



Government of Karnataka

A HAND BOOK OF KARNATAKA

Iteshamul Huq, KAS

Chief Editor
Karnataka Gazetteer Department
Bengaluru



A HAND BOOK OF KARNATAKA

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PREFACE

The idea of compiling and publishing a monograph entitled 'A Hand Book of Karnataka' by the Karnataka Gazetteer Department, was a result of the suggestion made in 1995 by a retired I.A.S., officer Sri. K. Balasubrahmanyam, then a member of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee. He cited the example of the book 'Mysuru Kaipidi', edited by Rao Bahadur C.Hayavadana Rao, published in the year 1937, and advised the department to follow it, as a model for the book titled "A Hand Book of Karnataka". Accordingly the department first published it in the year 1996. The book aimed at creating the historical and cultural awareness about Karnataka in a nutshell.

Geographically, Karnataka is blessed with rich and varied Topography and has a sea coast of over 300 Km. It has tall mountain ranges raising up to 6000 ft. It's Western Ghats with vast and thick ever green forests which shelters, hordes of wild animals like Elephant, Tiger and other animals.

The book mentions the long and glorious history of our State starting from the time of the Mauryas down to the present times. A few of these developments need a special mention in this preface. Firstly, starting from Circa 600 A.D. for over 500 years, Karnataka was one of the leading political powers in India. Those royal dynasties that ruled Karnataka during this period, carved a special place for themselves in the history of the country, due to their highly efficient and fighting military forces. Secondly the Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1565), symbolized the spirit of resistance to foreign invasions and also the potentiality of its people to establish a strong and benevolent system of administration. Here again, it would be appropriate to specially mention the efforts of "Tiger of Mysuru" - Tipu Sultan who was among the first rulers to fight against the Britishers and was the first Indian ruler to be martyred in the battle field. Lastly, in modern times Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, Sir.M.Visvesaraya, Sir. Mirza M. Ismail and other Dewans of Mysuru Kingdom, through their great administrative talent, statesmanship and constructive economic policies, made the Princely State of Mysuru, not only the nucleus of Modern Karnataka, but also as a model to the rest of the Country.

This Hand Book is a condensed and abridged version of the State Gazetteer. It contains the developments pertaining to various fields made by the State during the last 60 years, and is presented here in a comprehensive manner. The first edition of the 'A Hand Book of Karnataka' was published in the year 1996, by the Karnataka Gazetteer Department. The Kannada version of this book was also published in the same year (1996). Subsequently between the years 2001 and 2010 three more editions were published.

As different editions of this book were published, it was noticed by the Department that the Hand Book has become one of the most sought for reference book, by the candidates who have been taking up different competitive examinations. Hence, the Department has taken special efforts to see that this book is revised as and when possible so that it fulfills the needs of the candidates appearing for the various examinations.

The present (5th) edition of 'A Hand Book of Karnataka' has been thoroughly revised and updated as much as possible up to 2014.

The Department acknowledges the great support of our Honourable Minister Smt. Umashree, Minister of State, Kannada and Culture, Women and Child Development, Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, to this Department and in the publication of this book.

Further, the Department is also highly indebted to our Principal Secretary Dr. N. Nagambika Devi, I.A.S., Principal Secretary Kannada Culture and Information, and Youth Empowerment and Sports, for her day to day guidance and to see that the Department could bring out this book in time to meet the needs of the candidates taking up the different examinations.

This Hand Book incorporates a lot of information along with relevant photographs relating to Chandrayana-2012 and the Mars Orbiter Mission – 2014; for which it duly acknowledges the ISRO authorities. Further the Gazetteer Department also expresses its regards to all the State Departments and Corporations. The Department also thank the Director, Economics and Statistics, and Planning Departments in particular, whose reports have been extensively used in this book. The Department also acknowledges M/S. Abhimani Publishers Ltd., Bengaluru for printing this book in time.

To conclude, I fully acknowledge the work and compliment the Editorial staff of my office, as well as the other office staff in my Department, who have joined hands in accomplishing this task successfully.

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Bengaluru

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
ABOUT THE KARNATAKA GAZETTEER DEPARTMENT	xi

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1- 68

Location and Boundaries (7), Territorial Changes (13), Administrative Divisions (14), Physiography (22), Topography (22), GEOLOGY (23), Water Resources (30), Krishna Basin (30), Cauvery Basin (32), Godavari Basin (33), Pennar and Palar Basins (33), West - Flowing Rivers (35), Ground Water Resources (36), CLIMATE (36), FAUNA (40), FLORA (42), Forests (43), Western Ghats in Karnataka (50), Environment Situation in Karnataka (52), Department of Ecology and Environment (53), Biodiversity of Karnataka (54), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (56), Directorate of Information Technology & Biotechnology (DIT) (60), Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (63), Seismicity of Karnataka (65).

