Chapter - II

Bird’s Eye View of Shimoga District
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Shimoga, a place known for its scenic beauty, flush green lush forests, eye-catching waterfalls, cool climate is situated in the Malnad region bounded by Sahyadri ghats at a mean elevation of 640 AMSL in the western part of Karnataka. The district is spread over an area of 8477 Sq.Kms with a forest area of 2.27 Lakh Hectares. The total population of Shimoga district as per 1991 census is around 1,642,545. The eastern part of district comes under the semi-malnad zone with plain topography and occasional chains of hills covered with semi-deciduous vegetation. Shimoga is origin of rivers Kali, Gangavathi, Sharavathi and tadadi. The other major rivers which flow through the district are Tunga, Bhadra and Varada. The rivers Tunga and Bhadra meets at a place called Koodalgi in Shimoga district. Agumbe, a small place, known for its highest rainfall (8000 mm/annum) in southern India hails from this land. Shimoga district is rich in flora and fauna, the dense forest and green shrub jungles are main producers of sandalwood, rosewood, teak and other exotic timber. Mango, Jackfruit, Tamarind etc., are the other important trees found around the district with rich yields. The dense forests of the district is home for wild animals like Elephant, Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Wild boar, Bear, Antelope, Bison, Porcupine, Monkeys, wolves and many other animals. Birds migrate from all over the world and travel down to Shimoga for a honeymoon. Birds like are found flying higher and higher in the blue skies.

2.0 Origin of Shimoga Name

Shimoga, as per traditional derivations, the name pertains to Lord Shiva (‘Shiva - Mukha’ - Face of shiva , ‘Shivana - Mogu’ - Nose of shiva, ‘Shivana - Mogge’
Buds of flowers meant for shiva). According to the legend, the place had the ashram of the famous sage 'Durvasa' who was noted for his sharpness of temper. He used to keep on the oven a pot boiling with sweet herbs. Once, some cowherds, who chanced upon it, tasted the beverage out of curiosity and called the place 'Sihi- Moge' (Sweet Pot), Which was later called as 'SHIMOGA'.

2.1 Brief History of Shimoga

The district formed the southern tip of Emperor Ashoka's Mauryan Empire in the third century BC. It was ruled during later centuries by the Kadambas (4th century), Chalukyas (6th century), Gangas, Rashtrakutas (8th century), Hoysalas (11th century), and the Vijayanagara rulers (15th century). The city got an independent identity under the Keladi Nayaka rule during the 16th century, reaching its pinnacle under the rule of Shivappa Nayaka. From the late 17th century onwards, the city was a part of the Kingdom of Mysore until the independence of India in 1947, when Mysore merged into the Republic of India. On 1 November 2006, the government of Karnataka announced the renaming of Shimoga to "Shivamogga", along with nine other cities in the state, but the renaming is yet to get approval from the Central Government.

2.2 Geography

Shimoga district is a part of the malnad region of Karnataka and is also known as the 'Gateway to Malnad' or 'Malenaada Hebbagilu' in Kannada. The district is landlocked and bounded by Haveri District, Davanagere District, Chikmagalur District, Udupi District and Uttara Kannada. The Shimoga district ranks ninth in terms of the total area in Karnataka. It is spread over an area of 8465 km. Shimoga lies between the latitudes 13°27' and 14°39' N and between the longitudes 74°38' and 76°04' E at a mean altitude of 640 metres above sea level. The peak Kodachadri hill at
an altitude of 1343 metres above sea level is the highest point in this district. Rivers Kali, Gangavati, Sharavati and Tadadi originate in this district. The two major rivers that flow through this district are Tunga and Bhadra which meet at Koodli near Shimoga city to gain the name of Tungabhadra, which later joins Krishna.

2.3 Climate

As the district lies in the tropical region, rainy season occurs from June to October. In the years 1901–1970, Shimoga received an average annual rainfall of 1813.9 mm with an average of 86 days in the year being rainy days. The average annual temperature of Shimoga District is around 26 °C. The average temperature has increased substantially over the years. In some regions of the district, the day temperature can reach 40 °C during summer. This has led to water crisis and other problems.

