

PRESS RELEASE

THE QUEEN'S VISIT
to the
National Headquarters of the
Bible Society of India & Ceylon
Bangalore, 21st February 1961

The Queen's gracious visit to the Bible Society's national headquarters is in the best tradition of British Royalty which has always had the most intimate connection with Bible Society work. It is well-known that the most widely used English Version is connected with the proclamation of King James in 1611, so that it is sometimes referred to as "King James's Version." The present Queen is a Patron of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the parent body which started the work of Bible translation and production in India and later handed it over to the Bible Society of India and Ceylon.

The Queen's visit synchronizes exactly with the 150th Anniversary of the Society, and will therefore make the date doubly memorable. She will be presented with a specially bound copy of the Hindi edition of the Bible suitably inscribed to commemorate the occasion.

The Hindi Bible will symbolically represent both the national character of the Society, and its declared aim to have the Bible translated into every one of the languages of India. It is one of the 125 languages of India into which the Society has so far put out translations of the Bible in whole or in part. This list includes even some of the dialects of the primitive hill and forest tribes, which were for the first time given a script, grammar and dictionary when the Bible was translated; in many cases the Bible is the only literature they possess. Regarding this programme of work Mr. Nehru has said that the desire "to translate the Bible into every possible language thus resulted in the development of many Indian languages. Christian mission work... in this respect has undoubtedly been of great service to India."

(The Discovery of India)

LALBAGH

In about the year 1760, Hyder Ali selected a spot about a mile east from the Fort and a few hundred yards west of the watch-tower and constructed a royal retreat and orchard of about 40 acres in total extent.

He imported plants from Delhi, Lahore and Multan for the ornamentation of his garden. The garden was divided into square plots separated by drives and paths, along the sides of which fine cypress trees were planted. Separate plots were set apart for different fruit plants like the pomegranate and fig, and flowers like roses. The drives and foot-paths were not gravelled. The small tank at the south end of the Lalbagh was the main source of water, which was conveyed to the garden by an open ditch, and the plots were irrigated by open canals.

After Hyder Ali, Lalbagh continued to be the pleasure garden of his son Tippu Sultan. He improved the garden and maintained a good collection of mangos, fruit from which were supplied to his palace. Many plants were imported from Arcot. Three old mango trees said to have been planted during his time still adorn the garden. He had a regular garden establishment. The head man in direct charge of the garden was called Daroga. Two darogas, father and son, were in charge of his garden successively during the time of Tippu Sultan.

In 1799 after Tippu Sultan's fall, Lalbagh was taken over by the English, and as far as can be traced, it was owned by a military botanist, Major Waugh, and remained in his possession until 1819. He showed great zeal in the improvement of the garden and introducing foreign plants. Dr. Buchanan in May 1800 writes of the garden at Bangalore, "In this climate the cypress and vine grow luxuriantly. and the apple and peach both produce fruits, the former much better and the latter much worse than at Calcutta. Some pine and oak plants lately introduced from the Cape of Good Hope seem to be thriving well".

Major Waugh gave the garden as a gift to the Marquess of Hastings, in 1819.

On the British assumption of the Province of Mysore in 1831, Lalbagh passed into the hands of the Chief Commissioner and remained so until 1839. Sir Mark Cubbon, the Chief Commissioner from 1831 to 1861, founded an Agri-Horticultural Society of India in 1839 and handed over Lalbagh to the society. He helped the society by providing convicts to work in the garden. So long as the garden remained under the auspices of the society, it was supported by private subscriptions. The society ceased to exist in 1842, and the garden once again came under the management of the Chief Commissioner. For 14 years after the abolition of the society, the garden was allowed to run waste, little being done for it beyond occasional cleaning and sweeping, and remained so upto 1856.

The credit of making Lalbagh a Botanical Garden under State control goes to Dr. Cleghorn, the Chief Conservator of Forests in Southern India. In August 1856, Dr. Cleghorn, along with Mr. Jeffrey, Superintendent of the Madras Agri-Horticultural Society, visited Bangalore to confer with Sir Mark Cubbon regarding the establishment of a horticultural garden in the State. The Chief Commissioner was

very much interested in the development of horticulture in the State and welcomed the idea. Lalbagh was selected as well suited for the purpose. It was then an area of 40 acres, well situated and gently slopping towards the north, and possessed good soil. It was thus made the Government Botanical Garden, entirely a Government establishment, in August 1856, to carry out the higher objects of horticultural pursuits, designed for the improvement of indigenous plants and for the introduction of exotic plants of economic importance and for the supply of these to the hills and plains when acclimatised. The garden was meant also for the improved system of cultivation of horticultural plants and to demonstrate the practical and successful cultivation of fruits and vegetables to the people.