Revised by: T.R.Anantharamu

Edited by: S.N.Raju

CHAPTER - II

HISTORY

69- 136

Prehistory, Proto-history (69), Historic Period (70), Mauryas, S(Sh)atavahanas (71), Kadambas of Banavasi (C.345-C.540), - Alupas of Tulunadu (C. 2nd – 14th C. A.D) (72) - Gangas of Talakad (C.350-C.1024 A.D.)(74) - Chalukyas of Badami (C. 540-757 A.D.)(76) - Rashtrakutas of Malkhed (C.753-973 A.D.)(77) - Chalukyas of Kalyana (C.973-1189)(78)- Sevunas of Devagiri (C 1173-1318)(80) - Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra (C.1052-1342 A.D.)(82) - Vijayanagara Empire (C.1336-1646)(84) - Bahamani Kingdom (c.1347-1520)(87) - Adilshahis of Bijapur (1489-1686 A.D.)(89) - Keladi Kingdom(90) – Marathas(91) - Mysore Rulers - Hydar Ali - Tipu Sultan(93) - British rule (95) -Commissioners’ Regime – Rendition - Economic Changes(96) - Anti-British Uprisings(97) - Beginning of Renaissance(99) – Modernisation(100) - Cultural Developments(102) – Fight for Freedom, Gandhiji’s Early Visits to Karnataka(103) - Gandhiji in Karnataka (1927), Civil Disobedience Movement(105) - Gandhiji in Karnataka (1934) - Gandhiji’s later Visits to Karnataka (1936 & 1937) - Flag Satyagraha(106) - Quit India Movement 1942-43 – Mysore Chaloo Movement (1947) - Unification of Karnataka(107) - GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS - (109) - Election Reforms (112) – Lok Sabha and Vidhana Sabha Results (1952 to 2014) (113) - Governors of Karnataka from 1956 (124), Chief Ministers of the State from 1947 (125), Map and Illustrations(126-136).

Author: Dr.Suryanatha.U.Kamath

Revised and Edited by: S.Rajendrappa



CHAPTER - III

PEOPLE

137 - 184

Demography, Growth of Population(137), Sex Ratio, Density of Population (142), Marital Status (144), Urbanisation, Urban Agglomeration and Cities(146), Rural Areas, Houses, Households and Amenities(148), Institutional Population, Houseless Population(149) , Migration , Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Population(150), Backward Classes Commissions of Karnataka (145),Disabled Population (170), Literacy (171), Languages(173), Religion (174), Hinduism, Veerashaivism(175), Natha Pantha, Buddhism, Jainism (176), Vaishnavism, Sikhism, Folk Religion Shakti Worship(177), Islam, Sufi Cult, Christianity, Parsi Religion(178), Bhakti Movement, Modern Religious Movements, Festivals and Fairs(179), Jatras (180) - Important Fairs and Festivals of the State(181-182).

Revised by: Dr.T.Govindaraju

Edited by: S.Rajendrappa

CHAPTER - IV

AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

185 - 246

Ancient Agriculture (185), Agriculture in Karnataka (186), Agriculture Policy of Karnataka (187), AGRICULTURE CENSUS 2010-11 (188), CROPPING PATTERN (198), Rainfed Farming (199), AGRICULTURE INPUTS (202), ORGANIC FARMING (203), DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (204), Raitha Samparka Kendra (RSK) (206, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (208), Karnataka Krishi Mission (KKM) (208), Crop Insurance (209), HORTICULTURE (212), Historical Background (212), Major Horticulture Crops (214), Animal Husbandry Veterinary Sciences (224), Livestock Census 2007 (224), Veterinary Institutions (226), Cattle Development (226), Sheep and Wool Development (227), Poultry (227), Piggery Development (228), Rabbit rearing (228), Dairy Development (228), Fisheries (228), Fishery resources and Potential (228), Marine Fisheries (229), Watershed Development Department (236), IRRIGATION (238).

