

YBOTMAL

**CENTRAL PROVINCES
DISTRICT GAZETTEERS**

(FACSIMILE REPRODUCTION)

YEOTMAL DISTRICT

Originally Printed in 1908

VOLUME A



Printed at
The Government Photozinc Press, Pune
1979

The then Government of the Bombay Presidency undertook the compilation and publication of the Gazetteers in the District and State Series in 1874 and completed the work in 1884. The Series had 27 volumes, some split into two and three parts making a total of 35 books. These Gazetteers compiled over ninety years ago have now become scarce and entirely out of print. Though most of these volumes have now been thoroughly revised and published, the utility of the Gazetteers in the Old Series is still undiminished because they contained authentic and useful information on several aspects of life which had the impress of profound scholarship and learning and which has not lost its utility due to the mere passage of time. It was, therefore, felt necessary to preserve this fund of information for posterity. There was also a popular demand that these Gazetteers should be reprinted even though a much better and informative revised edition is available. With these considerations in view it was thought that the Gazetteers volumes in the Old Series should be reprinted. I am happy to present this facsimile reproduction of the same.

I am thankful to the Director, Government Printing and Stationery, Shri S. A. Sapre and Shri R. B. Alva, Manager, Government Photozinco Press, Pune and the other staff in the Press for expeditiously completing the work of reprinting.

B. G. KUNTE,
Executive Editor and Secretary.

Bombay.

Dated 28th March 1979.

CENTRAL PROVINCES
DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

YEOTMAL DISTRICT

VOLUME A
DESCRIPTIVE

BY

C. BROWN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

AND

R. V. RUSSELL, GAZETTEER SUPERINTENDENT



CALCUTTA
PRINTED AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS

1908

PREFATORY NOTE.

In this volume, Chapter II, History and Archæology is written by Major W. Haig ; the sections on Language, Religion, Caste and Social Life and Customs by R. V. Russell, Gazetteer Superintendent ; and the remainder of the volume by C. Brown, Assistant Commissioner, Yeotmāl. Information has been borrowed very freely from Sir A. C. Lyall's Gazetteer for the Hyderābād Assigned Districts (1870) and the draft copy of Major W. Haig's volume on Berār in the Imperial Gazetteer of 1906. A number of details about minor castes are taken from Mr. E. J. Kitts' interesting Census Report of Berār for 1881. The sections on Botany, Wild Animals and Forests are based almost entirely on information supplied by Mr. C. A. Von B. Malcolm, Divisional Forest Officer ; the medical paragraphs on notes written by Mr. J. Robertson, Civil Surgeon of Yeotmāl ; and the paragraph about excise on a memorandum by Mr. Raghunāth Prasād, Extra Assistant Commissioner and Excise Assistant. Numerous points of description in the Appendix were recorded by Mr. T. E. Bromley, I.C.S. The Tāluk Reports of the original settlement were written by Major P. A. Elphinstone and Mr. R. R. Beynon, and those of the revision settlement by Mr. F. W. Francis and Mr. E. Marshall, the latter of whom has also contributed some special notes on settlement operations and agriculture. A great part of the section on Geology is merely abridged from Mr. T. H. Holland's chapter on this subject in the first volume of ' The Indian Empire ' in the Imperial Gazetteer of India of 1907. Some interesting information has been taken from a manuscript,

Marāthī History of Wūn, written by the late Mr. Nīlkanth Lakshman, Tahsīldār. Various official records have been consulted and personal enquiries have been made as far as was possible in the time allotted for the work. Vernacular terms have been given in Marāthī except in cases in which a Hindustāni word is in common official use.

C. B.

R. V. R.

YEOTMAL :
7th February, 1908.

YEOTMAL DISTRICT GAZETTEER.

CONTENTS.

*Facing
Page*

LIST OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS WHO HAVE HELD CHARGE OF THE DISTRICT	I
MAP OF THE DISTRICT	I

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

	Page
BOUNDARIES AND PHYSICAL FEATURES	1—5
GEOLOGY (WITH GEOLOGICAL MAP)	5—9
BOTANY	9—10
WILD ANIMALS	10—12
RAINFALL AND CLIMATE	12—13

CHAPTER II.—HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

HISTORY	14—39
ARCHÆOLOGY	39—40

CHAPTER III.—POPULATION.

