

## Buildings and Administrative Reforms of Ramadurga Sansthan

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### Abstract

Every institution has its own history. Similarly, Ramadurga The state is a state with its own history. From the time of the Adil Shahis to the history of Ramadurga until the freedom struggle is a matter of indifference, we can know through the reforms made by the buildings of this historical period. Because they are found in the area around this Sansthan. It can be seen that there were several administrative divisions during the Badami Chalukya period. Thus, the history of this state is a testament to the fact that a region has a different history from time to time. The ancient Ramadurga region was the administrative division of Kuhundi 3000 and Toragala from the state of Ramadurga about 12 km. away. This was the court ruler. There is a mention in the copper plate inscription of the Badami Chalukya king Kirtivarman I, found in Godachi, that this region belonged to his administrative division during the rule of the Badami Chalukyas. This is the first inscription found about the Ramadurga state. During the reign of Jayasimha II of the Chalukyas of Kalyana, Mandalika built a temple near Ramadurga called reference to ruling in the existing streams. It is mentioned in the inscription of 1182. This is the inscription of Kalyana Kalyana Chalukya period in the vicinity of Ramadurga. There are no inscriptions in Katakola and Sunnal.

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### Introduction

**Buildings of Ramadurga Palace:** A part of the Ramdurga Palace is surrounded by a river from the Nargund Palace. This is a palace with a huge fort on a high ground in the middle. The main gate of this palace, which has three gates, is on the way to the palace. It faces east. The second one faces west, that is, behind the palace, and is the way for the guards and guards. The last one, which faces south, is next to the gate that leads to the Ambabhavani temple and is the way for the kings to go directly to the river with the guards. This means that this gate is important because it is customary to bathe in the river and come to see the goddess from the pond.

### Palace

This palace, which has towers on both sides as one enters from the main gate, it is two-storeyed. The palace in the middle is one-storeyed. The upper floor. The upper two floors. In the middle, the palace has rooms where the king and queen live. Similarly, some rooms can be found here for the feudal lords to rest. The upper part of the entrance gate of the palace has a roof. There is a verandah (veranda) at the bottom

of the roof. In the middle, there is an open area called a square, where the common people used to come and stand and where the king used to sit. This is where opportunities were provided during ceremonies. It served as a dance hall. It has a balcony around it. This is the balcony where the queen and her maids look on while the meeting is going on below. Then as you go up the stairs, you can see the rest rooms made for the princes and the guests on both sides. Next to it is a small room made of wood. And in another room there is a box, opposite the room is a spacious auditorium. Thus, the palace is decorated with beautiful pillars. There are rooms around it. It was the administrative center of the British government in 1937 AD. Therefore, next to this palace, i.e. on the left side, you can see the rooms of the administrative office, the judicial officers, the buildings for horses, elephants, and camels. Similarly, you can see the bakery schools, the veterinary hospital, the prison and the temples. Now the king and queen do not use any of the things here and have taken everything and gone to Mumbai, according to the locals. The current palace, i.e. the auditorium, has been given to run schools and the rooms around the palace have been given to run different

schools. Since there are so many educational institutions in this palace, it is now a center for education. And you can see that a flyover has been built to go from palace to palace.

### Officers' Quarters

During the British rule, some rooms were given to the chief officers of the army. In these, policemen were used as undercover officers and they were posted around the palace and in some areas.

### Court Building

A court building can be seen on the right side of the palace. Similarly, a separate house for the magistrate can be seen on the river bank. It is a little distance from the palace.

### Financial Building

The Bank of India Central Bank was located in this palace. Money was deposited here and the money collected in taxes was kept here.

### Educational Buildings

In front of the palace, there were several schools for education of the palace. Among them, Kannada, Marathi, English and Urdu schools can be seen.

### Horse, Camel and Elephant Stables

On the left side of the palace, separate stables were set up to keep horses, camels and elephants.

### Animal Hospital and Hospital for Humans

We can see the animal hospital and hospital building built for humans on the banks of the Malaprabha River.

