CHAPTER - TWO

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This chapter on profile of North Karnataka is primarily written with an intention to familiarise the area of research in focus. An attempt is also made here to understand the possible historical reasons that might have contributed to the regional imbalance in this region. Therefore, as a student of political science with secondary sources on hand, the profile of Karnataka in general is drawn here. It is also attempted here to present the special features that may have contributed to identify certain distinctions between southern and northern Karnataka popularly known as Bombay Karnataka region.

Although the State of Karnataka is considered to be one whole unit of administration since the days of Reorganisation of States (in the year 1956). There are certain inherent problems that have been cropping up, pushing the notion of a unified Karnataka to the mark of suspicion. However, for the purposes of administration, Karnataka has been divided into two parts namely, southern Karnataka and northern Karnataka1. The following are the districts that are covered under the south
Karnataka: Mysore, Bangalore, Bangalore (R), Kolar, Kodagu, Chamarajnagar, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Hassan, Mandya, Shimoga, and northern Karnataka consists of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, Karwar, Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Bellary, Hospet, Gadag, Haveri, Koppal, and Bagalkot. However, it is pertinent to mention here that both these regions do not have similar historical experience either in the pre-imperialist period or in the imperialist period, which perpetuated the different kind of culture in the later years leading to what may be called as a psychological [as one may clearly identify these two regions have very little in common between the two. Right from language (dialect) to their customs, there is a separate identify. Although, in recent years, it is noticed that each of these parts reacted differently to a problem common to them, they also sympathised each other in matters such as river water issue, the southerners have a completely different notion about North Kannadigas and vis-a-vis. Hence, the psychological barrier noticed, is recorded here] division between North Karnataka and South Karnataka region. Therefore, in order to facilitate a better understanding of the subject in focus, with a better insight, we have chosen to touch upon these day-to-day issues. The following districts under Bombay Province as representative samples of North Karnataka
are chosen for this purpose and would be dealing with its history keeping this thrust area intact.

History of Karnataka and North Karnataka in Particular:

Geographically, Karnataka is situated on the western part of the Deccan plateau, surrounded by Maharashtra on the north, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the east, Kerala on the south, Goa on the northwest and opening itself to the Arabian Sea on its western side. Thus, covering a variety of geographical regions under it, with a coastal belt, a forest belt (popularly known as Ghats), a Malnad region (having heavy rainfall and rich in natural resources). The Ghats are also an important part of topography of Karnataka and link a large number of important places especially in the northern region of Karnataka up to Pune. Unlike the Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats have an average rainfall. Paddy and jowar are the principal crops in this area having an established market up to the state of Goa in the east. The southern plateau extending down the south, towards the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in fact has a diversified topography with ragi, paddy and coconut as important crops. Being rich in flora and fauna, the natural heritage in Karnataka is justifiably distributed. The rich ore deposits and geographic features have thus determined the history of this State.
Being a Dravidian State, Karnataka today presents itself an admixture of both Aryan and Dravidian culture. Since ancient Indian Vedic period, the present area of Karnataka seems to have had a prominent place in the region attracting the attention of literary giants, political bigwigs and economic crusaders. A brief perusal of the history of Karnataka presented by both Indian and foreign historians thus presents before us a rich heritage, which the State of Karnataka enjoyed from the past. A number of archaeological sources thus help a researcher to build a strong and substantial foundation relating to the history of Karnataka.

The state of Karnataka is referred to back in the period as early as 3rd century B.C., when a number of names helped to identify the present State of Karnataka. The probable origin of traceable history of Karnataka has thus been a long and interesting narration of events that have occupied in the past varied opinions and disagreements among the scholars on these issues of significance from pure historical point of view for mere reading purposes and from the angle of the political history of Karnataka as suggested by many historians, thus leaves this State in a position of 'privileged State'.

The ancient Sanskrit text of 6th century A.D. and 8th century A.D., the writings of Ptolemy (a Greek astronomer) and his
expressions of certain places in Karnataka and the descriptions of
Nrupatunga speaking about the extent of his kingdom from the
river Cauvery to the river Godavari.\(^5\) the similar altercation
found in the broader reference of Mahabharatha, Sabhaparva, the
evidence of Mohenjodaro have all this, strengthened the glorious
history of Karnataka, enshrining in its glittering past. Being the
cradle for many civilizations and the kingdom of many kings, the
cultural heritage of Karnataka seems to have its own uniqueness
unparalleled. It shall not be a surprise to any one if the traces of
Karnataka are found to be rooted in the pre-historic stone age
culture as a number of scholars in this area have already
identified it.\(^6\) The Mauryan are supposed to be the first emperors
of Karnataka. Although there are references made to Nandas as
rulers of southern Karnataka. The historical writings seem to
suggest Mauryans as the first emperors of Karnataka. Edicts of
Ashoka found in places ranging from Raichur to Chitradurga
give an insight into the history of growing kingdom viz.,
Karnataka.\(^7\)

