

dispensary, a *taluk* post office, a travellers' bungalow, and a school. Tuljapur is a centre of trade. In a ravine at the foot of the hill is the temple of Tulja Bhavani, which is visited by Hindus from all parts of India, especially on the full moon of the Dasara festival, when a great *jatra* is held. It is said to have been built by the Rajas of Satara and Kolhapur. A weekly market is held here on Tuesdays.

**Boundaries
configuration
and Hill and
River system**

Raichur District¹ : District in the Gulbarga Division of Hyderabad State, adjoining Mahbubnagar and Gulbarga, which bound it east and north, and the Madras Districts of Bellary and Kurnool in the south, from which it is separated by the Tungabhadra river. Before the extensive changes made in 1905, referred to below, it lay between 15° 50' and 16° 54' N. and 76° 50' and 78° 15' E., and had an area of 3,604 square miles, *khalsa* lands covering 2,319 square miles and the rest being *samasthans* and *jagirs*.

A range of hills traverses the yadgir *taluk* from west to east for a length of 20 miles, and enters the Seram and Kodangal *taluks* of Gulbarga District in the north-east. There are three other ranges, one extending from the north-west of Raichur towards Yergara for 15 miles, another in the Raichur and Manvi *taluks* 10 miles long, and the third 19 miles long in the south of the District in the Raichur and Alampur *taluks*. These really form a single range, extending for nearly 60 miles from the north-west of Raichur to Alampur, with two breaks. The general slope of the country is from the north-west towards the south-east.

The most important river is the Kistna, which enters the Deodrug *taluk* and flows for a distance of 130 miles in a south-easterly directions. The Tungabhadra forms the southern boundary up to

1. (J.F. Fleet, Journal, Royal Asiatic Society 1901). H. Cousenes, Archaeological Survey of India, Annual Report (1902-03), P-195

1. This article, except where otherwise stated, describes the district as it stood before the changes made in 1905

the point of its confluence with the Kistna in the Alampur *taluk*. The Bhima enters the Yadgir *taluk*, and falls into the Kistna 16 miles north of Raichur.

Geology

The District is occupied principally by Archaean gneiss, including, near its western boundary, some bands of crystalline schists known as the Dharwar series, which contain auriferous quartz veins. At the extreme east, the triangular area above the confluence of the Kistna and Tungabhadra is occupied by rocks of the Kurnool series. The Dharwars and the Kurnools are fully described in the publications of the Geological Survey of India, the former by R.B. Foote (*Records*, vols. xxi, part ii, and xxii, part i), the latter by W. King (*Memories*, vol. viii, part i).

Botany

The most important trees are teak, ebony, *bijasal* (*Pterocarpus Marsupium*), *nallamaddi* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *eppa* (*Hardwickia binata*), *tarvar* (*Cassia auriculata*), mango, tamarind, *nim*, and species of *Ficus*.

Fauna

No large game is found, owing to the absence of forests ; but in the hills leopards, bears, hyenas, and wolves are met with occasionally. Among game-birds, partridges and qualil, and near the tanks and on the rivers wild duck, teal, and other water-fowl, may be seen.

Climate, Temperature and Rainfall

The District is generally healthy from October to the end of May, but during the rains ague and fever prevail. The parts bordering the rivers are damp. The temperature in May rises to 111°, but the nights are cool, and in December it falls to 70° F. The annual rainfall during the twenty-one years ending 1901 averaged 25.37 inches.

History

Before the Muhammadan conquest, Raichur was part of the Warangal kingdom, and it became

subject to Vijaynagar when that power was established early in the fourteenth century. After Muhammad bin Tughlak's death, it fell to the Bahmanis, then to the Adil Shahis of Bijapur. After the conquest of Bijapur by Aurangzeb, it was united to Delhi, but was separated from the empire on the foundation of the Hyderabad State. Under the treaty of 1853 it was 'assigned' to the British, but was restored to the Nizam in 1860.

