

CHAPTER ONE

EARLY HISTORY OF RAYBAG

Raibag is one of the leading and flourishing trade center in Karnataka. Previously it was ruled and controlled by Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Shahu Maharaj the great social revolutionary ruler of Kolhapur 1884 – 1922 was very much appreciated this place therefore he specially built his Royal palace Rani Palace and other public buildings at Raibag which are now in ruined condition. Not only this but a very beautiful lake “Abu” was constructed which is now used by the public for irrigation and swimming purposes.

In all palace campus comprised more than 15 acrese is even today worth seeing. There are two temples one Ambabai and another was temple of Siva. But interesting thing is that there is also one Muslim darga very adjoining to Raibag residence and this indicates religious harmony.

In ancient and medeval period Raibag was one of the flourishing trade center in western India. During Adil Shahis period Raibag was controlled by Ranadulla Khan whose tomb is at Raibag. Subsequently Raibag region was conquered in Shivaji's and Sambhaji period and this area remained as the part and parcel of Maratha power. After the establishment of separate Branch of Kolhapur. 1710 Raibag came

under the control of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and remained upto 1948 when the State was merged into Indian Union.

Therefore in this M.Phil. dissertation an attempt has been made to study the Raybag Mahal "Raibag Mahal under Chhatrapati Shahu and Rajaram by using original sources like administrative Report of Kolhapur State, correspondence of Shahu and Rajaram Dewans files and other relevant documents housed in Kolhapur Mumbai Archives along with secondary Books relating to this topic.

It is interesting to note that Raibag has a special position in the life of Shahu Maharaj who made this place as his Rainy season capital. Every year from June to September Shahu used to run the administration from Raibag.

Before, we study Raibag under Kolhapur it is not wrong to give early history of Raibag region from prehistoric period to the conquest of Marathas.

The Belgaum district is located in the North western part of the Karnataka. The district has been divided into ten talukas for administrative reasons these talukas are Athani, Belgaum, Chikodi, Gokak, Hukkeri, Khanapur, Savadatti (Parasgad), Ramdurg, Rayabag and Bailhongala (Saupagaon).

The portion of land is either black, blackish grey or brownish. The soil of Raybag is highly fertile. The major crops of the region are

jowar, cotton, groundnut, oilseeds, chilies, tobacco, paddy, wheat, sugarcane etc. The trees of the Raibag areas neem, mango, tamarind, acacia and Arabica etc.

Raibag the headquarter of the Raybag petty division 1881 population of 2408, lies 24 miles. South east of Shirol. Raybag the place name is Mentioned as Bage or Puvina bage in nearby Indi taluka. ¹ About Raibag and Sikhar rules in the words of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj wrote to hill, on August 1915 from Raibag "that it was pleasant native place for Sikhar". But as the crop have grown there is no Sikhar now and in a village like this I feel very lonely. This shows ² how Shahu strictly observed the rule of Sikhar which he had framed himself a law maker he was not as a law breaker. Again in July 1919 when Shahu suffered from Diarrhea and often felt very sleepy "he hoped a rest at Raibag would improve his health". ³

Place is endowed with a rich and variegated fauna. Animals are depending directly or indirectly upon plants For their survival. Among domestic animals cows and buffaloes sheep , goats , horses , donkey , mules, cats, dogs , and fowls are prominent crow are found all over the area. Krishna valley area, khillari, Amrit Mahal and local breeds of cows are noticed in the area. Cows are reared for milk and drought purposes while bullocks are used in ploughing and transport She-buffaloes are reared for milk , while he -buffaloes are used for

1) Bombay Gazetteer p. 318

2) Shahu Chh a Royal Revolutionaries B D Kher p 246

3) Ibid p 374

ploughing and draught. Surti, Gavli. Pandharapur and local breeds of buffaloes are noticed in the area. Donkeys and horses are used for transporting clothes and building materials. Dogs are kept by owners to guard their premises and also to hunt boars, sambar, hare, chital and other animals . Pigs are reared for pork and they are generally the only villages scavengers. Goats are reared for mutton and some goats yield milk . Sheep are reared mainly for wool and mutton. Fowls are reared for eggs and chicken .

Among the wild animals, the common langur *Presbytis entellus* is found all over the area occurring in groves river banks and woodlands. Rhesus macaque *Mucaca mulatto* and bonnet macaque *Mucaca radiata* are generally distributed in the area. Rhesus macaques are terrestrial in habit. Preferring the open plains to the forest clad country while bonnet macaque inhabits forested areas, rocky cliffs and wanders about in parties. The sloth bear *Melursis ursinus* is nocturnal in habit and found in rocky hills, dry deciduous and xerophytic forests in the plains but near fresh water. The diet of sloth bear often varies with the seasonal flowering and fruiting of different trees and Shrubs . Tigers , *Panthera tigris* , are rare in this areas The jungle cat *Felis chaus* , and the toddy cat *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* are common all over the Areas . Toddy cat is nocturnal , tree dwelling civet cat. frequenting forest and hill ranges in the district . The Indian civet *Viverricula*

indica occurs in forest areas. The striped Hyena *Hyena hyaena* is common all over the area. The small Indian mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* is also common all over the area. The common Indian jackal *Canis aureus* abounds everywhere. The Indian fox *Vulpes bengalensis* is common in the eastern parts of the area. The common porcupine *Hystrix indica* is rare. The giant flying squirrel *Petaurista petaurista*, the Malayan giant squirrel *Ratufa blanfordi*, the wild pig *Sus scrofa* are common in all forest areas. The wild pig is a dirty feeder and will even eat carrion cows which have died of disease.