Apart from this, the Jaina literature and the great
inscriptions of king Ashoka further strengthen the view that the
Mauryas were, perhaps, the first kings who established
themselves in Karnataka\(^8\) with the decline of Mauryan empire.
plurality of kingdoms became independent. Shatavahanas thus replaced Mauryans. Historians differ in their opinions in this matter calling Shatavahanas as the natives of Karnataka, contesting this is the opinion that they were from Andhra, which is the border State of Karnataka. Many of the books during the period 235 B.C. to 200 A.D. speak in volumes about their supremacy. Their administration is supposed to be similar to that of Mauryans but it is said to have been better organised. Following the decline of these kingdoms of neighbourhood from a distant territorial area presently recognised as Tamil Nadu, whose kingdom extended covering many parts of Karnataka including Banavasi (which is a very important historical part in the North Karnataka region), only helps us in identifying the varied influence of these kingdoms on Karnataka. References supporting this are also found in the epics, viz., Mahabharata thus confirming their presence and influence of further southern states on this region. Similarly, the 4th century A.D., which saw the advent of Kadambas who had Banavasi as their capital makes it clear that the history of this region had the experience of varied rulers in different times. In some cases it was a capital while in other cases it was only an extended geographical region of a ruler of a further kingdom only makes it too obvious that there was an absence of coherent and continued development in this region.
Further history of Kadambas has references to places like Belgaum in the north and Malavalli (where Prakrit inscriptions were found recently) in the south. These references to their areas of operation and rulership the West Coast to Prihara (Malaprabha river) thus acts as an indicator to the fact that those kingdoms which were active in these regions were also active in the southern part of Karnataka too. Contributions of Kadambas to Karnataka are very rich and references made to it in the history indicate that there were many visitors from abroad during their times. The Chinese traveller Huien-Tsang is said to have visited Banavasi in the 7th century A.D. has made reference about Banavasi in his writing according to historians.

Gangas followed the Kadambas and have made significant contributions to the history of Karnataka, despite differences in opinions among the historians. The fact that is mostly accepted is that of what Lewis Rice said about them. Lewis Rice opined that the Gangas might have been from Karnataka itself, without going into the details of arguments concerning the historical facts. What needs to be stressed at this juncture is that the Gangas had ruled over Karnataka for the longest duration among the rulers of Karnataka. Badami being the 'power' centre of the Chalukyas, in fact, gave a new direction to the political history of Karnataka.
in several areas including the question of decentralisation. Their kingdom extended from north of Cauvery in the south to the end of the (present) northern Karnataka up to Bijapur and also little above this region. But it is important to note here that these kings have only helped in extending the territory of Karnataka to the other parts of the country, rather than working for the betterment of these societies, despite the fact that there were enough natural resources in these regions.