2.4 Population

The population of Shimoga is 322,428, consisting of 161,978 males and 160,450 females, as per 2011 census. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Shimoga has an average literacy rate of 88.02%, higher than the national average of 59.5%; male literacy is 91.32%, and female literacy is 84.70%. Total children (0-6) in Shimoga city are 31,626 as per figure from Census India report on 2011. There were 16,130 boys while 15,496 are girls. Child sex ratio of girls is 961 per 1000 boys.

2.5 Agriculture

Foundry, agriculture and animal husbandry are the major contributors to the economy of Shimoga district. Shimoga is essentially an agrarian district, with not just its economy but its whole society being largely defined by the seasons and success of agriculture. About 70% of the district's workforce is engaged in the agricultural sector.
which contributes about 70% of the district's income. The Crops cultivated in this
district are rice; areca nut; cotton; maize; oil seeds; cashew nut; pepper; chili; ginger;
paddy; ragi. Karnataka is the largest producer of areca nut in India, the majority of
which is cultivated in the Shimoga district. The farmers have cultivated crops like
vanilla and jatropha that has yielded high monetary benefits. Known the world over,
historically, for its production and processing of areca nut (borne by the betel palm
Areca Catechu), Shimoga is also the rice bowl of Karnataka. The other principal crops
include ragi, jowar and maize; ground nut and sunflower; red gram and Bengal gram;
sugar cane, cotton and tobacco. Many varieties of fruit, vegetables and spices are also
grown in the district. About two-thirds of the area is under cereals, pulses and oilseeds
occupying 4-5% each.

2.6 Forest

The western part of the district has superb tropical forests and some very
pretty hilly areas. The eastern region is less dense but has several lakes and river
valleys. The forest area of the district is 276855 hectares. Shimoga district is rich in
flora and fauna, the dense forest and green shrub jungles are main producers of
sandalwood, rosewood, teak and other exotic timber. Mango, Jackfruit, Tamarind etc
., are the other important trees found around the district with rich yields. The dense
forests of the district is home for wild animals like Elephant, Tiger, Lion, Leopard,
Wild boar, Bear, Antelope, Bison, Porcupine, Monkeys, wolves and many other
animals.

2.7 Educational Scenario

Educational scenario is bright in Shimoga District. There are many
educational institutions which cater the educational needs of the District. Each
habitation with 200 population or more is having Primary School. There are Higher
Primary Schools, High Schools and Junior Colleges which are easily accessible to rural areas also. Each Taluk Headquarter is having a Degree College. There are Engineering College, Medical College, Dental College and Polytechnic to cater the need of higher education and technical education. Even rural areas are also accessible for higher education. The District is having a high tradition in the field of culture and literature. It has a rich heritage of cultural and literary background. One University Center is also situated in the District. Some of the major education institutes are Kuvempu University, Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru National College of Engineering, PES Institute of Technology and Management, PES Institute of Advanced Management Studies, National Education Society.

2.8 SHGs in Shimoga

Self Help Group has been promoted to reach the un-reached rural poor. The bank had taken several steps to promote and to credit link the SHGs. In the year 1999 bank has started promoting SHGs in the district. To promote the SHGs, bank has taken assistance from NGOs, govt. department, PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) along with the bank staff. At present bank has promoted 4819 SHGs in the district, distributed the savings & linkage with bank and PACS. As on 31-03-2009, 4819 SHGs have been promoted, the share of the NGOs are 780 SHGs, the share of the Government are 842 SHGs, PACS and DCCB (District co-operative central ltd.,) bank are promoted SHGs 'are 1582 and 1615 respectively. Commercial Banks, Gramina Bank and Co-operative Banks are promoted SHGs about 12910 in our District. The BPL families in the district are about 65000. Of which about 50000 families are covered under SHGs. The bank had covered about 20000 families under BPL category. The bank facilitated credit link to 3471 SHGs to the extent of 714.15
lakhs. Out of which bank has reimbursed the credit from NABARD to the extent of Rs.375.00 lakhs. The recovery percentage is 99.5%.

