

Political-Religious History of the Vijayanagara Period in Gokarna from the Edicts

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Abstract

In these early studies on the history and culture of the Kumta region of Uttara Kannada district, the rulers we see the contribution made by the chief. The political, economic, social, religious and cultural details of the Vijayanagara and Vijayanagara Uttara Kannada periods are fairly well known. In the Kumta region, we find the ancient famous place Gokarna in the legends of the Ramayana and Mahabharata periods. Several inscriptions have come to light in this region, including those from the Kadamba period to the Vijayanagara period. They show donations to Buddhist, Jain, Shaiva and Vaishnava temples in this region.

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Introduction

Gokarna, one of the main historical places in Kumta taluk, has been famous as a holy place since the times of Ramayana and Mahabharata. Gokarna is 16 km north of Kumta and is considered to be on a par with Kashi and Rameshwaram. Surrounded by small hills of Shatashringa mountain in the south and east, this place is called Gokarna because it looks like the ear of a cow from a distance. Gokarna is mentioned as a very famous place in the Mahabharata. It is said that in the 8th century AD, a king named Lokaditya ruled the territory of Gokarna. Some inscriptions there indicate that Gokarna was ruled by kings of several dynasties. There are also references to Gokarna in the writings of native and foreign people who visited India in ancient times. But only a few inscriptions have been found in the Gokarna site. Of these, the inscriptions of this part are from the Vijayanagara period. They date from the 2nd century to the Vijayanagara period.

It is known from the inscriptions there that Gokarna was under the rule of the Bhojas, Kaikeyas, Pandyas of Shisugali, Alupas, Kadambas of Chandavar, Kadambas of Gove, Alupas, and Vijayanagara.

Vijayanagara inscriptions have been found near the Subrahmanya temple in Gokarna, in the Hanenalli Math, in the premises of the Mahabaleshwar temple, in the Uma Maheshwari temple, in the house of Narayana Upadhyaya and in the house of Anantha Krishna Karanth. Thus, the purpose of this article is to make a detailed study of the Vijayanagara period.

Vijayanagara Inscriptions of Gokarna

After the establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336 AD, the Vijayanagara kings annexed the Haveri, Tulu and Konkan regions of Uttara Kannada to expand their empire. It is known that Marappa, the brother of the Vijayanagara king Harihara, invaded Uttara Kannada and completely defeated the Kadambas in 1347 AD, and that Marappa visited Gokarna in the same year. It is also believed that Narayana Odiya was appointed as the first governor in 1378 AD by the second Harihara of Vijayanagara, making Honnavar the main center. Therefore, the Vijayanagara kings appointed themselves as governors for various divisions.

In the 14th century inscriptions found in the house of Narayana Upadhyaya of Gokarna, it is mentioned that the courtier of the Vijayanagara ruler Veera Bukkaraya, Viraladevi, donated to the Dharma Chatra of Gokarna in the presence of her royal guru, Ishwara Bhatta.

According to the stone inscription of Harihara Maharaya dated 1315 AD found in Gokarna, the Vijayanagara king Harihara Maharaya was ruling the Dwarasamudra region when his general, Mahapradhan Mallappa Odiya, made Honnavar his capital and took over the administration of Haive, Tulu and Konkan. There is a mention that some Settis donated land for the sustenance of the Mahabaleshwar God of Gokarna.

According to the inscription dated 1374 AD found in the Hanenalli Mutt of Gokarna, the Pattadarasi Honnadevi of the Vijayanagara king Bukkaraya donated land in the presence of Mahabaleshwar God for the worship of the Mahabaleshwar God of Gokarna and for the maintenance of the Annachatra. It is mentioned that at this time Mallappa Odiya was ruling the Tulu, Konkan and Haive regions with Honnavar as his capital. According to an inscription dated 1399 AD found near the Subrahmany temple in Gokarna, there are details of donations made by the daughters of the kings for the Anna Chatra during the reign of the Vijayanagara king Harihara Raya.

According to an inscription dated 1417 AD in the premises of the Mahabaleshwar temple in Gokarna, there is a mention of 'Mahapradhan Odakakarasa Odiya's son Haive, the chief minister of the Vijayanagara king Devaraya, while he was looking after the administration of the Konkan and Tulu states, donating land for the maintenance of the Chatra of the Mahabaleshwar temple.

According to the inscription of Tribhuvanamalla Kaladeva of the Uma Maheshwari temple in Gokarna, there is a mention of the donation of land to Paramahamsa Parivrajakacharya Sri. Vasudeva Sripada for the use of the temple and the Nandadeepa in the presence of God on the orders of the Vijayanagara king Bukka Raya. It is further understood that 12 parts of the village of Hebbana Kere were included in this donation.