Revised by: Prashanth Chinnappanavar

Edited by: S.N.Raju, T.V.Prabhudeva

CHAPTER - V

INDUSTRIES AND POWER

247 - 310

Industrial Growth by Use-Based Classification (249), Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) (251), Unregistered Manufacturing Sector (253), Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (254), Traditional Industries (255), Beginning of Modern Industries (257), Economic Conference (258), Public Sector Units (261), State Government Industries (263), KEONICS (266), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) (267), Indian National Satellite (INSAT) System (268), Infrastructure for Space Development (268), Space Sciences (CHANDRAYANA-I) (268), Food Processing Industries (Food Parks) (269), Textile Industries (274), Sericulture (276), Handicrafts (278), Coir Industries (279), Khadi and Village Industries (279), Vishwa Programme (280), Large and Medium Scale Industries (280), Mining and Mineral Industries (282), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (284), Karnataka Udyog Mitra (KUM) (284), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) (284), Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (285), Karnataka State Financial Corporation (KSFC) (285), Karnataka State Industrial Investment and

Development Corporation (KSIIDC) (286), Export from Karnataka (287), Karnataka Industrial Policy 2009-14 (288), Power Sector (299), Generation of Power by KPCL (302), Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) (309).

Revised by: S.L.Ramakrishna

Edited by : S.Y.Bettegowda

CHAPTER - VI

BANKING, CO-OPERATION, TRADE AND COMMERCE

311 - 342

Introduction (311), Unorganized Banking Sector (312), Bangalore (Cantonment) the Hub of Money Lending, Regulations (313), Mushroom Growth of Banking (314), Joint Stock Banks in the Princely Mysuru (315), Development of Banking (316), Changing trends in Banking Industries, Banking Network (318), Spread of Banking, Performance of Banking General, Deposits and Advances (319), Priority Sector Advances (321), Financial Institutions, Status of Implementation of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) (322), Bharat Mahila Bank (B.M.B.), Foreign Banks (325), Human Resources, Automatic Teller Machine, Redressal of Customer's Grievances (326), Agriculture Banks, Agricultural Credit (327), Village Savings Banks, Co-operative Movement in Karnataka, Earliest Co-operative Society (328), In Princely Mysuru (329), K.C.S. Act 1959, Karnataka Souharda Co-operative Act, 2001, Yeshasvini Co-operative Farmers Health Care Scheme, Regulated Market (334), Development of Markets in Backward Areas, Raitha Sanjeevini Scheme, Janashri Bima Yojana, Projects undertaken (336), Important Markets and Notified Commodities (340), Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation (340), Coins and Currency (341), Special Commemorative Coins, Department of Legal Metrology (342).

Revised by: Sri. M.B.Patil

Edited by: S.Rajendrappa

CHAPTER - VII

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

343 - 396

Introduction (343), Development of Roads (344), National Highways (346), State Highways (348), Major District Roads, Other District Road, Rural Roads (349), Rural Communication Programme (350), Karnataka Road Development Agency, Bridges (3351), Road Census, Bangalore City and its Fly-overs (352), Transport Department (354), Road Accidents, Public Conveyance (358), Devaraj Urs Truck Terminal Corporation, Namma Metro, Phase II (361), New Lines, Extensions, Proposal for Phase III (362), Railways (363), Electrification of Railway Route (367), Railways projects under Progress (368), Air Transport, Bangalore Airport (368), Mangalore Airport, Kempegowda International Airport, Belagavi Airport, Hubballi Airport, Mangalore Airport, Mysuru Airport (369), Passport office (370), WATER TRANSPORT, Inland Waterways (371), OCEAN TRANSPORT (372), Ports of Karnataka, Karwar Port (373), Belikeri Port, Tadri Port, Kundapur Port, Padubidri, Bhatkal Port, Honavar, Malpe, Hangarakatta (374), Old Mangalore port, New Mangalore Port (375), Sea Erosion (377), POSTAL SERVICES (379), Telegraph, Telecommunication, Present Status (381), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., (383), All India Radio (385), Television (386), National Telecom Policy-2012 (387), State Highways Nomenclature and length) (389 - 396).

Revised by: Dr.G.V.Gayathri

Edited by: S.Rajendrappa

CHAPTER - VIII

ECONOMIC TRENDS AND PLANNING

397 - 456

Advent of British (397), Planing in Mysuru (397), Development Under Plans (398), Economic Situation (401), State Income and Per Capita Income (402), Inter State Comparison (405), Districts – wise Income of Karnataka (405), Prices (414), Retail Prices of Agricultural Commodities (416), Consumer Price Index (418), Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (420), State Finances (422), Other Trends (423), Economic Census (425), Employment (428), Wage Employment (433), Insurance of Poverty at District Level (456).

