



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

DOCUMENTING DISTRICT GOVERNANCE
Institutions, Structures and System

Chikmagalur District
Karnataka State



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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

New Delhi

Public Administration has always implied Government, when 'public' actually means community of people. In the post-colonial, post-independence paradigm of the early 1950s, Public Administration really meant providing service to the people by the state apparatus, using the ground rules of justice, ethics and fair play. This was the intention of the visionary Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru when he established the Indian Institute of Public Administration on 29th March 1954, based on the recommendations of a survey carried out in 1953 by Prof. Paul H. Appleby, Dean, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University and a Consultant with the Ford Foundation, when he was invited by the Government of India to give advice on the subject.

As the Institute's first President for a decade, Prime Minister Nehru placed great emphasis on 'decolonialising' the mindset of administration, making it more people-oriented. And he placed great responsibility on the IIPA to enhance the frontiers of knowledge in public policy and governance through applied research and education, as well as training of administrators to serve the people of India. Enhancing leadership and managerial qualities on the one hand, and developing a service-orientation on the other, are the thrust areas of the Institute's education and training activities. Its faculty is involved with research work mainly to simplify procedures and suggest policy changes to ensure improved delivery of public services.

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The Institute's objectives are as follows:

1. To promote and provide for the study of Public Administration and economic and political science with special reference to Public Administration and the machinery of government, and educational purposes incidental thereto.
2. To undertake, organize and facilitate study courses, conferences and lectures, and research in matters relating to Public Administration and the machinery of government.
3. To undertake and provide for the publication of journals and of research papers and books to impart training in and promote the study of Public Administration.
4. To establish and maintain libraries and information services to facilitate the study of Public Administration and spreading information in regard thereto.
5. To constitute or cause to be constituted Regional Branches at convenient centres in India to promote the objects of the institute.
6. To cooperate with approved institutions and bodies for the purposes of helping the cause of Public Administration.



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DOCUMENTING DISTRICT GOVERNANCE
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-A Study of Chikmagalur District

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A Study of Chikmagalur District in Karnataka

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**DOCUMENTING DISTRICT GOVERNANCE
Institutions, Structures and System**

A Study of Chikmagalur District, Karnataka

Preface



T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)
Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka
Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-II
Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration – Karnataka Regional Branch

Administration is meant to achieve something, and not to exist in some kind of ivory tower, following certain rules of procedure. The test is the human beings and their welfare.

- Jawaharlal Nehru

This study of Chikmagalur District was undertaken in response to a project proposal of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, addressed to its Regional Branches, to undertake a study of District Administration in one particular district of the State where the Branch is located.

The Concept Note stated, very rightly, that even after seven decades of Independence, the District Officer remains a crucial and significant instrument of the government, offering the promise of impartial administration, fearless preservation of law and order, and being the patient and compassionate friend of the voiceless and impoverished.

The project guidelines were as follows:

- Each Regional Branch will select one District for the study that existed before 1947 and continues to be there.

- It will focus on institutions, structures, systems and agencies that existed prior to 1947 and have undergone a change during the last 75 years in dealing with these.
- The study will trace the historical evolution and also the transformation from the District Officer being an agent of the British East India Company to occupying the position of the primary field officer at the district level duly empowered by the Raj and, now, to an all-purpose administrator in present-day India, functioning as the face of the government.
- It will also focus on various administrative institutions, structures, systems and agencies, as well as the changing profile of service delivery mechanism over a period of time.
- The study will also prepare a roadmap for *Better Governance* of the selected district in the future.

Based on the above guidelines, the Executive Committee of the Karnataka Regional Branch took a decision to select **Chikmagalur District** for the study.

It was also decided to entrust **Dr. Vishnumoorthy Prabhu**, Faculty in English at Govt. First Grade College and PG Study Centre at Hebri, Udupi with the responsibility of preparing the report. The Branch is indebted to Dr. Prabhu for finding the time to make frequent visits to the offices of the District Administration in Chikmagalur to meet officers and collect data, in the midst of his responsibilities in the college, and for the meticulous preparation of the report.

The Branch is grateful to the **Deputy Commissioner of Chikmagalur District** and to a host of other officers of the District Administration for making available the documents that have been utilized in the preparation of this report.

Introduction

Although the District as a unit of State administration has been in existence in the different phases of Indian history in some form or the other, District Administration has been one of the important institutional legacies bequeathed by the British to India. The district is regarded as the most important administrative division in the country. The reason for the formation of districts during British rule in India was mainly for efficient collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order. As a unit of administrative system, it has been a pivotal point of contact between the citizens and administration.

The district in India is in many ways the most important unit of field administration. It remains the basic territorial unit of administration in the states and continues to be the face of governance. It is a convenient geographical unit where the apparatus of public administration is concentrated. During 1991 census, India had 466 districts. At present the number has increased to 766. Within the districts are units called tehsils or talukas for departments such as revenue, education, health, etc. and Blocks which are basic units for agrarian development. Local self-governments include panchayats and municipal councils. With the passage of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment Acts, local governments have been saddled with major responsibilities, resources and political power within the district.

The district administration includes all agencies of government and comprehends all institutions for the management of public affairs. As a unit of the administrative system, it has been a pivotal point of contact between the citizen and the administration. It is truly the cutting edge of the administration or government and this is what constitutes its vital significance. Delivering high service quality is one of the best ways the district administration can respond to the demands of the citizens and also respond to competition.

Genesis of District Administration

District administration has been one of the important institutional legacies passed on by the British. The genesis of district administration dates back to the East India Company and the principal representative in the district became the Collector of land revenue. Trading was replaced by levy and collection of land revenue. As law and order had to be

maintained and the army could not be present everywhere, the Collector of the district also became the official responsible for maintaining law and order. Later on, the district came under the full governance and administration of the imperial power. The Collector levied and collected land revenue and other taxes. As District Magistrate, he maintained law and order and in doing so administered a system of justice. Gradually, with need, the district administration grew into a complex apparatus with addition of a number of other staff to man various functions/ services at the district level, like the Superintendent of Police, the Civil Surgeon, the District Judge, Superintendent of Jails, Executive Engineer for Public Works, District Agriculture Officer, etc. As the functions and responsibilities of the district expanded, the structure also grew with a large work force to man the various sub-systems.

With independence, due to the growing emphasis on development planning and the implementation of welfare and development programmes through a process of democratic decentralisation, the role and structure of the district administration changed. The district administration evolved from the basic purpose of maintenance of law and order and revenue administration to the implementation of developmental activities for the economic and social advancement of the people of the country. Today the district administration is burdened with multiple goals, objectives and functions ranging from maintenance of law and order and implementation of development and welfare schemes to delivering a wide range of services.

CHIKMAGALUR DISTRICT



Part 1

Chikmagalur District at a Glance

- **Area:** 7,202 sq. km.
- **Population:** 1,137,961
- **Literacy Rate:** 79.25%
- **Blocks:** 09
- **Villages:** 570
- **Municipalities:** 09

Chikmagalur, officially known as Chikkamagalur, is a tiny district located in the foothills of the Western Ghats in Karnataka (south-western part of Karnataka state). Its fame as a tourist destination with pleasant weather, scenic beauty of tropical rainforest punctuated by the coffee estates and places of historical significance, and as a land of rich resources make it a unique and a renowned place. The district is known for its paradoxical features: as a land that witnesses the highest rainfall yet with regions that are affected by scarcity of water; as a land of hills and ghats that are the life spring of the rivers and also the plains. A district that was once known for iron ore mining and a district lacking in heavy industries.

The Western Ghats that stretch across the southern states of the country add to the rich biodiversity and the natural wealth of the region. The Western Ghat range in the district has some of the loftiest peaks. The landscape of the tract is highly enchanting. The slopes of the mountains and hills are replete with wealth; both mineral resources and fascinating natural beauty. A large area of this district is *Malnad*, i.e., a largely forested hilly region of heavy rainfall. The Baba Budan mountain range's stupendous barrier is in the district's centre. The peaks are clad with thick forests, through which the shining streams wind their way, fertilising the narrow valleys and glades.

Chikmagalur in Kannada literally means *younger daughter's town* - *Chikka+Magala+Ooru*. It is said to have been given as a dowry to the younger daughter of Rukmangada, the legendary chief of Sakrepatna. Another part of the town bestowed on the elder daughter is known as Hiremagalur. But some old inscriptions speak of a different derivation associated with the flora of the region. According to this version, these two places were known as *Kiriya-muguli* and *Piriya-muguli* and refer to a plant. The district takes its name from the headquarters town of Chikmagalur which is situated in a fertile valley, south of the Baba-Budan hill range. A centre of education, trade and commerce, the town has attained fame as a scenic tourist destination. The town enjoys a salubrious climate and has venerated monuments of all religions - Kodandarama temple, a synthesis of Hoysala and Dravidian styles of architecture, Jamia Mosque and the new St. Joseph's Cathedral with an attractive shell shaped portico. Hiremagalur which is now part of Chickmagalur town has an Ishwara temple with a 1.22 metre high rotund figure of Jademuni. The temple also has a Yoopastambha supposed to be installed by King Janamejaya during his serpent sacrifice. There is also a Parashurama temple and a Kali shrine.

Location

Being located in the lap of the Western Ghat range, the region enjoys a salubrious climate. The district is situated between 12° 54' 42" and 13° 53' 53" north latitude and between 75° 04' 46" and 76° 21' 50" east longitude. Its greatest length from east to west is about 138.4 km and from north to south 88. 5 km. It is bounded on the East by Tumkur District, on the south by Hassan District, on the west by the Western Ghats

which separate it from Dakshina Kannada (South Kanara) District, on the north-east by Chitradurga District and on the north by the Shimoga District.

Association in Myths and Puranas

The historicity of Chikmagalur is rich in its associations to myths and Puranas. From the derivation of the name '*younger daughter's town*' associated with the story of Rukmangada, to the story of coffee beans brought from the Arab world, the history of the town is replete with legends and Puranas. The inscriptions, memorial pillars and the architectural structures refer to the place being a prominent political centre of many dynasties that ruled over Karnataka. To begin with, this district is considered as the origin of the Hoysala rule. It is believed that the progenitor of the Sala dynasty was born in Soseyuru which is in Angadi village of Mudigere taluk. Angadi was the capital of the Hoysalas until they moved to Dwarasamudra.

Several sages and places in these tracts are associated with stories or references found in the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas. The Puranas hail the area from the western ghats to the coastal region as *Parashurama Srishti* or the creation of Parashurama, son of sage Jamadagni. Also hailed as Rama Bhargava and Veerarama, he is the sixth avatar among the Dashavatara of the preserver god Vishnu. There is a temple of a huge axe (representing Parashurama), at Hiremaga1ur, which is now a suburb of Chikmagalur town. The story of Rishyashringa, the son of Vibhandaka Rishi is supposed to have given Sringeri its name (a combined form of Shringa and Giri). According to the myth, Rishyashringa who had the face of an antelope and the body of a human being, had obtained great powers. Angadesha was suffering from a severe drought but Rishyashringa brought solace to the people. The King gave his daughter Shanta in marriage to Rishyashringa. According to another narrative, Rishyashringa is said to have helped Emperor Dasharatha to perform a *yaaga* to beget Ramachandra and his brothers. There are stories that associate the rivers of the place with the Puranas. For example, rivers Tunga and the Bhadra rise on a mountain called Varaha-Parvata named after the Varaha *avatar*, i.e., the boar incarnation of Vishnu. There are mythological associations to river Hemavathi as well.

A legend relates that the demon Hiranyaksha, son of Kashyapa by Diti Devi, seized large parts of the earth and submerged it in water. Those aggrieved by this implored god

Vishnu to rescue their land. Being moved by their plight, he assumed the form of Varaha (boar), plunged into the ocean, entered the lower world, destroyed the demon, and brought up the earth again. The perspiration arising from this exertion of the boar trickled down its tusks as it rested on the Varaha-Parvata and from the high (tunga) left tusk became the Tunga river and the stream coming down from its right tusk which was pleasant and beautiful (Bhadra) became known as the Bhadra river; the Netravati sprang from the drops which fell from the eyes of the boar - so says the myth.

Hemavati river is fabled to be Dakshayini (Parvati), the daughter of Daksha, and consort of god Shiva. Daksha once performed a sacrifice to which she did not invite her husband. Feeling slighted by this, Dakshayini cast herself into fire. But when she emerged from the fire unscathed, she was of the colour of *hema* (gold). She performed penance for getting reunited with Shiva who appeared before her and asked her to take the form of a river for the good of the world, and so she did, according to a legend.

Dynasties ruling over Chikmagalur

From an early period, the area was a part of the dominion of the Kadambas of Banavasi. Later, the Gangas of Talakad held sway over some parts of the district. In the 7th century A.D., Santara Deva founded a principality at Humcha in Shimoga district. He extended his dynasty southwards as far as Kalasa in Chikmagalur district. Later on, Kalasa became their new capital. The Santaras ruled over the area for a long time. The historical region of Kuntala which was ruled by the Nanda dynasty perhaps included the territory of the present Chikmagalur district. Chandragupta Maurya is supposed to have visited Shrvanabelgola in the adjoining Hassan district in about 298 B.C. The existence of Ashokan edicts in Chitradurga, the neighboring district, indicates the possibility that this area might have come under the influence of the Mauryas. The Sakrepatna plates of Pallava Simhavarman register the king's gift in Valvili-Agrahara in Sendraka-Rajya (Shimoga region) proving that this area was under the rule of the early Pallavas of Kanchi.

The Kadambas

Historically, the first indigenous dynasty of Karnataka that ruled over this region, was of the Kadambas of Banavasi. An epigraph found at Kigga in Sringeri taluk is assigned to 675 A. D. It mentions that Aluvarasa Gunasagara was ruling the Kadamba-Mandala. This

indicates that most of the region of the district was under the sway of the Kadambas. S. Srikanta Sastry points out that some of the characteristic features of the culture of Karnataka owe a good deal to the patronage extended by the Kadarnbas. They divided the territory into *nadus*. Nadu is subdivided into groups of villages. An assembly of elders called *Mahajana* played an important role in the dispensation of justice. The Mahajana administered and looked after the affairs of villages without interference from the king's officers.

The Gangas

The Gangas were another illustrious dynasty of Karnataka that rose to power in the early centuries of the Christian era. At first, the chief town of their kingdom was Kivalala (the present Kolar town). Later, they shifted their capital to Talavanapura or Talakad on the banks of the Cauvery, to the southeast of Mysore district.

The Ganga kingdom reached its zenith during the period of Sripurusha (725-788 A.D.). An inscription (Kadur-145) found at Asandigrama dated about 750 A.D. mentions that Vijayaditya, son of Sripurusha, was governing the area. The Gangas lost to the Rashtrakutas much of the territory and became their subordinates. According to an epigraph of 899 A.D., Nitimarga Kongunivarma Dharma-Maharajadhiraja Srimat-Rachamalla gave 200 (units) of wetland to Pemmadi Gauda of Kiriya-Muguli. According to another epigraph, a subordinate of Srimat-Rachamalla named Madhava-Raja-Deva gave a grant to a Brahmin and constructed a mantapa at Muguli-agrahara. Perhaps, this place was Periya Muguli which is now called Hiremagalur. The inscriptions of the Gangas were found in Kadur, Tarikere, Chikmagalur and Mudigere taluks of Chikmagalur district.

The Hoysalas who started their dynasty in the early part of the 11th century at Sosevur (now called Angadi) shifted their capital to Dorasamudra (Halebid in Hassan district). Hoysalas came to prominence as they extended their sway over a large area until the mid- 14th century. Their contributions to art and culture made them one of the important dynasties of South India.

Under the Vijayanagara empire, the Santaras gained control over the western part of Chikmagalur. The Santaras, the feudatories of the Vijayanagara made Karkala in Dakshina Kannada their capital. The southern part of Chikmagalur was under the

Nayakas of Aigur whereas the north-eastern parts of the district were under the Tarikere chiefs. Later, a greater part of Chikmagalur came under the sway of the Keladi kingdom. In the 17th century, Shivappa Nayaka, the Keladi ruler, gave shelter to Sriranga Raya, the fugitive emperor of Vijayanagara with Sakharayapatna (Sakrepatna), Belur and the neighborhood, as the latter's estate. However, after a few years, Sriranga Raya left the region. As a result of a treaty between the kingdoms of Keladi and Mysore, some parts came into the possession of the Wodeyars of Mysore in 1694 A.D. In 1763 A.D., on Haidar Ali's seizure of Bednur, the area of the district became completely a part of Mysore.¹ Tipu Sultan had a harmonious relationship with the Sringeri Seer and the letters exchanged between them show that the former patronised the *Peetha*.

After the Fourth Mysore War that drew the curtains on the rule of Tipu Sultan, the kingdom was restored to the Wodeyars of Mysore, who had claimed their legitimacy on the basis of hereditary rule. This district formed a part of the Nagar Division in which the historic Nagar rebellion took place.

When the Wodeyars of Mysore were reinstated to the Mysore throne in 1799, Chikmagalur came under their rule. In 1863, Kadur district was formed with Kadur as the headquarters. Though Chikmagalur town came to prominence as a sprawling centre, the district was called by the name Kadur till 1947. The Palegars of Tarikere were prominent leaders of whom Sarja Hanumappa Nayaka was known for his confrontations with Hyder Ali. As Sarja Hanumappa Nayaka was unable to pay the tribute fixed by Hyder, he was restricted to look after the Munjarabad region. Tarikere was the centre for his successors such as Sarja Rangappanayaka and Sarja Hanumanthappa Nayaka. Rangappanayaka and Sarja Hanumanthappa Nayaka opposed the British activities in Srirangapattana and also participated in the historic Nagar rebellion. Sarja Hanumanthappa Nayaka was imprisoned and later put to death by the British.

The Aigur Palegars, likewise, were renowned for their resilient fight against the British. The Ballam rule of Aigur Palegars was spread across most of the Malnad region covering major areas of Chikmagalur. The British captured the last Palegar of this family and hanged him in Uggenahalli of Mudigere in 1802. The illustrious Dhondia Wagh was born at Channagiri in a Maratha family of the Pawar clan. He joined Mysore's army as a trooper during the reign of Hyder Ali. After Tipu's death, he raised a force comprising

¹ The Chikmagalur Gazeteer

soldiers from the former Mysore Army, and emerged as a threat to the British. The British East India Company as well as the Maratha Peshwa sent armies to check his rising power. He was ultimately defeated and killed by a British force led by Arthur Wellesley.

Under Colonial Rule and the Struggle for Freedom

The area adjoining Mahatma Gandhi Road and Belur Road in Chikmagalur had witnessed several meetings of the freedom movement, as national leaders like Babu Rajendra Prasad and NG Ranga had participated in events here. The vast area has since shrunk to a small ground called Azad Maidan and is now called Azad Park with just a fountain erected to commemorate the past glory. Prominent leaders such as K. T. Bhashyam, K. C. Reddy and T. Subramanyam were incarcerated in the sub-jail of Chikmagalur for taking part in the freedom struggle.

Chikmagalur has a history of participation in the freedom struggle, even before the first war of independence of 1857. The chieftain of Tarikere named Sarja Hanumappa Nayaka came to this city in 1780. Hyder Ali defeated him and imposed a heavy fine of 18000 varahas on him. The chieftain could not pay that price. Hyder Ali appointed him to oversee the region of Munjarabad which drew a revenue of 1780 varahas. Hanumappa administered the present Sakleshpura region from Tarikere. Later, this region was ruled by Krishnappa Nayaka Sarja, Rangappa Nayaka and Sarja Hanumantappa Nayaka. The chieftains of Aiguru fought against the British. The Ballama kingdom which had Aiguru of Sakleshpur as the capital occupied the majority of the Malnad land of Chikmagalur. The chieftains opposed the atrocities of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan and fought against the duo; they later continued to fight against the British. The last chieftain of this lineage was captured and hanged by the British in 1802.

In the early decades of the 20th century, leading freedom fighters such as Krishna Rao Hosakoppa and K.T. Satyanarayana from Biruru raised their voice against foreign rule. Later on, the likes of Subramanya Shreshti, C. M. S. Shastri, S. Annappa Shetty, Shankarappa, Dhruva, Nagappa Shetty and others joined the group.

The movement gained momentum after 1940 after the prominent leaders visited the town. The movement gained the shape of a mass movement with flag marches, protest

conventions, picketing, boycotts and protest marches against the British. Gandhi's call for civil disobedience created sensational ripples here in the struggle for Independence.

Mahatma Gandhi conducted several rallies in the state in August 1927. Gandhi stressed on removal of untouchability and uplift of the downtrodden. Gandhi visited Chikmagalur district through Bhadravati and the prominent leaders of Tarikere welcomed Gandhi to the district. Reaching Kadur city late one evening, Gandhi visited the Taluk office, held a meeting there and collected funds from the people for the freedom movement. At Chikmagalur, he was welcomed by renowned Kannada litterateur Masti Venkatesh Iyengar who was the District Commissioner. Masti, Nagappa Shetty and the local coffee estate owners joined together to arrange a big summit in which five thousand rupees were collected for the freedom struggle.

A separate place was allocated to women in the summit. Women belonging to the Adi Karnataka caste were seated quite distant from the women of the upper caste. At Gandhi's call, they came and sat amongst the upper caste women. There was no objection from the upper caste women.

