



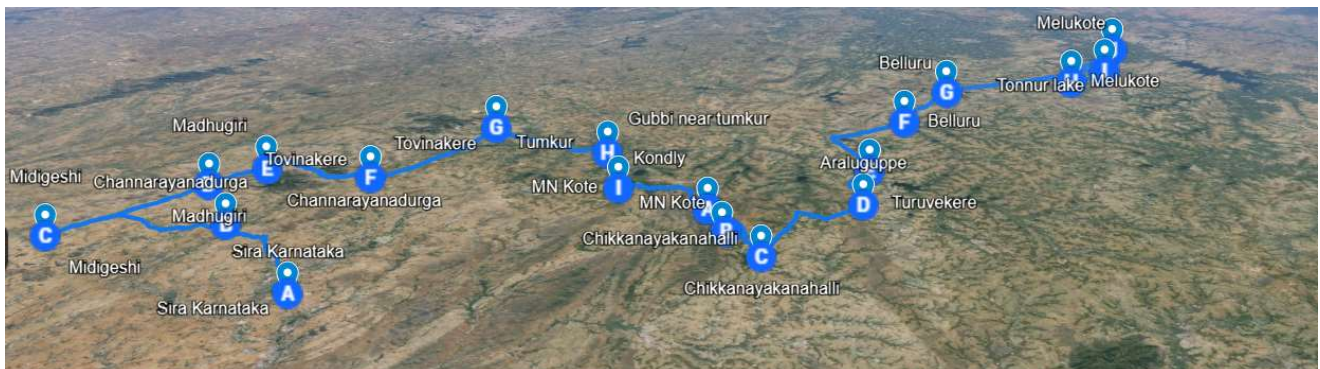
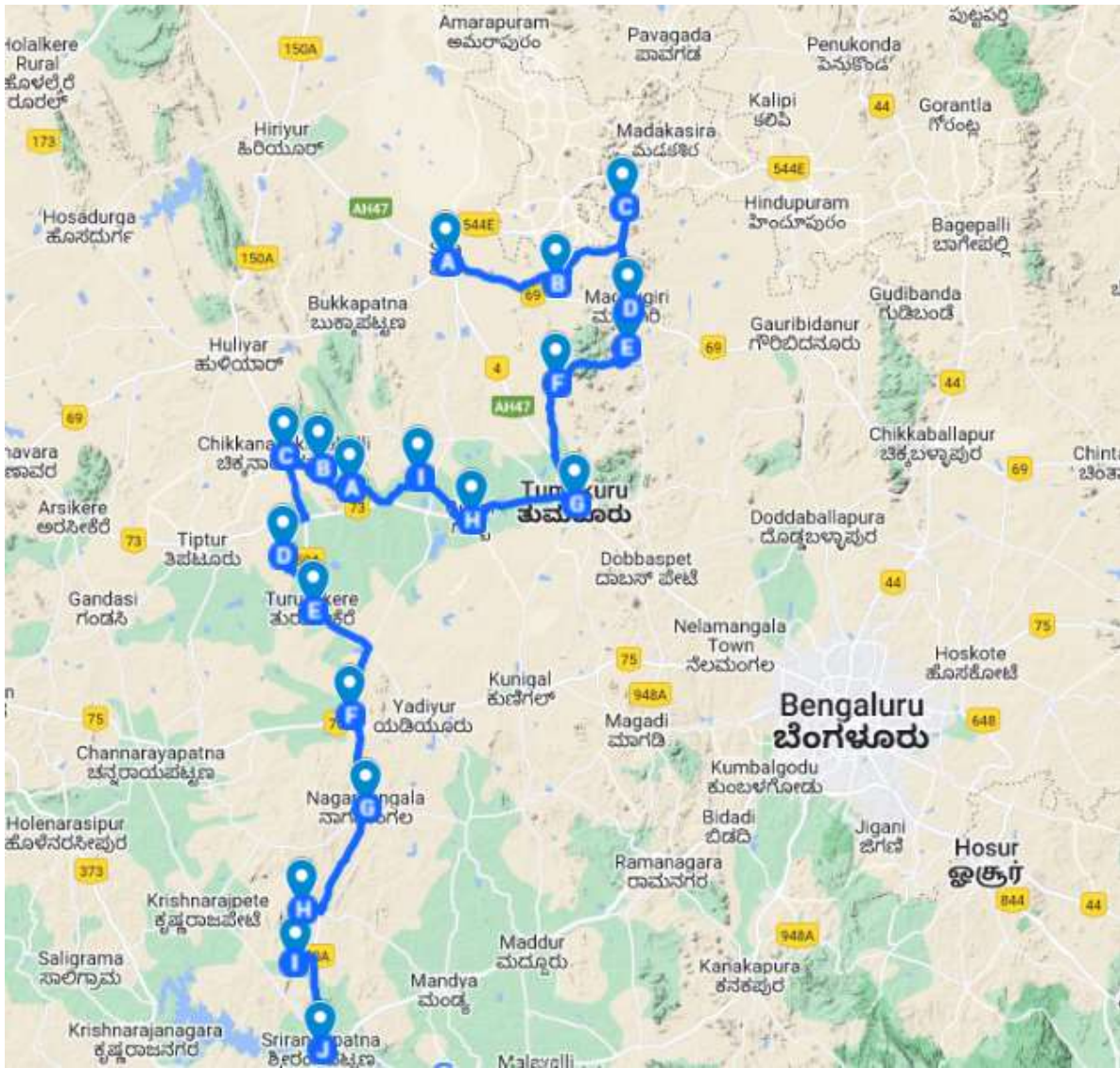
200 YEARS LATER
RETRACING FRANCIS BUCHANAN'S JOURNEY OF 1800-01
THROUGH PARTS OF SOUTHERN INDIA

Chapter VII: Journey from Sira to Srirangapatna

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Sira-Chandragiri-Midigeshi-Madhugiri-Chennarayanadurga-Tavarekere(Tovina Kere)-Tumakuru-Gubbi-Muganayakana Kote(MN Kote)-Kondli-Dore Gudda-Madana mada-Malleshwara betta-Chickkanayakana Halli-Aruluguppe-Turuvekere- Kadhalli-Belluru-Nagamangala-Chinna-Melukote-Tonnur Lake-Chikkamarali(Chickmally) betta-Kunti betta(French Rocks)-Srirangapatna



Sira

We have already discussed Sira in Chapter VI.

