Chapter III

UTTAR KANNADA DISTRICT - A PROFILE
CHAPTER III
UTTAR KANNADA DISTRICT
- A PROFILE

ORIGIN OF UTTAR KANNADA DISTRICT:

Uttar-Kannada is one of the biggest coastal districts of Karnataka State. The term "Canara" is said to have been used initially by the Portuguese and the Dutch people. Historians are of the view that, a Dutch visitor by name Von Linschoten called the people of this area “Canarians”1 (1583). The Portuguese called the territory as “Canara” which may have been derived from Charnataka or Karnataka referred to, by the Portuguese historian Faria Y. Souza. It is also said that, during 1619, when the Britishers established a factory at Bhatkal, the then first Governor of this region Sir. Thomas Manroue called this area “Canara”2. Further, when the Britishers acquired this territory from Tippu in 1799, they divided it into two separate districts: Northern Part was called north Kanara and Southern region as South Canara.

The government of Karnataka removed English nomenclature and named the district as Uttar Kannada from 31.01.1977.

Earlier during 19th Century, north Kanara was under Madras Presidency and then subsequently came under Bombay Presidency.

1 Karnataka Gazetteer Uttar Kannada District , Govt. of Karnataka Publications, 1985,p.1.
After independence, consequent upon, states re-organisation the district was merged into Karnataka and it was then, popularly known as Karwar district.

**Location:** The district is located in the mid-western part of the state. It lies between 13°.551 and 15°.311 north latitude and 74°.91 and 75°.101 east longitudes.

The total geographical area of Uttar Kannada district is 10,291 sq. kms. Which is about 5.37% of the total area of the state and area wise the district is ranked fifth in the state. It is bounded by Belgaum district and the territory of Goa state on the north, Udupi and Shimoga district on the South, Haveri and Dharwad on the east and Arabian Sea and Goa on the west.

**Topography:** It extends to about 328 kms from north to South and about 160 kms from east to west. The district is hilly and most of its part is covered by thick forest. Somewhat broken and irregular Sahyadri range of central hills divide the district into two parts; a) the uplands or the regions above the ghat with an area of about 7898 sq kms comprising 77% of the total area of the district which is 600-700 meters above the sea level, and b) the low lands covering around 3370 sq. kms.

---

3 District economical and social survey, 2003-04, District Statistical Officer, U. K. 68
Uttar Kannada district has three main distinctive regions: (a) the coastal region (b) Malnad region (Western Ghat) (c) Semi-Malnad region.

The district is blessed with charming sea coast, with picturesque rocky islands, palm fringed sand beaches, majesty of the mountains and rumbling of rivers. It has a coastal line of 144 kms extending from majali on the north to Gorte in Bhatkal taluk on the south. The National Highway No. 17 and Konkan railway line passes along the coastal area.

The coastal region: The coastal area is well-developed and densely populated. It serves as a link between Goa, Mumbai and Mangalore. This region provides wide scope for economic development through trade, commerce and industry. Socio-economic status of the people of this area is influenced by the state of Goa and Maharashtra. It is in this region, the taluks of Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar and Bhatkal are situated.

The coastal belt begins in the north from the village called Majali that lies on Goa border and continues in the south up to Dakshina-Kannada boundary. A little to its north lies the ancient fort of Sadasivagad and its main counter part, Chittakula.

Before the construction of Kali River Bridge, ferry crossing was in vogue between Sadasivagad and Kodibag en-route Karwar. Small sailing crafts, launches and barges were used extensively for transporting goods and passengers.
Karwar city extends to Baithkol towards South, covering a distance of one km. Karwar port is situated at Baithkol just beside the National Highway No. 17 connecting Karwar to Hubli. 30 kms to the south of Karwar lies, Ankola taluk situated on Gangavati river basin with a geographical area of 919 sq km. Gokarn a religious centre and Sanikata a small village of economic importance, producing sea salt are situated along the coastline.

Kumta, a fast developing town is located to the south about 36 kms from Ankola, with the geographical area of 582 sq kms. Haldipur a big village lies between Kumta and Honnavar.

