HISTORY AND CULTURE OF NORTH KARNATAKA

In the history of India, the term Karnataka has its own consign and identification, which included Kannada language, literature and culture. Numerous of we people know that the past glories of Karnataka, we also found its references in many of ancient literary works and epics like Mahabharata (Sabhaparv and Bhishmaparv), Mrishchachtika of Shudraka, Brahat Samhite of Varahamir, Kavirajmarg of Amoghavarsh and Adipuran of Pampa etc. The land of Karnataka included the areas of north, central, south and costal Karnataka. In the current research work electing the north Karnataka districts I am annoying to focus on the Muslim influence in the above said area and their Sects and Sub-sects, its nature and significances. Discussing about the Sects and Sub-sects among the Muslims of India I also expanding my work area to the districts North Karnataka, like Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir, Bijapur, Raichur Bellary Koppal, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Haveri, Gadag, Dharwad and North Kannada(U.K).

The Geographical area of Karnataka widely spread and covered round about 1, 91,791, sq miles. This includes 320 kilometers of Costal belt and 32,460 sq miles of thick forest area, since from the ancient it is ruled from many dynasties like Kadambas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, Vijaynagar and Muslim dynasties like Bahamani and Adil Shahis.
Bidar

In the map of Karnataka, at the top most the district of Bidar stands, the spread of Bidar is 5448 Sq miles and its population approximately 15.02 Lakh, among them 7.71 lakh men and 7.31 lakh women. The Taluks Aurad, Bhalki, Humnabad, and Basavakalyan comes under it. Bidar was the earliest capital of Bahamani Sultans. According to scholar’s Bidar is an ancient town and similarly matches to Berar and Vidharbha, the name Bidar derived from Bidaru which means Bamboo in English. The literary works of 15th century refer the same one they called it in the name Bidrooru or Bidaru. According to traditional sight of view Bidar is shortened from the Vidhurnagar which was famous city of Mahabharata times.

Historical Background

Already what I mentioned above, Bidar was a part of Ashokan empire in 3rd Century BC. Further it comes under Shatavahanas, Kadambas, Rashtrakutas, and Kalchuries constantly. At the end of 13th century Muslim invasions taken over south India in this manner the nephew of Jalaluddin Khilji, Alla-ud-ddin attacked over south and crushed the Sevuna dynasty. Further “Muhammad-bin-Tughluq added entire south India including Bidar to his supremacy in the middle of 14th century the officers of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq rebelled and established an independent Bahamani empire in 1347 AD. There was frequent warfare between the Bahamani and the Vijayanagar Empire. About 1429 AD the Bahamani shifted their capital to Bidar which was strategically stronger and had a better climate. In 1430 AD,
Ahmad Shah Bahamani took step to develop the city of Bidar, and its forte was rebuilt. After the break-up of the Bahamani kingdom in 1527 AD., Bidar became the capital of the Barid Shahis who exercised power up to about 1619 AD. In the 17th century Aurangzeb conquest Deccan and added it to his role, the Bidar area become a part of the Mughal Empire. Asaf Jah, a Mughal general, was appointed the Subedar of the Deccan in 1713 AD. He had the title of “Nizam-ul-mulk” and founded the house of the Nizams of Hyderabad. The Hyderabad state ruled by this dynasty included the Bidar area also its rule lasted up to 1948.”

“In the frame of religion of the above said district Hinduism comprises traditional and reformist faith there are many followers of various sects among then Smartha, Veershaiva, and Madhwa-Vaishnav etc are important. In case of Muslims, during the fourteenth century, activities of Chistia order of the Sufis were begun in the Deccan by Burhanuddin Garib. Subsequently, the descendents of the family of the well-known Sufi Saint Bande Nawaz Gesu Daraz of Gulbarga considerably extended their influence into the Bidar region. In the Bahamani period and also during later centuries, Sufi saints of various orders such as Chistia, Qadria and Junaidi came to Bidar and they were given magnificent help by the sultans, for propagating the Muslim faith. During and after the reign of Ahmad Shah Wali Bahamani, several saints of the Qadria order arrived at Bidar from Multan, Mahan and Kirman”.

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GULBARGA DISTRICT

The district Gulbarga is the biggest expanded territorial district of Karnataka which is spread 16224sq.kms. “The population of this district is 31.31 lakh among them 15.93 lakh are males and 15.38 lakh are females”. The district includes 10 talukas namely, Chittapur, Aland, Sedum, Afzalpur, Yadgiri, Chincholi, Shahpur, Surpur, Jevargi and Gulbarga itself. The prime occupation of the district is Agriculture and it is famous for the production of Toor (lentils).

