PART-I

INTRODUCTION

&

THE FORMATIVE PHASE
CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial India, the ancient Jambudvipa, had been "a world" by itself. For it is more a sub-continent than a mere country bounded on the north by the Himalayas and on her other sides by the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Being a country of vast dimensions and rich in natural resources India has always been focal point of attraction for outsiders, such as the Greeks, Sakas etc., who poured in India from time to time and ultimately got themselves absorbed in the mainstream of her culture. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari the country was inhabited by different tribes and people with varied cultures. Thus, India has always been a pluralistic society receiving distinct cultural impulses from its umpteen cultural groups which in course of time considerably Indianised. There, thus, evolved a cultural pattern of diverse in form but having fundamental unity.

Invasions, natural calamities, non-availability of fodder for their cattle etc., forced the people to migrate from one part of the country to another. Such migrations are significant as cultural traits associated with particular migrating groups were carried on to other regions culminating in mixing with the indigenous culture. In course of time different tribal chieftains etc., began to expand their
territories, essentially for economic gains, and such political expansions were accompanied by cultural transmission, thus, gradually paving the way for political and cultural relations between two regions. The relations between states in ancient India assumed considerable importance so much so that a concept of inter-state relations is given serious attention to in the ancient political theories. Kauṭilya's "Mandala theory" is a case in point. There is, thus, a vast scope for studying the varied aspects of inter-state relations in ancient India and their contribution to the matrix of ancient Indian culture.

Problem and previous work:

With this aim in view two important regions of South India, Karnataka and Andhra are selected for studying the ancient inter-state relations. Karnataka and Andhra are two contiguous states together forming a major region of the Deccan. The antiquity of the emergence of these two areas goes back to the early centuries of the Christian era. During this period two areas have had close cultural relationship. In fact such a relationship goes back beyond the beginning of the historical period into proto-historic period i.e., Neolithic/Chalcolithic period during which time occurred the first primitive stone/metal age societies. During the historical period the political fortunes of two regions underwent many political upheavals affecting in its
wake the content, course and direction of relations. Yet the cultural ties between Karnataka and Andhra had never broken completely, nay, have strengthened and developed in one form or another till this day. This aspect cannot be treated as a matter of incidence. It needs a thorough and comprehensive examination.

The evidences of various kind in profusion have came to light within last thirty years particularly indicating vigorous cultural movements and contacts through the ages. But there are very few research works that have examined comprehensively the cultural movements and developments in the region providing a solid, strong foundation and background for further cultural contacts during the historical period. A major contribution and perhaps the only one worth mentioning work on the problem is M. Rama Rao's Karnataka-Andhra Relations (220 A.D. - 1323 A.D.) - a text of three lectures delivered by him in Kannada Research Institute, Karnataka University, Bharwad. Apart from this significant contribution, there are very few articles essentially concerned with political aspects of post-tenth century period with hardly any stress on cultural aspects. But the fact remains that none of the works and articles present the cultural relations between Karnataka and Andhra during the pre-and post-Satavahana period co-ordinating archaeological and other evidences.
Keeping in view the discoveries during the last three decades on the one hand and the desideratum mentioned above on the other, a study has been planned to examine the cultural development in the proto-historic period and contacts between two areas in historic period on the basis of critical examination of available evidences. The study, therefore, begins with Neolithic-Chalcolithic period when first societies came into being and ends with C. 10th Cent. A.D., by which time both regions developed distinct cultural styles.

Scope and Methodology:

The scope of the present work is well defined. It traces the cultural and political relations right from the Neolithic period through the Iron Age Megalithic period, the Early Historic period, the early Chālukyan period up to the end of the Rastrakūṭa period. Such a periodisation is obviously on the basis of the consecutive cultural stages distinguished by some landmarks, cultural or otherwise. Also it is based on the assumption that the form, course and direction of relations between any two regions are likely to undergo changes following economic growth, trade activities and fluctuations in political fortunes of ruling dynasties of respective regions over a considerable period of time. Critical narrative account begins with the first formative societies i.e., Neolithic-Chalcolithic settlements,
i.e., C. 2000 B.C. to C. 800 B.C. and is carried through up to the end of Rāstrakuṭa period.