Honnavar taluk has a great economic importance. It extends to an area of 755 sq kms. Further, to the south famous tourist centre Murdeshwar is situated at a distance of 25 kms. from Honnavar and Bhatkal taluk is situated at the southern end of the district. Total geographical area of Bhatkal taluk is 349 sq. kms. Though, agriculture is said to be main occupation of the people of coastal area land available for agricultural operations is less, as major part of the coastal belt is covered by forest. Moreover, the size of the land holdings of individual farmer is small, when compared to the size of land holdings in other districts. Coastal region is endowed with rich marine resources. Fishing and fisheries related industries also provide job opportunities to the coastal people.
The Malnad region (Western Ghat): The Malnad region consists of four taluks namely Joida, Yellapur, Sirsi and Siddapur. This region is mostly forested forming the valleys and the roads passing through the ghats have resulted in some kind of activities of economic significance. The western boundary of the region is represented by the edges of ghat, while eastern boundary roughly coincides with the limits of forested area, as well as agricultural land. It is the central belt of the district that consists of hills, valleys and eastern table land. About 75% of the area of the district consists of hills and valleys. Sirsi is a big commercial centre of the district and the taluk extends over to 1320 Sq. kms. Siddapur and Yellapur taluks have geographical area of 859 sq. kms. and 1301 sq. kms. respectively.

Topography of Sahyadri region is so typical, that, western Sahyadris have given birth to many waterfalls of which Jog falls is prominent that has already been harnessed for electricity. Lushington, Magod, Burde-jog, lalguli are other waterfalls which can be harnessed for power.

Semi-Malnad region: To the east of the Malnad is the semi-malnad of undulating plateau, where rainfall is moderate. The eastern belt consists of a narrow transitional zone of undulating lands and vast stretches of plains as one moves further eastwards. This is a transitional tract between the “Malnad” and the “maidan”. Mundgod and Haliyal taluks fall in the up-ghat section. Geographical area of Mungod taluk is 668 sq. kms. and Haliyal 847 sq. kms.
Climate and Rainfall: The climatic conditions of the different parts of the district vary greatly. Normally humid, hot along the coast, cool in the ghat region and warm in the eastern ghat region. Average rainfall in the district is 2835 mm.

The coastal region receives annual rainfall varying between 2540 mm - 3556 mm in the southern part and between 1016 mm to 1524 mm in the northern transitional belt. The temperature of the district varies between 15°C in the winter to 34°C in the summer. Average climate is 33° Centigrade during the summer and 20°C during the winter at the sea level.

Administrative divisions: From the administrative point of view, Uttar Kannada district has been divided into four sub-divisions viz. Karwar, Sub-division comprising Karwar, Haliyal and Joida taluks. Kumta Sub-division comprising Sirsi, Siddapur, Yellapur and Mundgod taluks and Bhatkal Sub-division comprising Bhatkal and Honnavar taluks. Uttar Kannada district comprises of 11 taluks namely Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar, Bhatkal, Sirsi, Siddapur, Yellapur, Haliyal, Joida and Mundgod.

Rivers: There are four prominent rivers flowing in the district from the high range of mountains to the Arabian Sea, they are as follows:

a. Kali River: originates near the village called Diggi in the earlier Supa taluk that has been shifted to a newly formed Joida taluk, consequent upon the sub merger of the taluk. It has a total length of
184 kms. After taking South-east course of about 64 kms it takes sharp turn to the south-west and after a course of about 66 kms till Kadra, a small village where a Power generation unit is commissioned by KPC Ltd., it flows towards east-west and falls into Arabian Sea at about 3 kms north of Karwar. Konkan railway-bridge is constructed over the river at this point.

b. **Aghanasini River**: also called Tadri river rises at Manjaguni near Sirsi and after winding westerly course of about 70 kms falls into the sea about 10 kms south of the river. This river passes through Kumta taluk.

c. **Gangavali River**: is formed by the confluence of two streams namely, Shalmala and Bedti originating in Dharwad district flows through eight kms South-east to the border of Uttar Kannada at Magod, covering a length of 96 kms.

d. **Sharavati River**: also called Gersoppa River has its origin at Ambutirtha in Tirthalli taluk of Shimoga district. After a northerly course of about 64 kms from Nagar, it forms the south-east boundary of Uttar Kannada for about 13 kms and then passes about 32 kms west to join the sea at Honnavar. Sharavati River which forms the famous jog falls, flows through Honnavar.
The other important rivers of the district are Venkatapur and Varda. Except Varda River which flows east wards, all other rivers flow from east to west, cutting the Western Ghats into deep valleys, thus rendering themselves unsuitable for irrigation, but at the same time, fit for generating hydro-electric power.

