

CHAPTER - I

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CHAPTER - I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

(HISTORICAL BACKGROUND)

In India there are very few cities which have a hoary antiquity and glorious past history, such as Benaras, Delhi, Agra in northern India and Kanchipuram, Hampi, Karad, Kolhapur, Nagarjunakonda, etc. in Southern India. Fortunately Bijapur (municipal administration of which is subject of study) occupies an important place among the historical cities of our country. It had not only a rich past history but has also glorious culture.

Bijapur was the seat of a mighty Adil-Shahi Kingdom for nearly two centuries (1489-1686). The Adil-Shahi Sultans have left behind them a reputation as builders second only to the mughal emperor of Delhi; and one of them at least is responsible for a building unique of its kind. Among them Gol-Gumbad and Ibrahim Roza are veritable wonders of the world. These monuments of Hindu and saracenic art are not only having an important place in the history and evolution of Indian architecture but also throw light on the glorious history of this period. During Adil-Shahi period (1489-1686) Bijapur had the population of 10 lakhs (A census caused to be taken by Aurangzeb, the mughal emperor, ⁱⁿ the year 1689 after the devastating plague, which had taken the toll of 1 lakh,

revealed that 9,84,000 persons lived in the city) This speaks undoubtedly that this was one of the leading big cities in India during the Adil Shahis.

Here an attempt will be made to study the municipal administration of this city from 1854 to 1954, To understand the past history of this city, it is essential to take a historical survey which will enable us to understand the place occupied by Bijapur in ancient, medieval and modern period.

ORIGIN OF NAME :

The name Bijapur is originated from the Sanskrit term 'Vijayapura' meaning city of victory. It is not known when exactly the place was named vijayapura and which victory it was intended to perpetuate. A stone pillar, probably a victory pillar found near Ark-Killa in the town suggest that pillar may be of not later than the seventh century. There may be some connections between the victory pillar and the name 'Vijayapura.' In that case the origin of the name goes back to the seventh century.¹

An inscription belonging to the reign of Chalukya King Jagadekamalla (A.D. 1018-1042) refers to a gift to the deity, Narasimhadeva of Vijayapura by Anandapala Mahapradha

Senadhipati of Jagadekamalla. The town was also referred to as 'Rajadhani' or 'Raya-Rajadhani' suggesting that it was a royal seat. It is also referred to as 'Dakshina Varanasi', Benaras of the South'.² This gives the impression that it must have been important religious centre of the Hindus prior to Adil-Shahis.

There were several attempts during the Adil-shahi rule to change the name of the town. Ibrahim II (1580-1626) named it Badyapur and Sultan Muhammad renamed it Muhammadapur. In an inscription found on the wall near Ibrahim Roza, Bijapur is called 'Vidyapura', the abode of learning. But the place has retained the original name of Bijapur.³

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION :

The Bijapur district is in the northern part of Karnataka State. It lies between North latitude $15^{\circ} 20'$ and $17^{\circ} 28'$ and East longitude $75^{\circ} 59'$ and $76^{\circ} 28'$. It is situated well in the interior of the Deccan peninsula is about 130 miles from the West Coast. Sholapur Hubli section of Southern railway traverses the Bijapur town within its eastern outskirts. Sholapur is 68 miles to the north of Bijapur and Hubli 150 miles to the South. Bombay lies about 250 miles to the North West of Bijapur.

AREA :

Bijapur is the largest of all districts in Karnataka State and occupies an area of 6566.9 Square miles or 17,008.3 square kilometers⁵ occupied by a population of 1,660178 - according to the census of 1961.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES :

It is bounded on the north by the Sholapur district and on the north West by the Sangli district, both of - Maharashtra State. On the North and North east, the Bhima river is a boundary between it and the Sholapur district a stretch of the river separates Bijapur from the Gulbarga district. On the east and South east, the boundary runs upto about 150 miles and is purely administrative dividing district from the Gulbarga and Raichur district. On the South, it is bordered by the Ron and Naragund taluks of the Dharwar district, and on the west by the Athani, Raibag, Gokak, Ramadurg talukas of the 'Belgaum district.' "It is on the whole, compact - administrative unit".⁶

HISTORY OF BIJAPUR :

Bijapur has a hoary antiquity which dates back to prehistoric age. It is but natural that this district, which is well supplied with all the basic requirements of life in the form of a number of rivers and streams, a rich soil bearing sufficient vegetation a dry and healthy climate, has

been the dwelling place of man since very early days.

