

**PROVINCIAL GAZETTEERS
OF INDIA
HYDERABAD STATE**

**Physical aspects
General Outline
of the state,
its dimensions
and boun daries**

Hyderabad State: A Native State better known as the Dominions of His Highness the Nizam, lying between 15° 10' and 20° 40' N. and 74° 40' and 81° 35' E., with an area of 82,698 square miles. It forms a polygonal tract occupying the State, almost the centre of the Deccan plateau. Berar and the sions and Central Provinces touch it on the north, and the Khandesh boun District of the Bombay Presidency on the north - west; on the south it is bounded by the Kistna and Tungabhadra rivers, which sequare it from of the Guntur, Kurnool, and Bellary Districts of Madras; on the west is bounded by the Ahmad nagar, Sholapur, Bijapur, and Dharwar Districts of Bombay; and on the east by the Wardha and Godavari rivers and the akistna District of Madras. The State is equal in area to the Madras Presidency, minus the Coromandel Coast and Coimbatore, or a little more than two and a half times the area of Ireland, or one and two-fifths of the combined areas of England and Wales.

Natural divisions

The country is an extensive plateau, with an average eleva-tion of about I, 250 feet above the level of the sea, but with divisions. summits here and there rising to 2,500 and even to 3,500feet. It is divided in to two large and nearly equal divisions, geologically

1 In 1905 the administrative units of the State, from Divisions to taluks, were completely reconstituted. the text generally refers to their constitution before the re-arrangement,, but the main changes are explained in the paragraph on Administra-tion and in the individual articles.

and ethnically distinct, separated from each other by the Manjra and Godavari rivers. The portion to the north and west belongs to the trappean region, that to the south and east being granitic and calcareous. There is a corresponding agreement between the two ethnical elements. The trappean region is inhabited by speakers of Marathi and Kanarese, the granitic country by speakers of Telugu. The trappean or black cotton soil country is a land of wheat and cotton; while Telingana, or the granitic region, is a land of rice and tanks. The difference between these two tracts is very marked. The trap or black cotton soil region is covered with luxuriant vegetation, with cliffs, crags, and undulating hills. The soil resulting from the decomposition of trap is of a dark colour, and very fertile; and, being argillaceous, it retains its moisture for a considerable time. In the granitic and calcareous region, on the other hand, the hills are bare of vegetation, but the plains are covered with scattered brush wood of every description; dome-shaped hills and wild fantastic boulders and tors abound in many parts, giving the region a gloomy aspect. The soil derived from the decomposition of the granite is sandy, and does not retain moisture. Consequently the rivers in this region run dry during the hot season, and this gives rise to the necessity of storing water in artificial reservoirs, known as tanks, with which the whole of the Telingana tract is studded. The surface of the country has a general slope from north-west to south-east, the main drainage being in this direction; the country to the extreme north-west corner near Aurangabad has an average altitude of about 2,000 feet above sea-level, falling imperceptibly to near, 1,200 feet at Raichur and to between 800 and 900 feet near Kurnool.

Hill system
and moun-
tain ranges,

The following are the chief hill and mountain ranges in the State. The Balaghat (bala = 'above' ghat = 'a mountain pass') is a range of hills which extends almost east and west from the Biloli taluk in the east of Nander District, through Parbhani, till it reaches Ashti, in Bhir District, with a length in Hyderabad of 200 miles and an average width of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. A spur of this range branches off through tracts lying between the Sina, Manjra, and Kagna rivers, extending from Ashti in District through Osmanabad, and terminating in Gulbarga District. A spur of the Balaghat runs between the Godavari and Manjra rivers and passing south wards from the west of Biloli in Nander reaches Kaulas in Indur District.

The Sahyadriparvat range runs along the north, from Nirmal in Indur District in the east and passing through Parbhani District and the province of Berar reaches Ajanta, and proceeding farther in a westerly direction enters the Khandesh District of Bombay. Its total length within the State is about 250 miles, for about 100 miles of which it is styled the Ajanta Hills.