Revised by: S.L.Ramakrishna

Edited by: S.Y.Bettegowda

CHAPTER IX

ADMINISTRATION

457 - 520

Revenue Administration (459), Land Reforms (461), BHOOMI (461), Department of Stamps & Registration (462), KHAJANE: Online Treasury System (462), Police Administration (463), Karnataka State Reserve Police (465), Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (466), Karnataka State Police (466), Bengaluru City Police (or BCP) (467), Police Commissioners (467), Fire and Emergency Service (467), Prisons (468), Karnataka Lokayukta (468), Judicial Administration (469), Consumer Forum (472), Bar Council (473), Local Self Government (493), Panchayati Raj (494), Municipal Administration (495), Zilla Panchayath (496), Directorate of Municipal Administration (498), Karnataka Housing Board (505), Karnataka Slum Clearance Board (506), Election Commission (506), The Karnataka Public Service Commission (506), Administrative Training Institute Mysuru (506), Karnataka Information Commission (507), Department of Kannada and Culture (507), Kannada Development Authority (509), Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (510), Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (510), THE KARNATAKA BORDER AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (510), Department of Information (511), Karnataka Gazetteer Department (511-520).

Revised by: B.R. Chandrashekar

Edited by : S.N.Raju, S.Y. Bette Gowda, B.H.Rama Kumari

CHAPTER - X

EDUCATION AND SPORTS

521 - 554

Pre-Primary Education (522), Primary Education (522), Secondary Education (525), SSLC Examination (528), Pre-university Education (528), Job Oriented Courses (530), Teacher Training Course – D.Ed (530), Pre – Primary Teacher Training Institutes (531), Collegiate Education (532), Colleges of Education (B.Ed.,) (533), University Education (535), Technical Education – Visvesvaraya Technological University (538), Karnataka Folklore Universtiy (539), Legal Education and Law Universtiy (540), National Law School Universtiy, Bengaluru (542), Libraries (542), Physical Education and Sports (542-554).

Revised by: Dr. S.P.Padmaprasad

Edited by : S.N.Raju, P.R.Sreenivasa

CHAPTER - XI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

555-614

Vital Statistics (555), Sample Registration System (SRS) (556), Medical Certification of Cause of Death(MCCD) (557), Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services (562), Family Welfare Services (565), Communicable Diseases (566), Vector Borne Diseases (569), Health Insurance (578), Directorate of Medical Education (581), Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (583), Autonomous Medical Institutions (585), Department of AYUSH (590), AYURVEDA (591), Yoga (592), Unani (592), Siddha (593), Homoeopathy (594), Women's Health (597), Children's Health (598), Mental Health (599), Disability (600), Pharmacy Education (603), Karnataka Pharmaceutical Policy 2012 (604), Major Hospitals in Karnataka List (607-614).

Revised and Edited by : S.N.Raju

CHAPTER XII

SOCIAL WELFARE MEASURES

615-658

Labour Welfare (615), Women and Child Welfare (619), Social Welfare Department (628), Karnataka Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd. (634), Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru (634), Karnataka Residential Education Institution Society (KREIS), Bengaluru (635), Central Relief Committee and Nirashrithra Parihara Kendras (635), Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation Ltd., Bengaluru (636), Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Bengaluru (636), Backward Classes Welfare Department (637), D.Devarajurs Backwards Classes Development Corporation (640), D.Devarajurs Research Institute, Bengaluru (642), Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (642), Minority Welfare, Haj and Wakf Department (642), Karnataka Minorities Department Corporation Limited (643), Karnataka State Minorities Commission, Bengaluru (644), Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (645), Department of Sainik Welfare and Resettlement, Bengaluru (646), Pensioners benefits in the State (647), Scheduled Caste Student Hostels (648), Scheduled Tribe Student Hostels Working (650), Backward Class Student Hostels Working (652-658),

Revised by: R.Madwaraj

Edited By: S.Y.Bettegowda, U.Sumana

CHAPTER XIII

LITERATURE AND CULTURE

659 - 730

Kannada Literature (659), Science Literature in Kannada (666), Dictionaries and periodicals for the propagation of science (669), Jnanapeeta Award, Karnataka Ratna Award, Basava Puraskara, Kanakashri Prashasti, Samyama Prashasti, Pampa Prashasti, Rajyothsava Award (670), Danachintamani Attimabbe Prashasti, Janapada Sri Award, Rastrakavi Award, Academics, Karnataka Sahitya Academy (671), Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara, Karnataka Sangeeta and Nritya Academy, Karnataka Lalithakala Academy (672), Karnataka Nataka Academy, Karnataka Yashagana Bayalata Academym (673), Karnataka Janapada Academy, Gaddagimutt Award, Ji.Sham.Pa Award, Karnataka Shilpakala Academy (674), Jakanachari Award winners, Karnataka Urdu Academy, Konkani Sahitya Academy, Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy (675), Karnataka Kodava Sahitya Academy, Karnataka Bary Sahitya Academy, Karnataka Science and Technology Academy, Kendra Sahitya Academy (676), Kendra Sahitya Academy Award Winners, List of Kannada books secured

