PART I

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CHAPTER - I

PHYSIOGRAPHY

The Karimnagar region selected for an intensive Archaeological study comprises, besides the Karimnagar District, the contiguous districts of Nizamabad, Adilabad and Warangal. This triangular segment forms the northern most part of Andhra Pradesh. The mighty river Godavari originated in the western ghats divides the districts of Nizamabad, Karimnagar on the south and Adilabad on the North. The region lying in between Lat. 19.46° to 18.00° and Long. 77.32° to 80.30° is surrounded by Bidar, Nanded, Rajura, Chandrapur districts in Maharashtra and Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Rivers

The Godavari, the largest river of Peninsular India rises in the western ghats at Triambak near Nasik in Maharashtra state and enters Andhra Pradesh near Baser in Adilabad district. It flows for about 283 km. and separates the Chanda district of Maharashtra and the Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh from this region.

The river Maner, a tributary of Godavari originates near the village, Kalkur and traverses through the Karimnagar district from west to east as far as Kurlagunta in Mantheni taluk and then flows north and falls into the Godavari in Mantheni taluk. Its length in the Karimnagar district is about 230 kms. and is an important source of irrigation. Peddavagu and Chinnavagu are the other minor rivers in the Karimnagar District.
The other important river in Nizamabad district, the Manjira, the chief tributary of Godavari rising in Patoda taluk of Bir District in Maharashtra, crosses the district from the south-west and joins Godavari near Kandukurthi in Bodhan taluk after a course of 100 kilometers. The waters of this river are well utilised for irrigation by constructing a dam known as Nizamasagar near Achampet in Banswada taluk of Nizamabad.

Karimnagar District:

Meyatummeda, a tributary of Manar, Peddavagu and Chinnavagu sustained ancient Cultures in this region from times immemorial.

Geology:

The Karimnagar region forms part of the Indian Peninsular shield which remained the stable land-mass since the formation of the earth-crust. The earliest rocks known as Archaeans are mostly igneous and highly metamorphosed. The area was later exposed to the weathering after which molten lava erupting from the fissures flowed in the west coast and spread over the western and as well over central parts of Peninsula. The solidified lava flows are known as the traps. For the last 50 million years there was no significant change in the geological history of the region.
**Archaean**

A major part of the region is occupied by Archaean group of rocks such as Peninsular granite complex, banded ferruginous quartzites; dykes of dolerite and lastly veins of pegmatite and quartz. The Peninsular granite comprises of the pink and grey granites, the colour of which depending upon the colour of feldspars contained in them. The granites are composed of quartz, potash, feldspar (pink or grey) and mica and hornblende as essential minerals.

Numerous dykes of dolerite and veins of pegmatite and quartz traverse through the granites in different directions. The hornblendic granitic gneiss of this region weathers in a remarkable manner. Enormous rounded and smoothed boulders stand one over the other and some times in groups. The banded ferruginous quartzites and schists generally known as Dharwars are well displayed as outlying bands in the further east of Karimnagar and Warangal districts. They consist of hornblends, talk, chloride and mica, schists, quartzites and ferruginous-quartzizes.

**Deccan Traps**

The Deccan Traps consist of massive or vasicular flows of basalt which have given rise to flat topped hills with plateau-like appearance.

The granite complex is marked by igneous sedimentary groups. The igneous metamorphosed rocks occur as sils and dykes.
The minerals in the basalt are feldspars and pyroxenes which occur roughly in equal amounts. The intertrappean beds consist of marls, sandstones and cherts which are sometimes fossiliferous.

Minerals Resources:

Iron Ore

Many occurrences of magnetite quartz rock are located in Jagtiyal taluk of Karimnagar district. Minor deposits also occur in Karimnagar, Peddapalli and Manthani taluks. In the Armur taluk of Nizamabad district, ferruginous quartzites and schists are noticed at many places. Ancient mining activity for iron is noticed at several places in Armur taluk of Nizamabad district, and Peddapalli and Jagtyal taluks in Karimnagar districts and Jangean taluk in Warangal district and Siddipet in Medak District.

It was perhaps the ores of Karimnagar and Nizamabad regions which supplied the ancient iron smelter at Konasamudram wherefor iron for the Damascus steel is said to have been exported. At the time of voyages this region was visited by the earlier Roman and Persian traders for steel, as this Indian "Wootz" was well known throughout the Ancient East.

Soap Stone

Small workable pockets of soap stone occur in Turakala Maddikunta about 10 km. from Peddabankur and Paltham and
Metpalli areas of Jagtyal taluk. Lime stone is abundant at Basantnagar near Ramagundam.

Rain Fall

The average rain fall in the region is 1035 millimeters (40.70"). The rain fall increases from the east towards the west and during the south-east monsoon constitutes about 86 per cent of the annual rainfall. July is the rainiest month.

Temperature

Rapid rise in temperature is from February, May is the hottest month with mean daily maximum temperature at 41.4° C. (106.6° F) and the mean daily maximum at 27.6° C. The intense heat during the summer is very trying and the day temperatures go up to 46° (114.8° F.) Among the hilly regions of Manthani and Laxettipet the temperature rises much higher and the vallies appear like hot pans.

Forests

The forests in the region can be classified into 2 types. (1) Southern Tropical mixed deciduous and southern dry teak type. Several other types like Babul forest, Hard Wickia forest, Dry Deciduous Scrub forest, and Secondary Dry Deciduous forest are also scattered in this region.

The Mahadevpuram forest area noticed all along the bank of the Godavari river can easily be classed as the best in the quality of forests with a dominant tree height of
18 to 24 mt. and quite commonly trees measure in girth of 1.5 mt. The most important and the best teak (Tectona grandis) producing areas of the state of Andhra Pradesh fall in the Karimnagar Region.

**Fauna**

The fauna of Karimnagar region is both rich and varied. A large variety of wild life is found in the forests of this region. The ecological distribution is not only uniform but also very much variant consistent with the quality and density of forest types. Game animals such as deer and other horned varieties are noticed in the Manthani area. Some of the species such as the black buck, four horned antelope, tiger and panther were abundant in the past, but their number is alarmingly decreasing in the recent years causing a stir among ecologists and naturalists. The black buck and the great Indian bison were very common in the past, neelgai or blue bull, spotted deer, porcupine, rabbit, hare, chital, wild sheep, sambar are very common. Among the carnivora, the tiger and panther are noticed in the Tadicherla, Mahadevpur and Singaram blocks.

**Game Birds**

Among the important game birds in the region, mention may be made of the green pigeon, peacock, peafowl, water duck, partridges, sand-goose, wood-duck, snipe, red jungle fowl,
king fisher, bulbul, dove, crow, myna, oriel, parakeet, woodpecker and the common pegion. In winter season many birds of migration from North India and Himalayan regions visit this area.