Rashtrakutas were next to follow Chalukyas. By then the politically well established Karnataka, was helpful for the Rashtrakutas to build the State further. Encouragement to language 'Kannada' as one can find in their inscriptions seem to be one of the most important contributions to this region acclaimed even to this day. However, what needs to be noted so far as the study of Regional Disparity pertaining to North Karnataka is concerned is the fact that this dynasty dominated the south India for over two hundreds years rendering their best of the contributions to the progressive states of southern Karnataka. Followed by them were the Chalukyas of Kalyana, which was later taken over by the Hoysalas in the 14th century. Hoysalas were the most important and popular of the kings who ruled over Karnataka. Their domination over the political scenario and
heritage of Karnataka is even today regarded with reverence. From construction of temples to the promotion of cultural heritage by these dynasties especially in the southern region of Karnataka has kept them in the hearts of people there. Almost at the same time as that of the Rashtrakutas, particularly during the time of king Dhruva, who usurped the throne in 780 A.D., southern Karnataka experience new social movements slowly spreading to the North Karnataka region popularly known as the Bhakti movement. Starting from Sri Adi Shankaracharya (788-820 A.D.), Sri Ramanujacharya (1017-1137 A.D.), Sri Basaveshwara (1132-1186 A.D.) (in the North Karnataka region only) and Sri Madhvachara (1238-1317 A.D.) these forerunners of this Bhakti movement made a visible dent on the socio-political and cultural heritage of Karnataka giving a new identity to the deeply divided polity and society. Sri Basaveshwara of 12th century in the history of this movement has left behind a legacy amongst the Kannadigas in the northern parts of Karnataka. He has been held as the symbol of popularising the cult of ‘Veerashaivism’ despite various arguments about him and the cult of Veerashaivism. In fact, it was he who made an attempt to bring horizontal relationships to vertically placed caste/class division in the society as structured by *Manu and His Manusmruti*.16
Sri Madhvacahraya is yet another important figure belonging to this period, who by his philosophy of Dwaita drew large number of followers and initiated a new cult as parallel to Advaita philosophy propagated by Sri Shankaracharya. Although he could not successfully break in the strong fort of Dwaita as accepted in the south, it was because of his journey on the banks of Tungabhadra towards north of the state he was successful in attracting people in northern part of Karnataka too. A number of vital centres of Bhakti movement between the time of Basaveshwara and that of Sri Madhvacharya are found still in the North Karnataka because of this reason. However, it is a fact that these only created a new society divided on the lines of new cults. The beginning of 14th century saw many incursions on this great Indian empire. Vijayanagara being one such strong hold of Hindu kingdom in the southern part of India, located towards the north-east of Karnataka had bitter experiences of these incursions on the Indian empire in the northern part of the country. Reflections of this impact was seen in its day-to-day life. Historically, Vijayanagar was a powerful kingdom in this region intertwining the features of north and south Karnataka. The kingdom founded on the banks of the river Tungabhadra was ruled over by scholarly and farsighted kings who were benevolent. Krishna Devaraya was the ablest of all who ruled in
this dynasty. During his tenure and years that followed, there were number of battles between the Vijayanagar kingdom and the smaller kingdoms that surrounded North Karnataka consisting of various religious minorities. The Battle of Talikoti (1565) is historically a prominent war during this period. But, however, in the mediaeval Karnataka especially in the northern part of Karnataka the growing influence of rulers in Islamic faith thus gained momentum forming what is popularly known as the Sultans of Bahamani covering the areas like Bijapur and Gulbarga till the further end of North Karnataka. The spread of Islamic religion as it was the religion of the Sultanates of Delhi, having its strong foothold in the region no doubt greatly contributed to the mixed and unique socio-political and cultural heritage of the northern Karnataka region. While this had an adverse effect on the development of North Karnataka. The kingdoms of south beyond the fort of Chitradurga remained in tact in the hands of local feudatory, who had their routes in the very societies they ruled. They worked as benevolent kings despite their personal faith thus promoting progressive culture of the southern part of Karnataka. Further, the imposing rulers of Mysore and Srirangapattanam greatly contributed to the awakening of the southern societies by their tireless efforts at far reaching socio-economic and politico cultural mobility. While this was the state
of affairs in the south, North Karnataka continued to face identity crisis with the border region of this state towards Maharashtra exposed to the influence of Marathas. This in particular had a great effect on the North Karnataka at a time when even the kings of Vijayangara were vanquished by the Bahamanis. The expansion of Maratha kingdom on one side and the defeat of Vijayanagara and of the Bahamani kingdom left deeper wounds on the ever fluid society of North Karnataka and its socio-cultural, politico-economic development. In contrast to this, southern Karnataka despite experiencing more number of wars and varied influences of religion experienced little or no disturbance in matters of their socio-cultural and politico-economic development. The embittered feelings on the Kannadigas under the Marathas and Kannadigas of south thus continued reflecting now and then even in matters of border issues in the Karnataka State. Waging wars with Mysore, Hyder Ali and Tipu popularly known as the Tiger till the last, the Anglo-Mysore war brought the Marathas face to face with the southern kings only towards the beginning of the 20th century. The supremacy of these rulers over Karnataka thus had greater influence over the life of North Karnataka. Especially in matters of socio-religious aspects. Language was first to experience this and underwent a thorough restructuring especially in day-to-day
matters creating a new vocabulary and new identity. This in fact weakened the attempts made in 12th century to establish a monolithic society of Veerashaivas in the North Karnataka region leading to a newly constructed religiously Brahminical vertically divided society. These onslaughts on North Karnataka region thus have left the society weak and fragmented. Since then people in this region, it can be said failed to muster courage to fight the various cults and dynastic rule over this region and allowed them to leave deeper imprint on their socio-cultural identity allowing traditional and ritualistic domination of their rulers for reasons of safety leading themselves in the process, as victims of history. While, the southern parts of Karnataka developed fighting bitter battles at political level not allowing the impact of wars on society and its identity. Its impact kept its social priorities in tact to earn the credibility as a progressive princely state, even during the imperialistic period most consistently.