Archaeology

The principal antiquities are found in or near the fort of Raichur, which is said to have been built by Gore Gangaya Ruddivaru, the minister of the Raja of Warangal between 1294 and 1301. The District also contains the old forts of DEODRUG, YADGIR, Alampur, and Malliabad, besides numerous temples and mosques.

Population

The number of towns and villages in the District, including *jagirs* and two large *samasthans*, is 899. The population at the last three enumerations was (1881) 398,782, (1891) 512,455, and (1901) 509,249. The chief towns are now RAIRCHUR, GADWAL, KOPPAL, MUDGAL, DEODRUG, KALLUR, and MANVI. Hindus form 90 per cent. of the total population ; 51 per cent. of the people speak Telugu, 37 per cent. Kanarese, and 9 per cent. Urdu.

The following table shows the chief statistics of population in 1901

<i>Taluk</i>	Area in square miles	Number of		Population	Population per square mile	Population of variation population between 1891 & 1901	Number of personal to read and write
		Towns	Villages				
Raichur	441	1	110	88,741	201	+ 5.6	Not available
Yadgir	268	1	50	36,075	134	- 31.0	
Alampur	179	--	42	29,294	163	+ 10.8	
Vergara	358	1	77	59,463	166	+ 9.1	
Manvi	559	1	137	69,306	124	+ 20.3	
Deodrug	514	1	151	76,491	148	+ 2.5	
<i>Jagirs &c.</i>	1,285	1	326	149,879	116	+ 2.9	
District Total	3,604	6	893	509,249	141	- 0.7	10,872

In 1905 Yergara was divided between the adjoining *taluks* of Manvi, Raichur, and Deodrug, and Yadgir was transferred to Gulbarga District. On the other hand, Lingsugur, Gangawati, Kushtagi and Sindhur were added to Raihcur from the broken-up Lingsugur district. In its present form the District comprises eight *taluks*-Raichur, Lingsugur, Manvi, Alampur, Deodurga, Gangawati, Kushtagi, and Sindhur-besides the *samsthans* of Gadwal and Amarchinta, and the two *jagir taluks* of Koppal and Yelbarga belonging to the Salar Jang family.

Castes and Occupations

The most numerous caste in the District is that of the cultivating Kapus, numbering 72,900, of whom 53,300 are Lingayats. Almost equal to them are the hunting Bedars, numbering 72,600. The number of persons directly engaged in agriculture is 56 per cent. of the total. Of the 276 Christians in 1901, 237 were natives.

General Agricultural Conditions

Raichur is situated in the metamorphic and trap regions, and its varieties of soil are *regar*, *masab*, *milwa*, and reddish or lateritic. The last-mentioned soil is much prized, and so are also the *regar* and *milwa*; but the *masab* is a very poor soil, and needs water and heavy manuring. *Regar* predominates in the Raichur, Manvi, and Deodrug *taluks*, where *rabi* crops are extensively raised, while reddish and *milwa* soils are used for *kharif* crops. In the reddish and *milwa* soils a moderate fall of 12 to 15 inches of rain is sufficient to mature the crop, while *regar* needs 25 to 30 inches.

Chief Agricultural Statistics and Principal Crops

The tenure of land is mainly *ryotwari*. In 1901, 1,670 square miles were cultivated, out of a total area of square miles of *khalsa* land. The remainder included 127 square miles of cultivable waste and fallows, 120 of forest, and 402 not available for cultivation. Only 36 square miles were irrigated.

The staple food-crops are *jowar* and *bajra*, produced from 791 and 141 square miles of land respectively, or 47 and 8 percent. of the net area cropped. Cotton was grown on 285 square miles, distributed over all the *taluks*, while rice and oilseeds covered 33 and 77 square miles.

Since the settlement in 1891, the value of land has increased, the almost the whole of the available area has been taken up, and little extension is now possible. No steps have been taken to improve cultivation by the introduction of new varieties of seed or better agricultural implements.

Cattle & c.

The cattle are of the ordinary kind, but are strong and well suited for deep ploughing. There is no special breed of ponies, sheep, or goats. In the town of Raichur, a weekly market is held, where cattle, ponies, and sheep are sold. At the annual

fair at Gadwal, a large trade is done in cattle. The District contains numerous grazing areas.

