Chapter II

PLACE AND PEOPLE

INDIA AS A SUBCONTINENT

India is a vast region inhabited by various heterogeneous populations. The Republic of India, which lies across the Tropic of Cancer, comprises most of the Indian sub-continent. India is the largest democracy in the world, the seventh largest country by area, with the second largest population. Located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere, it is bound by Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal border its coastline. India occupies only 2.4% of the world’s land area and supports over 15% of the world’s population, however it accounts for about 40 percent of total Asia’s population. Known specially for its unique diversity of climate, soils, vegetations, animals, people, languages, faiths, cultures and castes. India was originally inhabited by the diverse groups comprising the Dravidian, Mongoloid, Negrito, and Austroloid races. (www.wikimedia.org, 2008)

This Study is mainly concentrated on the south west Karnataka to the north east Karnataka especially in Hyderabad-Karnataka Region of Bellary district in Karnataka State.(Map 01) Before reorganization of Karnataka State these districts were under the rule of Madras Presidency and after the Karnataka Ekekkaran, joined in to Karnataka
State. In these areas we find more number of people speaking Kannada and Telagu which is their mother toung.

**Bellary** a district spreads roughly from the south west Karnataka to the north east Karnataka, which accounts for 8447 km² of area geographically. The Bellary District is engulfed by the district of Raichur at the north; the district of Koppal on the west; Chitradurga and Davangere lie in the south whereas the Kurnool and Ananatapur districts of Andhra Pradesh are located on the east of Bellary. The Gulbarga division and development jurisdiction looks after the administration of the Bellary district. Bellary as a district has two sub divisions for revenue. The Hosapete subdivision and the Bellary subdivision have seven taluks in total. The rural population of the Bellary district accounts for around 70 percent and the Hindu is the dominant religion in the district. The backward tribes and the scheduled castes constitute of 28% approximately. Basically, the Bellary district is considered as one of the hottest districts of the state, but the annual normal rainfall is 639mm. Apart from mining and quarrying the majority of the population is engaged in agriculture and about 75% of the labor force population is dependent on agriculture for its survival. Cereals, rice, groundnuts, cotton and jowar are the chief cultivations of the district. With the availability of reservoirs and dams like the Tungabhadra dam and other canals 37% of the cultivable land is irrigated and utilized.
Bellary as a district is endowed and gifted with mineral riches and wealth, hence the quarrying and mining business is achieving great heights and developments with the passing days. Due to the strong historical and economical background the district is the most developed district after Bengaluru in Karnataka. The real estate prices of Bellary are touching skies due to the fast economical and industrial growth in the city. With the huge and massive steel industry growth in the district these prices are likely to shoot up further. Being one of the oldest cities of the state, Bellary has certainly gained popularity for its magnanimous industrial and historical backdrop. Situated in eastern Karnataka, Bellary traces down the memories and events of the ancient Ramayana and with its rich cultural, industrial backdrop and heritage attracts many tourists annually. The Ballari Gudda or the fort hill is the most prominent tourist locations. Similarly the British colonies register their special existence in Bellary. Be it the beautifully carved temples, or the sanctuaries nothing seems far from the reaches of Bellary. The Bellary district indebts its taxonomy to Durugamma, the supposed goddess of Bellary. The district encompasses an area of about 8,447 sq.km and lies between the parallels of latitudes 14°30' to 15°50' north where as the 75°40' to 77°11' longitudinally. The district is surrounded by the district of Raichur in the north, the district of Koppal in the west, whereas Davangere and Chitradurga lie in the south. Kurnool and Anantapur districts of the Andhra Pradesh adjoin at Bellary’s borders. The national highway connects the district to
Bangalore, Pune, Goa and Mumbai. The district is ample with water
dams, beautiful reservoirs, gardens and historical monuments.

One of them is that a few devout travelling merchants halting in
Bellary, could not find a Shiva Linga for their worship, then installed
a balla (a measuring cup or seru used to measure grain) upside down
as a Shiva Linga and worshiped it. Eventually, that place turned into a
temple dedicated to Balleshwara or Shiva, which got distorted
to Malleshwara, and Bellary derives its name from this temple. This
temple can still be found in the Fort area of the city, and an annual
festival and fair dedicated to Shiva is conducted at the temple premises
even today. Another legend is that the city is named after Indra, the
king of Gods, who slew a Rakshasa (demon) named Balla who lived
nearby. Balla-ari means 'enemy of Balla' (ari – enemy in Sanskrit). The
third legend derives the city’s name from the old Kannada
word Vallari and Vallapuri.