**Natural resources:** Uttar Kannada district is endowed with abundant natural resources that sustain the economic development of the district. Natural resources include:

a. **Forest resources:** The district is rich in forest resources. Forest resources constitutes one of the sources of revenue to the state government. 80% of the district is under forest. The total forest area is 8,14,455 hectares\(^4\). The types of forests found in the district consists of 1) evergreen (2) semi-evergreen (3) moist deciduous (4) scrub and thorny and (5) un wooded forests. The general species in moist deciduous are Teak, Sissum (Rosewood), Nandi, Kindal, Jamba, Matti, Holedasal, Toon and Burga. The teak of Dandeli area is said to be the finest in the world. Medicinal plants are available in the vast thick forest\(^5\).

Apart from timber, extractions are also made on an annual average of 115 tonnes shikakai, 80 tonnes soap nut, 26 tonnes honey, 150 tonnes

\(^4\) District economical and social survey, 2003-04, District Statistical Officer, U. K.
cocom, 6000 tonnes of cashew and about 2,00,000 canes 4,00,000 bamboos.

b. **Minerals and ores**: Uttar Kannada district is blessed with very rich mineral deposits such as Iron ore, Manganese Ore, Lime shell, stone quartz, bauxite, silica sand and clay. The district has tremendous deposits of iron ore and manganese ore and it is second only to Bellary district in the state in the production of these minerals.

Iron-ore deposits are found in different places of Honnavar, Ankola and Yellapur taluks. Geologists surveys conducted by concerned departments have disclosed a reserve of 95.26 million tonnes of float and reef ore (about 65% fe) Iron ore deposits are located in Sarkanda (Honavar taluk), Bisgod area (Yellapur taluk), kalche (Yellapur taluk), Kumta taluk, Kodalgadde (Yellapur taluk) Kuntgani area (Ankola taluk), and Bhatkal.

Manganese is one of the major minerals of the district. In the dense forest of Dandeli, Virnoli and Kulgi manganese ore deposits are located. The structural quality of the various deposits is rather difficult to ascertain in the dense forest region.

---

6 Industrial Development Plan, (2001-05), DIC, Karwar, pp.70-72.
Manganese bearing zone has been divided into three regions, which are as under:

- Joida region about 440 sq. kms in area
- Yellapur region about 50 sq. kms in area
- Sirsi, Kumta and Ankola region about 30 sq. kms in area

Total areas 520 sq. kms

The total reserves may amount to 10 million tonnes of ore ranging in its manganese contents from 30-52 percent manganese.

**Bauxite:** bauxite containing more than 50% alumina and low percentage of silica and titanium is found to occur in reddish brown laterite covering an area of about 5.18 sq kms at Mundolte and Talgod villages near Bhatkal. Small deposits are also found in Honnavar, Tadri, Gokarn and Idgunji areas.

**Chinaclay:** Deposits of China clay are also found in the places like castle rock and kungini of Joida taluka. Venkatapur of Bhatkal taluk, hadinbal of Honnavar taluk and also in Kumta.

**Lime Stone:** The lime stone containing 49.54% with silica is reported to be found in Joida, Yellapur and Kumta taluks. The area is expected to
yield about 130 million tonnes of ore. Lime-stone containing high calcium percentage is found in Yellapur taluk\

**Copper:** Copper is reported to be found in Kaiga in limited quantity.

**Glass sand:** Medium white Silica sand is available in the maiki lands below 2 feet of the surface sandy soil at about one furlong east of the sea-shore near Bengre and close to the sea at Karikallu in Bhatkal taluk.

**Building stones:** Granite gneisses and laterites are the main building stones of the district. They are quarried at some places in the granite regions and are being used as building stones.