Chandragiri



Chandragiri Hill



Chandragiri Village fort entrance

It's a small village nestled in the foothills of Chandragiri Hill (Moon Hill), which looks like a crescent from a distance. Here, you can still witness a fine betel nut garden, as noted by Buchanan. Now, the water for irrigation is sourced from bore wells and wells using electric pumps.

"The farmers here allege, that in the last twenty years, they have had only one season in which there was a much rain as they wanted."

-Francis Buchanan's Journey Chapter XII



Arecanut Plantation, Chandragiri

There are many lakes around the Sira region, which received abundant rainfall in 2022. A farmer from Chandragiri mentioned that they had not seen such abundant rainfall in 20 years, This was also documented by Buchanan when he met a farmer who similarly said, "After 20 years, we are getting good rain.

Midigeshi



Midigeshi Hill



Ancient Suparshwanatha Jain temple at Midigeshi



Midigeshi Hill as seen from the south side

Midigeshi is a small kasaba hobli in Madhugiri Taluk, located about 68 km from the headquarters of Tumkur. It lies between the Pavagada-Tumkur Road, and after Midigeshi, the Andhra Pradesh border starts towards the north side of Pavagada. The fortress, situated on top of the rocky hill, originally belonged to a polygar (Palegar) named Nagireddi, who built the fort. Later, it was taken over by Chikappa Gowda. There is a mosque on top of the hill, which was built during Hyder Ali's reign.

"The place originally belonged to polygar family; a lady of which named Madigheshy having burned herself with her husband's corpse, her name was given to the town; for above the ghats, this practice, so far as I can learn, has been always very rare, and consequently gave the individuals who suffered a greater reputation than where it is constantly used"

- Francis Buchanan's Journey Chapter XII

This place is said to have been named by a local chief, Nagireddi, after his wife Midigeshi, who was so called because her hair (Keshha) was so long that it touched her heels ("midi" in Kannada).

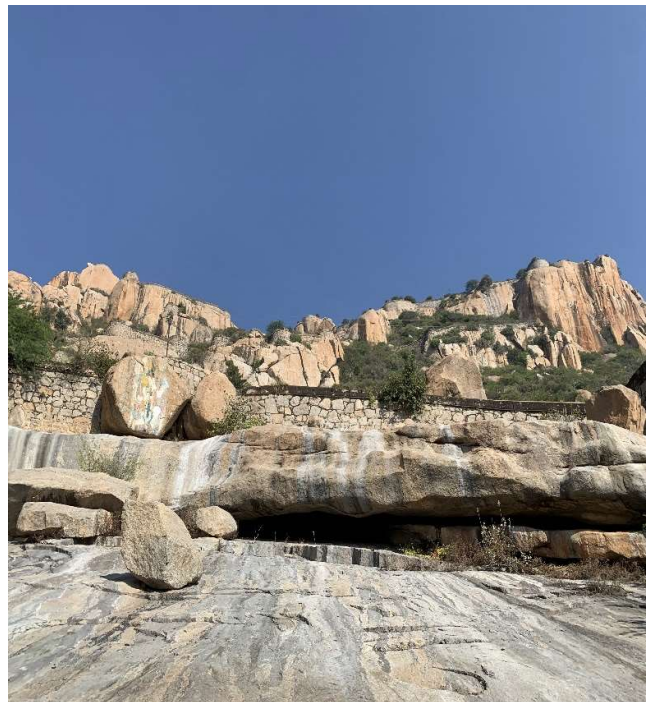
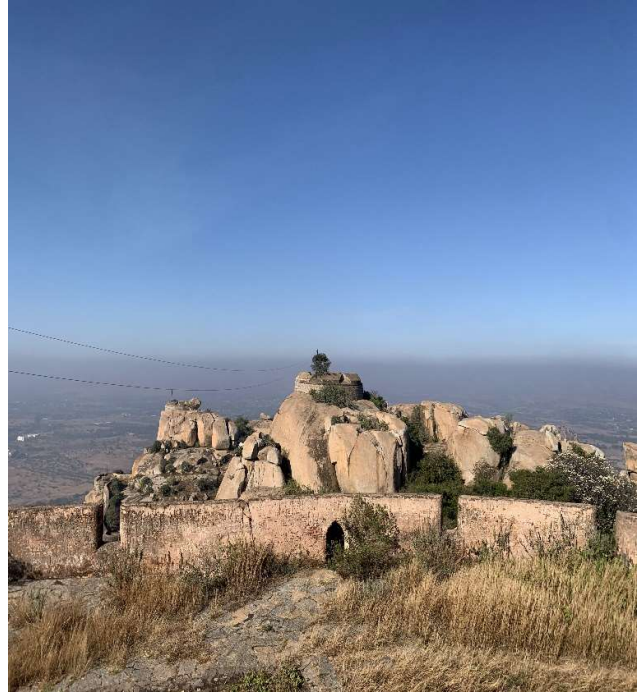
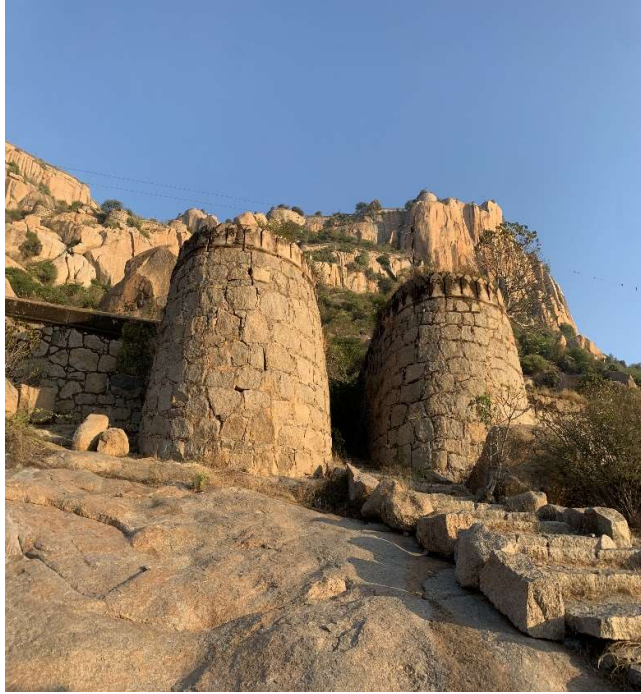