PRE HISTORY :

A number of Paleolithic sites have been discovered on the banks of Malaprabha, which flows in this district. Of these Khyada in Badami taluka is the most important. Herakal on the bank of the Ghataprabha in the Bagalkot taluka has yielded fine specimen of neoliths and microliths, polished and painted pottery, shell ornaments and terracotta figures. Herakal was thus one of the big centres of iron smelting in the Deccan in the period following the stone age.⁷ These paleolithic sites show that there were - paleolithic settlements in this district and was the dwelling place of pre-historic man.

LEGENDARY PAST :

When we come to the legendary history of the district, we find seven places, namely Aihole, Badami, Bagalkot, - Dhulkhed, Galagali, Hipparagi and Mahakuta, associated with legends of sages and demons. According to these legends these places were part of Dandaka forest or 'Dandakaranya' of the Ramayana. According to local legends demon called Ilvala at Ilal (near Badami) and another called Vatapi at Badami, were terror to new settlers in Dandakaranya until they were overcome by the great sage Agasthya near holy Mahakuta (three miles east of Badami) which is still known

as Dakshina Kashi.⁸ Bagalkot is said to have belonged to a musician of Ravana. Dhulakhed on Bhima river is said to have been the scene of the great sacrifice offered by Daksha Prajapati, at which Daksha's daughter, Parvati, killed herself for the reason that her husband, Shiva had been insulted. Galagali on the Krishna river is believed to have been called 'Galvakshetra' or the Seat of the Gurukula of Galvarishi. Hipparagi in Sindagi taluk has a temple of Kalmeshwara which is said to have been originally built by Parushuram's father, Jamadagni.⁹

EARLY GREEK NOTICES :

But the earliest historical references to these places is to be found in the chronicles of the Greek geographer, - Ptolemy (A.D.150) "Ptolemy's mention of Badamaio" which is sought to be identified with Badami.¹⁰ He also refers to Indi, Kalligeris, Petirgala, which are the places that we now call Indi, Kalligeri and Pattadakal. But it must be admitted that no historical evidence however is available which can throw light on the historical events in this region upto the 6th century A.D., when Pulikeshi. I, one of the early Chalukya kings conquered Badami" and constructed hill fortress of Vatapi".¹¹

CENTURIES OF DIM PAST :

From the Chalukya acquisition of Badami till the Muslim invasion; the history of the district can be divided into four periods.

- 1) Early Chalukyas of Badami (AD 535 A.D.757).
- 2) Rastrakuta period (A.D.757 to A.D. 973).
- 3) Later Western Chalukyas of Kalachuri and Hoyasala period (A.D.973 to about A.D.1200).
- 4) Devagiri Yadava period (A.D.1185 to A.D.1312).

From the inscriptions belonging to these periods it is safe-to assume that some Mandaleshwara or a feudatory Chief of one of the early chalukya kings of Badami was responsible for founding the city of Bijapur.