The Neolithic/Chalcolithic settlements in the region under study developed such a common cultural tradition that clearly became the formidable foundation for intimate and never-to-be-broken relations. The relations in the historical period characterised by the ebb and flow in the political sphere even after region develops into two distinct cultural areas viz., Karnataka and Andhra. The Rāstrakuṭa period represents the high water-mark of maturity in art, literature and religion of the Deccan, the fundamentals of which became distinctly evident in the Sātavāhana period.

With the beginning of the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa and during their reign and of their successors the Hoysalas, Seuṇas and the Kākatiyas what we notice in the course of the history of this region is that the essentials of especially the religion and art become traditional. In number and variety there was no doubt, in literature and art, a tremendous development. But almost all the developments were linear much less distinctly original. We, therefore, find that the fag end of C.10th Cent. A.D. appears to be distinctly a period of climax so far as the early culture of the region is concerned. Hence, for the present our study is restricted up to this important period.

In the present investigation into the subject it is
to be examined first how far back goes the emergence of distinctly two regions known by their present names, the Andhra and the Karnataka. Another aspect that needs to be examined is the cultural interaction before and after the emergence of the two distinct areas called the Andhra and Karnataka. Prior to the emergence of these two areas, it is to be ascertained/examined how far the cultural atmosphere was favourable and that, if at all, how far it continued to play healthy role even after the emergence of two distinct areas.

The investigation is comprehensive i.e., covering all aspects of the culture in the entire region right from the appearance of the settled human societies in the region i.e., from the Neolithic-Chalcolithic period. Keeping these problems in view all aspects of the culture from the Neolithic period upto a period sometime after the emergence of the Andhra and Karnataka will be reviewed.

It may be noted here that as known from the history the geographical extent of the Andhra and Karnataka till the recent times (1956) did not remain the same. Hence, whenever the relationship between the two areas in the historical period is discussed it should be borne in the mind that the terms do not connote the same geographical extent, for which they stand now. Hence, references to the evidences from certain parts of the particular period may
be either from Andhra or Karnataka according to the present definitions.

It is not intended to review the political history of the region comprehensively. But the historical facts relevant for the examination of our problem alone will be considered. For instance, the history of the Sātavāhanas and connected problems such as their origin, chronology etc., will not be discussed here. The consensus of the opinions of the historians will be taken wherever possible critically. on the other hand, the activities and the contributions of the dynasty that helped the cultural interactions and rich growth, in all its dimensions among the different parts of the region, will be duly examined.

While examining the problems an attempt will be made to find out if the term the Andhra and Karnataka are the names of the people or of the areas and whether the areas subsequently acquired the name of the people. Further, in our discussion until that period when the terms the Andhra and Karnataka begin to indicate the respective parts of the country, we shall be using the terms 'Region' to connote the present day Karnataka-Andhra together and the term 'Areas' i.e., the 'Eastern Areas' and the 'Western Areas' to connote roughly the later Andhra and Karnataka respectively.

Lastly, the evidences for the study of the problems
of the period under study are varied and diverse. There are many aspects, especially for the first 6-centuries of the Christian era, much more evidences are not available. Several details are yet to be clarified and a number of lacunae still remain unanswered. Under the circumstances, sometimes, the study becomes patchy because the source materials and the basic data are not available. This is especially true for the period from 1st Cent. A.D. to 6th Cent. A.D. In a study of this kind especially when much evidence to reconstruct the relations is missing, it is compelling to make some inferences. As far as the inscriptions are concerned reliance is placed mostly on English translations provided in the reports and on the basis of these translations, that may here and there be erroneous, observations are made. Literary data, especially for the early period, is mostly descriptive or fanciful in nature and it cannot be corroborated by archaeological data. The picture emerging from the study of the excavated materials is not corroborated by literary accounts. Moreover, the excavations are mostly vertical and are limited to the findings of the sequence of the various cultures. To put it in other words, the actual evidence, throughout our period of study is quite meagre to reconstruct all aspects of the relationship between the Karnataka and Andhra people. Working within these limitations an attempt has been made here to collect all available
evidences and put them in their proper perspective to trace the relations between two areas, from C. 2000 B.C. to C. 10th Cent. A.D. It is against this background that the discussions in the ensuing pages are to be viewed.

