CHAPTER II
GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BOMBAY KARNATAKA

The Geographical Background:

Since this work is a study of particular region, it is essential here to present a brief sketch of geographical setting of the Bombay Karnataka. The Bombay Karnataka region formed the southern part of the Bombay Presidency, it consisted the present seven districts viz., Bijapur, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Dharwar, Karwar or Uttar Kannada, Haveri and Gadag of Karnataka State. However for the convenience of study, here it is taken the undivided four districts viz., Bijapur, Dharwad, Belgaum and North Kanara (also called Uttar Kannada and Karwar) of Bombay Presidency.

The Bombay Karnataka lies between 13° 53' and 17° 29' north latitude and 14° 2' and 76° 32' east longitude. Roughly it has an area of 18,874 miles\(^1\) or 54.491 sq kilometer. This estimation includes only the territory directly ruled by the British Government and excludes the Princely States, like Jath, Mudhol, Jamkhandi, Ramdurg etc., whose territory now falls within the present seven districts of Karnataka. The present study is only about the territories directly ruled by the British Government. The area of Bombay Karnataka extends over 210 miles in the North-South and 167 miles in East-West direction.\(^2\)

The division of area district wise under the British rule was as follows.
Bijapur:- In 1881 Bijapur has an area of 5,757 sq miles and it lies between 17°28' and 15°48' North latitude and, 75°24' and 76°31' East longitude, it has following sub-divisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-divisions (Talukas)</th>
<th>Number of Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indi</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindagi</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bijapur</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagewadi</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagalkot</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddebihal</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badami</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungund</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1334</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The district of Bijapur under British rule had 8 sub divisions and 1334 villages by 1881 about (£ 120,000) Rs.1200900 land revenue was realized.3a

Belgaum:- Belgaum has an area of about 4600 sq miles and lies between 15°23' & 16°58' North Latitude, and 74°5' and 75°28' East Longitude. Belgaum has seven sub-divisions and 1133 villages.4 They are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-divisions</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athani</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chikodi</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gokak</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasgad</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampgaon</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khanapur</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1133</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dharwad:- Dharwad was the southern most district of Bombay Presidency, which lies between 14°17' and 15°50' North Latitude and 74°48' and 76° East longitude. It has an area of 4500 sq miles.5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-divisions</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dharwar</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalaghadgi</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubli</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navalugund</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadag</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karjagi</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankapur</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hangal</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kod</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranebennur</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1623</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dharwad had eleven sub-divisions. They are as follows.

**North Kanara:** North Kanara collectorate lies on the east of the Indian Ocean, between 13°55' & 15°31' North Latitude and 74°9 & 75°10' East Longitude. It has an area about 3910 sq miles, it was divided into 8 sub divisions and they had about 1257 villages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-divisions</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karwar</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankola</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumta</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honnavar</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supa (Haliyal)</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellapur</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sirsi</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siddapura</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1167</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bombay Karnataka under the British rule was bound on the north by the territories of Miraj, Jath, Sangli States and district of Sholapur. On the north-west by the territories of Kolhapur and the Savantwadi States and the Portuguese territory of Goa. While on the east and south-east by the districts of Gulbarga and Raichur of the Nizam's dominions, and Bellary of Madras Presidency. And on the south by Shimoga district of old Mysore State, South Kanara district of Madras Presidency. In
1956 when the States Re-organisation Act was implemented about 54,464 sq kilometers or 21,029 sq miles of area was transferred from Bombay State to Karnataka.7

Physiographical Division:

Broadly the Bombay Karnataka region can be divided into three divisions viz.,

1. The Coastal region
2. Western Ghat and Western Plateau
3. Eastern plateau

1. The Coastal region:- The Coastline8 has an length of about 80 miles mainly on the western part of North Kanara. The North Kanara has a narrow coastal plain of about 8 to 20 miles in width. The plains are partly formed by marine denudation, but the level character of the land is severely restricted directly by the western ghats and its transverse intrusions. The coastline is bordered by estuary plains of the Kali, the Tadri, the Gangavati and the Sharavati rivers parted by low east-west Sahyadri off shoots.9