Hosakoppa Krishna Rao was a leading freedom fighter from Koppa taluk who became the President of Indian National Congress, and also the first President of the District Board formed in 1932. He formed the Malnad Land Owners' Organization and was appointed as the citizen's representative in 1912 to the Legislative Council. During the third decade of the 20th century, King Krishna Raja Wodeyar brought about several reformative measures. Krishna Raja Wodeyar also held a summit in Hariharapur which bolstered the movement. As a result, the National Party of the Mysore Legislative Council was formed with Krishna Rao as one of its founding members².

The only summit of the Indian National Congress in Karnataka was held in Belgaum in 1924. Krishna Rao was the Vice-President of the welcoming committee. When the Congress protested the recommendations of the Simon Commission and demanded complete freedom, Krishna Rao's book *Swarajya-Samvidana* initiated a great deal of debate. The British Prime Minister praised it as a valuable record. Krishna Rao was a member of the Parliamentary Committee formed by Motilal Nehru.

² *Chikmagalur in the Freedom Struggle* by Prabhulinga Shastri C. S, P. 26

In 1932, when Gandhi violated the salt tax, K.R. Narayan Shetty and Ramachandra Shetty were arrested for supporting the cause of the Mahatma. C.M.S. Shastri, Shankarappa, D.S. Krishnamurthy, C.R. Shivanand, T.N. Vishwanatha Rao, Sanjeevappa Naidu, Dhruva, Annappa Shetty, and A.S. Chandrashekhar took part in the Non-Cooperation Movement. Shivanand was on the frontline in the movement to merge Mysore province into the Indian republic after independence. Bhagamane Devegowda participated in Shivapura Satyagraha and was also involved in the *Mysore Chalo* movement.

When the Wodeyars regained their power in 1799, the present Chikmagalur district which was called Kadur district had come under their rule. The district of Kaduru was formed in 1863, with the city of Kadur as its centre. As the town of Chikmagalur gained prominence, it became the district centre in 1865, though the district was called Kadur district.

K.L. Nagappayya of Kalsapura, Nagappayya and others erected the K.T. Bhashyam memorial pillar. C.R. Shankarappa participated in the Quit India movement.

Narayana Nayka and Aras of Kartikere, M. L. Vasudeva Murthy, Subraya Ganesh Yaji, Narayana Shetty and Ashwath, the famous small story writer, were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in the freedom movement.

British officers and coffee planters had jointly established the Kadur Club near the District Commissioner's office. Masti Venkatesha Iyengar was asked to accept honorary membership. Masti is said to have declined membership to a club that did not offer its membership to other Indians.

The British young men used to play cricket at leisure and young sportsmen such as Raja Iyengar, S.B. Mulle Gowda, Teekachar, Pushparaj, Chandrashekhar and others formed the team 'Rana Sports Club' after Rana Pratap Singh.

It is said that Subhash Chandra Bose had visited Chikmagalur along with Captain Lakshmi and Bhopalam Chandrashekhar Naidu, the leader of Hindu Mahasabha. The latter is said to have translated Bose's speech.

The region was ruled by the Mysore kings. It was called Kadur district till 1947. After independence, the district came to be identified as Chikmagalur district.

Topography



Chikmagalur district is known for its hilly terrain and lofty mountainous. The daunting Western Ghat range is home to some of the loftiest peaks, not only in the state but also in the country. This district is also a land of rivers that sustain great bio-diversity. The hill ranges of Chikmagalur district are known for abundance of iron ore. The stunning barrier of the Baba-Budangiri is known for historic reasons and is also a devotional seat. These towering hills with breathtaking valleys and cascading waterfalls are surrounded by lush green forests and shola grasslands. The district also marks the transition from the high hills of the Western Ghats that stretch to the plains as we move to the east. The *Malnad* (*male nadu* in Kannada translates to region of rainfall) region of lush green forests and abundant rain transforms into flat terrain in the eastern parts of Kadur and Tarikere taluks. This topographical transition from *Malnad* to open plains punctuated by rivers taking their birth in the Western Ghats is quite abrupt. It is a strange contrast of heavy rainfall in *Malnad* and shortage of rainfall and water in other parts of the district.

Soil

The soils of the *Malnad* parts of the district are nearly of poor acidic type. The district has a variety of soil ranging from black-cotton soil to sandy and gravelly soil. The district has a diverse pattern of land with acidity, alkalinity or salinity and water-logging. Though relatively poor, the soil is well-suited for the growth of plantation-crops like coffee, areca, cardamom, pepper, tea and rubber. About 50 per cent of the soil in the district (mostly from the *malnad* parts) are acidic in nature. The remaining areas of the district are neutral in regard to soil reaction. A few

patches of soil in Tarikere and Kadur taluks are said to be alkaline. A major portion of the soil in the district is poor in phosphorus and potash.

Mountains



The congeries of mountains that form into a ridge running north and south lead to breathtaking chasms on either side. The main ridge commences at Ballalarayanadurga, and passing east of Merti Gudda and Koppadurga, separates the basin of the Bhadra from that of the Tunga, and runs up towards Mandagadde, connecting with the central range of Shimoga district. On the west of this ridge is the valley in which lies Sringeri, enclosed with a girdle of mountains. To the east of it, beyond the right bank of the Bhadra, is the Jagara valley, which is completely surrounded by the Baba-Budan mountains³.



³ The Chikamagalur Gazetteer

Known as Chandradrona Parvata in the legends, this Baba Budangiri range is the loftiest range in Karnataka. It is located in the central portion of the district. This chain of mountains forms a horse-shoe, with the opening to the north-west. The northern arm, commencing with the Hebbegudda is 1,337.4 metres (4,385 feet), and stretches eastwards without interruption for about 25 km. Bending southwards, it presents to the east an unbroken wall of more than 32 km. The southern arm is formed by the Basavanagudda and Woddinagudda ranges. The character of the chain is that of a tremendous ridge, 1,829 metres above sea-level, and in some parts only a row, yards wide at the summit, rising at intervals into loftier peaks. The sides are densely clothed with forests, among which are numerous coffee plantations⁴.

Mullayanagiri is the tallest peak in Karnataka. With a height of 1,930 metres, it is the fourth highest peak in the country. There is a police radio relay station at Mullayanagiri. Seethalayanagiri, also a prominent peak, is situated adjacent to this place.



Kudremukh forest range (1,894 m) is the third highest mountain in the state, after Mullayanagiri and Baba Budangiri. Kudremukh, the hill with a distinct resemblance to the face of a horse is about 20 kilometres from Kalasa in Kalasa Taluk. It is believed that Kudremukh served as a landmark for sailors on the western coast for over 2000 years. It is known for the Kudremukh National Park. Kudremukh also has a small hill station and iron ore-mining town situated near the mountain. The Kudremukh National Park, having spread across 600.57 sq. km. in the adjoining Chikmagalur and Dakshina Kannada districts, houses a variety of wildlife such as the leopard, Malabar giant squirrel, sloth bear, gaur, sambar, jackal, mongoose, tiger, wild dog, common langur, porcupine, spotted

⁴ The Gazetteer

deer, barking deer and giant flying squirrel. The park is home to a variety of birds such as the Malabar trogon, Malabar whistling thrush, and the imperial pigeon. Kudremukh is declared as one of 34 biological hotspots of the world because of its tropical biological richness.⁵

The Baba Budan range was called Chandradrona in the Puranas. Apart from being one of the most beautiful locations frequented by tourists, it is also known for devotional places. The most famous, perhaps, is the Datta Peetha where Saint Dattatreya is said to have done penance. Chandra Drona Parvata as it was called, had been a centre of religious harmony, as the shrine there was a centre of reverence for both Hindus and Muslims.

Rivers



A large portion of the district (more than 80 per cent) falls under the Krishna basin (the Tunga, the Bhadra and the Vedavati rivers come under the Krishna basin). The principal rivers of the district are the twin streams, the Tunga and the Bhadra, the latter running most of its course in this area. Hemavati, Yagachi, Veda, Avati, and Netravati are the other prominent rivers in the district.

The Tunga

River Tunga takes its birth at Gangamoola on the Varaha-Parvata in Sringeri taluk. The popular saying among the masses "Bathe in the Ganga, but drink of the Tunga" (*Ganga snaana, Tunga paana*) speaks about the significance of the river. The rivers Tunga and

⁵ https://kudremukhanationalpark.in/?page_id=1015

Bhadra meet at Koodli to give rise to the Tungabhadra River, a tributary of the Krishna river.

The Bhadra

Like the Tunga, river Bhadra too flows from the Gangamoola, on the western boundary of Chikmagalur district. It initially flows eastwards up to Kalasa and then takes a northward turn towards Lakkavalli. A dam has been constructed in Tarikere Taluk of Chikmagalur district on this river. The dam commissioned in 1965 is a composite earth-cum-masonry structure of 59.13 metres (194.0 ft) height with length of 1,708 metres (5,604 ft) at the crest level, which submerges a land area of 11,250.88 hectares (27,801.5 acres) The dam is used for irrigation, power generation and agriculture. The rivers Tunga and Bhadra meet at Kudli in Shimoga district and becomes Tungabhadra thereafter.



The Netravati

The river Netravati also rises at Gangamoola on the Varaha-Parvata. It flows westward to reach the Dakshina Kannada district at Bangadi valley, past Belthangady, to join Kumaradhara at Uppinangady

The Hemavati

Hemavati, means 'golden river' and is also known as Yenne-hole (the oily or shining river). Taking its birth at Javali in the Mudigere taluk, it flows to become one of the chief tributaries of the Cauvery.

The Yagachi

The Yagachi is a major tributary of the Hemavati river. It rises in the Baba Budan Hill Range near the city of Chikmagalur, and flows through Belur taluk in Hassan District. It

joins the Hemavati River, near Gorur. It has a small tributary called Votehole or Watehole. Votehole dam is built on the stream near Rajanahalli. The Yagachi dam was constructed in the year 2001. The length of the Yagachi dam is 1280 meters. The maximum height above the foundation of the reservoir is 26,237 meters. Yagachi, along with Votehole serves the purpose of irrigation and drinking water for the cities of Belur, Chikkamagaluru, Arsikere and Hassan.

Population

Chikmagalur district has a rich diversity in demographic features. Over the past few centuries, the land has seen considerable blending of ethnic groups due to colonial interference and religious interaction with people of other parts of the country. The presence of monasteries at Sringeri and Balehonnur and a well-known Hindu-Muslim shrine on the Baba Budan mountain epitomizes cultural and religious harmony. The colonial legacy of the land was associated with plantations, as many entrepreneurs from abroad took up raising of coffee plantations on a large scale. The intermixing of the people of different cultures mainly due to employment reasons in coffee plantations and the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project, along the Kudremukh-Aroli-Gangamula range of the Western Ghats also led to demographic diversity and brought about a new intermingling of people.

According to the 1971 census, the population of the district was 7,36,647, out of which 6,21,569 persons lived in the rural areas, and 1,15,078 in the urban centres. Between 1961 and 1971, decennial rate of increase in population was 23.33 percent, the percentage of growth for the rural and urban areas being 22.40 and 28.62 respectively. Out of the total population of 7,36,647 in 1971, 3,80,297 were males and 3,56,350 females. According to 1971 census, the population of the district amounted to 2.51 percent of the total population of the State, while the district constituted 3.76 percent of the geographical area of the State. It ranked 18th in respect of population and it held the 15th place with respect to the geographical area among the then 19 districts of the State.

The first census in old Mysore State, taken in the year 1871, disclosed a total population of 3,07,137 for the district. According to the 1971 census, the population of the district was 7,36,647. During this period, the population of the district rose by 139.84 percent. The first two decades of the 20th century saw a decrease in the rate of population

growth due to the outbreak of epidemics such as malaria, plague and influenza. This period also marked a decline in the economy. Eradication of malaria and control of diseases, better health and medical facilities, and improved nutrition and standard of living, led to a spurt in the rate of population growth by about 20% in the third and the fourth decade of the twentieth century, while the growth rate doubled over the next two decades.

According to the 2001 census, the population of Chikmagalur district was 11,40,905 out of which the male population was 5,74,911 and the female population constituted 5,65,994. Sringeri having a geographical area of 443 sq. kms. had the least population of 36,930 whereas Chikmagalur having an area of 1614 sq. kms. had the highest population of 2,95,565. The Scheduled Castes constituted 20.4% and the Scheduled Tribes constituted 3.6% of the total population.

According to the 2011 census of India, Chikmagalur has a population of 11,37,961, roughly equal to the nation of Cyprus or the US state of Rhode Island. Male population is 5,66,622 (49.89%) and female population is 5,71,339 (50.21%). Chikmagalur has an average literacy rate of 79.25%, which is higher than the national average, with male literacy of 85.41% and female literacy of 73.16%.

Density of Population

The density of population of a district depends mainly upon two factors i.e., natural resources and level of development. Historically, it depended on the former endowment as the majority of the population depended on agriculture. This meant that the fertility of the soil, rainfall, irrigation facilities, topography, and climate had greater deciding factors in the density of the population. The latter factor spells out a changeover as a result of modernity, technological advancement, railway and other means of communications, extent of development and career opportunities.

In Chikmagalur, plantations, industries, tourism, and other factors have been at work in making the district one of the moderately populated areas. The density of the population may serve as an index of the pressure of the population on the land.

The density of the population in Chikmagalur district in 1971 was 102 per sq. km (rural 87 and urban 2,861), and this was far below the State average which was 153 per sq.

km. The district occupied the 15th place among the districts of the State in respect of density in 1971.

The variation in density within the district also signifies a lack of equal distribution of wealth and geographical imbalance. Kadur had a density of 132 per sq. km while Narasimharajapura had 54 per sq. km in 1971.

The district today has a population density of 158 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 0.26 % which is negative, indicating the growing trend of people migrating out of the district due to dearth of job opportunities. 79% of the population reside in rural areas with the remaining 21% being the urban population. Among the taluks, Shringeri taluk has the least population of 36,539 and Chikmagalur taluk has the highest population of 3, 05,368 according to the latest census.

Sex Ratio

Sex Ratio in Karnataka is 973 females for every 1000 males, which is above the national average of 940 as per the latest census. In 2001, the sex ratio of females was 965 per 1000 males in Karnataka. Chikmagalur district had a sex ratio 980 in 2001. The proportion of females to males in the district is in tune with the state figures. In 1951, for every thousand men, there were 896 women. In 1971, it was 937. In 2011, the ratio stood at 1008. The percentage of change in the decade is seen at 2.44.

Culture of Chikmagalur District

Rich cultural heritage is due to the royal patronage that the district received from the prominent dynasties that ruled over the state. The Hoysalas played a highly memorable role through their contribution to architecture. This district was well patronised by the Vijayanagara and Keladi rulers. Later on, it saw the patronage of the Wodeyars of Mysore. Chikmagalur attracted tourists mainly on two counts; as a place of scenic beauty and salubrious weather, and secondly, as a pilgrimage centre. The district has many famous temples, *mutts* and devotional places.

In the modern period, the people of the district came into contact with enterprising European planters. The clubs formed in the district were the not only centres of recreation but also the places where discussions formed public opinion. The district being a part of the princely State of Mysore was exposed to a rule hailed all over colonial

India as a model kingship, under the developmental initiatives of enlightened rulers and eminent Dewans. The democratic and pro-people political initiatives such as the Representative Assembly and Legislative Council led to formation of public opinion, though in a limited way. Local bodies with some representatives of the public were also functioning in the district for considerable time.

The culture and livelihood practices of people in Malnad was also in tune with the landscape and ecology. Historically, the ancestors of the people in this region lived in small settlements on the mountains. They not only lived in harmony with nature but also worshipped the natural forces. The agriculturists practiced organic farming. Paddy was grown in swamps and marshlands, and coffee with natural tree cover on the hills. The indigenous ways of cultivation helped in retaining water in the valleys and maintaining the temperature of the region.

The culture of the land, especially in aspects such as cuisine and clothing, had the unique bearing of the Malnad region. The agrarian culture is mainly guided by natural factors in all agrarian activities which include the time to sow and to harvest. The region was also rich in demographic diversity. The inflow of people from different regions for plantation work, the influence of colonial lifestyle in the region, the clubs and plantation lifestyle (leisurely life in some quarters of the year) contributed uniquely to the culture of the region. Chikmagalur district has a very rich and vibrant culture and some of the unique practices are noted below.

Ritualistic Performances related to the worship of Maari, Veerabhadra

In rural parts of Chikmagalur, ritualistic dance forms associated with the worship of Maramma are prominently seen. The dance forms such as Asaadi Kunita, Somana Kunita, Rangada Kunita, Maara Navami Kunita could be viewed as ritualistic dance forms having rich elements of entertainment. The performers appear in different personas such as Palegar, Jester, Hanumanta, the monkey god, and also in the guise of tiger, bear etc.

Veeragaase is a ritualistic dance form celebrating the lord Veerabhadra. Veeragase is a vigorous dance based on Hindu mythology and involves very intense energy-sapping dance movements performed by Jangama. Ten to twelve people perform, one of them in

the attire of Veerabhadra. The artists dance to the tune of music and the intensity of the dance varies along with the intensity of the music to reach a frenzied state. Mari Kunita is a ritualistic art form belonging to the Shakti cult. The performers stand either in rows or form a big circle and dance to the tune of 'Chakravaddya', a percussion instrument. The songs are sung intermittently beginning with a slow pace and gathering momentum, reaches a frenzied pitch with the matching rhythm of the percussion instrument. The performers enact certain episodes from the six Shaiva puranas like Shiva, Linga, Skanda, Agni, Matsya, and Kurma, and some Kannada Veerashaiva puranas like Girija Kalyana, Prabhulingaleel, Basava purana and Chennabasaveshwara charite. The most popularly conveyed story is of Daksha-yajna.

Another important ritual art form is associated with the worship of Yellamma, the goddess of Shakti cult worshipped particularly by the lower castes. The art form is found in places such as Kadur, Tarikere and other places of the district. The performers use a percussion instrument called *chaudike*.

Ritualistic art forms associated with the worship of Mylaralinga: The devotees of Kuruba community worship their god through this art form. Usually, a large group of about ten to twenty people some of who are dressed in different attires, and others covering their bodies in leaves perform the ritual dance.

Celebrating the prosperity and well-being of the agrarian culture especially during the time of Diwali is seen in places such as Narasimharajapura, Koppa, and Shringeri. On the day of Bali Padyami, (the third day of Diwali) people gather at the village temple. After lighting a lamp there, they take this lamp to all the households as a symbol of spreading light. They sing of the prosperity of the agrarian culture. The whole night they traverse the village and the next morning, the light is brought to the temple. The practice is called Antige-Pintige.

Every little village or town has some story behind it and some *jatra* or festival is on throughout the year. It could be the festivities celebrated during the year at Sri Sharada Peetha at Sringeri or Sri Renuka Jayanthi or Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Mahotsava at Rambha Puri Matha at Balehonnur. It is thrilling to witness the Dassera Mahotsava of Mailaralingeswami of Birur where one can see the Dollu Kunita and Veeragase, the thrilling and heroic folk dance of the area, the Urs at Baba-Budan Giri, the Girija Kalyana

Mahotsava of Kalaseswaraswamy at Kalasa or the Veerabhadra Devara Rathotsava of Koppa. Or any of the annual festivals of local temples held in many of the villages and towns. *Suggi habba* or harvest festival is celebrated with great rejoicing in the rural parts and provides the rare opportunity of witnessing Kolata, Salu Kunitha, Suttu Kunitha, the Raja Kunitha and fire walking too.

Chikmagalur district, like the other districts of the state presents a rich cultural heritage. The art forms of the district present a wild array of forms including ritualistic art forms, theatrical and exhibitory forms and folk art forms. The district being an adjoining district of the coastal districts of Udupi and South Canara leading to contact with Shimoga and Hassan has led to rich cultural diversity in terms of cultural influences. The colonial influence, the presence of monasteries and religious centres also influenced the culture of the land.

Important Locations

Amruthapura

The Amruteshwara temple also spelt "Amrutesvara" or "Amruteshwara", is located in the village of Amruthapura, 67 km north of Chikmagalur town in the Chikkamagaluru district. Here is an Old Kannada inscription (1196 AD) in the Amrutesvara temple. It has beautifully carved pillars and images of Narayana, Chammundeshwari, Kalabhairava, and Saraswathi, Agni and Saligrama are the two important sculptural features. The temple is built according to Hoysala architecture with a wide open mantapa. The temple has an original outer wall with unique equally spaced circular carvings. The temple has one vimana (shrine and tower) and a closed mantapa that connects the sanctum to the large open mantapa.

Angadi

Situated 20 kms from Mudigere, this place is associated with Sala, the founder of the Hoyasala dynasty. The temple of Sri Vasanthika Parameshwari here was the patron deity of the Hoysalas.

Ayyanakere

Ayyanakere Lake is an ancient lake situated at the eastern base of the Baba Budan Range hills. This is the biggest lake in Chikmagalur district and the second-largest lake in Karnataka.

Ayyanakere lake is to be found near Sakharayapatna village and it is located at a distance of 18 kilometres from Chickmagalur. The lake is a major water source for agricultural activity for several villages up to a distance of 15 kilometres.