A scrutiny of these historical facts presented here with special reference to North Karnataka, thus depicts a very distinct version of historical experiences, experienced by the northern parts of Karnataka as against the southern parts of Karnataka. With the fall of Vijayanagar empire, Wodeyar dynasty enjoyed its
Lordship over southern parts of Karnataka. Hyder Ali came into picture during the weakened rule of Wodeyar's dynasty. This period could be taken for all practical purposes, as the most consistent period in the history of the southern part of Karnataka. Hyder Ali continuing the benevolent policies of the Wodeyars kept up more or less a continued historical tradition of the southern region. Be it in matters of public policy, culture, productive relations, organised administration or the planned progress, one can find consistency in the rulers and their policies in the southern part of Karnataka. This however was not the case of northern part of Karnataka. From the time of Basaveshwara of 12th century till the Vijayanagara empire and further, the varied experiences of North Karnataka, be it in matters of social reconstruction or religious destruction, the northern part of Karnataka as vulnerable society experienced and imbibed these varied influences not trying to protest them. In the post-Bahamani history the northern parts of Karnataka mostly came under the influence of Marathas, while the southern parts of Karnataka continued to be under Wodeyars and slowly shifted to the rule of Dewans in their attempts at democratising the society. Dewan Purnaiah (1799-1822) ruled the state under the guidance of Wodeyars. Between 1811 and 1867 it was Wodeyars and British Commissioners who ruled this part of the state with Mysore as
their capital. Again by 1867 the heritage of Dewans continued and as one can observe, there was nearly cent per cent unanimity among them and British Commissioners in the policies favoured and followed for the welfare of the people. Dewan C.Rangacharlu (1881-1883 A.D.) born in Madras Presidency, a British township, graduated in English education, who had worked with the British, had thus climbed to the heights of the position of Dewan. Following him was Sri K.Sheshadri Iyer (1882-1910 A.D.) who was also a British educated scholar. Continuation of the welfare policies was already in vogue in the State, thus these historical factors left Mysore State as a progressive one. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV had Sri T.R.A. Thamby Chetty as the Dewan under him. In fact, he was responsible for continuing the social and welfare policies of the State as was under his previous regime thereby contributing to the all round development of the State. Sri V.P.Madhava Rao, as a Dewan, started the process of industrialisation in the State and foresaw the need for the development communication as early as in 1909. Dewan Anand Rao continued his policies on similar lines. Sir M.Vishweshwaraiah, as the Dewan of Mysore was responsible for the dawn of new era in the history of Mysore with his mightiest contribution to irrigation and water management. In fact, the progressive status of Mysore in particular and for the all round
development of Karnataka in particular. Sir M.Vishweshwaraiah is identified as the architect of the princely state of Mysore. After his resignation over a court ruling brought in, Dewan Kantiraja Urs who took over reigns of administration in Mysore in 1918. Followed by him were Sri A.R.Banerjee and Sir Mirza Ismail who foresaw a new and industrialised Mysore. Thus many of these Dewans who served the princely state of Mysore contributed richly to the deserving culture of southern Karnataka. Any one who has a sharp eye to understand the progress or development of the State, would definitely understand their capabilities. While the lack of farsighted administration, dearth of benevolent kings in North Karnataka region continued to push northern parts of Karnataka to its deteriorating situation.

Many arguments can be put forth for this failure on the part of rulers who governed the northern part of Karnataka. The failure of rulers short lived dynastic rule, failure to set futuristic goals, lack of continuity and consistency in their socio-economic and cultural policies, the disturbances and upheavals experienced both by the rulers and the social and cultural life of people in the region could all be sighted as factors responsible for the deplorable backwardness of this region. While the mute and silent participation of the people without a sign of protest or appeals in
favour of demonstration lead for the continued feudalistic domination of socio-cultural groups in this region in the post-imperial society too.

However, with the freedom movement taking its course against British sway over India in general and Karnataka in particular, there was continued resistance from the native rulers against the British. Hyder Ali, Tippu Sultan, Waghha of Dondi, Kittur Rani Chennamma, Narsingh Dattatreya Petkar, Sangolli Rayanna, Mudhol archers of Halagali and a host of others both in southern Karnataka and northern Karnataka in particular are noteworthy names in this period of history. Here also one can identify distinctly that if only two rulers were there to oppose the British in the south. There were dozens and more small kingdoms in the north to oppose them, but they were mostly localised leaders as against a consolidated force in Mysore. Most of these rulers, therefore, have been appropriated in terms of local heroic stories and have been described at most as heroes of war. Even amongst them, some succumbed to the influence of British and betrayed their own kings in the North Karnataka, while others faced heroic death. Despite these facts the British in India were successful in winning greater parts of Karnataka and India. The presidencies of Bombay and Madras, thus became centres of
imperialist expansion in India while this state of Karnataka has
sandwiched between Bombay and Madras provinces the
domination of which was bitterly fought against the Dewans of
Mysore. However, despite these efforts the importance of the
State of Karnataka, did suffer considerably during this period.