East of the plains we see thick forest uplands, which separated by narrow gorge like tortuous valleys. The Sharavati river has the world famous Jog falls (Gersoppa about 830 feet), while Tadri (Aghanasini) has unchalli or the Lushington Fall (about 400 feet), which attract large number of tourists. The thick evergreen forest is source of variety of trees like Sandalwood, Honne etc., and spices are grown here. The British rulers extensively exploited the forest sources of North Kanara.
2. The Western Ghat and Western Plateau: The Western ghat passes through the western part of Belgaum, Dharwad and whole of North Kanara. The abrupt rise at the eastern flanks forms the western Ghat section. To the east of the coastal plains, the general elevation is higher and the increase in height occurs abruptly. The ghats have the height between 15,00 to 25,00 feet above sea level in the south and between 2000 to 3000 feet above sea level in northern part of Bombay Karnataka.

The plateau naturally subdivided into the malnad and the maidean of which the malnad falls in western part. The Malnad overcaps into the ghats. The elevation of the Malnad is greater than that of the plateau. This region receives larger amount of rainfall and has very thick forest and supports one or the largest plantation economics in the country.

3. The Eastern Plateau: The eastern part of the plateau is often referred as maidan in Karnataka. The Maidan provides a mountainous treeless expansive plateau landscape. The river plains of Krishna, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha formed the Maidan. The Maidan mainly formed the eastern part of Belgaum, Dharwad districts and whole of Bijapur district. The significant denudational features are the continuous chains of flat tapped hills with an escarpment in the south-west and a gradual slope towards the north. Local faulting and cleavage in the limestones give landforms a rugged appearance. The noteworthy feature is Gokak waterfall on the river Ghataprabha.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

The Bombay Karnataka, which lies in the west central part of the peninsular India, is composed or crystalline, granites, Dharwar series and gneisses. The bulk of
the rocks of the region belongs to hoary past, like the ancient schistose rocks, which are covered by younger Kaladgi sedimentary rocks (late proterozoic) and the Deccan Traps (cretaceous Eocene).  

The rocks of North Kanara have been classified under five heads by Dr. Christie viz. granite, transition rocks, old red sandstone, secondary trap, and alluvial. While Dharwar contains specimens of granite transition rocks, old red sandstone, trap rocks, and an iron bearing claystone. The geological formation of Belgaum and Dharwar are gneiss system, Kaladgi series and the Deccan traps. The district of Bijapur can be divided under four geological divisions, the gneissie, the Kalagdi, sandstone, the Bhima or Karnal sandstones and the trap region.

Mineral Resources

The Bombay Karnataka region possess various kinds of natural mineral resources such as iron ore, manganese ore, Bauxite, limestone, quartzite etc. Iron ore are found at Basradurg (near Honnavar), in Karwar district at Tegur and Gulgi in Dharwad district at Kuvalli (near Khanapur). Adgal (near Badami). Traces of Copper are found at Kajadoni (near Kaladgi) in Bijapur district quartzite rock in Bagalkot, sandstone at Muddebihal, Limestone near Kaladgi in Bijapur, Manganese ore between Londa and Khanapur, Buxite at Belgaum. Parts of Dharwar are believed to have formerly yielded a considerable amount of gold at Kappatgudda near Gadag.

Rainfall:

The western part of Bombay Karnataka, since it falls within western ghat receives very heavy rainfall. The south-western monsoon is the backbone of the
agriculture in Bombay Karnataka. Whereas the North-East monsoon are helpful for the Eastern part of the Bombay Karnataka.23

The Kanara district receives very heavy rainfall for instance Karwar received average 116.6 inches of rainfall between 1873-78.24 The rainfall in Bijapur is extremely irregular varying greatly both in amount and in distribution, the average rainfall during 1873-78 was about nineteen to twenty six inches.25

**The River System:**

The district of Kanara has four main rivers, the Kalinadi, the Bedti or Gangavali, the Donihall or Tadri and the Balanadi or Gersuppa river.26 The kalinadi rises on the Goa frontier in the extreme north of the district, after a course of about ninety miles falls into the Arabian sea two miles north of Karwar. The Bedti or Gangavali rises in Dharwar and falls into Arabian sea. The Aghanashini or Tadri rises near Sirsi and falls into Arabian sea. The Sharavati or Gersuppa river falls into Arabian seat Honnavar.