Numerous neolithic archeological sites have been discovered
around Bellary, such as the ash mounds at Sanganakallu, Budhihal,
Kudithini, Tekkalakote, Hiregudda and Kupgal. The Sanganakallu
settlement, spread over an area of 1,000 acres (4.0 km2), is one of the
largest neolithic complexes known around Bellary. Some of the events
in the Ramayana have been related to places around Hampi, the
celebrated capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. Historically, the Bellary
area has been known by many names, such as Kuntala.
Desha, Sindavadi-nadu and Nolambavadi-nadu. Bellary was ruled in succession by the Mauryas, Satavahanas, Pallavas, Kadambas, Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kalyani Chalukyas, Southern Kalachuryas, Sevuna Yadavas, Hoysalas and also ruled briefly by the Cholas during the wars between Kalyani Chalukyas and the Cholas. After the Sevuna Yadavas and the Hoysalas were defeated by the Islamic sultanates of Delhi, the Vijayanagara Empire arose under Harihara I and Bukka I who dominated the Bellary area. Bellary itself was ruled by the family of Hande Hanumappa Nayaka, a Palayagara of the Vijayanagara rulers. After the fall of the Vijayanagara empire, the Hande Nayakas of Bellary were successively subsidiary to the Adilshahi sultanate, the Mughals, the Nizam, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, and finally the British Empire after the Nizam ceded a large part of the southern Deccan to the British East India Company. The Hande Nayakas ceased to be rulers of Bellary after Major Thomas Munro disposed of the palayagars of the ceded districts and established the Ryotwari land revenue system. In 1808 AD, the ceded districts were split into Bellary and Kadapa districts, and in 1867 AD, the Bellary Municipal Council was created. Further in 1882 AD, Anantapuram district was carved out of the Bellary District. The Maratha princely state of Sandur was surrounded by Bellary district. As of 1901 AD, Bellary was the seventh largest town in Madras Presidency, and was one of the chief military stations in Southern India, garrisoned by British and native Indian troops under the British
Indian Government. The town included a civil railway station to the east of the Bellary Fort, the cantonment and its railway station on the west, the Cowl Bazar and the suburbs of 'Bruce-pettah' (currently spelt Brucepet) and 'Mellor-pettah', named after two British officers once stationed in the town. The industries in the town included a small distillery and two steam cotton-presses. The steam cotton-spinning mill established in 1894 had 17,800 spindles, and employed 520 hands. On 1 October 1953 AD, the Bellary district of Madras State was divided on linguistic basis. Areas with significant Kannada speaking population were transferred to Mysore state, which would later become Karnataka state. Areas of the district with significant Telugu speaking population were merged into Anantapuram and Karnulu districts in what would later become Andhra Pradesh state. Bellary city itself, with both Kannada and Telugu speaking populace in large numbers, was included into Mysore state after a protracted debate and controversy. The Bellary City Municipal Council was upgraded to a City Corporation in 2004. Bellary Population as of 2011 census was 4,09,000.

Bellary is located at 15.15°N 76.93°E. It has an average elevation of 445 metres (1459 ft). The city stands in the midst of a wide, level plain of black cotton soil. Bellary has a semi arid climate. As the city lies in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats, it receives little rain from the southwest monsoon. Temperatures remain high...
throughout the year, but the months from March to June are especially hot, with high temperatures reaching 45 °C (110 °F) frequently. The months from November to February are relatively mild, with average temperatures of around 22 °C (71 °F). The city receives about 24 inches (610 mm) of rain every year mainly in the months from August to October. Granite rocks and hills form a prominent feature of Bellary, and granite quarrying is big business. The city is spread mainly around two huge rocky granite hills, the Ballari Gudda and Kumbara Gudda (Gudda – hill in Kannada). These two hills are dominant features of the city, and are visible from every part of the city. Ballari Gudda has a circumference of nearly 2 miles (3.2 km) and a height of 480 feet (150 m). The length of this rock from north-east to south-west is about 1,150 ft (350 m). To the east and south lies an irregular heap of boulders, but to the West is an unbroken monolith, and the north is walled by bare rugged ridges, when viewed from the south-east looks like the profile of a human face and is also known as Face Hill (The Imperial Gazetteer of India). Apart from these two hills, there are a number of other smaller granite hills within the city, the prominent among them being: Kaate Gudda opposite the Municipal Junior College, which also houses a water tank & pumping station. This is also nicknamed Kaage Gudda, for its teeming flocks of Crows (kaage means crow). Eeshwara Gudda, behind the Anaadi Lingeshwara Temple in Parvati Nagar-Shastri Nagar area. This has now been quarried extensively and almost flattened with all loose boulders.
removed, making way for residential occupation. The one housing a water tank, adjacent to the Bellary Central Jail. Adjacent to St. John’s High School in the Fort Area. It is also very common to find small boulders and rocks at numerous places within the city.