CENTURIES OF FORMATION :

After emerging out of obscurity, Bijapur came under the rule of the Yadav Kings of Deogiri. In 1294 a Muslim army led by Ala-ud-din, the nephew of Jalal-ud-din Khilji, the emperor of Delhi (1290-1296) appeared in the Deccan. Sacked Deogiri and defeated Ramachandra-dev. According to a local history of doubtful character between 1301 and 1307, Bijapur was under the Government of Aziz-ud-din Abin Jaha, who is said to have built a mosque at Bijapur.¹² In 1312 Ala-ud-din Khilji, emperor of Delhi sent his general Malik-kafur to

Deccan. He defeated and put to death Shankara Deva. (who succeeded Ramachandra deva) Bijapur was then placed in charge of Karimuddin (Son of - Malik-kafur) who was appointed as governor by the Sultan of Delhi. When Ala-ud-din Khilji died in 1316, Harapala Son-in-law of Ramachandradeva restored the former Deogiri territories to independence. But it seems his success was only partial as Bijapur seems to have remained subject to the Delhi emperors. In 1316 again in 1320 Karimuddin is mentioned as the emperor's governor at Bijapur and this is supported by the appearance of his name on one of the mosques at Bijapur.¹³

In 1327 emperor of Delhi Mohammad Bin Tughalag (1325-1357) subdued Karnataka. It was during his reign that in 1347 the Amir or Chief of Bijapur conspired with the - neighbouring chiefs, rose in rebellion. This rebellion ended in the establishment of an independent Muslim Kingdom at Gulbarga under Allauddin Hasan Gangu Bahamani, the first Bahamani ruler, (1347-1358) During the wars between Bahamani and Vijayanagara rulers, the peace of the district, which was part of the Bahamani Kingdom, remained generally - undisturbed. Under Bahamani rulers the kingdom was divided into four provinces namely Daulatabad, Berar, Bidar and Gulbarga. Of these province of Gulbarga which included Bijapur was

regarded the most important and was usually entrusted to the person who commanded the confidence of the King to the greatest degree and hence was called Malik Naib or viceroy.¹⁴

In 1435 during the reign of Alla-ud-din II his brother Muhammadkhan, after ravaging the Vijayanagar country, claimed one half of the Bahamani territories from the King and with the help of Vijayanagara army seized Bijapur. But soon Alla-ud-din regained the possession of Bijapur.¹⁵ In 1444 Devaraya of Vijayanagara invaded Bahamani territories as far as Bijapur. To repel this attack Alla-ud-din and Khan-Jaman, governor of Bijapur marched with huge army and defeated Devaraya.

In 1457 Bijapur was conferred by the Bahamani king on Khwaja-Muhammad Gavan. Bijapur played an important part in the rebellion of Prince Hasan Khan, the brother of Bahamani Sultan Humayun (1485-1461). When the rebels arrived with 800 horses near the mud fort of Bijapur, they were received with respect by the commandant Sirajkhan Junaidi. At nightfall Sirajkhan surrounded the fort and rounding up Hasan and his dependents, sent them to Bidar (then capital of Bahamani). Where the prince is said to have been thrown to a tiger that torn him to pieces.¹⁶

In 1478, in the new distribution of Bahamani territory, Bijapur with its neighbourhood was formed in to

providence under the Governorship of Muhammad Gavan. When he was executed in 1481 the governorship of Bijapur was - conferred upon kings favourite, Yusuf Adil Khan, the future founder of the Adil-Shahi Kingdom of Bijapur. In 1489 he threw off his allegiance and established him self as an independent ruler at Bijapur. With the establishment of Adil-Shahi dynasty started a glorious epoch in the history of Bijapur.

ADIL-SHAHI PERIOD :

Yusuf Adil-Shah, the founder of the Adil-shahi dynasty of Bijapur ruled between 1489 and 1410. He was " a brave soldier and a wise stateman " ^S 17 During this period he was always at war with Vijayanagar and Portuguese. - Interesting records of the condition of Bijapur in the reign of Yusuf Adil shah have been left by the Italian traveller Varthema (1502) and the portuguese traveller, Duarte Barbosa (1500-1514), who seems to have visited Bijapur Court. Varthema describes Bijapur as a beautiful walled city, very rich with splendid buildings. The King who was rich, powerful and liberal, lived in great pride and pomp. The people were generally of a tawny colour and their dress consisted of robes of beautiful silk shirts. They wore shoes. When the ladies went out their

faces covered. The Bijapur army consisted of 25,000 men, horse and foot, the greater part of them foreigners. The island of Goa belonged to Bijapur and it was walled after the European manner Yusuf Adil Shah according to these records held highest place among the sovereigns of the Deccan. He was great patron of art and literature.