### Temple Buildings

The rulers of the state mainly built Ambha Bhavani Temple, Sri. Lakshmi Venkateswara Temple and Janaki Rameshwara Temples on the banks of the river.

### Bridge Building

The bridge built on the Malaprabha River was laid on 24-09-1931 by L. T. Colonel. It is known that Ravasaheb Bhave spent about 76 thousand rupees at that time to build this bridge.

### Prison Buildings

Four prisons were built about one kilometer away from the palace and there was a separate room for relatives who came to see the prisoners. Similarly, they cooked and ate themselves. Similarly, a ruler was brought from Mumbai in 1887 AD for the construction of the road.

### Bakery Building

The bakery facility found in this institution can be seen in the bakery building next to the gate in front of the palace.

### Administrative Systems and Reforms

On the left side of the palace, several rooms related to administration were built, including the local committee, the municipal council and the panchayat. These can be seen below.

### Administrative System of the State

When we look at the administrative reports prepared by the state to be sent to the British Resident every year, we get 'school' information about the administration here. According

to them, the state had all the power in all administrative fields, and then the 'Diwan' had complete administrative responsibility. The various departments of the state were also managed by the experienced 'Hujura Secretary' who was a law graduate. The Diwan handled all the functions performed by the officers in British districts such as the Collector, District Magistrate, District Magistrate, District Superintendent of Police, District Registrar, Chief Engineer, etc., all in the Diwan's office. All. There was a library containing books required by the departments. All the documents of the estate were stored in a fireproof room in the Anderan A.B.C.D. pattern. The officers who managed the estate were 1. Estate Officer, 2. Huzoor Chitis. Additional Huzoor Chitis, 4. Judge and First Class Magistrate, 5. Medical Officer Jail Superintendent 6. Assistant Chitis to the Estate Manager. 7. Mallar and Second Class Magistrate. 8. Estate Supervisor, 9. Head Master, 10. Private Manager. 11. Police Sub-Inspector etc.

### Local Administration

The Municipal Council, District Local Board and Panchayats were the three autonomous administrative units that administered the city.

### Municipal Administration

The District Municipal Administration Act of 1901 was implemented in the Ramdurga State from 1 March 1918 to administer the city. Municipalities were started in Ramdurga and Surabaya. The municipal administration had a board of 12 members. Of these, six were elected and six were appointed by the state. Among the appointed, there were three non-officials. The non-official person appointed and appointed was the president of the municipal administration.

The municipality was responsible for providing all basic amenities to the local people of the municipality. Road widening in the city, sanitation Ramdurga municipality used six pumps on the banks of the Malaprabha River to supply clean drinking water to the city during the summer. In 1938-39, the Surebhana municipality was suspended due to the state's uprising. Later it was completely abolished.

### District Local Board

It was also responsible for providing basic amenities to the citizens of the state. It had 23 members. Out of them, 13 members were elected and the rest were appointed by the state. The local board had built a school in Somanakatti village and a lake in Karadigudda village. It was appointed by a non-official member as its president. The district was running a veterinary hospital, half of the expenses of which were borne by the state. Panchayats: In the state there were Panchayats, among them the Halagatti Panchayat model was a cooperative organization, the Panchayat was started to improve the economic condition of the people.

### Village Institutions

The Village Institutions Act was prepared and implemented in the state on 21 January 1918. These village institutions were established in only five villages. Village institutions were appointed with a minimum of five and a maximum of nine villagers as members. Its term was only for three years, and the farmers of the village would nominate a suitable person during the selection process held before the Mamaidar.

### Duties of Village Institutions

Precautions to prevent diseases in the village. Collection of

cooperative society. Repairing buildings such as wells, lakes, temple schools, chavadis. Supervision of rituals such as puja in public temples, protection of temple ornaments and money and keeping accounts of fairs were the main duties of the village institutions. Apart from this, the school teachers had to supervise the functioning of the institutions and give suggestions for their improvement. A small library was to be set up in the village, and books on religion, village sanitation and agriculture were to be collected. Each village council was to maintain a register of civil and criminal justice. The village councils were only authorized to spend five rupees. The meeting was held once a month in a chavadi or public temple. If there were no literates, the Kulkarni had to write down all the reports of the meeting and submit the report to the Sansthan Karbhari every year.