Mr. John Cameron took charge of the garden in 1874. The garden continued to be under the Commissioner until the Rendition. At the Rendition in 1881, the garden passed into the hands of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. Under the State Government, the garden was expanded and made great progress. From the original area of about 45 acres which remained until 1881, the garden area was more than doubled under Cameron at the close of the century.

On November 28, 1889, H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor of Wales was given a reception in the garden by H. H. Sri Chamaraja Wadiyar, Maharaja of Mysore. The Prince of Wales laid the foundation of the Glass House, called Albert Victor Conservatory. It was completed in the following year and is one of the great attractions of the garden; the Summer and Winter Horticultural Shows are held in it.

Mr. G. H. Krumbiegel assumed charge of Lalbagh in 1908.

In the same year, 1908, another important even in the annals of the history of the Lalbagh was the erection of the equestrian statue of His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore.

1919 is another eventful year in the history of Lalbagh. The students of Bangalore gave an entertainment to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Lalbagh. The same year, the pipe system was laid for watering and all the open drains were closed. The reservoir and the pump house were erected in 1919.

Krumbiegel like Cameron did experimental cultivation in the field of economic plants, fruits and vegetables, and also on ornamental plants. After Krumbiegel, Rao Bahadur H.C. Javaraya, trained under Mr. Krumbiegel and also at Kew, took charge of the garden and worked hard to improve it.

BANGALORE

Situation

Situated on the top-most point of a table land, Bangalore is almost a hill-station. Its average height above sea level is 3000 feet. Its climate, though a little warm in summer, is cool and salubrious in other seasons. With its fine climate and pretty parks, Bangalore has been aptly called the 'Garden City of India'.

Geographically situated in the heart of South India, Bangalore is the cultural centre of the South. This, together with its historical development, has made it a meeting place of different languages like Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Urdu and English.

Bangalore is also an industrial, commercial and educational centre. In addition, it is the capital of the Mysore State. It is also one of the most cosmopolitan cities in India.

Name of the place

'Bangalore' is a corruption of 'Bengalūru'. There is a story, current among the people and repeated in most of the guide-books, which explains how the place came to have this name. It is as follows: "One day, when Vira Ballala (a Hoysala King who reigned from about 1172 to 1219) had gone out hunting, he became separated from his attendants and, losing his way, wandered till nightfall. At last he came to a solitary hut, in which he found an old woman. The King, hungry and exhausted, requested her for something to eat. As she had nothing else to offer, she gave him some beans boiled in a little water. The King ate them gladly and passed the night in that lowly hut. The incident speedily became known far and wide and the village which sprang up on that site, took the name 'Bengaluru'," or the city of boiled beans. This is only a story and like all stories, has little foundation in history.

Though the town of Bangalore cannot boast of any hoary antiquity, being founded by Kempe Gowda, a Palayagara or feudatory of the Vijayanagara kingdom, in 1537, the name 'Bengaluru' appears to be fairly old. For, it occurs in an inscription found at Begur, eight miles south of Bangalore and assigned to the 10th century A.D., which refers to some 'Bengaluru'; whether this refers to the Bangalore or not is not known.

History

Whatever be its name, the site of Bangalore is sufficiently old, as is clear from the pre-historic dolmens found near Bangalore and the surrounding parts, like Anekal, about 22 miles south-east of Bangalore.

During the period of the Mauryas, this part of the country was outside the Mauryan empire. At that time it was known as Mahishamandala. Mahishamandala was one of the countries to which the third Buddhist council which met at Pataliputra in the time of Ashoka under the presidentship of Moggaliputta Tissa, sent missionaries.

After.....

After this period, the successive occupiers of the region were the Gangas, the Pallavas, the Rashtrakutas, the Cholas, the Hoysalas and the Vijayanagara rulers.

The family of the Yalahanka-nada-prabhus, to which the famous Kempegouda, the founder of Bangalore, belongs, came into existence as a feudatory of the Vijayanagara kingdom in about 1420.

Bangalore was later captured by Ranadulla Khan, a general of the Adil Shahi prince of Bijapur in 1638. On the Khan's return to the court, Shahji, father of Shivaji, being the second in command at Bijapur, was appointed to govern the territories newly gained in the south.

Meanwhile, the Wadeyars of Mysore were rising to power. In 1654, Kempegouda of Magadi had been defeated by Kanthirava Narasa Raja. In 1687, Bangalore also became a part of the Mysore kingdom. In 1758, the fort and district of Bangalore were conferred on Haider Ali as a Jagir in recognition of his distinguished services. In 1791, Bangalore was captured from Tipu Sultan by the British under Lord Cornwallis. On Tipu's death in 1799, the district was included in the territory of the Mysore Raja by the treaty of Srirangapattana.