The rivers of Belgaum district drains east wards. The principal rivers of the district are the Krishna, the Ghataprabha, and the malaprabha. The Krishna rises in the Mahadev ranges of the western ghats in Maharashtra at an attitude of 1,336 meters (near Mahabaleshwar) after flowing about 1400 km through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh falls into a Bay of Bengal.

The Ghataprabha rises in Sundargad in western ghat at an attitude of 858 meters flows eastward and joins river Krishna. The Malaprabha has its source at Kankumbi near the charla ghats in the western ghat ranges (near Khanapur) flows eastward and finally joins river Krishna at Kudal Sangam.27
The important rivers of Dharwad district are the Tungabhadra on the east and, the Malaprabha on the north-east. The district of Bijapur is well supplied with 5 main rivers viz, the Krishna, the Bhima, which rises in the Shayadri near Bhimashankar and, the Doni, the Ghataprabha and the Malaprabha.

A Brief Historical Background of Bombay Karnataka

It is pertinent here to study the transition of Bomby Karnataka from native rulers to British Government. However an attempt has been made here to give brief sketch of dynasties ruled over Bombay Karnataka. The name ‘Karnataka’ first appears in Mahabharata’s Sabhaparva and Bhisma Parva. Though there are divergent views about the meaning of Karnataka, probably the name Karnataka came from Karnadu = Kari nadu, which means land of black soil, most part of Karnataka territory has black soil, hence the name Karnataka might have came into vogue. The author of Kavirajmarga calls this land as Kannada and describes the boundaries of Karnataka “Kaveriyindama Godavarivarmirpa Nadada Kannadadol”. i.e. the boundaries of Karnataka were being river Godavari in the north to river Kaveri in the south.

In fact Karnataka is situated in the heart of the Deccan plateau, which is one of the oldest areas on earth. Therefore, the instances reveal that the pre-historic man lived here. The legends recorded in inscriptions of later period reveal that the Magadhan empire specially the Nandas ruled over Kunta i.e. the territory comprised greater part of Northern Karnataka. However, the history of Karnataka makes its definite beginning in the third century B.C. with the Mauryas. Inscriptions found at Sravanabelgola, maski, Brahmagiri etc. confirm that the major part of Karnataka upto Mysore was ruled by Mauryas.
The fall of Mauryan empire paved the way for the rise of the Satavahanas to power in the Deccan and Karnataka from 235 to 197 B.C. The Satavahana dynasty was the first major dynasty of south India, the Kings were described as the Lords of the Dakshinapatha and ruled from paithan. Gautamiputra satakarni was the greatest ruler of the dynasty (106-130 A.D) the finest rock-cut shrines in Maharashtra at Nasik, Karle, Kanheri etc. were their greatest cultural contribution. The Kadambas of Banavasi were a sovereign power, who ruled over major parts of Karnataka. They were the first Kannada dynasty. Mayursharma (C.325-345 A.D) was the greatest ruler of the dynasty, they ruled from Banavasi.

The Chalukyas of Badami, with Badami as capital came into prominence in 6th century A.D. and established political unification under Pulakeshi-II (609-642 A.D), who was the greatest ruler of the Kingdom. Pulakeshi-II defeated Harshavardhan on the bank of Narmada Chinese pilgrimage Huien Tsnag visited Karnataka during his reign. The magnificent temples at Badami, pattadkal, Aihole etc. are specimen of their cultural contributions.

Dantidurga a feudatory of Chalukyas defeated the last ruler Kirtivarma-II in 753 A.D. and founded the Rashtrakuta dynasty. Malkhed in Guilbarga district was their capital. Krishna-I (756-774 A.D), Dhruva (780-793), Govinda-III (793-814 A.D). Amoghawarsha-I (814-878) etc. were the famous rulers of the dynasty. Srivijaya the author of Kavirajmarga was the court poet of Amoghavarsha. The Chalukyas of Kalyan (973-1181) who claim to be descendants of the Chalukyas of Badami, overthrew the Rashtrakutas and founded the Chalukya dynasty with Kalyan as capital. Vikramadity-VI (1078-1127) was the greatest ruler.
of the dynasty,\textsuperscript{45} he inaugurated a new era (Chalukya Vikrama Saka) on his coming to the throne in 1076.\textsuperscript{46}