the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award (677), Translation Awards, Kannada books/works translated into other languages, Bharata Ratna Award, Dada Saheb Phalke Award (680), Padma Vibhushana Award, Padma Bhooshana Award Winners(681), Padmashri Award (683), Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, Kannada Sahitya Parishat (685), Kannada Sahitya Sammelana Presidents List (689), Kannada Sahitya Parisht Presidents, Nrupatunga Sahitya Award, Tulu Language and Literature (690), Kodava Language and Literature (691), Konakani in Karnataka (693), Urdu in Karnataka (694), Sanskrit in Karnataka (695), Telugu in Karnataka (697), Tamil in Karnataka (698), Malayalam in Karnataka (699), Marathi in Karnataka (701), JOURNALISM IN KARNATAKA (702), Karnataka Madhyama Academy (704), Andolana Award, Abhimani Award (705), T.S. Ramachandra Rao Award, Folk Literature (706), Theatre in Karnataka (710), Dr. Gubbi Veeranna Award, Yakshagana(715), Painting in Karnataka (718), K. Venkatappa Award (720), Central Lalithakala Academy Awards, Music in Karnataka(721), Hindustani Music (722), Kanaka-purandara, Nijaguna-Purandara Award, State Sangeetha Vidwan Award Winners, T. Chowdaiah Award Winners (724), Santa Shishunala Shareef Award Winners, Kumaravyasa Prahasti, The Central Sangeetha and Nataka Academy, Dance in Karnataka (725), Natyarani Shantala Award Winners, Cinema in Karnataka (727), Jnanpeeth Award Recipients (730).

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CHAPTER - XIV

KARNATAKA, THE TOURIST PARADISE

731-796

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Annexure

797-864



KARNATAKA GAZETTEER DEPARTMENT

Gazetteer Tradition: Gazetteers are mostly mistaken for or confused with the Gazettes. They are indeed poles apart; however, the words Gazette and Gazetteer are cognate terms. It appears that in Greek, “Gaza” meant a treasury of news. Gazetteers are distinctly reference volumes of lasting value while the Gazettes are official newspapers or bulletins. Earlier, a Gazetteer signified a geographical index or geographical dictionary or guidebook of important places and people. But with the passage of time its range has vastly widened and it had come to mean a veritable mine of knowledge about the numerous aspects of life of the people and of the country or region they inhabit.

Some books of yore such as the work of Stephen of Byzantium of the 6th century AD. Doomsday Book compiled for William the conqueror, Brihat-Samhita of Varaha Mihira, Vayu Purana, and Abdul Fazl’s Ain-I-Akbari are cited as having in them some resemblancing elements of Gazetteers. But the system of Modern Gazetteer literature arose in Europe in the wake of the new intellectual ferment brought about by the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution. Germany and France led the way in this respect. The colonial British administration in India took up military, revenue and statistical survey to help stabilize its position in the country. The earliest Gazetteers to appear in India were the East India Gazetteer in 1815 and the Gazetteer of the territories under the Government of the East India Company in 1854 which were prepared by two private authors Walter Hamilton and Edward Thornton. A few years later, by 1866, Richard Temple published the first official Gazetteer of the Bhandara District of the Central Province. This set the pace and there appeared a number of Gazetteer volumes for the various parts of the country.

For the Princely State of Mysore and Coorg, B.L. Rice published three volumes in 1877-78. They presented remarkable studies and served as a model. He revised the two volumes twenty years later. The subjects dealt were physical geography, flora including crops and cultivation, fauna, ethnography, history, religion, language, art and industry, administration, particulars of districts and important places. They had even maps and pictures. For the districts of Bombay and Madras Provinces, Gazetteers were brought out between the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decade of 20th century. Infact B.L.Rice has himself recorded in his preface to the Vol.I of Mysore and Coorg Gazetteer that, the first Gazetteer for Mysore was compiled by Arthur Wellesley in 1867 and later K.Krishna Iyengar compiled and edited the Kolar District Gazetteer in 1869, which are the pioneering publications in this series. He further records that manuscripts were prepared for Tumakuru District by Major C. Pearse, for Chitradurga district by Mr. Krishna Rao, for Hassan District by Major W Hill and for Shivamogga District by Captain Gordon Cumming, were compiled and edited but never published.