Irrigation

The total irrigated area is only about 36 square miles, which is supplied by 234 tanks and 4,804 wells, all in good repair. In the Yergara *taluk*, a channel 9 miles long from the Tungabhadra river supplies most of the tanks. Estimates amounting to Rs. 60,000 for improving this channel are awaiting sanction, and, when completed, it will irrigate a very large extent of land. The largest tank is at Kanjpalli, 2 miles from Yergara, the dam of which is 2 miles long and about 40 feet high.

Forests

A small 'reserved' forest, 70 square miles in area, is situated in the Yadgir *taluk*, and about 50 square miles are covered with protected and unprotected forests, making a total of 120 square miles. Teak, ebony, rosewood, *bijasal* (*pterocarpus Marsupium*), *nallamaddi* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *eppa* (*Hardwickia binata*), sandal-wood, *sendra* (*Acacia Catechu*), and bamboos are found in the 'reserved' tract.

Minerals

The most important mineral is the auriferous quartz, found in the Manvi and Deodrug *taluks*, near the villages of Topaldodi and Wandalli, which was worked by the Deccan Mining Company. Operations have recently slackened at Wandalli and altogether stopped at Topaldodi. Laminated limestone like the Shahabad stone is also found in Yadgir, and take in the Deodrug *taluk*.

Arts and Manufactures

There is no important hand industry in the District. Coarse cotton *dhotis* and *saris* are woven everywhere. In the Alampur *taluk shatranjis* and printed floorcloths are manufactured, while in the Yadgir *taluk* printed screens and table cloths and furniture and wooden toys are made. Raichur town is noted for its gilt and coloured soft native slippers,

which are exported far and wide, and also for its fancy earthen goblets and drinking vessels.

Four cotton-presses, three at Raichur, and one at Yadgir, employed 275 hands and pressed 7,426 tons of cotton in 1901 ; and an oil and another ginning and pressing factory are under construction. A tannery at Raichur turns out 500 skins per day, and employs 60 persons. The skins and hides are sent to Bombay, Madras, and Cawnpore. Nitre and salt are prepared in small quantities by lixiviating sline earth; the salt is bitter and is used in making pickles. There is also a distillery at Raichur.

Commerce

The principal exports consist of *jowar* and other foodgrains, linseed, castor-seed, sesamum, leather and hides, bones and horns, *tarvar* bark, and cotton. The chief imports are salt and salted fish, opium, coco-nuts, refined sugar, kerosene oil, sulphur, camphor, spices, mill-made cloth, yarn, raw silk, and silk and woollen stuffs.

Raichur town is a centre of commerce, and since the opening of the railway in 1871 it has grown in importance and supports a large commercial population. The trading castes supports a large commercial population. The trading castes consist of Baljawars, Lingayat Komatis, and Marwaris, who also do a large banking business.

Railways

The town of Raichur is the junction of the Great Indian Peninsula and the Madras Railways, which cross the District from north to south for 62 miles, with eight stations in the District.

Roads

There are altogether 182 miles of roads, of which 84 miles are gravelled, and are maintained by the Public Works department, the others being ordinary fair-weather roads. The latter lead from Raichur town to Alampur (60 miles), to Deodrug

(34), and to Manvi (24). The metalled roads are the Deosugur road (13), aichur to Wandalli gold-mines (43), the Yergara road (10), and the Raichur-Lingsugur road (18 miles). Most of these roads now serve as railway feeders. There are 32 fords and ferries on the Kistna, the Tungabhadra, and the Bhima, at some of which boats are kept, while at others coracles are used for carrying people and goods across.