Natural divisions:

The states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka occupy a well defined and strategic position in South India. The two regions being adjacent to each other share a common border line of about 1500 Kms. Topographically they are situated between Lat. 11°5' N to 19°5' N and Long. 74° E to 83°45' E and together cover a total area of about 1,66,884 Sq.kms. The region is roughly parallelogram in shape.

Physiographically, the Andhra-Karnataka region may be broadly divided into following natural divisions from east to west:

1) the Coastal Andhra;
2) the Rayalasima;
3) the Telingana;
4) the Maidan area;
5) the Malnad area; and
6) the Coastal Karnataka;

The coastal Andhra is broad plain more than 965 km. long bordering the Bay of Bengal. It consists of the deltas
formed by the rivers, the Krishna and the Godavari and is one of the most fertile parts in South India. In it are located the districts of Srikakulam, Vishakhapatnam, East-Godavari, West-Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore districts.

The Rayalasima area comprises interior districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah and Kurnool. It is characterised by low valley plains and low hills.

The Telengana region is rugged plain gradually rising towards the west and south-west. The region is of terraced plateaus and dotted with clusters of hills. The Telengana region includes the districts of Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda, Medak, Hyderabad and Mahbubnagar.

The great plain lands of Karnataka known as Maidan is at higher level than the adjoining Rayalasima and Telengana parts. Maidan part comprises from north to south the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Raichur, the eastern portion of Dharwad, Belgaum, Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore, Mandya and the eastern part of Mysore.

The Malnad part, beset with ranges of hills, extends from the western ghats eastwards and comprises the districts of western parts of Belgaum, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga,
Chikkamagalur, Coorg, Dakshina Kannada and Mysore. The region is full of evergreen forest.

The coast-line of Karnataka is 225 kms. edging the Arabian sea where the rainfall is very heavy. The narrow coastal strip forms the western part of the districts of Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada.

Geology:

The region, occupying the heart of Peninsular India, is one of the ancient land masses subjected to least tectonic movements. It is mainly composed of crystalline and metamorphic rocks, overlain here and there by later sedimentary rocks and lavaflows (Deccan traps). The main rock systems constituting the region are:

1) The Archaean System;
2) The Cuddapah System;
3) The Vindhyan System;
4) Gondawana System;
5) The Jurassic System; and
6) The Deccan Trap;

The Archaean, occupying two-thirds of the Peninsular India are the earliest rock systems upon which are subsequent formations like the Cuddapahs, Vindhyas, Gondawanas and Deccan traps. Hence they form 'basement complex'.
The Archaean System:

The Archaean System includes the Dharwars and the associated gneisses and granites. The Archaean rocks in Peninsular India are referred to as Dharwarian system, named after the District of Dharwad in Karnataka State and include highly metamorphosed rocks of both igneous and sedimentary origin. Hornblende and chloritic rocks, granulites containing garnet, pyroxene, sillimanite, staurolite, represent igneous types; whereas sedimentary types include various schistose rocks like mica-schist, talc-schist, chlorite-schist, quartzites and ferruginous quartzites. The Dharwarian rocks are again sub-divided into the Lower, Middle and Upper Dharwars which occur as a series of long and narrow, highly folded strips with orientation N.N.W. - S.S.E. Lower Dharwars are mainly of igneous origin whereas the Upper Dharwars of sedimentary origin. These rocks occur in the belt Dharwar-Bellary-Mysore in Karnataka. They are largely chloritic and are associated with argillites, lime-stones and quartzites. As we move to central and southern Karnataka chloritic rocks gradually become hornblendic and sedimentary types schistose in central Karnataka and granulitic in southern Karnataka. The upper Dharwar contain ores of iron, manganese, copper, lead and gold of considerable economic prospects.
The gneisses and the schists of Archaean system are also the oldest rock formations. The gneisses, varying from granite to gabro, have a foliated and banded structure. The schists, mainly chlorite, consists of mica, hornblende, talc, chlorite, epidote, graphite schists, slates, phyllites, etc. In Karnataka-Andhra region the gneiss (under the name Bundelkand Gneiss) is recognised under various names - Bellary gneiss, Hosur gneiss, Cuddapah gneiss etc. Similar to these are the peninsular gneiss, champion gneiss. The gneisses are traversed by numerous quartzite veins of blue, white, grey colour. Those of blue colour are auriferous and as such they are worked for gold as at Kolar and Hutti (Raichur) gold fields.