In the meanwhile the first edition of the Imperial Gazetteer of India was published in nine volumes in 1881 edited by Sir. William Hunter. It was augmented to 14 volumes in 1885-87 and to 26 volumes in 1907-1909, when a provincial series was also issued. As B.L. Rice had done a splendid job for Mysore already during 1877-78, his work was extolled even by Sir. William Hunter as better than anything he himself had been able to do even for Bengal. The third decade of 20th century saw the publication of the Mysuru Gazetteer in Five volumes comprising Eight parts under the editorship of Sri. C. Hayavadana Rao, which also kept up a high standard.

For meeting the altogether changed national requirements there were immense need for preparation and publication of new Indian Gazetteers. Some of the States like the former Bombay, Madras, Bihar and Rajasthan undertook this work between 1949 and 1957, and others including Karnataka took up the task later according to an all-India plan formulated by the Central Government for preparation of the Gazetteers on reoriented lines on the basis of new knowledge, with uniformity in format and contents, but providing for variations and additions to meet local or special needs. This is a monumental task of immense complexity and magnitude and has to be carried out with patient labour, circumspection and thoroughness. Various States and Union Territories have published about 125 reoriented District Gazetteers and 12 of them belong to Karnataka up to the end of financial year 1973-74. In addition to the District series, there was also the State Gazetteer, one volume for each State. The work was co-ordinated by the Central Government that gave grants. There were State and Central Gazetteer Advisory Committee consisting of official and non-official members. In each District Gazetteer there were 19 chapters with General Appendices, Illustrations, a Select Bibliography, Comprehensive Alphabetical Index, Addenda and Corrigenda, and Maps.

Broadly, the topics treated in the District series are : Physical Features, Flora, Fauna, Natural Resources, History and Archeology, the People, their Demography, Languages, Home life, Social life, Social structure, Customs and Religious beliefs, Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Irrigation, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Old time Industries and various kinds of present day Industries, Labour Welfare, Potentialities of Development, Banking and Finance, Co-operative Movement, Trade and Commerce, Transport and Communications, Miscellaneous Occupations, Economic Trends, General Administration, Revenue, Law and Order and Justice, Government Departments, Local Self Government, Education, Sports, Art and Culture, Medical and Public Health, Other Social Services, Public Life and Voluntary Social Services, and Places of Interest.

In short, nothing of interest pertaining to the district is left out, for instance, whether it is toponomy, (i.e. study of place names) history of less known ruling families like Balam or Aigur Chiefs, Chautas, Kampili Rayas, Agrarian Movements, Aliya Santana System of heritance prevalent in Coastal Karnataka and how it differs from Marumakkattayam of Kerala, the glories of Lakshmidēvi Temple of Doddagaddavalli, Kalleshwara Temple of Araguppe, Madanika figures of Kuruvatti, Ibrahim Roza of Vijayapura, Cathedrals of Mangaluru, problems of recurrent famines in north-eastern districts, beneficial impact of the gigantic Tungabhadra project, prospects of the Vijayanagara Steel Mills and Kalinadi Hydro-electric Project, Food habits, Types of dwellings, Ornaments, Local Festivals, Wedding Customs and Ceremonies of a particular section, new Mantra-Mangalya marriages, Huttari dance and peculiar social customs of the Kodavas, legend of the River Cauvery, fascinating sunset of the Agumbe, Natural Bird Sanctuary of Mandagadde, Sandalwood Carvings, Beauty spots, Pineapple cultivation and Spicy mango pickles of Malnad, large sized black monkey of Sagar forests locally called Mushya, a buffalo race and Bhoota cult of South Kanara; all such varied matters must find a place to give a whole picture of life in the territory as it was and is followed by the people with their natural and other resources, since a precise knowledge of the past is necessary to understand the present in its correct perspective.

The significant and stupendous all around changes and developments that have been taking place in the various spheres of the Country since the dawn of Independence called for production of re-oriented Gazetteers with a novel pattern to meet the new national requirements. A reappraisal of several other features in the light of the fresh data also became imperative. Because of the special position of the districts as a unit of administrative organization and in social and economic life of the people, a self-contained and comprehensive volume devoted to each one of the districts became highly desirable.

The first repatterned series after the attainment of Independence started rolling out in 1975. These new District Gazetteers are being published by the State Government in accordance with an all-India plan at the instance of the Central Government, which gave grants for the purpose to all the State and Union Territories. This District Gazetteers were part of the Gazetteer of India and are hence superscribed as the Gazetteer of India.

In order to have a broad and basic uniformity in the pattern of the new Gazetteers, the Central Gazetteer Unit in consultation with the State Units devised a common plan of contents so as to enable a wide coverage of various aspects which would not be otherwise feasible in volumes devoted to the State or the Country as a whole.