The main source of income for these institutions was the war loan, which was given to the British government by the state during the Great War. The interest earned from this was given to the village institutions. 1/4th of the local fund of the villages was given to the institutions. The money collected from various fees and fines and marriage tax of 1 to 5 rupees were given to the institutions. Apart from this, if a house was built, a tax of one rupee and a 'gali tax' of three annas per year for a chakka was collected and given to the institution. In this way, the local administrations contributed to the development of the state.

**Land Revenue:** Land revenue was the main source of income for the state. In 1918 AD, the farmers were able to pay land tax. The labourers were in a good condition. In 1937-38 AD, due to the onset of drought, 12 annas of tax was temporarily postponed. Four annas of tax was levied. In 1938-39 AD, the farmers started a movement against the state for the imposition of Hajj tax. The farmers were destitute due to the onset of drought for two to three years. There was no work for the labourers. If the daily wage in rural areas was two to three annas, in the cities four annas were available. The agricultural land was 85,644 acres. The land tax was levied in 1937-38 AD. In 1929-30, the red soil experts were paid from eight to twelve annas per day, 2-8-0 to 1-12-0 per day for land and 3-12-0 to 2-6-0 per day for black soil. Even when the famine broke out in 1937-38, the red soil was paid from one rupee twelve annas to two rupees eight annas and the black soil from two rupees six annas to two rupees twelve annas. This led to a revolt by the farmers. In addition to land revenue, income was also derived from forests. The forest area of the state was 18,363 acres. Rs.5,304 was collected from stone, mines, firewood, cow dung, honey, glue, etc. About 44 acres of forest were destroyed and given to agriculture. 2,9953-8-0 revenue was collected from grazing goats and sheep in the forest. There were three toll gates near the Venkateswara Temple, on the Halagatti Road and on the Turanur Road to collect tax on goods coming from outside Ramadurga. A person was appointed to collect tax on goods coming across the Malaprabha River near Kilaburu during the summer.

### Judicial System

The princely state had supreme authority over the administration of civil and criminal justice. In the civil and criminal courts, the chief magistrate of the state had the authority of a district magistrate and a first-class magistrate, administering medication as a precautionary measure. In addition to the High Court, the state had a Sessions Court, a District Magistrate Court, and first-, second- and third-class magistrate courts. The laws enacted in British India were also implemented in the state.

### Media

There were no newspapers in the state. There was no state printing press either. There were two private printing presses. They handled the printing of the state. There were no political struggles here till 1938 AD. There was a post and telegraph office in Ramadurga. There were post offices in Surabaya and Menasagi. Arrangements were made for postal cards for the inner villages. The letters in it were collected once a week. Mail was sent to Ramadurga through Gokak and Katageri railway stations.

### Hospitals

There was a hospital in Ramadurga. Earlier there was only a dispensary in Surabaya. Leprosy patients in the state were sent to the leprosy hospital in Hindalga. The expenses of those patients were borne by the Darbar. There was free medical facility for all classes. There was an Ayurvedic dispensary funded by the Venkatesa temple. All these local boards and panchayats provided free medicines to the rural people.

### Police System

There was no army of the state. But there were 11 armed horsemen with swords and spears. There was a police station in Ramdurga and a police inspector, a third grade head constable, and one police post each near Junipet and Banashankari Gudi. There were 71 people in total, including trumpeters, havaldars, dafedars, and horsemen. There was one police constable for every 2.9 sq. mi and a population of 600. The constables received a salary of Rs.9 to 13 per month. The Diwan of the state was the DSP. The number of policemen increased to 87 due to the popular movement in 1938-39. 24 additional policemen were temporarily recruited. After the people who revolted against the princes burned the prison, 40 ex-soldiers were appointed as the princes' bodyguards. They were recruited and sent by Colonel K. Prakan from Poona. The police post at Surabana was converted into a sub-station. A sub-inspector and 20 constables were posted there. 60 guns were purchased.

