Geographical

Andhra Pradesh is geographically divided into three regions namely the Coastal Region, the Telangana and the Rayalaseema. The Rayalaseema region originally consisted of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Anantapur and Bellary districts which formed a part of the erstwhile Madras Presidency. Rayalaseema is located between $12^\circ 37'$ and $16^\circ 18'$ northern latitude and $75^\circ 44'$ and $79^\circ 55'$ eastern longitude with an area of 31,855 square miles. The total population of Rayalaseema is 96,25,931 out of which 49,15,782 were males and 47,10,149 are females in 1981. Presently, it is surrounded by Tamil Nadu in the South, Karnataka in the West and South West, Telangana in the North and the Coastal Region in the east. The region lies at an altitude of 300-700 meters from sea-level. This is one of the backward regions of the country and known as "the stalking ground of famines".

The two native States, Banaganapalli and Sandur which had once formed a part of Rayalaseema, were independent princely States. The Banaganapalli State is situated in the centre of Kurnool district. In latitude, it is between $15^\circ$ and $15^\circ 30'$, north and longitude between $78^\circ$ and $78^\circ 23'$ East.

1. Now Bellary district is in Karnataka State.
with an area of 256 Square miles.\(^1\) Its population was 39,218 in 1931.\(^2\) The Sandur State is right in the middle of Bellary district. In its extreme points, it lies between 14° 55' and 15° 12'45" north latitude and between 76°28'30" and 76° 43'45" east longitude,\(^3\) and the total population was 13,583 in 1931.\(^4\)

In Rayalaseema the majority of the population are Hindus by religion. Mohammedens occupy a second position. There are a considerable number of Christians also. Telugu has been the principal language in Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Chittoor districts while Urdu also is a spoken language. In Bellary, Kannada dominates while Telugu is also another language. Having been historically associated with the present Tamil Nadu, in Chittoor district, Tamil is as popular as Telugu. Thus, we find that all the districts of Rayalaseema are bilingual with Telugu and Urdu, Telugu and Kannada and Telugu Tamil.

After the defeat and death of Tippu Sultan in the Fourth Mysore war in 1799, this region became a part of the principality of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Later, the Nizam entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British on 12th October, 1800.

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Accordingly, the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Cuddapah and also a part of Kurnool were ceded to the British by the Nizam Ali Khan. The remaining part of Kurnool district was transferred to the British in 1839. Chittoor district was carved out of North Arcot and Cuddapah districts on the 1st of April, 1911. Major territorial changes were introduced after the Independence and the formation of Andhra State took place on 1st October, 1953. The taluks of Alur and Adoni were transferred to Anantapur from Bellary and the rest of the Bellary district was attached to the Karnataka State.

As seen above, the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah and a part of Kurnool were ceded to the British in 1800 by the Nizam of Hyderabad. Cuddapah then possessed a portion of the present Chittoor district as well. Therefore, this area came to be popularly known as the Ceded Districts.

In 1839, the remaining part of the Kurnool district was also brought under the British control. In November, 1928, the first Ceded Districts Conference was held under the Presidentship of K. Koti Reddy at Nandyal. It coincided with the 15th session of the Andhra Mahasabha. It was here that Sri. G. Harisarvottama Rao proposed the name of Rayalaseema for

the area of the Ceded Districts. He held the opinion that this entire region had been once a part of the Vijayanagara kingdom whose kings are generally referred to as Rayas. This name would thus give a historical perspective to this area. After a good deal of deliberations, the name Rayalaseema finally was accepted as a substitute to "Ceded Districts."  

**HISTORICAL**

Advent of the Muslims in India

The four great religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism originated in India and India also welcomed and accommodated new religions like Islam, Christianity and Zoroastrianism. Islam, the last major universal religion originated in the early 7th century A.D.

"The rise of Islam is one of the marvels of history."  