The Bangalore Cantonment was established in 1809. On the Rendition of Mysore in 1831, the site of the Bangalore Cantonment was made over as an Assigned Tract to the British Government (who at the same time gave back to Mysore the island of Srirangapattana). In 1882, were established the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Colonies of Whitefield and Sausmond to the east of Bangalore.

The City

When Kempegouda built Bangalore, he erected at each cardinal point of the town, a picturesque watch-tower, which, it is said, would mark the limits to which the town was predicted by him to extend. The old town was originally surrounded by a deep ditch and a very thick thorny hedge, which served as a defence against the Maratha cavalry. The hedge was cleared away about 90 years ago and the ditch filled up and built upon. A number of extensions have since arisen in all directions. Chamarajpet, Basavangudi, Shankarapura, etc., in the south and Malleswaram, Sheshadripuram, Srirampuram etc., in the north are some of the older extensions, while Kumarapark, Jayanagar, Jayamaharaj, Rajajinagar, Vasantanagar, Vayalikalaval etc., are the more recent ones, some of which are actually still in the process of development.

The fort area is now part of the city. Within the fort, built by Tipu Sultan, the principal building was a mahal or palace, of which only a part remains at present. The building was originally two-storied, surrounded by a large open court and a corridor in the centre of which, opposite the palace, was the naubat-khana, or raised band-stand. The upper storey contained the public and private apartments of the Sultan and his family, with two balconies from which he gave audience. Painting and false gilding decorated the walls. What remains of the palace was for some time used for housing some offices. At present, it is only an object of historical interest. In Home's 'Select views in Mysore', there is an interesting inside view of this palace, which gives an idea of what it was once.

The 'Cantonment' or Civil area is in the north east of the 'city' proper. At present, it is almost as large as the city itself, the majority of its population being Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Muslims and Tamil-speaking Hindus. Just as the old city is divided into a number of petes, this area is divided into towns, of which there are many, like Richmond Town, Cox Town, Fraser Town, MacIver Town, Cleveland Town and so on. The parade ground extends two miles east and west and is surrounded by a ride or mall. The main market of the area is known as the Russell Market and this area is served by two Railway Stations, Bangalore Cantt. and Bangalore East, both on the Bangalore-Madras broad-guage line.

Places of interest

Of the older structures, mention may be made of the famous Bull Temple and the Gavi Gangadhareshvara temple, both built by Kempegouda. The Bull Temple, after which the Basavanagudi extension has been named, is a large structure, perched on a rocky hillock and overlooking the Bangalore City. The object of worship is a huge bull with well-proportioned parts cut out a monolith, requiring a ladder to reach its top. The inscription at its base states that at the feet of the God (Basava or Bull) are the sources of the Vrishabhavati river, which is an affluent of the Arkavati joining it a few miles north of Kankanahalli. A little below the Bull temple, are two other temples containing huge monolithic images of Ganapati and Hanuman. The Bugle Rock with a small mantapam or pavilion on it, in front of the Bull Temple affords a panoramic view of the whole city from its railed platform. This group of monuments on the picturesque hill, on the whole, is a favourite resort for picnic parties. Gavi Gangadhareshvara temple is a cave temple, the Shaivite emblems attached to which, carved on a gigantic scale out of solid stone, are magnificent specimens of the masons art. They consist of the Trishula or trident, the chhatri or umbrella and the damaruga or double drum, each being 15 feet or more in height and proportionately wide.

Other places of interest in Bangalore are briefly as follows:-

(1) The **Cubbon Park**, situated between the city and the civil station, is more than 100 acres in area. Originally laid out by Sir Richard Sankey, named after Sir Mark Cubbon and now looked after by the Director, Government Gardens, the park with its band-stand and the **fountains**, is a favourite place of recreation. In front of the old Public Offices is a fine equestrian statue of Sir Mark Cubbon.

(2) The Athara Kacheri, a huge red building built in classical style between 1864-68 and added to in 1914-15, stands on one side of the Cubbon Park.

(3) Seshadri Memorial Hall, also situated within the park area, with a statue of Seshadri Iyer, one of the great Dewans of Mysore. The Public Library of Bangalore is located in this building.

(4) The.....

(4) The Government Museum, a small but smart building built in classical western style, well stocked with exhibits illustrating the flora and fauna of Mysore, besides varieties of its agricultural and industrial products. Its archaeological and ethnological sections are among its chief attractions.

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