Yusuf Adil-Shah was succeeded by Ismail Adil-Shah (1510-1534) His reign was marked by war with Vijayanagar (1520), and ruinous defeat at the hands of Krishnadevaraya. In 1523 Krishnadevaraya invaded the Kingdom of Bijapur once again. This time he led his army to Bijapur, whch for a time he ocupied and left sadly injured.¹⁸ Ismail also waged war with Ahamadnagar. King of Ahmadnagar with the help of Imad shah of Berar and Amir Barid of Bidar marched against Ismail. But were defeated. Bidar was captured and Amir Barid practically became the vassal of the Bijapur King.

Ismail greatly stabilized the position of the kingdom which had so recently risen and was the apple in the eyes of many.¹⁹

Ismail Adil shah according to a muslim chronicler "was just patient and liberal; extremely generous He was well versed in the art of painting, varnishing,

making arrows .. and in music and poetry excelled most of his age. He supported literary men and had great fund of humour.

After Ismail Mallu Adil-Shah was placed on the throne. His short reign of 7 months (in 1534) proved a disgrace to the dynasty. He was dethroned and his brother was raised to the throne under the title of Ibrahim Adil-Shah. I.

Ibrahim Adil-Shah (1534-1557) waged wars with muslim kingdoms of Ahmadnagar, Bidar and Golkonda. He was also in war with Vijaynagar kingdom. But he was met with defeats many times and lost Sholapur to Ahmadnagar, Mudgal and Raichur to Vijaynagar. Ibrahim was a brave and fearless soldier by nature. But at the same time very vindictive and suspicious.

Marathi began to be used for official work in place of persian during his reign.²⁰

He died in 1557. He was succeeded by his son Ali-Adil-Shah. I (1557-1580) Greatest event of his time was battle of Talikata (1565). It was Ali Adil Shah who organized the league of Muslim rulers against Vijaynagar which dealt the crushing blow in 1565.²¹ With the fall of Vijayanagar came to an end one of the glorious chapter in Indian history. In 1580 Ali was assassinated, "The King was gentle, good -

natured and of religious turn of mind ". He delighted in the company of learned men whom he invited from persia to Bijapur. He was great patron of architecture, Jami Masjid of Bijapur was constructed during his reign.

Towards the close of his reign ambassadors from the Delhi emperor, Akbar (1556-1605) visited Bijapur.

Ibrahim Adil-Shah.II (1580-1626) was only nine years old at the time of his uncle's (Ali Adilshah) death. Therefore a regency was formed whose head was Chandbibi, (the widow of Ali-Adil-Shah) "Noble queen" of Meadows Taylor, who-had described her thus" Few in England know that the contemporary of our queen Elizabeth in the Deccan Kingdoms was a woman of equal ability, of equal political talent, of equal education and accomplishments, who ruled over her realm as large, a population as intelligent and as rich as England... She among all woman of India, stands out a jewel without flaw and beyond price"

Ibrahim Adil-Shah II defeated the kings of Ahmad-nagar, Golkonda and Bidar, who had laid seige to Bijapur. Alarmed with growing power of the Mughal he made an alliance with them in 1601 and gave his daughter in marriage to prince Danyal.

During his reign there was an increase in trade and Bijapur became more prosperous. Two English travellers Fitch and Newberry, described it as a very large and rich town.