Famine

From old records it appears that this District was the scene of much distress in 1804, 1819, 1833, 1846, 1856, and 1877-8. The effects of the famine of 1846 were felt beyond the borders ; but the severest disaster was that of 1877-8, which devastated many villages and caused immense distress both in Raichur and in the surrounding Districts of Hyderabad State and of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. The *kharif* and *rabi* crops both failed during these two years and grain could not be obtained. As an indication of distress, it is reported that gold sold at Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 per tola, i.e., at one-fourth its usual price, and many people sold their children. The State spent large sums of money on relief works and poor-houses to alleviate the distress; but, notwithstanding this, many perished, and numerous villages were depopulated, while cattle died by thousands for want of fodder and water. In 1897 some distress prevailed, but timely rain in June relieved the pressure by cheapening food-grains.

District Sub-divisions and Staff

The District is divided into three sub-divisions: one comprising the *taluks* of Lingsugur, Gangawati, and Kushtagi, under a Second Talukdar; the second comprising the *taluks* of Sindhnur, Deodrug, and Manvi, under a Third Talukdar; and the third comprising Raichur and Alampur, under another Third Talukdar. The First Talukdar exercises a

general supervision over the work of his subordinates. Each *taluk* is under a *tahsildar*.

Civil and Criminal Justice

The District civil court is presided over by the *Nazim-i-Diwani*, or District Civil Judge, and the *tahsildars* sit as subordinate civil courts. The *Nazim-i-Diwani* is a joint-magistrate, exercising magisterial powers during the absence of the First Talukdar from head-quarters. The Second and Third Talukdars and the *tahsildars* exercise second and third-class magisterial powers. Serious crime is not heavy in ordinary years, but cattle-thefts and dacoities fluctuate according to the degree of severity of the season.

Land Revenue

The revenue system of Malik Ambar appears to have been adopted in the beginning of the seventeenth century. Subsequently villages were let on contract, after fixing the revenue according to the nature of the lands, and the contractors received $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per rupee as commission. The *ryotwari* system, with cash payments, was introduced in 1866. In 1888 the Deodrug and Manvi *taluks* were surveyed and settled for fourteen years ; and the remaining *taluks* were settled in 1891, also for the same period. From the survey it was found that the cultivated area had increased by 271 square miles, or 19.6 percent., and the enhancement of revenue was Rs. 53,821, or 5.6 percent. The average assessment on 'dry' land is Rs. 0-12 (maximum Rs. 3, minimum Rs. 0-2), and on 'wet' land Rs. 5 (maximum Rs. 12, minimum Rs. 2).

The land revenue and the total revenue of the District are given below, in thousands of rupees

	1881	1891	1901	1903
Land revenue	11,51	12,23	11,60	11,94
Total revenue	15,01	23,34	19,82	22,62

Owing to the changes of area made in 1905, the land revenue demand is now about 18.4 lakhs.

Local and Municipal Government

The District board, in addition to its own work, manages the Raichur municipality and also supervises the working of the *taluk* boards, which have been formed in every *taluk* except Raichur. Of the total cess, five-twelfths are set apart for local and municipal works, yielding Rs. 25,000 in 1901. In addition, a sum of Rs. 33,000 was contributed from other miscellaneous sources to meet the expenditure in that year, which was Rs. 58,000.

Police and Jails

The First Talukdar is the head of the police, with a Superintendent (*Mohtamim*) as his executive deputy. Under the latter are 7 inspectors, 53 subordinate officers, 398 constables, and 25 mounted police, distributed among 25 *thanas* and an equal number of outposts. Besides the regular police, there are 1,696 rural policemen. The District jail is at Raichur town, and lock-ups are maintained in the five outlying *taluks*. The District jail can accommodate only 100 convicts, but prisoners whose terms exceed six months are transferred to the Central jail at Gulbarga.

Education

In 1901 the proportion of persons in the District able to read and write was 2.1 per cent. (4.1 males and 0.15 females). The total number of pupils under instruction in 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1903 was 269, 1,255, 2,771, and 2,679 respectively. In 1903 there

were 31 primary and 2 middle schools, and the number of girls under instruction was 94. The amount expended on education was Rs. 16,600, of which the State contributed Rs. 10,700 and the remainder was met by the local boards. About 53 per cent. Of the total was devoted to primary schools. The total fee receipts amounted to Rs. 1,119.