The Kalchuris of Kalyani (1162 to 1184 A.D), who were the feudatories of the Kalyani Chalukyas, later usurped the power from them. Bijjala-II (1130-1168) was the greatest ruler. Basaveshwara, the founder of Veerashiva religion was his minister.\textsuperscript{47}

The Yadavas of Devagiri ruled over some parts of north Karnataka, some time (835 to 1313 A.D). The Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra (1000-1346) to ruled some southern parts of Bombay Karnataka for some time.\textsuperscript{48}

The Vijayanagar Empire (1336-1565) was founded by Harihara and Bukka under the influence of Vidyaranya, with Hampi, on the bank of Tunghabadra as capital. The Vijayanagar empire had only partial hold over Bombay Karnataka region, because the northern part was first under Bahamani and later under the Adil Shahi's of Bijapur.

Sangama (1336-1485 A.D), Saluva (1485-1505 A.D), Tuluva (1505-1565 A.D) and Aravidu (1570-1646 A.D), were the four dynasties of Vijayanagara empire. Devaraya-II (1424-1446 A.D) and Krishna devaraya (1509-1529 A.D) were the greatest rulers of the dynasty. The travelers such as Abdur Razaq, Nuniz, Nikitin, Durati Barbosa and Domingo paces vividly depicted the glory of Vijayanagara empire in their records. The magnificent city of Hampi, Art and Architecture still stand the example of the glory.
The rulers of Vijayanagar were constantly in war with the Muslim dynasties of Bahamani and Adil Shahi's of Bijapur. Over the Tungabhadra doab, which finally culminated in the war of Talikota/Bannihati in 1565, which consequently ended the glory of the greatest Vijayanagar empire. The Bahamani Empire (1347-1538 A.D) Alauddin Hasan Bahaman Shah founded the Bahmani empire in 1347. Gulbarga was their first capital, later shifted to Bidar in 1424 by Ahmad shah-I. The Bahmani empire controlled the major part of Bombay Karnataka region between 1347-1538.

Firuz Shah (1397-1422) and Mahammad Gawan were the greatest personalities of the dynasty. The Bahmani kingdom break up into five dynasties viz., Adil Shahi's of Bijapur. Nizam shahis of Ahmadnagar, Barid Shahis of Bidar, Qutub Shahis of Golkonda and Imad shahis of Berar.

Adil Shahis of Bijapur (1490-1686): Yusuf Adil Shah founded the Bijapur kingdom with Bijapur as capital. Ali Adil Shah II, Ibrahim Adilshah and Muhammad Adil shah were the famous rulers of the dynasty, major part of Bombay Karnataka including Goa was under their rule.

The Adil Shahis of Bijapur were the greatest innovators in the field of Art and Architecture. World famous Golgumbaz, Jama Masjid, Ibrahim Rouja etc., were their contributions. In 1686 Mughal emperor Aurangzeb conquered Bijapur and annexed to Mughal Empire.

The Mughals and Marathas:

The Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur was overthrown by Aurangzeb in 1686, thus the whole of Bombay Karnataka region subjected to Mughal administration.
The Mughals ruled these territory from 1686 to 1723. Maratha ruler shahu had secured in March 1719 the right of levying chauth in the six Mughal provinces in Deccan and thus the Marathas considered Karnataka as their domain and conducted campaigns into Karnataka.

In 1746 Sadashiv Chimnaji Bahu, the Peshwa Balaji's cousin marched against Majid Khan, the Nawab of Savanur, who agreed to a treaty under which he gave to the Peshwa the territory of Bagalkot and Badami.

In 1764, taking advantage of the terrible defeat of the Marathas at Panipat Haider Ali spread his kingdom north across the Malaprabha and the Ghataprabha to the banks of the Krishna. The Maratha army under Peshwa Madhav Rao and his uncle Raghunath Rao succeeded in driving Haider Ali out of the Bombay Karnataka. By the treaty of Srirangapatnam (1792) at the end of the third Mysore war (1790-92) the Marathas were confirmed in their possession of the Bombay Karnataka.