During Ibrahims reign, the Bijapur kingdom reached its greatest territorial and political power. The capital was enriched by many splendid buildings, and became the resort of many learned men including Ferishta. Ibrahims love of music is personally reported by Asad Beg, an envoy of Akbar, who visited Bijapur in 1604 by the orders of Akabar.²² Asad Bag has described the city of Bijapur in these words "Perhaps no place in the world could present a more wonderful spectacle to the eye of the traveller". He built Ibrahim Roza " the most ornate of all the buildings at Bijapur "

Called 'Jagat Guru' by his subjects for his solicitude for them, Ibrahim had really done much to defend and glorify the kingdom.²³

In 1626 Ibrahim died leaving a full treasury, a flourishing country. "He was the greatest of all the Adil-Shahi dynasty, and in most respects the most able and popular."²⁴

Ibrahim was succeeded by Mahammad Adilshah (1626-1656). He repulsed the invasion of Bijapur by Mughal army in 1631 and 1635. The French traveller Mandeleso who visited India in 1638 described Bijapur as "one of the greatest cities of Asia" Tavernier, the traveller, who visited Bijapur in 1648 writes that "Kingdom reached its greatest prosperity.. and in that quarter of India the power of Bijapur was supreme". The credit of erecting the wonderful and world famous Gol-Gumbad goes to this emperor. This is one of the remarkable achievements of this king and his dynasty.

From all respects glory of Bijapur reached its zenith at the time of Muhammad. The Adil-Shahi dominion stretched from the Arabian sea to the bay of Bengal, across the entire Indian peninsula.²⁵

From his father, Sultan Muhammad Ali-Adil-Shah.II (1656-1672) inherited a kingdom intact and flourishing and at the zenith of prosperity. But Ali was in the midst of the trouble. The Mughals on the one side and Shivaji on the other began to attack Bijapur. Bijapur lost many of its possessions to both the enemies. In 1672 king-died after the reign of 16 troubled years.

The last and the most ill-fated of the Adil-Shahi kings, Sinkandar Adil-shah came to the throne in 1672

and inherited a shattered heritage with troubles inside and outside the kingdom. " What ever vigour had remained in the government was drained away in partisan warfare and Bijapur hardly possessed the means to offer a stiff - resistance to the marching mughal imperialism."²⁶ " The cause of the Adilshahi monarchy was hopeless. The future was absolutely dark"²⁷ In 1686 the Mughal army under Aurangzib camped outside Bijapur and laid seign to the fort. Sunday 12th September 1686 saw the downfall of the Bijapur monarch. Amidst the tears and lamentations of his subjects who lined the streets, Sikandar the last of the Adilshahi Sultans gave up ancestors throne²⁸. An inscription recording Aurangzebs victory was placed on the famous cannon Malik-i-Maidan.²⁹

Thus came to an end glorious period of nearly 200 years. (1489-1686) Adilshahi dynast-y became extinct, and the kingdom was merged in the Mughal empire.

Aurangzeb remained at Bijapur for two years after the capture. In 1689 terrible plague broke out in his camp and his queen died of the disease. So fierce and sudden was the plague that a hundred thousand people are said to have fallen victim to it. So numerous were the victims that in one day 700 carts full of dead bodies are said to have passed through the shahapur gate. Trade ceased, whole city was given over to mourning. The Bijapur hence forth continued as a

dismal example of departed greatness a vast city covered with long lines of fallen houses, ruined mansions and lonely patches of jungle.³⁰ The city was completely free from the plague after three years. When the disease stopped, the emperor caused a census of the city to be taken. The population was said to amount to 9,84,000 though a few years before it had contained nearly 20,00,000 people.³¹

ADMINISTRATION UNDER ADILSHAHIS :

Since the municipal administration of Bijapur is the subject of study here, hence it is desirable to know how the administration was carried by Adil shahi's during their 200 year's reign.

Adil shahi's administred their vast kingdom efficiently.

a) Central Administration :-

The head of the state was called sultan. There was no strict hereditary succession and the office of the Sultan was within the reach of any Muslim who could prove his fitness.³² The Sultan was the head of justice, the chief executive and supreme commander of the army. He was assisted by the body of advisors known as the Majlis-i-Khalwat and Ministers. Their number was never fixed and it varied from time to time.³³ Wazir (in charge of general administration) and Amir-i-Jumla were the important Ministers.