Medical

The District has 5 dispensaries, with accommodation for 14 in-patients. The total number of cases treated in 1901 was 30,535 out-patients and 124 in-patients, and 1,153 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 14,800, of which Rs. 13,500 was paid by the State and the balance from Local funds. There are two dispensaries in the two *samasthans* of Gadwal and Amarchinta on the model of the State dispensaries.

In 1901 five vaccinators were engaged in the work of vaccination, and 3,096 persons were successfully vaccinated, or 6.08 per 1,000 of the population.

Raichur Taluk : *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 526 square miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 94,695, compared with 89,782 in 1891. It had one town, RAICHUR (population, 22,165), the head-quarters of the District and *taluk*; and 128 villages, of which 18 are *jagir*. In 1905 the *taluk* was enlarged by the addition of part of Yergara. The Kistna river separates it from Mahbubnagar District in the north. The land revenue in 1901 was 2.6 lakhs. The soils are chiefly alluvial, *regar*, and sandy. The two *samasthans* of GADWAL AND AMARCHINTA lie to the east and north-east of this *taluk*, with populations of 96,491 and 34,147, areas of about 864 and 190 square miles, and 214 and 68 villages respectively. The former contains one town, GADWAL (population, 10,195).

Alampur : South-eastern *taluk* of Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 184 square miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 30,222, compared with 27,271 in 1891. The *taluk* has 43 villages, of which one is *jagir*; and Alampur (population, 4,181) is the head-quarters. The Kistna river separates it from Mahbubnagar District on

the north, and the Tungabhadra from the Madras District of Kurnool on the south. the confluence of these two rivers is situated in the extreme east of the *taluk*. In 1901 the land revenue was 1.2 lakhs. The soils are alluvial and *regar* in the south, and sandy in the west.

Manvi Taluk : *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 573 square miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 70,773, compared with 58,828 in 1891. It contained one town, MANVI (population, 6,253), the head-quarters ; and 140 villages, of which 3 are *jagir*. In 1905 part of the Yergara *taluk* was incorporated in Manvi. It is separated from the Madras District of Kurnool in the south by the Tungabhadra river. The land revenue in 1901 was 2 lakhs. The soil is chiefly *regar* or alluvial.

Sindhur Taluk : *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 621 miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 65,434, compared with 49,776 in 1891. The *taluk* contains one town, SINDHUR (population, 5,242), the head-quarters; and 126 villages, of which 61 are *jagir*. It is separated on the south-east from the Madras District of Bellary by the Tungabhadra river. The land revenue in 1901 was 2.5 lakhs.

Gangawati Taluk : *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 517 square miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 65,010, compared with 55,097 in 1891. The *taluk* contains one town, GANGAWATI (population, 6,245), the head-quarters ; and 140 villages, of which 37 are *jagir*. The *samasthan* of Anegundi, comprising 12 villages with a population of 4,295, is included in this *taluk*. The Tungabhadra river separates it from the Madras District of Bellary on the south-east. The land revenue in 1901 was 1.8 lakhs. The soil includes alluvial, black cotton, and sandy varieties. The *jagir taluk* of Koppal, belonging to the Salar Jang family, is situated to the west of this *taluk*. It has an area of 513 square miles, and a population of 85,033, and 152 villages, besides one town, KOPPAL (population, 8,903), the head-quarters.

Kushtagi : *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 796 squares miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 95,797, compared with 106,625 in 1891. The *taluk* contains 236 villages, of which 115 are *jagir* ; and Kushtagi (population, 3,433) is the head-quarters.

The land revenue in 1901 was 1.6 lakhs. Kushtagi is composed chiefly of black cotton soil. The *jagir taluk* of Yelbarga, belonging to the Salar Jang family lies to the south west of this *taluk*. It has an area of 480 square miles and a population of 67,016, dwelling in 101 villages.