Further westwards the gneissic group in Andhra comprises two groups - the grey gneiss, banded similar to Peninsular gneiss and pink gneiss, essentially granite. Nellore District has the bands of Dharwarian rocks. Here gneiss is called Carnatic gneiss of Nellore, which is grey. Granitic rocks in the northern parts of Nellore and Guntur Districts are rich in fluorite and topaz. Pyroxemites are found in Mysore and in the Krishna District of Andhra.

The Archaean rocks are azoic and unfossiliferous. But they are valued for their economic importance as they bear deposits of gold, iron-manganese ores as at Kolar gold field, Anantapur, Hyderabad. They are also utilitarian
for general purpose, as excellent building material. The granites and marbles of the system were used for building magnificent temples throughout Karnataka and Andhra from the early times.

**Cuddapah System:**

Cuddapah system of rocks rest on ancient Archaean rocks and are named after the district Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh. Composed of a number of parallel series of ancient sedimentary strata of considerable thickness, they comprise quartzites, shales, slates, limestones and some banded jaspers and have undergone considerable folding. They are extensively found in and around Cuddapah district.

The upper Cuddapahs occur in North Karnataka only and are known as Kaladagi series. They occur between Kaladagi and Belgaum. Kaladagi series are divided into upper and lower series. The upper series, restricted in extent, consists of quartzites, shales, limestones and haematite schists. The lower series are composed of conglomerates, quartzites, slates, limestone etc. Kaladagi's have been intruded by granites.

The Cuddapahs system of rocks too contain the economically important ores like iron, manganese, limestone etc.
Vindhyan System:

While the older sub-division of Purana System of rocks are called the Cuddapahs, the younger sub-division is called Vindhyan system. Vindhyan system of rocks rest over the Cuddapahs. The system derives its name from the Vindhyan mountains. They are composed of sandstones, shales and limestones. The Vindhyans are divided into upper and lower Vindhyas.

The Vindhyan system in Andhra is called Kurnool series, which are equivalent to lower Vindhyans and occur in the valleys of the Kundalir river and in the Palnad tract of Guntur district.

In Karnataka, principal area of occurrence of Vindhyan system of rocks is in the Bhima valley and they are called the Bhima series. They are referrable to Kurnools. The Bhima series comprise three divisions - the lower; mainly arenaceous; the middle; calcareous and the upper; shaly. The rocks lie over the archaen and are horizontal and undisturbed.

The Vindhyans are unfossiliferous. The limestones of Palnad region have been used for embellishing the stupas. Similarly, limestones of the Bhima valley were used at Sannatti Buddhist site (Chitapur taluq, Gulbarga District).
The Gondawana System:

The Gondawana system, formed of alternations of sandstones and shales are found south-west of Rajamahendra and comprise three stages; the Golapalli sandstone below, Raghavapuram shales in the middle and the Tirupati sandstone above. In Guntur District also similar beds are occurred viz., the Budavada sandstones, Vemavaram shales and Paralur sandstones.

The Jurassic System:

The Jurassic limestones and shales occur along the East coast, between Guntur and Rajamundry.

The Deccan Trap:

Towards the close of the Cretaceous period a large part of the Peninsula experienced intense volcanic activity resulting in deposition of thick sheets of lavas and associated pyroclastic materials. Rocks so formed are called Deccan Traps, on account of the step-like slopes in the area. Subjected to denudation over a long period and cut into many valleys, they occupy northern Karnataka and Rajamundry in Andhra.

Mountain Ranges:

The Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats constitute an important mountain ranges of Andhra and Karnataka. Eastern Ghats are chains of hills spread out in the north reaching
eastern Ghats are mostly detached low hills appearing as continuous range in the Cuddapah and Kurnool districts where they are called Nallamalais (Black hills), the southern part of which is known as the Palkânda range.