Bidarakere Near Midigeshi, Set against a Backdrop of Hills

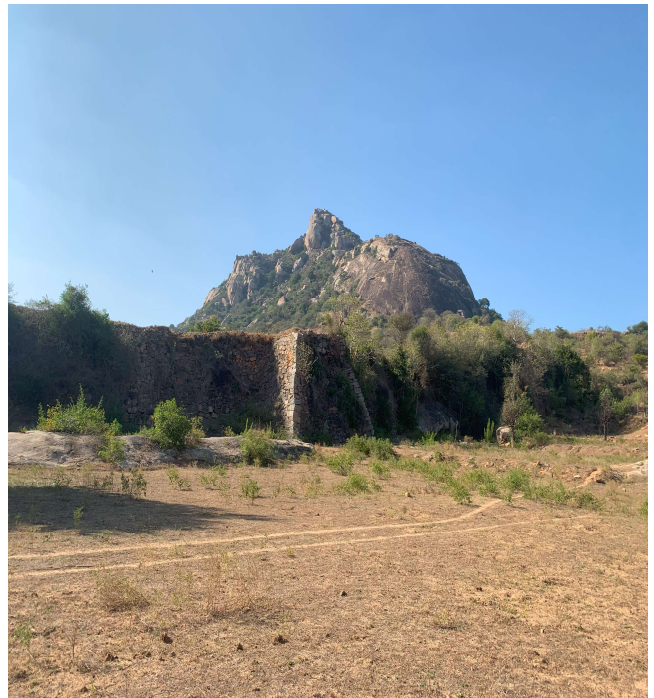
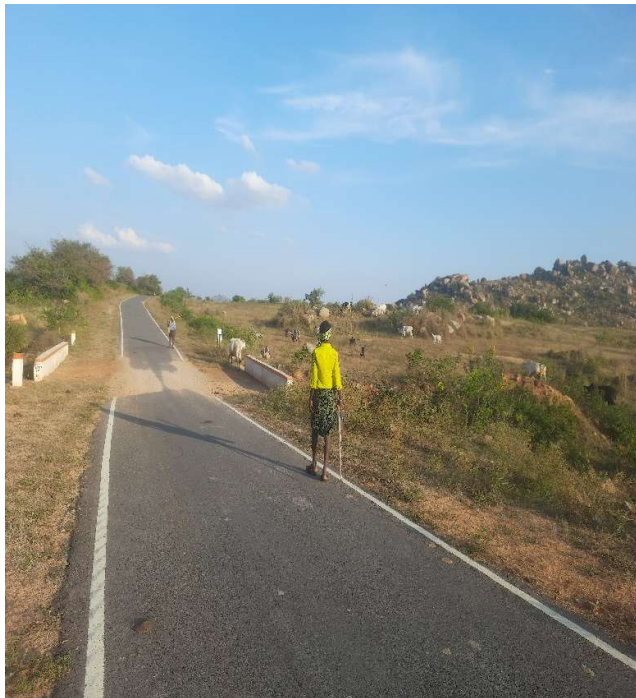
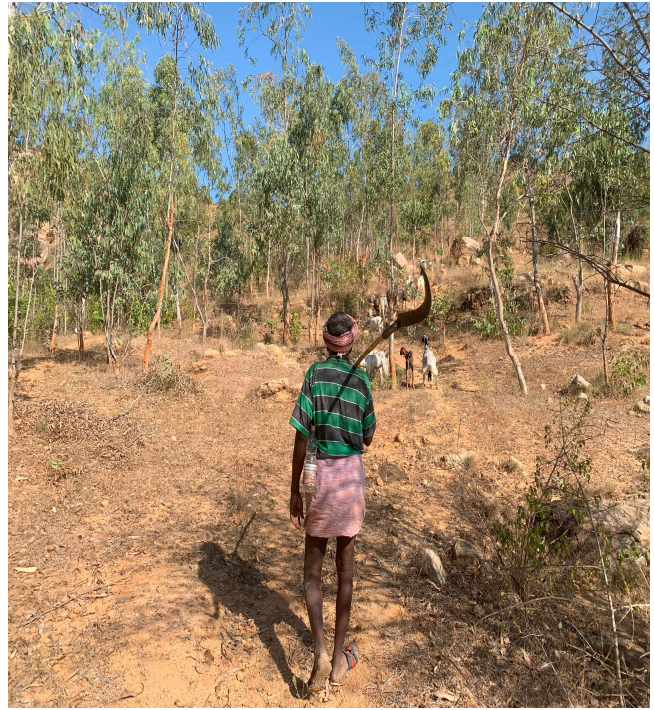
The climate here is arid, and agricultural activities begin after the onset of the southwest monsoon, mainly growing ragi, horse gram, and groundnut. Near the town, a fine porphyritic granite quarry is still in operation, same Buchanan also documented that "Near the town is a fine quarry, of a stone which, like that found at Ramagiri may be called a Granatic porphyry.