The black-necked hare *Lepus nigricollis* is common in open area and scrub forest than heavy forest. The sambar, *Cervus unicolor* is rare occurring in forests. The spotted deer *Axis* is diurnal common in the forest areas than plains. Spotted deer is diurnal unlike the sambar which is nocturnal in habit. The barking deer *Muntiacus muntjac* haunts hill forests with its echoing rattling call. Muntjacs are a favorite prey of tiger Panther and packs of wild dogs the Indian Chevrotin (mouse – deer) *Tragulus meminna* is common in forest areas and is nocturnal. It is quite a pretty, Shy cud-chewing deerlet. Bison or gaur *Bos gaurus* is found in forest areas, feed on grasses, shoots and barks of some trees and they are preyed on by tigers. Solitary bull some times grazes on the cultivators who find it difficult to drive them away. Elephant *Elephas maximus* frequents the forests

in small groups. The pangolin , *Manis crassicaudata* is common wherever there are tamarinds , figs or other trees with edible fruit . Bats squeak while at rest and in flight they emit ultrasonic pulses of sound . Great musk shrews , *Suncus murinus* is often seen in the forest . The bandicoot , *Mus bandimanus* is the common house and granaries . The migratory rat , *Mus decumanus* is the common house rat found in the plains and is said to do much damage to the crops , especially during famines . Among honey bees, *Naraj jenu* (*Melipona* sp.) and *Sanna nonajenu* (*Trigona* sp) are about the size of gnats and they build their nests around small twigs in bushes and also in the ground . *Nanajenu* and *Kadujenu* build nests in trees and rocks . *Aphis* sp is domesticated and reared in the district.

Among birds, black vulture, *Otogyps calvus* is common everywhere and more in forest areas . The brahminy kite *Haliastur Indus* is found near all large ponds and reservoirs . The common pariah kite *Milvius migrans* is very common in fair weather and occurs in small numbers during rainy season. The Indian screech owl, *Strix javanica* is common in forest areas and the Rock horned owl, *Bubo bengalensis* is common in plains. The common swallow, *Hirundo rustica* is a cold weather visitant found everywhere . The wire- tailed swallow , *Hirundo filifera* is common in plains. The Indian swift , *Cypselus* is common in plains and the crested swift *Dendrochelidon*

coronata is very common in forests areas . The jungle nightjar, *Caprimulgus induicus* is common in forests area, and common Indian nightjar, *Caprimulgus asiaticus* is common in plains. The common Indian Bee eater, *Merops viridis* occurs everywhere area. The white breasted kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis* is common everywhere and a resident of the area. The grey hornbill *Tockus birostris* and the golden beaked wood pecker *Crysocolaptes delessierli* are common in the area the rose ringed paracket *Dalacornis torrquatus* the Indian Korikeet *Loriculous vernalis*, the blue throated Barbet *Magalima asiatica* and green barbets *Magalima zeylanica* are resident in this area. The koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* is seen mostly in plains.

The common crow pheasant *centrococcyx rufipennis* hovers round in scrub forests and gardens all over area. The European Hoopoe, *Upupa epops* is a could weather visitant and the Indian Hoopoe, *Upupa ceulonensis* is a resident. The Indian Grey shrike, *Lanius schacha*, resident, is found in Plains and the ashy swallow shrike *Artamu fuscus* is common in the area and so is the scarlet minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus*. The small manywet *Pericotus perigrimous* is seen every where. The Malabar racket-tailed drongo, *Dissemurus paradiseus* a resident is seen in forest areas and so is the paradise fly catcher, *Terpsiphone paradist*. The white spotted fantail, *Leucocerca leucogaster* and the yellow-eyed Babbler, *Pictoris sinensis*

both residents are common. And the white headed Babbler, *Malacocercus grisens*, as resident, frequents the plains. The red whiskered bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*, a resident hovers in forests. The red vented bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer* and the white cheeked bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogenys* are also common. The golden oriole, *Oriolus roiolus* is seen in plains and the black-headed oriole, *Oriolus melanocephalus* in forest areas.

The magpie Shama Robin *Copsychus sauliris* is common in the area. The Indian tricolor bird *Orthotomus sutorius* a resident is found in the plains generally near wells ponds or streams. The large pied wagtail *Monticola maderaspatensis* is common thorough out the area. The Corvid crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* is common every where. The common mynah *Acridothera tristis* a resident is found in this plain area.

If the common bay weaver bird, *Ploceus philippinus* frequents plains, the White-backed munia *Lonchura striata* the forest areas. The common sparrow, *Passer domesticus* a resident, is common everywhere in towns and villages. The blue rock pigeon, *Columba livia* hovers round plains and hilly regions. The spotted dove *Streptopelia chinensis* belongs to all forests and the painted Sandgrouse, *Pterocles fasciatus* is confined to scrub forest. The common sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* a resident, is seen in plains, mostly in open grass lands. The peacock

Pavo cristatus, is very common in scrub forest and the grey jungle fowl *Gallus sonerati* is common in forest areas. The painted partridge, *Francolinus pictus* a resident, is seen on most black soil tracts and is seldom found far from trees. The common grey partridge, *Ortygornis pondicerianus* is very common in the scrub forests. The jungle bush quail, *Perdica asiatica* belongs to forests.

