

AN OVERVIEW OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT IN TUMKUR DISTRICT

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Abstract:

Tumkur district is an administrative district in Karnataka, with its headquarters in Tumkur city. It 70 kilometers from the capital city of Karnataka, Bangalore. Also known as the religious city of Karnataka. Tumkur has a number of temples, each narrating stories filled with lots of historic essence. There are only a few places in this districts that are, according to legends, associated with the epics Ramayana and Mahabharat. One of these is Kadaba in the Gubbi taluk. Tradition has it that Rama on his way from Lanka encamped here and at the request of Seetha, he ordered the river, which was too narrow at this spot, to be dammed so as to form the present large tank. According to the sthalapurana, Rama was received and honored here by the sage Kadamba who had his hermitage in this locality.

Keywords: Tumkur district; History; Vijayanagara Empire

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Introduction:

Tumkur is derived from the word Tumakuru which itself a derivative of Tummeguru, which is the original name of the city, It has been said that the word Tumkuru is a derived from 'Tumbe ooru' because of the profusion of a type of flower called 'Tumbe Huuvu' throughout the town and also because of a famous folk musical instrument belonging to the city called 'Tamate ooru'. Another story relating to the name is that since Tumakuru is at an elevation, during the governance of the Cholas, the solders used to stand at the hills with an instrument called Tumki to alert the people in the city of any eminent danger.

In accordance with the usual practice Tumakuru District too has been named after its headquarters town. Tumkuru is the anglicized form of Tumakuru. Which is itself a derivative of Tummeguru, the original name of the place? The present town has a history of just a couple of centuries and is said to owe its origin to kante Arasu, a member of the Mysore royal family. The town does not have any historical epics to boast of, for even the traces of the fort, said to have been erected at time of its founding, have already vanished completely.

Historical places in the Tumkur

The area comprised in the District consists of a few places of great antiquarian interest and several places of historical importance. Saga Kadamba as believed to have had his hermitage near Kadaba in Gubbi Taluk. On his way to Ayodhya after the conquest of Lanka, Shri Rama is said to have called on the this sage at his hermitage for a brief sojourn during which, at the request of his spouse Seetha, he ordered the river Shimsha to be Dammed so has to form a large lake here. Sampige in Thuruvekere Taluk is identified with the ancient Champakanagar, the capital of Sudhanva of the Mahabharata period. The Paleolithic artifacts

discovered near Biligere and Kibbanahalli reveal that certain places of the District were inhabited by the prehistoric man.

The District has a Megalithic site also and this is located on a crest of the low ridge near Chalukya, etc. the earliest record discovered here, consisting of 5 copper plate grants ascribed to 400 AD belongs to the Gangas, the Gangas ruled over the southern and eastern district of the state from the early year of Christain era upto 1025 AD, and obviously Tumkur District formed part of their kingdom. The district has yielded numerous inscriptions belonging to the period of Shri purusha (725-758AD) and several hero stones testifying to the battles that were fought between the forces of the Gangas and the Rastrakutas. The last Ganga inscription found here is dated in 972AD, the period when sathyavakya Nolamba kulantaka, that is Marasiraha-111, was on the throne of the Rastrakutas there are 3 inscriptions and one of these refers to Vimaladitya as the Adhiraja of the entire Ganga- Mandala while another confirms the date and mode of death of Indraraja, the last of the Rastrakutas who passed away on 20th March 1014 at Shravanabelagola. There are numerous inscriptions which apparently belong to the Chalukyas of Kalyana and this range from 1040 and 1200 AD. However, these merely acknowledge the supremacy of the Chalukyas and are actually those of the Cholas and Hoysalas. During this period it may be noted, the Nolambas were the principal local rulers and their Kingdom was known as Nolambavadi 32000. They had their capital at henjeru which is identified with the Hernavathi village on the northern border of the Sira Taluk. Nidugal of Pavagada Taluk was one of their strongholds. The district has yielded several records relating to the Nolamba rulers such as Mahendra who is stated to have uprooted the Cholas, his son Nanniga and grandson Anniga or bira Nolamba and Ahavamalla nolamba. In about 974 AD, the nolambas were over run by the Ganga king Marasiraha- II who earned the title

nolamba kulanthaka. The Cholas who appear to have wielded supreme power in this region from 1000AD to 1070AD.were over-run by the Hoysalas.

The earliest Hoysala inscription found in the District is dated in 1078 AD. Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana is started to have been in possession of both Gangavadi 96000 and Nolambavadi 32000. During the Hoysala supremacy also different tracts of this district were being administered by different local chiefs. For instance, an inscription dated in 1151AD, states that a chief named Gulibachi was ruling marugerenad in Kaidala near Tumkuru. He built the temples of Gangeshwara, Narayana and Chalavarishvara at Kaidala. The Vijayanagara Empire gradually absorbed the Hoysala dominions including this district. The earliest of Vijayanagara inscriptions found in Tumkur district refers to the region of Bukkaraya (1344-77 AD) and is dated 111 1354AD.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the vijayanagara kings granted various tracts of lands to there vassal chiefs bearing different titles, in recognition of the services rendered. Some of the pretty principalities already in existences were allowed to continue to administer there traditionally acquired territories. Among such feudatory principalities that arose in this district a mention may be made of those with their headquarters at Nidugal, Holavanahalli, Madhugiri and Hagalvadi.