Except for the granite quarry, no other minerals are available in the area. Cattle rearing is prominent due to the vast grasslands during the monsoon period, and in summer, paddy straw and groundnut haulms are fed to the cattle.

Buchanan did not visit the Pavagada and Nidugal regions, which are principal areas for cattle herding and require crossing the ceded districts of the Nizam. Even today, to access Pavagada from Midigeshi, one needs to cross the Madakasira region of Andhra Pradesh.



The historic Pavagada Fort



Nidugal Fort Hill, with shepherds and cowherds grazing their livestock, is set against the rugged backdrop of the hill.

Pavagada Taluk is also called the 'Island of Andhra Pradesh' because the region is surrounded by Andhra. In the Nidugal and Pavagada areas, you can still find a fine population of sheep and goats. Every week, there is a fair on Monday in Pavagada where farmers sell sheep and goats. Traders from Bangalore, Mysore, and neighboring Andhra come to buy the sheep and goats, which are then transported in sheep vans.

Madhugiri

It is already documented in Chapter VI.

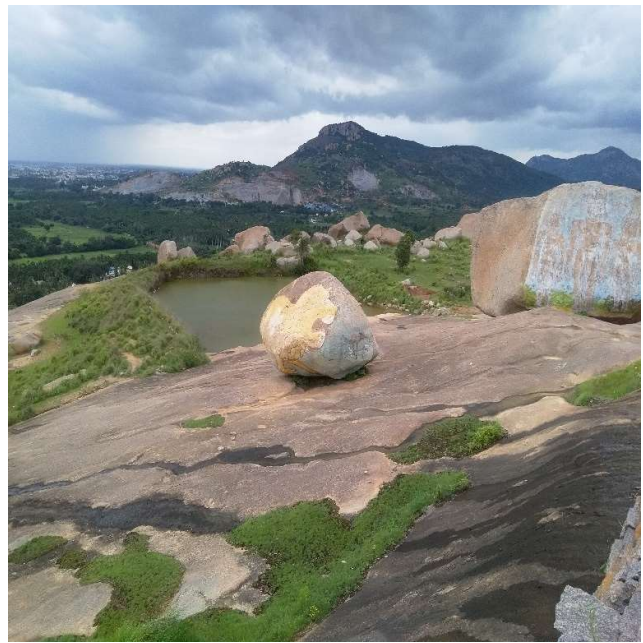
Channarayanadurga



Channarayanadurga Hill

Channarayanadurga is a beautiful fort south of Madhugiri, fortified by the Madhugiri chief Channappa Gowda in the mid-17th century, according to the Gazetteer. It is a popular hotspot for Bangalore urban trekkers who frequently trek this hill on weekends. Buchanan, during his visit, documented iron smelting in this region

Tumakuru



Tumkur is the district headquarters of Tumkur district, located about 70 km from the state capital, Bangalore. It is said that the name 'Tumkur' was derived from 'Thumbe' (Leucas aspera), a plant that was once abundant in this region; the place was initially called 'Thumbe Ooru,' which eventually became 'Thumakuru.'

Now, it is a rapidly growing city with numerous educational institutions, earning it the nickname 'Educational City.' Due to its proximity to Bangalore, Tumkur has seen significant industrial development along the highways that connect it to the state capital. The NH 4 (Bangalore-Pune) passes through Tumkur, as does the Bangalore-Honnavar (BH) highway. The city is also well-connected by rail under the South Western Railway zone, with all trains from Bangalore to Hubli/Dharwad and Shimoga passing through Tumkur.

Tumkur is a major trading center, dealing in commodities such as rice, groundnut, castor, tamarind, horse gram, and sunflower oil. The city also has numerous rice mills. About 5 km from Tumkur city, in the suburb of Kyatsandra, there is a hillock with the Siddalingeshwara Temple, in front of which is a natural spring called Siddha Ganga. At the foothill, the famous Siddaganga Mutt, a Veerashaiva monastery, provides free education, food, and lodging.

Gubbi



Channabasaveshwara Shrine in Gubbi



William Arthur Memorial Hall, now a church in Gubbi, blending history and heritage in the heart of the town

Gubbi is an important trading center situated 22 km from Tumkur, on the Bangalore-Honnavar Road (BH Road). It serves as the headquarters and main town of the region.

It is said that this town was founded about 400 years ago by a Polygar of Hosahally, who traced his descent from Honnappa Gowda, the hereditary chief of the Nonabas. This is documented in the Gazetteer, as mentioned in Buchannan's works.

Buchanan mentioned that Gubbi held weekly fairs every Monday, frequented by merchants from neighboring and distant places. Merchants from Moodabidare, Subramanya (Dakshina Kannada), and Kalasa brought black pepper, cardamom, gum, incense, wild turmeric, and cinnamon. In exchange, they took cumin (jeerige), blankets, coarse cotton cloth, sugar candy, sugar, toor dal (togari), tamarind, and cash.

Merchants from Thalassery (Tellicherry) brought dates, raisins, nutmeg, saffron, borax, pepper, and terra japonica, and their returns were similar to the goods mentioned above.

Merchants from Bangalore, Kolar, and adjacent places brought cotton cloth and some silk, taking back betel nut, black pepper, coconuts, cinnamon, ginger, and terra japonica in return.

From Pamidi, near Gutti, and other places in the Nizam's ceded districts, merchants brought various cotton cloths and took away coconuts and lac, often balancing the trade with money.