Baba Budangiri

The Baba Budangiri mountain range is another great attraction in this quaint district. Away from all the city madness and chaos, one must visit the Baba Budangiri range, also known as the Chandra Drona Parvatha, for some much needed relaxation and peace. This magnificent mountain is known for the shrine that was built for Sufi saint Hazrat Dada Hayat Khalandar. Considered holy by both Hindus and Muslims, the hill has three caves where three siddhas are believed to have been buried.

Belavadi

This is a Vaishnava temple and all three shrines have images of the Hindu god Vishnu, though in different forms (*avatar*). The central shrine (older shrine) has an 8 ft (2.4 m) tall image of Narayana with four hands and is considered one of the best examples of Hoysala art. The history of Belavadi Sansthana starts in 1511 with King Chandrashekhara raja and it mentions about the war between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mallamma. Ishaprabhu died on the battlefield; later Mallamma fought with Shivaji before the latter stopped the war. The two compromise and the Yadavada stone is erected in its memory.

Bhadra Dam

The Bhadra Dam is another attraction in Chikmagalur. Built on the Bhadra river, it caters to irrigation and power generation.

Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

The Bhadra wildlife sanctuary is a Project Tiger reserve that is situated on the northwest of Chikmagalur. It is also home to diverse flora and fauna. Apart from tigers, one can find leopards, chitals, sambhars and wild boars in the sanctuary.

Devaramane

Devaramane is a village in Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagaluru district in the state of Karnataka, India. The village is renowned for its Kalabhairaveshwara temple.

Devanur

This place 35 Kms north-east from Chikkamagaluru, is famous for the Lakshmikantha temple of the 17th century and the Siddeshwara temple of the 13th century.

Deviramma Betta

Situated 18 kilometres from Chikmagalur This temple is open for the devotees once in a year during the Diwali. According to legend, after eliminating Mahishasura, a buffalo-headed demon of Hindu mythology in a fifteen-day-long battle, Chamundeshwari secluded herself in this hill to control her intense fury, thus giving the hill its name Deviramma Betta or Hill of the Goddess. The temple nestles atop a 3,000 feet high hill named Deviramma hill and is open to devotees only on one day in the entire year. The temple opens on the Naraka Chaturdashi day, which marks the beginning of Diwali festival.

Hebbe Falls



Situated 8 kms away from Kemmannugundi, Hebbe Falls is a magnificent waterfall which gushes down 554 ft in two stages. Even though there is jeep service to this place, usually people trek to this place.

Hirekolale Lake

Hirekolale Lake was constructed in order to provide water to Chikmagalur and for farming and irrigation of lands in the surrounding villages. It is 8 kilometres from the centre and situated amidst beautiful scenery of coffee estates on hillocks. The place is known as a sunset viewing point.

Horanadu

Nestled in the midst of evergreen hills is Horanadu. It is about 10 kms from Kalasa and has the temple of Goddess Annapoorneshwari.

Kalasa

About 90 kms from Chikkamagaluru is Kalasa in Mudigere Taluk. Travelling on K.M. Road upto Kottigehara, one has to take a deviation to the right to reach this place. The journey becomes tireless as the road passes through coffee, Tea and cardamom Plantations. Kalasa is also called “Dakshina Khasi”. It has Kalaseshwara Temple. The landscape around is enchanting and one can have the view of the surrounding hill ranges, peaks and eat out at Kalasa View Point.

Kalhatti falls

Apart from these attractions Chikmagalur is also known to have many waterfalls. From all the scenic waterfalls, there are some that we listed down for you to know and explore. One such waterfall is the Kalhatti falls where water cascades from a height of 400 feet above is a sight to behold. The Drona Hill makes covers most part of the surrounding area. There is a small Temple nearby that was built for Shiva.

Kadambi Falls

This peacefully serene waterfall is located close to Kudremukh National Park. The waterfall amidst the dense forest presents breathtaking views to leave a lasting impression.

Kalhatthi Falls

It is 10 kms away from Kemmannugundi towards Tarikere. Here the water cascades down 403 ft. The place has legendary association with sage Agasthya. A temple dedicated to god Veerabhadra by the side of the falls attracts devotees from nearby

places. There is accommodation for overnight stay. Annual fair takes place during month of March/April. People also trek to the top of falls from Santaveri.

Khandya-Kudure Abbi

It is about 45 kms from Chikkamagaluru on the Sringeri route. The very journey on this road is exhilarating. The winding road passes through hills and dales, running brooks, manicured coffee and tea plantations, and thick forests. Khandya has the temples of Markandeya and Janardhana, Markanda sage is supposed to have performed penance here. Orthodox Hindus offer ashes of their dear departed to the Bhadra River, for their salvation. The river Bhadra flows past the temple, dressing the hard stones into different shapes, by constant friction of the loose rocks. The shapes of the stones in the river have resemblance to the horse's hoofs which has made this place to be called 'Kudure Abbi'.

Kodanda Ramaswamy Temple

Kodanda Ramaswamy temple is known for its rich architecture, with a heritage monument and a pond. Built in the Hoysala design and architecture, the temple also exhibits some great carvings and sculptures. The temple has three different parts - a Navgraha shrine that is said to have been built in the 14th century; the Mukhamanatapa that was built during 16th century and the entrance of this temple built during the 17th century.

Kudremukh National Park

Kudremukha is a mountain range and a peak in Chikmagalur. Located 96 km from the main city, this national park presents pristine environs and surroundings. Placed at an altitude of 1800 mt above sea level, the Kudremukh National park got its name because the hill looks like the head of a horse and in Kannada, the horse is called *kudre*. The pleasant and favourable climate of this place attracts visitors all through the year.

Mahatma Gandhi Park

Mahatma Gandhi Park, popularly known as Ratnagiri Bore is located on the northern side of Chikmagalur. Initially a forest, this well-designed park is known for its wide and beautiful pavements with lawns, vibrant and colourful flowers, and ornamental plants.

Manikyadhara Falls

Manikyadhara Falls is one of the most visited waterfalls mainly for its beautiful location and thrilling trekking trails. Located in Shola Forest, the views of the water cascading with lustrous greenery around and untouched surroundings leave a lasting impression. An interesting legend associated with the Manikyadhara Waterfalls is that a Sufi saint named Hazrat Dada Hayath Khalandar accompanied by four disciples visited the place in search of water. However, they could not find water for a long time when they prayed God for help. Miraculously, their prayers were heard and a waterfall cascaded.

Mullayanagiri

Mullayanagiri is the highest peak in Karnataka, standing tall at 2000 meters. The peak poses really challenging and scenic trekking trails. There is a beautiful temple dedicated to Shiva at the top of the peak.

Marle

It is about 12 kms from Chikmagalur on Belur road with a deviation to the left at hand post. Here there are two temples of the Hoyasala period, standing side by side near an ancient tank. The temples built in 1150 AD are dedicated to Channakeshava and Siddheswara.

Magundi River Rafting

Situated between Balehonnur and Kalasa is Magundi. Here river Bhadra flows slowly with intermittent rapids creating opportunities for river rafting, swimming, and other Water Sports.

Muthodi Forest Camp

Muthodi is the most famous part of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. It is 32 kms from Chikmagalur. The other parts of Bhadra Sanctuary are Hebbe, Tanigebylu, and Lakkavalli. Muthodi is a natural forest with a variety of lofty mountains in the neighborhood. It is part of the Bhadra Tiger Reserve and inhabits a sizeable number of tigers. Besides, one can sight elephants, sambhar, gaurs, red squirrels, spotted deer, barking deer, and a variety of birds.

Rambhapuri Peetha

Situated on the western bank of the river Bhadra, this place has the Rambhapuri Peetha, one of the Pancha Peethas of Veershaivas. It is about 50 kms from Chikkamagaluru and has a tradition of more than 1500 years. The temple of Veerabhadra has rare images of Veerabhadra and Bhadrakali. Segodu where a coffee research station run by the Government of India constantly evolves new varieties of coffee, is situated close to this place.

Sharada Temple

The historicity of Sharada temple goes way back to the 8th century and is beautifully located by the Tungabhadra River. Adi Shankaracharya who is one of the most respected Hindu practitioners has also set up his place of practice here. It is said that this temple was built in dedication to the Goddess of wisdom. Initially, till the 20th century, the temple had a wooden structure. However, in an unfortunate incident, fire broke out and the temple was completely destroyed. And today this temple is a perfect South Indian temple. The temple had an image of the goddess that was made of sandalwood earlier and now in gold.

Kyathanamakki

Kyathanamakki hill station is located near Horanadu of Chikmagalur. Located about 20 km from Kalasa, Kyathanamakki has a superb scenic beauty on top of the hill.

Devarakadu

Mention must be made of the religious practice of preserving patches of forest, often as large as twenty hectares, known as *devarakadu* or 'sacred grove' prevailing in the Western Ghats, as in other parts of India⁶.

Chikmagalur – The Land of Coffee

Chikmagalur is also known as the land of coffee (*Coffee Naadu* in Kannada) as the history of coffee cultivation in the district is steeped in legends that date back to the 17th century. It is said that a 17th-century Sufi saint Baba Budan secretly transported seven coffee cherries from Mocha in Yemen and planted them in front of his hermitage, which later came to be called Baba Budan giri.

It is said that coffee gradually spread from here to Manjarabad and other places in Mysore. European planters came across fully grown coffee trees in Baba Budan Hills and Chikmagalur in Mysore in the 1830s. We can presume that a pilgrim, perhaps from a family of merchants or a group of travellers - as William Clarence Smith has suggested— might have introduced coffee in Mysore. (Richter, *Gazetteer of Coorg*, pp. 94–95.) Clarence-Smith has argued that it was from Southwest India that the cultivation of coffee spread to other parts of Asia, including Sri Lanka⁷. The practice of sharing half the produce of coffee with the ryot, with the other half going to the crown, commonly known as *vara* or *warung* indicates that coffee was perhaps was an additional source of income for the peasants. Till 1834, the coffee gardens on the Baba Budan Hills were a monopoly of the Mysore *darbar* that shared the crop with the cultivators on this basis. The first European coffee plantation in Mysore was opened south of the Baba Budan Hills by Mr. Cannon around the year 1840.34⁸.

Though there were two main varieties called coffee Arabica and Coffee Robusta, in recent years, farmers have shifted to the cultivation of Robusta mainly to avoid labour shortage and the high cost of cultivation of Arabica.

⁶ Nanjundaiah, 'Forests, Environment and Local Community'; Gadgil and Vartak, 'Sacred Groves of Western Ghats', pp. 152–60; also Kalam, 'Sacred Groves in Kodagu'.

⁷ Clarence-Smith 'The Spread of Coffee Cultivation in Asia', pp. 371–81. Pillai, *Coffeehouse in the Katha*

⁸ Rice, *A Gazetteer of Mysore District*, Vol. 2, p. 389.

Prior to 1947, the British planters had access to large coffee holdings in Chikmagalur, and Indians were only allowed to own small plots of land. Large-scale plantations in Chikmagalur were initiated by Thomas Cannon around 1842, and later by Frederic Green (Igoor in Sakleshpur) followed by Mockett, Jupp, Anderson, Elliot, Fred Meppen, and others. The adventurous Europeans took coffee to other districts as well, notable being Fowler (Mercara), Fennel (Uligolly), Mann and Stewart (Sampaje Ghat) F. Mangles (Coovercolly). The total area under coffee cultivation in 1856 was estimated at 11,331 acres and the number of British planters in the district was about 200, which was a significant number at that point in time. Post-1947, the British planters voluntarily left Chikmagalur and sold their estates to local Indian planters. This was the turning point. After 1975, Indians bought coffee plantations.

Premier Institutions

Till very recently, the district lacked premier educational institutes or a good university run by the state government. Students of the district aspiring for quality professional education had to go to neighbouring districts in search of quality education. The situation is better today.

Central Sanskrit University's Rajiv Gandhi Campus at Sringeri

Central Sanskrit University (Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan) established the Rajiv Gandhi Campus at Sringeri, Karnataka. The campus was inaugurated by His Excellency R. Venkataraman, the then President of India on 13th January 1992 with the blessings of Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Bharathi Theertha Swamiji of Sringeri Sri Sharadapeetha. At present the campus offers Sanskrit courses equivalent to Intermediate, B.A., M.A., B.Ed., and Ph.D. respectively which are recognized by various Universities. The Sansthan is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities. The library has a good collection of rare volumes and has procured 164 rare manuscripts of ancient Shastras written in different scripts.

The Central Coffee Research Institute

The district also houses the Central Coffee Research Institute, formerly known as the Coffee Experimental Station started in 1925 under the stewardship of late Dr. Leslie C.

Coleman. Now spread over an area of 119.86 hectares, the institute conducts research to improve the quality of coffee.

The United Planters Association of South India (UPASI) established in 1892 initiated major steps in organising research on coffee. Dr. L.C. Coleman, the director of Agriculture in the erstwhile Mysore government established Mysore Coffee Experimental Station near Balehonnur in 1925 with Dr. M. K. Venkata Rao as the first Research Officer. In 1946, the Government of India started the Coffee Board which took over the functions of 'The Mysore Coffee Experiment Station'. The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) founded in Balehonnur has emerged as a premier organisation in the frontier areas of coffee research in the world and has close association with a number of international institutes.

Adichunchanagiri Institute of Technology

Adichunchanagiri Institute of Technology (AIT) was established in the year 1980 at Chikkamagaluru, with the blessings of Padmabhushana Sri Sri Sri Dr. Balagangadharanatha Maha Swamiji, pontiff of Sri Adichunchanagiri Maha Samsthana Math. Spread out over 65 acres of land with green surroundings and picturesque hillocks, the college has a conducive atmosphere for education. Adichunchangiri Mutth which runs several educational institutions in the district also has educational institutions in other districts of the state and two foundations abroad at Michigan, USA and Berlin, Germany.

Malnadu Education Society

In 1962, the Malnadu Education Society (M.E.S) started a private Degree College with BA and BSc Courses. In the year 1962, the Malnadu Education Society requested the Govt. of Karnataka to take over the College. The College is built on a 41.28 acres campus and has all the facilities expected in a modern engineering college.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Chikmagalur was started on 23rd October 1986 by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, an autonomous body which comes under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India at Coffee Research Station, Koppa Taluk, Chikmagalur District. The school which is spread over 36 acres, provides the best environment to rural talented students with all the facilities of the most modern education.

Cooperative Societies

Karnataka is the first state where agricultural loans through co-operatives are available at 3% interest, which is the lowest in the country. The first co-operative society of our country was registered in 1905 at Kanaginahal village of Gadag district in Karnataka. The Mysore Co-operative Societies Act 1959 is the first legislation in the state pertaining to co-operative societies and has come into being from 25th May 1960.

Since the implementation of the recommendations of Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee through MOU with Government of India, NABARD and the state Government in March 2008, the role of the State Government in respect of agricultural credit has transformed from that of regulator and supervisor to that being a supporter. All statutes, circulars, orders which were coming in the way of day-to-day affairs of the institutions have been withdrawn. In 2002, the Indian government announced the National Cooperative Policy based on the recommendations made by the National Development Council. Chikmagalur Town Co-operative Society is one of the oldest in the State⁹.

There is another notable example in the history of cooperative societies in the district which was acclaimed not only within the country but also by a premier management institute in Japan. The success story of The Town Cooperative Society, Koppa hit the headlines of a prominent newspaper in the first decade of the twentieth century. Workers of a loss-making transport company, Shankar Transport Bus Company turned the company around by converting it into a Transport Cooperative Society in 1991. Around 125 workers became the company's shareholders and raised the initial capital of Rs. 12 lakh to run the company. At its heyday, the company had 80 buses and transactions above Rs. 12 crores annually. The University of Ritsumeikan of Japan sent a 21-member team to study the novel experiment of a transport cooperative society. At one point of time, the state government had considered it as the best cooperative institution in the state. The company showed social commitment by providing free transport in its buses for freedom fighters, as well as participants in the unification movement of Karnataka¹⁰.

⁹ Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/content/138065/cmagalur-town-co-operative-society.html>

¹⁰ http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/16718240.cms?from=mdr&utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

PART-2

THE DISTRICT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Institutions, Structures and Systems

The world of Public Administration has seen many changes. Old administrative units have undergone many changes. District Administration too has come a long way, since the days of the British Raj. It has evolved over the years to keep pace with changing needs and requirements. Today, District Administration signifies coordinated and integrated management of public affairs.

The District is the pivotal administrative unit below State level; the next smaller unit is the sub-division consisting of taluks and in some cases sub-taluks. The taluk is followed by the *hoblis* (formerly called *maganis*). The Deputy Commissioner is the critical person who spearheads district administration. In colonial times, he was called District Collector as his principal task was revenue collection. He also functions as the Chief Magistrate. He is assisted by other officers such as a District Superintendent of Police, a District Forest Officer, a District Excise Officer, an Executive Engineer, a District Medical and Sanitary Officer, a District Inspector of Schools, and so on. At the sub-divisional and taluk levels, he is assisted by Assistant Commissioners. The administrative arrangements have improved from time to time. Also, more departments and offices were created to meet modern needs. In the post-independent developmental era, the launch of the Five-Year Plans and special programmes needed a more focussed approach and the creation of several departments to concentrate on the individual units became imperative.

In 1956, Mysore State was formed with 19 districts. For administrative ease, four revenue divisions were formed viz., Bangalore, Mysore, Belgaum and Gulbarga. Chikmagalur district, along with Mysore, Mandya, Hassan, Shimoga, Coorg and South Kanara was included in the Mysore Division. Later in 1966, Shimoga district was transferred to Bangalore Division. The Chikmagalur district has been divided into two revenue sub-divisions of Chikmagalur and Tarikere, seven taluks and 32 hoblis. The Chikmagalur sub-division consists of Chikmagalur, Mudigere, Sringeri and Koppa taluks, while the Tarikere sub-division consisted of Tarikere, Kadur and Narasimharajapura

taluks. According to the 1971 census, the district had 9 towns, 984 inhabited villages and 125 uninhabited villages.

Five-Year Plans and other developmental programmes were introduced to transform the nation. India being a predominantly agricultural economy, this focus naturally brought in the decentralisation of administration with District Administration as the focus. The district administrative functions could be classified into several categories such as law and order, revenue and economic aspects, social welfare and other developmental measures.

Law and order include administration of civil and criminal justice, public safety, and the protection of the citizens. The revenue category pertains to the assessment and collection of taxes and duties of different kinds. This includes land revenue, irrigation charges, agricultural income tax, sales-tax, and entertainment tax. stamp duty, court fees, registration fees, taxes on motor vehicles, income-tax, excise duties of both the Central and State Governments, and so on. Recovery of loans advanced to cultivators, control and maintenance of government treasuries, land acquisition, maintenance of land records, consolidation of agricultural holdings and implementation of land reforms also come under this group. Agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, communications, industries commerce, et al. would constitute the third category. This economic group of administrative functions is naturally assuming more and more significance.

Welfare and developmental functions are also economic in certain respects. They include community development, cooperatives, public health, education, social welfare, local self-government institutions, and the like. The district administration works in accordance with the Election Commission of India in holding elections to the Lok Sabha, the State Legislature, and the local bodies. The District Administration oversees the functioning of local bodies. In times of crisis, the District Administration has to exercise the executive authority of the Government. The Deputy Commissioner, under the guidance and supervision of the Divisional Commissioner, manages the administrative functions by heading different committees.

In the changed scenario, decisions have to be taken swiftly and administration has to be the vanguard. Many meetings of various departments and the governing bodies/ state departments take place through video conferencing. District Administration has become

tech-savvy. There is greater transparency in the choice of beneficiaries and transfer of various benefits directly through account transfer.

Divisional Commissioner

The States Reorganisation Act of 1956 created the posts of Divisional Commissioners. The Divisional Commissioner is the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioner in matters of revenue administration. His functions are supervisory, controlling, coordinating, and appellate. Chikmagalur District came under the Mysore Division and the Divisional Commissioner governed the revenue administration. He acted as a liaison officer between the State Government and the district authorities in regard to all developmental and public welfare activities. The Divisional Commissioner convenes periodic coordination meetings of the divisional officers; reviews the progress of development works; supervises the functioning of local bodies; and oversees relief measures in times of natural calamities. The administrative heads at the Divisional offices distribute budget grants to revenue offices, community development blocks, taluk development boards, etc. A Co-ordination Committee at the district level and seven Coordination Committees at the taluk levels have been formed in order to help implement various programmes and to resolve problems that arise in the course of their implementation. These committees meet periodically for reviewing the execution of programmes. Various steps have been taken to speed up the procurement and distribution of essential commodities.

Deputy Commissioner's Establishment

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by an officer with the rank of Assistant Commissioner, who functions also as the Additional District Magistrate. Two more Class I officers namely, the District Development Assistant and Food and Civil Supplies Assistant also assist the Deputy Commissioner, the first in respect of duties relating to community development, panchayats, taluk development boards, municipal administration, etc., and the second in regard to food and civil supplies. The latter is assisted by a Deputy Tahsildar. The Assistant Commissioners are the connecting links between the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildars of the taluks.

