Till the early twenties of this century very little was known of the history of Chitradurga and the Nayakas. A few sporadic discoveries had been made here and there, but no systematic work had been carried out.

An independent attempt to outline the institutions of Chitradurga in general was made for the first time by the late Shri Hallur Shrinivas Jois as early as 1900 A.D. He was a pleader, journalist, research scholar and social worker. He established a 'Museum' at Chitradurga. He wrote many articles (in Kannada) on the history of Chitradurga and the Nayakas who ruled over this kingdom. His articles were mainly about the ancient history of the Chitradurga rather than about the history of the Nayakas.

He was followed by Shri M.J. Puttanna in 1924 A.D. He wrote his book Chitradurgada Palagararu mainly on the basis of the palace records, the chronicles in the manuscript form and some traditional sources. This was the first comprehensive work on the political history of Chitradurga. It however did not deal with such aspects as the administrative system, social and economic conditions.

Since then, much new material has been brought to light and a detailed and systematic study of the History of Chitradurga with a fresh approach has become a desideratum.
The Scope of the Subject:

Chitradurga was one of the feudatory States under Vijayanagara. On the decline of Vijayanagara it became independent. Chitradurga, along with Mysore, Keladi, Madura and other principalities of South India, successfully continued the work of Vijayanagara after its downfall. Much has been written on the principalities of Mysore, Keladi, Madura, Tanjore and Jinni. But so far no comprehensive work based mainly on contemporary reliable sources has been written about Chitradurga which also followed in the footsteps of Vijayanagara, with of course, necessary modifications occasioned by the changed circumstances. As Chitradurga came in contact not only with Hindu kingdoms, but also with Muslim rulers and foreign powers, its government, its institutions, and customs came under different influences and accordingly certain adaptations were made. All this makes the study of this principality significant and interesting.

It has been observed that in the study of History the average student is so fascinated by the rise and fall of great kingdoms, mighty emperors and heroic and dominating personalities, that he tends to forget or overlook the study of many apparently smaller yet important factors. Quite often in our history, however, it is these sorely neglected events and people, whose study clarifies the picture considerably, and helps us to see life as it was -- which is one of the aims of History.
So it is necessary to know what role the offshoots of Vijayanagara played in the interim period; who were their rulers and how did they run their administration? What were their relations with one another and with other powers in India? What were the social and economic conditions prevailing in these States? Here I have confined myself to the history of one such relatively small but important principality.

For the first time an humble attempt is made in this thesis to present an authentic history of the Chitradurga State in its various aspects - political, administrative, military, diplomatic, social and economic. The thesis is mainly based on contemporary authentic sources such as inscriptions and English official records. Wherever chronicles or such other sources are pressed into service, care has been taken to corroborate them from authentic sources.

Lines of Study:

The thesis is arranged under four parts covering different topics. The first part is an introductory one, and includes two chapters. The first chapter deals with the preliminary matters, points out the importance of the subject and finally discusses the various sources used for writing the thesis. The second chapter gives a broad survey of the political history of the Chitradurga Nayakas for providing a general background to the study.
of the succeeding chapters. The second part includes chapters dealing with kingship and administrative aspects. The third part is composed of chapters dealing with socio-economic matters such as the agrarian system, village community, coinage, social conditions and architecture. The fourth and last part covers the relations of Chitradurga with various powers, Indian and foreign.

I am very happy that my work is materialising. This is the fruit of my seven years' hard work. Now it is my duty to thank all those persons and institutions that helped me in my Ph.D. work.

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