Lingsugur Taluk : *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 703 square miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 87,547, compared with 73,063 in 1891. It contains two towns, LINGSUGUR (population, 5,161) and MUDGAL (7,729), the *taluk* head-quarters ; and 180 villages, of which 86 are *jagir*. The *samasthan* of Gurgunta, consisting of 38 villages, with a population of 19,937, is included in this *taluk*. The Kistna river enters the State at Opanhal in the west and flows in a north-easterly direction. the land revenue in 1901 was 1.6 lakhs.

Deodrug Taluk: *Taluk* in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, with an area of 531 square miles, including *jagirs*. The population in 1901 was 78,280, compared with 76,306 in 1891. It has one town, DEODRUG (population, 6,773), the head-quarters ; and 155 villages, of which 4 are *jagir*. In 1905 part of the Yergara *taluk* was added to Deodrug. The Kistna river flows through the north and west of the *taluk*. the land revenue in 1901 was 1.7 lakhs. The soils are most *regar* and alluvial.

Anegundi: Old town and fortress in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 15° 21' N. and 76° 30' E., on the left bank of the Tungabhadra. Population (1901), 2,266. It is the seat of the Rajas of Anegundi, who are lineal descendants of the kings of Vijayanagar. Anegundi and Vijayanagar on the opposite bank are popularly identified with the Kishkinda of the Ramayana. The Vijayanagar dynasty ruled from 1336 to 1565, when it was overthrown by an alliance of the Muhammadan Sultans of the Deccan. Anegundi means 'elephant-pit,' being the place where the elephants of the Vijayanagar kings were kept.

Deodrgu Town : Head-quarters of the *taluk* of the same name in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 16° 25' N. and 76° 56' E., 34 miles west of Raichur town and 4 miles south of the Kistna. Population (1901), 6,773. Deodrug contains an old fort enclosed on all sides except the west by hills, and was the stronghold of the *poligars* of the Bedar tribe, who were so powerful that the first of the Nizams sought their alliance. The *tahsil* and police inspector's offices, a dispensary, one State and six

local board schools are located here. To the north of the town is a hill containing talc.

Gadwal : Head-quarters of the *samasthan* of the same name in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 15° 26' N. and 77° 13' E., 35 miles east of Raichur town. Population (1901), 10,195.

Gangawati Town : Head-quarters of the *taluk* of the same name in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 15° 26' N. and 76° 32' E., 5 miles north of Anegundi. Two miles east of it flows the Tungabhadra river. Population (1901), 6,245. The town contains a school, a dispensary, a post office, and two old temples. It is a commercial centre, largely exporting grain and jaggery. A weekly market is held on Sundays.

Kallur : Town in the Raichur *taluk* of Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 16° 9' N. and 77° 13' E., 10 miles west of Raichur town. Population (1901), 6,456. It has three temples built of stone, all in good preservation, and two mosques.

Koppal : Old hill-fort and town in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 15° 21' N. and 76° 10' E., on the Southern Mahratta Railway. Population (1901), 8,903. It was occupied in 1786 by Tipu Sultan, who had the lower fortress rebuilt by his French engineers. It was besieged by the British and the Nizam's forces for six months in 1790, before it was finally carried. During the Mutiny of 1857, Bhim Rao, a rebel, obtained possession of it, but was slain with many others of his party, and the rest surrendered. The fortifications consist of two forts ; the upper fort is situated on the lofty and insulated summit of a hill, about 400 feet above the plain. Sir John Malcolm described it as the strongest place he had seen in India. It is now the chief town in a *jagir* of the Salar Jang family, and contains a State post office and a vernacular school maintained by the estate.

Lingsugur Town : Town in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 16° 7' N. and 76° 3' E. Population (1901), including the Mahbub Bazar, 5,161. It was the headquarters of Lingsugur District till 1950, and contains the usual offices, a middle school, a dispensary, the District jail, a State post office, and a British post office. Two weekly markets are held, on Saturdays and Sundays. The Mahbub Bazar, 2 miles north

of the town, was the site of a cantonment while the District was held by the British from 1853 to 1860.