“Gulbarga earlier the capital of Bahamani, the feudatory of Warangal king Raja Gulchandan a construction a fort later on Bahamani king Alla-ud-din constructed a huge fort which included 15 tombs. In 1413 AD the Sufi Saint Bande Nawaz came to Gulbarga. The famous Banda Nawaz shrine tomb was constructed in the memory of great Sufi saint, so the tomb is called as Banda Nawaz Tomb of Gulbarga and also famous as Historical place of Gulbarga. Apart from this the tomb of Khandar Khar Mosque and Hirapoor Mosque were built by Chand Bibi. Gulbarga is the center of different religions, several Jaina Basadis, Hindu temples were located here.”

Historical Importance of Gulbarga

The district Gulbarga is part of the Mauryan Empire. This was proved by the Sannati inscriptions which was discovered in Gulbarga, belongs to the King Ashok. After them in 200 AD the Vakatas set up their power over Gulbarga and ruled up to 5th century. Further Chalukyas of Badami succeeded and strengthen their power over Gulbarga.
In 744 AD Rashtrakuta king Dantidurga annexed Gulbarga territory, in 973 AD. The Chalukya king Tailapa overthroned the supremacy of Rashtrakuta and came to power and added Gulbarga to his supremacy. Further the Kalchuries, Sevunas, continued to rule over Gulbarga. In 14th century Malik Kafur annexed Gulbarga province to Muslim rule and next Hasan Gangu Bahman Shah established the Bahamani Sultanate up to 1424. Gulbarga remained the capital of Bahamani.6

Due to the reign of Muslims on Gulbarga for a long period, the cultural influence and the Urdu language is very much popular in society of the Gulbarga. The customs and sects of Muslims were further discussed in my research work.

**BIJAPUR DISTRICT**

The Bijapur district is spread 10475 Sq.kms. This includes 11 taluks earlier. Now-a-days for the purpose of better administration, some of the taluks were separated and created a new district known as Bagalkot. “The population of Bijapur district is 18.07 lakh, among them 9.26 lakh were males and 8.81 lakh were females”.7 Currently the district includes Basavan Bagewadi, Indi, Muddebihal, Sindagi and Bijapur itself.

In the history of Karnataka and India had its own importance world famous Gol Gumbaz, Ibrahim Roza, Jamia Masjid, Asar Mahal are some of the historical places and the district of Bijapur is also famous for the Muslim Architecture, is also remember us the name of
the Basaveshwara, who was born in Basavanbagewadi apart from this Parshwanath Basdi is also located.

**Historical Importance of Bijapur**

It is not only known for Muslim Architecture but also some sites of Paleolithic cultural site on the bank of river Krishna and also several weapons and antiquities of Mesolithic and Neolithic ages. The political history of Bijapur exactly became to know with the role of Chalukyas of Badami. Pulikesh-I annexed the territory of Bijapur from the Pallavas and defeated Gurjaras Pratiharas and extended his territory from Cauvery to Narmada. In 757 AD Rashtrakuta king Tailapa-I defeating Chalukyas kept the territories under him upto 973 AD. Further it went under the supremacy of the Yadavas of Devagiri. In the beginning of 14th century the commander of Alla-ud-din Khilji Malik Kafur annexed the Bijapur to the Khilji Sultanate in 1347 AD. The Bahamani Empire was established and the district became independent from Delhi Sultans. In 1481 AD when Yusuf Adil Shah came into power due to internal conflict Bahamani Empire was collapsed. A new Shahi Empire was established in Bijapur by Adil Shahi and known as Adil Shahi Empire of Bijapur and rules for 200 years. Further in 1703 AD, the district became the part of Maratha administration in 1818 AD Bijapur went in British power and the custom, sects of Ahle Sunnat, School of thoughts, occupation and non-occupational based sect, etc. discussed in the further research work.8
**BAGALKOT DISTRICT**

The district Bagalkot created in 1997, this includes 6 taluks including Bagalkot, Badami, Bilagi, Hungund, Jamkhandi and Mudhol. The district expanded 6575 sq.kms. The population of the district is 16.52 lakh among them 8.34 lakh were males and 8.18 lakh were females. Krishna, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha are the main rivers. The main production is groundnut, sunflower, sugarcane, soybean, etc. The natural resources like Granite, Manganese. The important historical places like Badami, Ihole, Pattadkallu and Kudalsangam of Chalukyas are very important. In this entire place we found many cave temples of Vaishnavas, Jainas cave temples, durga and Lad khan temple, etc. In Badami the Muslim architectural monument is the mosque, which was built by Tipu Sultan.9

**Historical Importance**

Earlier it was a part of Bijapur, so the historical importance is already mentioned in the Bijapur district.