According to the inscription of Saka 1475 in Gokarna, there are details that when Mahapradhan Saluva Krishnadevarasa Odiya, the commander of the Vijayanagara king Sadashivaraya Maharaya, was the ruler of the Nagire state, Highway, Tulu, and Konkan regions, Bhatta Kala Ganapan Joysa and some Brahmins bought land and donated it for the maintenance of the monastery and for other religious rituals. A 15th century AD inscription in the Tamragauri temple of Gokarna states that Mahapradhan Manjunayaka, the general of Vijayanagara king Sadashivaraya Maharaya, donated the village of Hosavoor to Mahabala Lingabhatta for the maintenance of the satra he had built for the Tamragauri temple. It is also seen that its supervision was in the presence of Raghavendra Sripada of the Devaraya Mutt in Hampe.

A Krishna found in the house of Ananta Krishna Karanta of Gokarna. A 15th century inscription mentions that Basavaraya Dannayaka, an officer of Vijayanagara king Bukkaraya, made an anachra and some other donations, and it mentions the donations made at the Mahabaleshwar temple of Gokarna. It further mentions Parshwanatha of Gerusoppe.

The Dharanath temple of Dhareshwara is located 5 km from Kumta. It is one of the five districts associated with Gokarna. An inscription of 1408 AD mentions that the Vijayanagara king Devaraya II visited Dhareshwara. According to an inscription found in the deity's shrine of 1387 AD in the

Mahamalleshwara temple of Gokarna, during the reign of Maharajadhiraja Bukkaraya, his Mahapradhan Palava Dandanayaka donated a village called Kriyashakti Yatheeshwara for the worship of Mahabaladeva of the Gokarna district and for the enjoyment of Brahmins.

The Tamragauri Temple in Gokarna is located behind the Mahabaleshwar Temple. The temple faces east. According to an inscription found in the Tamragauri Temple dating back to the 15th century AD, it is stated that Mahapradhan Manjunayaka, the general of the Vijayanagara king Sadashivaraya Maharaya, donated the village of Hosavoor to Mahabalinga Bhatta for the maintenance of the hostel built for the Tamragauri Temple. It is seen that this was supervised by Raghavendra Sripada of the Devaraya Mutt in Hampe.

An inscription in the Hannenalli Mutt in Gokarna dated 1296 AD states that Honnadevi, the queen of the Vijayanagara king Bukkaraya Maharaya, collected land tax for the worship and enjoyment of the Lord Mahabaleshwar of Gokarna.

The Vijayanagara inscription of Sadashivaraya Maharaya, found in 1475, mentions that Ganapan Joysa and some other Brahmins purchased land for the renovation of the Vaishravaneshwara temple and other religious ceremonies.

An inscription dating back to the 15th century AD mentions that Vitthaldevi, the queen of the Vijayanagara ruler Veera Bukka, donated land to a satra in Gokarna.

The Gokarna inscription of 1475 AD details that the lord of Krishnadeva donated land for the renovation of the Vaishya temple and for other religious ceremonies in the sects.

The Honehalli Mutt inscription of 1296 AD mentions that Honnadevi, the queen of the Vijayanagara ruler Bukkaraya, donated land for the worship of Mahabaladeva of Gokarna and for food.

The Gokarna inscription of 1324 AD and the Vijayanagara inscription of 1475 AD seem to contain details of land grants. All these Gokarna inscriptions are from the Vijayanagara period, and are attributed to several kings and queens and some officials, such as Harihara, his brother Marappa Veera Bukkara, his wife Viraladevi, Rajaguru Ishwara Bhatta, his chief minister Mallappa Odera, and Harihara II appointed Narayana Odera as the governor in 1378.

The 2nd Devaraya, the son of his great chief Ommakkarsa Odeva, Bukkaraya, Bukkaraya's officer Basavaraya Dandanayaka and his great chief Pallava Dandanayaka Sadashivaraya, his queen Honnadevi, Krishnadevarasa Odeva, Sadashivaraya's other Dandanayaka Manjunayaka gave donations to many religious works in Gokarna, which shows that Gokarna gained great importance during that period. It is known that Raghavendra Sripada of the Devaraya Mutt in Hampi had gained great importance in Gokarna.

Conclusion

Overall, it is known that the Vijayanagara rulers appointed governors to administer various divisions. Based on the inscriptions, it is known that they were worshippers of Mahabaladeva of Gokarna and made many religious contributions, and ruled in Gokarna for some years. In this way, it can be said that the Vijayanagara rulers ruled in the Kumta taluk area.

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