The founder of Islam was Prophet Mohammed, born in Mecca on 22nd April, 571 A.D. The religion of Prophet Mohammed spread to distant places like wildfire. Though prophet Mohammed passed away in 632 A.D., his successors, the four Khalifas, namely Abu Bakar, Omar, Osman and Ali, played an important role in propagating Islam in various parts of the world. The other Ommayyid Khalifas too greatly contributed to the spread of Islam.

The result was that within less than a hundred years after the death of the Prophet, his followers overthrew the two mighty empires, the Sassanid and the Byzantine. They overran the whole of Syria, Persia, and Mesopotamia. These victories, achieved by the close of the first century of the Hijrat (About 722), made the Khalifas "the most potent and absolute monarchs on the globe." ¹

Islam preceded the establishment of Muslim political power in India. The first Muslim fleet appeared in the Indian waters in 636 during the Khalifate of Omar. Islam had gained hold in some pockets on the western coast of India in the wake of Arabian invasions of Sind, led by Mohammed-bin-Qasim in 712. The Arab traders had been visiting the southern and western coasts of India even before the advent of Islam. However, after the birth of Islam, "they also brought with them the message of Islam and acted both as traders and missionaries."² Later, Muslims settled down in the towns, and accepted India as their motherland. Even though, Politically, the Arab conquest was 'a triumph without results', yet its commercial and cultural impact cannot be ignored. Muslim power was established in north India only after 1000 under the Ghaznavids. But its impact, especially of the Islamic religion, on the population of the country was quite considerable.³

The next Muslim invader was Mohammed Ghazni who invaded India again and again, defeated the Hindu rulers and destroyed the Hindu temples. "He was a zealous upholder of Islam and an ardent warrior against idolators. By this policy of persecution and plunder he shattered the economic and political strength of northern India and paved the way for final subjugation by later Muslim invaders." Next came Mohammed Ghori who cherished a desire to conquer the whole of North India. Lahore was seized in 1186 A.D., from the last Ghaznavide. Soon, thereafter, the whole of northern India was under his rule. He conceded Delhi and the surrounding areas to Qutbuddin Aibak to rule (1206 A.D.). Within hundred and fifty years this Sultanate expanded almost up to the extreme south but towards the end of the 14th century, it disintegrated into a number of provincial States.

Babur defeated the Lodis in 1526 and established the Mughal Empire. His successors conquered the whole country, and the Mughal rule lasted from 1526 up to 1857 except for a brief period when the Afghan Surs had seized power from the Mughals. After the death of Aurangzeb the Mughal empire began to decline. The Muslim contribution to architecture, painting, music, literature and science, is fairly well-known. The Muslim culture of this period has also profound by influenced the regional life and thought.

A reference to the advent of Muslim appearance in South India would be more relevant for this study. Muslims had settled on the Malabar Coast as traders from the 7th century. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries Muslim merchants were found both on the western and eastern coasts of India.

Political invasions over South India commenced with Alauddin Khalji whose only desire was to plunder the people and land reformers. But, when Mohammed bin Tughlak commenced his rule, he launched a campaign of conquests. Malik Kafur, the general of Sultan Alauddin Khalji, invaded South India, within a short span he conquered four Hindu kingdoms in 1311. The Hindu kingdoms of the Yadavas of Devagiri, the Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra, the Pandyas of Madurai and the Kakatiyas of Warangal were overrun, plundered and slowly, one after the other subjugated. Muslim governors were appointed even at Madurai, the ancient capital city of the Pandyas.

As a practical statesman, Alauddin never desired to annex the South with his empire. On the contrary, he tried to keep good relations with those of the rulers of the South, who accepted his suzerainty and agreed to pay annual tributes. He was interested only in looting, but was unwilling to accept

responsibility of administration. Thus, Alauddin's conquest of the South was neither complete nor permanent. But the Hindu rulers of the South were conscious of the danger to their sovereignty from the north.

