
HISTORY OF CHIKODI TALUKA

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Abstract:

Chikodi taluka is the highest populated one among the ten talukas of Belgaum district. It is situated in the North Western part of Karnataka state. Chikodi taluka lies between 16.32 to 16.40 North latitude and 74.22 to 74.49 East longitude. The area of the taluka is 12695 square kms. It comprises 104 villages and 3 townships namely Chikodi, Nipani and Sadalaga. The Chikodi taluka is surrounded by Maharashtra State in the North and West, Athani, Raibag and Gokak talukas of Karnataka in the East and Hukkeri taluka of Karnataka in the South. The river system of the taluka consists of Krishna, Vedaganga, Dudhaganga and Panchaganga.

Key words: History , Chikodi Taluka , rainfall zones , Etymology.

INTRODUCTION

Chikodi taluka is generally divided into two zones on the basis of nature. The Northern part consists of the deep and good black soil on the bank of the rivers flowing from west to east, therefore it is a very fertile tract. While in the southern hilly area land consists of red clay soil, having comparatively less fertile. Of course there are small patches of coarse land in northern part and good fertile land in the southern part of the taluka.

The normal rainfall in the Chikodi taluka is 632.8 mms There are 8 Rainauge stations in the entire taluka. About 68% of the annual rainfall is received during the monsoon months from June to September. July being generally the rainiest month.

Division of the taluka according to the rainfall zones :

The taluka is classified into three zones on the basis of difference in average rainfall and called as rainfall zones. The average rainfall of the taluka is 632.8 mm while the variation in the actual average rainfall in different parts ranges upto 1000 mm. So the taluka is divided into 3 zones.

- 1.I zone having rainfall from 800 mm to 1000 mm.
- 2.II zone having rainfall from 600 mm to 800 mm and

3.III zone having rainfall below 600 mm.

Etymology

Chikodi taluka derived its name from Chikodi village which was a part of bigger village Hirekodi. (Hire means big, kodi means stream) Chikodi originally called Chikka means small and kodi means stream meaning a small stream. It is a town on the bank of Chikkakodi stream. Sometimes called Chikutra.

Historical Background of Chikodi Taluka

This region passed through various dynasties such as Satavahanas (30 B C to 300 A. D.), Kadambas (345 A.D. to 540 A.D.), Chalukyas of Badami (540 to 753 A.D.), Rastrakutas (753 to 973 A.D.), Chalukyas of Kalyani (973 A.D.), Shilaharas, Rattas, Yadavas, (12thC A.D.) Bahmani Sultans (1472), Khilji's, and Tuglaqs (1347), Marathas (18th C A. D.) and Peshwas..

In first three centuries Chikodi formed the part of Satavanas kingdom with Paithan as the capital. Then Kadambas of Banavasi's administration has spread up to this area. Their second capital Halasugi was in the close vicinity to this area. Similarly in eighth ninth and tenth century Rastrakutas of Malkhed and Chalukyas of Kalyani ruled this area. Agriculture and commerce were thriving in Chikodi taluka in these days.

Similarly, one of the princes of Chalukyas is said to have married to the chieftain of Chikodi's daughter in the end of 7th century.¹²

Three copper plates of Chalukyas Satyashrya Irvabedanga found in Bedikihal, bear the seals of Mahishasur Mardini and belong to 10th Century The said copper plates refers to one Revanna honoured with a title "Pageya Benkolava" on having killed a hunter Sannaka. In these copper plates. Yadadorenada, Nolambwadi, Bodananadu, Mahisenadu, 12 Bidu and 8 Nadus were refereed. These copper plates shed light on Trade and commerce controls, defence, administration, tax system, tax concession, confirmation of titles of Chikodi and its surrounding area.¹³

In medieval times Chikodi formed the part of Bahmanis and Shahis of Deccan for more than 200 years. It forms the Miraj and Raybag jagirs subsequently. The regions passed into the hands of Marathas and Peshwas.