STATISTICS OF POPULATION	41—49
RELIGION	49—57
CASTE	58—78
SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS	78—91
LEADING FAMILIES	91—92

CHAPTER IV.—AGRICULTURE.

SOILS	93—94
STATISTICS OF CULTIVATION	94—98
CROPS	98—112
IRRIGATION	112
CATTLE	112—117

**CHAPTER V.—LOANS, PRICES, WAGES,
MANUFACTURES, TRADE AND
COMMUNICATIONS.**

	Page
LOANS	118—123
PRICES	123—127
WAGES	127—131
MANUFACTURES	131—136
TRADE	136—137
COMMUNICATIONS	138—143

CHAPTER VI.—FORESTS AND MINERALS.

FORESTS	144—147
MINERALS	147

CHAPTER VII.—FAMINE 148—162

**CHAPTER VIII.—LAND REVENUE ADMIN-
ISTRATION 163—184**

CHAPTER IX.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION 185—206

**APPENDIX.—Gazetteer of Tahsils, Towns, im-
portant Villages, Rivers and Hills .. 209—242**

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

	<i>Page</i>
1. Temple of Kamaleshvara, Mahāgaon I .. <i>Frontispiece</i>	
2. Temple of Kapilesvara, Sātephal I ..	15
3. Temple of Kamaleshvara, Mahāgaon III	24
4. Back view of temple of Kashivishveshvara, Taponā	38
5. Group of Kunbīs	58
6. Group of Pardhans	71
7. Group of Guraos with their instruments	86
8. Berār light cart and bullocks ..	143
9. Temple in field, Lāk	222
10. Temple of Daksheshvara, Lārker ..	225
11. Temple of Kamaleshvara, Mahāgaon II	227
12. Temple of Kapilesvara, Sātephal II ..	230
13. Temple of Kashivishveshvara, Taponā ..	233
14. Wūn tank and Bhois or fishermen in dug- outs	237

PARAGRAPH INDEX.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Boundaries and Physical Features—</i>	
1. General	1
2. Position and boundaries	2
3. Physical features	<i>ib.</i>
4. Rivers	3
5. Elevation	4
<i>Geology—</i>	
6. Geology	5
<i>Botany—</i>	
7. Botany	9
<i>Wild Animals, etc.—</i>	
8. Wild animals	10
<i>Rainfall and Climate—</i>	
9. Rainfall and climate	12

CHAPTER II.—HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

<i>History—</i>	
10. Early history—legendary period ..	14
11. The Sunga Dynasty	<i>ib.</i>
12. The Vākātakas and other Hindu Kingdoms	15
13. Muhammadan period—the Bahmani Dynasty	16
14. Ahmad Shāh	17
15. War with Kherlā	18
16. Alā-ud-dīn Ahmad II	20
17. The rebellion of Jalāl Khān	21
18. Nizām Shāh Bahmani	23
19. Administrative reforms	24

History—contd.

20.	Murder of the reformer	24
21.	Gāwīlgarh declared independent ..	25
22.	Alā-ud-dīn Imād Shāh. War with Ahmadnagar	27
23.	War with Golconda	28
24.	Death of Alā-ud-dīn Imād Shāh ..	29
25.	Berār an appanage of the Crown of Delhi	<i>ib.</i>
26.	The Ain-i-Akbarī	<i>ib.</i>
27.	Capture of a diamond mine	31
28.	Prince Shāh Jahān	<i>ib.</i>
29.	Sale of the District	<i>ib.</i>
30.	Death of Jahāngīr	32
31.	Accession of Shāh Jahān	<i>ib.</i>
32.	Redistribution of Deccan provinces ..	33
33.	Accession of Aurangzeb	<i>ib.</i>
34.	Accession of Bahādūr Shāh. The - Marāthās	34
35.	Asaf Jāh obtains the viceroyalty of the Deccan	<i>ib.</i>
36.	Raghuji Bhonsla	35
37.	The Peshwā and war with the Marāthās	<i>ib.</i>
38.	Appa Sāhib the impostor	37
39.	The Assignment	38
40.	Condition of the people	<i>ib.</i>
41.	Administration since Assignment ..	39

Archæology—

42.	Archæology	<i>ib.</i>
-----	--------------------	------------

CHAPTER III.—POPULATION.