The Nidugal chiefs were the descendants of Hariti tippa nayaka whose possession was in the north-east of the Chitradurga district. One of the inscriptions found in Pavagada taluk describes him has ruling from Nidugal hill fort. He divided his territory among his 7 sons. But on invasion of their share of the country by the Bijapur army, the descendents of the family retired to Nidugal fort under the leadership of Thimmanna nayaka who had lost Dodderi. This family remain at

Nidugal for a long time paying tributes to the Subedar of Sira, in 1961AD, when Sira was captured by Haidar ali , the nidugal chief also submitted himself to the conquerors and agreed to abide by the conditions imposed on him. This chief, Thimmananayaka, was later compelled by Tipu sultan to relinquish his rights over the territory. His sons were taken prisoners and lodged at Shrirangapattana where they were ultimately put to death by the British.

The holavanahalli family was founded by Bhairegowda, said to be one of those that settled at Avati during the 15th century. This chiefdom was soon taken over by the chief of Magadi who gave it away to his own brother Ankanagowda. The dispossessed chief joins the Sira court where he was well received and invested with an important command. His younger son however sought the help of the chief of Doddaballapur who captured Holavanahalli and places the administration in the hands of the Sonnabhairegowda. But within the next couple of years a Sira army attacked and captured Doddaballapur, the former chief Bhairegowda, who had gone over to Sira court fell in the siege his elder son Doddabhairegowda was invested with the govt. of Holavanahalli with an increase of territory. Subsequent members of this family fortified Koratagere and extended their territories until they were finally dispossessed by Haider Ali of Mysore

The Madhugiri family or the Madhugiri line of chiefs arose in a similar manner and extended its territory over the northern parts of the district by fortifying Madhugiri, Channarayanadurga and such other strategic points. In 1678AD, Madhugiri was captured by Dhalavai Devaraja and the joint ruler named Ramagowda and Thimmagowda were taken prisoners and conveyed to Shrirangapattana. However, they were later released and granted Midigeshi as an estate.

Founded by Erimada nayaka, the Hagalvadi line of chiefs exercised power over a large portion of the present tumkur district for nearly 300 years from 1478AD. The credit for expanding their territories goes to Salinayaka, the second ruler who captured Kandhikere, Shettikere, Honnavalli, Turvekere and such other places of strategic importance and also founded Chikkanayakana halli. His grand son Mudiappa nayaka-I was also equally successful in extending his territory. The 9th ruler of this line, namely Mudiappa nayaka II was begin ruler who later gave up his throne to pursue his spiritual pursuits. His son, Mudduvirappa nayaka, earned the tittle jung Bahadur for having successfully resisted the onslaughts of Salabat jung and Dhillwar khan. The 12th ruler Channabasappa nayaka was captured and imprisoned by Haider Ali at Shriranapattana. Soon after his death in the prison the Hagalvadi chieftdom was totally annexed to Mysore.

In 1638 AD, under the command Ranadulla Khan, the Bhijapur army invaded the northern portions of this districts. Along with the southern principalities of Doddaballapur, Bangalore, Kolar and Hoskote, Sira was placed under the charge of Shahji and for quite sometime Mallik Rehan was the governer of Sira. With the capture of Bhijapur in 1686 AD, Aurangazeb established the Moghal supremacy in this region, Sira was made the capital of a new province consisting of 7 paraganas of Sira, Basavapattana, Budihal, Doddaballapur, Hoskote, kolar and Penikonda and was placed under the charge of Subedar of Foujdhar. Khasim khan was the first Subedar and Dilverkhan(1724-56) the lost. During this period Sira and its neighborhood assumed considerably importance as a seat of administration and receive royal patronage. Sheikh fared for instance built a big mosque. Rustum jung, who earned for himself and the title of Bahudar built a fort and a petta.