**BELGAUM DISTRICT**

Belgaum district is earlier come under the Bombay presidency. After the reshuffle of states on the basis of linguistic, Belgaum added to Karnataka. The territorial expansion of Belgaum is 13415 kms. “The population of district is 42.15 lakh among them 21.50 lakh are males and 20.65 lakh are females”.10 The district covers 10 taluks including Belgaum, Athani, Raibhag, Saudatti, Bailhongal, Khanapur, Ramdurg, Gokak, Hukkeri and Chikkodi. The early name of Belgaum
is Venugram, the Ratta (dynasty) officer Bichiraj in 1204 AD constructed a Kamal Basadi which is in Chalukyas style.

The statue of Neminath Tirthankara is installed inside the Kamal Basadi. The Safa mosque and Kapileswara temple of Chalukya times were the other important buildings of Belgaum district. The ancient historical place Halsi and also the second capital of Kadambas of Banvasi are located in Belgaum. The temples like Bhuvarah Narasimha, Gokarneshwari, Kapileshwar, Swarneshwar and Hasthreshwar, etc. were also situated at Belgaum district. The district Belgaum also remembered with the name of the queen Rani Chennamma, who fought bravely against the British’s in 1824 AD. The ancient the famous Basadi temple of Rashtrakuta times now famous with the name of Yellamma.11

**Historical Importance of Belgaum**

The history of Belgaum is very vast and ancient; in 340 AD Halsi was second capital of Kadambas situated in Khanapur district of Belgaum. Saudatti was earlier the capital of Rattas. The place Kakti near Belgaum is origin of Kakatiya family of Warangal.

Belgaum ruled by Shatavahanas in between 3rd century BC to 3rd century AD. Later on Badami Chalukyas Rashtrakutas ruled over it 850 AD onward the major part of Belgaum is ruled by Rattas in the middle of 13th century AD. The district went in the hands of Yadawad of Devagiri. Further in the end of 15th century it became the part of the Bahamani Empire. According to evidences in 1478 AD it comes under the administration of Adil Shahis of Bijapur. In 1686 Aurangzeb
annexed it and annexed with the Mughal administration. 1673 AD Shivaji conquered some of the parts of Belgaum. In 1723 Nawab of Savanoor became the master of Belgaum district. Further processing in the hands of Peshwa Madhava Rao the district finally added to British administration in 1818 AD. In the freedom movement Rani Chennamma of Kittur and Baba Saheb of Nargund also sacrificed their lives. Hence the district Belgaum is a place of different religion and castes. So my study also throws light on the Sect and Sub-sects of Belgaum cultural and customs of Muslims of Belgaum.12

**DHARWAD DISTRICT**

The district Dharwad is one of the important centres of education in North Karnataka. Earlier it was the biggest district of Karnataka in 1997 the district was reshuffled and two more new district were formed within Dharwad, known as Gadag and Haveri. Earlier Dharwad consisted of 17 taluks after forming the new districts only 5 taluks remained in Dharwad districts including Dharwad, Hubli, Kundagol, Kalghatagi and Navalgunj are included. The territorial spread of Dharwad now remained as 4260 sq.kms. The total population of the district is 16.04 lakh which includes 8.23 lakh males and 7.81 lakh females. The important productions are cotton, Jawar, paddy, groundnut and sunflower. The natural resources like magnesium, manganese, chromites are also found.

Dharwad is a place of freedom fighter, poets like D.R. Bendre, Alur Venkat Rao, Mallikarjun Mansoor, etc. Dharwad district is also
the center of all the religion we found the Jaina Basadi, Hindu temples, Muslim mosques and Dargahs.