The lesser florikin, *Sypheotides aurita* is seen in fields and grass lands. The common ring plover, *Aegialitis dubia* hovers round ponds and grasslands. Near water source is seen the red wattled lapwing, *Venellus indicus*, and the yellow wattled lapwing, *Lobipluvialis malabarica*, a resident, chooses drier ground. The painted snipe* *Rhynchaea bengalensis* seems to require much thicker cover and is never found in bare rice-fields. The spotted sand piper, *Rhyacophila glareola* is fond of ponds and rice fields. The stilt, *Himantopus candidus* lingers near ponds. The Green Shank, *Totanus glottis* appears in the cold season. The pheasant-tailed jacana, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* is a bird of the plains. The purple coot, *Porphyrioporphyrus* is locally distributed, mostly near reedy ponds. The white breasted water hen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus* likes ponds and river banks. The adjutant stork, *Leptopiles dubius* and the white necked stork, *Ciconia episcopus* are found all round in this area and so are the little egret, *Egretta garzetta* and the large egret, *Egretta alba*. The white ibis, *Threskiornis*

melanocephalus is found on all the larger streams and river banks. The little cormorant, *Palacrocoraxpygmaeus* and the purple sun bird *Nectarinia asiatica* are also seen all over.

Among amphibians, the common toad *Bufo melanosticus*, the wrinkled frog *Rana curtipes*, chanum frog, *Rhacophorus maculatus*, green frog *Hyla arborea* are common. They have keen sense of hearing and smell. They feed on insects and worms and breed at the onset of monsoon rains. They are preyed by snakes and carnivorous birds. Among reptiles, Indian chameleon, *Chameleon calcaratus*, garden lizard *Calotes varicolor*, the blood sucker *Calotes versicolor*, marsh crocodile *Crocodilus palustris*, starred tortoise *Testudo elegans*, cobra *Naja naja*, viper *Echis carinata* rat snake *Urocyon mucosus* and semi aquatic snake *Natrix stolatus* are prominent. Lizards are insectivorous and snakes are carnivorous and feed on rats, mice, frogs, toads, lizards, worms, insects and eggs.

Large tanks and rivers in this area present a number of different ecological habitats and accordingly more diverse species of fresh water fish and others live in them. During the rainy season, many fishes migrate upstream before spawning or move into shallow water as the level rises during rains. The Ghataprabha river is the main fresh water fishing grounds in the district.

The forest are disappearing rapidly due to the pressure of increasing population, which has resulted in increased demand for agricultural land, firewood, etc. affecting the valuable forests. Grazing, high tension electricity line, redding the forests, increased communications etc also affect destruction of forest. In 1980, the Central Government enacted Forest Conservation Act of India 1980 to restrict the release of forest land for non forestry purposes in the states without specific approval of the Government of India.

The various forest products are systematically exploited on the principle of progressive and sustained yield and sold to various industries and individuals as per the new policy of the government. The system of sale of standing trees in coupes and of issue of pre-paid licences for removal of forest produce has caused great damage to the forest due to indiscriminate entry of people, cutting of trees in an unorganized manner and also conversion of entire trees as fire-wood while with departmental extraction the sound portion is converted as timber and only the rest as fire-wood. The Government of Karnataka has made a policy decision not to release forest areas any more for agricultural purposes. The Karnataka Forest Act 1963 and Rules 1969 have been suitably amended and were brought into effect in the district. In order to prevent reckless removal of bamboos by permit holders, the department has started extraction and supply of bamboos

to the Medars and others through co-operative societies/bamboo depots.

There are 190 wood based industries in operation in the district which have been allotted the soft wood, matchwood, pulp wood and waste wood, etc., as raw materials in a definite area on long term lease basis.

Timber : The commercially important timber of hard and soft wood species are exploited and sold in public auction through Government timber depots, besides being offered for selection to railways, defence, ship-building industries and housing and for private uses.

Matchwood and plywood: The softwood of commercial importance is being extracted by the industries to whom specific areas are released on lease basis in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of the district. The industries have also been allowed to remove 50 per cent of the available quantity of lops and tops of softwood. The balance of 50 per cent is disposed of to the registered small-scale wood-based industries like slate frames, packing cases, photo frames, etc. by auction sale.

Firewood: The Government has opened a number of fire-wood depots in the district to supply firewood to the people particularly the weaker sections and discontinues the prepaid licence system which has caused damage to the forests. In recent years, the firewood depots were handed over to the Forest Plantation Corporation. The Corporation was running firewood depots in addition to new depots opened recently and sold the firewood to the public on no profit no loss basis.

Eucalyptus: The Eucalyptus wood is used as a raw material in rayon industry as well as in paper industry and also used as firewood and poles. It is supplied to Harihar Polyfibers and West Coast Paper Mills on lease basis. About 5,777 tonnes were supplied to Harihara Polyfibers during 1981-82 and 1983-84.

Development Schemes: The following development schemes were implemented in the area under Five Year Plans. (1); Soil Conservation Afforestation, (2) Teak Plantations, (3) Rehabilitation of degraded forests, (4) Cashew plantations, (5) Forest Development Fund Schemes, (6) Command Area Development Schemes, etc.

Soil Conservation Afforestation is operated in the dry tract of the area where the areas are prone to soil erosion on account of barrenness of the land. The main object of this programme is to check soil erosion by planting trees in contour trenches and conserve moisture and meet the demand of fuel, fodder and green manure in the area. 4

CLIMATE

The climatic condition in this area on the whole is healthy and agreeable it and characterized by general dryness except during the monsoon season. In summer, excepting in the far eastern tracts, the climate is not very hot even in May, the nights being cool and sometimes chilly.