The Demographics study shows in 1871, the population of Bellary was 51,766, in 1881-53,460, in 1891-59,467 and in 1901-58,247, the decline attributed to reduction of troops. In 1901-60% of the city population was Hindu, 32% of it was Muslim, and Christians numbered about 4,000. As of 2001 India census, Bellary had a population of 3,17,000 Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%, Bellary has an average literacy rate of 75%, higher than the national average of 59.5%; with 82% of the males and 77% of females literate, 12% of the population is under 6 years of age. Most graduate education in Bellary falls under the jurisdiction of Gulbarga University and Visvesvaraya Technological University. The following is an abridged list of educational institutions of historical importance in the city: Vijayanagara Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS). The biggest chunk of medical facilities are owned and maintained by the government, under the jurisdiction of VIMS. The most prominent hospitals in the city are Government Medical College Hospital/Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS): This Academic Institute with an adjoining Medical College Hospital was commissioned
in 1966, and currently has 680 beds. It is locally known as OPD, referring to the Out Patient Department of the hospital located in Cantonment. Women and Children’s Hospital or the District Hospital founded in 1842 as Sabhapathy Mudaliar Hospital, with 40 beds. Rai Bahadur A. Sabhapathy Mudaliar donated the building for the hospital. Now popularly known as Ghosha hospital. Situated in the heart of city, it is spread over an area of 15 acres (61,000 m2) and has 210 beds, for Paediatrics, Gynecology and Post Mortem cases. A 20 bedded Infosys ward has been added recently for the treatment of Japanese Encephalitis cases. This hospital is soon to be shifted to the VIMS campus. Government Wellesley Tuberculosis & Chest Diseases Hospital locally known as just TB Sanitarium/Sanatorium, it was started in 1929 during British rule and is spread over a spacious area of 20 acres (81,000 m2) in the Cantonment area. The Urban Health Center was constructed in 1999, located in the heart of the City and has a daily capacity intake of about 120–140 outpatients. The numerous private and charitable hospitals in the city far outnumber the government facilities, though not in facilities provided. Historically private facilities were of limited sophistication; however, this trend has been slowly changing, with private entrepreneurs investing much into acquiring more sophisticated infrastructure and expertise. The city also boasts of a few good private diagnostic laboratories.
The city is surrounded by numerous iron and steel plants, owing to the availability of huge deposits of Iron and Manganese ore in the Sanduru hill ranges and surroundings. They are Bellary Steels and Alloys Limited (BSAL), Navakarnataka Steels and Shatavahana Ispat are on the outskirts of the city, JSW Steel Ltd is a unit of Jindal Steels located at Toranagallu in Sandur taluk, The Arcelor Mittal group and Brahmani Industries Karnataka Ltd, Bhushan Steel and so on. Some of the Textiles and garments are like Sarees: The growth of the famed cotton and silk Ilkal saree is attributed to the patronage provided by the local chieftains in and around the town of Bellary. Additionally, the nearby town of Rayadurgam, formerly in Bellary district, but now in Andhra Pradesh, is also renowned for its silk and cotton sarees. Similarly Molakalmuru, a town in Chitradurga district but much closer to Bellary than its district headquarters, is known for for its silk sarees branded by the town's name. However, Bellary itself has no saree manufacturing industry and Cotton processing with cotton being one of the major agricultural crops around Bellary, historically the city has had a thriving cotton processing industry in the form of ginning, spinning and weaving plants. The earliest steam cotton-spinning mill was established in 1894 AD, which by 1901 AD had 17,800 spindles, and employed 520 hands. The city continues to thrive in this sector with one spinning mill and numerous cotton ginning and
pressing mills, hand looms and power looms. In Garment manufacture Bellary has a historic garment industry dating back to the First World War period, when the Marathi speaking “Darji” (tailor) community with its native skills in tailoring migrated from the current Maharashtra region to stitch uniforms for the soldiers of the colonial British Indian Army stationed at Bellary. After the war, the community switched to making uniforms for school children and gradually, the uniforms made here became popular all over the country. Currently, Bellary is well known for its branded and unbranded denim garments, with brands like Point Blank, Walker, Dragonfly and Podium being successfully marketed nationally and internationally. There are about 260 denim garment units in Bellary with nearly 3000 families working in these units. The Karnataka State Government has proposed to build an apparel park at Bellary at the cost of ₹27 crore (US$5.94 million), setting aside 154 acres (0.62 km²) of land for the purpose at Mundargi and Guggarahalli villages on the south of Bellary city. Some Rice mills are also seen. The 500 MW Bellary Thermal Power Station (BTPS) is located 19 km away from city at the Kuditini village. This is the second Thermal plant in Karnataka after the Raichur Thermal Power Station.
**Map 1:** Political map showing place of Bellary district where study is conducted.

Figure 1 Map shows the place where the study was done.