During the reign of Mohammed-bin-Tughlak, the Southernmost frontiers were consolidated to form the 23rd Province of the Tughlak empire. But, his victories were shortlived due to a variety of reasons. As the control of the central government weakened, some of the Deccan States declared their independence. The foundation of Vijayanagara and Bahamani kingdoms and the Sultanates of Madurai were all manifestations of these reactions. All the independent kingdoms of the South were conquered by the Mughals in the 17th century. At last Aurangzeb defeated Abdul Hasan in October, 1687 and annexed the Qutub Shahi kingdom. After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the Mughal empire became very weak. The Subedars of different provinces tried to establish their own power. Farrukhshiyar, the new emperor conferred the viceroyalty of the Deccan upon Chin Qilich Khan with the title Nizamul-Mulk-Fateh-Jang, who established law and order in the Deccan. But, he was recalled to Delhi in 1715 and his position was bestowed on Syed Hussain Ali Khan. Nizam-ul-Mulk was first asked to go to Malwa but then he was recalled and given a

choice to choose any one of the four provinces of Agra-Akbarabad, Allahabad, Multan and Berhampur. But, he left Malwa in April, 1720, and moved towards the Deccan. Meanwhile, Syed Hussain Ali Khan, the Subedar of the Deccan was murdered. This incident strengthened the hold of Nizam-ul-Mulk. He was given a place in the Imperial Court as a Minister, but his administrative reforms were not to the liking of the emperor. So, the Nizam decided to leave Delhi for Deccan. He defeated Mubariz Khan, the Subedar of the Deccan at Shakar Kheda on 11th October, 1724. The emperor Mohammed Shah recognised and conferred the title of Asaf Jah upon the Nizam. With this the State of Hyderabad came into existence.1

The conquest of Andhra by the British took place in two stages. The first stage was the Anglo-French rivalry in the Deccan and the elimination of the French from the South Indian political arena. The second stage is marked by the wars with Mysore and the policy of appeasement with the Nizam which resulted in gaining almost all the places in Andhra.

Andhra was a part of the Mughal empire. In 1724, Nizam the Subedar of Deccan raised the banner of revolt and declared independence with his capital at Hyderabad. The present Andhra was a part and parcel of the Nizam's dominions. For purposes of administration, Andhra was divided into numerous Circars.

The area between Ganjam and Nellore was divided into the Circars of Chicacole while Rajahmundry, Ellore, Kondapalle and Guntur came each under a fauzdar. The modern districts of Nellore and Chittoor, part of the Carnatic, were ruled by the Nawab of Arcot, a feudatory of the Nizam. The Rayalaseema districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool and Anantapur were under the control of the Nawabs of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Adoni and the Hande chiefs of Anantapur who were all feudatories of the Nizam.¹

Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah died in 1748, and the war of succession started. The British and the French got an opportunity to interfere in the internal affairs of the Deccan. The French and the British supported Muzaffar Jang and Nasir Jang respectively. The Nawabs of Kurnool, Cuddapah, and Savanur supported Nasir Jang and tried to bring reconciliation between Nasir Jang and Muzaffar Jang, by making Muzaffar Jang agree to offer his submission to Nasir Jang. But he was captured and confined to prison. The breach of faith by Nasir Jang enraged the Nawabs who, with the connivance of the French, conspired and killed Nasir Jang and proclaimed Muzaffar Jang as the Nizam. The Nawabs were, however, dissatisfied with the rewards offered by Muzaffar Jang and he was in turn killed at Lakkireddipalli, Cuddapah district.²

In the skirmish, the Nawabs of Kurnool and Savanur also were slain. Salabat Jang became the ruler. Salabat Jang proceeded to Kurnool, took the fort by force and carried away the two

sons of Nawab Himmat Bahadur Khan in 1751. Munawar Khan, brother of Himmat Bahadur Khan, later came from Arcot and occupied a major portion of the Jagir. In 1761, Salabat Jang was deposed by his brother Nizam Ali Khan who declared himself to be the ruler. Thus, the Rayalaseema was under the occupation of so many.

