



# FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN BELLARY DISTRICT

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## **Abstract:**

*Bellary, a district in Karnataka, is known for its hot and dry summers, historical landmarks, farmland, and rich mineral resources. Additionally, the famed World Heritage Site of the Vijayanagara Empire, which is located there, has recently made news for its mining business. The Bellary district of Madras State was partitioned on a linguistic basis on October 1st, 1953 CE. Areas where Kannada is widely spoken. The princely kingdoms of India, which in theory enjoyed autonomy within their own borders, were bound by subsidiary alliances with the British at the time of Partition in 1947, giving them command over their exterior affairs. The British renounced all such agreements with the Indian Independence Act of 1947, giving the states the choice of achieving complete independence. But by 1948, the majority had joined either Pakistan or India. One notable exception was the Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, a Muslim king who oversaw a predominantly Hindu populace, who chose independence and sought to uphold it with an irregular army, in Hyderabad, the richest and most powerful principality. After a devastating economic blockade, India defeated the Razakars and seized control of the state in September 1948 out of concern that the rebels would turn Hyderabad into a Communist state and that Muslim nationalist Razakar militias would gain strength. The Nizam thereafter joined India by signing an instrument of accession. Massive communal violence was caused by the operation, some of which was even carried out by the Indian Army.*

**Keywords:** *Bellary District, Freedom movement etc.*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Mir Osman Ali Khan, the final monarch of the Asaf Jahi dynasty, ruled with an autocracy that was certainly pro-Muslim and anti-Hindu. When the nation was on the verge of freedom in June, the Nizam of Hyderabad made his intentions quite apparent. He made it clear that he will not take part in the Constituent Assembly or the Indian Union by a Farman (order) dated June 26, 1947. Additionally, he asserted that the end of British supremacy gave him the right to declare his independence. He even went so far as to label India's national flag as foreign. He was ruled by the fanatical Muslim group Majlis-I-Ittehad-Ul-Muslemeen, which is a cultural organisation. The princely kingdoms of India, which in theory enjoyed autonomy within their own

borders, were bound by subsidiary alliances with the British at the time of Partition in 1947, giving them command over their exterior affairs. The British renounced all such agreements with the Indian Independence Act of 1947, giving the states the choice of achieving complete independence. But by 1948, the majority had joined either Pakistan or India. One notable exception was the Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, a Muslim king who oversaw a predominantly Hindu populace, who chose independence and sought to uphold it with an irregular army, in Hyderabad, the richest and most powerful principality. After a devastating economic blockade, India defeated the Razakars and seized control of the state in September 1948 out of concern that the rebels would turn Hyderabad into a Communist state and that Muslim nationalist Razakar militias would gain strength. The Nizam thereafter joined India by signing an instrument of accession. Massive communal violence was caused by the operation, some of which was even carried out by the Indian Army.

Due in part to the Congress's tardy arrival—the Indian National Congress did not join the people's war in the princely state until 1940—the Arya Samaj, which took up arms for the "Hindu masses" against "Muslim oppressors," acquired control of the anti-Nizam campaign. As the president of the Congress in Hyderabad, Shri. Ramanand Theertha worked hard to establish the party there and mobilise citizens against the Nizam's misrule. However, because many congressmen lacked his level of dedication, Congress in this region came to be known as the Brahmin party and was confined to meetings and protest resolutions.

Young people who were disillusioned by the congress gathered in the peaceful town of Mundaragi to establish the first camp of freedom fighters who would oppose the Razakar and Nizam dynasties and try to integrate Hyderabad with India<sup>4</sup>. The camp's conditions were terrible, and the kids had no access to food. The Mundaragi camp appeared to be closing shortly since its convenor, Shri. Alwandi Shivmurthy Swami, was unable to make any headway. At that time, Shri. Annadanayya Puranik, a resident of the former Raichur district's Dyampur hamlet who was pursuing a B.Com. degree to Osmania University of Hyderabad, arrived at the camp. He gave up his studies, joined the camp, and asked the Swamiji of the Mundaragi Mutt for help. The Mutt generously donated food and clothing to the camp's youth, and Mundaragi residents started to actively participate in the camp's activities. Young people from the Mundaragi Camp will receive firearms training thanks to Shri. negotiation Puranik's with Shri. Hebsur, the Fauzdar of Mundaragi. The Razakars and Nizam Police soon came under guerrilla-style attacks from the young people. Success led to even greater success, and the Nizam administration realised that the public supported these attacks and started looking for the Mundaragi camp youths. In Hyderabad province, this marked the start of the first armed struggle against the Razakars and the Nizam rule. Soon, these youths from Mundaragi camp, now numbering 1,000, under the leadership of Shri. Annadanayya Puranik, were able to liberate 85 villages in Nizam province and establish a government in exile.

Sardar Patel despatched Union minister Shri. Gadgil on a special trip to Mundaragi because he was so moved by the accomplishments and dedication of these young people and Shri. Puranik. The actions of Nizam's misrule and the atrocities committed by the Razakars were brought to light by Mr. Gadgil, who also instructed the Mundaragi youths to become more active and to inform others of what transpired at the Mundaragi Camp and how it contributed to the freedom of Hyderabad.