**Historical Importance**

Dharwad, since from ancient days ruled by several dynasties like Mauryas, Shatavahanas and Vijayanagar. In 1573 AD the Adil Shahis of Bijapur annexed it from Vijayanagara rulers. After the decline of Bijapur Adil Shahi with the help of Aurangzeb the Nawab of Savanoor were started the administration on Dharwad. From 1784 to 1790 Dharwad came under Tipu’s administration. Further Marathas with the help of British conquered Dharwad Fort, from Adil Shahis. In 1818 AD onwards Dharwad directly came under the direct role of Peshawas. In 1857 AD Nargund and Mundargi mutinies were held against the British. After suppressing the mutiny the British annexed Dharwad district and added it to Bombay presidency.¹³

**HAVERI DISTRICT**

The district Haveri earlier a part of Dharwad district, which formed in 1997 as a new district. The district spreads 4851 sq.kms. The population of the district is 14.39 lakh among them 7.40 lakh are males and 6.99 lakh are females. The district included 7 taluks namely, Byadagi, Hangal, Shiggaon, Hirekerur, Ranebinnur, Savanoor and Haveri itself. The important production is groundnut, sunflower, cotton, etc. The natural resources like manganese, chromite, magnesium, etc. The rivers flows in the district are Tungabhadra, Varada and Kumadvati.
Historical Importance

The district Haveri at the time of ancient ruled by several dynasties, like Vijayanagar, Mughals, Nawabs of Savanoor, Bahamani and Adil Shahis. The Kadambas of Bankapur, Banvasi, Hangal, the Sindh of Belagatti, Rashtrakutas of Manyakhed and Kalyani Chalukyas. The great saints of this period like Kanakadas and Shishunal Sharief were also born in this district.

GADAG DISTRICT

The district was earlier the part of Dharwad district, which is newly formed in 1997. The territorial expansion of the district is 4656 sq.kms. The district includes 5 taluks along with Gadag, Mundargi, Nargund, Shirahatti and Ron. The population of district is 9.72 lakh among them 4.94 lakh are males and 4.78 lakh are females. The district is popular for its production of Jawar, wheat, cotton. The natural resources are manganese, chromite, magnesium are also found. In ancient times the Gadas was the center of Kalyani Chalukya Art. Trikuteshwara temple, Sarswati temple, Veernarayan temple, Somnath temple and Laxmeshwar temple of Lakshmeshwar and Manikeshwar Veerabhadra, Someshwara, Naneshwar, Nilkanteshwar, Mallikarjun and Laxminarayan temple were other important temples.

Historical Importance

The district Gadag earlier ruled by Badami Chalukyas, Laxmeshwar was the administrative unit. Later on Rashtrakutas defeating the Chalukyas not only annexed the territory but also given their strength to develop the territory, in their time several temples,
lakes, agraharas, were constructed. Further Gadag was ruled by Kalyani Chalukyas and Kalchuries of Kalyani in the middle of 11th century. The feudatories of Kalyani Chalukyas, Sindhs ruled over Gadag in 1213 AD. The Sevuna king of Devagiri, Singhana-II defeating the Kadambas of Goa and Hangal annexed Lakkundi. According to the inscription of Harihara of 1412 AD Gadag was a part of Vijayanagar Empire. Later on Bahamani Adil Shahis, Marathas were made the Laxmeshwar was the main center of their administrative activities.

**KARWAR DISTRICT (UTTAR KANNADA)**

The district Karwar like Belgaum was the part of Bombay presidency earlier. The territorial spread of Karwar is 10291 sq.kms. "The population of this district is 13.54 lakh among them 6.87 lakh are males and 6.67 lakh are females". The district includes 11 taluk including Karwar, Supa, Haliyal, Yellapur, Mundagod, Sirsi, Siddapur, Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kumta and Ankola. Sharavati, Kali, Baddhi and Shalmala are the important rivers. The main production of the district is paddy, beetle nuts and sugarcane. Also the famous sea ports like Gokarna, Murdeshwar. The national park Anasi, Dandeli wild animal sanctuary (forest area) and also famous falls like Magod, Halgudi, Banvasi, Ulavi, are the famous falls.

"In 1863 British's established the city Karwar, earlier it was known with the name Kadwad. The city Karwar protected by storms because of its small islands, like Anjadiva, Devagadh and Kurmagadh and Sadashivagadh are famous for the shrine."
The other important temples like Mahabaleshwar temple of Gokarna, cave temples of Ulavi and many more Smartha temples, Mathis, etc.\textsuperscript{15}

**Historical Importance**

The district Karwar earlier a part of Shatavahana kingdom further Pallavas of Kanchi Churu family of Banavasi and Chandore of Goa, rules one after the another. In 6\textsuperscript{th} century AD after Banvasi Kadambas the district came under Chalukyas of Badami and Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta. In the beginning of 17\textsuperscript{th} century the Nayakas of Keladi became its head in 1764 AD. Hyder Ali annexed it in 1799 AD. After the death of Tipu Sultan it became the part of British administration. Some of the evidences show that the place also belongs to the Paleolithic age.