The department of justice was perhaps the weakest and most ill-organized³⁴ the sultan was head of justice. Justice was administered according to the established religious practices. In the village Minor disputes were decided-by-Panchayats.

b) Provincial Administration :

At no stage in its history the Bijapur kingdom was divided into homogenous provinces with a uniform system of administration in them.³⁵ Quite a large part of the territory of Bijapur was given to the nobles as 'Jagir' and they were called 'Jagirdars'. Land which was not under Jagirdars was divided for administrative purpose in to 'Sarkars'. Subedar's were in charge-of-it.

c) District Administration :

The Sarkars were subdivided in to 'Paraganahs' under three officers - the Kotwal, the Deshmukh and Desai.

d) Village Administration :

Village administration was looked after by Panchayat. The village had three officials - Patil, Kulkarni and Chowkidar.

MARATHAS AND BIJAPUR :

In 1696 the Marathas under Shantaji Ghorpade raided the city. From the time of Shivaji onwards (up to the British Rule)

Bijapur along with other parts of Karnataka was subjugate to operation by the Marathas.

In 1703 Chin Kilich Khan was made governor of Bijapur. In 1707 Aurangazib appointed his third son Kam Buks as governor of Bijapur.

When the Nizam of Hyderabad proclaimed his independence in 1724 Bijapur became part of Nizams kingdom. In 1760 Bijapur was ceded by Nizam to Balaji Peshwa, who sent a Maratha governor to be in charge of Bijapur. During this period the city suffered severely. The beautiful open carved palace windows and doors, even the floor ceiling and roofs were torn up for their timber and all that could be pillaged and spoiled was carried away. No attention was paid to the people and the place grew more desolate.³⁶ Added to these were famine of 1784 and raid of the pendaris in 1803.

The destruction and devastation of Bijapur was only stopped by Shahaji the Raja of Satara, to whose family the territories of Bijapur passed on the overthrow of the Peshwa in 1818. Shahaji who ruled from 1839 to 1848 visited the city several times and tried to renovate some of the most important public buildings that were fast falling in to ruin due to the negligence.