Another range, known as the Jalna hills, starts from Daulatabad fort in Aurangabad District and proceeds eastward as far as Jalna in the same District, and thence passes into Berar, having a length of 120 miles.

The Kandikal Guta range, 50 miles in length, extends from Warangal District in a north-westerly direction through the Chinnur taluk of Adilabad. It is also called the Sirna palli range.

River system

The principal rivers are the GODAVARI and the KISTNA, with their tributaries the TUNGABHADRA, the PURNA, the PENGANGA, the MANJRA, the BHIMA and the Maner. There are, besides these,

many smaller streams, such as the MUSI, the Windi, the Munair, and others.

The Godavari enters the State at Phultamba in Aurangabad District, flows through it and the Districts of Parbhani, Nander, Indur, and Adilabad for a distance of 500 miles, and changing its course at the north-east corner of Elgandal, continues in a south-easterly direction for about 170 miles, forming the eastern boundary of Elgandal and Warangal Districts, until at Paranthpalli, in the latter District, it enters the Godavari District of Madras. It is joined by the Manjra, which rises in the Patoda taluk of Bhir, after a course of 387 miles through Bhir, Osmanabad, Bidar, Medak, Nander, and Indur Districts.

The Kistna crosses the border of the Bijapur District of Bombay at Echampet in Lingsugur and taking a south easterly course traverses the Districts of Lingsugur, Raichur, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, and Warangal, forming the southern boundary of the last three Districts and consequently of the State. Its tributary, the Bhima, enters Hyderabad at Urchand in Gulbarga District from the Sholapur District of Bombay, flows through Gulbarga and Raichur and falls into the Kistna in the latter District. The Tungabhadra, another tributary of the Kistna, touches Lingsugur District at madlapur, and flows in a north-easterly direction until it reaches Raichur District, whence it flows due east until its confluence with the Kistna near Alampur in the same District. The Tungabhadra separates Lingsugur and Raichur from the Bellary and Kurnool Districts of Madras.

The Penganga rises in the Sahyadriparvat and runs east along the north of Hyderabad, separating Parbhani, Nander, and Sirpur Tandur (now Adilabad) Districts from the southern parts of Berar.

SCENERY

In Sirpur Tandur it flows along the western and northern borders until it falls into the Wardha river, north of the Rajura *taluk*.

Scenery

This wide expanse of country presents much variety of surface and feature. In some parts it is mountainous, wooded, and picturesque; in others flat or undulating. The champaign lands are of all descriptions, including many rich and fertile plains, much good land not yet brought under cultivation, and numerous tracts too sterile ever to be cultivated at all. Aurangabad District, besides its caves at AJANTA and ELLORA, presents a variety of scenic aspect not met with elsewhere. The country is undulating in parts, with steppe-like ascents in some places and abrupt crags and cliffs in others.

Lakes and tanks

Properly speaking there are no natural lakes in the State, but some of the artificial sheets of water are large enough to deserve the name. These are reservoirs formed by throwing dams across the valleys of small rivulets and streams, to intercept water during the rains for irrigation purposes, and they number thousands in the Telingana tract. The largest and most important is the PAKHAL LAKE in the Narsampet taluk of Warangal District, the dam of which is 2,000 yards long, and holds up the water of the Pakhal river. Its area is nearly 13 square miles, and its length and breadth are respectively 8,000 and 6,000 yards.

Geology

The geological formations of Hyderabad State are the recent and ancient alluvia, laterite, Deccan trap, Gondwana, Kurnool and Cuddapah, and Archaean. Those most largely developed are the Deccan trap and the Archaean, covering immense areas in the north-western and south-eastern portions of the territory respectively. The Gondwana rocks extend for a distance of 200 miles along those portions of

the valleys of the Godavari and Pranhita which form the north-eastern frontier of the State. Though the main area of the Cuddapah and Kurnool formations lies in the Madras Presidency, south of the Kistna, they are found in the valley of that river along the south-eastern frontier for 150 miles, and again in the valleys of the Kistna, the Bhima and their tributaries in the south-west.