Merchants from Haveri, in the Maratha country, brought safflower seeds (cossumba or kusume in Kannada), terra japonica, opium, tent cloth, and mailututta (blue vitriol, a crystalline compound of copper sulfate) used for coloring teeth, borax, Asafoetida and they take away betel-nut, pepper and money.

Buchanan's Documented of Gubbi Weekly Fair and Regional Trade

| Region | Goods Sold | Goods Bought |
|---|--|---|
| Moodabidre, Subramanya (Dakshina Kannada), and Kalasa | Black Pepper, Cardamom, Gum, Incense, Wild Turmeric, Cinnamon | Cumin (Jeerige), Blankets, Coarse Cotton Cloth, Sugar Candy, Sugar, Toor Dal (Togari), Tamarind, Cash |
| Thalassery | Dates, Raisins, Nutmeg, Saffron, Borax, Pepper, Terra Japonica | ditto |
| Bangalore, Kolar, and Adjacent Areas | Cotton Cloths, Silks | Betel Nut, Black Pepper, Coconuts, Cinnamon, Ginger, Terra Japonica |
| Pamidi, Near Gutti, and Other Nizam's Ceded Districts | Cotton Cloths | Coconuts, Lac, often balancing trade with money |
| Haveri | Safflower Seeds (Kusume in Kannada), Terra Japonica, Opium, Tent Cloth, Mailututta (Blue Vitriol for teeth coloring) | Betel Nut, Pepper, Money |

Now, at the weekly fair (Santhe in Kannada) every Monday the farmers and neighbors bring vegetables, fruits, spices, sheep, and goats to the market (there is a separate market for the animals)

Gubbi is also a holy place where Gosala Channabasaveshwara, Amaragonda Mallikarjuna, Mallanarya, and other Veerashaiva teachers lived. The oldest temple in the town is Gadde Malleshwara, with 'Gadde' meaning a wetland or paddy field.

Currently, the lands around Gubbi are cultivated with coconut farms and areca plantations, which are the main income-generating crops. These crops are irrigated by bore wells and lakes. The western taluks of Tumkur—Gubbi, Tumakuru, Kunigal, Chikkanayakanahalli (CN Halli), Turuvekere, and Tiptur—are greener compared to the eastern taluks like Madhugiri, Pavagada, and Sira, which are drier and more prone to drought.

Muganayakana Kote(Muga-Nayakana-Cotay)





The coir industry: From peeling coconuts to crafting versatile coir products

MN Kote, Its about 18 km from Gubbi town, there was once a strong fortified village with mud walls. Before the Maratha invasion led by Parasuram Bhow, the village was well-protected. However, during the invasion, the Marathas seized large quantities of provisions, killed many peasants, and took away the young women they captured.

Buchanan mentioned that the siege lasted about two months, during which the Marathas fired their guns several times but never succeeded in breaching the fortifications. The peasants destroyed the market to prevent the Marathas from using the houses in their approach.

Today, no remnants of the fort remain in the village, there are extensive coconut and areca nut plantations. The village also has a couple of coir industries.

Kondli(anglicized as Conli)

Latitude and Longitude 13.362434 N, 76.735961 E

Buchanan mentioned Kondli as 'Conli' in his document. It is located in Gubbi Taluk, approximately 24 km from Gubbi town. From there, one needs to take a right towards Kondli Cross Road – Hagalawadi. Kondli is a small village with lower hills and a less rugged landscape compared to the eastward region. The area is abundant with cultivation, particularly Ragi, coconut, and areca nut plantations, similar to what I observed in the vicinity of Gubbi.

Doray Gudda

Latitude and Longitude 13.360236 N, 76.764511 E



Doray Gudda





Clockwise from top-left:

1. Iron ore extraction remains, now abandoned.
2. Approaching the Eastern Side of Doray Gudda, the Hill is Known as Doray Gudda in Kondli.
3. Iron ore deposits are still under the surface.
4. Lush green coconut and areca nut plantations are seen from the summit of Doray Gudda, with a scenic westward view.





Clockwise from top-left:

1. Haematite ore is a rich source of iron extracted from the earth.
2. An ore deposit shows the natural accumulation of valuable minerals.
3. A traditional house near Shivasandra, built with stone walls and a roof tile, reflects the local architectural style.
4. Ridges formed naturally by torrential rains, shaping the landscape over time.

From Kondli cross it needs to reach Shivasandra village on the west side and once crossed the Shivasandra and small hill where the evidence of past mining activities. The landscape was marked by ridges and traces of old excavations. Buchanan noted that this hill was unique in the vicinity for producing iron ore, although it was known by different names in different villages. At Kondli, it was called Doray Gudda, a name Buchanan adopted in his documentation.

The strata of the hill, Buchanan observed, were vertical and ran north to south, a characteristic of many hills in this region. This chain of hills stretches all the way to Chitradurga. The ore here is embedded with earthy quartz or hornstone, with masses that are whitish and fine-grained. Another form of ore found in the area is bluish and somewhat brittle.

In Buchanan's time, the local people were engaged in iron smelting, transporting the ore using buffaloes and donkeys. Tumkur, CN Halli, Hagalwadi, Sira, and other nearby areas were hubs of iron production. Buchanan documented the number of furnaces supplied by this hill: six in Tumkur, ten in Hagalwadi, seven in CN Halli, and three in Sira.

A Cavern of Iron Ore and Mystery

Near Doray Gudda, Buchanan documented a cavern about fifty feet in length, twelve feet high, and nine feet wide, which was probably carved out for iron mining. When he cautiously, with the help of a sepoy, fired his musket into it, nothing but a large flock of bats appeared. He entered the cavern with two armed men, where they saw a bed that had probably been arranged by a tiger or leopard. They ventured about 100 feet inside and came out from the mouth of the cavern, where they found another bed that had likely been formed by a different beast. They also discovered porcupine quills, which might indicate that the porcupine had fallen prey to the leopards. Unfortunately, we were unable to trace it.