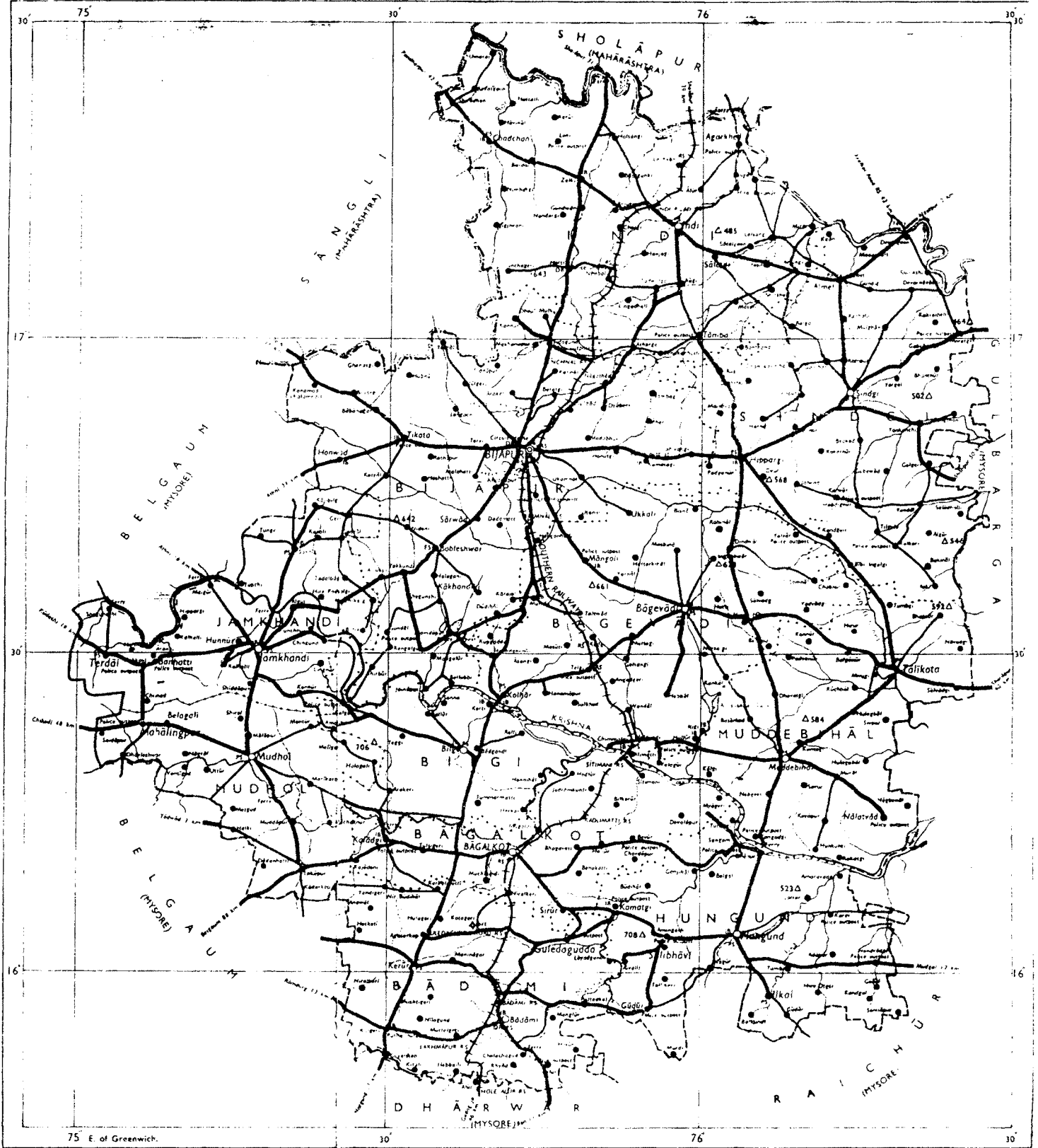
BRITISH RULE AND BIJAPUR :

With the death of Shahaji in 1848, Kingdom of Satara passed to the British with this came to an end the Maratha rule over Bijapur. Bijapur was incorporated in to the Satara district. In 1863 it was handed over to the Sholapur district. The five taluks or sub-divisions as they were known then, namely Indi, Muddebihal, Hipparagi (sindagi), Mangoli (Bagewadi) and Bijapur, which lie to the north of Krishna belonged to the Sholapur collectorate till the end of 1864.

The three taluks of Bagalkot, Badami and Hungund which had also come under the British rule after the fall of the Peshwa, formed part of Dharwar collectorate from 1818 to 1837 when they were made over to the new district of Belgaum.

Mr. W. Hart, the revenue commissioner of the southern division recommended in 1864 that for administrative convenience, a new district should be formed. In sending his - proposal for the formation of the district, Mr. Hart wrote :

"Most of these sub-divisions are so remote from Shelapur and Belgaum, the head quarters of the Collectorates to which they belong, that the collectors personal observation of their requirements is necessarily small.."



In order to remedy these defects, a new collectorate comprising the eight taluks of Indi, Hipparagi (Sindgi) - Bijapur, Managoli, (Bagewadi) Muddebihal, Bagalkot, Badami and Hungund, was formed on the 1st December, 1864, with its head quarters at Kaladagi.

The revenue officers in charge of the sub-divisions (Taluks) were called Mamaltdars and that of the petty - division or sub taluk as Mohalkari. There was no major change in the composition of the district till 1947, except that the head quarters of the district was shifted from Kaladagi to Bijapur in 1885 and the district came to be known as Bijapur district. From that time onwards the pace of the progress became faster.

The Bijapur Municipality which was established in 1854 made its own substantial contribution to the revival and progress of Bijapur. A railway line was laid throwing Bijapur open to the railway traffic and connecting it with the other bigger towns in the then province of Bombay.

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