In the early years of Nizam Ali Khan, his brother Basalat Jang wanted to become the Nawab of Karnataka or at least the ruler of the district, south of the Krishna and Tungabhadra, with the help of Hyder Ali of Mysore. Nizam Ali Khan, feared the interference of Hyder Ali and joined the expedition led by the Marathas. He had signed a treaty with the Nizam and got sovereignty over the territory extending upto the Tungabhadra. Hyder Ali was empowered with the right to collecting tributes from the Nawabs of Kurnool and Cuddapah in 1767-1768. He invaded this district two more times in 1775 and 1779 and exacted tributes from the local chiefs. Hyder Ali took advantage of the prevailing turmoil and invaded the Maratha territory and defeated the Maratha general Raghunatha Rao, who had, by then, proclaimed himself as the Peshwa. The treaty of Kalyandurg was signed in 1774, and by this Hyder Ali had recognised Raghunatha Rao's right to the Peshwaship. The Peshwa agreed to cede, in return, the entire territory to the north of Srirangapatnam upto the banks of the Krishna. In 1775 Hyder's opponents,
Basalat Jang and Murari Rao of Gooty and also Nizam Ali Khan conspired against him. But, Hyder Ali defeated Murari Rao of Gooty and captured Madakasira, Penukonda and Kodikonda which were kept under the control of the Palegar of Chitradurga. The Palegar aspired to become independent, but was subdued with the assistance of the chief of Rayadurg.¹

The Mayana dynasty of the Cuddapah Nawabs was founded by Abdul Nabi Khan in 1710.² The Siddavatasthala mahatyam (1710 A.D.), and an inscription in a mosque at Cuddapah dated Hijra 1130 (1717-18 A.D.) also refer to his appointment as the Subedar during the reign of Farrukhsiyar. During the course of his rule for nearly two and a half decades, he managed to bring under his control a large part of territory including Sidhout, Gandikota, Cumbum, Gurramakonda and Punganur. His authority also extended to Anantapur over the Hande chief Prasannappa. The rule of the Mayana Nawabs came to an end after eighteen years of rule of Halim Khan, son of Majid Khan.³ Later, in 1770. Hyder Ali invaded this territory and defeated Halim Khan at Davvur in 1779. The Nawab was imprisoned with his family and sent to Srirangapatnam where he died in captivity in 1779.³

¹ Anantapur District Gazetteer, op. cit; pp. 80-82.
Hyder Ali was succeeded by his son Tippu Sultan in 1782 A.D. The Maratha and the Nizam invaded his territory with the support of the Palegars of Rayadurg and Harapanahalli. Tippu Sultan defeated the Marathas and the Nizam and imprisoned the Palegars at Daroji-mahal between Harapanahalli and Rayadurg. Later, the Palegars were sent as prisoners to Kabaledurg in Mysore State, where they died.¹

The British wanted to suppress Tippu Sultan's growing power and consequently entered into an alliance with Nijam Ali Khan and also the Marathas. During the III and IV Mysore wars, the British acquired several places. After the Third Mysore War, the Rayalaseema area came under the possession of the Nizam according to the Treaty of Srirangapatnam. The Nizam entered into Subsidiary Alliance with the British in 1800 and handed over the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah to the British.² In the 18th Century, the modern districts of Nellore and Chittoor formed a part of the Carnatic of which Mohammed Ali was the Nawab. Nellore was for sometime under his brother Nazibulla who, however, revoluted against him more than once, with the help of the French. The Marathas invaded it from the district of Cuddapah

¹ Anantapur District Gazetteer, Anantapur, op.cit; p. 84
and there was a similar threat of invasion by Basalat Jang. In addition to this, the region became a victim of the misrule of Mohammed Ali, his extravagance and the consequent bankruptcy. The British who defended his territory from the attack of Hyder Ali in the two Mysore wars and took him under their protection, did very little to set matters right. The misrule continued even after his death in 1795 A.D. Lord Wellesley, finally put an end to it by annexing the Carnatic to the British dominion in 1802 A.D. As a result, Nellore and Chittoor districts also came under the direct rule of the British.¹