The Assistant Commissioner conducts regular inspections in regard to encroachments, breaches of conditions of tenure, etc., supervises the work of the Tahsildars and Revenue

Inspectors, conducts annual *jamabandi* of taluks, conducts supervision over the realization of Government revenues, such as land revenue, betterment levy, supervises the developmental works and activities of the Taluk Development Boards. Apart from this administrative work, he has been designated as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. At the taluk level, a Class II officer called Tahsildar is in charge. The Tahsildar was formerly called Amildar up to 1957-58. In various matters of revenue, he has to conduct inquiries and submit reports to the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner.

The British introduced a centralized system but during their rule, the Village Panchayats were acting as tax collecting offices. During the period of Lord Mayo, local governments got more importance. Lord Rippon recommended greater powers to the local self-governments but these recommendations were not implemented. When the country achieved independence, most of the administrative forms were retained and improved upon. Significant milestones were achieved after independence, especially with the formation of various committees. The government appointed the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee in the year 1956. This committee proposed three layers in the decentralization system, namely, Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Village Panchayat.

The Panchayats are among the oldest institutions of local governance in rural Karnataka. Panchayat Raj ensures the proper execution of rural development programmes. It encourages the participation of the general public in developmental programmes. Panchayat Raj in Karnataka follows a three-tier structural constitution. It has elected bodies at each level. The Panchayat Raj system consists of: Gram Panchayats at the village level, Taluk Panchayats at the sub-district (Taluk) level, and Zilla Panchayats at the district level. Karnataka has 30 Zilla Panchayats, 176 Taluk Panchayats, and 6022 Grama Panchayats. All the three units of the Panchayat Raj have members directly elected by the people. The government does not have any provision to nominate representatives to any of these institutions.

The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 aims at achieving democratic decentralization, especially for the rural areas. Karnataka enacted a new Panchayat Raj Act incorporating all the mandatory provisions of the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution. The Act makes provisions for conducting elections to all three levels under the State Election Commission, to empower the State Finance Commission to determine the sharing of

funds between the State Government and the Panchayat Raj bodies, and to maintain accounts and conduct audits of all the three tiers of the panchayat system.

The representatives of the Gram Panchayats are elected for five years. While the members are directly elected from wards, the Sarpanch is elected by the members. There are seats reserved for women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes in Gram Panchayats. A Panchayat Development Officer is appointed to maintain the administration of the Village Panchayat. He oversees and keeps an eye on how Grama Panchayats operate and advises elected officials on how to conduct themselves at standing committee and Grama Panchayat meetings. The Gram Panchayat has to perform important functions such as maintaining water supply works on its own or through annual contract; revising and collecting taxes, rates, and fees at fixed periods; providing sanitary latrines to at least one-tenth of the households every year; constructing and maintaining sufficient community latrines for use by men and women; ensuring enrolment of children in primary schools; ensuring immunization of children; etc. etc.

The Taluk Panchayat is the intermediate level of Panchayat Raj in Karnataka. The Taluk Panchayat is constituted for each taluk. The representatives of the Taluk Panchayat Samiti are directly elected by the residents of the non-urban areas of the taluk. The President and the Vice-President of the Taluk Panchayat Samiti are elected from among the members. The tenure of Taluk Panchayat members is five years. The Taluk Panchayat has provision for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes on the basis of their population. Two seats are reserved for women in the Taluk Panchayat Samiti. The most important functions of the Taluk Panchayat are to construct and expand water supply works, construction of community latrines, collection and revision of rates, taxes, and fees, enrolment of children in schools, monitor the progress of immunization, etc.

The Zilla Panchayat is at the apex level of Panchayat Raj in Karnataka. The Zilla Panchayat is constituted for each district of the state. It has jurisdiction over the entire district, except those portions that are included in smaller urban areas or are under the authority of Municipal Corporations, Town Panchayat, or Industrial Township. Members of the Zila Parishad are elected from the district.

The representatives of the Zilla Panchayats are elected for a tenure of five years. Every Zilla Panchayat has seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and women. The Zilla Panchayat has to establish health centres and maternity centres as per the government rules; construct underground structures for water recharge to ensure water availability, and to create a plan for social forestry development in each taluk. To ensure the effective functioning of the Zilla Panchayat, a Chief Executive Officer of the rank of Deputy Commissioner of a district is appointed by the state government to carry out administration of the Zilla Panchayat.

Electoral Constituencies

In the post-independence period, people's participation in democratic institutions is ensured mainly through The Karnataka Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959, and the Karnataka Municipalities Act of 1964. At the time of its introduction, the district had only one City Municipality. In the elections to the State Legislative Assembly held in 1952, the district was divided into five constituencies with six seats. Chikmagalur- Mudigere, Kadur, Bhadravati, Teerthahalli-Koppa, and Tarikere were the five constituencies of which the first one was a double member constituency, with one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

According to the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, Chikmagalur district was joined to Shimoga and Tiptur constituencies. In the General Elections in 1957 with a seat each for the purpose of general elections to the Lok Sabha, some parts of Chikmagalur were included in Shimoga constituency, while Kadur, except the province of Sakrepatna, was added to Tiptur constituency.

In 1962, the double-member constituencies were replaced by single-member constituencies, as per the provisions of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961. The reserved seat was allotted to Mudigere constituency which was newly formed. The Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1966, increased the number of Assembly Constituencies in the district from five to six, by creating a new constituency of Birur. Under the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1974, Tirthahalli was deleted from the Chikmagalur

constituency, and Karkala of Dakshina Kannada district was included in the Chikmagalur constituency. Udupi-Chikmagalur Lok Sabha constituency was created as part of the implementation of the delimitation of the parliamentary constituencies in 2008, based on the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission of India constituted in 2002.

The Deputy Commissioner is the functional head of the District. There are various officials both at the district and at the taluk levels to assist him. They include Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Seristhedar, Revenue Inspector, Village Accountants, etc. Chikmagalur district was called Kadur district till 1947. In 1947, the name was changed from Kadur District to Chikmagalur District. Prior to this change, the district headquarters was changed from Kadur to Chikmagalur town in 1865. Till 1958-59, there was a separate Jagir of Sringeri. During that year, it was made an independent taluk with the single Sringeri holbi. In 1965-66, Kigga hobli was transferred from Koppa taluk to Sringeri taluk. The taluks of Koppa and Sringeri were transferred from the Tarikere subdivision to the Chikmagalur subdivision in 1973.

For administrative purposes, the district is divided into two subdivisions, viz., Chikmagalur subdivision and Tarikere subdivision. The former consists of Chikmagalur, Mudigere, Sringeri and Koppa taluks, while the latter comprises Tarikere, Narasimharajapura, and Kadur taluks.

There were minor territorial adjustments in regard to the taluk limits of the district. Kadur district, as it was called then, had the territorial limits of Kadur Yagati, Banavar and Garudanagiri taluks. Later, Garudanagiri taluk was merged with Banavar taluk, and the Yagati taluk was absorbed into Kadur taluk. The western Portion of Chikmagalur taluk formed a part of a separate taluk of Vastare, was formed in 1863. In 1876 Mudigere taluk was formed which included some of the villages of Manjarabad, Belur, and Vastare taluks. Lakkavalli taluk included Baba Budan mountain range as well parts of Koppa and Balehonnur taluks. In 1882, Kadur and Banavar were combined into one taluk of Banavar. The district took its present shape in 1886 when the Hassan district was restored. The Kalasa magani (a group of villages) was brought into Balehonnur taluk in 1897. Koppa taluk had its headquarters at Hariharapura upto 1897, in which year Yedehalli sub-taluk was attached to Koppa. Yedehalli taluk is now called Narasimharajapura taluk.

The geographical area of Chikmagalur district is 7,202 square kilometres of which Chikmagalur Taluk comprises an area of 1,592 square kilometres. Sringeri is the smallest Taluk with 444 square kilometres area. The total population of the district is 11,37,961 out of which Kadur Taluk has the highest density of population of 215 per square km and Sringeri has the lowest density of 82. The percentage of agricultural labourers to total workers is 27.47. The population of workers involved in household industries is 8,873 out of which 2,116 are from urban areas and the remaining 6,757 are from rural areas. The total number of agriculture workers is 2,83,782 out of it 87,183 are from urban and 1,96,599 are from rural areas. The total land not available not available for cultivation is 71960 hectares in which non-agricultural land amounts to 43638 hectares and 2832 hectares of barren land.

The total production of serial and minor millets is 1,38,208 tonnes. Kadur Taluk has the highest production of 45,500 tonnes whereas Sringeri has the lowest production with 3,667 tonnes. The number of total agriculture land holders in the district is 2,28,660 who hold an area of 3,12,049 hectares. The total area sown is 3,78,717 hectares. A total area of 8,02,426 hectares is under micro irrigation. Kadur Taluk has the highest number both in terms of numbers and in terms of geographical area. The number of agriculture land holders in Kadur is 77,378 and the area owned by them is 95,600.44 hectares. Sringeri Taluk has the lowest agriculture land holders. It has about 6,022 landholders processing a land holding of 5,734.68 hectares. The total number of agriculture credit cooperative societies in the district is 2,76,778. Non-credit cooperative societies number 443.

The total number of literates in the district is 8,18,345 out of which 4,38,257 are male and 3,80,088 are female. Chikmagalur Taluk has the highest literates with 1,06,132 and Sringeri has the lowest number of literates with 13,956. The district has 79.25 percent literate people. The district has 724 lower primary school and 901 higher primary schools. The total number of High Schools in the district is 356. The schools have reasonably good infrastructure facilities. Though the district has a fairly good number of higher education institutes, it lacks government engineering colleges. A Government Medical College in the district was started very recently.

Total GDP of the District at current prices is seen at Rs. 21,287 crores which amounts to 2.3% of the state. Primary sector contributes Rs. 3,228 crores. The secondary sector's contribution is Rs. 6,687 crores, while the tertiary sector contributes Rs. 9,261 crores.¹¹

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is one of the important departments that strives to improve the land utilization and productivity. The department oversees land use and protection, conservation measures in order to minimize soil erosion through watershed approach and to increase the productivity of the land. Its role in extension services by adopting new institutional arrangements that involve the farmers, NGOs, organizations and agriculture universities is highly significant in today's world. Timely supply of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural credit and implements to farmers is the onus of the department.

The Joint Director of Agriculture is at the helm of affairs at the district level. He is supported by a DDA at the division level and ADA at the taluk level. AO/AAO monitors the implementation of the programmes at the grassroots level focusing particularly on the hobli. The department maintains accountability at all levels of its operation. It appoints several institutional heads to ensure smooth working of the system. Further, accountability of the department has increased as a result of introduction of *Sakala* and RTI acts. Various schemes of the government such as IPGRS are effectively implemented through digital mode using different apps like Crop survey, K-Kisan, Parivikshak, and the like. The department disburses monetary benefits provided by the government through DBT mode.

The department functions according to the objectives that are reflected in the introduction of major schemes such as Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Yojana Pradhana Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). The department also procures quality seeds of improved varieties and hybrids through various state and central sector schemes like RKVY, NFSM, etc. Promoting farm mechanization and micro irrigation to conserve water and increase area under protective irrigation, promoting plant protection measures and practices through the

¹¹ Economic Survey of Karnataka 2016-17 <https://investkarnataka.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/>

dissemination of appropriate technologies such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) comprise the vital areas of the functioning of the department. The department ensures people's participation through promotion of Integrated Farming System (IFS) for augmenting the income level of farming communities and enhancing the nutritional value of the food grains. The quality of manpower is enhanced through suitable trainings to adapt farming technology.

The department has initiated several special programmes to realize its vision. Crop survey is undertaken to identify the crops and find out the conducive atmosphere to grow them in specific areas. The department tries to implement effectively the flagship programmes of the Government of India such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM) which assures people of food security, Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme Pm-FmeCustom Hiring Service Center (CHSC), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme(PM-Kisan)which is undertaken to provide financial assistance to farmers, Mukya Mantri Raitha Vidya Nidhi which is introduced to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to children of farmers. The purpose of this programme is to help and encourage children of farmers to pursue their higher education.

Besides implementing these programmes, the department also implements various Acts/ schemes introduced in the post-independence period such as Essential Commodities Act, 1955,The Insecticides act 1968, The Insecticide Rules 1971, Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or mixed) (Control) Order 1985, Seed (Control) Order 1983, Seed Rules 1968, Seed Act 1966, Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973.

An important objective of the department is to promote sustainable agricultural development. Several measures are taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Development and environmental protection are given equal importance to achieve sustainable development. In this regard following initiatives such as, providing protective irrigation to a large area of land, afforestation, dry land agriculture, and soil and

water conservation, effective implementation of MGNREGA, including women farmers in the government subsidy schemes are taken.

Apart from selecting women farmers to provide benefits under subsidy schemes, a few awards are also constituted to encourage women farmers. For the successful implementation of the schemes and programmes, creating awareness among the public and educating them is an important activity of the government. These educative programmes include, Trainings, Exposure visits, Demonstrations, Joint visits, Field schools, Publicity through Newspaper, Pamphlets, Brochures and Field trials.

Awareness programmes, trainings, maintaining inter- district check post, regular inspection and monitoring, sending fertilizer, seed and pesticides to the laboratories for quality assessment are the activities taken up to implement the schemes effectively.

Relief measures are an important aspect of the department. It is provided in case of draught, loss of crop due to flood, wreckage by animals, natural calamities etc. The department has specific programmes to address issues related to farmers caused by unforeseen events and situations. Such programmes are designed to help farmers in their dire need.

Relief fund is maintained in the department to provide disaster- affected farmers. Provision of the fund is done as per the guidelines of National Disaster Response Force. Pradhan Mantri Phasal Bhima Yojana is a new programme in this regard which the department is implementing.

Reaching out to the proverbial last man in the line is the ultimate aim of all the programmes. To achieve this end, the department uses digital infrastructure. Modern means of communication is used to reach the programmes of the state to the remotest beneficiaries.

Achieving sustainable and inclusive development are the main objectives of the department. The department has taken several measures to effect inclusive development. Major step in this direction is cooperation with other departments. Cooperation with other departments is helpful in the effective implementation of various schemes. Collective efforts are needed to find the deserving beneficiaries

and include them in the development programmes. Training and demonstration are also used to create awareness about innovative technologies of agriculture to achieve inclusive development.

Transparency in the operation of the department is of paramount concern. It is maintained in the selection of the beneficiaries and granting financial support to them. Through online Karnataka Krishi Information Service and Networking (K-kisan), where beneficiary's entry is made directly through the web application and benefits are provided on the basis of seniority.

Implementation of Sakala Scheme in the department has resulted in swift functioning and prompt delivery of services. Sakala Scheme is specifically introduced to provide time-bound service. It avoids unnecessary delay and provides prompt service. Every scheme is designed with an intention to implement the same in a stipulated time. Sakala Scheme is a much-needed intervention in this regard.

The Department maintains good rapport with various other departments and functions with coordination and understanding. It has an order of positions at different levels to coordinate its work. These institutional heads have clear cut roles and responsibilities that they discharge within their jurisdiction. District Agriculture Officers/ staffs are coordinating division level DDAs, taluk level ADAs and in turn coordinating with Agriculture Officers of Raita Samparka Kendras at the hobli level.

Grievance Redress has two types of mechanisms. Online grievances are redressed through IPGRS portal and physical grievances are redressed as and when they are reported.

Chikmagalur district is noted for its crop diversity, mainly due to diverse soil and rain patterns. Parts of the district are covered by plantation crops: Coffee has been the most important plantation crop. The district earns the name *coffee naaadu*(*Land of Coffee*). The other crops are paddy, areca nut, coconut, tea, cardamom, pepper, ragi, etc.

The number of persons engaged in agriculture and allied occupations constituted about 76.00 per cent of the total number of workers, as per the census of 1971.

According to the 1971 census, agriculture was the most dominant sector catering to the needs of the people. 37.91 per cent of the workforce constituted the cultivators, and 18.76 per cent of the working population was agricultural labourers. 19.04 per cent was depending on livestock, forestry, etc. Thus 76.00 per cent of the total number of workers were engaged in agriculture and allied occupations.

In 1978-79, about 35.6 per cent of the total geographical area was cropped. (2,56,281 hectares which formed 7,199 sq. km). The average size of holding for the district was 2.54 hectares. It has to be noted that rise in population and frequent division of property over the years has resulted in fragmented and uneconomical land holdings causing a serious impediment to agricultural productivity. To mitigate this problem, the government has implemented The Karnataka Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act of 1966 aimed at preventing fragmentation of land. According to the Act, the landholders cannot dispose them off to anyone other than the contiguous holder.

India is the 7th largest coffee producing country. 70% of coffee produced in India is exported. Coffee being the main commercial crop of the district, contributes to almost 25% coffee produced by Karnataka, which is the highest coffee growing state in India contributing up to 70% coffee produce by the country¹². Yet, the coffee cultivation suffers from many problems such as increase in the cost of the fertilizers, labour problem all these have posed a great challenge for the coffee growers of the district. There is no proper maintenance of coffee estate because of shortage of workers, and because of warehouse problems. Though coffee seed plucking and curing need a great number of employees, it is hard to find the local workforce meeting this demand. The demand for the workforce is met through import of farm hands from other states. The labourers come from north Indian States such as Madhya Pradesh, UP and Bengal.

¹² International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Vol. 24, Issue 06, 2020 ISSN: 1475-7192 A Study on the Problems Faced by Coffee Planters in Chikmagalur District, Reena Patel H N, Sri Ranjini S.

The small and medium plantation owners and coffee growers opine that the government subsidies for the coffee planters, easy loans and availability of fertilizers should be ensured. Water augmentation should be taken care of.

Statistics would show that a lion's share of the income originates from agriculture including horticulture and animal husbandry. These two sectors constituted more than 66 percent of the total income in 1960-61 and 79 per cent in 1974-75. The percentage contribution of the district to the State income was in the order of 4.29 in 1960-61, 3.39 in 1970-71 and 2.72 in 1974-75.

Food grains occupy a major portion of agricultural production of the district. It is 1.71 lakh tones. The next place is occupied by oil-seeds with 0.12 lakh tones. Sugarcane (1.40 lakh tonnes) and cotton (1,338 tonnes) are the other main cultivations of the district.

Department of Sericulture

The Department of Sericulture was established in 1995. It offers the farmers subsidies, incentives, and technical support for sericulture. It comprises of a Deputy Director, an Assistant Director, and various administrative personnel. The department implements central and state government initiatives such as Silk Samagra programme, PMKSYA central-sponsored drip irrigation system for the mulberry garden. It also overlooks special projects and central, state-sponsored plan for the beneficiaries who are identified under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee and Rashtreeya Krishi Vikasa Yojana. Through Grama Sabhas and visits to the villages, the department has projects to educate and train its target groups. With Rs. 20 lakhs of funding, the department successfully carried out a number of activities. According to the district statistical report 2020-21 a total of 97 hectares is used for mulberry cultivation in 81 villages. The district has produced 36.59 tonnes of cocoon which has an estimated value of Rs. 111.37 lakh.

Beneficiaries for various programmes are chosen in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the head offices. The procedure is kept open and transparent. Before providing financial help, higher officers visit the field to confirm that the necessary steps have been taken. The department has successfully carried out *Sakala* schemes under the Right to Information. Grievance Redressal meetings and Grama Sabhas serve as tools for resolving disputes.

Department of Rural Industries

This department was established in 1987. The main functions of the department include giving improved tool-kits to rural craftsmen, subsidizing them for the development of their craft, and holding district-level exhibitions to display their products. To advance rural industrialization, the department organizes and facilitates participation in tableaux and the Dussara Exhibition. The department is run by a deputy director, an assistant director, industrial extension officers, and other employees. The biggest problem is the lack of necessary human resources. It also supplies tool-kits to rural hereditary craftsmen that include carpenters, masons, dhobiwalas, blacksmiths, barbers, and cobblers, among others. The loan-cum subsidy program for rural artisans is being expanded. Toolkits worth Rs. 2.5 crores have been distributed since commencement, as well as SSI loans of Rs.120 lakhs, Rs. 68 lakhs in interest subsidies for rural artisans, Rs. 82 lakhs through the Special Component Plan (SCP), and Rs. 31 lakhs through the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Rs. 84 lakhs were used to provide Seed Money Loan to SSI Units, and for Beekeeping and TRYSEM Training.

A variety of awareness campaigns are being run to raise awareness among the public through media advertisements, printed notifications, and alerts emailed to the Gram Panchayat. The department's ambitious objective is to equip the rural artists in various crafts with SITRA scheme (Special Improved Tool Kits for Rural artists) under IRDP. Indyamiaagu Special events were held for Udyoga Needu, the Industrial Policy 2020–25 Awareness Programme, and the MSME Awareness Programme. There are policies in place to make use of the abilities of cane, bamboo, and pottery artisans. The MSME Act, the Karnataka Industrial Facilitation Act, numerous industrial policies, the rural artisans programme, and the rural industrial programme serve as the cornerstones for implementing the industrial establishment in the district efficiently. The programmes are reached out to the beneficiaries using contemporary communication tools like video conferences and digital platforms. During the pandemic, online training classes were offered. Providing escort services to the entrepreneurs and following up after the loan was approved. The candidates attended various sessions to get assistance in resolving their issues. By holding interaction sessions twice a month for all applicants for loans under various programmes, the selection of recipients is carried out on an equitable basis. To address the concerns of artisans and business owners, the administrative wing

holds Grama Sabhas and general body meetings at the Gram Panchayat level. At the hobli level, under the direction of the district administration, *Janaspandana* prioritizes the resolution of complaints.