**Black granite:** Black granite of coastal area of the district have made a name in Germany for their standard quality.

**Fisheries resources:** The fish production plays an important role in the district economy. It has a coastal line of 144 kms beginning in the north from the village on the border of Goa state extending over to South till gorte village in Bhatkal taluk endowed with rich marine resources. The district has 14 minor ports, with 6 fishing harbours and 16 main fishing centres. Mackerels, sardines, prawns and other types of fishes are available in plenty. 33 fisheries co-operative societies are operating in Uttar Kannada district. The annual average fish caught in the district is

---

7 Industrial Development Plan, 2001-05, DIC, Karwar. P.10.
28000 MT. "Since 1982, an integrated fisheries development project is in
operation at Tadri in collaboration with PANIDA. Prakash Water Fish
farmer’s Development Agency with Central Government assistance has
been established at Karwar in 1987 in order to upgrade technology for
prawn and fish farming."6

**Agricultural resources:** Though nearly 80% of the total area is under
forest (814455 hectares) agricultural sector still continues to occupy a
place of importance in the economy of Uttar Kannada district. Paddy is the
main crop of the district spreading over 80,504 hectares9. The other
important crops grown in the district include sugarcane, ground-nut,
cotton. Paddy is grown in coastal area, whereas sugar-cane, cotton,
ground nut, ragi, jowar and pulses are grown in Haliyal, Sirsi and
Mundgod taluk apart from paddy. Approximate average annual production
of paddy is 1,82,000 tonnes.

**Horticultural produce:** The main cash crops of the coastal belt include
coconut, areca-nut, cashew, betel, bananas, pineapple, sapota and
vegetables. In Malnad region, apart from coconut and areca-nut, pepper,
cardamom and other cash crops are grown.

In semi-malnad area, fruit crops like mango, sapota, guava,
banana, pineapples and all varieties of vegetables are grown.

---
6 Hand book of Karnataka, Karnataka State Gazetteer Dept., Publications, 2005,
p.131.
The average annual production of areca-nut is about 23,400 tonnes, pine-apple 65,000 tonnes and papaya 12,000 tonnes.\textsuperscript{10}

\textbf{Apiculture:} Environmental conditions of Uttar Kannada district are more suitable for the promotion of apiculture. Madhuvan in Siddapur taluk is an apiary centre in the district. There are about 1,633 bee-keepers. Production of honey is between 10,000 to 14,000 Kgs.\textsuperscript{11}

Ankola bee-keepers co-operative Society, Sirsi Bee-Keepers Co-operative society, Honnavar Bee-keepers co-operative society and Lamp society, Bhatkal are engaged in the collection of honey and supply of bee-boxes.

\textbf{Godown facilities:} Adequate godown facilities are being made available by APMC's. There are 69 godowns in Sirsi. APMC of which four godowns of 200 MT capacity are said to be vacant. APMC Kumta has four godowns at Kumta and one at Katgal. TAPCMS of Kumta, Honnavar, Sirsi, Siddapur, Yellapur, Mundgod, Haliyal, Joida, Ankola and Bhatkal are having 59 godowns in rural areas which are mainly used for storage of fertilisers and areca-nuts.

\textbf{Agriculture:} Though net land available for cultivation is 1,49,539 hectares, agriculture is said to be the main occupation of the people of

\textsuperscript{10} Industrial Development Plan, 2001-05, DIC, Karwar, p.7.
\textsuperscript{11} Ibid, p.8.
Uttar Kannada district. The net area irrigated is 21,039 hectares. The area brought under cultivation of cereals and pulses (including production) during the year 2003-04 is as follows:

**TABLE - 3.1**
Average annual cereal production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereals</th>
<th>Area in (Hectares)</th>
<th>Production (in tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>80,504</td>
<td>20,12,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ragi</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jowar</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bazra</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>16,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>8,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td>3,404</td>
<td>61,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil seeds</td>
<td>3,459</td>
<td>61,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>5,942</td>
<td>8,12,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>6,23,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>5,175</td>
<td>2,52,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>10,632</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Human Resources:** As per 2001 census the population of Uttar Kannada district is 13,53,644 comprising 6,86,876 male and 6,66,768 female. Sex ratio being 97% of the total population, 9,65,731 people are living in rural
areas and 3,87,913 people are living in urban areas. The percentage of literate persons is 76.6%. Male literacy is 84.5% and female literacy is 68.5%. of the 24.7% of cultivators, male cultivators constitute 23.8% and female 26.5%. The percentage of workers in household industry is 2.2% of which 2.3% is male and 2.1% is female. The total number of persons engaged in household industry is 13,048 of which 9126 are male and 3922 are female. Of the total number of cultivators of 1,43,367; 94254 are male and 49113 are female. Taluk wise population details are given below:

