



CENSUS OF INDIA 1961
VOLUME XI
MYSORE

PART VI
VILLAGE SURVEY MONOGRAPHS

No. 13. VILLAGE BALEKUNDRI B. K.
Belgaum Taluk, Belgaum District

Editing
K. BALASUBRAMANYAM,
of the Indian Administrative Service,
Superintendent of Census Operations in Mysore.

1969

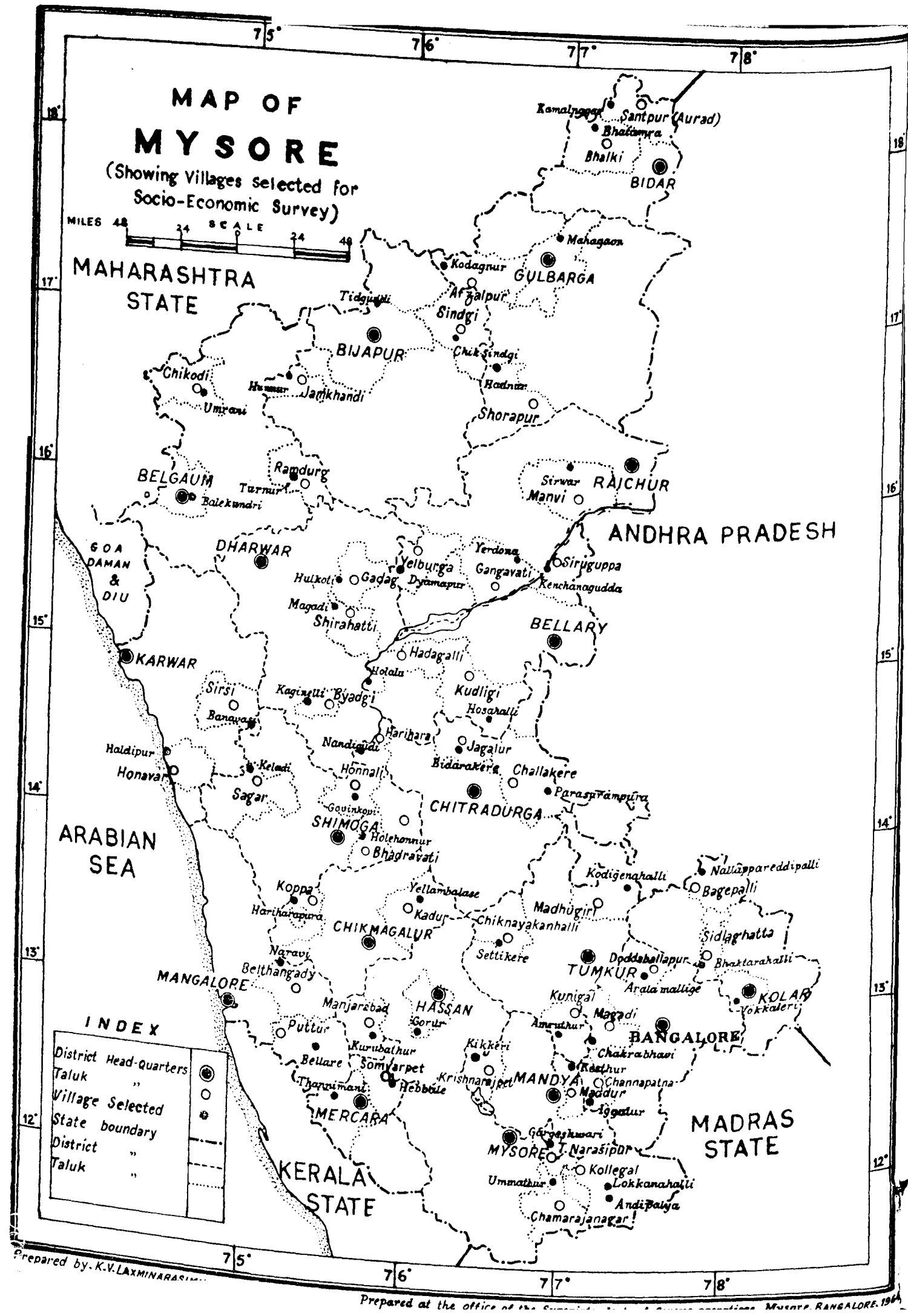
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FOREWORD

Apart from laying the foundations of demography in this sub-continent, a hundred years of the Indian Census has also produced 'elaborate and scholarly accounts of the variegated phenomena of Indian life — sometimes with no statistics attached, but usually with just enough statistics to give empirical underpinning to their conclusions.' In a country, largely illiterate, where statistical or numerical comprehension of even such a simple thing as age was liable to be inaccurate, an understanding of the social structure was essential. It was more necessary to attain a broad understanding of what was happening around oneself than to wrap oneself up in 'statistical ingenuity' or 'mathematical manipulation'. This explains why the Indian Census came to be interested in 'many by-paths' and 'nearly every branch of scholarship, from anthropology and sociology to geography and religion.'