Buchanan also detailed the mining practices of the locals, including the count of manpower, the supply of iron ore from the hill, and the product of iron smelting. He also noted that the locals performed an annual sacrifice to the

deities Gudada Umma (Guddadamma), the mother of the hill, and Muti Raya (Muthuraya), a male spirit believed to protect the mine hill. We, however, could only locate a Hanuman temple along the ascent to the hill.

Buchanan mentioned in his document that each set of works employed around 20 men. In the smelting house, as detailed below:

Iron smelting

| Task Description | Labourers Required |
|--|--------------------|
| Man to put ore and charcoal, and take out the iron | 1 |
| Men to blow the bellows | 3 |
| Men to supply charcoal | 6 |
| Man to supply ore to a forge (about two miles from the mine); he must keep 5 asses | 1 |
| Total | 11 |

Forging

| Task Description | Labourers Required |
|---|--------------------|
| Blacksmith to manage the fire and furnace | 1 |
| Bellow men | 2 |
| Hammer men | 3 |
| Charcoal men | 3 |
| Total | 9 |

Exploring the Lithomarge and Schistose Rocks of Malleshwara Betta

Latitude and longitude 13.403113 N, 76.680305 E



View from the summit of Abbige Malleshwara Betta, facing east



Clockwise from top-left:

1. On my way to examine the minerals of Malaiswara Betta, named after the nearby Shiva temple, now known as Honnebagi Abbige Malleshwara Betta.
2. Schistose decaying rock disposed vertically near the Abbige Malleshwara temple, showcasing natural geological formations.
3. Inside the Abbige Malleshwara temple.
4. Side view of the schistose decaying rock, highlighting its layered structure.

Our journey continued northeast towards Malleshwara Betta, known in Buchanan's writings as Malaiswara Betta, near Madana Madu village(13.455590; 76.713020). The hilltop temple, now called Honnebagi Abbige Malleshwara, is a small shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, located near the CN Halli mining area. Buchanan observed that the strata here were nearly identical to those of Doray Gudda, consisting of schistose decaying rock arranged vertically. The vertical stones Buchanan described can still be seen today, preserved outside the temple. He also documented the presence of lithomarge, it's a soft, earthy material primarily made of Kaolinite clay, formed from the weathering of feldspar-rich rocks, found in large masses atop the rocky strata, with various fragments scattered around. The view from the hilltop is breathtaking, offering a panoramic sight of cultivated fields, small lakes, and lush coconut and areca plantations.

Chikkanayakanahalli (anglicized as Chica Nayakana Hully)



Iron Mine near Chikkanayakanahalli: A Town Nestled Amidst Lush Green Coconut Plantations





Clockwise from Top Left: 1) Iron Ore Mine, 2) and 4) Iron Ore Stone, 3) Gajina Gutta Hill - Documented for Its Rich Iron Ore Deposits (Caricallu) and the Extraction of Iron Oxide Used in Traditional Practices, Including Wall Painting, Dyeing Sackcloths, and Coloring Monks' Robes of the Jangama Community.



Left to Right: 1) Abandoned Soapstone Quarry (Coordinates: 13.411339N, 76.656500E), 2) Sample of Soapstone

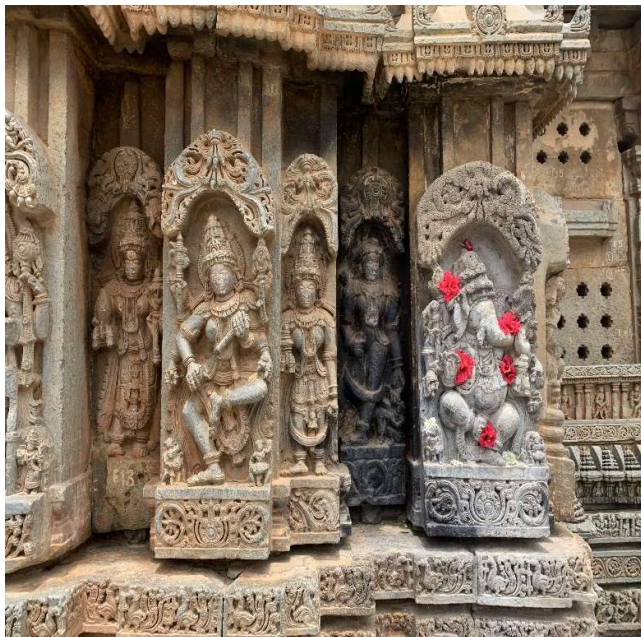


Clockwise from Top Left: 1) Coconut Shells Being Thrown into the Pit, 2 & 4) Charcoal Production in Progress, 3) Finished Coconut Charcoal.

It's a town situated west-northwest of Tumkur, approximately 66 km from its district headquarters. The town derives its name from Chickkanayaka, chief of the Hagalavadi house. Buchanan mentioned a hill called Gajina Gutta, which he visited, known for producing *caricallu* (iron ore) or *reddle*. He also documented the extraction of iron oxide, which was collected and used for painting walls, dyeing *goni* sackcloths, and coloring the cloth worn by monks (Saints) of the Jangama community.

In the vicinity of CN Halli, many coir industries and a few produce shell charcoal, which is extensively used by goldsmiths and for making activated charcoal.

Araluguppe



Top Left, Clockwise: 1) Entrance Street to the Channakeshava Temple, 2) Back View of the Ancient Temple, 3) The Channakeshava Temple Showcases Exquisite Hoysala Architecture. 4) Stone Tablet with Intricately Carved Wall Decorations Depicting Ganesha, Vishnu, and Other Hindu Deities.



The Kalleshwara Temple is believed to Have Been Built in the 9th Century A.D. by the Nolambas.