### TABLE - 3.2
Details of taluk-wise population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Area (sq km)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Density (per sq.km)</th>
<th>Literacy rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankola</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>51398</td>
<td>50151</td>
<td>101549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhatkal</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>73740</td>
<td>75598</td>
<td>149338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haliyal</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>81144</td>
<td>77997</td>
<td>159141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honnavar</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>80018</td>
<td>80313</td>
<td>160331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karwar</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>75160</td>
<td>72730</td>
<td>147890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumta</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>73834</td>
<td>71992</td>
<td>145826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundgod</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>48973</td>
<td>41765</td>
<td>90738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siddapur</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>51107</td>
<td>49763</td>
<td>100870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sirsi</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>89286</td>
<td>86264</td>
<td>175550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supa(Joida)</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>24590</td>
<td>24324</td>
<td>48914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellapur</td>
<td>1301</td>
<td>37626</td>
<td>35871</td>
<td>73497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>686876</td>
<td>666768</td>
<td>1353644</td>
<td>132.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Infrastructure**: Uttar Kannada district has excellent infrastructure conducive to the growth of industries. The total road length in the district
is 9691 kms, out of which 344 kms is national highways connecting commercial cities like Hubli, Bangalore and Mangalore and 665 kms state highways. All villages in each taluk have been connected by tar roads. This has facilitated movement of passengers and goods from interior part of the villages. Nearest commercial centre is Hubli. Before the commencement of Konkan Railways, Uttar Kannada district had 46.40 kms railway line connecting Dandeli to Alnavar, which was meant to transport only forest produce during First World War. But now Konkan railway line passes parallel to the coast covering a distance of 128 kms. Konkan railways has provided tremendous potential for the growth of trade and industry in the region. The total length of rail line is 174.40 kms in the entire district.

Length of the major district roads being 1214 kms, other district roads are of 28 kms, village road 1903 kms, TDB roads 1310 kms, forest roads 582 kms, municipal roads 492 kms, village panchayat roads 3107 kms, and pucca roads 2302 kms long.12

**Ports:** Among the several ports of Uttar Kannada district, Karwar port in particular has historical significance. The spices and other commodities like areca-nut, coconuts were transported from Karwar to Egypt and other African countries. The name Baithkol, where the present harbour is located is said to have been given by Arabs what they called then Bait-el-kol means bay of safety. Bhatkal was very important port during

---

Vijayanagar empire. There are 14 minor and small ports of which Karwar, Belekeri, Honnavar and Bhatkal are prominent.

**Karwar Port:** It is situated in the southern end of Karwar, bay of Karwar head about 100 km south of Murmgoa and 272 kms north of Mangalore, to the mouth of Kali river. Karwar port is said to be one of the finest natural ports of the world, because there are several rocks and islands which give safety to the vessels, while moving towards harbour against north-west-winds. Karwar port is well protected by two island ports, Devgad and Anjadiv, river port at Sadasivgad and creek port at Kadwad. During 2003-04, it handled 3,25,845 tonnes of imports and 6,26,352 tonnes of exports. During the first two years of tenth five-year plan, a sum of Rs. 781.11 lakhs have been spent for the development of Karwar port.

**Belekeri Port:** It is small port used for loading and unloading of goods located at a distance of 27 kms to the south of Karwar. During 2003-04, it handled 96,900 tonnes of exports.

**Tadri Port:** The port of tadri is located at the mouth of Aghanasini about 54 km to the north of Honnavar. The port is connected by road to Gokaran, Kumta, Ankola and Sirsi. During 2003-04 it handled 815 tonnes of export.
**Gangavali port:** It is situated at the mouth of Gangavali river, which is 60 kms north of Honnavar. It has been bracketed with Tadri port.