In the last few decades the Census has increasingly turned its efforts to the presentation of village statistics. This suits the temper of the times as well as our political and economic structure. For even as we have a great deal of centralisation on the one hand and decentralisation on the other, my colleagues thought it would be a welcome continuation of the Census tradition to try to invest the dry bones of village statistics with flesh-and-blood account of social structure and social change. It was accordingly decided to select a few villages in every State for special study, where personal observation would be brought to bear on the interpretation of statistics to find out how much of a village was static and yet changing and how fast the winds of change were blowing and from where.

Randomness of selection was, therefore, eschewed. There was no intention to build up a picture for the whole State in quantitative terms on the basis of villages selected statistically at random. The selection was avowedly purposive; the object being as much to find out what was happening and how fast to those villages which had fewer reasons to choose change and more to remain lodged in the past as to discover how the more 'normal' types of villages were changing. They were to be primarily type studies which, by virtue of their number and distribution, would also give the reader a 'feel' of what was going on and some kind of a map of the country.

A brief account of the tests of selection will help to explain. A minimum of thirty-five villages was to be chosen with great care to represent adequately

geographical, occupational, and even ethnic diversity. Of this minimum of thirty-five, the distribution was to be as follows:

- a. At least eight villages were to be so selected that each of them would contain one dominant community with one predominating occupation, e.g. fishermen, forest workers, jhum cultivators, potters, weavers, salt-maker, quarry workers, etc. A village should have a minimum population of 400, the optimum being between 500 and 700.
- b. At least seven villages were to be of numerically prominent Scheduled Tribes of the State. Each village could represent a particular tribe. The minimum population should be 400, the optimum being between 500 and 700.
- c. The third group of villages should each be of fair size, of an old and settled character and contain variegated occupations and be, if possible, multi-ethnic in composition. By fair size was meant a population of 500 - 700 persons or more. The village should mainly depend on agriculture and be sufficiently away from the major sources of modern communication such as the district administrative headquarters and business centres. It should be roughly a day's journey from the above places. The villages were to be selected with an eye to variation in terms of size, proximity to city and other means of modern communication, nearness to hills, jungles and major rivers. Thus there was to be a regional distribution throughout the State of this category of villages. If, however, a particular district contained significant ecological variations within its area, more than one village in the district might be selected to study the special adjustments to them.

It is a unique feature of these village surveys that they rapidly outgrew their original terms of references, as my colleagues warmed up to their work. This proved for them an absorbing voyage of discovery and their infectious enthusiasm compelled me to enlarge the inquiry's scope again and again. It was just as well cautiously to feel one's way about at first and then venture further a field; and although it accounts to some extent for a certain unevenness in the quality and

VILLAGE SURVEY REPORT

ON

BALEKUNDRI, B. K.