In Karnataka the Sahyadri or the western ghats is an important mountain range. The average elevation is 1220 m. Rivers having origin in the western ghats have broad valleys. There are several highest peaks such as Kudremukh (1892 m).

River Systems:

The major river systems of the region are:

i) The Krishna and its tributaries;

ii) The Cauvery and its tributaries; and

iii) The Godavari system;

The Krishna rises in the Sahyadris near Mahabalesvar and flows through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra for 1400 kms. and joins the Bay of Bengal. It receives one of its tributaries, the Ghataprabha, noted for its waterfall at Gokak and the Malaprabha at and Sangama (Kudala) respectively. Ghataprabha along with another tributary Malaprabha have a continuous drainage pattern passing through the districts of Bijapur, Belgaum.
and Dharwad. Further south, rises the Tungabhadra, most important tributary of the Krishna, formed by the Tunga and the Bhadra, both rising near Gangamula peak, about 25 kms. south-west of Sringeri. The Tungabhadra joins the Krishna near Kudali in Andhra. Incidentally speaking, the Krishna-Tunga doab was frequently the bone of contention between the Vijayanagara rulers and the Muslim rulers of the Deccan. Another important tributaries of the Krishna are the Bhima and the Musi.

The Cauvery forms the life-blood of south Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Rising in Tala Cauvery in Coorg district and flowing eastwards it enters the Bay of Bengal. Its tributaries in Karnataka are the Hemavati, Lokpavani, Shimsa and Arkavati in the north and the Lakshmanatirtha, Kabbini, Suvarnavati, Bhawani and Amaravati in the south.

The Godavary is the largest and broadest river in South India. Taking its birth in Nasik district it passes through Bidar area (Karnataka), Telengana and joins the Bay of Bengal after forming a delta along with river the Krishna at their lower reaches.

Besides the above mentioned major river systems, there are many small but important rivers flowing in different parts of Karnataka-Andhra region. The Sharavati, Kali and Netravati, flow into Arabian sea in Karnataka and the
Pennar, Vamsadhara and Nagavali into the Bay of Bengal.

Soils:

The main types of soils occurring in the region are:
1) Black soil or regur;
2) Red soil;
3) Laterite soil;
4) Alluvial soil; and
5) Deltaic soil;

Entire North Karnataka, a part of South Karnataka and northern half of the Andhra consists of Black soil. The Begur or deep black soils are on the other hand, predominantly noticed in the Krishna and the Tungabhadra valleys and parts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizambad, Warangal, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Kurnool and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. The medium black soil are in the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Bellary, Belgaum and Dharwad and to some extent in the districts of Chitradurg, Tumkur, Mandya and Mysore.

The red soil is extensively distributed throughout Karnataka and Andhra (31.4%). Large tracts of red soils occur in the southern part of Karnataka, Mysore, Mandya, Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Hassan, Chikamagalur, Shimoga, Chitradurga and Bellary. Most of the Telengana area of Andhra is covered with Red soil, described as Chalkas.
The Laterite soils occur in considerable parts of Karnataka and Andhra, but they are of low fertility. Yet they respond to manuring. Formed under the conditions of high rainfall and temperature, with alternate wet and dry periods, they occur especially on the summits of the western ghat and the coastal and downghat areas (Chikmagalur, Shimoga, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bidar, Bangalore and Kolar) in Karnataka and in the eastern ghat and coastal parts (Nellore and East Godavari districts) of Andhra Pradesh.

Forest soils characterised by the deposition of organic matter derived from forest growth, occupy the high hill summits in the western and eastern ghats.

Alluvial soils occur in the valleys of Godavari where they are referred to as deltaic alluvium. It also occupies the Krishna valley as well, in Karnataka.

Climate:

The climatic condition varies considerably over the region. Along the west coast and the western ghats in Karnataka is found tropical rain forest type climate. Here the rain fall is very heavy. On the other hand tropical semi-arid steppe climate prevails in the southern Andhra, North-western Andhra, North Karnataka and South Karnataka except Malnad region. North-eastern Andhra experiences
tropical savanna type climate where long dry weather lasts through winter. In tropical semi-arid steppe climate areas the rainfall is not only low but also very erratic. Hence, the climate is suitable both for dry farming and livestock rearing.

