

## PREFACE

**I**T is exactly 102 years after the publication of the *Canara Gazetteer* in two parts by the Bombay Presidency that a new Gazetteer of the same district is being brought out now. Those were the days when the historical studies were still in infancy and the authors of the historical aspects in the old Gazetteer had meagre sources at their disposal. Now that the epigraphical material has been almost fully exploited, the Office of the Chief Epigraphist and the Kannada Research Institute, Dharwad, having copied a majority of the epigraphs from the district. The Bombay State had completed the Dharwad District Gazetteer in the post-independence series before Reorganisation of States and had done some spade work for the Uttara Kannada volume. A village-to-village survey had been conducted by the Gazetteer Department in Bombay regarding Uttara Kannada and a list of historical monuments and epigraphs, etc., from almost all villages had been secured. But this was over three decades ago. Work had to be started afresh by this office. Some spade work had been done by my esteemed predecessor in this office, Sri K. Abhishankar in 1976-77, but the work was intensively pursued from 1983, when the part II of the State Volume had been released. This volume would have been released in 1984 itself, but it was held up due to technical and administrative reasons. From this district onwards, 2,000 copies of the district gazetteers are published (instead of 1,000) as by now 10 out of the 15 district gazetteer volumes published so far have become out of print, and there is a mounting and also long-range demand for the district gazetteers.

The Gazetteer Unit has also published the State Gazetteer in 1982-83 in two parts, and a Kannada version of the State Volume only is being brought out in three parts ; two of these have already been published and the third (last) part is likely to be released by March 1986. We have three more districts to cover in this new post-independence series and collection of material on Belgaum district is already half-way through, and work on Mysore district volume has also been initiated. Belgaum volume is likely to be released during 1986-87 and Mysore during 1987-88. We hope to cover all the 19 districts under the new series by the end of the Seventh Plan.

Though we originally intended to have this as a volume of 800 pages, this volume has crossed 1,000 pages. This is in view of the fact that new researches in the field of history of the district had to be brought to light as no latest comprehensive work on

the history of the district has been published. In the course of the last one decade, there has been an enormous increase in Government's activity, and discussing every item of activity even in one short paragraph together with presenting up-to-date statistics takes considerable space. A gazetteer cannot dispense with such a coverage as it is primarily intended to serve as a handbook to Government servants, and also for all those who are interested in knowing the district's progress in various fields and think in terms of its future.

Uttara Kannada is a unique district, an anthropological gallery and a topographical wonder. The Western Ghat ranges (dividing the district vertically), the thick forests, the Deccan plateau plains, the coastal strip and the sea shore with its quiet beaches and marine sources and the mineral wealth have all made this district rich in resources. But, it is an irony that the people here are comparatively poor. The British developed this as a 'forest district' by their stringent forest regulations, and even today 81% of its land surface is forest, and it is the richest of the forest districts of Karnataka. In mineral wealth it is next only to Bellary district in the State. Scarcity of agricultural land (only 12% of the total area), dependence of the rural population (75%) mostly on land, lack of transport facilities and industrial enterprise have all made it a poor district. Malaria epidemic made matters worse. Availability of cultivable land is the lowest in Uttara Kannada among the districts of Karnataka, being only 1,09,491 hectares (1982-83) and thus pressure on land is great, industries being meagre.

Yakshagana and other folk arts have made the district culturally advanced, and in literacy (48%) its place is the fourth in Karnataka. It is an enlightened region by and large, the people being conscious of both their rights and duties. It was in the forefront in the freedom movement, having resorted to even no-tax campaign twice, and the illiterate peasants throwing a challenge to the British. It has made substantial progress in co-operative movement too. Post-Independence period, and more so, the post-Reorganisation period, has brought about a radical transformation. Now Uttara Kannada is a forward-looking region. But progress has also brought in its train many problems, causing lot of social conflict and unrest. It is the story of a region which was only in the bullock cart civilization till the other day and now suddenly being brought on the threshold of the nuclear technology. Here an effort is made to present an all-round picture of the district—its past, present and also the prospects for the future, in various spheres of human activity.

by an in-depth, grass-root level study.

There has been a great enthusiasm in the district over the publication of this volume. People have been looking forward with great expectation regarding its contents. We could do whatever we have with the kind and enthusiastic co-operation of a host of citizens and the employees of all Government offices, both of the Central and State, beginning with the Deputy Commissioners (mainly Sri T. Dhanashekharan and Sri R. Suresh) and the successive Headquarters Assistants to the Deputy Commissioner.

The Gazetteer Advisory Committee with its erudite members (whose list is given elsewhere) has been of great help to us by their valuable suggestions and sound guidance. The Chairman of the Committee, Sri T. R. Satish Chandran, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, has taken special care of our work and has deeply involved himself with this publication. I must make a special mention of Sri A. S. Melkote, former Secretary to Information, Tourism and Youth Services Department, who had great enthusiasm for our work. No less is the enthusiasm and support of the present Secretary Sri Chiranjiv Singh. Of the innumerable public men, I must make a special mention of Prof. L. T. Sharma for functioning as an informal advisor and helping us in scrutinising most of the chapters and Dr. Krishnananda L. Kamat who has supplied a majority of the photographs here, and also taken immense pains in preparing the layout of all the plates. He has undertaken this invaluable work free of charge. He has also drafted the erudite section on Fauna in Chapter I. Dr. C. J. Saldanha of the Centre for Taxonomic Studies has similarly drafted the scholarly section on Flora. Dr. K. P. Bhat of the Bangalore University has furnished us a valuable note on the dialects of Kannada. To these all, and a number of other public men, whose names cannot be mentioned here only due to lack of space (and their list is very long), I express my deep sense of gratitude. I must place on record the labour of my colleagues Sri S. A. Jagannath and Sri B. S. Satyanarayana, Editors and Sri Stephen Paul and Sri A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigators, who toiled even on holidays with me in seeing the volume through the press. I must thank Sri V. B. Viswanath, the Printer, who did a neat and smooth job.

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