**THE KURNOOL NAWABS**

During the rule of the Mughals and the Asaf Jahs over this district, a family of Chiefs known as the Nawabs of Kurnool held Power over the Kurnool Jagir. Daud Khan was the first chieftain of this Jagir. He was appointed as a Jagirdar of Kurnool by Ghazi-ud-din Khan, a general of Aurangazeb. Daud Khan was succeeded respectively by Ibrahim Khan, Aluf Khan and the Himmat Bahadur Khan to the gaddi. Himmat Bahadur Khan came into conflict with Himmatyar Khan, the Subedar of Bijapur, on the question of payment of annual tribute. He suffered defeat and agreed to clear arrears of tribute. During his time, Fateh Singh, the Maratha chief invaded and plundered Chagalamarri, Siruvel, Nandyal and even occupied Kurnool.

Himmat Bahadur Khan participated in the succession war between Nasir Jang and Muzaffar Jang. He died during a skirmish with Muzaffar Jang and his Jagir was taken over by Salabat Jang who succeeded Muzaffar Jang. Munawar Khan was made the Nawab of the Jagir. Munawar Khan appointed his son Alufh Khan as the Nawab. After Aluf Khan, Muzaffar Khan and Munawar Khan II held the Jagir, one after the other.

Gulam Rasool Khan, the last chief of this Jagir was a weakling and his main object was to collect maximum revenue. He collected immense quantities of military stores and cannon which created suspicion. The Government sent a commission consisting of Blane, I.C.S. and Col. Steel to enquire into the matter. At the same time, a body of troops under the command of Col. Dyce captured the Nawab who was sent to Trichinopoly. The conspiracy charges against the Nawab could not be proved. Nevertheless, the Jagir was annexed and placed under the charge of a Commissioner. The Nawab's family was allowed a liberal pension. Finally, the Chieftaincy came to be attached to the Collectorate in 1858 A.D.¹

¹ Kurnool District Gazetteer, op. cit; pp. 52-53.
THE NAWABS OF BANAGANAPALLI

The Nawabs of Banaganapalli, called after Banaganapalli, ruled over a portion of Kurnool district. Mohammed Baig Khan, the founder of the family, was appointed Qiledar of Banaganapalli in 1665. He ruled upto 1686 and was succeeded by his son Mohammed Baig Khan-e-Jung. After his death in 1725, Atta Khan, Fazle Ali Khan I and Fazle Ali Khan II succeeded to the Nawabship followed by Hussain Ali Khan, who faced an attack by Hyder Ali. He was a general and waged many a battle. At the time of his death in 1783 he had four minor sons, who fled to Hyderabad out of fear, when they were called to Mysore by Tippu. So, the Nizam appointed Mohammed Yusuf as Qiledar of Banaganapalli. In 1790-91, the Jagir was taken from the subordinates of Tippu and Sayyed Gulam Ali Khan, one of the four sons, occupied the throne in 1793.


and girls, executed works of public utility, started industries and granted mining-leases. At the time of Indian Independence, the British Government restored full powers to Mir Fazal Ali Khan Bahadur III. He immediately announced a constitution for the Banaganapalli State, giving people large share in the administration. He was the first among the rulers of South India to sign the agreement of merger with the Indian Government on the 18th February, 1948. Mir Gulam Ali Khan Bahadur was the last ruler who contributed to the dissolution of the Rulers' Union by resigning from the membership. ¹

THE BRITISH AND THE PALEGARS

In the 18th Century, Rayalaseema witnessed many Palegar revolts which had both feudal and economic roots. The Palegars were local military chieftains who had control over some small regions paying annual tributes to the sovereign and supplying him with the necessary contingents of militia in times of his need. They were otherwise virtually free to rule over the regions they held. They remained subdued when the suzerain was strong but, defied his authority whenever the sovereign showed signs of weakness.