Statistics of Population—

43.	Area and population	41
44.	Growth of population	42

Statistics of Population—contd.

45.	Migration	..	..	43
46.	Diseases	..	..	44
47.	Occupation (Development)	..	..	45
48.	Conditions in 1901	..	..	46
49.	Language—Marāthī	..	..	47
50.	Other languages	..	..	48

Religion—

51.	Statistics of religion	..	..	49
52.	Village gods—Hanumān and Khandobā			<i>ib.</i>
53.	Other village deities	..	..	51
54.	Festivals	..	..	53
55.	Agricultural observances. Sowing	..	..	55
56.	Harvesting and threshing	..	..	56
57.	Christian Missions	..	..	57

Caste—

58.	Principal castes	..	..	58
59.	Kunbī	..	..	59
60.	Marriage customs	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
61.	Widow remarriage	..	..	60
62.	Customs at birth	..	..	61
63.	Devices for procuring children	..	..	62
64.	Funeral customs	..	..	63
65.	Muhammadan practices of Kunbīs	..	..	66
66.	Food	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
67.	Māli	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
68.	Banjārā	..	..	68
69.	Andh	..	..	70
70.	Gond and Pardhān	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
71.	Kolām	..	..	71
72.	Migratory castes—Tāmbatkar, Pan- chāl, Waddar	..	..	73
73.	Baharūpi and Chitrakathī	..	..	74

PARAGRAPH INDEX.

Page

Caste—contd.

74.	Kolhāti	75
75.	Criminal castes	77

Social Life and Customs—

76	Ryotwāri village system	78
77.	Description of villages	79
78.	Camping out in the fields	82
79.	Furniture and food	<i>ib.</i>
80.	Dress	84
81.	Superstitions regarding hair and shaving	85
82.	Village servants. Priests	86
83.	Village watchmen	88
84.	The Chamhār and Māng	89
85.	Other village servants	<i>ib</i>

Leading Families—

86.	Leading families	91
-----	--------------------------	----

CHAPTER IV.—AGRICULTURE.

Soils—

87.	Survey classification	93
88.	Popular terms	94

Statistics of Cultivation—

89.	Progress of cultivation	<i>ib.</i>
90.	Progress of separate crops	95
91.	Present state of cultivation	97

Crops—

92.	Cotton	98
93.	Cultivation	99
94.	Sowing and growth	100
95.	Growth and picking	101
96.	Harvest	102
97.	Seed and outturn	103

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Crops—contd.</i>	
98. Juāri	103
99. Cultivation	104
100. Juāri harvest	105
101. Seed and outturn	106
102. Tūr	107
103. Wheat	<i>ib.</i>
104. Linseed and gram	108
105. Diseases and insect pests.. .. .	109
106. Fruit trees	<i>ib.</i>
107. Agricultural implements	110
108. Manure	111
<i>Irrigation—</i>	
109. Irrigation	112
<i>Cattle—</i>	
110. Cattle	112
111. Cows	114
112. Buffaloes	115
113. Horses	<i>ib.</i>
114. Small stock	116
115. Cattle diseases	<i>ib.</i>

CHAPTER V.—LOANS, PRICES, WAGES,
MANUFACTURES, TRADE AND
COMMUNICATIONS.

<i>Loans—</i>	
116. Government loans	118
117. Private loans	119
118. Indebtedness of cultivators	121
119. Moneylenders	123
<i>Prices—</i>	
120. Price of juāri	<i>ib.</i>
121. Prices of cotton	125
122. Prices of wheat, linseed and gram	126

Prices—contd.

123. Miscellaneous prices 127

Wages—

124. Village servants *ib.*

125. Agricultural servants .. 128

126. Day-labourers 129

127. Wages in towns 130

Manufactures—

128. Manufactures.. .. 131

129. Cotton factories 132

130. Weights and measures .. 133

131. Markets 134

132. Fairs 135

Trade—

133. Trade 136

Communications—

134. Railways and roads 138

135. Country roads 140

136. Development 141

137. Post and telegraph offices .. 142

CHAPTER VI.—FORESTS AND MINERALS.