In rural areas, the police Patil and Sheka Sanadis were responsible for the police. There were a total of 40 police Patils in the state. There were 184 wardens. There was a jail in Ramdurga, which was run according to the 'Bombay Jail Manual.' This committee was formed by a committee of officers and non-officers for the jail. They would visit and inquire about the problems of the prisoners. The medical officer of the state was the superintendent of the jail and would provide employment to the prisoners. For those who knew how to weave, handlooms were set up in the prison premises, "handlooms were set up on the banks of the river by the prisoners. The banks of the river were cleaned by the prisoners. And they used to make rope in the rati well behind the palace.

### Financial System

The state had deposited money in the Imperial Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank, Ramadurga State Bank. From 1929-30 AD, the Income Tax Act was implemented in the state. There was the treasury in the state. This functioned like the district treasury in the British districts. The Diwan was its controller, the Chitis and the Diwans were the officers of the treasury. There was a mint in the state, and the Secretary was the auditing officer in the state. There was an auditing department. Huzura The secretary himself was the auditing officer. Mamlatdar was an income tax officer.

## Industry and Commerce

Since cotton was grown here, there were two ginning factories in Ramdurga and Asuti. The traders in Ramdurga started another ginning factory in 1918. In 1918, there were about 1640 handlooms in Ramdurga and Surabaya. Weaving began to decline as it could not compete with foreign milled fabrics. In 1941-42, the weavers started their own co-operative society. The specialty of this state is that it has a bakery shop.

## Excise

The state used to get revenue from the excise department. In 1918, only nasi pudi and opium shops were opened. By 1929-30, country liquor and ganja sales centers were opened in the state under the Bombay Government Acts. The shop collected Rs.243. Tax. Country liquor was sold in Ramdurga, Surebana, Gonnagar and Asuti. There were no foreign liquor shops in Ramdurga, Sansthan. Ganja was sold in these four places, Surebana, Haddi and Hebbal. The excise duty in Ramdurga was Rs.9874 from the country liquor shop, Rs.83 from the opium shop. That administration belonged to the Bombay government. In return, the government paid a fixed annual fee to the Sansthan. Rs.3635 was collected from the four ganja shops. Opium was sold only by those who had obtained a license. It was bought from the treasury for one rupee per tola. The Sansthan used to buy it from the Bagalkot sub-treasury for 1 kg at Rs.18. 3 annas.

## Education System

There were 23 schools in the state, primary education was free for all. In 1918, there was one first-rate Anglo-Vernacular school, two girls' schools, one night school, and one Urdu school, which was closed due to shortage of Urdu. There were night schools at Ramdurga, Surabana and Hadli, 18 vernacular schools, and one school for lower caste boys. The number of students was started in 1929-30. There were three private schools in the state. They were a Marathi school and an Urdu school at Ramdurga, and a Kannada school at the village of Ghatkanur. These were subsidized by the Darbar. The total attendance of the schools was 2295 to 2345 students. The Darbar, Local Board, Ramdurga and Surabaya Municipalities together spent 21,263-1-3 (rupees-aanes-paise) on primary education. There were two girls' schools in Surabaya and Ramdurga. The number of girls was 376. 'Children's Welfare Day' was celebrated by the primary school every year on 21st January. Scholarships were given to deserving students from the state fund and one from the merchant fund.

