

PREFACE

The programme of publication of revised editions of district gazetteers under a Centrally sponsored scheme initiated in the State in 1958 is coming to an end by the publication of Bangalore District Gazetteer, which is the 20th and the last volume in the series being brought out after independence. In addition, Karnataka State Gazetteer in two parts has also been published. Thus the first round of publication is over, and this office will take up the work of revision of these district volumes.

The publication of volumes had been in the following order:

Dharwad (1958), Kodagu (1965), Bijapur (1966), Gulbarga (1966), Chitradurga (1967), Mandya (1967), Kolar (1968), Tumkur (1969), Raichur (1970), Hassan (1971), Bellary (1972), South Kanara (1973), Shimoga (1975), Bidar (1977), Chikmagalur (1982), State Gazetteer-Part I (1982), State Gazetteer-Part II (1983), State Gazetteer-Part I, Kannada (1984), State Gazetteer-Part II, Kannada (1985), State Gazetteer-Part III, Kannada (1986), Uttara Kannada (1985), Belgaum (1987), Mysore (1989), Bangalore Rural (1990) and Bangalore (1990). Of the 20 district volumes, almost a dozen have become out of print by now, and of these, the first four have become out of stock more than seven or eight years ago. The proposal to bring out supplementary volumes to these four district gazetteers has been dropped and their new revised editions will be brought out instead during VIII Plan. This office, which was temporary, has been made permanent in 1986 as the State Government, in view of the existing traditions of publishing gazetteers, thought it fit to continue the work as an on-going process. It is proposed to bring out a supplement to the State Gazetteer also during VIII Plan as a decennial publication during 1992-93.

Bringing out the Bangalore District Gazetteer had been the most challenging task in view of the vastness of the City of Bangalore and the variegated activities of the Government and private bodies in the field of social service and cultural activities. This Bangalore District Gazetteer is being brought out for the first time. This Department was gearing up itself for the task for the past several years. A Seminar on the History of Bangalore organised by the Mythic Society in 1987 (when the City celebrated 450th anniversary) was of help in stimulating thought and opening up many new avenues of thinking for the academic staff in this office. Historical informations regarding the growth of the city, its civic amenities, background information on its various social, cultural and economic activities, etc., could be had in detail with view to help understand all modern developments in their proper historical perspective. Published material on Bangalore is vast and scattered (vide Bibliography). We have tapped information, not only from the published sources, but also from unpublished records in the State Archives and

details furnished by Government Departments and private agencies. Scores of knowledgeable persons have also been consulted. Four persons stand out here viz., Justice Sri Nittur Srinivasa Rao, Sri V.S. Narayan Rao, Sri Kora Chandy and Sri Fazlul Hassan. To the elite of Bangalore, they require no introduction. This office is highly thankful to them and scores of others, for their kind and timely help. To the erudite members of the Advisory Committee (whose list is given separately) we are highly beholden. Sri K.S.N. Murthy, Chief Secretary who encouraged us heartily and Sri M. Shankaranarayanan, Additional Chief Secretary, who chaired all the meetings of the Advisory Committee and came to our help by using his good offices and by rendering timely valuable guidance, we owe a debt of gratitude.

My colleagues showed keen interest in gathering informations and drafting the chapters in record time. Ours is a team work, and they require no formal thanking. But I am duty bound to say that but for their hearty exertion, the volume would not have been released early. I must specially mention Sri S.N. Raju, Editor and Sri A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator for attending press work with enthusiasm. M/S. Lotus Printers have kept up their reputation by their neat and punctual work and have earned our thanks.

Creation of this district in Aug 1986 by dividing the old district had been a disadvantage to our work in the sense that exact and separate statistics on many aspects have not been compiled as yet due to a variety of reasons. Bangalore is the smallest of the districts in Karnataka in area but in many respects it stands first. Bangalore City is the fifth biggest city in India, and the fastest in growth due to migration. In industrial and economic activity, the district naturally stands first in Karnataka. The volume in your hands makes a serious effort to unfold the panorama of this small but complex district in all its dimensions.

14-5-1990

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