Revenue Department

Land revenue is a vital form of revenue as it indicates natural endowments such as the quality of the soil, the condition of the land, rainfall, irrigation facilities available, the type and quantity of crops grown, and so on. Tax is levied on the basis of the type of soil as different types of soil are classified. Lands of the highest quality like black soil, red soil, or black soil mixed with yellow soil are classified for separate rates of assessment and different officers are appointed for the collection of land revenue. Under the indigenous rule, the Gavunda and Karanam in the villages and Nayaka and Nadagavunda at the higher levels are held responsible for the collection of the revenues. Under colonial rule, the collection of land revenue was systematized and district collectors were appointed for the collection of taxes. It was during Sir Mark Cubbon's time that a regular system of survey and settlement on the lines of Bombay Province was adopted. In 1863-64, a separate Department of Survey and Settlement was formed with the objective of taking measures to regulate land taxes so as to secure the administration "adequate revenue ". The work of the first survey in old Mysore State was begun in 1863 under the stewardship of Lt. J. P. Grant. The work of classification and settlement continued up to 1898.

District Statistical Office

In 2010, the District Statistical Office was established. The Department of Economics and Statistics serves as a clearinghouse for data from a variety of disciplines, including crop estimation surveys and insurance services for farmers. It offers the data and statistical reports needed by the central government on the price index, rainfall, birth-death rates, census data for various industries, and a consolidated report on different crops. Birth and death certificates were issued throughout the area, with 100% of the data being fed into the *E-janma* software.

At the district level, the Superintendent, an Assistant Statistical Officer, a Statistical Inspector, and other office staff work with the District Statistical Officer to run the department. For certain scheduled labour activities like crop estimating surveys,

agricultural surveys and verifications, economic censuses, and other administrative and office tasks, the department creates an annual budget.

Stakeholders, such as Village Accountants, PDOs, AAOs, AHOs, and AOs, are provided training on crop estimation surveys for Kharif, Rabi, and other seasonal crops. Agriculture censuses and other surveys are covered in training for village revenue inspectors and accountants.

All PCs, staff of the Health Department, and village accountants have received training in gathering and summarizing the district's birth and death data. In addition to other things, the department offers details on losses and compensation schemes for damage brought on by draught, flood, animals, and other natural calamities. Meetings are scheduled by the department at least once every three months to discuss matters pertaining to agriculture, birth, and death statistics and to coordinate plans with other government departments and authorities.

Labour Department

Division of Chikmagalur comes under the direction of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, In the Labour department's subdivisions, Chikmagalur, Hassan, and Kodagu are included. The department implements welfare and labour regulation programmes particularly to those who engage in plantation, construction, and other types of workers. Since 2014, about Rs. 47 crores have been spent on 29,888 people for aid in education, marriage, major medical care, maternity care, and mother-child care. The department aimed to record zero child labour case in the district. With the cooperation of district administration, the department has achieved this goal. The department uses outsourced help to carry out awareness campaigns for the implementation of minimum wages, ESI/PF, and other benefits. The department collaborates with other agencies like the Revenue Department, the Department of Women's and Children's welfare, and the Zilla Panchayat to address concerns relating to migrant laborers, such as those from Assam, Nagaland, and West Bengal employed in coffee and tea estates.

Health and Family Welfare Department

The District Health and Family Welfare office in Chikmagalur was started in 1968. The office ensures availability of quality health care on equitable, accessible and affordable

basis across regions and communities with special focus on underserved population and marginalized groups. It tries to establish comprehensive primary health care delivery system and well-functioning linkages with secondary and tertiary care health delivery. The department also aims at maternal care and reducing infant mortality rate. Reducing the incidence of communicable diseases and putting in place a strategy to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases is one of the important functions of the Health and Family Welfare Department.

There is a district hospital in Chikmagalur and six taluk hospitals in Kadur, Tarikere Mudigere, Koppa, N R Pura and Sringeri. The department also oversees the functioning of two urban health centres located in Chikmagalur taluk. The district has 89 primary health centres out of which 25 are located in Kadur taluk while the least i.e., 2 are located in Sringeri.

The National Health Mission which was introduced in 2005 was effectively implemented in the district and its outcome is seen in ensuring the availability of quality healthcare and establishing comprehensive primary health care delivery systems. The mission also aims at reducing infant mortality rate and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases.

In 2010, around Rs. 9.53 crores were allocated to National Health Mission in the district, which was enhanced to Rs.48.27 crores in the year 2020.

The District Health Department also focuses on improving the maternity care systems in the district especially by providing nutritious food to pregnant women and strives to put an end to malnutrition among pregnant women.

In 2020, the department reached out to 6,841 people under JSY and 26833 people under JSSK schemes.

Strengthening the Healthcare system, developing the human resource capacity building and regulation in public health are important areas within the health sector. Various social determinants such as living conditions, nutrition, and safe drinking water, sanitation, education, early child development and social security measures are certain indicators that contribute to building a proper healthcare system. Population stabilization, gender mainstreaming and women empowerment and reducing the impact of climate change and improving community participation are important areas

that the district administration is concentrating upon, in order to build a proper healthcare system.

The District Health Department has taken measures to reach out to remote areas through mobile medical units. Asha workers also reach out to the village people in the remote areas. The people are educated in matters of health and sanitation through Health Melas, Village Health and Nutrition Days, and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrutva Abhiyan etc. The department works under several constraints such as lack of suitable workforce, shortage of preventive care systems and inadequate training on the part of healthcare professionals.

The efficiency of the department is ensured with the Sakala scheme where monitoring and evaluation of services are done within a fixed time frame. Use of technology has helped in speeding up the service of the department especially in issuing various certificates. Grievance redressal mechanism is a part of every health institution in the district and this mechanism is one of the key factors in quality assurance and enhancement.

Department of Handlooms and Textiles

This department was established in 1993 to help traditional handloom and power loom weavers and to encourage investment in the MSME and Large Industries sector. The Department is run by the Government of Karnataka's Secretariat for Commerce and Industries. Offices of the department are located in each district and are overseen by Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors. There are four other divisions led by Joint Directors. The Director of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, who is also the Commissioner for Textile Development, is in charge of the division. The department's various programmes include Suvarna Vastra Neethi, Vasati Karyagara, SCP Scheme, TSP Scheme, District Sector Scheme, Nidhi Scheme, Nekara Samman, Nuthana Javali Neethi (NJN) Rebet Scheme, Nabard Revival, Kacchamalu Purchase, LCW Scheme, Udyamasheelata Programme, Working Capital, Handloom & Accessories, and Handloom Subsidy. In order to reach the programmes, the department actively uses digital infrastructure channels of communication.

District Industries and Commerce Centre

The centre was started in in 1982. Its duties include giving loan assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs to start up their ventures, providing incentives and regulations to industrial establishments, giving aspiring entrepreneurs industrial sheds or land to start up their ventures, giving toolkits to rural artisans under the SITRA scheme (Special Improved Toolkits for Rural Artisans), and giving entrepreneurs advice/EDP and EAP training to help them set up their businesses. At Amble Nagadiyat Kaval Kadur, Hariharpura, Koppa, and Chikmagalur, the department created the KIADB Industrial Area. The district's effective implementation of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, Special Component Plan, Tribal Sub Plan, Kalpavruksha Kayaka Yojana, Artisan Loan-cum Subsidy Scheme, and other initiatives has cost more than Rs. 6 crores during the previous year. E-office and Sakala are used by the department for efficient operation.

To raise awareness and promote an entrepreneurial attitude among the populace, several awareness campaigns and entrepreneurship development initiatives are carried out. A project is undertaken to raise awareness of Indian Standards in Burao, Udyami Aagu. The organization of Udyoga Needu, ISEC, Industrial Policy 2020-25, PMEGP, MSME, and ZED programs is done in accordance with this, which covered more than 2500 people. The department intends to turn the district into an export hub. A jack fruit cluster has been suggested for successful implementation for the industrial establishment in order to boost indigenous crops. The department's administrative guidelines are the MSME Act, the Karnataka Industrial Facilitation Act, the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, other industrial policies, the Karnataka Agri Business and the Food Processing Policy. To address the concerns of the entrepreneurs, quarterly meetings are held with the coordination of the other departments about Single Window, Kaigarika Spandana, PMEGP DLMC, and other issues.

Chikmagalur district unfortunately has not made good progress in terms of industrial development. Inadequate infrastructure, investors preferring non-industrial ventures over industrial ones are quoted as some of the reasons for the backwardness of industrial development in this district.

There was only one large-scale industry in this district, i.e., M/s Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) in Kudremukh of Mudigere Taluk. KIOCL was established in 1976 to develop the Kudremukh mine and to produce 7.5 million tonnes of concentrate per year. The facilities were commissioned in 1980 and the first shipment of concentrate was made in October 1981. A pelletisation plant with a capacity of 3 million tonnes per year was commissioned in 1987 for production of high-quality blast furnace and direct reduction grade pellets for export. The idea of beneficiating the ore deposits was first proposed when several Japanese companies came together with the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), a Government of India undertaking, evincing an interest in such a project. Pilot studies suggested that the surface ore with 38% iron could be enriched to a concentrate of 67% iron with available new technologies. The concentrate could be transported to Mangalore, on the coast of the Arabian Sea, 110 km to the west of Kudremukh. But global steel industry went into decline in the late sixties. The Japanese withdrew. Interest was revived in early 1970 when Iran drew up its plans for an ambitious domestic steel industry and was looking for a reliable supplier of iron ore.

KIOCL received a massive setback when its mining license expired and operations were stopped by the Supreme Court with effect from 31 December 2005. With many of the employees losing their jobs and the social backlash that resulted thereof, efforts were made to generate jobs for these workers in other areas.

There are two industrial estates in Chikmagalur district, one located near Chikmagalur town and the other near Birur in Kadur Taluk. The Chikmagalur Industrial Estate is spread over 13.20 acres (53,400 m²) of land where the one at Birur is spread over 11.1 acres (45,000 m²). Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) is also developing an Industrial Area of over 145 acres (0.59 km²) near Amble village of Chikmagalur taluk.

Economically, the district has agriculture and coffee cultivation as a main source of income for the people. Mainly rice, maize, minor millets, pulses like red gram, horse gram green gram, black gram and Bengal gram crops are grown here. The district produces oil seeds like groundnut, sunflower and castor, and commercial crops like sugarcane, cotton and tobacco. The district mainly has small scale industries. It has only one medium scale industry, namely Vignan Industries Limited. The district has two

industrial estates one near Chikmagalur town and the second one near Birur in Kadur taluk.

The Gross Domestic Product in the district during the period 2019-20 was Rs. 38,83,038 at current prices. It was Rs.27,66,196 lakh at constant prices in the year 2011-12. The Net Domestic Product in the district during the period 2019-20 was Rs. 34,93,132 at current prices. It was Rs.24,56,628 lakh at constant prices in the year 2011-12. The per capita income or NDDP at factor cost during the period 2019-20 was Rs. 2,83,705 at current prices. It was Rs.1,99,523 at constant prices in the year 2011-12.

Insurance Department

The department was initiated in 1979. The department's primary responsibilities include issuing and settling endowment insurance policies to state government employees, disbursing insurance-backed loans, finalizing the Family Benefit Fund (FBF) settlement, and consolidating the Group Insurance Scheme (GIS). The department has successfully computerized the processes for issuing insurance, making settlements, and disbursing loans.

This Department operates as a Directorate under the Karnataka Ministry of Finance and is governed by the Karnataka Government Employees (compulsory life insurance) Rules, 1958. Dist. Insurance Officer, a Group B Gazetted Officer who oversees the office, reports to Director, KGID, Bengaluru. Two Superintendents make up the middle level of management. First Division Assistants and Second Division Assistants make up the administrative staff. All Karnataka State Government personnel are included in the department's stakeholder group. Through the District Training Institute, all employees receive regular training on the insurance program and its benefits. The department's website has been updated with thorough training videos and guidelines for the stakeholders' convenience.

Department of Kannada and Culture

The Department of Kannada and Culture was initiated in 1984. This Department is responsible for monitoring Kannada language usage at administrative departments as well as supporting numerous local cultural heritages, including folk singers, dancers, and traditional cultural programmes. It has successfully organized *Chikmagalur Habbas* in 2020 and 2023. Through such fests, the department hopes to revive a sense of

cultural pride and solidarity. Besides, it has efficiently organized a number of departmental cultural events. For women and children who fall within the SC and ST classifications, separate cultural programmes are organized. Since 2015, this department has been credited as being a pioneer in the use of electronic offices, with a touch of digitalization. It has gone completely cashless. The department prioritizes traditional cultural promotion over the commercial sector. This department does not have offices in the taluks, hoblis, or villages and has only the district headquarters. IPGRS is the procedure used to resolve grievances.

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

The department commenced its operations in 1976. It is responsible for planning sports, cultural and youth-focused business programmes at all levels, from Taluk to State. S.D. Eshan represented India at the Asian Games, Veda Krishnamurthy represented India in the women's cricket team at the World Cup, and Kumari Rakshitha represented India at the World Para Athletic Championship.

The district administration has prioritized the development of the local stadiums. The sum set aside for building stadiums has grown significantly in recent years. Establishing Sports Schools and Sports Hostels is another priority for the department. Additionally, the department oversees the holding of Coaching Camps, Youth Orientation Camps, and Youth Cultural Meets. Under the SYSY-JLG scheme, training is provided to stakeholders and Rs. 46 lakhs were invested in 2020.

Department of Transportation

The primary duty of the District Board, Taluk Boards and Municipalities is to use the funds at their disposal for the maintenance and improvement of local communications. After the establishment of a District Board in 1902-03, construction of roads was given priority. Interior localities were connected to the taluk headquarters.

In districts like Chikmagalur having hilly terrain, constructing wide and all-weather highways is always a challenge. In recent years, a good deal of improvement of transport and communication has taken place. In 1880, the total road-length maintained both under Provincial and District Funds was 683 km (427 miles), and in 1901, it was 994 km (621 miles). In 1930, there were twelve Provincial Roads and 42 District Fund Roads in

the district and their total length were 523 km (327 miles) and 512 km (320 miles) respectively.

In Chikmagalur, National Highway 173 originates in Mudigere, Karnataka, and runs through Vastare, Chikkamagaluru, Sakrepatna, Kadur, Hosadurga and connects to Chitradurga. NH-373 runs Chikkamagaluru and ends at Bilikere connecting cities such as Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Holenarasipura.

The State Highways connect district headquarters and the National highways and serve as main channels of traffic to and from the District Roads within the State. In 1979, there were five State Highways, 38 Major District Roads, 42 Other District Roads and 101 Village Roads in the district. The department comes under the charge of the Public Works Department. In the Malnad areas of the district, there are also some important ghat roads which are as follows: (1) Baba-Budangiri Hill Road, (2) ChikmagalurTarikere Road, (3) Chikmagalur-Narasimharajapura Road, (4) Jakkanahalli Avati-Kanathi Road, (5) Kottigehara-Kalasa Road, (6) Kalasa-Malleshwara Road, (7) Kadur-Bantwal Road, (8) Sringeri-Karkal Road, via Miyarghat and (9) Shiravase-Sangameshwarapet Road.

The State Highways in this district are: (1) Bilikere-Tarikere Road, (2) Mudigere-Chikballapur Road, (3) KadurBantwal Road, (4) Tumkur-Honnavar Road and (5) Padubidri-Kottigehara Road.

The State's total road-length is 95,363 km. Thus, the average road-length per lakh of population in the district is 583 km whereas the State average is 325 km. The district's road-length per 100 square km was 60 km as against the State average of 50 km. Considering the history of transportation in the district, it can be said that Chikmagalur district is not known for well-maintained roads. The poor state of the roads has hampered development of this district to a large extent. The absence of even a good rail network in this district is a major setback for the development of the district. The total length of roads in this district is 7264 km.

There are only three National Highways that pass through this district. The National Highway NH-69 (Bangalore to Honnavar) passes through the towns of Kadur, Tarikere and NH-173 passes through Kadur - Chikmagalur - Mudigere connecting Mangaluru via Charmadi ghat. There is a proposal to upgrade these highways.

Chikmagalur, Kadur and Tarikere and Ajampura taluks have railway lines passing through them. The total length of railway line passing through the district is 136 km. Birur Junction and Kadur Junction railway station are the two Railway Junctions in the District. A new railway line connecting Chikmagalur to the main Hubli-Bangalore trunk line was inaugurated, and the commencement of the new line connecting Chikmagalur to the Bangalore-Mangalore trunk line has already been started.

Chikmagalur district has a small airport near Gowdanahalli village about 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) from Chikmagalur town. It is suitable for small chartered planes. Airports at Mangalore and Bangalore can be used to avail air travel facilities. A domestic airport was inaugurated on 27 February 2023 at Shimoga which is 99.9 km away from Chikmagalur.

Vehicles and Conveyances

In the ghat sections, bullock-carts and pony-driven *jatkas* still play an important role in the rural communication network. Bicycles and jeeps are the easy and cheap modes of conveyance and are found in good number in the district. Buses were introduced in the district in the third decade of the 20th century. It is found that public carriages ran every day from Chikmagalur to Kottigehara via Mudigere and to Koppa, Tarikere, Birur and Kadur.

Public transport being an important factor in establishing connectivity, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has a depot at Magundi, Chikmagalur.

Tramways and Railways

There was a tramway line from Tarikere to Narasimharajapura via Lakkavalli, traversing a distance of 42.81 km (26.6 miles). A branch line of this from Tadasa to Hebbe covered another distance of 15.45 km (9.6 miles). They were intended to carry forest produce at a cheaper rate of transport.

The Tarikere-Lakkavalli line was opened for goods on 15th January 1915 and for passengers on 22nd May 1915. It was extended up to Narasimharajapura in 1917 and the Tadasa-Hebbe branch line started functioning from 5th February 1921. These lines had to be removed in 1949 due to the submergence of the area in the Bhadra reservoir. Another tramway line covering a distance of 40.22 km was used to carry iron ore mined

at Kemmannugundi to Tanigebailu. From the rope-way terminal at the foot of the hill, the iron ore is transported on the tramway in Hopper wagons hauled by steam locomotives to the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravati.

A Bangalore-Harihar railway line was thought of in October 1882 with a view to laying a meter-gauge main line from Bangalore to Poona. The line from Bangalore to Tumkur was completed and opened for traffic in August 1884. This line was subsequently extended up to Gubbi. The responsibility of administering the whole line from Mysore to Harihar via Bangalore was entrusted to Southern Mahratta Railway Company.

The Southern Mahratta Railway Company carried on the construction work and Birur-Harihar line (Chitradurga dist.) was opened for traffic in 1889 and from Gubbi in Tumkur district to Birur in 1889. The Birur-Shimoga section was completed in 1899.

The Bangalore-Miraj railway line passes through the eastern side of the district in Kadur and Tarikere taluks. The branch line from Birur to Talaguppa passes through Tarikere, Bhadravati and Shimoga. Birur is a railway junction station from which the branch railway line takes off to Talaguppa. It served as a rail head for goods traffic to and from the industrial complex at Bhadravati. The entire railway line in Chikmagalur district is under the jurisdiction of the Mysore division of the Southern Railway.

Veterinary Department

Chikmagalur district has 142 functioning veterinary centres. The district has only one polyclinic in Chikmagalur Taluk, while all the Nayan taluk 25 veterinary hospitals and 20 veterinary clinics in Kalasa and Sringeri taluks have just one veterinary hospital each. This means that the facilities in the district are not uniformly distributed across the taluks and villages. Another serious issue affecting the smooth functioning of the department is the lack of manpower. Like most other departments in the district, the Veterinary department also has staff shortage. Of the 33 sanctioned posts of chief veterinary doctors, only 15 are filled and 18 posts are vacant. Only 248 of 583 sanctioned posts are filled (up to June 2023), meaning 57.46% of posts are vacant.

Steps are taken by the department for cattle development. Artificial insemination for 1,00,000 cattle is achieved, while the department had set the target of 1,50,000 cattle insemination. In the last few years, a huge number of cattle succumbed to epidemics such as lumpy skin disease.

Backward Classes Welfare Department

Backward Classes Welfare Department began functioning in Chikmagalur district from the year 1977. The Indian Constitution provides guidelines for the department to conduct its activities. Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution are referred by the Karnataka Government Backward Classes Welfare Department to identify the Backward Classes and organize programmes for their welfare. In the year 2005-2006, the department of backward classes was renamed as Backward Classes Welfare Department. Now the department works under the Zilla Panchayat. The Department aims to bring socially backward communities of the district into the mainstream. Education and financial status are taken as determinants of social backwardness.

The Department runs hostels and residential schools. The students enrolled here are provided with all the basic facilities and ancillary facilities required for the education and development. Besides providing facilities for individual members of backward communities, the Department also works for the adequate implementation of various community development schemes of the government.

The Department has recorded significant achievements during its course. Six important priority programmes of the Department are listed below:

1. **Hostel Maintenance:** Running and the effective maintenance of Hostels for the children of backward classes is an important achievement. Providing education for social transformation has been an important agenda of the department.
2. **Fee Concession for other Backward Classes:** Fee concession for other backward class students is given to achieve inclusive growth of the country.
3. **Stipend for Law graduates:** Stipend is given to students studying Law. This scheme encourages students to take up Law as the subject of their study and after the graduation as a career option.
4. **Morarji Desai Residential Schools:** These schools are established across the state.

5. Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes Development Programmes: This programme is specifically designed to identify the nomadic and semi-nomadic tribal groups and study their socio-economic conditions.

6. Construction of Samudaya Bhavanas for different communities: Samudaya Bhavanas are constructed in many villages to promote social solidarity and carry out community programmes.

Apart from these priority programmes the department has introduced a host of upliftment programmes. Obavva Self Defense Skills (Karate/ Judo/ Taekwondo) for girls staying in hostels. The objective of the programme is to equip girls with self defense skills and use them to resist any attack on their body that they may face. Spoorthi Nade Project gives training in Spoken English and Personality Development for students in post metric hostels. Amruta Munade Programme is designed to provide Skill Training through short-term courses to eligible hostellers of post-metric student hostels belonging to backward classes. Basic Training programme intends to provide training in basics for students of class 8th, 9th and 10th in pre-matric hostels in Science, Mathematics, English and Personality Development subjects.

To achieve holistic development of children, the curriculum in schools includes Yoga, value education and life skills. These subjects are taught along with academics. Saplings are planted in Hostels under Green Village Scheme. The Department also maintains nutritious gardens in student hostels. Cleanliness and hygiene are given importance in the hostels maintained by the department. In order to make sure that the inmates of the hostels get good quality food, a proper monitoring system is adopted. WhatsApp groups are created at District and taluk levels to collect information about the same.

A survey was conducted to assess the conditions of infrastructures provided to nomadic and semi-nomadic communities. Based on the report of the survey, a detailed proposal has been submitted to the government for necessary infrastructure development projects to be undertaken.

Widespread publicity is given to post-metric scholarship so that the deserving students can avail its benefits. As a result, more applications are being received every year. It also takes care that the scholarship is credited to the students' accounts without delay. Capacity Building, Stress Management and Motivation trainings were given to Hostel Supervisors and Kitchen Staff.

In order to have accountability and transparency in financial matters, the Departmental conducts annual auditing. The auditing process is done in two ways. Internal Audit is conducted by the Audit authority and External Audit is conducted by the Statutory Body every year. Progress Reports of every work on every stage are collected. Upon completion of the work, Utilization Certificates are given to the concerned authority.

The department has taken measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It functions as an agent in the adequate and transparent implementation of all the projects of the Government. Creating adequate learning environment by providing necessary basic facilities in hostels and mainstreaming socially, economically and educationally backward communities are the two main programmes chalked out to achieve inclusive development. The first step in this regard has been providing own or free buildings as far as possible for hostels that are maintained in rented buildings.

The department adheres to specific guidelines in the maintenance of hostels. Providing clean and nutritious food, ensuring cleanliness in dormitories and increasing the educational standard of the boarders are the specific functions of the department. To increase the beneficiaries for the social welfare programmes, the department takes initiatives to educate people about the various programmes of the government and gives wide publicity to create public awareness. As a result of such publicity programmes, more applications are being received every year.

Successive governments have introduced several programmes for the development of backward communities. The department acts as an

instrument for the effective implementation of these programmes. Training, workshops, field visits, departmental inspection and awareness programmes are conducted on a regular basis for different stakeholders.

The department faces a few challenges in taking the benefits of the government schemes to beneficiaries. Major challenges in this regard have been the scarcity of sufficient trained staff and the provision of infrastructure. Another important challenge has been the lack of technical support staff. Since backward communities usually inhabit hilly areas, the department is not well equipped with necessary wherewithal to reach out to them. Lack of sufficient funds is also a hindrance in carrying out policy initiatives.

Another significant activity of the department is to undertake relief measures for people affected by drought, flood and other natural calamities. The department comes to the rescue of such people and provides food and accommodation to the refugees sheltered in camps, in collaboration with the district administration. Health check-ups and treatment are being provided to the needy. In an attempt to reach out to the remotest beneficiaries, the department uses digital infrastructure and modern means of communication. Inviting online applications for hostel admission, scholarships, fee concessions and incentives and implementing biometric attendance for students and staff are some of the recent examples of technological intervention to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the department.

The department strives for inclusiveness and transparency in the developmental programmes. Boarders in the departmental hostels are provided with such facilities as regular medical check-ups, sanitary equipment, uniforms, basic infrastructure and learning resources for intellectual development. Transparency starts from the selection of beneficiaries. A need analysis is undertaken at the grassroots level. Based on this report, the beneficiaries are selected. Direct Beneficiary Transfer of Funds is used for payments of stipends and scholarship. It maintains monitoring staff who visit the beneficiaries to assess their needs on a regular basis.

Introduction of Sakala Scheme added the elements of quickness and promptness to the services of the department. This scheme is monitored at the district level thanks to which the beneficiaries are getting timely benefits. Interaction and coordination between different departments is helping to provide the services in a transparent manner and assess the progress in an effective way. Coordination meetings are held at the Zilla Panchayat where the Social Welfare Department, Women and Child Welfare Department, Labour Department, Minority Welfare Department and Education Department come together to discuss and assess the progress achieved in their respective departments and share the inputs needed for other departments.

The District Administration coordinates the administration of taluk and village bodies through different departments. Taluk Panchayats and Grama Panchayats get directions from Zilla Panchayat to conduct periodic meetings. At the grassroots level, Ward Sabhas and Grama Sabhas are conducted by the Grama Panchayats. The Zilla Panchayat also maintains a District Redressal Mechanism to monitor and resolve the grievances. There is a committee at the office to redress issues relating to harassment of working women.

Better Governance is the motto of the department. Constant upgradation of the department to meet the current demands is very much essential. The process of upgradation should also involve training for employees in advanced technology, administrative aspects and health and stress management. Such training would enhance their abilities and equip them with skills needed to discharge their duties effectively. Providing online service at all levels will go a long way in achieving this goal. Provision of electronic devices, computers, sufficient staff, and other physical infrastructure, along with sufficient funds, would help the department to make a positive impact in future.

Office of the Integrated Tribal Development Project

This office was established 1979 in Chikmagalur. It was established to develop Scheduled Tribes and assist their progress in education and to provide basic facilities in their colonies. In the district, the department maintains nine hostels, twelve Ashram Schools and four residential schools. Since the tribal communities generally live in forest

hinterlands. forest land is distributed to ST community by a committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner under the Forest Rights Act. The Department is working and coordinating various programme in the district with Zilla Panchayat and District Administration.

An Action Plan is prepared every year as per financial target fixed by the government. Action Plans include conducting special programmes for the welfare of the community. It also prepares an annual draft plan every year which is submitted to government through the Zilla Panchayat for approval. Two major programmes of the department are implementation at the district level of Forest Rights Act which was enacted in 2006 for forest land distribution to forest dwellers, and Nutritious Food Supply programme to the Gowdalu and Hasalaru communities.

Accountability is maintained in the operations of the department. It has a well-organized structure of administration. Directorate of Scheduled Tribal Welfare Department, Bangalore is the final controlling authority for the department. TSP programme control and monitoring is done with district administration.

Various Acts/ schemes introduced in the post-independence period and their impact in the district can be assessed by looking at the way they are implemented in the district. A significant scheme in this respect is Sarva Shikshana Abhiyana. Thanks to the implementation of this scheme in the district, tribals living in hilly and forest areas are getting good education, thereby boosting their confidence and morale.

The Forest Rights Act is basically a land reform act. Its objective is to distribute land for forest dwellers. Thousands of people acquired land rights to live and cultivate for their livelihood.

The Nutritious Food programme has helped to a great extent in eradicating malnutrition of under-nourished people. An amount of Rs.689 lakh was spent in 2020 for this scheme.

The biggest challenge in making these programmes successful is the shortage of manpower. This problem is acute in the district office, Ashram

Schools and hostels. People's apathy and lack of awareness about the government's facilities is another major hurdle.

Several administrative reforms have been introduced in the district governance. SAKALA and IPGRS programmes launched by the state government are being well implemented in the district.

Achieving Sustainable Development Goals is one of the main objectives of the department. Providing nutritious food to the under-nourished Gowdalu and Hasalaru communities to achieve zero-hunger is a major initiative in this regard. Self-employment programmes are implemented in the district to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities being faced by the Scheduled Tribes. Quality education is being given to girls in hostels and Ashram Schools for gender equality. Tribal colonies are getting clean water supply under TSP programme.

Advertisements are given in the newspapers regularly to create awareness about department initiatives. Whenever a new programme is launched the department notice board displays the details of the programme for public attention.

Beneficiaries Selection for the special programmes is done in a transparent manner. The eligibility and government conditions are considered to select beneficiaries. Audit of files are conducted by the audit department every year. Sakala scheme is useful in avoiding unnecessary delay in the government service. It is a very good scheme of the Karnataka government to give immediate service to people. Another scheme is IPGRS which is also working as a grievance redressal mechanism of people's complaints. Any complaints related to the Department which are filed in IPGRS portal are disposed of, as per prevailing rules within stipulated time.

The ITDP department is working with Zilla Panchayat and district administration for implementation of various schemes in the district. Panchayat Raj institutions are also coordinating with the Forest Department for Forest Rights implementation in the district.

Department of Commercial Taxes

The Department of Commercial Taxes has clearly defined functions to perform and duties to discharge. GST Registration, Refunds, Inspection of Business Premises, Vigilance of goods transporting vehicles, Scrutiny of returns, Audit and Adjudication are some of the major functions of the department. The department also has a well-established structure of operation. Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Audit)-Audit and Adjudication is at the helm of affairs at the district level. This position is followed by three Assistant Commissioners of Commercial Taxes created separately for audit, enforcement and LGSTO-250 and two Commercial Tax Officers created for audit and enforcement.

The department has taken several initiatives to educate the people about various programs of the government. GST awareness programs through helpdesk and workshops are the thrust area of its activities. It has constituted GST helpdesk to provide necessary information to the taxpayers

For better governance in the department, it is necessary to bridge the information and communication gap between stakeholders.

Re-skilling and up-skilling of existing human resource and filling vacant posts is very much needed to achieve this goal. The human resource can be optimally used if it is given the assistance of physical infrastructure.

Department of Fisheries

This department was established in 1987 in the district. The district has 128 department tanks (MI tanks). The fishing right of these tanks are granted through lease and E-tender. There are 1766 Gram Panchayat tanks, and the fishing right of these tanks is disposed through Gram Panchayats. The farmers who have taken tanks for fish culture can purchase seeds from the department farms or from approved private fish farms and stock in the concerned tanks and develop fisheries activities. There are two reservoirs in the district. One is Bhadra reservoir in Narasimharajapura taluk and another one is Jambhadahalla reservoir in Tarikere taluk. Fish seeds are stocked in the reservoirs for fisheries development and license is given to the poor fishermen for fishing. The main objective of the department is to identify water resources of the district and develop

fisheries activities and provide nutritious food to the public and provide job opportunities to the unemployed. There are 07 fish seed rearing centres in the district.

The department implements the schemes designed by three different authorities. Under Zilla Panchayat Schemes, it provides assistance to inland fisheries development and assists the construction of fish markets and marketing of Fish. Under State Sector Schemes, it provides subsidy for the purchase of fish seeds, distribution of fisheries requisite kits and fish seed stocking in reservoirs. It also implements the Central Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yohana.

A glance at the achievements of the department over the years would show that it has been registering considerable progress in its works. During the year 2022-23, 32.42 lakh fish fingerlings have been reared and sold to fish farmers. During the same year, 112.73 lakh fish fingerlings have been stocked to major tanks, Gram Panchayat tanks and reservoirs. The total fish production for the year 2022-23 is 18036 tonnes. The Department is providing benefits for the welfare of the fishermen under Zilla Panchayat schemes, state sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes.

The department has a well-defined structure headed by Deputy Director of Fisheries at the district level. He is assisted by Assistant Director of Fisheries. There is a Fisheries Senior Supervisor and a Fisheries Supervisor. A First Division Assistant works at the office.

The department adheres to the guidelines issued by the Government of Karnataka and follows the instructions given from the head office. The success of the programmes depends on the production and supply of fish. This in turn depends on monsoon. A good rainfall would ensure the success of the programmes implemented in the department.

Several administrative reforms are introduced in the department. These reforms aim at bringing accountability and transparency in the departments. A case in point in this regard is the disposal of department tanks through e-tender for the development of fisheries. Implementation of schemes under Sakala has increased the efficiency of the department.

The department has set a few Sustainable Development Goals for itself. To reach these goals it is conducting training programme regarding

development of aquaculture. It encourages fishermen to do seed stocking through subsidies and provides subsidies for pond construction and marketing. It is also conducting various awareness programmes to create awareness among the people through Gram Panchayat and paper notifications. By conducting exhibitions and training programmes every year it reaches out to employees, beneficiaries and villagers who constitute its stakeholders.

Several initiatives are taken to utilize the resources of the district. In this regard it works in coordination with co-operative societies and Grama Panchayats. It disposes the department tanks to fisheries for co-operative societies and private individuals to take up fisheries activities. Gram Panchayats are entrusted with the task of disposing tanks that come under the area of their operation. Their assistance is also taken for free seed stocking by the department. Licenses to the fishermen for fishing in the reservoir are distributed. It encourages fishermen and aqua culturists for development of fisheries by providing them fish fingerlings in government set subsidized prices.

Lack of awareness among the rural people and the poor education about techniques of fishing are some of the challenges in reaching the benefits of the government schemes to beneficiaries. The department also faces the shortage of man power in implementing schemes.

Relief measures are provided in case of drought, loss of crop due to flood, natural calamities etc. In such cases the department extends the lease period of department tanks. It also arranges loss compensation through district commissioner office. Several measures are taken to effect inclusive development. Gram Panchayats are provided with free seed stocking. It has also constructed a fish market in N.R. Pura. Subsidies are provided to encourage the people in fishing.

The department ensures transparency in the selection of beneficiaries and in granting financial support. Advertisements are given in newspapers to attract

public attention about the government schemes. Committees are constituted to select beneficiaries at the district level.

Department of Mines and Geology

The Office of the Senior Geologist, Dept. of Mines & Geology was established in 1990. It was established with an objective to control and administer the mining areas in Chikmagalur District. The main aim of the department is to collect royalty, maintain the District Mineral Foundation Fund (DMF) from the approved mining and quarry leases, to monitor crusher activities and transportation of all kinds of minerals, and conduct exploration of mineable major and minor minerals. It also takes necessary steps to prevent and control illegal mining and transportation activities. It utilizes DMFT fund for developmental activities in areas which are directly and indirectly affected by mining activities in the district.

Since collection of royalty is one of the main functions of the department, it has recorded considerable achievement in this respect. In the financial year 2022-23, it has achieved 110% annual target in collecting royalty. It had achieved 101% annual target in collecting royalty for the financial year 2021-22.

District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) is a major component of the department. It came in to force with effect from 12-04-2015 vide Government Notification No: CI 207 MMN 2015 (P-I) Bengaluru, dated 11-01-2016 in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of Section 15 read with section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. As per the rules, DMF Fund of 10% & 30% of Royalty has to be collected from the quarry lease holders and vested in the DMF Trust and shall be utilized in the interest and benefit of the persons and areas affected by mining related operations in the District. DMFT fund shall be utilized in the projects prescribed under Pradhan Manthri Khanija Kshetra Kalyana Yojana (PMKKKY) and guidelines issued by the Government of India in the ratio of 60:40 in High and Other Priority areas as elaborated in the rule.

Since its inception, Chikmagalur DMFT has collected Rs 14.73 crores till 2022-23. Transparency is maintained in the utilization of this fund. Three separate action plans for Rs. 83.56 lakh, Rs. 618.36 lakh and Rs. 535.90 lakh, prepared in the years 2017-18,

2019-20 and 2022-23 respectively to implement various development projects in the mining affected areas, are being implemented successfully.

The department is headed by a Competent Authority and a Controlling Authority. As per Karnataka Minor mineral concession Rules-1994 rule 04 Senior Geologist is the Competent Authority and as per rule 05 The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Bengaluru is the Controlling Authority.

Achieving Sustainable Development is the main objective of the department. It takes all the necessary actions to achieve this goal. Before the sanction of any quarry lease, a detailed quarry plan is prepared by a recognized qualified person (RQP) highlighting the environment management plan in order to carryout systematic, scientific mining and protection of Environment. The applied quarry plan is verified and approved with suitable modifications if needed. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) issues Environment clearance (EC) after the report of the Appraisal committee. The quarry lease holders are instructed to adhere with the general and special conditions imposed in the EC. By conducting periodic inspection from District Task force committee member, the department ensures regulating sustainable mining in the quarry leases.

In order to use the resources of the district optimally, the department carries out exploration work to identify new sand blocks, building stone blocks and other minerals for the consumption of both public and government. It has also taken measures to effective enforcement of different Acts introduced by the government since 1980. PCR (Private Complaints) have been booked in jurisdictional JMFC courts in order to curb Violation of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act-1957 section 4(1) and 4(1-a) and 23 and Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules-1994 rule 3(1), 36(3),42, 43 and 44.

During natural calamities like floods and landslides, Geologists are deputed in flood relief centres and also as nodal officers, as per the order of District administration.

Digital infrastructure and modern means of communication are used in reaching the programmes of the state to the remotest beneficiaries. Integrated Lease Management System (ILMS) is used in the Department, i.e., www.khaniji.karnataka.gov.in for online payment of royalty and other fees and also for generation of online permits. Each lease holder has been assigned with a unique quarry lease number which is used for online transactions and permit generation. DMFT website has been launched to track the completed and ongoing PMKKY programmes and projects.

As per Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1994 Rule 42(3), all minor mineral transporting vehicles shall install Global Positioning System and shall transport minor mineral only in the approved route as indicated in the computerized mineral dispatch permit. Hence One State One GPS (OSOG) programme is being implemented in the district as an effective measure to curb royalty loss by means of multiple trips using the same permit. Installations of Check posts are also planned in key areas to check the vehicles carrying minor minerals. Applications received for approval of quarry plan and refund of security deposits through Sakala portal are disposed within stipulated time which is very useful for Lease holders.

District Task Force, District Stone Crusher Licensing and Regulating Authority, District Sand Monitoring Committee and District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) have been working as per Government orders under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner of Chikmagalur District. The departmental work and actions are conveyed to other departments through the above meetings.

Grievance Redressal mechanism in the department functions effectively. Any complaints related to Department which are filed in IPGRS portal are disposed as per prevailing Act and rules within stipulated time. E-Office being implemented will be a major breakthrough in discharging duties to public in a more transparent and effective manner.

Education Department

Looking back at the history of school education in the district, 1975-76 report says that the number of Primary schools in the district was 1,209, Secondary schools -70 and it had 5 higher educational institutions.

According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate in the district is 79.25% out of which 85.45% are males and 73.16% are females. The total literate population of the district is 8,18,345 out of which 4,38,257 are males and 3,8,088 are females. The district has numerous primary secondary and higher primary schools. The district also has a number of graduate and undergraduate colleges affiliated to Kuvempu University. The district does not have a state-run University offering traditional undergraduate courses. There is an engineering college, namely Institute of Technology affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University which offers courses in mechanical engineering, computer science, electronics and communication engineering, information science and technology, environmental engineering and civil engineering etc. The district has polytechnics such as BSc polytechnic. There are several industrial training institutes such as Government Industrial Training Institute, SJM Industrial Training Institute, Lakshmisha Industrial Training Institute. The Aroor Lakshmi Narayan Rao Memorial Ayurvedic Medical College is located in Koppa.

According to 2011 census, the literacy rate of Chikmagalur is higher than the average literacy rate of Karnataka state which is 75.36%. Sringeri Taluk has the highest literacy rate of 92.68% and Kadir Taluk with 74.33% being the least literate one. As of 2011, there were 13 degree colleges (with 4615 students) offering graduate education in Chikmagalur district which are affiliated to Kuvempu University. Chikmagalur taluk has four graduate colleges (with 1648 students) whereas Kadir has two and Koppa, Mudigere, Narasimharajapura and Sringeri taluks have only one graduate college each.

As of 2011, there were 1620 primary schools (with 151,923 students) and 235 secondary schools (high schools with 34,607 students) in Chikmagalur district. Chikmagalur taluk with 414 primary schools (42,774 students) has the most primary schools with Sringeri Taluk having the fewest at 80 primary schools (5822 students). Kadir Taluk with 74 secondary schools (9990 students) has the most secondary schools with Sringeri Taluk having the fewest at 9 secondary schools (1492 students).

As of 2011, there were 46 colleges (with 4711 students) offering Higher Secondary (Pre-University) education in Chikmagalur district. Kadur Taluk with 12 Higher-Secondary colleges (1324 students) has the most Higher Secondary colleges with Sringeri Taluk having the fewest, two Higher Secondary colleges (160 students).

The Adichunchanagiri Institute of Technology and the Chikmagalur DACG Polytechnic are offering technical education in the district.

Demography of the District

According to the 2011 census, Chikmagalur district has a population of 1,137,961 which is roughly equal to the nation of Cyprus or the US state of Rhode Island. This gives it a ranking of 408 in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 158 inhabitants per square kilometer (410/sq. mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was -0.28%. Chikmagalur has a sex ratio of 1005 females for every 1000 males, while the child ratio stands at 969 females per 1000 males and a literacy rate of 79.24%. Demography of the district says that 21.05% of the population lives in urban areas. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes make up 22.29% and 3.95% of the population respectively. Among taluks, Sringeri taluk has the least population, whereas Chikmagalur taluk has the highest population.

