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A STUDY OF FOLK GAME IN KARNATKA STATE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HYDERABAD KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT:

This chapter deals with the profile of Hyderabad Karnataka region exclusively. It also focuses on various aspects of the study area such as historical background of the districts, locations and boundaries, physiographic, demographic features, geographic features such as population, density, sex ratio, literacy level, agriculture, industrial development, educational development, banking development, infrastructure facilities, per capita income and transportation and so on.

KEYWORDS: boundaries, physiographic, demographic features, geographic features.

GENERAL PROFILE:

In this section, a brief profile of Hyderabad Karnataka Region which is one of the region selected for the present study is made. Hyderabad Karnataka Region is the name given to the area which was the part of erstwhile Hyderabad province before the formation of new state. When the new state of Mysore (Presently known as Karnataka) was formed in 1956, Kannada speaking areas of Hyderabad province were added to the new state. These areas came to be known as Hyderabad Karnataka Region later on. At present, the Hyderabad Karnataka region includes the six districts namely Bellary, Bidar, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga), Yadgir, Raichur, and Koppal.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE HYDERABAD KARNATAKA DISTRICTS:

The following is the brief summary of the history of Hyderabad Karnataka districts which are discussed below.

Bellary District:

Bellary district takes its name from the word Ballari which refers to goddess Durugamma, as this goddess had manifested herself in the town. Some of the events in the great epic Ramayana are related to this historical place. It is said that Rama while searching for Sita met Sugreeva and Hanuman at a place which is very near to Hampi, the celebrated capital of Vijayanagara kingdom. The history speaks volumes about the significant role it acquired during Satavahanas, Kadambas, Chalukyas of Kalyana, Kalachuryas, Sevunas and Hoysala period. Thereupon the

Vijayanagara rulers built the "City of Victory" on the bank of Tungabhadra river at Hampi in Hospet Taluk.

Bidar District:

The name of Bidar appears to be derived from 'bidiru' which means bamboo. The place seems to have been known for bamboo clusters in the past, came to be known as 'Bidaroor' and then 'Bidare', 'Bidar'. Though there are other versions of origin, the name 'Bidarooru' seems to be more near one and authenticated by contemporary literary works. Bidar is a hill-top city situated on the Deccan plateau, in the north-eastern part of Karnataka state in India. It is the headquarters of the Bidar District. Being located at the farthest of around 700 km (430 miles) from the state capital Bengaluru, it has been neglected by the state government for a long time. However, owing to its rich heritage, the city has a

prominent place in the Archeological Map of India. Picturesquely perched on the Deccan plateau, the Bidar fort is more than 500 years old and still standing strong. According to the book "Bidar Heritage" published by the state Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, of the 61 monuments listed by the department, about 30 are tombs located in and around Bidar city. This explains the nickname - The City of Whispering Monuments. The heritage sites in and around Bidar have become the major attraction for film shooting in recent years with Bollywood making visits apart from Kannada film industry. Bidar is home for the second biggest Indian Air Force training centre in the country. The IAF Station Bidar is used for advanced jet training of prospective fighter pilots on BAe Hawk aircraft.

i) Kalaburagi District (Gulbarga):

GULBARGA was known as 'KALABURAGI' in former days which means stony land in Kannada. Gulbarga district is situated in the northern part of Karnataka State. In the earlier days, Gulbarga was a district of Hyderabad Karnataka area and became a part of Karnataka State after re-organization of states. Interestingly Gulbarga was renamed as Kalaburagi in the recent part.

Recorded history of this district dates back to the 6th Century A.D. The Rashtrakutas gained control over the area but the Chalukyas regained their domain within a short period and regained supreme for over two hundred years. The Kalahari's who succeeded them ruled till the 12th Century A.D. Around the close of the 12th century.

ii) Yadgir District:

Yadgir, popularly called as "Yadavagiri" by the local people, was once a capital of the Yadava Kingdom. Has a rich historical and cultural traditions. Yadavas, the earliest Muslim empire of South India, chose Yadgir to be their capital and ruled from 1347 to 1425

A.D. Mentioned as Yadgir in ancient inscriptions, Yadgir is popularly known as "Yadavagiri" by the locals. Yadgir district has its deep routes in history. The famous dynasties of the south, the Satavahans, the Chalukyas of Badami, the Rastrkuta, Shahis, the Adil shahis, the Nizam Shahis have ruled over the district.