The fourth Mysore war, which ended the Mysore empire, also ended the inroads of Tippu Sultan. On the 1st of June 1799 Lieutenant General Stuart of the Bombay army took possession of Kanara including Sonda. In the same month Sir Thomas Munro was appointed Collector of Kanara. And in 1800, he was placed under the control and Superintendence of the Madras Board of Revenue. Thus Kanara was the first district of Bombay Karnataka region to come under the British rule.
After Thomas Munro left Kanara in 1800, the district of Kanara was divided into North Kanara and South Kanara. The North Kanara was placed under Mr. Read. In 1817, the two divisions were re-united into one collectorate and remained as one till the transfer of North Kanara to the Bombay Presidency in 1862. The principal reasons for the transfer were that the district was a narrow strip of territory interposed between cotton district of great importance to the Bombay Cotton trade and Sea.

From 1792 to 1817 the rest of the three districts of Bombay Karnataka viz. Belgaum, Dharwad, Bijapur territory was ruled by the Peshwa's. By 1817 Peshwa Baji Rao II had directed the southern maratha chiefs to break the Treaty of Poona in 1817 and reoccupy the ceded districts, and had ordered Kasirao Gokhale, his governor to support the chiefs. Thus war had broken out between the Marathas and the English, after hearing this Munro began to conquer the North Karnataka i.e. South of Krishna river. In the battle of Kirkee in 1817 the Peshwa's army was completely defeated. General Munro marched from Bijapur district reducing Badami and Bagalkot and took Gokak by March 1818, then the Belgaum town fell on 12th April, 1818, with the fall of Belgaum all the Peshwa's territory came under the English.

On General Munro devolved not merely the conduct of the war but the civil administration of all the provinces, which he had obtained by conquest or cession. Every question connected with the settlement of claims, the adjustment of revenue and the administration of justice was referred to him.
In 1826 the question arose whether the district of Dharwar and the States under it should continue under Bombay or be transferred to the Madras Presidency but the court of Directors favoured the continuation of Karnataka districts under Bombay Presidency. Hence in 1830 (17th March) Regulation VII of the Government of Bombay was passed bringing the southern Maratha country i.e. Bomby Karnataka region under the Regulations. The territories were formed into one collectorate, called the Dharwad District or Zilla. This included, besides the Dharward, parts of Belgaum and Bijapur.

Thus, the whole of the Karnataka functioned as a single administrative unit, then popularly called Dharwad collectorate. In 1836 this large unit was divided into two collectorate. The Northern as Belgaum and Southern as Dharwad, thus in 1836 Belgaum was formed into a separate collectorate.65

After the Third Anglo-Maratha war (1817-18) Peshwa was pensioned off and sent to Bithur near Kanpur, all his territories were annexed by the British. However, to satisfy the Maratha pride the 'Kingdom of Satara' was created out of the Peshwas land. Thus the Bijapur territory was included in the country assigned to the Raja of Satara in 1818. It was only in 1864 that the Bijapur territories formed into a separate district with Kaladgi as its headquarters.66 In 1867, the superintending Engineer for the Southern Division, Col. St. Clair Wilkins, proposed that the headquarters of the district should be shifted from Kaladgi to Bijapur, his proposal was accepted, and plans and estimates for adapting the old Bijapur buildings for offices and residences were completed in 1867, but due to the famine of 1877 the work had to be held over till 1879. After the conversions were carried out Bijapur became the district headquarters in 1885.67
References and Notes:

2. Ibid., p-1.
3a. P-1, Ibid.
10. Ibid., P-14.
13. Ibid., P-16.
31. Ibid., P-6.
32. It was Ninth Century A.D. work, written by Srivijaya, the court poet of Amoghavarsha-I of Rashtrakuta.
35. Ibid., P-26.
36. Ibid., PP. 26-27.
40. Ibid., P-78.
41. Ibid., P-84.
42. Ibid., P-84.
43. Ibid.
45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
48. Ibid., pp. 110-119.
51. Ibid.
53. Ibid., pp. 436-38.
56. Ibid., P-442.
59. Ibid., P-145.
60. Ibid., P-152.
61. Ibid., P-153.
64. Campbell J.M., Gazetteer of Dharwar, op.cit., P-431.
65. Ibid., pp. 433-434.
66. Campbell J.M., Gazetteer of Bijapur, op.cit., P-
67. Ibid.