Archaean series The oldest formation, the Archaean, consists largely of massive granitoid rocks, particularly well developed round Hyderabad, which extend eastwards past Khammamett as far as the eastern corner of the State, where they become more varied and schistose, containing mica and hornblendic schists, beds of magnetite, metamorphic limestones, and other rocks. Again, a great series of schistose rocks occurs between the Kistna and Tungabhadra in the south-western Districts, which has been mapped and named as the Dharwar system. This consists of hornblendic, chloritic and argillaceous schists, epidiorites, and beds of quartz, associated with varying amounts of hematite and magnetite, representing a highly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic series. Except the groups mentioned above, the Archaean formation has not been studied in sufficient detail to define the character and boundaries of its component petrological types. The long narrow bands forming the Dharwar schist outcrops in the last-mentioned region constitute deeply folded and faulted synclines, embedded within older crystalline schists and gneiss, and injected by later granitoid intrusions. They are intersected by auriferous veins, of great economic importance, leading in the past to considerable mining activity, which is now being resumed. Innumerable basic volcanic dikes occur throughout the Archaean area, some of which are epidiorites,

probably of the Dharwar period, while others, consisting of augite-dolerite or diabase, with micropegmatitic quartz of a later period of volcanic activity, are connected with the lavas of the Cuddapah group.

Cuddapahs

The outcrop of the Cuddapah series north of the Kistna river, consisting of quartzites, slates or shales, and limestones, has been divided into several unconformable groups, of which the upper groups principally occur in this State. The Kurnool series, which is unconformable to the Cuddapah, consists of quartzites, limestones, and shales, which are not so altered and indurated as those of the Cuddapah. Both these have long been known as the diamondiferous sandstones of Southern India. The gems occur principally towards the base of the Kurnools. A portion of the Cuddapahs corresponds with the Bijawars of Central India, while the Kurnools are closely related to the Vindhya. The main area of the Cuddapahs and Kurnools terminates near Jaggayyapet, north of the Kistna. A considerable outcrop of the Cuddapahs follows the south-western border of the Godavari, its former connexion with the main area being indicated by a series of elongated outliers, the largest of which lies east of Khammamett. The largest continuous spread commences north-east of Khammamet, forms the Pakhal hills, and extends to within a short distance of the Godavari and Maner confluence. The beds reappear north of the Godavari, and continue north-west up to the frontier of Hyderabad, where they disappear beneath the basaltic lavas of the Deccan trap. The Cuddapahs of this area are unconformably overlaid by a vast series of quartzites and conglomerates with a few slaty beds, known as the Sullavai series, which possibly represent the Kurnools. Another outcrop of the Cuddapahs,

locally known as the Kaladgi series, occupies a large area in the Belgaum and Dharwar Districts of Bombay, the eastern extremity of which lies within Hyderabad. Farther to the north-east is another belt of the Kurnool strata, intercalated between the Archaean gneiss and the Deccan trap, and locally named after the Bhima river, which flows through their outcrop.

Gondwanas

The Gondwana rocks, containing the coal-measures and occupying an enormous area in the valleys of the Godavari and Pranhita, are divided into the Chikiala, Kota-Maleri, Kamptee, Barakar, and Talcher groups. The first two belong to the upper and the rest to the Lower Gondwanas. The boundaries of this area are mostly faults, as in most of the Indian coal-fields, which accounts for their straightness and parallelism. The Talchers consist of fine buff sandstones, often of a greenish-grey slaty shales and sandstones beneath which lies the well-known boulder-bed. The glacial origin of this latter formation has been thoroughly confirmed by the remarkable section in the Penganga near the village of Irai, not quite a mile above the Wardha confluence, where not only do the boulders exhibit glacial striations, but the surface of the underlying Cuddapah limestones is deeply furrowed and grooved by ice-action, as is commonly seen in glacial regions.