In 1504 Yadgir (Gulbarga) was permanently annexed to Adil Shahi kingdom of Bijapur. In 1657 with the invasion of Mir Jumla, it passed into the hands of Mughals. Later with the establishment of Asaf Jahi (Nizam) Dynasty of Hyderabad (1724-1948) Yadgir and Gulbarga came under it. In 1863 when Nizam Government formed Jilabandi, Surpur (Shorapur) became district headquarter, with nine Talukas of which Gulbarga was one of them. In 1873 Gulbarga was formed into a Separate district with seven taluks. With the reorganization of states in 1956, Gulbarga became Part of Karnataka State and Divisional headquarter.

iii) Raichur District:

Raichur is very rich from the epigraphical point of view. It has already yielded hundreds of inscriptions, ranging right from the Mauryan period up to the end of the Muslim period, in a variety of languages like Sanskrit, Prakrit, Kannada, Arabic and Persian, belonging to almost all the dynasties that ruled over the Deccan. The most important places from this point of view are Maski, Koppal, Kuknur, Mudgal, and Raichur.

The District of Raichur was a part of the Hyderabad State till the re-organisation of State on 1st November 1956. The recorded history of the district is traced to as far back as the third century B.C. The fact that three minor rock edicts of Ashoka are found in this district one at Maski in the Lingasugur taluk and the other two near Koppal, prove that this area was included in the dominions of the great Mauryan king Ashoka (273 - 236 B.C.). At that time, this region was under the governance of the Viceroy or Mahapatra of Ashoka.

Early in the Christian era, the district appears to have been a part of the kingdom of the Satavahanas. The Vakatakas, who reigned during the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D., seem to have held sway over Raichur for some time, after which it appears to have been included in the Kadamba dominions. The next dynasty of importance, which ruled over this region, was that of the Chalukyas of Badami.

According to an inscription from Aihole, Pulikeshi-II having defeated the Pallavas occupied this area and made it a province in his empire under the governance of his son Adityavarma. Later the whole of the present Raichur district was included in the dominions of the Rashtrakutas, who rose to power in the eighth century, as could be gathered from the inscriptions of that period found in this district. According to an inscription from Manvi taluk, one Jagattunga, a subordinate ruler under the Rashtrakuta king Krishna-II, was ruling the province of Adedore Eradusavirapranta, i.e., the area constituting the present Raichur district. Nripatunga, a Rashtrakuta king, has described Koppal in his Kannada work, Kavirajamarga, as the great Koppananagara.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF RAICHUR:

The district derives its name from its headquarters town Raichur (origin of name Rayachooru in Kannada), as most of the other districts also in the State. Though many of the villagers round about, still call the place by the earlier of the name which is Rayachooru, however, in modern times, it has come to be generally written and pronounced in Kannada as Rayachooru. The name of this place which is of considerable antiquity, can be traced back to the Twelfth Century at least. As Dr. P.B. Desai has pointed out the Raichur fortress was one of the fortresses conquered by the Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana. This is evident from at least Three of the Hoysala inscriptions in Kannada. In the earliest of these three inscriptions which was found at Hulkeri in Belur taluk of Hassan district (numbered Belur 193 in Epigraphy Carnatica, Vol V, Part I, 1902) and which belong to the year 1161 A.D. and the region of Hoysala Narasimha I, mention is made of the Perddore (the Krishna river) as the northern boundary of Vishnuvardhana's Kingdom and the Rachavoor as one of the places conquered by Vishnuvardhana while still a youth.