4. Karnataka State Gazetteer p 36-44

The year may be divided into four seasons (1) In the summer season from March to May, there is a steady increase in the temperature, with maximum temperature of the year occurring in April, that too In the eastern part of the district. (2) The south-west monsoon season lasts from June to September, when the humidity is very high. (3) October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season, when humidity decreases in this period to the minimum and the evening air begins to be chilly Heavy fogs gather soon after sunset and towards the morning. For sometime after sunrise, the area *is shrouded* in thick mist (4) The cold season lasts from December to February, when the night temperature is at its minimum. The sky is generally clear or lightly cloudy.

Rainfall:

The average rainfall in this area is 784.7 mm. The rainfall is high in the south-western parts 509.5 mm at Raybag. About 68% of the annual rainfall is received during the monsoon months from June to September. July being generally the rainiest month. The variation in the annual rainfall as a whole from year to year is not large. But in the eastern parts of the district where the rainfall is comparatively less than in the rest of the district, the variation from year to year is large. Records of rainfall in the district are available for ten stations for

periods ranging from 44 to 100 years. The details of the rainfall at these station and for the district as a whole are given in table 1.

Raybag Mahal:

No. of years of data	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest Rainfall	Lowest rainfall	mm	Date
17								4 th
A	96.5	38.6	6.6	509.5	135	51	130.0	May,
B	6.3	2.3	0.04	39.3	(1938)	(1645)		1966

Cloudiness:

The cloudiness recorded in Old tin i.e. in one eighth of sky covered. An overcast sky is said to be covered by eight Oktas of cloud and half covered by four Oktas of cloud. The sky is mostly heavily clouded or overcast during the south-west monsoon seasons. But cloudiness decreases in the post-monsoon- period i.e., October and November The sky is generally clear or lightly clouded during the period from December to February. Cloudiness increases from April onwards and generally it is cloudier in the afternoon.

Winds:

The winds are generally light with some increase in force during the late summer and monsoon seasons The winds blow mainly from the south-west and west during the period from April to September. In October, winds blow commonly between north and east directions, but on some days they are from south-west or west. During November and December, the winds are mostly north-easterly or easterly.

5. Karnataka State Gazetteer Raybag Dist P 49-51
6. Ibid p 51-52

Ecology and Environment:

Maintenance of ecological balance and control of pollution are the major tanks in modern times. The Department of Ecology and Environment which was established during 1981 is working in the field to bring social awareness regarding protection and in finding solution for problems like, air water pollution, dwindling forest, soil erosion, noise pollution etc. These pollutions are caused due to introduction of extraneous materials into the environmental whether in the atmosphere, into water or on land which are not normally found in them, thereby adversely affecting its normal use or reuse. The Department is having a strict vigilance and control over all the scheduled industries of the district and directs them to provide adequate control equipments to prevent pollution. The pollution problems in this are not much as noticed in other areas. 7

Early History:

However, the Chalcolithic site has been discovered by Dr. Sundara at Kudchi rich in black on red pottery and fabrics from those of Godavari and another variety Savalda. The occurrence of ash mounds in Krishna valley, according to Sundra, Seems to indicate the course of diffusion of this activity along the valley towards the Doab and it is probably associated with either the users of sawalda pottery or the iron age megalithic passage chamber builders.

7. Karnataka State Gazetteer Bgm dist. p. 53

As for the Satavahana history they ruled over the deccan and their sway extended over the Raybag area. The chalukya capital Badami being Bijapur district is very near from Raybag and undoubtedly this was a part of Chalukyan core country. The Rattas, the Silaharas of south konkan and of Kolhapur were ruling over Raybag area. In the days of Rasthrakutas. Raybag record also mentions Bhoja appears to have revolted and vikramaditya VI subdued him. The Rattas Kuundi or Koondi included Raybag area also. Karataveerya, also made a grant to Adinath Basti at Raybag in 1201 and Rayabag was flourishing commercial centre under the rulers of Rattas. In the 11th century Raybag is said to have been the head quarter of a Jain chieftainship.

Ferresta, has pointed that, the Emperor Allauddin Khilji, appointed two officers in the Belgaum region, and one of them stationed at Raybag. When Bahmani kingdom was founded in 1347 and there is a view that, founder of this dynasty was Amir under the Delhi sultanate in the deccan was originally belonging to Kudchi of Raybag mahal and territories to the north of Ghataprabha which belonged to Delhi, came under the Bahamanis.

Then Yusuf Adil Shah, inherited the Raybag, possession of the Bahamanis continued and to be important administrative centre. Asad Ali Khan was governor of the Belgam and after his death his son

Mohammad Kiswar Khan (1557-1558) was recognized as the successor with authority over Raybag. When the life of Ibrahim Adil Shah was despaired of Momammad Kishwar Khan governor of district of Hukkeri Belgaum and Raybag who possessed great wealth influence in the state moved towards the mirch fort and he played an important role in forming the confederacy against Vijaynagar before the battle of 1565.

Golconda Ahmednagar and Bidar army plundered Raybag when they were on the way back to Bijapur and ainmulk was attached at Raybag by Bijapur general Hamidkhan. The Mughals led by Khan Zaman came as far as Raybag in 1636 and plundered it. Ranadula Khan was the Jahagirdar of the Raybag was sent to Basavapatana to conquer it and in the next year Ranadulla Khan accompanied by the Shahaji reached Bangalore and Shrirangapattanam. 2

Some sources speake of Raybag as a separate Mahal sarkar under Mughals after 1616 with 12 praganas and of these Raybag alone had 82 villages (vide Bombay gazetteer Belgaum district p. 383). As Abdula Khan who had centered Mughal service in 1686 was a man of sardar of 22 division or mahals. Raybag came under his control. Then Asaf Jha Mirza was Sarkar of Raybag from 1724 – 1760. 2

SARKAR RAIBAG:

Mahal (Pragan 12 Rs. 1140787 An 8 Rs. 1141273 An. 4 Ps. 4 S (S.D F131).