It is at this juncture that a careful analysis of the
administration of the southern Karnataka region under the
Dewans help us to expose the fact that an effective
administration of a geographical region with wisdom and
farsightedness can contribute to the greater development than a
mere enlightened rule by a king or a dynasty. Further it also
clearly explains that the development of any region is not an
exclusive merely of the administration but also of the partnership
of enlightened people in the region. Whereas in case of northern
part of Karnataka the constant disturbances and changes among
the governing elites only fizzled out any attempt made by any of
these rulers in drawing the best of minds within their society for
the beneficial growth of northern part of Karnataka. There was as
one can note a dearth of an imposing ruler in the entire history
restricted to this region. Constantly this region experienced the
impact of a peripheral regional syndrome of a kingdom falling in
the borders of Maharashtra, Goa and Andhra Pradesh while the
southern part of the state enjoyed the status of capital, this region continued to experience the step motherly treatment due to its geographical positioning. Since this is a new contribution to the theory of studies in the area of Regional Disparity, this syndrome needs an explanation. As explained hitherto, the syndrome is the result of continued neglect of a region for various historical, social, economic and geographical reasons, which, however, will have certain general characteristics. Primarily this syndrome effect is seen in the borders of any state or a nation, the constant fear of conflicts opposing political claims possibilities of regrouping of their geographical region, therefore, contributes to intended neglect by the states concerned. No state, therefore, would be interested in investing in these regions causing problems for economic life. People in these areas as can be evidenced have no strict loyalty to their rulers, which keeps shifting even in the post-independence period. The social psychology, the culture, the language, everything will experience duality leading to weak consolidation of the society and its fluidity. Hence, the peripheral syndrome effects. This can at best be explained as 'a state of mind of a society in the peripheral regions of a state or a nation cultivating within it the shifting loyalty to state in power having weak economic, political and social gains thus being vulnerable to underdevelopment and subjected to disparity'.

Since this is a new concept contributed to the world of politico-economic studies, there is need to work further on this concept to
develop it into a stronger concept capable of addressing issues of similar nature and to formulate generalisation to gain acceptance for this, in the field of political theory. This shall be considered as the sole thinking of Dr. Harish R. and group of scholars and any observation in this regard may kindly be addressed to this group.