It's a small village, Hamlet, with historical significance, located on the Bangalore-Hubli railway line, about 63 km from its district headquarters, Tumkur. The Channakeshava Temple at this site is a fine example of Hoysala architecture, featuring several intricately carved stone wall decorations. To the south of the Channakeshava Temple is the Narasimha Temple.

The Kalleshwara Temple here is believed to have been built in the 9th century A.D. by the Nolambas. The central ceiling, which has nine panels, showcases remarkable workmanship with Ashta-dikpalakaru supported by four pillars and an elegantly carved Tandaveshwara (Lord Shiva) in the middle.

Turuvekere



The Temple of Gangadhareshwara Features a Large, Recumbent Bull, Intricately Carved from Black Hornblende Sourced from Karikalgudda, Still Shining with a Brilliant Polish.

Turuvekere is a municipal town located about 71 km from its district headquarters, Tumkur. It was founded as an Agrahara (rent-free) village for Brahmins during the Hoysala period. Turuvekere is home to several Hoysala temples, including the Chennakeshava Temple, built by Mahadandanayaka Somanna, the Gangadhareshwara Temple, Chennigaraya Swamy Temple, Moole Shankareshwara Temple, and the largest, Beterayaswamy Temple.

Facing the temple of Gangadhareshwara is a large, recumbent bull, intricately carved from black hornblende sourced from Karikalgudda, still retaining a brilliant polish.

"I saw a very fine black stone, well polished and cut into a rude imitation of a bull. It was about eight feet long, size high, and four broad; and seemed to be of same kind with the pillars in Hyders's monument at seringapatnam. The quarry is size miles distant."

-Francis Buchanan, Volume VII

To the north of the town is a well-known reservoir called 'Turuvekere Kere' by the locals, which provides irrigation for coconut and areca nut plantations in its vicinity. Several lakes are also present nearby.

Kadehalli (anglicized as Cada-hully)

Latitude and Longitude: 13.083192° N, 76.652029° E

Kadehalli is a small village near Turuvekere, located 11 km from its taluk center. Historically, Kadehalli is famous for its black stones. These stones, used for making statues, have been extracted from Kadehalli for centuries and transported to Belur and other distant places. The hard-black rock found in Kadehalli is renowned worldwide.



Kadehalli's Renowned Black Stones: Sought After for Centuries for Statue Making and Celebrated Worldwide for Their Hardness.

Haddinakallu Betta (Hadduna Betta)

Latitude and longitude: 12.989739 N, 76.790186 E



Haddinakallu Betta



To the east of Belluru, a range of barren, rocky hills runs from north to south. Among these rises is a considerable height known as Haddina Betta, where a temple dedicated to Hanuman is located at the top. Buchanan mentioned large masses of harder pot stones, called 'Sila Callu,' which were likely used in the construction of Hoysala temples in Aralaguppe and Turuvekere.

Belluru

It's a small town that falls under the Nagamangala taluk of Mandya District, near Adichunchanagiri, a mutt for followers of the Natha Sampradaya.

Buchanan mentioned a large community of Babboorkammes (Boburu Cummays) residing in this village, and even today, they are widespread in the Bellur and Mayasandra regions. They are followers of Sri Shankaracharya and the Advaita philosophy.

Nagamangala



Nagamangala Town



Saumya Keshava Temple, Nagamangala

It's a town in Mandya district, situated on the Srirangapatna-Sira State Highway (SH). In ancient times, it was an Agrahara. It was a place of considerable importance even during the Hoysala period. The outer fort was built by Poligar Jagadevaraya of Channapattana.

Buchanan mentioned a great emigration of Tigularu (Tigularu/Taycularu) from the region of Tamil Nadu. Upon inquiry with a local, it was said that their ancestors left Kanchi (Kunji) about 700 years ago. Most have lost their original language, though some can still read books in Tamil.

The Saumya Keshava temple here is a large structure built during the Hoysala period and later repaired during the Vijayanagara period, with the addition of a prakara (enclosure wall) and a maha-dwara (main door). The 6-foot-tall image of Keshava stands on a Garuda platform and is a highly artistic and beautiful work by the sculptor.

-Buchanan crossed China (anglicized as Chinna) it's a small village and continued his journey towards Melukote.

Melukote(anglicized as Mail-Cotay)



Melukote: A Prominent Centre for the Sri Vaishnava Sect



It's a principal sacred place in Karnataka, especially for Sri Vaishnava followers, located in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district. This place is also known as Tirunarayanapura.

The temple is built on rocky hills called Yadavagiri or Yadugiri. In the early 12th century, the great Sri Vaishnava saint Sri Ramanujacharya, who hailed from Tamil Nadu, took residence in Melukote under Hoysala rule. As a result, a large number of Iyengar Brahmins migrated and settled in the region. This made Melukote a prominent center for the Sri Vaishnava sect.

The famous Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana, formerly known as Bittideva, converted to the Sri Vaishnava faith and became a devoted follower of the Acharya.

Tonnur Lake (anglicized as Tonuru-Caray)



Tonnuru Lake

Tonnuru Lake: Size and Irrigation Area Overview

| Lake Parameter | Measurement |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Length (Top) | 500 ft |
| Height | 480 ft |
| Length (Bottom) | 300 ft |
| Area of Land Irrigated by the Tank | 1,390 acres |



Top Left, Clockwise: 1) Grand View of Tonnuru Lake (Tirumalasagara by Sri Ramanujacharya / Moti Taalab, 'Lake of Pearls,' by Nasir Jung, 1746), 2) Statue of Ramanujacharya at the Base of the Lake Bund, 3) Right Side of the Hill on the Tank Bund of Tonnuru Lake. 4) Hoysala Period Nambi Narayana Temple,

This majestic lake, referred to by Buchanan in his records, was often compared to other lakes he encountered. It is located at the southern foot of the Yadugiri hills, about 20 kilometers south of Melukote. This reservoir, also known as Yadavi Nuddi, was a remarkable feat of engineering between two mountain torrents, with its bund constructed during the Hoysala period. Sri Ramanujacharya named it Tirumalasagara.