**Ankola Port:** This port is situated at the south of Ankola creek about 35 kms South of Karwar port. It has been bracketed with the Belekeri port for development.

**Kumta port:** This port is situated in the below ghat area of the district in Kumta taluk. The river Aghanasini flows from east to west via Manki and Mirjan and joins the sea at Tadri port. It was one of the important ports in the past from where betel nuts, onions and forest produce were exported.

**Honnavar Port:** It is located at the mouth of Sharavati and was a flourishing port during ancient period and Portuguese had set up a factory nearly during the 16th Century. It is the second important port of Uttar Kannada district after Karwar.

**Bhatkal Port:** This is the last port from north to south in Uttar Kannada district. This is situated to the mouth of Sharavati river, 38 kms to the south of Honnavar. This port was an important trading centre for foreign trade and was considered as gateway of the Vijayanagar Empire towards the west. At present, commercial traffic through this port is negligible.
**Power:** Role of Uttar Kannada district in hydel power generation is significant. The important hydro-electric power projects are Supa dam, Kadra dam, Kodasalli, Gerasoppa dam and Kaiga nuclear power project.

There was one power generation station installed in the year 1954 at Karwar that was generating 67340 units of electric power being supplied to the entire Karwar town within municipal limit and also Kodibag. Initially, electric power was made available from Sharavati Hydro-electric power project to Dandeli in 1955 for The West Coast Paper Mills Ltd., Dandeli.

Uttar Kannada district is blessed with good hydro-power potentials. In fact, the survey was conducted to build a dam at Kali river basin as far back as 1950 by Bombay government, before states reorganisation. But when the Karnataka Power Corporation was set up in 1970, the Kali hydro–electric project was cleared for execution in 1971. The details of electric power generated by different units under Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. Power are as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power Station</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kadra</td>
<td>150 MWT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supa</td>
<td>100 MWT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kodasalli</td>
<td>120 MWT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagzari</td>
<td>810 MWT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiga (Atomic)</td>
<td>235 MWT X 2 NPCL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides, hydel power projects atomic power project is also implemented in Uttar Kannada district by NPCL at Kaiga in Karwar Taluk.

**Banking:** Finance is life blood of business. Success of trade and industry is dependent upon the availability of adequate funds. Before the advent of modern commercial banking activities in the district, financial requirements were met by local urban co-operative banks, which started functioning from the year 1912-13, and during the same period, one of the branches of Bombay based Shamarao Vittal Co-operative was opened at Karwar. Syndicate bank opened its branch at Kumta in the year 1931, followed by second branch at Karwar in the year 1932, Honnavar in 1933 followed by Sirsi and Ankola in 1934, Bhatkal in 1936. The Imperial Bank of India (later on called State Bank of India) started its branch at Karwar in the year 1955.¹³

At present, there are 139 Commercial bank branches, 92 rural bank branches, 12 Urban co-operative banks, 47 KDCC banks, 11 Primary Land Development Banks and 5 industrial banks in the district. Credit/deposit rates being 45%.¹⁴

**Education:** Historical scriptures available clearly state that Uttar Kannada district had sound educational edifice during the period of Kadambas, who

---

¹³ Karnataka Gazetteer Uttar Kannada District P-1, Govt. of Karnataka Publications, 1985, p.431.


86
founded agraharas at Banavas, Haigunda, Sirali, Sonda, Bilgi which were further expanded by Badami Chalukyas.

During British rule, education was accepted as the states responsibility, and as many as eleven government schools were started in the year 1866 at Haliyal, Sirsi and Kumta. A high school was started at Karwar in 1864 being the only one high school in the entire district. Many private high schools were started before 1900. Marikamba high school, Sirsi (1884), Hindu high school, Karwar (1897).

At present there are 1202 pre-primary schools, 2249 primary schools, 254 high schools, 2 Teachers Training College, 3 physical education college, 1 law college, 6 ITI institutes and 180 libraries (Public), 61 Pre-University Colleges, 2 Engineering Colleges, 21 Degree Colleges and 1 Ayurvedic Medical College in the district. Specialised applied courses such as Pulp and Paper Science at Dandeli, Forest institute at Sirsi and Marine Technology at Karwar have also been started.