At the time of the 2011 census, 72.74% of the population spoke Kannada, Urdu, Tulu, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Lambadi and Konkani as their first language. As per 2011 census the percentage of major religions practiced by the people of this region is Hindu at 88.28% and Muslim at 8.90%.

Towards Better Governance

To achieve better governance the district has implemented several novel methods and practices. Such practices have brought transparency and reliability in the district administration. A few such practices and schemes are worthy of mentioning here.

Grama One

Grama One is envisaged to be a single point assistance centre for all citizen-centric activities at the village level. The scheme was announced in the budget for FY 2020-21. Through the Grama One centres, citizens can get almost all services they require at convenient places and not visit the district, taluk, and hobli offices to get government

services. It avoids the hassles of the middlemen by providing easily accessible contact points. Most importantly, the village people are not intimidated by the bureaucratic structures of administrative centres as their demands are met in a small office with a single-window system.

Sakala

The Karnataka Guarantee of People Services Act 2011 is called by the popular term *Sakala*. It is one of the most useful initiatives of the Government of Karnataka. The Sakala Scheme is implemented with a provision for the right to public service founded on the idea of a citizens' charter, which is a framework solution for the provision of public services to stakeholders. Any responsible public body needs to ensure the prompt delivery of public services to the citizen. Sakala, introduced on 1 March 2012, brings transparency to the administration and makes the service providers accountable to the stakeholders.

The service delivery mechanism of the district administration has gained pace and accountability mainly with the introduction of Sakala scheme.

Across the state 94.03% of sample population expressed their satisfaction towards Sakala and its service delivery system during the financial year 2021-2022 based on *Sakala Citizen Happiness Index*, a survey conducted on the basis of 'the Dieners Satisfaction with Life Scale' with a sample size of 24,675. Still, there is dissatisfaction over delays in disposal of service application, and unjustified rejections. At district level, Sakala Samanvaya Samitis have been constituted. The Sakala Mitra – awareness creating campaign to inform citizens is also launched.

Present Industrial Scenario of the District

A look at the existing industrial scenario of the district helps in gauging the level of development the district has achieved. The district has not made much headway in terms of heavy industries or industrial development. The main reasons for the backwardness of the district are the lack of industrial infrastructure, absence of railway link to the district headquarters etc. The primary focus of the entrepreneurs in the district is focused on plantation crops.

There are 43,227 tiny and small-scale industrial units registered in the district providing employment opportunity to 17.365 persons. Out of the 43,227 tiny & SSI units registered, 835 tiny and small-scale industries are wood based i.e., about 19 % of the total industries are wood based.

There are 527 food and agro-based industries in the district with an investment of Rs. 1933.89 lakhs which are providing employment to 3173 persons. About 12% of the total industries registered are food and agro-based. Thus, it is observed that about 31% of total industries registered are Wood, Agro and Food-based. This is due to the fact that Chikmagalur district is rich in agriculture, horticulture and forest resources. There is a very good scope for further development of industries based on agriculture, horticulture and forest resources.

There was only one large scale industry, namely M/s Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited in Mudigere taluk. This industry had provided employment to about 1,653 persons. There is one medium scale industry by name M/S Vignyan Industries Limited, manufacturing steel castings. This unit has given employment to about 261 persons.

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has acquired about 145 acres, out of which 55 acres have been developed with infrastructural facilities like roads, drainages and water supply. There are two industrial estates located at Chikmagalur and Birur of Kadur taluk. The total area of the Chikmagalur industrial estate is 13.20 acres out of which 10 acres have been fully developed and allotted. Karnataka Small Scale Industries Development Corporation is developing 3.20 acres in second phase. The important industries are General Engineering, Copper Sulphate, Mosaic Tiles, Tyre Retreading, Note Books, Bakaery products, Coffee Curing works, Poultry feeds, Soap nut powder and wire nails etc., The total area of Birur industrial Estate is 10 acres. There are 14 sheds and 17 plots. The important industries are manufacturing coir, GLS lamps, Cement pipes, Tyre retreading, Mosaic tails and tread rubber.

Climatic Issues: Change in Rainfall and Land Use Patterns

One of the inextricable features of modernity is the contradiction between development and traditional ways of living. These two sides of life are the two sides of the coin often coming into conflict with each other. Though these issues are not exclusive to

Chikmagalur district, these issues become paramount in a highly sensitive ecological zone. The longing for development and technological advancement at whatever cost has also shown its brunt on the life. Of late, the effect of changing ecological balance has raised alarm and the two inevitable sides of growth story have fallen apart. The conflict between the old and new has become explicit. At this point, the issues of sustainable development become more pronounced and good governance has to deal with these concerns in a considerate manner. The district, for more than a decade, has been a hot bed of debate and controversies. One of the controversies is related to the issue of Western Ghat region.

The ecological importance of the Western Ghats cannot be undermined as they influence the monsoon weather patterns that mediate the warm tropical climate of the region. The ghats act as a barrier to rain-laden monsoon winds that sweep in from the southwest, and are home to tropical evergreen forests, as well as to 325 globally threatened species¹³.

One of the serious issues of concern is the change in the pattern of rain that affects the life of people in either case of excesses. One could say by sheer observation that the days of normal range and predictable seasons have gone. The district too has felt the brunt of global warming. Though the district belongs to the region popularly known as Malnad region, there are areas that have witnessed scanty rainfall. The seasons have become too unpredictable and natural disasters have increased in their frequency.

With the mountains blocking the south west monsoon winds from the Arabian Sea, receiving continuous heavy rainfall of 125 to 250 millimetres a day was quite normal in the olden days. Of late, the rainfall pattern in the Malnad region has changed drastically. Chikmagalur district, in recent days, along with other areas of Western Ghats, has witnessed drastic change in the rainfall pattern. The number of rainy days ranged between 90 and 120 with an average annual rainfall of about 1500 to 3000 mm.

The rain pattern of 2022 clearly indicates that the normal rainfall for Chikmagalur Taluk is 835.8 mm, whereas the town in 2022 witnessed a mammoth 2069 mm rain which is an increase of 148% over the normal rainfall. The towns of Kaduru and Mudigere too have witnessed an increase of more than 50% in the year 2022. The normal rainfall for

¹³ <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/plea-on-western-ghats>

Kaduru is 639 mm while actual rainfall was 1056 mm in 2022. These factors, if not taken into consideration and dealt with in a clinical way, would lead to worse climate disasters in their history. While prima facie it may seem that global warming and climate change are playing a role, there can be no denying that land use change has also contributed to this calamity¹⁴.

Floods and landslides have greatly affected the areas with human habitation than the undisturbed forests. It is also an observed fact that major affected areas are affected repeatedly. The Geological Survey of India has identified the 'highly susceptible to landslides' on the basis of frequency of the occurrence of the calamities. Some of the areas highly susceptible to landslides in Chikmagalur region are Balur, the birth place of river Hemavathi; Kalasa, the catchment of river Bhadra, Shringeri, the catchment of river Tunga and Charmadi Ghats¹⁵.

The rich water resource fed by the five rivers that take birth in this region are also affected. The rivers of Malnad region are characterised by slow movement, availability of plenty of water throughout the year and rich biodiversity in the basement region. However, in recent times, the nature of river flow has changed. The rivers also become dry, early in the summer seasons. These changes are very conspicuous in the last decade.

Forest fire is the greatest enemy of standing vegetation and one of the prominent factors for rapid depletion of forest resources. Forest Survey of India has conducted a series of inventories since 1965 and documented the extent of forest fire and its intensity in a number of states in India. In Karnataka, the inventory showed that 6-11% of the total area is burnt due to frequent fires and 31-51% of the area with occasional fires (Rai and Saxena, 1997) and about 30% of the overall forest area is affected due to forest fires annually (Bahuguna and Singh, 2001). According to the study, the rich forest diversity of the Western Ghats is often prone to forest fire. Karnataka has lost 49.1k hectare of tree cover from 2001 to 2022. This is equivalent to a 2.2% decrease in tree cover since 2000. Forest officials opine that most of the forest fires were man-made and mainly arise because

¹⁴ Mrunmayee and D.V. Girish *Is Climate Change the only reason for Flooding in the Western Ghats?* <https://india.mongabay.com/2019/08/commentary-is-climate-change-the-only-reason-for-flooding-in-the-western-ghats/> 27 August 2019

¹⁵ Ibid.

of encroachment of forest land, and vegetation clearing.¹⁶ . It is observed that the forest encroachment has considerably increased from 0.98 % to 6.63 % between 1975 and 2010 and the majority of encroachment has taken place during 1990 and 2000¹⁷. In recent years, technology is intensely used to identify the fire prone areas and to mitigate the dangers of forest fire. Satellite data is used effectively for the detection of active fires and fire-affected areas and also for rapid assessment and monitoring of the forest fires

About 2184.94 and 1243.41 hectares of area was burnt in the year 2001 and 2002, respectively. Recurrent fire affected areas were observed in the southern part of the park to the extent of 473.88 hectares. Remote sensing mechanism coupled with GIS helps to identify the fire affected areas and also the frequency with which the same area has been burnt over a period. The district administration has tried to monitor the incidences of forest fire on regular basis. Fire watch towers are being set up during the summer season to control the incidents of fire. Increased fire incidents cause depletion of spectacular grassland-‘shola’ complex in Kudremukh region. It is observed that the existing fire watch towers are not sufficient to locate frequent fires that occur in the park area.

Ecology - Questions Unanswered

The Kasturirangan Committee Report proposed 37 percent of the total area of Western Ghats, which is roughly 60,000 square kilometres, to be declared as eco-sensitive area (ESA). Out of this, 20,668 sq. km. of the area falls in Karnataka covering 1,576 villages. The report recommended a complete ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects. It also stated that the impact of infrastructural projects on the forest and wildlife should be studied before permission is given for these activities.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2010 constituted Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) to assess the status of ecology, demarcate areas within the Western Ghats Region for notifying ecologically sensitive zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. WGEEP was headed by Prof. Madhav Gadgil, a renowned ecologist and academic. It gave certain stringent rules to curtail

¹⁶http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/98573861.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

¹⁷ International Journal of Remote Sensing & Geoscience (IJRSG) www.ijrsg.com Volume 3, Issue 6, Nov. 2014.p. 31

human intervention in the eco sensitive region and proscribed all mining activities. None of the six concerned states accepted the Gadgil committee report. In August 2012, a High-Level Working Group on Western Ghats under Dr. Kasturirangan was constituted to “examine” the Gadgil Committee report in a “holistic and multidisciplinary fashion in the light of responses received¹⁸”

The Kasturirangan Committee also stressed on conserving the rich biodiversity of the Ghat stating that “*the future lies in working on green growth strategies that build on the natural endowment to create a vibrant economy*”. While classifying 60% of the Ghat region with human settlements and anthropocentric activities as cultural landscape, 37% of the natural landscape close to 60,000 sq. km. was proscribed for any ‘human interference’. The state government has opposed the Kasturirangan Report as the implementation of the report would not only halt the developmental activities but also adversely affect the livelihood of people in the region. This also calls for the need of a People-Centric Developmental Model.

The Gadgil Report prioritized the environment and ecological balance of the Western Ghats over development issues. The committee headed by Kasturirangan tried to balance the developmental issues with precautions. Both reports have evoked sharp reactions from the stakeholders: while the people considered the recommendations detrimental to people’s life on the region, the environmentalists called the state’s opposition disastrous for the ecologically fragile Western Ghats. In the backdrop of swift changes in climate which is evident from excess of rain and floods, landslides, occasional droughts, environmental issues have come to the fore. While laymen considered proscription on human activities where they lived for centuries as dictatorial, many felt that the actual reasons for the ecological changes as emerging ‘outside’ the Western ghat regions and to a great extent global in nature as global warming. Environmentalists and prudent citizens caution that it is easier to conserve the fragile ecosystems than to rejuvenate it later.

The people of the region condemned the report as prepared on the basis of satellite images and far from the ground reality. The Chief Minister of Karnataka observed that declaring Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive zone would adversely affect the

¹⁸ <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-implementation-recommendations-kasturirangan-committee-western-ghats-important-7660924/>

livelihood of people in the region. but the experts hailed the state's opposition disastrous for the ecologically fragile Western Ghats¹⁹. It is also a fact observed by the environmentalists that massive encroachments have taken place across the ghat/forest areas and in some of the districts like Shimoga and Chikmagalur, the encroachments are huge but there has been no eviction. Forest loss, soil erosion, landslides, weather excesses in the form of drought and floods, land fragmentation, habitat degradation by unsuitable plant species, encroachment and conversion also continue to affect the natural resources. The effect of these would be disastrous in the long run.

Given the opposition of the people to the recommendations of the Western Ghats Ecologically Expert Panel and the High-Level Working Group, it is advisable that a scientific study and proper analysis of the ground realities should be taken with the consensus of various stakeholders. About 50 million people are estimated to live in the entire Western Ghats Region, resulting in developmental pressures that are, in order of magnitude, greater than many protected areas around the world.²⁰

People opine that the State government has already enforced some serious measures for the safety of Western Ghat regions such as National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Reserved Forests. These are owned by the State and are subject to laws such as Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the Indian Forest Act of 1927, and the Forest Conservation Act of 1980. The Forest Department ensures the strict enforcement of the rules and provides legal protection to the forest resources. The property which lies outside the formal protected area are also effectively managed. The Forest Conservation Act 1980 ensures the regulatory framework to protect these forest areas from infrastructure development.

Enlightened governance cannot ignore the Sustainable Development Goals and people's participation in ensuring these goals. It is observed that the people of the region live in the constant fear that that they have to sacrifice the land they held dear to their heart. People in the district and the neighbouring districts have lost their land for various power projects and people from more than a thousand villages are evicted in the name of developmental projects. This poses one of the inextricable dilemmas of modern

¹⁹ <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-implementation-recommendations-kasturirangan-committee-western-ghats-important-7660924/>

²⁰ <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/plea-on-western-ghats>

developmental projects. A number of conflicts of the farmers and cultivators with the government bodies could be analysed in this way. Various farmer's movements, the activities of Raitha Sangha (Farmers' Association) with the establishment may be analysed in this way.

Drift in Population

The district has failed to attract heavy industries. There is also a lack of institutions - professional colleges. People of the district move to the nearby districts such as Hassan and Shimoga for the purposes of education and employment. Business opportunities and educational facilities available in towns and other industrial and commercial centres of the state such as Bengaluru and Mangalore constitute major factors for the drift in population. The district has two major towns. The towns have grown in importance in respect of communications, trade and commerce, industrialisation, educational, facilities, modern amenities, and the like. Yet, the rate of urbanisation in the district is lesser compared to the state average. The rate of urbanisation in the district is 21% compared to 39% in the state. However, the villages have not developed at the same speed or manner leaving the people of the villages no choice but to migrate towards the cities.

The introduction of modernity has resulted in the rich indigenous culture being influenced by global factors. Modern lifestyle has put pressure on the region and has affected the unique biodiversity of the region. The dependency on the land has increased mainly because of the movement of the people for such reasons as trade business and tourism. As a result of these, human interference too has increased a great deal. There is an increase in dependency over land, the severity of which has increased in the last 15 to 20 years. The pressure of increased population on limited land available for agriculture necessitates the extreme use of pesticides and fertilisers in farms and plantations. This poses a danger to smaller life forms such as earthworms, insects, birds and other small creatures that play a vital role in the ecological cycle.

Commercialisation has taken a toll on nature. Forest spread has drastically reduced with increasing human population and growing needs. Increased plantation crops require great quantity of water which is stored in huge tanks. Plantations having embankment stores and water tanks puts the pressure on sensitive lands. The increased

habitation and pressure of human activities have also led to the construction of mini hydroelectric projects, check dams and reservoirs that lead to the pressure on nature. The way our land was used, has been modified as opposed to the natural geography of the area. Many paddy fields have been replaced by areca nut plantation. Due to increasing population, the larger land holdings are divided into smaller ones and agricultural land is converted for commercial purposes. Fields have been turned into residential plots and homestays, hotels and resorts. The lowlands are filled with mud to use these areas for residential purposes. Hence the low lands and marsh lands are vanished. The effect of this is clearly evident in the artificial floods and landslides that have increased in the recent decades.

As noted earlier, Chikmagalur is rich in biodiversity and natural resources. As a district that includes the Western Ghats with some of the loftiest peaks and as a natural habitat for some of the rare animal species, the rich biodiversity is a great boon Nature has bestowed upon the district. The tropical biological richness of Kudremukh makes it one of the 34 biological hotspots of the world. UNESCO recognises the enormous natural wealth that exists in the Western Ghats with the Heritage tag. Conservation of the natural resources for posterity and preserving the unique bio-diversity of the district should be given top priority. The best way to do that is to take the local population into confidence.

PART 3

Roadmap for the Future

Chikmagalur district has huge potential in a gamut of spheres, especially in the Tourism industry. The promotion of tourism in the district might support other fields such as hospitality transport and communication. The district has ample potential and opportunity in adventure tourism such as River Rafting, paragliding, and parasailing trekking. The district can also be developed as a centre for adventure sports with a keen focus on these areas. The other sport that could find ample opportunity in the district is Golf. Chikmagalur Golf Club has an 18-hole golf course, known as one of the most challenging and picturesque Golf courses in the country.

Coffee curing, trading centre for agro, forest and plantation products are growth potentials of the district. The rich soil, abundant rains and perennial flow of rivers are the factors contributing to the growth of the agricultural activities in the district. These growth potentials in the district should be used in a sustainable manner.

Chikmagalur has remained one of the rich contributors to the state in terms of agriculture and agro – based sectors. Chikmagalur devotes over 41% of its land is used for cultivation. Major exportable items from the district include coffee and pepper and cardamom. Coffee and other plantation crops contribute significantly to the economy. Fertile soil and agro-climatic conditions of the district favour agricultural activities and also offer huge potentials for the growth of different food processing industries. It has to be noted that approximately 35% of the MMSMEs in the district are agro based. According to the figures of Economic Survey of 2016, it has around 1,224 agro-based MSME units in the district²¹.

Known as *Coffeenadu* (Land of Coffee), coffee production data of Chikmagalur was reported at 85,155.000 metric tonnes in 2023. It is in the second place in coffee production in the state next only to Kodagu which produces about 1,10,730 MT per year amounting to almost 50% of the State's coffee output. This data indicates that the district has great opportunity for generating employment in coffee curing and processing centres. The district has about 600 food processing units with 2 food processing clusters located in Sakrayapatna. The Krishivigyan Kendra and other

²¹ <https://investkarnataka.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Chikkamagaluru.pdf>

technical institutions present provide knowledge support to farmers²². These significant figures indicate that the district has the potential for growing as a hub for food storage/ cold storage infrastructure and reeling (silk- based) industries

The district has only one major industry and for the last half a century, not a single heavy industry is set up in the district. However, ecological aspects have to be taken into consideration before setting up any heavy industry that proves banal to the nature. With the airport in the neighbouring district of Shimoga becoming operational, there are new avenues opened up for considering the district as a suitable location for industries and ventures that generate jobs on a massive scale. The cool and salubrious weather of the district is an added advantage for developing the place as an IT hub after Bengaluru. With The district administration is mulling over the possibilities of setting up a textiles park that would generate jobs on a big scale.

With 41% of the district's land being used for agriculture and plantations and the district being one of the leading contributors in the production of spices and vegetables cereals, the focus should be on agro-based industries. Having realised the potential, the district administration has initiated steps to identify suitable land for the proposed Spice Park and agro-based activities such as the proposed jackfruit cluster coming up on two acres of land at Sakharayapatna.

Coffee curing and processing is another area that has rich potentials but also faces serious problems. Coffee curing and processing generates seasonal employment to a huge workforce that is not met within the district or state. As a result, plantation workers come from North Indian states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar other than the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. This has been the trend for the past half a century. For example, in 1971, there was a considerable population of more than 50,000 immigrating into the district mainly from Madras, Rajasthan, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. It is a challenge before the cultivators and the entrepreneurs to see how these jobs could be made more lucrative and professional so that local workforce could be employed.

²² <https://vtpc.karnataka.gov.in/storage/pdf-files/DAP%20Chikkamagaluru.pdf>

Tourism and Infrastructure Development

Chikmagalur has a huge potential to grow as a tourist destination which it already is. The promotion of tourism in the district might support other fields such as hospitality transport and communication. However, the infrastructure of the district has to be managed in such a way that it doesn't affect the natural landscape of the district. With the promotion of nature tourism, the inflow of people to the district has gone up. As per 2016 records of the tourism department, Chikmagalur district with a resident population of about one million, recorded the visit of a whopping 8.5 million tourists. Increased activities have not only put pressure on limited resources but also on the public works such as roads and transport, health and sanitary, and maintenance of law and order in the district.

Chikmagalur is a vibrant district contributing significantly to the development of the state. It has rich cultural diversity and natural resources. The rich heritage of the district and the strategic location of the district play an important role in its evolution as a tourist destination. The district has not only rich heritage but also great potential for growth. The opportunities for the development of the district could be used effectively taking into consideration, sustainable development goals. The utilisation of the natural resources and creation of proper infrastructure for the development of the district, establishing ecologically sustainable industries that generate jobs and create equitable opportunities are the priorities before the district administration.