These regions, therefore, were not sufficiently developed by the earlier ruling dynasties in terms of neither infrastructure nor in terms of a consolidated society. There was although the absence of a powerful and imposing force to pool the human resources in this region. Those who ruled were merely land hungry kings, who had no real interest except an expansionist policy as they did not belong to the region. Those few, such as Chalukyan, Rashtrakuta kings only contributed to the cultural heritage. Since their centre of activity fell far off from this region. The Bahamanis were in constant war between themselves, while for Vijayanagar Empire this region was its borders. The British having Bombay as their base continued to govern this region as a peripheral part of their province without giving this area the attention it deserved. Despite its rich natural resources and at most used it as a holiday spot. Indulgence in small wars, attempts at concentrating on developing local leadership for reasons of group identity, the failed attempts at cultural unity even after Bhakti movement, concentration on ritualistic life,
feudal practices, thus contributed to the fragmented and fractured socio-economic and politico-cultural milieu of this part. From the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Dharwad, Raichur, Karwar until Bellary and Hospet the presence of northern Karnataka mostly as the peripheral region throughout the history and even under British and the continued alienation of its people due to their passivity may have all contributed to what may be termed as the peripheral syndrome effects in this region. However, in the pre-independence and post-independence period, the influence of Marathi, the inspiring speeches of Lokmanya Tilak and the patriotic articles published in Kesari, the Home Rule League under the leadership of Gangadhar Rao Deshpande in Dharwad, the movements of Swadeshi began under the leadership of Gandhi at Belguam, Navalgund, Hangal and Dharwad, the non-co-operation movement against English language by Alur Venkatrao Deshpende's Charakha Sangha with its branch at Bangalore and participation of Kannadigas in Nagpur Congress Session under the leadership of Kadapa Raghavendra Rao in 1920, all raised the levels of consciousness of people in northern Karnataka and they joined the main stream political activity against British in the state. As a result, people in the region also realised the need for merger of their identity with the larger group. As in economics theories the developed area was seen as a region for sharing not
only the wealth but also ideas and identity. Hence, the move towards a unified Karnataka was started. As a result of this force, the isolated Kannadigas of this region feeling the need for unity among Kannadigas*. The felt needs of northern Karnataka were realised and was made possible only under the umbrella of language, which was a common binding force. With the visit of Mahatma Gandhiji to Belgaum and involvement of Sadashiva Rao Karnad, Hardekar Manjappa in the freedom movement and the inspiration of Gandhiji’s speech at Belguam in 1924 for provincial unity strengthening the dreams of Kannadigas resulted in their stronger motivation for a united Karnataka. During the same time movement of Civil Disobedience attracted a large number of North Kannadigas like Hardekar Manjappa, N.S.Hardekar, D.P. Karmakar, Mailar Mahadevappa, etc., who along with Gandhiji participated and courted arrest, their involvement in the cause of the nation also helped a larger group of youngsters to get trained under these people for realising larger ideals resulting in movement for responsible government, which was a offshoot of non-co-operation movement in India. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, Srinivas Rao Koujalagi, Sadashiva Rao Karnad, B. Shivamurthy Shastri were all a party for the movement. They struggled hard to see the formation of a linguistic state and established the Karnataka Congress Committee. Its offices began functioning in
various places in North Karnataka thus helping to group like-minded people for a common cause, which otherwise was an impossibility in this region. In places like Bangalore, Tumkur, Mysore, Kadoor and Gadag, these offices were ably organising participation of the people. Well-known names like Venkata Krishnaiah and Tagaduru Ramachandra Rao of Mysore gave a new turn to this movement in the southern region of the state. A host of leaders like T. Siddhalingaih, K. C. Reddy, H. C. Dasappa, K. T. Bhasyam, Bellary Siddam, R. R. Diwakar, Ramachandra Rao Hukkerikar, etc., found themselves in the vortex of this struggle. Again it was Wodeyars of Mysore who first spoke of the status of Karnataka and extended their open support to the new government. The 'Chalo Mysore' campaign thus presented a truly democratic Government to be installed in Mysore under Wodeyar's rule. Editor of Vishwakarma, Sri T. T. Sharma, Bhashyam, K. T. Siddhalingaih, T. S. Chennaiah and others organised a series of meetings to bring together the possible mediation between His Highness of Mysore and the Congress in establishing their first democratic Government under the Wodeyars. K. C. Reddy and S. Nijalingappa guiding the destiny of Congress attempted to find solutions to the problems after mutual consultations. Dewan Mudaliyar and His Highness Maharaja of Mysore, thus realised the first responsible Government in Mysore.
with K.C. Reddy as the Chief Minister on September 24, 1947. Thus, the awakening through the idea of nationalism brought about the process of democratisation in Karnataka. North Karnataka playing a vital role in this movement produced a plethora of literature and a host of institutions to support their cause (in 1924). The movement gained further momentum when Sri Siddappa Kambli became the first President of 'Ekikarana Sabha'. Similarly the Chairmanship of Motilal Nehru to work on constitution of linguistic States to guide Congress. S. Nijalingappa's (in 1946) placement as the President of the Integration Committee in which Andeneppa Doddameti and Mangalvedhe Srinivas Rao were Joint Secretaries, thus coincided to realise the long felt dream of a united Karnataka. In 1947, Ekikaran Samiti failed to realise its goals despite Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel gave his leadership to realise it. R.R. Diwakar in 1947 raised his voice in protest against the views of not finding feasibility of establishing linguistic States. Thus resulted in Dhar Committee in 1948. Since this failed to appreciate the idea of integration again, another Committee with Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhabhai Patel, Potti Sri Ramulu (propularly known as J.V.P Committee) was formed. With the self immolation and death of Potti Sri Ramalu, fighting for the cause of unified Andhra State, formation of unified Karnataka was also realised giving a feeling
of a dream come true to the people of North Karnataka. Language was taken as the basis and in 1953 States Reorganisation Committee was formed with Fazal Ali as its Chairman and H.N.Kunjru and K.M.Panikkar as its members and in 1956 the new State was composed. Following this, was the composition of new State formed in 1956. The present Mysore State with Belgaum, Bijapur, Karwar and Dharwad (which belonged formerly to Bombay State with exception of Chand taluk), Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar district. (which belonged erstwhile Nizams’ of Hyderabad State), the Kannada speaking areas of Madras State (except Kasargod and Ameen Islands), the Coorg district all put together came in to existence.