¹Kurnool District Gazetteer, p. 54.
In 1800 the British East India Company appointed Munroe as the Principal Collector over the Ceded Districts. Four Sub-Collectors were placed under his immediate control with Harapanahalli, Cuddapah, Adoni and Cumbum as their headquarters. Military contingents were also posted in all important places to assist him. Major General Douglas Campbell was appointed Commander of the Ceded Districts. There were 80 Palegars in the Ceded Districts in 1800 and a majority of whom were from the Cuddapah district. There were only 10 Palegars in the Chittoor district.

These Palegars were not in a mood to recognise the authority of the British. They somehow had a feeling that, like the Nizam, the ruler of Mysore, as also the Marathas whose powers had waned sooner or later, the British too would pass into oblivion. But to their dismay, Munroe, through a proclamation demanded that they should lay down their arms and pay peshkash to the company. Many of the Palegars resisted the demand. Munroe, therefore adopted stringent measures to suppress the Palegars.

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1. Kelsall, John; *op.cit.* p. 137.
Mention must be made of a terrible incident which occurred by the end of 1801 in Bellary District. At Taranikally, a village in the Adoni division, the Patel, along with his followers, attacked the Sub-Collector's Office and murdered 14 Officials in open daylight. Later, he was sentenced to death and hanged. In 1803, Sultan Khan revolted and tried to capture the Cuddapah town. But Munroe foiled his attempts, and defeated and captured him. Another noteworthy incident during this period was a plot to seize the fort of Bellary, capture Adoni and establish the rule of Kudriulla Khan, son of Basalat Jang. In the same year, a conspiracy was hatched by some local chieftains to seize the fort of Gooty but it was also foiled. The fort of Konakondla was also occupied by the Palegars. However, it was brought under the British fold after several months.

Thus, by the end of 1807, Munroe had put down the Palegars and their influence was curbed except in the uprising of 1846 which occurred much later. Munroe resigned his post of Principal Collector in 1807, but he was elevated to the position of Governor of Madras Presidency, (1820-1827).

After 1807 the Government had to face the menace of the Pindaris in the first quarter of the 19th century in Rayalaseema, as elsewhere. They attacked government treasuries and engaged themselves in looting. In 1816, the Pindaris appeared at Cumbum and Markapur in Kurnool district, while at Harapanahalli, in January, 1818, they looted the treasury. However, when they were moving towards Rayadurg, government troops crushed them. It may be noted that Hiren Mukherjee describes the Pindaris as strong protestors of colonial government. He criticises the Official historian, who has described them as plunderers.

In 1846, Narasimha Reddy, Palegar of Ooyalawada in Cuddapah district (now in Kurnool district), revolted against the Company's rule. He was in receipt of a paltry pension of Rs.11-10-8 per mensem which was quite insufficient for his needs and he resolved to better his fortunes through plunder. He was able to secure the support of a large number of kattubadis, who were unfavourably disposed by the Government, for their move to resume their hereditary inam. He and his followers started their resistance in July, 1846 and it continued for three months. He raised the standard of revolt with an attack on the treasury at Koilkuntla which he got hold of successfully and marched towards Cumbum. He was defeated by Lt. Watson and Captain Nott respectively. He

managed to escape into the Nizam's territory. Six weeks later, he once again attacked the British, but this time he was captured by them and hanged publicly at Koilkuntla on 22nd February, 1847.  

As a warning to the rebels, his head was kept hanging for a long time.

The 1846 revolt of Narasimha Reddy was the greatest of the revolutionary uprisings. The revolt was based on issues. This assumed so much importance that it became a legend and stimulated the local people leading to the national movement.

The Palegars of Chittoor district were as lawless and defiant as those of Rayalaseems. They enjoyed, in practice, utmost independence under the rule of the Nawabs of Arcot and they were now determined to retain it, through fighting if necessary. They too rebelled when they were called upon to pay a heavier peshcash and also to give up their customary right to collect kavali (watch and ward) fees from the villagers. The Palegar of Naraganti was the first to pose serious trouble. He was arrested and released by the new

Collector, Cockburn, who wanted to negotiate with the Palegars for amicable settlement, but in vain. Hence, armed attack became inevitable. At Nagapatla, the army attacked the Palegars of Kallur, Pulicherla and Pullur and defeated them in September, 1803. At last, they had to surrender themselves to the British. Thus, the whole of Rayalaseema came under the British administration.