Manvi Town : Head-quarters of the *taluk* of the same name in Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 15° 59' N. and 77° 3' E. Population (1901), 6,253. It contains temples of Marothi, Ramasimha, and Venkateshwara, and a Jama Masjid. Opposite the temple of Marothi, which is erected on a hill to the west of the town is a large block of stone bearing a lengthy Kanarese inscription. Another stone bearing an inscription stands near a well in the fort, which is now in ruins.

Mudgal: Head-quarters of the Lingsugur *taluk*, Raichur District, Hyderabad State, situated in 16° 1' N. and 76° 26' E. Population (1901), 7,729, of whom 4,753 were Hindus, 2,593 Musalmans, and 380 Christians. The fort was the seat of the Yadava governors of Deogiri in 1250. It came successively into the possession of the Rajas of Warangal, the Bahmani and Bijapur Sultans, and lastly it fell to Aurangzeb. There is a small Roman Catholic colony in the town, whose ancestors were originally converted by one of St. Francis Xavier's missionaries from Goa. the church was built at an early date and contains a picture of the Madonna. Mudgal has two schools, one of which is supported by the mission, a post office, and an *Ashur-khana*, where the Muharram ceremony is held with great *eclat* in the presence of thousands of pilgrims.

Raichur Town: Head-quarters of the District and *taluk* of the same name in Hyderabad State, situated in 16° 12' N. and 77° 21' E. Population (1901), 22165, of whom 16,249 were Hindus, 5,664 Musalmans, and 186 Christians. According to an inscription in the fort on a huge stone 42 by 3 feet, it was built by Gore Gangaya Ruddivaru in 1294. The country round Raichur was the battle-ground of the ancient Hindu and Jain dynasties, as well as of the Musalman and Hindu kingdoms of Gulbarga and Vijayanagar. After the decline of the Bahmani power towards the close of the fifteenth century, it formed part of the Bijapur kingdom. Upon the subjugation of Bijapur and Golconda by Aurangzeb, Raichur was garrisoned by the Mughals. A short distance from the west gate of the fort are the remains of a strongly built palace, now utilized as a jail. The town is the junction of the Madras and the Great Indian Peninsula Railways, 351 miles from Madras and 444 miles from Bombay. The

fortifications form a square of large stones 12 feet long by 3 feet thick, laid on one another without any cementing material. They consist of two walls, an inner and an outer, and are surrounded on three sides by a deep ditch, while on the fourth or southern side there is a hill. The outer fortifications and the gateways were constructed by Ibrahim Adil Shah about 1549. The inner fort has two gateways and the outer three. The fort contains an old gun over 20 feet long. Outside the eastern gate is a mosque having a single minaret 240 feet high and 30 feet in circumference, with a winding staircase, which was built in 1503 during the reign of Mahmud Shah Bahmani. A good view of the surrounding country is obtained from the top of this minaret. The Jama Masjid in the town was built in 1618. Raichur has three cotton-presses, a tannery, and a distillery, and is a rising commercial centre.

Sindhur Town : Head-quarters of the *taluk* of the same name in Raichur District, Hdyerabad State, situated in 15° 47' N. and 76° 46' E. Population (1901), 5,242. The town contains a post office and a school. Country cloth, grain, and especially cotton are largely exported. Half a mile from the town is a stone mosque said to have been erected during Aurangzeb's reign.

**Boundaries
configuration
and Hill and
River systems**

Bidar District : District in the Gulbarga Division of Hyderabad State, lying between 17° 30' and 18° 51' N. and 76° 30' and 77° 51' E., with a total area of 4,168 square miles, of which 2,120 square miles are *jagir*¹. It is bounded by Nander District and the *paigah* estates of Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umara, on the north ; by the *paigah* estates of Nawab Sir Khurshed Jah, on the east and south ; and by the Districts of Bhir and Osmanabad and the *paigah* and Kalyani *jagirs*, on the west.

From Khanapur, 8 miles west of Bidar, a range of low laterite hills, forming a plateau which terminates towards the north above the valley of the Manjra, extends due east as far as sadaseopet in Medak District ; otherwise the country is almost flat, with a gentle slope towards the east.

1. These figures relate to the district before the alterations made in 1905; see paragraph on population