Gurubheema Rao Patil of Revoor served as the Sibbiradhipathi of Talikote camp. 19 raids were conducted by this camp on Nizam territory. Razakars were forced to surrender 30 ML weapons during the raid on Arjunagi village. The camp staff raided two villages on July 26, 1948, taking 5 ML guns from Sangoligi and 10 ML guns, 10 swords, and 4 spears from Arjunagi. Similar to this, several weapons and ammunition were taken from the Razakars during the raids on Sirudge, Gavoor, and Nimbaraga. There were about 20 Razakars and a few police slain in Nizam. On June 12, 1948, Sivalingappa of Madaguniki, Shivalingappa, and Kashiraya of Madanahipparga perished on the camp side in defence of the state's independence and unification.

Dharama Veera Nelogi and Saibanna served in Goudgaon And Madanahipparga Camps as Sibbiradhipathis. In August 1948, they were compelled by the circumstances to cooperate in order to liberate the villages of Jambigi and Tirukachincholi. Byrappa Patil of Boosnur, Dharama veera Suryavamshi of Afzalpur, Kusumakar Desai of Gulbarga, and Appa Rao Patil of Mahagaon were the camps' active labourers. Between June 1948 and September 10, 1948, there were roughly 100 labourers in these camps, which were located 20 miles outside of Nizam territory. They incited the populace to fire police stations and customs offices. On Vijay Dasmi, or October 10, 1948, Apprao Patil of Mahagaon sacrificed his life while attempting to apprehend the Razakars from their hiding places in the village of Tirukachincholi.

## **BELLARY IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

Bellary, a district in Karnataka, is known for its hot and dry summers, historical landmarks, farmland, and rich mineral resources. Additionally, the famed World Heritage Site of the Vijayanagara Empire, which is located there, has recently made news for its mining business. The Bellary district of Madras State was partitioned on a linguistic basis on October 1st, 1953 CE. areas where Kannada is widely spoken. Speaking populace was relocated to Mysore state, which subsequently became Karnataka state. In what would become the state of Andhra Pradesh, portions of the district with a sizable Telugu-speaking population were combined into the Anantapuram and Karnulu districts. After much discussion and controversy, Bellary city itself, which has a substantial population of Kannada and Telugu speakers, was added to the Mysore state.

During the initial reorganisation of states, it may be noted that the linguistic concept had played a significant role in the creation of many of the states. We had destroyed the artificial barriers between the states, inter alia, and the test of India, and we had in fact built the groundwork for an integrated administrative and financial system, according to V.P. Menon, a witness to the entire process of reorganisation.

However, it was necessary for people's thoughts to be truly integrated. The inhabitants of the former states would need some time to grow out of their regional allegiances and to develop a wider perspective. Great vision and patience are needed for the task. A state with a sound political structure and an effective government is one that is well-run.

To prevent the state from devolving into anarchy, each of these is essential. Even though Sri Vijaya, who lived during the reign of the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha Nrupatunga of Manyakheta, wrote the first Kannada book, Kavirajamarga, in the region of Kalyana Karnataka (now known as Hyderabad Karnataka) (the

present Malkhed in Kalaburagi district). The Manyakheta was a well-known cultural hub at the time. The region known as "Kalyana Karnataka" (Hyderabad Karnataka) has long been well-known for its religious and societal activities. The region was sometimes referred to as the site of the Kalyana dynasty's twelfth-century "Sharanas." Basavanna, the famed prime minister of Bijjala, did a lot of good for humanity by eliminating inequality and establishing a casteless society. Basavakalyana, in the Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) region, served as the Sharana movement's cultural hub. This region was completely ignored during the Nizam era, and little changed when the nation attained freedom. This region's history is a tale of hardships, backwardness, and a protracted period of stagnation in both the social and economic spheres.

However, a promising future was anticipated for the area. Because once the Tungabhadra and Upper Krishna Projects were finished, it was anticipated that large-scale, quick development would occur. But regrettably, even when the time period was over, the projects were not finished. Even under the new administration, this area has continued to receive poor attention, just as it did under the former Nizam of Hyderabad. The region is rich in talent, potential, and material resources. The State Governments have put a lot of work into promoting development in this area through the five-year plans since its unification with the state. Nevertheless, until 1980, all three districts—with the exception of Bellary—were in last place (placed 10th place in per capita income). As a result of this region's persistent underdevelopment, the authorities have started making some targeted development efforts. These include the development plan created in 1992 for the implementation of programmes in this area by the Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) Development Board (HKABD). A century-old railway station in Bellary, India, also had a big impact on the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, much as getting thrown off a train at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, did in putting him on the path of a nonviolent independence movement for his countrymen in India.