Left to Right: 1) Dargah of Sayyad Salar Masud Sahib, 2) Bullock Cart Loaded with Sugar Cane from the Plantation.

Buchanan also mentioned, 'Near this place is a monument dedicated to a follower of Mahmud of Ghazni, who had penetrated this far and suffered martyrdom.' This monument, now called the Dargah of Sayyad Salar Masud Sahib, bears the date 1358 AD. The central square of the hall, though quite plain, has a fine bulbous-shaped dome, and several of the pillars appear to be sourced from Hindu temples.

Nearby, there are two tombs said to belong to female members of Tipu Sultan's family. An annual Urs is held at this site. The crystal-clear water of this tank was named Moti Talab, meaning 'Lake of Pearls,' by Nasir Jung, the son of the Subedar of Deccan, who visited the area in 1746

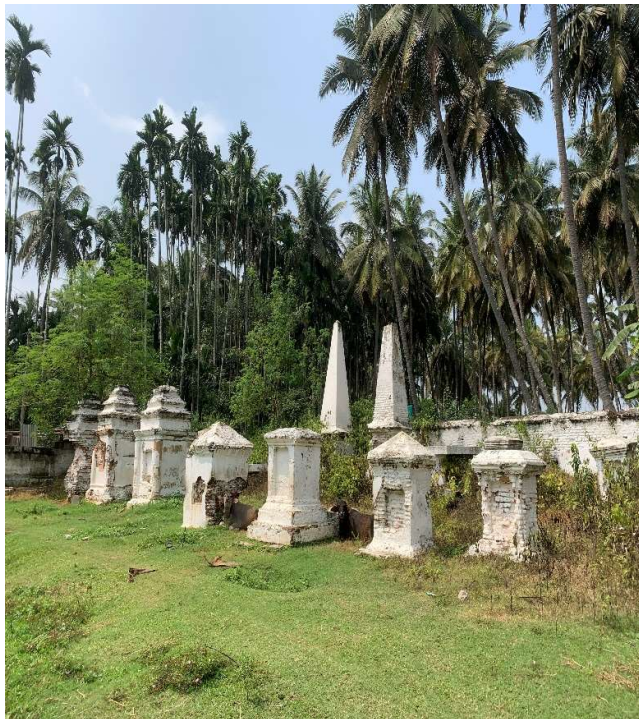
Chikkamarali (anglicized as Chica Mally Betta) and French rocks (Present Kunthi betta)

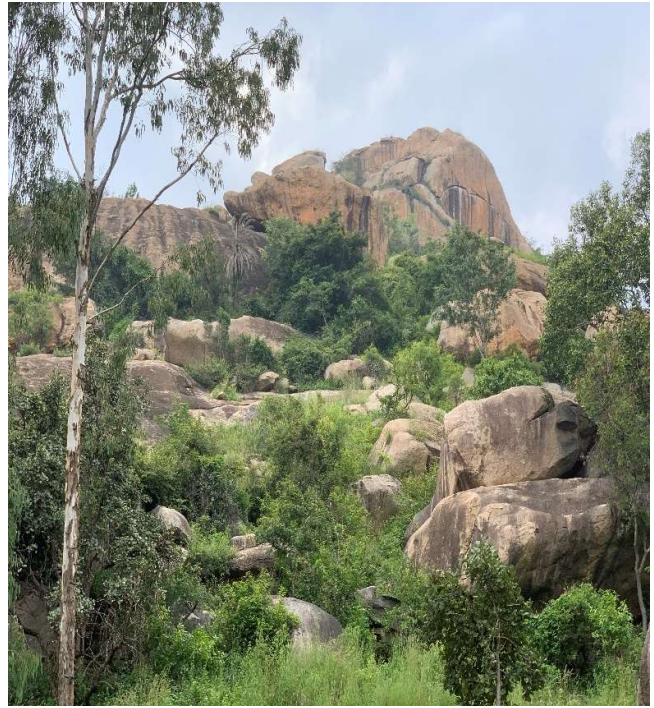


Kunti Betta, Also Known as French Rocks, Overlooking Lush Green Paddy and Sugar Cane Fields.



A Small Hamlet of Chikkamarali Village (Chica Mally Betta) Surrounded by Lush Green Coconut Plantations, Sugar Cane Fields, and Granite Quarries





Top Left, clockwise: 1) French Cemetery Near Pandavapura, Where the French Army Camped While Assisting Tipu Sultan Against the British, 2) Buchanan's Noted Quarry of Gray Granite Near Chikkamarali Village, 4) French Rock Hill (Kunti Betta) Nestled in the Landscape,4) Cross-Section of a Granite Boulder with Beautiful Texture.





Top Left, clockwise: 1) Laborer Harvesting Sugarcane, 2 to 4) Jaggery Making Process, Fueled by the Efficient Irrigation System of the Visveswaraya Channel from the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam Across the Cauvery River.

Buchanan examined the quarry of grey granite at Chikkamarali (12.5213° N, 76.7134° E), which remains a significant source of granite today, with some mining still taking place there.

Buchanan mentioned Chikkamarali (Chica Mally Betta) near Tonnur Lake, which lies between Tonnur Lake and the River Cauvery. He might have been referring to the present Kunthi Betta near Pandavapura, where Buchanan noted a quarry of gray granite with workmen engaged in chipping stone blocks.

The name 'French Rock' dates back to the pre-Independence era, when the French army camped there while assisting Tipu Sultan in his struggle against the British. It is believed that the French named the area 'French Rocks' due to its proximity to two rocky hills. After Indian Independence, these rocky hills came to be known locally as 'Kunti Betta'.