Ideas and ideals, perspective and approaches, values and aspirations have undergone great alterations. There is awakening of an unprecedented kind. A new epoch and a new age have dawned. Since the days when a Gazetteer meant only a geographical index, the concept has vastly widened and the Gazetteers of the present age have to cover large dimensions and have to give, in a new perspective, an integrated and objective picture without losing sight of the greatly changed social values; this demands a great deal of caution and circumspection. Laborious and time consuming processes are involved in the production of these Gazetteer volumes, which is an overwhelming task. The present Gazetteers are the most comprehensive single source of knowledge about the Districts. They can serve also as an integrated sample survey of districts of moving and developing India. For the country as a whole and for the States, reference works on various subjects are available for both the specialist and general readers, but scarcely are there, standard reference works focusing on individual Districts. The District Gazetteers fulfill this great need by delineating an all-round picture of individual districts in unfolding the panorama of the life of the people they inhabit. The local history of the area is brought into much greater relief in them, with particular reference to the events that took place in the territory, as the histories of larger regions omit many matters of local importance which have contributed to the rich tapestry of national life. The volumes trace the development or evolution of the many features and sum up the past and the present conditions and achievements and problems and look forward to the future by indicating the trends and potentialities of the various parts. Besides presenting a systematic analysis of a wealth of valuable data drawn from innumerable sources and fieldwork, these works reflect also the thoughts, ideals and aspirations of resurgent India. Colossal efforts involving laborious processes are needed for the preparation and publication, since they have to maintain a high standard from the point of view of objectivity, accuracy, reliability, practical upto-datedness and comprehensiveness.

Subsequently, Microfilm editions of Indian Gazetteers are being issued abroad by International Documentation Centres since they constitute an incomparable basic research literature and reliable sources of information for studies concerning India. These reference-works help also to dispel prejudices and parochial tendencies and to promote understanding and amity. Administrators, researchers, journalists, writers, teachers, industrialists, social workers and general readers can find matters of immense interest in these volumes. Integrated outlook is highly essential for harmony and advancement. Close study of the galaxy of Gazetteers can help to achieve this effectively.

About the Department

The genesis of the Gazetteer units at the Centre and in most of the States can be traced to the recommendations of the Expert Committee appointed by the Union Government in 1955. By that time, in a few States (like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu) Gazetteer units were already functioning. Therefore, the various other State Governments also set up offices for preparation and publication of District Gazetteers at the instance of the Union Government, and left it to the individual States to employ larger or smaller staff.

The Gazetteer unit in this State was started during the middle of the Second Plan Period in 1958 and the scheme has been continued till this date. The unit was earlier attached to the General Administration Department for purposes of administration. At present, it is under the administrative control of the Kannada Culture and Information. There is an Advisory Committee of distinguished men of letters with the Principal Secretary, as its Chairman. The first re-oriented series started after the dawn of Independence and there was no hierarchy in doing this work. Since it was a new venture of an extra ordinary character, the approach to this State was prudently cautious; drawing upon the examples of the units of neighbouring States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Hence, the department was set up to bring out independent District Gazetteers coupled with the revision of already existing Gazetteers. Each Gazetteer is similar to an encyclopedia, having varied information about the districts, considered to be most valuable, authentic and comprehensive publication depicting all aspects of History, Culture, Folklore, etc., of the region. After collecting various source materials, the preparation of chapters covering People, History, Sociology, Economics, Banking, Trade and Commerce, Industries, Education, Medical Services, Other Departments and Places of Interest; giving highlights of the district based on the plans and policies of the Government. Therefore the publication of the Gazetteer constitutes an authenticated source for the use of Government departments, general public and for historical research. The Department has the following objectives.

Objectives of the Gazetteer Department

1. Publication of revised editions of District Gazetteer volumes, State Gazetteer, and Taluk Gazetteers, both in Kannada and English.
2. As Special Publication Publishing books like 'A Hand Book of Karnataka' (both in Kannada and English), Tourism Gazetteer, Tipu Sultan a Crusader for Change. Jewels of Administration, Glimpses of Karnataka, Karnatakada Minugu Nota, etc.,

3. Scanning and reprinting of rare gazetteer volumes relating to Karnataka, of pre independence period, which are in demand.