The Barakars are not more than 250 feet thick, but they are of great economic importance, owing to the coal-seams which they include. They consist of coal-beds, sandstones, and shales, with a few impure thin carbonaceous layers. The coal-beds are of great thickness, the Singareni thick coal averaging 56 feet.

The Kampteers rest unconformably on the Barakars and contain no coal. They consist of clays,

conglomerates, and especially sandstones, many of them highly ferruginous, others calcareous, and a few manganiferous. Their principal outcrop lies west of the Godavari, below the confluence of the Pranhita, extending almost as far as the delta.

The Lower Gondwanas are principally upper palaeozoic in age. The Upper Gondwanas contain mesozoic fossils. Some of the most interesting are those of the Kota-Maleri group, including several species of fishes and reptiles which occur in limestone beds associated with clays. Abundant red and green clays and clayey sandstones form the most distinctive petrological feature of these beds, which rest unconformably on the Kampteas, occupying vast areas to the west of the Godavari and Pranhita. The Chikiala beds, resting on the Kota-Maleri, and consisting of highly ferruginous glassy-looking sandstones and iron bands, are unfossiliferous. Their connexion with the Gondwanas is doubtful.

The Deccan trap

The Deccan trap, consisting of bedded lava-flows of basalt Deccan and dolerite, with occasional intercalations of fresh-water trap deposits, known as interappeans, covers the western part of the State, and extends all along its northern frontier.

**Alluvial and
Surface
formations**

Ancient alluvial gravels and clays, sometimes of considerable thickness, occur at various parts in the valleys of Godavari, Kistana, Tungabhadra, and some of them containing the remains of extinct mammalia of pleistocene or upper pliocene age. The surface of the rocks is often concealed by laterite, which is a peculiar form of rock-weathering special to tropical regions. Rocks rich in iron, like the Deccan trap, are particularly liable to this form of decomposition. In the absence of laterite, the weathering of the Deccan

trap produces the well-known fertile black soil, which may be in parts contemporaneous with the trap, while in the large river valleys it must have been formed or reconsolidated within a (geologically speaking) recent period, judging from the palaeolithic or even neolithic stone implements found in it. Recent alluvial flats cover considerable areas of the large river valleys, especially along the Godavari below the Pranhita confluence down to the delta.

Minerals

The principal mineral products of the Dominions are diamonds, gold, and coal. The first occur in the Kurnool series; the gold in the Dharwar system in Lingsugur; and the coal in the Barakar, in the Godavari-Pranhita-Gondwana system, which is worked at Singareni. Rich iron ores occur in the Chikiala sandstones, and in the Dharwar schists. These products will be more fully described in dealing with Minerals.

Botany

Much of the land in the Hyderabad State is level, and a large portion of it is under cultivation, though there are tracts where arable soil has never been broken or cultivated, or where cultivation has lapsed. But wherever the ground is left uncultivated for a year or two, it becomes covered with a low jungle, consisting chiefly of *Cassia auriculata* and *Zizyphus microphylla*. Other level tracts also exist where the ground is quite unfit for cultivation. *The forests contain, among the larger species, Tectona grandis, Diospyros tomentosa, Bosrvellia serrata, Anogeissus latifolia, Terminalia tomentosa, Dalbergia latifolia, Ougeinia dalbergioides, Schreibera srvietenioides, Pterocarpus Marsupium, and Adina cordi folia, with smaller species like Briedelia retusa, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Woodfordia floribunda, Zizyphus, Morinda, Gardenia, Butea, Acacia, Bauhinia,*

Cocholepermum, *Grervia* and *Phyllanthus*. When ground once occupied is allowed to go out of cultivation for a short time, a similar forest speedily asserts itself, containing, besides the trees already mentioned, a considerable number of the semi-spontaneous shrubs and trees that are frequently found in the neighbourhood of Indian dwellings, such as *Bombax*, *Erythrina*, *Moringa*, *Cassia Fistula*, *Anona reticulata*, *Melia Azadirachta*, *Crataeva Roxburghii*, *Feronia Elephantum*, *Aegle Marmelos*, and various species of *Acacia* and *Ficus*.