The second of these inscriptions which was discovered at Hatana in Nagamangala taluk of the present Mandya district Numbered Nagamangala 70 in Epigraphia Carnatica, Vol IV-Part II, 1898) and which is dated 1178 A.D. when Hoysala Vira-Ballala II was ruling, refers to Permma (ie., Permma+na) Rachavoor as one of the numerous forts which Vishnuvardhana captured with a frown. This lithic record indicates that the place was known at the time as Permma's Rachavoor, this Permma being probably a local chieftain, the third of these inscriptions, which is from Hirehalli in Belur taluk of Hassan district (numbered Belur 137 in Epigraphia Carnatica, Vol. V-part I, 1902) and which is dated 1183 A.D. and is also the reign of Hoysala Vira-Ballala II enumerates Rachavoor as one of the places which Vishnuvardhana captured by the might of his arm.

iv) Koppal District:

The history of Koppal can be traced back to the kingdoms of Shathavahanas, Gangas, Hoysalas and Chalukya Dynasties. The name of the district i.e. "KOPPAL" is found in the poetic work of the great poet Kavirajamarga (During King Nrupathunga's time of 814-878 A.D.) as "VIDITHA MAHA KOPANA NAGARA". During Ashoka's period, the Jainism gained greater momentum in this region. Therefore, it was called as "Jain Kashi". In twelfth century A.D. Veerashaivism of Social Reformer Basaveshwara became popular. The present Gavi Math of Koppal has great attraction. Anegundi of Gangavathi Taluk was the first capital of great Vijayanagara Dynasty. The old palace and fort still exist where an annual festival called "Anegundi Utsava" is being celebrated in a befitting manner every year. The other important historical places of Koppal district are Itagi, Kukanoor, Madinoor, Indrakeela Parvatha, Kanakagiri, Pura, Chikkabenakal, Hirebenakal and Huligi.

Before Independence, Koppal was under the Nizam of Hyderabad. India got Independence on 15th August 1947, since Koppal was part of Hyderabad region, the people of the region had to struggle further to attain Independence from the clutches of Hyderabad Nizam. On 18th September 1948, the Hyderabad- Karnataka got independence from Nizam. Since then until 01.04.1998, Koppal District was in Raichur District of Gulbarga Revenue Division. On 01.04.1998, Koppal district consisting of four taluksviz. Koppal, Gangavathi, Kushtagi & Yelburga came into being.⁶

Location and Boundaries:

Hyderabad Karnataka Region is situated in the North Eastern part of the Karnataka state and falls within the geographical region of North Maidan. It spreads between $14^{\circ}60'$ to $18^{\circ}30'$ Northern latitude and $75^{\circ}60'$ to $77^{\circ}70'$ Eastern longitude.

The region is bounded on the North by Solapur, Nanded and Usmanabad districts of Maharashtra state and on the east by Nizamabad, Medak, Mahaboobnagar, Rangareddy districts of Andhra Pradesh, in the south by Karnool district of Andhra Pradesh and Chitradurga, Davangere districts of Karnataka state. In the west by Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gadag and Haveri districts of Karnataka state.

The map of India, Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka area as shown below as 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9.

Map 4.9
MAP OF HYDERABAD KARNATAKA AREA



Physiographic:

Physiographically, the Hyderabad Karnataka region forms the part of two well defined physiographic region of Karnataka state.

a) Northern Part of Karnataka Plateau:

The Northern Karnataka plateau comprises the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga and Yadgir. It is largely composed of Deccan trap. It represents a monotonous treeless extensive plateau landscape with a general elevation of 300 to 600 mts. from the main sea level. This region is largely covered with the rich black soil.

b) Central Karnataka Plateau:

The Central Karnataka plateau comprises the districts of Raichur, Koppal and Bellary. The region represents the transitional surface between the Northern Karnataka plateau with relatively higher surface and Southern Karnataka plateau with relatively lower surface. By and large, this region represents the area of Tungabhadra basin. The general elevation varies between 450 to 700 mts. from the sea level.

CONCLUSION:

The profile of Hyderabad Karnataka region reveals that the region is situated in the northern part of Karnataka state. The climate is mostly semi-arid. The region has good mineral resource bases. Agriculture is the mainstay of the population. However, due to heavy dependency on rain, subdivision and fragmentation of agricultural land and lack of diversification in the cropping pattern, have hampered the agriculture development. Though the region has been endowed with valuable natural resources, such as gold, manganese, iron ore, limestone etc., their exploitation is not up to the mark, due to the poor industrial base. On the contrary, the region has good potential for the development of agro-based industries, so these industries are to be developed from the point of view of providing

employment opportunities to the masses of the region. The infrastructure facilities have also not been developed properly. Thus, the region has all the characters of an underdeveloped area. Due to poor economic conditions of the people working in this area they are unable to undertake investment activities.

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