2. Kannara State Gazetteer Bgm Dist. p. 73-111

3. Bombay Gazetteer Bgm Dist p. 383

1. Pragan Haveli Raibag villages 80 (VS 82 S1):

Rs. 150000 Rs. 150000 An 10 (S.D.F. 139) (Raibag) with Petha, Ankola, Jalalaur, Darkanwari, Laslapur, Malji, Mahanadpur, Maulidakotha, Majmala, Aisnanda, Akupetha, Abalkar, Huraj, Sirpur, Malluli, Sadoli, Hauradgaon, Hunapur, Aunardi, Rajpur, Halever, Bardi, Ankali, Kukhtanbh, Kruhi Luth, Kuthsar, Nisfarkgaon, Ballya Arkal, Anknur, Kalwari Kanakbai, Daunkatha, Luthanhlla, Jastwar, Bauuni, Horanahall, Pudiwal, Hankur, Andwar, Thanapur, Balutanhudi, Baskeli, Lurdi with Mazra, Salkara Balechinchani, Arjunwar, Babadaki, Ranpur, Lokur, Raibgawadi, Kurundwad, Koshal, Chalwar, Maludar, Alias karba sidhals, Kanrahall, Tarwar, Marul Bandbaragaon Binarwar, Muwar, Kanurwar, Muranada, Maradhum, Dhalwari, Chinchawad, SArkur, Kannur, Lingwar, Maltibadar, Aaminpur, Barkunda, Aukaur Khurd, and Samsa. 10

Shivajis son Sambhaji Sacked Raybag while returning from Hubali in 1675. in 1675 Shivaji captured Kolhapur. A report from the Raybag factory of English reports on his activities in 1677 "By reason, of lamentable devastation which savages hath made in Raybag Hantene (Athani) callapore etc.". 11

Thus Kolhapur in principal had secured control over major parts of Belgaum District by the treaty. (The Treaty had acknowledged his sovereignty over the territory lying between the rivers Krishna and the

10. History of B.T. Suba by Smartwala (phd) p. 29

11. Kolapur Dist Gazetteer p. 64-65

Varna on the north-east and the Tungabhadra of the South). But Sambhaji did not transfer the parts of Miraj and Athani as per the treaty. But Shahu later captured these areas the Ghorpades of Ichalkaranji, who were the neighbours of Kolhapur (the place is on the very borders of the, present Chikodi taluka but in Kolhapur district) were subordinate Jahgirdars of Kolhapur and were also relations of the Peshwa. This family also proved to be an irritant in the establishment of normal relationship between Kolhapur and Satara. Sahu of satara died in Dec 1749. Previous to this, there had the serious efforts to have Sambhaji of Kolhapur being nominated as the successor to Satara too. Though Peshwe, Balaji Rao, welcomed it, Tarabai, who was then at Satara, was opposed to it as Sambhaji II was her steps son who had deprived her own son of power. Tarabai brought fourth claimant card Ramaraja, described as son of her own son Shivaji and he was accepted as the successor the Satara throne still Peshave Balaji tried his level best to maintain cordial relation with Kolhapur. He got his own cousin Sadasbivabhau appointed Peshawa at Kolhapur. Five forts, which included Bhimbad and Vallabhgad in Belgaum district were also transferred to the Peshwa by Sambhaji II. Balaji conducted a campaign (1754) against Savanur Nawab pay the dues to Kolhapur for the territories over which Kolhapur had rights in the present Bijapur. Dharwad and Belgaum district. (in Belgaum, Gokak

is mentioned as one such Sarkar or district). But his own case for succession to Satara was not considered, Sambhai II remained dejected and affairs of the State were now looked after by his fourth Queen Jijabai, a member of the Torgal Shinde family.

Ichalkaranji Jahgir granted to Venkatrao Ghopade by Kolhapur was an ambitious lady, Anubai Balaji's aunt (Bajirao's sister married to Venkatrao) at the helm she was always keen on increasing her power and prestige she joined Balaji in his southern campaign in 1795 and secured territories like Dharwad from Balaji which gave took from Savnur. A subordinate of Kolhapur Ranuji Ghatage of Kagal sought her help in his grievances against Kolhapur. He, with the help of Anubai and some contingent sent by Patwardhan of Miraj, subordinate of the Peshwa, created lot of trouble in and around Chikkodi in Kolhapur territory. Still the Peshwa and Jijabai maintained cordial relations and exchanged courtesies regularly. In 1760 Sambhaji II died as he was childless and adopted child Shivaji III succeeded. In 1761 Govindrao Patvardan was granted Miraj in the neighbour of Kolhapur, a Jagir. This added to the misunderstanding Kolhapur court had against the Peshavas. Following the disaster of Panipath in Jan. 1761 Peshwa Balaji died in June, and during the days of his younger successor, Madhavrao, the intrigues of his uncle Ragunathrao (Balaji's brother, known as Raghoba) and

emergence of Hyder as a powerful potentate worsened the relations between Kolhapur and Peshwa and the Raybag saw many battle's in ensuing period.