Secondary education was also free for girls. Secondary education was only in English medium. The attendance of students was 148. In the year 1937-38, there were 101 students from the advanced class, 40 from the middle class, 15 from the backward class and five from the Mahara, making a total of 161 students. Secondary education, which was only up to the 6th standard, was arranged by the institutions from June 1941 to matriculation. Extracurricular activities of the students were also encouraged. A quarterly called 'Abhyudaya' was started for the students and writing articles was encouraged. There was a discussion competition association, sites, and a students' co-operative association. A library for poor children was established to provide textbooks to poor students. There was a system of providing free education to the first ten deserving students of the class and semi-free education to their siblings. A badminton club was started for girls from 1939-40. The 'Victoria Zoogli' library in Ramdurga was started in 1897 with the help of the Darbar,

the Municipality and the District Local Board. In 1937-38, English, Kannada and Marathi newspapers were being published in this library. There were about 2,745 books.

A conference of primary and secondary school teachers was held for the first time in Ramdurga in 1929-30. This conference was organized every year. In it, model lessons, essay writing and discussions on the current educational field were held. Physical and moral education was given to the students. In 1943-44, the University Commission inspected the secondary school here and continued its permission.

## Public Works

This department had a civil engineer, two masons, two mukadams, an accountant and a storekeeper. The estate bungalow was built by this department in 1918. A new building for the Kannada school and a bridge over the Malaprabha River near Ramdurga city were built. This bridge cost Rs.71,000. In addition to buildings such as a hospital, a veterinary hospital, a two-storey English school, a tank was built near Halagatti (Balkhowa) for irrigation at a cost of Rs.62,000. A dam near the slum for the Malaprabha irrigation project was built at a cost of Rs.400,000/-, and irrigation was provided to 300 acres of land.

## Religious Activities

There were people belonging to different religions in the Ramdurga estate. The estate was a Vedic religion. According to the private manual of the courtiers, about 6953 rupees, 14 annas and 7 paise, were spent on religious activities. Of this expenditure, the lion's share was for the Vedic religion, followed by the Maratha sects and the Muslim religions. A Puranika was appointed to conduct worship and penance in the palace. Every day, food was arranged for Brahmins like Puranika, Upadhyaya etc. in the palace. Deities like Bhavani, who were the symbol of Maratha power, took second place. Three rupees were given from the treasury of the court for the Muslim festivals of Ramzan and Muharram. On the day of Ramzan, the court's account manager made arrangements for prayers. Arrangements were made for the provision of Tasha. In Muharram, the private manager would visit the gods installed at five places with a Tasha player, a jawan and a policeman and perform worship on behalf of the courtiers. The last courtiers of Muharram used to come near the library building with all their staff to watch Muharram. The courtiers, who were fond of wrestling, used to organize wrestling at the fair of the Maleppajjan Math in Maddi, Ramdurga. Apart from this, the courtiers used to feed the wrestlers on behalf of the courtiers. The courtiers used to spend 12 annas on the Maleppajjan fair from 1901 onwards. The use of the river was divided according to caste. The courtiers at Dattatreya Ghat, the Lingayats near the Mahadev temple, and the Lingayats below it. The courtiers of Ramdurga had also bought bungalows in religious areas like Kashi and Pandharpur.

## Cultural Activities

The courtiers also encouraged cultural activities. The prominent examples of the encouragement given to literature and music are Seshagirirao Churumari of Ramdurga, who translated plays like Shakuntala, Mricchakatika etc. into Kannada. In the field of music, famous singers like Balwantrao Kalkar, Nandapant Jogalekar etc. took refuge in the court of Ramdurga. Dancers were called Patradavar in the court. Now they are seen living in Ramdurga even today with different nicknames.

## Epilogue

One of the princely states of India, the Ramdurga princely state was different from all the princely states. It is one of the most ancient regions of South India. The princely states of Naragund and Ramdurga were under the same royal family. The princely state was a powerful state in terms of religion, economy and culture. It played an important role in the freedom struggle after the revolt of 1857 in the country. We can see many heroes in this struggle. Overall, the Ramdurga princely state can be seen to have developed by bringing many reforms. Being an educationally advanced princely state, the princely state was governed responsibly by the citizens and the administrative side of the state. Later, in 1948, this princely state merged with independent India.

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