Salient Features

- Karnataka Gazetteer Department was established in the year 1958.
- The Department has brought out all the 20 District Gazetteers in English by 1990. The publication of the revised district Gazetteers is in progress.
- Karnataka is the first State in the country to publish the State Gazetteers in two parts in English (1982 & 1983) and three parts in Kannada (1984 to 1986).
- Decennial supplements to the Karnataka State volumes were published in 1994 (English) and 1996 (Kannada).
- From 1992 the department has started publishing District Gazetteers in Kannada; Accordingly, Kodagu, Dharwad, Bijapur (Currently Vijayapura), Gulbarga (currently Kalaburagi), Mandya, Kolar, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District Gazetteers have been brought out till date.
- The translated English versions of the revised District Gazetteers (which were published in Kannada since 1992) of Kodagu, Dharwad, Bijapur (currently Vijayapura), Gulbarga (currently Kalaburagi), Mandya, Kolar, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi have been brought out up to 2012.
- Under the Reprint scheme, the Department has brought out, rare and unavailable Gazetteers published during Pre-independence period - Dharwad, Kanara, and Belgaum (currently Belagavi) (James M. Campbell), South Canara (John Sturrock and Harold A. Stuart), Bellary (currently Ballari) (John Kelsall), Mysore and Coorg in three volumes (B.L.Rice). Mysore Gazetteer by C.Hayaradana Rao (5 volumes 9 books) and Imperial Gazetteers, Provincial Series - Bidar, Kalaburagi and Raichuru Districts. Francis Buchanan's 'A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Canara and Malabar' has also been published in three volumes.
- Under Special publications, A Hand Book of Karnataka (both Kannada and English), Glimpses of Karnataka, Karnatakada Minugunota, Jewels of Administration, 'Tipu Sultan-A Crusader for Change' have been published by the Department.
- The revised editions of 'A Hand Book of Karnataka' was published in 2001, 2005 and 2010 and of Karnataka Kaipidi published in 2011 and 2012 respectively.
- website address: www.gazetteer.kar.nic.in
- Get in touch with us at email: kargaz@.nic.in, karnatakagazetteer@gmail.com.

Special Publications of the Department

Name of the Gazetteer	Year	Price (in Rs.)
1)A Hand Book Of Karnataka (English)	2010	
2) Karnataka Kaipidi (Kannada)	2012	
Reprint of Rare Gazetteers of Pre independence period		
Bijapur (By James Campbell) 1884 Reprint	2001	330
Dharwar (By James Campbell) 1884 Reprint	2003	235
Kanara (By James Campbell) 1884 Reprint (English)	2003	250
South Canara (By Sturock) 1884 Reprint (English)	2003	170
Belgaum (By James Campbell) 1884 Reprint	2004	250
Bellary (By Kelsal/W.Francis)1872/1904 Reprint	2004	160
Mysore (By B.L.Rice) 1898 Reprint Volume-I	2004	
Mysore (By B.L.Rice) 1898 Reprint Volume-II	2004	
Mysore And Coorg (By B.L.Rice) 1878 Reprint Volume-III	2004	815
Mysore Reprinted Editions of Gazetteer (9 books in Five Volumes including CD) By C.Hayavadana Rao	2012	3800
Reprinted Editions of Imperial Gazetteer - Provincial Series Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur districts (for each book 300)	2012	300 each
Publications other than Gazetteers		
Glimpses of Karnataka (Editor M.V.Krishna Rao and et.al; Revised by Prof.S.Nagaraju)	2012	300
A Journey from Madras through the Countries of Mysore, Canara and Malabar (Reprint) By Francis Buchanan- three volumes	2010	1230
Tipu Sultan - A Crusader For Change written by Prof. B.Sheik Ali	2012	650
Jewels Of Administration Written by Dr. Suryanatha U. Kamath	2012	400
Karnataka Minugunota (A Kannada translation of Glimpses of Karnataka)	2013	450

Formation of Kittur Taluk: carved out of the Bailahongala Taluk in Belagavi District, it has been declared the 177th Taluk in the State by the Government on 23-10-2012, through a Government order.

Spelling Changes Of 12 Place Names In Karnataka

Place Name's Spelling Change: On October 17th 2014, the Central Government gave its accord to the proposal of the Karnataka Government to rename Bangalore and other cities in Karnataka mentioned below, with changes in their spellings. Accordingly, it was implemented by the State Government from 1st November 2014.

Old Spelling	New Spelling	Old Spelling	New Spelling
Bangalore	Bengaluru	Hospet	Hosapete
Belgaum	Belagavi	Hubli	Hubballi
Bellary	Ballari	Mangalore	Mangaluru
Bijapur	Vijayapura	Mysore	Mysuru
Chikmagalur	Chikkamagaluru	Shimoga	Shivamogga
Gulbarga	Kalaburagi	Tumkur	Tumakuru