Shivaji IIIrd (1760-1812), a mere child of five and Jijabai as her regent and the young and thoughtful Peshwa Madhavrao had given consent to his adoption. And also granted income from Kasaba of Belgaum to Queen mother Jijabai in 1762 the Peshwa agreed to pacify the recalcitrant chief tains of Kolhapur in the Paraganas of to Hukkeri Chikodi, Kagal and (Nagar) Manoli in return for Rs seven lakhs. Though the Peshwa did bring these territories under control, Jijabai had borrowed money for paying Rs seven lakhs to the Peshwa. When the Peshwa found that the money lenders were pestering the queen, he farmed out C.hikodi and (Nagar) Manoli to Parashuram bhau Patwardhan, the member of the Miraj Patwardhan's family (1764). But this lead to bitter feuds between Kolhapur and the Patwardhans, Farming out of the territory resisted by Kolhapur and the Peshwa sent his army to help Parshuram bhau. This army captured Bhoj Eksamba and Kagal and even approached Kolhapur. Jijabai signed away the to Parganas and paid a cash compensation of rupees Rs 1.10 lakh. But as the two talukas were handed over to the Peshwa only temporarily for policing them and as he had recovered his policing fees on request of Jijabai for their return, the Peshwa instructed in 1767 that they be

returned but the Patwardhans did not obey. Peshwa Madhavarao fell sick in 1770 and he died in 1772 but his successor and younger brother Narayanrao again ordered for their return in 1773 soon after Jijabai died Yeshwantrao Shinde became the administrator of Kolhapur.

But things took queerturn at Pune, when Peshwa Narayanarao was assassinated in September 1773, his uncle Raghoba succeeded him. But Raghoba was ousted by a Council of Regency called Barabhais headed by Nana Phadnis. This weakened the administration at Pune, and petty chieftains and Jahgirdars started mischief. The Ghorpades of Ichalkaranji started inroads into Kolhapur territory, and Shivaji II resisted, As the Pune Court did not effectively interfere, Kolhapur allied itself with the Desai of Kittur, Veerappa Gauda who was in a revolting mood against the Peshwa, and also Haider Ali. Konher Rao Patwardhan was appointed by the Pune Durbar to sufeguard Ichalkaranji in the dispute between Ichalkaranji and Kolhapur, This further aggravated the crisis. Konher Rao marched against Kittur, defeated Veerappa Gauda at Maldinni near Gokak and inflicted a heavy fine on him. Due to some offensive movements of Kolhapur (a fight at Bagewadi in Jan. 1774 in which Patwardhan forces had been defeated) Konher Rao laid siege to Kolhapur and returned after only pundering. a Matha there in March. Next Kolhapur allied itself with the ousted Peshva Raghoba. They also drove out Patwardhan's forces

from Chikodi and (Nagar) Manoli. This forced the Pune durbar send an army led by Mahadaji Sindhia against Kolhapur. Kolhapur came to terms (1778), agreed to pay an indemnity of Rs 15 lakhs and Chikodi and Manoli were given as security. This was followed by a revolt in the Bhudargad Fort of Kolhapur which surrendered to Parashurambhau Patwardhan.

In 1782 Shivaji III who lived at Panhala till then came to Kolhapur and this became its capital. There was comparative peace in the region (except a campaign of Parashurambhau against Katkol) till 1792 but soon after the third Anglo Mysore war Parshurambhau again started encroaching upon Kolhapur. Though his son Ramachandra was taken prisoner at Altha and later released he laid his forces till and Kolhapur collected an indemnity of Rs. 3 lakhs at Pune the boy Peshava Madhavrao II committed suicide 1796. Ragoba's son Bajirao II succeeded to the post Nana Phadanvis who was at the helm of affairs at Pune had some misunderstanding with Parshurambhau. He encouraged Shivaji III to attack him and the Kolhapur army not only attacked Parshurambhau's town Tasgaon but even burned his palace recovered Bhudargad fort and also Chikodi and Munoli which had fallen in the hands of the Nipani Desai then Shivaji III planned to proceed to Karnataka and after taking Shahapur Angol and Kurbet he laid siege to Gokak and took it in January 1798 next he took Hubali

(Mugutakhan) and planned to march on Satara soon Nana Phadnis and Parshurambhau reconciled themselves. The Peshwa also supported Parshurambhau as he was apprehensive of Shivaji's movements. Parshurambhau while marching on Kolhaur via Gokak and Chikodi was killed at Pattankudi in 1799. (His tomb is there in the outskirts of this town in Chikodi taluka). An army led by Ramachandra Patwardhan, supported by the army of Pune and Sindhia of Gwalior attacked Kolhapur and laid siege to the town for over three months. In the meanwhile Nana Phadnis died at Pune (1800) and Bajirao II ordered the withdrawal of troops. But by the treaty that followed, Chikodi and Munoli were to be restored to Kolhapur by the Peshwa. But actually the territory in the possession of Nipanikar Desai who had captured it on behalf of Sindhia. Kolhapur allied with Chandrappa Desai of Tallur and encouraged him to attack Manoli which he did. Tallur Desai even marched towards Nipani.

A war Kolhapur Waged against Sawantwadi helped Nipanikar Desai to seize Chikodi and Manoli in 1806. Next Nipanikar defeated Kolhapur 1808. At Sahagaon and his marriage with Kolhapur princes did not improved matters encouraged by Bajirao II Nipanikar attacked Kolhapur 1812 and thus forcing them Chhatrapati to except the protection of the British and renouncing claim over Chikodi and Manoli. Shivaji III successor Shambhu (1812 - 21) got Chikodi and

Manoli backing 1818 in return back return for his support to the English in their war against the Peshwa. His brother and successor Shahji (1821-37) incurred the displeasure of British by increasing his army and disloyal acts. In 1827 Chikodi and Manoli were taken away from him.