Field investigation and first draft

Supervision, guidance

Final draft

Tabulation

Photographs

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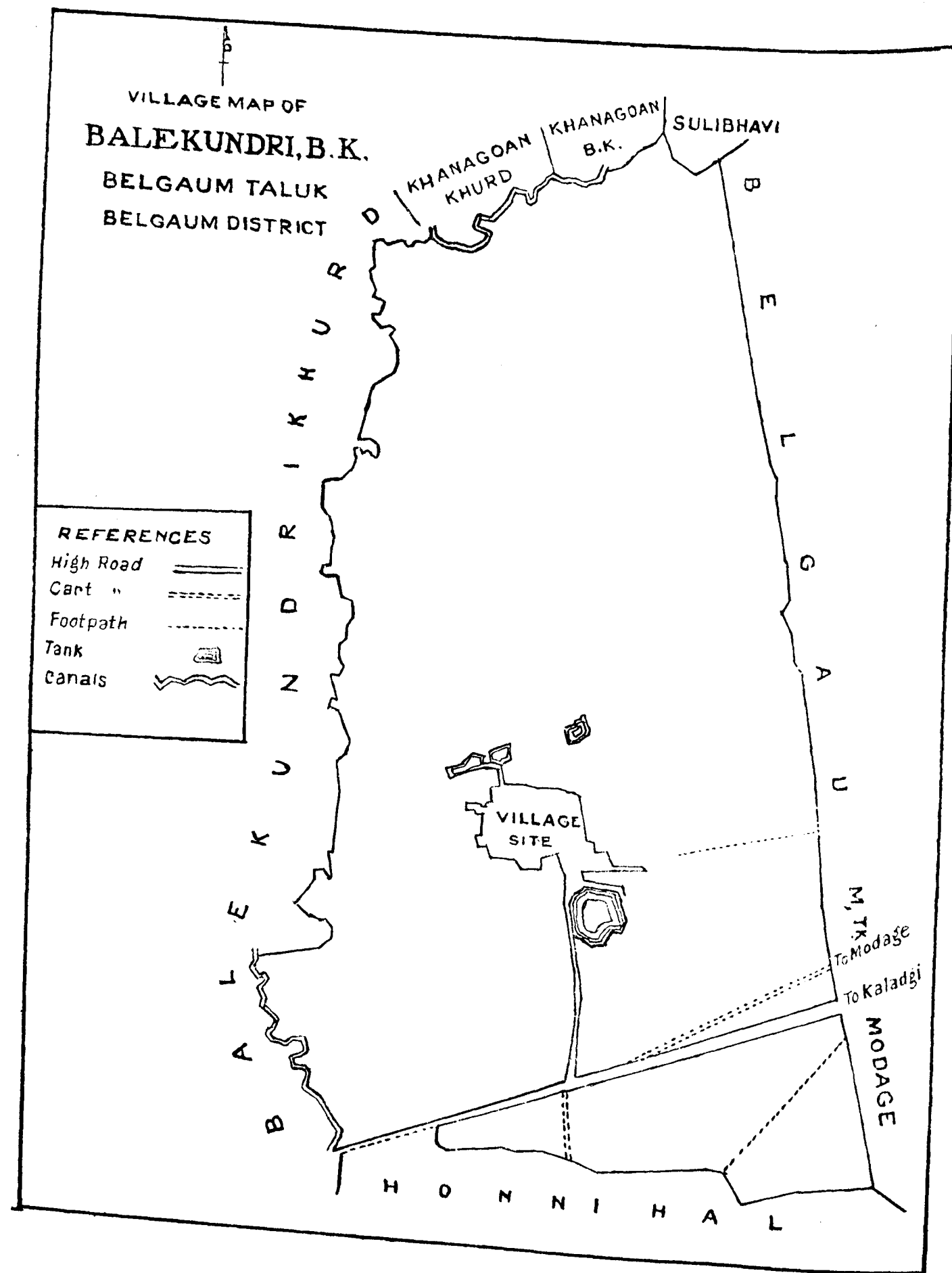
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THE VILLAGE

1706 A.D. in Devanagari which probably relates to the date of the temple. The broken stone image in Ramesvara temple has an inscription in Halekannada.

13. Lingayats, Muslims, Harijans and Brahmins appear to be the original settlers of the village. The village Headman (Patil) are Lingayats by caste, the village Accountants (Kulkarnis) are Brahmins, the

Harijans are Talwars and Kolkars and the Muslims are Sanadis and Mullas. The Marathas, it appears, came and settled down here along with the Inamdars, coming from the Jadhav family. It appears the Adilshahs of Bijapur alienated this village as a Service Inam to the Jadhav family about 300 years back. Then it formed a village in the Sangli State, till the merger of States in 1948.

TABLE I
Area, Houses and Population

Area in		Density Per Sq. Mile	Number of Houses	Number of Households	Population		
Acres	Hectares				Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1,084-20	438-95	786	186	210	1,337	692	645

TABLE II
Population by Age Groups

Total of all ages			0 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 29		30 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 59		60 +		Age not stated	
Persons	Males	Females	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1,337	692	645	82	93	117	104	112	94	62	48	59	52	52	52	51	47	75	60	54	52	28	43	...	...

TABLE III
Size and Composition of Households

Total No. of Households	Size of Households														
	Single member			2-3 members			4-6 members			7-9 members			10 members & above		