Thus, the integration of various parts of Kannada speaking people became the state of Mysore having nineteen districts with Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur, Kolar, Davnagere, Chitradurga, Shimoga, Hassan, and Mandya (erstwhile princely state), Dharwad, Belguam, Bijapur, Karwar (former Bombay Karnataka area), Gulbarga, Bidar, Riachur, Bellary, (erstwhile Hyderabad Karnataka area ruled by Nizam) and Coorg (part - C state) as its major partners. Since the formation of new state based on language there were among others three major problems that confronted the state of Karnataka, since its inception as a new
state. One was the border problem between Kerala and Karnataka and the other one was between Maharashtra and Karnataka. Although the problem of Karnataka and Kerala as on today stands resolved, the problem of Karnataka and Maharashtra is still an unresolved with smoke blowing out now and then. The other problems included the problem of river water sharing with main focus on the Cauvery and Krishna water, which are still alive. The last but the most potential problem to be in future as can be predicted is the problem of Regional Disparity dividing the geographically united but emotionally disunited north and south Karnataka, the problem of separate state for Coorg, etc.

From formation of Mahajan Committee to the present, umpteen number of attempts involving administrative and judicial decisions have been thought to settle the problems between the states in matters of border and river water issues. To sort out these problems is also worked out and was invain. Now the recent outburst of the problem of Regional Disparity with the rejection of North-West Railway Zonal Office and High Court Bench to this region is comparatively a new phenomenon in the history of Karnataka. The problem of North Karnataka Regional Disparity promises to grow into a potential threat to the unity of the state in the years to come.
As on today, the state has 1,91,791 sq. kms area as its geographical boundary unifying it into a single unit viz., state of Karnataka. The state of Karnataka, which was hitherto divided into 19 districts, currently with reorganisation of districts in the year 1997 today presents a state with 27 districts. The erstwhile Bombay province in the area of the study is currently having seven districts under it.

Let us have an insight into the various geographical strength of this state and the study area before we progress further. Since most of these are treated as indicators for the study of Regional Disparity in the state, a clear understanding of these variables will help us in understanding and interpreting the problem in focus.

Location:

Vishal Karnataka differentiating from its post-colonial period particularly after the Reorganisation of States in 1956 could set to have an area of 1,91,791 sq. kms situated between 11.11° and 18.45° north latitude and 74.12° and 78.40° east longitude and lies in the west central part of peninsular India. It is the eighth largest State in area and population. The extent of
ancient Karnataka was from river Godavari in the north to the Cauvery in the south.

Physiography:

Physiographically the State can be divided into four regions:

1. Coastal region,
2. Malnad,
3. Northern plains and
4. Southern plains.

The two river system of the State of Karnataka are the Krishna and its tributaries, i.e., Bhima, Ghataprahba, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra and Vedavati in the north and Cauvery and its tributaries namely, Hemavati, Shimsha, Arkavati, Lakshmana Thirth and Kabini in the south. Both of these two rivers flow eastwards and enter into the Bay of Bengal and the river Krishna passing through Andhra Pradesh and Cauvery traversing Tamil Nadu.

A number of smaller rivers flow westward into the Arabian sea. Of these, Sharavati, Kalinadi and Netravati are quite important as they are being tapped for hydroelectric power.
Soils:

There is a wide variation in the geology, climate and physiography in Karnataka, which have influenced soil formation. There are nine broad groups of soils identified in the State.

Agriculture:

Agriculture and allied activities account for nearly 65% of the workforce in the State. Agricultural labourers and cultivators constitute 63% of the main workforce. Out of the geographical area of 1,91,791 sq. kms, 123 lakh hectare is cultivable land. Major food crops are paddy, jowar, ragi, maize, bajra, wheat and pulses.

Horticultural crops are grown in an area of 12.71 lakh hectare with an annual production of 90 lakh tonnes. Karnataka has the largest area under coffee cultivation (39.31%) in the country and accounts for a major portion of the coffee produced. Other crops are cardamom, arecanut, coconut, cashewnut, cotton, sugarcane, groundnut, chilies, sunflower and tobacco.

The area under forest constitutes about 16% of the total geographical area. Karnataka occupied 7th position with 5% of the total forest area in the country.
Languages:

Kannada is the mother tongue of the people of Karnataka. There are regional differences in Kannada language known as Mysore Kannada, Dharwad Kannada and Mangalore Kannada. Some persons speak more than one language in addition to their mother tongue. Thus bilingualism is found. (Karnataka State Gazetteer 1982, pp. 437-438)

Caste System:

The physiographic division of Karnataka thought not very deep as in the case of Andhra Pradesh has to some extent contributed to the sub-division of Karnataka, in a very subtle way. This coupled with its extended geography from north to south, east to west, has been responsible for its division. Historically, the deep south being a part of Travancore kingdom the eastern part of Karnataka primarily the southern region was in Madras province while Coorg remained as part 'C' State with its ethnic identity.