The bank had taken steps to educate the employees of the bank and PACS and taken assistance from the Bidar DCC Bank to conduct the training programme in the premises of the bank during 2002-2003. Besides, bank had deputed the employees of both DCCB and PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) to Apex Bank training college at Bangalore regularly. Since the bank has been selected for SHPI programme (SHG-bank linkage program), board of directors of bank has also been visited SAHARDA at Bidar to study the performance of SHGs in Bidar DCC Banks under SHPI. Target fixed by NABARD for promoting of SHGs are 400 and linkage under fresh advance are 600 and repeat finance for 500 groups during 2008-09. Whereas, registrar of co-operative societies has fixed the target for promoting SHGs are 500 and linkages are 600. As at the end of 2008-09 bank had promoted 460 SHGs and credit linkages to fresh groups are 528 and repeat finance 1314 SHGs. Under SHPI, NABARD has fixed the target of 500 for both formation and credit linkage. As against the target, the bank has formed 899 SHGs and credit linked 501 SHGs. Under SHPI the bank has received the grant assistance from NABARD to the extent of 4.76 lakhs.

2.9 Industrial Scenario

Shimoga district has as on 31.3.2000, 9779 no. of units with an investment of Rs.11715.90 lakhs, employing 41000 persons. Agro based industries and Automobile based industries and the Engineering based industries are the prominent ones in the district. The average investment per unit is about Rs.1.30 lakhs and the employment per unit on an average is 4 persons. So far, the investment made is maximum under the food and beverages sector followed by the general Engineering/mechanical
products. Likewise, the employment provided is also maximum from Food & Beverages sector followed by General Engineering/mechanical sector. The foundry units in the district have been very successful in producing quality products. They have been manufacturing components for automobile sector, electric motors etc. Some of them have been exporting their products that have obtained ISO certification. Under the rural artisans category, there are units like traditional carpentry, blacksmithy, leather crafts, pottery, beekeeping, stone cutting, handlooms, agarabathi and sandal carving etc. There are about 13126 artisans spread over the entire district under various crafts. Among these, sandalwood articles have brought number of awards to the district. These products have been displayed in various trade fairs and exhibitions. Some articles are being exported through KSHDC.

2.10 I.T. in Shimoga

National Informatics Centre, Shimoga, a unit of Premier IT organisation of the country was established in the year 1988 with an aim to provide computerisation support to the local government system. The offices were set up in Zilla Panchayat Office Premises and District Magistrate's office. The initial task was to generate computer awareness among the local government officials and encourage them to use NICNET communication facility. NIC Shimoga has come a long way since its inception. The district unit is involved in various computerisation Projects catering the needs of the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and other state/central government departments. The district unit also played a major role towards e-governance by designing websites for all the 3 major departments of Shimoga District i.e District Administration, Police Department and Zilla panchayat.
2.11 Important Tourism Places in Shimoga District

Shimoga is a true nature's gift, spread with waterfalls, enchanting natural scenery of hills, dense forests, flora & fauna, forts, swaying palms and abundant paddy fields make for picturesque locales. Shimoga district situated more or less in the mid-south-western part of Karnataka. The western part of Shimoga district includes tropical forests and beautiful hilly areas and the eastern less dense but has several lakes and river valleys.

Sacred Heart Church

The Sacred Heart church of Shimoga is said to be 2nd largest church in India. The area of the church is about 18000 sq.ft. with a big prayer hall. The impressive structure built in the Roman and Gothic styles of architecture. The main attraction of the church is the statue of Jesus.