In the light of the above discussion, it can be observed that Chikmagalur District is unique in terms of resource endowments, geographical location and development philosophy. But the district has to identify the drivers of development which can place it on the fast track of development. Comparatively, it is having advantage in education and literacy.

Contextualised initiatives are needed to use this advantage for the comprehensive development of the district. Further, there are very good opportunities in tourism sector which can be tapped for the overall development of the district. At the same time more resources have to be invested in social and economic infrastructure as it is one of critical areas. The potential for the development of agro-based industries should be utilised by

identifying the skill gaps and providing the necessary logistics for the development of rural entrepreneurship across the taluks. Therefore, district development has to focus on areas like education, health, tourism and rural entrepreneurship to generate possibilities for sustaining the process of human development.

The district has achieved a fair degree of success in improving the governance system. However, to sustain the process of governance reforms, a few measures are necessary. They include political commitment and sensitisation of bureaucracy in the delivery of services, encouraging e-literacy at grassroot levels and bringing out annual government strategy and action plan. This would help to focus on reducing regional disparities and gaps across the socio-economic groups and gender. Further, greater publicity has to be given to Right to Information Act and initiatives are needed to improve the documentation. The district administration can also set up a Task Force on Governance Reforms and can think of integrating the offices of Zilla Panchayat and offices of the Deputy Commissioner. It is necessary to strengthen the public private partnership and community involvement in the conduct of grievance adalats on issues pertaining to land, housing, health, public works, drinking water, sanitation, power, agriculture and food security with special emphasis on areas relating to law and order and crimes against disadvantaged including women.

In order to improve the effectiveness of Governance and to make it people friendly, the following recommendations are made. Contextualized micro initiatives are needed to address the problem of unemployment and poverty in the region. Sustainable livelihood opportunities have to be created because employment is the source of income and further income represents possibilities for improvement. Civil society engagement and community involvement is necessary to handle the problem. Harassment by forest officials and police people should be addressed immediately. The deficiencies in human development in terms of skills, capabilities, standard of living, participation and inclusion have to be corrected.

Human Development in Chikmagalur – The Way Forward

The journey through Human Development process in the district reveals the changing paradigms and contours of development. Several dimensions of living and economic development in Chikmagalur District have improved considerably over the past two decades. However, from a Human Development perspective, the district has much ground to cover. An inter-district comparison of achievements along important indicators points to the extent of shortfalls. These shortfalls are crucial for the following reasons²³:

- Chikmagalur District has a long history of development and fairly good endowment of resources. People are culturally evolved, educated and talented. There are good opportunities to potentially mobilize and utilize them for human development advancements.
- District is quite diverse and there are significant variations. Therefore, contexts are important in optimizing the human development process and outcomes. In the district each taluk is unique, i.e., Shringeri has advantage in education; Kadur has advantage in health and in terms of infrastructural facilities Chikmagalur taluk in a better position. Therefore, plans have to be based on their strengths and weaknesses.
- There is a dire need to link growth with human development, i.e., translating additional income into better education and health outcomes on a sustainable basis.
- In the district, the disaggregated human development outcomes reveal disturbing inequalities across the dimensions, regions, groups and gender. There is polarized human development and it has bypassed different sections of the people. In the district taluks like Tarikere, Kadur and Mudigere are backward in several aspects. To bridge the gap and stimulate the growth impulses in these taluks, specific plans are needed in agro-processing, horticulture development, supply-chain management, development of logistics, tourism, construction activities, education and so on.
- Human Development has to be complemented by a number of other conceptual frameworks that share similar underlying motivations, but with different emphasis. All these add value to human development in a different way.

²³ Chikmagalur District *Human Development Report, 2014*

Human Development Priorities

Human development policies and actions in the district should focus on the following areas to optimize the whole process and outcomes²⁴:

Education

- Improvements in the spread and functioning of schools as well as raising the quality of education outcomes. This has to address the disparities in the spread of schools among the taluks. There should be more number of schools in rural areas given the concentration of children in these areas. In the district taluks like Mudigere, Kadur and Tarikere are educationally backward. Suitable measures are needed to improve the educational outcomes in these taluks.
- Strategies to improve the outreach of the school system to the disadvantaged and marginalised groups and regions. A more systematic school mapping exercise should be undertaken to provide these groups access to classes and, for removing social barriers to education. There are empirical evidences to show that educating the poor helps to reduce inequalities and poverty. In taluks like Mudigere, Kadur and Tarikere, the proportion of ST population is quite significant and they are educationally backward.
- Shared public space should be created in education to allow private schools to co-exist with government schools in the delivery of education. Further, there is a need for standardization of schools, with the appropriate provisioning of core inputs and a well-developed pedagogy. There are good opportunities to develop public-private partnership in education sector in relatively developed taluks. This can bring changes in teaching methods, service delivery models and learning outcomes.
- Long-term goals are required to bridge the gender gap, which constitutes a key hurdle in achieving literacy in the district, along with measures to ensure universalization of elementary education among girls. In taluks like Mudigere, Kadur and Tarikere, the gaps between male and female literacy is significantly high. This has to be addressed particularly in rural context.
- Allocation to the education sector should be raised to the targeted figure of 6 per cent of the domestic product. Simultaneously, there must be an improvement in the targeting of the investment to address disparities and social inequities. At

²⁴ Chikmagalur District *Human Development Report, 2014*

present, the total public expenditure on education in the district is not even one percent of District Domestic Product. It has to be enhanced and targeted on educationally backward taluks.

- There is a need to plug the gaps in teaching inputs and improve the quality of teaching. For this, a well-designed programme of recruitment, retention and deployment of teachers needs to be put into place. Strengthening the human resources particularly in remote and rural areas is absolutely necessary.
- The issue of child labour should be tackled at the earliest, especially in underdeveloped taluks as without it, there can be no improvement in child participation in schools. In taluks like Mudigere, Kadur and Tarikere the number of Out of school children is quite high. It is due to the prevalence of poverty among socially and economically disadvantaged groups.
- Improving the access to and quality of higher education is of crucial importance. Need to focus on governance of higher education and regulation of private institutions. From the point of view of social equity and regional equity regulating private educational institutions is necessary.

Health

- Effective policies in the public health sector call for a convergence of initiatives in different sectors. The focus should be on certain wider determinants of healthcare like food and livelihood security, drinking water, women's literacy, better nutrition and sanitation, and above all, confidence in convergent community action.
- Reducing the gaps and disparities in the availability of and access to health care services is necessary. In the district, Mudigere, Shringeri and Koppa taluks are backward in terms of health attainments. Therefore, improving healthcare and medical facilities in these taluks should be a priority. Health facilities should consider the region specific problems.eg, in Shringeri and Tarikere taluks reproductive and child health facilities are badly needed.
- The public health policy should focus on the prevention of diseases. This necessitates sensitization of public health specialists and development of health facilities at all levels, i.e., strengthening the network of public health care services and sub-centers. Available data reveal that disease burden is high in Kadur,

Mudigere and Shringeri taluks. Further, Malnad region is prone to particular types of diseases. This requires pro-active measures.

- Crucial attention should be paid to the financing of healthcare. Public expenditure on health should be raised adequately in the coming years. There is also a dire shortage of healthcare infrastructure including manpower. In order to meet these challenges, the government could forge partnerships with various stakeholders. Public expenditure on health is relatively less in taluks like Tarikere, Koppa and Shringeri where disease burden is quite high. Therefore, public expenditure on health should be increased in order to improve the health status in these taluks.
- There is a phenomenal increase in private health care providers with a strong urban bias. Regulations must be put in place to ensure that the private sector follows ethical standards and better treatment practices.
- Local workers from the community should be trained in basic healthcare since Primary Health Centers (PHCs) cannot always provide the first point of contact in supplying healthcare in remote rural areas. The situation needs to be improved at the grassroot level given the inadequacy of facilities in hilly regions.
- There is need for a rights-based approach in the area of public health services. A high-level group could be set up to address this and other critical issues emerging from time to time. In backward regions and among backward groups sufficient awareness should be created to demand and utilize health care facilities.

Nutrition

- In order to reduce malnutrition, it is imperative to promote policies for increasing the nutritional level of women and children. In the district the percentage of pregnant women with moderate anaemia is as high as 44% and percentage of malnourished children is more than 27%. Taluks like Shringeri, N.R. Pura and Mudigere have higher proportion of malnourished children and women.
- With malnutrition being a multidimensional issue, programmes like the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) need to be revamped and restructured, and efforts be made to facilitate their convergence with schemes

pertaining to health, education, water, sanitation and food security at all levels. Economic empowerment of women and institutional mechanism are absolutely necessary to address the problem of malnutrition. It requires suitable measures to increase both access to and availability of nutrients.

- Food supplementation programmes are essential for tackling hunger and food security issues, and for ensuring social equity. Food supplements act as transfer of resources to poor families and are specially needed to reach some of the population groups like pregnant women and nursing mothers, children below the age of 5 years, school children, and adolescent girls.
- Convergence of the nutrition component of various district plans made by the health department, ICDS, women and child welfare, education department and the local panchayats is desirable. It ensures not only a shared outcome indicator but also a department-specific output for all the stakeholders.
- Karnataka Nutrition Mission has an objective of reducing by half the unacceptably high levels of malnutrition in the region within five to seven years. Simultaneously, continuous monitoring of nutrition indicators should be undertaken for identifying areas of high malnutrition, measuring programme outcomes, and documenting malnutrition trends. This monitoring can be achieved through surveys, and a nutrition surveillance and management information system.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment can contribute greatly towards reducing malnutrition. This can be achieved by ensuring higher levels of schooling for girls, and higher age at marriage as well as higher maternal age at the birth of the first child.
- Social mobilization is another way of achieving the nutrition objectives. This entails informing the community about health and nutrition objectives and generating enthusiasm and awareness to swing into action, especially at the family and local community levels.

Employment and Skill Development

- It is necessary to address the issue of jobless growth of the service sector. If this issue is not addressed, the gaps in terms of labour and income, working conditions, and social security, between a small group of formal employees and a

larger group of informal workers would go on widening, thereby leading to polarization of development. In rural areas of the district, the work participation is declining and there is also increase in the casualization of workers. Further, these workers are concentrated in rural areas. Therefore, creating suitable jobs in rural and semi-urban areas is absolutely necessary. There are opportunities in nonfarm sectors like supply-chain management, development of logistics, agro-processing, tourism, education, consultancy, construction, hotel management, etc.

- The unorganized sector should be strengthened and sustained with investment to ensure its growth. This is important from the perspective of human development as an estimated 90 per cent of the workforce is currently engaged in the unorganized sector or the informal economy. It is obligatory on the part of the Government to address the livelihood and employment needs of this vast populace. Local governments should focus both on employment creation and earnings generation. In the context of agricultural distress programmes like MGNREGA can be implemented effectively at grassroots level.
- While skills need to be developed and upgraded, from the demand and supply perspective, industry-specific and technology specific skills also need to be simultaneously promoted. This necessitates large-scale development of training institutions and trainers, particularly in the emerging activities, where currently there is an enormous shortfall of skilled workers. Eg: Tourism, the district has tremendous potentiality for tourism, but the supportive skills and capabilities have to be developed.
- Annual employment surveys should be conducted for analysis and policy-making. Further, studies also need to be conducted for assessing the impact of liberalization on human development from a regional perspective.
- Wages represent not only cost but also income of wage earners. Wages should be monitored to examine the functioning of the labour market and to assess wage elasticity. With productivity improvements these are likely to have a significant impact on employment prospects in the district.

Social Protection

- The paradigms of development have excluded many people and some others are on the verge of marginalization under these circumstances. A small cause like illness, unemployment, loss of common property resources can impoverish them. This calls for addressing the social protection needs of special groups such as migrant workers, the elderly, persons with disabilities and tribals.
- It is important to devise an effective method of identifying the beneficiaries for social protection and of targeting programmes towards them. The programmes could be based on a combination of universal, self-targeted or targeted strategies to ensure the universal coverage of beneficiaries, while simultaneously taking into account the cost of targeting. The existing methodology of identifying beneficiaries in static rather than dynamic terms, on the basis of the Below the Poverty Line (BPL) Census, needs to be amended as it tends to encourage perverse incentives because of the premium accorded to those belonging to a group that is eligible for social assistance.
- The effective participation of the people should be ensured for facilitating accountability in social transfers. There is a need to tackle issues of economic and social equity, gender bias, and illiteracy at the grassroots level for this purpose.
- There is a need to recognize the crucial role of women as agents of sustained socio-economic growth and change. This necessitates focusing on removing gender gaps as well as on women's empowerment, which would have a significant impact on reducing poverty and inequality on the one hand and raising efficiency and productivity on the other.
- Social protection operates through mechanisms of social security, social assistance and social insurance, and provides a minimum floor, thus promoting social cohesion. There is greater focus on social assistance-promotional measures, but contingency social security measures are mostly available only for organized workers. In view of the fact that more than 90 per cent of the workforce is not engaged in formal work patterns, it may be more appropriate to ensure that social security needs are anchored to the place of work.

- It is also necessary to take into account the needs and perceptions of informal workers. This would also help in making the system more cost-effective and efficient in addressing workers' grievances.
- Reorienting the macro policies is the need of the hour. Merely designing poverty alleviation schemes is not sufficient; there must also be pro-poor macro policies like fiscal, trade, investment and monetary policy.
- One of the requisites of inclusive growth is human governance. Governance indicators can be used to measure the efficiency of governance and its outcomes. Thus, there is need for social mobilization, community participation and the adoption of a decentralized approach to ensure better implementation of policies and programmes and ensure effective service delivery. Public-private partnerships may be an effective means of service delivery in these areas.
- For effective fiscal transfers, devolution of Central funds to states may be linked to a performance-oriented quantifiable annual index constructed on the basis of certain agreed economic, social, health, infrastructure-related indicators. Some universally accepted criteria for good budgetary practices could also be included in the proposed index.
- Departments should make all relevant information available to the people for ensuring transparency in policies and programmes. 'Outward Accountability' is essential for facilitating greater responsiveness to the needs of the public and thereby for enhancing service quality. Tracking of public expenditure and social auditing should be made mandatory.
- Public administration has to become more professional as well as responsive. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have become an important arm of the decentralized governance system and can play a major role in this area. They can also be equipped with greater decision-making power at the local level, and their eligibility for obtaining central funds must be linked to their competence in raising internal resources.
- Participatory governance, through organizations of marginalized people (such as the landless, women, Dalits, and adivasis), parallel to the PRIs, should be encouraged. Social organizations can play an important role in ensuring inclusive policy-making and effective implementation of programmes. There is a need to further strengthening of this process.

Overarching Imperatives

Some of the overarching imperatives which are cross cutting in nature are as follows²⁵:

- Planning for people is absolutely necessary because economic advancements should be translated into human development outcomes and quality of life. People are the agents who can create and sustain positive outcomes.
- Addressing the issue of inequality in their socio-economic context and understanding the interrelationships and vulnerabilities should be one of the priorities. There is a need to overcome the structural forces that create and perpetuate extreme inequalities.
- Human Development is a participatory and dynamic process. In addition to enhancing human capabilities, more institutions should be created to utilize the capabilities. People should have freedom and choices to participate. Participation enables people to gain for themselves access to a much broader range of opportunities. Empowerment requires constant access to decision making and power by individuals and communities.
- Sustaining the gains of Human Development steadily overtime is all the more important. Temporary gains could be fragile and vulnerable to reversals. Focus should be on high impact pathways to expand the key capabilities (Education, Equity, Empowerment, and Participation).
- Now-a-days human security is high on the policy agenda. Understanding and locating the threats and vulnerabilities that undermine people's security, dignity and livelihood and protecting their capabilities from critical pervasive threats should be internalized in human development policies and schemes.
- A rights-based approach is preferred to other approaches, as there is acknowledgement of the fact that citizenship is associated with rights to minimum entitlements. Examples of this include the Right to Food, Right to Work (MGNREGA), Right to Information, Right to Education, etc. The rights-based approach, particularly if rights are secured from below, is a positive development and carries some hope for the most vulnerable sections. The role of the judiciary is also particularly important. Recognizing and protecting the rights of aged people, disabled, children and other categories is equally important.

²⁵ Chikmagalur District *Human Development Report, 2014.*

- Both the public and private sectors need to be assigned their respective roles in Human Development in the areas appropriate to each sector, with an emphasis on strengthening the process and optimizing the outcomes. Developing effective monitoring and surveillance systems for supervising implementation and outcomes is needed.
- There is a need for effective decentralization and participatory programming. Local institutions should assume more responsibilities for a bigger role for ensuring the effective implementation of programmes. Greater accountability as well as a more participatory process through investments in institutions of the poor are required simultaneously. However, the fact that local institutions are often controlled by vested interest also needs to be taken into account. An effective administrative base needs to be instituted for local governance. This would ensure prompt delivery of services, greater professionalism and better management, technological adaptation, design and work process change, and complementary administrative reforms, among other things.
- There should be a convergence of programmes and schemes apart from an integrated and holistic approach to achieve better planning, resource allocation and better results. However, it is also necessary to ensure that in this process, programmes like MGNREGA do not get treated as multipurpose programmes, which would make them lose sight of their core objectives.
- Issues pertaining to infrastructural constraints and capacity building need to be realistically and urgently addressed. Strategies should be designed to develop and manage decentralized infrastructure at village and community level.

Challenges before the District Administration

- Active participation of women members in decision making process of PRIs and ULBs is necessary.
- Necessary initiatives are needed in the delivery of services particularly in rural areas.
- Involving all the stakeholders is a serious challenge.
- Transparency and accountability have become a serious problem.
- Lack of information and data are creating problems in governance system.

- Corruption and unethical practices have defeated the purposes of governance.
- Lack of preparedness on the part of government department and institutions has reduced the effectiveness.
- Identifying and involving the appropriate Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) rather than considering them as rivals to democratic institutions.
- The success of e-governance depends on e-literacy.

A Last Word regarding District Administration

The nature of District Administration has changed drastically in recent years. The District as an administrative unit has evolved into a dynamic unit that caters to a huge population and oversees operations in a number of branches. The nature and functioning of the District Administration has also changed due to the increase in population and developmental activities. A number of new departments are created in every district to suit the changing needs of the time and to accommodate the changes brought in due to technological advancement. Technology has not only influenced the modern lifestyle but also necessitated a sea change in the functioning of the departments.

However, it is observed that District Administration has failed to incorporate modern technology to the fullest extent in the functioning of the departments. The obvious reason for this is that departments function with fewer staff than is required. There is also a great deal of stress on the workforce they are incapable of using modern technology effectively. Though training is imparted, their effectiveness needs to be evaluated. It is also desirable that the officers in the departments are made more accountable to their offices and positions.

With the increased population, there is great pressure on each and every department of the District Administration. This also calls for the need for micro-management at each level. The Deputy Commissioner is accountable at the highest level but in the modern scenario, the Deputy Commissioner's work has not only increased manifold but also become varied. The pressure of work on the District Administration, the greater demand for creating services and public utilities, changing pattern of commercial activities,

concomitant changes in demography, increasing issues of law and order, and environmental issues - call for a change in the administrative structure as well.

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted in administrative matters by the additional Deputy Commissioners. Though the state government appoints additional Deputy Commissioners, their number could be increased so that micro-management becomes possible in every department of district administration. This would greatly enhance the efficiency of every department concerned and improve productivity. The resources of the district could be tapped and optimum benefits could be reaped of the resources of the district. The performance of various departments has to be evaluated annually and a performance-based career appraisal system could be brought in when the roles of each officer is limited and clearly demarcated.

The most important change that has taken place after the unforeseen breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic in the year 2020 is the use of technology in the administrative functioning of the departments. Increasingly, departmental meetings are held through video conference which has avoided the hassles of the cumbersome journeys to the state capital. Yet, the easy mode of conducting online meetings has resulted in a high frequency of meetings wherein a lot of time is wasted. The effectiveness of the meeting is questionable as the lack of clarity, scant preparation, network issues, and improper attention are matters to be looked into. Very often, meetings are called at the eleventh hour, and in the case of the non-availability of the officer concerned, officers lower in the order are deputed to attend the meetings. A lot of time is spent being present online but with little or no tangible outcomes.

The greatest hurdle that puts down efficiency of the administrative machinery is the lack of a sufficient workforce. In most of the departments, the sanctioned posts are not filled for years. As a result, the second-generation workforce is not groomed. In most of the departments, office work is delayed by the lack of a proper workforce. As a result, accountability is lost and the information related to the department is not properly stored. Most of the departments lack key information/ data pertaining to the departments.

Deputation has become an increasingly conspicuous matter in the administration today. More often than not, employees from one department are deputed to handle the

responsibilities of other departments. Sometimes, deputations take a political angle as people seek deputations to positions of power. Another problem plaguing district administration is the appointment of officers on temporary basis to meet the requirements of the additional workforce. These employees are paid a low salary and the huge difference in salary and emoluments between the regular staff and those appointed on an ad-hoc basis is a demotivating factor that affects both the morale and efficiency in administration.

Administrative Reforms in District Administration that address the above issues and challenges are sorely needed.

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