The northern part of Karnataka was in Bombay province primarily. This physiographic location of divisions and the history of State of Karnataka prior to British occupation have
cognizably contributed to the glaring cultural distinctions providing almost specific historical settings.

North Karnataka:

North Karnataka lies between 14.21-17.3 N and longitude 74.30 E - 77.30 E. It comprises of eight districts namely, Bellary, Bidar, Raichur, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad and Karwar (recently four districts were newly created under the District Reorganisation plan by the Government of Karnataka). It is about 79,150 sq. kms in area* (S.K.Joshi, Defence Architecture in early Karnataka, p. 14).

Borders:

It is surrounded by the State of Goa in the west, Maharashtra on the north and north-west, Andhra Pradesh on the east and the remaining part of Karnataka on the south (i.e., the erstwhile Mysore princely State, Madras province and Coorg). From the tip of Goa to the southern end of the Dakshina Kannada, there is a coastline with natural harbour Karwar, Ankola, Honnavar and Bhatkal.
Climate and Rainfall:

Geographically the region is classified from west to east into three parts namely,

a) The Coastal Plains,
b) The Malnad, and
c) The Maidan.

The climate and rainfall varies extremely in these parts.

Transport:

Roads:

Karnataka has 134 lakh kms of motorable roads including 1,997 kms of national highways. (1994-95 Karnataka at a Glance).

Railways:

The rail network in Karnataka was around 3,079 kms, which includes 1,195 kms of broadgauge, 1,735 kms of meter gauge and 149 kms of narrow gauge tracks.

Aviation:

Bangalore, Belgaum, Mangalore and Hubli are the few airports located in the State of Karnataka. Direct flight facilities
to major cities in India and abroad are available only from Bangalore.

**Ports**:

New Mangalore port is the main all-weather seaport in Karnataka, which mainly handles cargo vessels, special facilities for export of Kudremukh iron ore and to handle crude, coal, LPG, etc., were developed here.

**Tourist Spots**:

The capital city of Karnataka, i.e., Bangalore, popularly known as city of gardens with a variety of parks and industries. The former princely capital Mysore with world famous Brindavan Gardens and Architectural palaces and Shravanabelagola, where the famous 57 feet high monolithic statue of Gomateshwar stands, Belur, Halebidu and Somanathapura with famous Hoysala monuments, Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal for the 1,300 year old rockcut and structural temples. Hampi the popular open air museum (ancient Vijayanagar), Gulbarga, Bidar and Bijapur renowned for their indosaracenic monuments, Gokarna, Udapi, Dharmasthala, Saundatti, Sirsi, Kolur, Ulavi are famous pilgrimage centres.
Irrigation and Power:

Karnataka has the basins of Krishna, Cauvery, Godavari, North Pennar, and South Pennar, Palar and west flowing rivers have played a vital role in irrigating the large area of the State. The average annual yield of the rivers has been estimated as 97.352 cum. The ultimate irrigation potential of the State, from all sources has been estimated at about 55 lakh hectare consisting of 35 lakh hectare under major, medium and about 10 lakh hectare under minor irrigation (surface) project and 10 lakh hectare underground water resources.

Important power projects are the Kalinadi stage I and stage II, Varahi, Gerusoppa (Sharavati) and Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric projects. The State has a thermal power station at Raichur and another diesel unit at Yelahanka near Bangalore. An atomic power plant is being installed at Kaiga near Karwar.

Economy:

Karnataka State is predominantly rural and agrarian. About 76% of its population lives in rural areas, while about 71% of its working force is engaged in agriculture and allied activities, which generate 49% of the State's income. The per capita income of the State at current prices (1992-93) is Rs.6,443.
With this being the brief sojourn through the history and physical strength of Karnataka in general and North Karnataka in particular, we shall now move on to understand how the problem in focus, i.e., the problem of Regional Disparity has led to the belief that the North Karnataka is experiencing a step motherly treatment from the state of Karnataka and what has been the role of elites in the region to cure this problem and to overcome the possible disparity that may exist in this region.
Footnotes


4. Ibid., p.44.

5. Ibid., p. 16.


7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.


10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.


16. Manusmruti (in fact in the later chapter of this dissertation an attempt is made to relocate the impact of Basavanna’s Movement on the question of Regional Disparity in the context of cultural cross divisions.).