Hussain Ali one of the two famous Sayyed brothers was forced to agree to Shahus proposal of granting the authority to collect Chouth and Saradeshmukhi from the six deccan Subas of Moghals including Subah of Bijapur in which the major part of Belgaum and Raibag lay but the hold of Satara branch over Raibag was very weak. So the major parts of Raibag came under Kolhapur. The political history of Raibag turned Kaleidoscopic during the later half of the 18th Century. The Peshava and his subordinate Pathavardhan of Tasgaon on one hand and Chhatratpati the Kolhapur on the other and the Navab of Savnur and on the third and finally Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan entering the fray and the Desai of the Hukkeri Vanthmuri, Naval Gund (later Sersangi), Kittur, Nipani and many others trying either to hold or expand their power in the region made this area a hot bed of fights and intrigues. During the Shivaji the IVth 1837 – 1866 Kolhapur lost its hold over on major parts in Belgaum area.

Turning east for about 10 miles from North boundary of the isolated Kolhapur division of Raibag. But Raibag Mahal in the former

Shirol Taluka 31 villages remained under the control till 1947 till they were merged in Belgaum District.

As the separate Maratha state of Kolhapur was founded by Tarabai The daughter-in-law of Chhatrapati and the wife of Rajaram in the name of her son Shivaji-I in 1710 and the seat of this second Maratha state was at Panhala. This kingdom of Panhala later on came to be called as Karveer or Kolhapur kingdom which lasted upto 1949 A.D. when it merged into the Indian Union.

Shivaji-I (1700 to 1714 A.D.) the son of Tarabai and Rajaram was the first Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. But by the bloodless Palace Revolution of 1714 A.D. Tarabai and her son Shivaji-I were removed from power by Sambhaji-II, the son of Rajaram and Rajasbai.

Sambhaji (1714 1760 A.D.) second son of Rajaram became king in 1714 after a successful revolution and he also continued the struggle for supremacy against Shahu of Satara. Their rivalry ended only with the partition of kingdom effected by the treaty of Warna concluded on April 13, 1731. By this treaty Shahu recognized Kolhapur as a distinct and independent state it was agreed by the treaty that the river Warna would be the boundary between the two states.

Subsequently, after Sambhaji-II Kolhapur state was ruled by Shivaji-II (1762-1818 A.D.) Sambhaji IV alias Abasaheb (1813-1821 A.D.) Shivaji III alias Buwasaheb (1822 1838), Shivaji-III alias Babasaheb

(1838-1866 A.D.), Rajaram (1866-1870 A.D.), Shivaji-IV (1870-1883, A.D.), Rajarshi Shahu (1884-1922 A.D.) and Rajaram (1922-1940 A.D.), Shivaji (1941-1946) and lastly shahji (1947-49). It is in that the year 1949 Kolhapur state merged into the Indian Union and Raibag mahal merged in Belgaum district of Karnataka state. 12

At Raibag the secular and religious monument of 19th century were the palace like Radhanagar palace as it is mentioned in all documents that the great Shahu Chhatrapati had in all three palaces one for rainy season i.e. Raibag palace, one for summer i.e. Radhanagari and in other times the place at Kolhapur, this Raybag place was a place of hunting. One along with Radhanagar. Naturally the Kolhapur state administration was run from these places. (See Photographs)

In front of the palace there is Mahalkari Kacheri (See photograph) which was repaired estimated cost Rs. 10608/- by the Mahalkari in the year 1902. Left to this there is a Abu water tank (See photograph) which was also repaired in the year 1892 and improved during famine example with an expenditure of Rs. 4472/- and 5793/-, as a famine relief work. Near to it right to place is a temple of Siva (See photograph) constructed by H.H. Chhatrapati Rajaram in the year 1938 mentioned as in Karveer Ilakha and even the expenditure this temple is mentioned i.e. Rs. 7,226/-.

12 Mahabharat Malgankar (Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj's 1944-45 photo)

Right to the main palace there is Rani Palace (See photograph) and in front of it the temple of Ambabai (See photograph), again constructed by H.H. Chhatrapati Rajaram in the year 1940 and the name of the president of Panchayat Ilakha Kasba Raibag was mentioned as Shri. V.K. Patil, (B.A.LLB.). In front this rani palace there is a platform (See photograph) probably the open Darbar was held here. And lastly there is a Darga in front of Rani Palace. (See photographs)

The place has temples dedicated to siddheshwara somanatha, bankanatha hanumata (two) dattareya, vithala narasimha and ambai. The siddheshwara is the gramadevata with a garbhagriha and an open mukhamantapa . The temple is described as built by the peshwas . The mukhamantapa has three entranses and arches connecting the pillars. The garbhagriha has a Shivalinga. The main entrance has a nagarkhane and a gateway and to its right are many broken sculptures which include a beautiful gandabherunda motif in high relief. The jatra (car festival) of the God is held during the last Monday of shravana and when nearly 10, 000 people ass mble . The Somanatha temple is a very beautiful Later Chalukyan monument. It has one garbhagriha and ardhanmantapa and two mukharbantapas. This was originally a dwikutachala but now only one garbhagriha is intact. The shikhara over the garbhagriha is in Kadambangara style but renovated. A huge

