as the taluk head, has to supervise the procurement

of food grains and its distribution through the fair price shops. Further, he has to effect collection of paddy and other food grains from the cultivators under the levy orders in force and has to personally supervise the Government stocks of food grains held by different mill owners, taluk agricultural produce co-operative marketing societies and such other agencies. He has been vested with several powers as per the orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act and Rules made thereunder. The Tahsildar has been authorised to sanction old age pensions also. He is the Taluk Magistrate in which capacity he, exercises certain Magisterial powers for the maintenance of law and order in his territorial jurisdiction. As the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer, it is his responsibility to prepare and maintain the electoral rolls. He heads the election machinery at the taluk level as the Assistant Returning Officer.

The Tahsildar is assisted by Taluk Sheristedars, Revenue Inspectors, Special Revenue Inspectors, Record Keepers and other staff. There had been Special Tahsildars working with separate establishment for the purpose of effecting Land Reforms, Twenty Point Economic Programme, etc. (Table showing the staff strength of the taluk officers is appended at the end of the Chapter).

Block Development Officer

The Block Development Officer also functions at the taluk level, each taluk being regarded as a Community Development Block. He has to look after the developmental activities of the taluk, besides discharging duties as the Chief Executive Officer of the Taluk Development Board. All the programmes for the block have to be planned and various activities of the development department at the taluk level have to be co-ordinated by him. The Block Development Officer supervises the work of Extension Officers and other Officers connected with various schemes. In his capacity as the Secretary of the Taluk Development Board, he has to implement its resolutions. He has several statutory powers to exercise under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959. He is assisted by one manager, seven extension officers and other staff in his office.

Revenue Inspector

The taluks are further divided into hoblis or revenue circles. The Revenue Inspector is in charge of the administration of the hobli. The eleven taluks of this district have been further sub-divided into 35 hoblis or Revenue Circle, each under the charge of a Revenue

Inspector. In the administration of revenue matters, he is directly responsible to the Tahsildar of the Taluk. He has to attend to works like recovery of land revenue, betterment levy, water rates and other Government dues, loans and advances, procurement and distribution of food grains, etc. He is the main field revenue official who will be instrumental in the actual execution of the orders of the Government in revenue matters. The Revenue Inspector has to supervise the work of the Village Accountants in charge of the villages and also has to inspect the boundary marks, Government lands and encroachments thereon. Building up the records of land grants, land acquisitions and such other revenue matters, old-age pension, etc., are the other functions of the Revenue Inspector. Besides he attends to such other various works as entrusted to him by the Tahsildar from time to time.

Village Officers

The village administration is entrusted to the Village Accountant who is also the Secretary of smaller village panchayats. He is the lowest revenue functionary working at the village level. Before creation of posts of Village Accountants, the Shanbhag was in charge of the maintenance of Land Records; he was being assisted by Patil or Revenue Patil. Village Accountants were appointed as full-time Government officials under the Village Accountants (Recruitment) Rules 1970. But the Patils were continued for some years.

District Training Institute

The District Training Institute was started in the year 1981 (April) for the district with its headquarters at Sirsi in order to provide training for ministerial staff and the junior executives. The primary function of this Institute is to provide job-oriented training to the newly recruited and also to the existing First and Second Division Clerks of all the Departments of the State Government and also to provide general courses, *ad hoc* short-duration refresher courses, etc. Prior to 1975, there was also the Village Training Institute which was functioning with only a few training courses and limited staff. Subsequently it was merged with the District Training Institute at Sirsi in April 1981. It is headed by a Principal who is assisted by one Vice-Principal, Accounts Superintendent, Revenue Inspector, Panchayat Instructor, Survey Supervisors and other necessary staff. The Institute is under the control of the Administrative Training Institute, Mysore. It is also publishing a half yearly bulletin known as "DTI-News".

Statement showing the staff strength of the Tahsildar's Offices in Uttara Kannada District as on 31-3-1984

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(No. of posts)

Staff Category	Ankola	Bhatkal	Haliyal	Honavar	Karwar	Kumta	Mungod	Siddapur	Sirsi	Supa	Yellapur
Tahsildar (Group B)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sheristedars	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
First Dn. Clerks	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Second Dn. Clerks	6	5	5	7	7	8	5	7	7	5	5
Typists	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Drivers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Class IV officials	6	4	6	5	6	6	5	6	6	5	4
First Gr. Rev. Inspectors	4	2	4	3	4	4	2	3	4	3	2
Village Accountants	31	24	21	33	37	44	12	31	35	16	12