Kanara Welfare Trust founded by late Sri Dinkar Desai has been rendering yeoman services in the field of education in the district.15

---

15 Karnataka Gazetteer Uttar Kannada District P-1, Govt. of Karnataka Publications, 1985, p.745.
Prestigious Projects of Uttar Kannada District:

KPCL hydel Power Projects: The Kalinadi Hydro Electric project is one of the major ventures taken up by the government of Karnataka by forming Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) in 1970, for harnessing the water resources of Uttar Kannada district for generating hydel power.

Kali River is a west flowing river originating in the high peak at a place called Diggi in Western Ghats at an elevation of about 915 meters. Thinner river runs 161 kms length through the valley and joins Arabian Sea at Karwar. During its course from Diggi to Karwar, 5 tributaries namely Pandri, Kaveri, Barchi, Tatthali and Vaki join Kali river. The estimated power potential of the river is about 1700 MW with an annual yield of 6500 MW. 1210 MW has been harnessed in two stages as yet.

The Supa dam power house has an installed capacity of 2x50 MW. The upper Kaveri Dam, Bommanahalli pick-up dam, the Tattihalli Dam and the Nagazari Power house which are part of the Stage-I project contribute totally (3x 135 MW and 3x 150 MW) 855 MW electricity.

In stage-II, construction of Kadasalli dam was taken up in the year 1989 in Yellapur taluk, followed by Kadra dam, the Kadra Power House

---

17 The Dream Destination tourist guide of Uttar Kannada district p.6.
(3x50 MW) and Kodasalli Power House (3x40 MW) together generate 270 MW Power.

**Project Sea Bird:** Contribution of Uttar Kannada district in the national defence is noteworthy. Karwar, Naval base, code named as Project Sea bird is an essential part of the integrated development of the Indian Navy.

Karwar was selected after careful and prolonged examination of many other places on the West coast of India over a period of more than 5 years. Karwar proved to be an appropriate choice because of tactical reasons, availability of deep water near to the shores and sufficient hinterland parallel to the coast line.

The first phase work of the project consists of joining Anjadeep, a small island located at a distance of 1.8 kms to the main land and 2.2 kms backwater from Arga Island to move into the harbour and also with facility to carry the ships to the repair yard. There will also be naval airport near Algeri-Ankola. Under Sea-bird project, 80472-39-04\(^{18}\) acres in 13 villages of Karwar and Ankola taluks of Uttar Kannada district are to be acquired.

The project is of national importance and is expected to provide further impetus to the economic development of Uttar Kannada district.

**NPCL Kaiga Project:** Uttar Kannada district is not only the home of hydel power project, but also nuclear power projects. After careful and

\(^{18}\) Sea Bird Project Report, Pg. 5 of 40.
intensive survey through-out the country for the location of atomic Power
centre. NPCL (Nuclear Power Corporation Ltd.) selected Kaiga in Karwar
taluk, as an ideal place for setting up their proposed atomic power centre
in 1995-96.

Nuclear Power Projects are playing key role in overcoming the
power crisis, in view of rising cost of fuel and uncertainty of adequate
rainfall required thermal and hydel power projects. At present, there are
two units, Kaiga I and II having re-rated capacity of 220 MWC each, went
into commercial operation in the year 2000, and Kaiga III and IV were
taken up for construction in the year 2001. Indigenously designed
nuclear power technology is expected to augment the power supply to the
southern grid.

NPCL Kaiga project being a big project involving an estimated
investment cost of Rs. 4213 Crores has contributed significantly to the
development of Uttar Kannada district. The project has brought remote
villages namely Kaiga, Mallapur and Kadra to the mainstream by
connecting them with taluk and district headquarters.

Uttar Kannada district is, thus, gifted with abundant natural
resources, providing ample scope for industrialisation. Mineral, marine,
forest and water resources, known to be scarce resources of production
elsewhere, are abundantly found in this district. The geographical location

of the district attracted the attention of the Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, which preferred to set up Naval base at Karwar, known as "Project Sea Bird". The name of this district figured in the national map of India with the commissioning of Nuclear Power Plant at Kaiga.