Shivappa Nayaka Palace / Museum

Shivappa Nayaka Palace is located in the heart of Shimoga city on the banks of river Tunga. This palace was built in 16th century by Keladi ruler, Shivappa Nayaka. The palace is entirely built of rose wood. This palace is now museum maintained by Archeology department of Karnataka. This museum has collections of stone carvings and antiques of Keladi period.

Agumbe

Agumbe is located in Thirthahalli taluk of Shimoga district. Agumbe is about 80 km from Shimoga. This is a famous place for viewing sunset from this top of hill. The place finds its attraction at the time of sunset, the sun sets with different hues, colors, shapes. Agumbe is also known as the "Chirapunji" of South India because this place receives the highest rainfall in South India. The best season for viewing is from November to January.
Ambuteertha

Ambuteertha or Ambuthirtha is 10 km from Thirthahalli on Hosanagara road. The river Sharavathi originates in this place. It is believed that, this is the place where the Lord Rama broke a bow to win the hand of Sita. A Shivalinga is installed at the spot.

Bhadra Dam

The Bhadra dam is located 28 Km from Shimoga near Kuvempu university. The Bhadra dam is constructed across the river Bhadra. The height of the Dam is 194 ft. Aqua farms and an electricity generating station, are other attractions.

Heggodu

Heggodu is a small village located in Sagar taluk of shimoga district. It is about 8 km from Sagar. Heggodu village is known for its famous drama training institute called NEENASAM initiated by K. V. Subanna. The centre also has a well equipped indoor auditorium Dr. Shivarama Karantha Ranga Mandira.

Jog Falls

Jog falls is about 103 km from Shimoga. Jog falls is situated on the borders of Shimoga and Uttara Kannada district. Jog Falls are wonderful and world famous waterfalls. The river Sharavathi takes a spectacular leap from a height of 292 mts in 4 distinct falls, Raja, Rani, Rocket and Roarer to form the highest waterfalls in India. The best time to visit Jog falls are after monsoon during July - August. Nearby is the Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, 40 km from Sagar town.

Keladi

Keladi is about 8 km from Sagar. Keladi was first capital of Keladi Nayakas. The main attractions of Keladi are temples of Veerabhadra, Rameshwara and
Parvathi. These temples are built in the combination of Hoysala and Dravidian styles of architecture. There is also a well maintained Keladi Museum, which has a collection of copper inscriptions, palm leaves and coins from Nayaka's period.

**Kodachadri Hills**

Kodachadri is a hill station located in the Western Ghats. Kodachadri is about 16 km from Nagara and 115 km from Shimoga. Kodachadri is situated at an altitude of 1343 mts above the sea level. Kodachadri forms a picturesque background to the famous temple of Mookambika in Kollur. It is believed Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya did meditation here. You will find a 'Sarvajna Peeta' of Sri Shankaracharya at the top. Adi-Mookambika temple at Kodachadri is believed to be the origin of Goddess Mookambika. This charming mountain is a perfect weekend getaway and a trekker's paradise during summer. The famous pilgrimage centre, Kollur is about 20 km from Kodachadri.

**Tyavarekoppa**

Tyavarekoppa is located 10 km away from Shimoga. The safari is stretch around an area of 200 Hectares of dense forest. Lions, Tigers, cheetahs, bears and other wild life animals roam around in the deep forests freely. This safari will be open from 9 AM to 5 PM everyday except Tuesday (weekly holiday).

**Tunga Anecut**

Ten Kms from Shimoga city on the way to Thirthahalli, you can find a place called Gajanur. The Tunga dam is situated here. A ideal picnic spot for the people around. Presently the dam is closed for general public as the dam height is being increased and construction work is going on.
Linganmakki Dam

Six Kms from Jog falls this dam is constructed across river Sharavathi. The height of the dam is 1819 ft above sea level. Linganmakki dam is the main feeder reservoir for the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro Electric Power unit.

Vanake-Abbey Falls

Shimoga is also proud to have one falls called abbey falls. The falls are situated 4 Kms away from Agumbe. The sunset point in Thirthahalli Taluka. The falls are surrounded by lush green trees and natural beauty.