Forests—

138. Classes of forest 144

139. Forest revenue 145

140. Izāra and jāgīr 146

141. Forest villages *ib*

Minerals—

142. Minerals 147

CHAPTER VII.—FAMINE.

Famine—

143. Early famines 148

144. The famine of 1896–1897 .. 149

Famine—contd.

145.	Food, water and fodder	..	151
146.	Government measures	..	152
147.	Gratuitous relief	..	153
148.	Loans and allowances	..	154
149.	The famine of 1899-1900	..	<i>ib.</i>
150.	Public health and crime	..	156
151.	Food, water and fodder	..	157
152.	Government measures	..	158
153.	Private relief	..	159
154.	Relief works	..	160
155.	Loans, etc.	..	161
156.	Effects	..	<i>ib.</i>
157.	Famine in Pusad tāluk	..	<i>ib.</i>

CHAPTER VIII.—LAND REVENUE
ADMINISTRATION.

158.	Sovereignty	..	163
159.	Territorial organisation	..	164
160.	Tāluk boundaries	..	165
161.	Early administration	..	166
162.	Early British administration	..	168
163.	Berār settlement system	..	171
164.	Yeotmāl settlements	..	174
165.	Revision settlements	..	176
166.	Special tenures. Kinds of tenure	..	177
167.	Izāra tenure	..	178
168.	Jāgīr tenure	..	180
169.	Pālampat tenure	..	181
170.	Inām tenure	..	<i>ib.</i>
171.	Cesses	..	182
172.	History of cesses	..	<i>ib.</i>
173.	Present amounts	..	183

CHAPTER IX.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

	<i>Page</i>
174. District organisation	185
175. Village organisation	186
176. Jāglyas and Kotwāls	189
177. Kotwāls	190
178. Crime	192
179. Civil justice	193
180. Registration	194
181. Statistics of revenue	<i>ib.</i>
182. Excise	195
183. District and Tāluk Boards	199
184. Municipalities	201
185. Village sanitation	<i>ib.</i>
186. Public Works	202
187. Police	203
188. Jail	<i>ib.</i>
189. Education	<i>ib.</i>
190. Medical relief	206

APPENDIX.—GAZETTEER OF TAHSILS, TOWNS,
IMPORTANT VILLAGES, RIVERS AND HILLS.*Name of Place—*

Adān River	209
Ajanta Hills	<i>ib.</i>
Anji	<i>ib.</i>
Arnāwatī River	210
Arni	<i>ib.</i>
Bābhulgaon	<i>ib.</i>
Bālāghāt	<i>ib.</i>
Bembalā River	211
Bhām	<i>ib.</i>
Bori	<i>ib.</i>
Chātwan	212

Name of Place—(contd.)

Dārwhā Tāluk	..	..	..	212
Dārwhā Town	..	..	..	215
Dhankī	..	..	..	216
Digras	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Durgā	..	..	..	217
Ghātanji	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Jawalā	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Kalam	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Kāp	..	..	..	218
Kāyar	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Kelāpur Tāluk	..	..	..	219
Kelāpur Village	..	..	..	222
Kinwat	..	..	..	223
Khuni	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Kothā	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Lārkhēr	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Lāk	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Lohāra	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Loni	..	..	..	224
Māhur	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Mahāgaon	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Mukutban	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Ner	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Nirgudā	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Pāndharkāwadā	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Pāhur	..	..	..	225
Pāyanghāt	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Pengangā River	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Pisgaon	..	..	..	226
Pus River	..	..	..	<i>ib.</i>
Pusad Tāluk	..	..	..	227
Pusad Town	..	..	..	230
Rālegaon	..	..	..	231

<i>Name of Place—(contd.)</i>	<i>Page</i>
Rawerī	231
Sātephal	<i>ib.</i>
Taponā	<i>ib.</i>
Umarkhed	<i>ib.</i>
Vidarbhā River	232
Wāghādi	<i>ib.</i>
Wardhā River	233
Widul	<i>ib.</i>
Wūn Tāluk	<i>ib.</i>
Wūn Town	236
Yeotmāl Tāluk	237
Yeotmāl Town	240