Chikodi area witnessed administration under both divisions. These divisions were in term ruled by Desai, Sardesai and Nadgoudas. Patels, Killedars and Kulkarni's were assistants to these rulers. With the help of Jagirdars and Sardars Bijapur Sultans ruled this area for 200 years. However, to the pressing of time the al these local rulers became weak sultans. Shahaji Bhosale (1594-1664) who was looking after the Jahagir of Bangalore under Bijapur sultan willed at more power and his son Shivaji in 1648 rebelled against Bijapur Sultan. There after many political changes caused the rule of Marathas and Peshwas, who ruled Chikodi area more than three to four hundred years.

Most of the part of present Belgaum District came under the rule of Chhatrapati of Kolhapur (1714-1782) by 1730. Then Chikodi and Nagarmunoli villages had become Mahal. There used to be strife between Kolhapur (led by Tarabai) and Satara (led by Shahu, the son of Sambhaji) rulers over this area. In 18th century Sambhaji II, Chhatrapati of Kolhapur recognised Chikodi as a division of administration and he appointed Shidhoji Ghorpade as a Nadgouda of this area. Torgal and some other parts were also included in his administration. However, Ranoji Ghatage administrative officer of Kolhapur rose in rebel in Chikodi area and he was assisted by Ichalkaranji and Miraj ruler. Even Peshwas also had shrif among themselves for the control of this area.

In 1762 as the Peshwa Madhavarao (1745-1818) agreed to pacify the recalcitrant chieftains of Kolhapur in the paranagas of Hukeri, Chikodi, Kagal and Nagar Manoli in return for Rs. seven lakhs. Though the Peshwa did bring these territories under control, Jijabai (wife of Sambhaji II) had borrowed money for paying Rs. seven lakhs to the Peshwa. The money lenders were troubling the queen, so the Peshwa Madhavrao formed out Chikodi and Manoli to Parashurambhau Patwardhan, the member of the Miraj Patvardhana's family in 1764. This led to bitter enmity between Kolhapur and the Patvardhanas. Farming out of the territory was opposed by Kolhapur and the Peshwa sent his army to help Parasharambhau. This army captured Bhoj, Examba and Kagal and even approached Kolhapur.

Jijabai signed away the two Paraganas and paid cash compensation of Rs. 1.10 lakhs. But as the two talukas were handed over to the Peshwa only temporarily for policing them and as he had recovered his policing fees, on request of Jijabai for their return, the Peshwa instructed in 1767 that they be returned, but the Patvardhanas did not obey.

Kolhapur allied itself with the Peshwa Raghoba. They drove out Patvardhana's force from Chikodi and Nagar Manoli. So Pune durbar sends an army led by Mahadaji Sindhia against Kolhapur. Kolhapur came to terms in 1778 and agreed to pay an indemnity of Rs. 15 lakhs and Chikodi and Manoli were given as security. Nana Phadnis (who was in charge of affairs at Pune) encouraged Shivaji 3rd to attack Parasharamabhau. The Kolhapur army attacked Parasharamabhau and recovered Chikodi and Manoli. Parasharamabhau while marching on Kolhapur via Chikodi was killed at Pattankudi in 1799. Ramachandra Patwardhan attacked Kolhapur and laid siege to the town for three months. But by the treaty that followed, Chikodi and Manoli were to be given back to Kolhapur by the Peshwa. But actually the territory in the possession of Nipanikar Desai who had captured it on behalf of Sindhia. Siddhojirao Nipanikar Desai seized Chikodi and Manoli in 1806, defeated Kolhapur in 1808 at Sangaon and forced the Kolhapur ruler to give the Kolhapur princess in marriage to him. He attacked Kolhapur again in 1812 and Chhatrapati had to accept British suzerainty as a result. Chikodi and Manoli remained with him upto 1818. They were returned to Kolhapur in 1818 and the region was later taken back by the British.

This article touches upon geological, geographical, etymological aspects of Chikodi taluka including its brief history from ancient to birth of independence India.

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