Nandi is placed in the center . The mukhamantapas are facing South and the other facing West has kakshasanas with inclined Parapets . The outer portions of the parapets have sculptures in relief of musical troupes like singers, drum beaters, dancing girls etc. and some erotic and secular sculptures. The Bankanatha temple near a private garden is in little depression and has only a garbhagriha (low doorway) and a mukhamantapa. There is no navaranga. It is also in the Chalukyan style but renovated repeatedly. Nearby this temple is a huge old tank which has steps all round and a pillared mantapa to its right bank. Resembling an ancient temple . Bankanatha is regarded as a siddhi devate and devotees believe that one has to visit Bankanath of Bagi along with Shankanath of Sankeshwar and Kopnath of Kindrapur (Maharashtra) The Narasimha temple in the Koshitgalli is far below the ground level. One has to pass through a narrow passage to reach a spacious navaranga in front of a garbhagrillha are fine sculptures of mythological and other themes in high relief like Vishnu, Surya, Sheshayana, Anjaneya etc. The Panth Balekundri Maharaj is said to have been married at this temple in Saka 1804 Among the Hanumanta temples , the one built near the bus stand by the labourers of the area is a recent concrete structure, with old pillars of Chalukyan temples . The Vittal mandir facing a private garden is a recent structure but an

old and highly ornamented Chalukyan Kalika statue is placed inside this temple. This image was unearthed in 1961.

Raibag as a Jain centre:

The striking monument of the town is the Adinatha basti (See photograph) in the Jainagalli. This basti in Later Chalukyan style has a garbhagriha, an ardhamantapa and a mukhamanthopa . The garbhagriha (star shaped) has a seated image of Adinath and its entrance has fine pierced windows. In the ardhamantapa are installed two images of Parshwanatha and Chandraprabha also of the same period. The navarnaga pillars are lathe turned and its ceiling has a deep bhuvaneshwari with an inverted lotus in the centre. The mukhamantapa has a kakshasana with inclined parapets and its outer portions have many floral and geometrical designs. There is a manastambha, about 18 metres tall outside the mukhamantapa is placed an inscription slab of Ratta Kartavirya IV (1201) It registers grants of the village Chinchali to the basti. Another inscription to the left of the village Chinchali to the central hall of the same temple dated 1597 AD states that , at the instance of one Somasena Bhattaraka the temple was renovated by the Jain Sengha and the image of Parshwanatha was installed. The Sanskrit version of the same inscription is engraved on a pillar . A slab set up in a niche in the west wall of the mukhamantapa has a fragmentary inscription dated Saka 963 . The



PALACE (LEFT SIDE)



PALACE (RIGHT SIDE)



MAHALKARI KACHERI



PLATFORM OF DARBAR



RANDULLA KHAN TOMB



RANI PALACE



ABU TANK



AMBABAI TAMBLE



DARGA



INSCRIPTION IN SHIVALAYA



SIDDHESHWAR TEMPLE



SHIVALAYA



Adinath Basti

basti also houses a Jain Matha called Sri Lakshmisena Maharaja Matha.

There are two other inscriptions gives the details of grants. One gives the details that there was a jain basadi constructed by a marasingayyasetti. It had acquired fame as Sunyasthana. The inscription narrates that an officer called dandanayaka Dasimarasa went to this place to watch the celebration of the worship of Jina (Jina pujotsava) and made grant of land. The interesting part is that the mahajanas of the place who were thorough in vedic lore and vedic practices were enjoined with the task of protections the grant made to this Basadi with the well known Mahalaxmi temple as a centre of attraction and veneration. For the people of all parts of the country and with a quite few jain basadis in worship claming a following of a large number of devotees Kolhapur itself is a living example of this phenomenon. And another inscription gives the details that kalidasa Dandanayaka subordinate officer of the Chalukya Jagadekmalla once on a visit to the Marasingesetty basadi at agrahara huvinbage (Raibag) to watch the worship of Jina there. He made a grant of land for the repair of the basadi at the request of the nakars of that place who described it as sunya sthana. The grant was made over to kumara Kirtipanditadeva a acharya of a basadi. He belonged to yapaniya sangh and punnaga vrikshamala sangha. It was enjoined that the grant

would be protected by the Mahajans of this puvinabage described as ghatikstana and agraphara. ¹³

There is one more basti atop a small hillock (two km) on the Chinchail road. This Parshwanatha or Gad Basti is also in Later Chalukyan style with a garbhagriha navaranga and a mukhamatapa. The hill has fortifications behind the basti. There are steps to reach the same. Another important record from Raybag is an inscription on a herostone lying near the library building of Kalyana Chalukya Vikramaditya VI. It states that one Chandarasa killed several renowned warriors and died in the battle field . The place has an Jamia Masjid named after Ranadaula Khan. This masjid has an Arabic inscription on the façade dated 1629 AD, It states that one Bijapur officer, Amin Mustafa Khan built the mosque. This is fine structure with an imposing central dome and two minars in the front a slab fixed at the corner of a field near the bridge on station road has a Persian inscription which refers to the foundation of the peth designed as Mustafabad and remission of some levies on orchards in character of early 17th century. Yet another inscription slab set up on the bank of stream near the localities damaged and undated, but seems to refer to the revenue remission of a fruit garden for a period of three year. Raybag is even today renowned for its fruit gardens, mainly bananna. The place has two dargahs, one ascribed to sheik Bahudin Jisdi also

¹³ Inscriptions from Kol-Dul by Delit K. K. K. & 1990

called Langoti Wali, located on the Chinchali road and the urus is held annually in the month of saffar. When about 1,000 people assemble. Another dargah is ascribed to a Hukkeri peer and no urus is held.

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