1857 REVOLT AND ITS IMPACT

The accumulated grievances of the people against the Company's administration, coupled with the sepoy's grievances led to the 1857 Revolt which commenced on 10th May, 1857. The avowed aim of the Revolt was to overthrow the foreign government. English historians like Keyne, Malleson, Trevelyan, Lawrence, Holmes described it as "The Sepoy Mutiny"; the nationalists called it as the 'First War of Independence'. The uprising spread like wildfire throughout the nation. Lakshmibai of Jahnai, Tantia Tope, Zinnat Mhal raised the banners of revolt against the British. They recognised Bahadur Shah II as their emperor. But the revolt was suppressed by the Government. Bahadur Shah II was convicted for treason, conspiracy, rebellion and ultimately exiled to Rangoon. Bahadur Shah II, throughout the period of his

exile, longed to return to his homeland. But, the British Government did not permit him even to die in the motherland. He was well-versed in Urdu, Persian and Arabic and earned fame as a poet adopting 'Zafar' as his pseudonym. Before his death in Rangoon he wrote ...

"KITANA HAI BADNASEEB ZAFAR DAFAN KE LIYE DO GAZ ZAMEEN BHI NA MILI KOI YAR MEN."¹

(How unfortunate is Zafar that he could not even be buried near his loved ones)

It shows the great patriotic zeal of Bahadur Shah II.

The whole of Andhra region of the Madras Presidency was not greatly affected by the events of 1857, though there were some rebellions in different intervals. Dandasena, a feudal chieftain of Gaiba raised arms against the British in the Parlakimedi Zamindari. But it was put down by Capt. Wilson. Another rebellion was by Kurukonda Subba Reddy, the headman of Kottatooru village. Subba Reddy was captured and sentenced to death. During his trial, he declared that he was encouraged to rebel when he heard about Nanasaheb's advance towards the Deccan and his rewarding all those who

rebelled against the British. To some extent the revolt had its impact on Rayalaseema. This could be seen in the Bellary district. M. Bhima Rao, the Tahsildar of Harpanahalli and Bellary, was dismissed in 1854 for his intrigues against the officials. The 1857 Revolt stimulated Bhima Rao and others who rebelled against the government on 27th May, 1858, at Koppal near Hospet. The insurgents succeeded in the initial stages, only to be finally put down and Bhima Rao and others were killed. He became the hero of the revolt and his rising is recounted in a ballad which is sung even to this day in that region.

The Rohillas and the Arabs made raids into the border districts of Andhra in 1857. They also moved into Kurnool and Cuddapah. The Madras Government suspected that these raids were somehow connected with the raising in the North and with the party which attacked the Hyderabad Residency. The raid they made into Rudravaram in the Koilkuntla taluk was of a serious character.

There was another significant incident worth mention. During the Moharram festival in Cuddapah, Sheik Peer Sahib, a resident of Ellampet in Cuddapah District, instigated

the native officers of the 30th Regiment Madras Native Infantry in the Cantonment of Cuddapah, on the 28th of August, 1857, to overthrow the British Government and reestablish Mughal Dynasty. He further said that the English ordered the Mussalmans to eat pork and the Hindus to eat beef and applied the fat of the pig and cow to the cartridges and gave them to the sepoys to bite, thereby converting all such persons to Christianity. For these seditious activities, Sheik Peer Sahib was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment with hard labour, and iron-chained. He suffered the period of imprisonment at Tinnevally jail.¹ Prayers were offered for the victory of the Mughal emperor. Hereafter, no revolts occurred in Andhra. Public meetings were addressed by the people from several important places like Bezawada, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor and Rajahmundry to pledge their support and loyalty to the Government.