In the hilly tracts the hills are often covered with forests; not as a rule containing much large timber, leading constituent species being the same as those that grow in the level tracts and arable lands, but stunted and deformed. Throughout the whole State scattered trees of *Acacia arabica* and *Acacia Catechu* and toddy - palms (*Borassus flabellifer* and *Phoenix sylvestris*) are common; the latter two are extensively cultivated on account of their sap, which, when drawn and allowed to ferment, produces an intoxicating beverage largely consumed in the Telingana tract. The soils of this area are also favourable to the growth of the coco-nut, which cannot be grown even in which the greatest cave in the Maratha region. Around villages, groves of mango (*Mangifera*), tamarind, *Bombax*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *F. religiosa*, and *F. infectoria*, and similar species exist. The tamarind does not flourish in the Maratha region to the same extent as in Telingana.

Fauna

A greater variety of wild animals and feathered game is not to be met with in any other part of India, excepting perhaps Mysore State. Tigers and leopards are found everywhere, while bison and occasionally elephants are met with in the immense jungle about the Pakhal Lake. The high lands are resorted to by

spotted deer (*Cervus axis*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), four-horned antelope, hog deer, and 'ravine deer or gazelle. Wild hog are found in the jungles and innumerable herds of antelope in the plains. Hyenas, wolf, tiger-cats, bears, hares, jackals, &c., are in great abundance. Of the varied species of the feathered tribe in Hyderabad, may be mentioned the grey and painted partridge, blue rock and green pigeon, sand-grouse, quail, snipe, bustard, peafowl, jungle-fowl, wild duck wild geese, and teal of various descriptions. The florican and flamingo are occasionally seen on the banks of the Godavari and Kistna.

Climate :

The climate is not altogether salubrious, but may be considered as in general good, for it is pleasant and agreeable during the greater part of the year. The country being partially hilly, and free from the arid bare deserts of Rajputana and other parts of India, the hot winds are not so keenly felt. There are three marked seasons: the rainy season from the beginning of June to the end of September, the cold season from the beginning of October to the end of January, and the hot season from early in February to the end of May.

Temperature

The mean temperature of the State is about 81°. The following table gives the temperature for the three stations where observations have been taken regularly:-

RAINFALL

Station	Height of Observatory above sea level in feet	Average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) for the ten years ending with 1901 in							
		January		May		July		November	
		Mean	Diurnal range	Mean	Diurnal range	Mean	Diurnal range	Mean	Diurnal range
Raichur.	1,326	75.7	23.0	91.3	24.0	81.5	17.0	76.9	19.0
Hyderabad *	1,690	72.1	25.8	91.9	23.2	80.4	14.4	73.5	22.1
Hanamonda +	871	75.1	23.3	93.2	22.0	82.4	13.0	75.6	21.8

* The figures for January, May, and July are for ten years, and for November for eleven.

+ The figures for January are for three years and the rest for four.

Rainfall

The annual rainfall is estimated at from 30 to 32 inches, Rainfall. principally received during the south-west monsoon between June and October. The north-east monsoon brings between 4 and 7 inches of rain. The rainfall in 1901 was 32 inches, but in 1900 the total fall amounted to only 15 inches or less than half the normal. Westerly winds blow generally from the beginning of June to the end of September; during the next five months, from October to February, the wind blows from the east; and in March, April, and May north-easterly winds are frequent. The following table gives the rainfall at three stations:-

Station	Average rainfall (in inches) for the twenty-five years ending with 1901 in												
	Jan	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total of year
Raichur	0.02	0.18	0.30	0.84	1.00	3.70	5.01	5.60	6.27	3.91	1.02	0.10	27.95
Hyderabad *	0.11	0.21	0.61	0.91	0.96	4.43	6.14	6.98	6.62	3.58	1.45	0.37	32.37
Hanamonda	0.25	0.27	0.74	0.50	0.76	4.58	8.36	7.43	6.93	2.51	1.20	0.26	33.79

*† The figures of August are for twenty - four years only.