The district consisted of different people of different faith. Among the Muslims we can find here the two special groups, they are:
1) “Nawayath, who were lived basically at Bhatkal and surrounding areas and also maintain their own culture, customs, sects and identification. And also called as one of the ethnic group having their own language.

2) Secondly the Siddis were also a special group. Among them they were followed Christianity, Hinduism and also the Islam religion. And comes under one of the scheduled tribe of India. Their origin, custom, language, status, etc. have been discussed in my further chapters.\textsuperscript{16}
BELLARY DISTRICT

This district covers the territorial of 8450 sq.kms. "The total population of this district is 20.27 lakh among them 10.30 lakh are males and 9.97 lakh are females". Bellary earlier was under the administration of Madras presidency. In 1953 when the linguistic based province established, it added to the Mysore state. The district consists of 7 taluks including Bellary, Hospet, Kudalagi, Siruguppa, Sandur, Hagribommanahalli and Huvinahadagali.

The important productions of this state are cotton, Jawar, sunflower and toor, and also some important mines like magnesium, granite, iron, etc. and also developed many industries.

Bellary is famous for its historical temples and monuments which were situated at Hampi, Hospet and surrounding areas.

Historical Importance

The Paleolithic sites like Sangankallu, Tekkalkote and Nittur were fond in Bellary, and also several evidences regarding Stone Age culture. According to some inscriptions it is clearly mentioned as the district was ruled by Nandas, Mauryas, Shatavahanas, Badami Chalukya and Rashtrakutas. In 1336 AD after the establishment of Vijayanagar Empire the district flourished under Vijayanagar because of the capital Hampi, it is very famous because Hampi comes in Bellary district. In 1505 AD at the time of Krishnadevaraya period several temples were constructed among them Vittal Swami, Krishna Swami, Purandaradas Mantap, Kalyan Mantap, Stone Chariot and Monolithic statue of Narasimha, etc. apart from this Kamal Mahal,
Mahanavamidibba, Kadlekadai and Sasvikadu statues were important.

In 1565 AD in the battle of Talikota the Vijayanagar kings defeated and the Vijayanagara Empire declined completely. In 1656 AD it became the Aurangzeb administration further Peshwas and Hyder Ali ruled over Bellary at lastly it added to British administration. Hence the district also consisted of Muslim population. There is no such special group belong to Muslim community. So the common thing will be discussed under the next chapters of the thesis.18

RAICHUR AND KOPPAL DISTRICT

The district Raichur earlier includes 9 taluks but in the year 1997 the district was divided into two parts the current Raichur district includes 5 taluks mainly Devadurga, Lingasur, Manvi, Sindhnur and Raichur itself. The territorial area is spread 6854 sq.kms. “The total population of this district is 16.70 lakh, among them 8.42 lakh are males and 8.28 lakh are females”.19 another district Koppal includes Kushtagi, Gangavati and Yelburga. The territorial spread is 7189 sq.kms. The population of the district is 11.96 lakh, among them 6.03 lakh are males and 5.93 lakh are females.

The main occupations of these districts are agriculture and crafts. And also in Raichur district the goldmine, power stations of electricity and petrochemicals industries were also founded. The main production is paddy, nuts, sunflower, cotton, Jawar and toor. The important rivers are Krishna, Tunga, and Bhima. The important
monuments like Raichur fort, Ek Minar Mosques, Jamia Mosques, etc and also the Maski inscription of Ashok.

**Historical Importance**

In Raichur we found the Mauryan inscription so we can say that this district riled under the Mauryans also. Again the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas were ruled at the time of Vijayanagara and Bahamani. The region became the reason for wars between them because of its fertility and importance this area was called as Raichur Doab. It is the center of Jainas, Muslims, Hindus and also Christians.

**References**

2. Indian Gazetteer, Karnataka State government Bidar, P No 1-6.
3. Ibid P No-1-5
6. Ibid P No-19
8. Indian Gazetteer, Karnataka State government Bijapur, P No.