During the same period parts of this district came to be annexed by the Wodeyars of Mysore in a phased manner as it were in 1650 AD, Kantirava narasaraja wodeyar(1638-59) made a beginning by acquiring Hebbur in Tumkur taluk from Immadi kempe gowda. By 1673 AD, the kingdom of Mysore had been extended as far as Chikkanayakanahalli in the north. This was followed by the conquest of Chikkadevaraja wodeyar(1673-17). He is said have captured Jadakanadurga(which he named after himself as Chikkadevarayana Durga). Maddagiri, Medigheshi, Bhijjavara, Channaraya Durga and several other places,” By the end his region except for Sira and its immediate surroundings, rest of the Tumkur district formed part of Mysore. These areas too were taken during the period of HAider Ali on his conquest of Sira in 1761 and the annexation of Hagalvadi in 1776 with the follow of Tippu Sultan 1799. this territory to passed into the hands of the British who restored it to the wodeyars of Mysore from Mysore which date the history of the district co-includes with the history of the earthwhile Mysore state during the region of Krishnaraja wodeyarIII(1811-31), the state consisted of six foudaris and the present Tumkur district stood included in the Maddagiri i.e, Madhugiri’ Foujdari, in 1834, these were reconstituted into four divisions and Tumkur became the headquarters of Chitradurga division which encompassed the areas now included in these two district.

Legend and tradition:

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The name of the place is supposed to have been derived from the name of the sage. Another place, connected with the Mahabharatha, he is Sampige in Turuvekere taluk. This is said to be the site of Champakanara, the capital of Sudhanva, son of a king named Hamsadhwaaja of the Mahabharatha times.

Gangas :

In common with the southern districts of the states, but unlike the districts on the other three sites, the known history of the Tumkur districts begins with the Gangas. The Ganga family ruled over the eastern and southern districts of the state from early in the Christian era to 1025 AD. No inscriptions of any of the earlier families like the Banas, Satvahana or the Kadambas have been found in the district.

The earliest records of the Ganga family found in this district belong to about 400 AD. It consists of a set of five copper plates, of which the second plate is missing. One Madhava varma was the granter of the charter. This Madhava varma was probably kiriyaa Madhava or Madhava II who was the son of Dadiga. This record deals with a long grant made by Madhava II Buddhists named Bhodi-sathva.

The next Ganga records also consists of the set of 5 copper plates dated about 545. it was found to be in the possession of one Shrinivasa Rao of Kadagatur in the Madhugiri taluk. The genealogy and attributes of the various kings of these plates correspond with those know from other published Ganga grants.

Next in the point of time, are the Hebbur plates of the time of Navakama. These plates had been for a long time in possession of the Lingayath wodeyars of the Heeremata of the place and two of them are missing, their being no ring are seal in general, this inscription also gives information similar to what we have in

other Ganga grants with one no table exception. This is in connection with Durvinita, who it saya, “was restricted to the path of greatness by the instruction of the devine who was the author of Shabdavathara”. The author of this work as we know,was the celebrated the Pujoyapada who, we must thus understood, was the ganga kings preceptor

Struggle for responsible government:

After 1937, by which time the neighboring British governed provinces had made considerable progress achieving democratic rights, the movement for constitutional reforms and establishment of responsible govt. in the state gained fresh movement. Early in 1938, a separate organization called the Mysore congress was formed to work for the attainment of full responsible govt. under the aegis of the Maharaja.

A meeting of the all Mysore congress committee was help at Tumkur on the 3rd november 1938, under the president ship of Shri t Siddalingaiah to review the several events such as the Vidurashwatta tragedy, which had taken place earlier on 25th April 1938, and revolving to identifying the struggle for responsible govt. in the state. In august 1942, when the national leaders were arrested by the British govt., there was a spontaneous and vehement reaction of the people in the district as in other parts of the state. In june 1943, a special sessions of the Mysore congress was help at Tumkur, which urged the removal of repressive orders and reiterated the demand for establishment.

This movement gradually gained strength and just after the attainment of independence, it naturally received further momentum. The demand for

establishing responsible govt. in the state was championed in the district by leaders like K. Rangaingar, T Subramanya, B C Nanjundaiah, M V RAmarao, B Hucchegowda, K Henjarappa, R Channigaramaiah , T N kepahanniya, C R Basappa and others who belonged to the districts.

A vigorous Satyagraha was launched on the 1st Sep 1947 and this upsurge continued all over the state for about a month. Thousands braved the repressive measures and courted arrest. There was a latte charge and a firing at Tumkur on the 14th Sep 1947, in which three youths named Goruru Ramachandra, Namjundappa, Gangappa were killed.

The movement ended shortly next month after an agreement was reached between the Maharajajs govt. and the Mysore congress. On the 24th Oct 1947, Shri K C Reddy, who was than the president of the Mysore congress, formed a popular govt. with 8 other ministers, three of whom were independents. As the constitution of India was in the offering, the Mysore constituent assembly, which was set up under the agreement, got itself converted into a legislative body. With the promulgation of the Indian constitution in 1950, Mysore become a part 'B' state with the Maharaja has the Raja pramukh with the re-organization of states in 1956, a new Mysore state was formed with the other Kannada-speaking areas and a governors as appointed as the constitutional head of the state.

Conclusion:

Tumkur district has historical heritage. The few places in this districts that are, according to legends, associated with the epics Ramayana and Mahabharat.

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