### **BELLARY: A CRUCIAL "STATION" IN GANDHI'S STRUGGLE**

Mahatma Gandhi visited Bellary and spent about eight hours at the railway station here on October 1 of that year after taking over as the leader of the Indian National Congress and launching a national campaign for eradicating poverty, fostering interfaith and interethnic harmony, putting an end to untouchability, and independence from foreign rule. Interestingly, he had not missed his train, but rather was taking a break from the factionalism that was at the moment generating so much internal strife in the Congress' Bellary section. Gandhiji preferred not to meet either when two Congress groups declined to congregate at one location to meet him. Instead, in his own distinctive way, he staged a "silent protest," remaining at the railway station for eight hours while waiting for his train to continue the tour. He spent the night at the train station, spreading a towel on the platform, and continued his journey the following morning. He reportedly bought tickets for himself and his two pals, but no Congressman was there to see him off. According to reports, the incident gave Gandhiji the chance to comprehend the "varieties of internal fighting" at the core of the then-Congress party and later assisted him in forging an unmatched leadership. In a paragraph from Kannada University, Hampi's commemorative book *Discovering Tekur Subramanyam*, it is stated that Mahatma Gandhi was upset with the factions in the district unit of the Congress during his visit to Bellary in 1921. Gandhiji preferred to take a nap at the Bellary instead of visiting the factions' headquarters.

Ballari had two Congress committees: the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee and the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. Bellary was a part of the former Madras Presidency until October 1, 1953. Gandhiji chose not to give in to pressure from either committee after observing that they were divided along linguistic lines and decided not to participate in the programme for which he had travelled.

It is claimed that this incident, which happened just days after he took over as leader of the Congress, helped him to better comprehend the party's rank and file and transform it into a dedicated cadre-based force to oppose British rule. The historical platform's entrance is marked with a granite 4 ft by 5 ft plaque that states, "This is the sacred site where the Mahatma spent almost 8 hours on January 10, 1921 during his visit to Bellary." But regrettably, it is not emphasised. It would be challenging for a visitor to the train station to immediately recognise it, which only serves to highlight the importance that the railways place on the nation's history and tradition.

### **KOLACHALAM VENKATA RAO**

At 1885, in Bombay, he participated on behalf of the state of Karnataka in the first meeting of the Indian National Congress. Both the Kannada and Telugu newspaper printing presses were established with significant help from him. On behalf of the Bellary People, he travelled to Bombay to bid the Marquis of Ripon farewell. He attended the coronation of King Edward VII, which took place in Westminster Abbey on August 9, 1902, in London.

A plague outbreak that devastated the Bellary districts that had been relinquished in 1902 resulted in close to 10,000 fatalities. Kolachalam Venkata Rao assumed leadership as the Chairman of the Bellary Municipality and provided services, assisting the underprivileged with necessities. He was chosen to serve in 1903–1904 as a representative on the Madras Legislative Council. He served as a benefactor of the Central Hindu College in Banaras as well as the British Committee of the INC in London. He had been given the title of Right Honourable by the British, which he revoked in 1916 in protest of how they had treated Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He had a close relationship with Dadabhai Naoroji, Kandukuri Veeresalingam, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and a number of other national figures. He had political interests in addition to enjoying travel. He had been to several places on the Continent, including Ceylon, Burma, Siam, Great Britain, and others. He helped the deportees from the Transvaal.

### **TEKUR SUBRAMANYAM**

An Indian politician and freedom fighter from Bellary, India, Tekur Subramanyam was born. He was imprisoned numerous times by the British Colonial authority for his participation in the Independence Movement, frequently at Bellary's Allipura Jail. Tekur was Bellary's first three-time consecutive MP elect since 1952, following Bellary's independence. Additionally, he served as Jawaharlal Nehru's political secretary, India's first prime minister. Prior to independence, when Bellary was a part of the Madras Presidency, Tekur, as he was known in popular culture, was a leader. Between 1937 to 1939, he served as Rajaji's political secretary as well as the secretary of the Madras Congress Legislature Party. Rajaji was the Madras Presidency's then-

prime minister. When Bellary amalgamated with the former Mysore state (now Karnataka) in 1953, he rose to prominence as a political figure in the state of Karnataka after the country's independence. As a leader, he maintained close ties to major national figures like Gandhiji, Nehru, and Rajaji. He played a significant role in the liberation movement and was detained four times, each time in a different jail in the presidency, such as Central Jail and Allipuram Jail in Bellary, Central Jail in Vellore, and Central Jail in Tanjavuru.

He was not informed when his son Sathyanarayana passed away in 1931, was released on 15 days parole when his father Ramasastry passed away in November 1942, and was returned to jail after the parole period was over. He was also not allowed to communicate with others while he was in jail; his family members were only permitted to visit him once a week. When the nation gained independence on August 15, 1947, the Madras government at the time gave Tekur permission to raise the national flag at Sambamoorhy Maidan in Bellary at midnight amid fervent celebration. Tekur used to say that he might not live to see his country gain freedom. Following Gandhiji's murder in 1948, Tekur sent an urn carrying his ashes for Hampi's holy Tunga Bhadra River immersion.

## CONCLUSION:

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