**Flora:**

Vegetation of the region may be classified into following types:

1) Tropical wet and moist semi-evergreen forests;
2) Tropical dry evergreen forests;
3) Tropical dry deciduous forests; and
4) Tropical moist deciduous forests;

Tropical wet and moist evergreen forest occur in areas of heavy rainfall i.e., the coastal Karnataka and along the western ghats. Vegetation in these forests is very dense and variety of species of trees are found here. These forests are valued for high quality timber, firewood and bamboo. Different types of timber occurring in such forest in the western ghats are:

1) Rosewood (Dalbergia latifolia);
2) Paan (Piper betle)
3) Aini Artocarpur hirsuta; and
4) Telsur;

The moist deciduous forests, referred to as the monsoon forests, occupy the Sahyadris. Sandalwood (Santalum album)
so sacred for Hindus, grows in Sahyadris and the South Karnataka plateau. Other common trees are Rosewood (Dalbergia latifolia), Myrobalan (Terminalia), Mahua (Bassia latifolia) etc.

Tidal forests are characteristic features of the tide-washed coasts where dense mangrove forest flourish. In the region under study tidal forests occur along Godavari and Krishna. They are also to be found along the river creeks of the west coast and the east coast.

The chief characteristics of Dry deciduous forests are that they are open and consists of small trees and shrubs together with other herbaceous vegetation. Most part of the North Karnataka and adjoining Telengana and Rayalasima areas have extensive grass lands which grow luxuriantly during the rain.

Influence of Geographical and Geological factors in the genesis of Karnataka-Andhra Relations:

The states of Karnataka and Andhra are two distinct regions of South India. They share a common boundary of approximately 1500 miles. Such a long common boundary and absence of any geographical hurdles have contributed to larger extent, to a close Karnataka-Andhra relations.

A cursory glance over the history of the two regions would show that the Rayalasima and the Telengana part of the
Andhra always formed a part of Karnataka powers. Successive imperial dynasties of Karnataka viz., the early Chalukyas of Badami, the Rāstrakūṭas, the late Chalukyas always kept under their control the region of Telengana and Rayalasima. What makes these regions so important for Karnataka powers?

Perhaps, an assessment of the geographical position of those areas might offer clue to the answer. It is well known that Karnataka and Tamil powers waged successive wars against each other for centuries to assert their supremacy in South India. In their warfare against each other's territory, they had to pass through the Andhra territory comprising Rayalasima and Telengana. These regions of Andhra sandwiched between Karnataka and Andhra, thus assumed strategic importance in political struggle between two powers. Any power who possessed Telengana and Rayalasima area could deliver a frank attack on each other's territory. In their bitter struggle to control these strategic regions the early Chalukyas of Badami were always successful as the region was very near to their capital Vātāpi and further there were no appreciable geographical hurdles.

Another important factor contributing to the control of Telengana and Rayalasima area is the lure of Vengi. Vengi is centrally situated in fertile Godavary-Krishna delta. Also it is very near to the eastern coast, through which trade was carried out with south-east Asia and other
countries. Because of its strategic and economic importance, many highways traversed through Vengi, one such being to Karnataka. The region, being of such importance, naturally was cynosure of all political powers. Karnataka powers who had their capitals in the rocky plains of northern Karnataka, unsuitable for agriculture, had always interfered in the Andhra politics to keep under control the region of Vengi or install there a nominee of their choice. By doing so, they would be acquiring whole fertile delta as well as control over the trade through eastern parts. Thus, they tried to acquire wealth by possessing Vengi, but at the same time establishing their capital at hilly and rocky region of North Karnataka, eminently suitable for defence purposes. Apart from these economic considerations in holding Vengi, security reasons seem to have also weighed in favour of acquiring Vengi. There are two natural geographical passes through which Karnataka can come in contact with coastal Andhra and Tamil country. One is a pass in the Nallamalai hills at a place called Giddalur through which east coast is easily accessible. Another is near Vontimitta through which Tamil country is easily approachable. Besides these, there is a large opening along the Krishna valley. These passes played a prominent role in the Karnataka-Andhra relations. The Chālukyas of Badami and the Rastrakūtas used these passes in their incessant political struggle with Tamil powers and vice-versa. In course of time, these very
natural passes became trade routes connecting the important centres. For instance, Vengi, a metropolis in the doab was connected to Karnataka through Giddalur pass. Obviously, such well laid routes facilitated easy movement of people from Karnataka region to Andhra. The traders from Karnataka region, belonging to trade guild Ayyahole Aimurvaru must have traversed through this highway and must have carried trade with south-east Asian countries through the well known parts of Andhra coast. Such trade contacts ultimately lead to cultural importation also. Hence, the importance of trade routes in the development and fabric of Karnataka-Andhra relations.

It appears the first major communicable highways between Karnataka and Andhra were laid down during the Iron Age Megalithic period. Available evidence indirectly leads to such inference. Asoka's edicts are found at Brahmagiri, Nittur, Udegolam, Maski, Koppal in Karnataka and Rajulamandagiri and Erragudi in Andhra Pradesh. If we remember the fact that Asoka got his edicts inscribed at such places as by the side of the then highways through which people traversed we may as well imagine the existence of such a route connecting Brahmagiri - Nittur - Udegolam - Koppal - Maski - Rajulamandagiri - Erragudi. Since Suvarnagiri was said to be southern headquarters of Asokan empire, there is every likelihood of this divisional headquarter being connected by the highways to different corners of its southern part.
of empire. Such a road(s) must have passed through both regions of Karnataka-Andhra, thus facilitating easy movement of the people. Such roads were in turn likely to have been introduced by megalithic people, who acquired the Iron technology. Bellary-Hospet range of Karnataka and the neighbouring Anantapur-Kurnool range of Andhra are studded with iron ore bearing mountains. It is in these areas we find the cluster of Megalithic settlements. Thus, with help of easily available iron as well as iron technology they must have constructed not only huge sepulchral and nonsepulchral monuments but cleared the way for preparing highways. It is in these very areas that we find almost all of the Aśoka edicts. The above factors lead us to conclude that when the Mauryans conquered this part of south India and when Aśoka got inscribed his edicts, these areas were already equipped with well defined routes. With the advent of the Chālukyas on the political scene and establishment of their branch at Vengi, the original routes were developed and new ones added. Thus, highways played vital role in Karnataka-Andhra relations.

In addition to land routes, the rivers also had their share in the genesis of Karnataka-Andhra relations. An important route was formed along the course of the Bhima river upto the confluence with the Krishna and following eastwards from the doab of the Krishna and Tungabhadra.
It crosses the eastern ghats to join the sea. Although not much information is available about this route it is certain that it was used for commerce and other cultural movement. In this connection, it is worthwhile to mention the only extensive Buddhist centre of North Karnataka, Sannatti situated on the tributary of river Bhima, the art of which was in Amaravati style. Such is the role of trade routes in the development of relation between two regions.

Yet another factor that contributed much to the development of relations is contrasting physiography of the two regions. Early Chalukyas of Badami, the Rāṣṭrakūṭas, the Kalyāṇa Chalukyas etc. all had their capital cities in North Karnataka region. The region is eminently suitable from security point of view as the country is rugged, dotted with rocky hills, and surrounded by rivers. With a little fortification these natural defences could be turned into impregnable fortresses. On the other hand, the region was less fertile as it receives less rainfall as a result of which it was not of much agricultural use. In contrast, the Krishna-Godavary doab, at the centre of which lay Vengi, was a very fertile region, which even today is. By conquering the Vengi region, the Karnataka powers could secure badly needed agricultural wealth. Also, as noted above, trade carried through Andhra coast brought immense wealth a factor attracting the Karnataka powers. Perhaps
with wealth acquired through trade, the early Chalukyas of Badami were able to build hundreds of temples at Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal. This explains successive struggles waged by Karnataka powers to keep under their control the region of Vengi.

It is against this geographical and geological background we have to view the later development of Karnataka-Andhra relations.
General References


Hayavadan Rao, Mysore Gazetteer, Vol. I.


Singh, Gopal., A Geography of India, Delhi, 1976

Deshpande, C.D., Western India - a regional geography, Dharwad, 1948.