



## Historical Tanks of Basavuru Kampana (With Special Reference To Heggere of Haveri)

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### ABSTRACT

*Abstract- Water is very much essential for our religious purpose as well as our daily life and we cannot think of anything without water. Hence, the Hindu spiritual activities are greatly attached with water and the members of royal families and rich individuals began to construct the tanks. Basa Uru or Basavuru-140 was an administrative unit (Kampana) in the province of Banavasi-12000 of ancient Kuntaladesa. This Kampana was existed from 8th century A.D. to 13th century A. D. Modern Hirebasuru of Hanagal taluk, was the head quarter. The rulers of Senavara and Khachara family ruled over Basavuru-140. The Kampana has many historical tanks. The Heggere is most important among them. The paper throws light on the historical tanks of Basa Vuru Kampana.*

**KEYWORDS :** The Basa Uru Province (Kampana), Historical Tanks of Basa Uru Kampana, The Heggere : A Historical Tank

### Introduction :

The Hindus are worshiper of the natural powers like Fire, Water, Wind, Sun, Rain and Rivers. They started worshipping these powers as objects of veneration. Among these, water is one of the most important powers. Later on water is associated with the worship of Vedic god Varuna. The successors of Aryans still continue this nature worship. Worship of water is one among them. Water is very much essential for our religious purpose as well as daily life and we cannot think of anything without water. Hence, the Hindu spiritual activities are greatly attached with water and the members of royal families and rich individuals began to construct the tanks.

The river banks are the base for the born of all civilizations in the world. It shows that water is most essential element to the mankind. Water is precious resource. We get water from rain and major portion of the rain which falls on the earth, is lost by evaporation and transpiration only a small portion available on the earth as fresh water. In ancient and medieval Karnataka, tank, well or the pond not only serves the need of drinking water but also provides irrigation facility to agriculture. Any person who constructed a well or tank which benefit of man and animals considered to have earned merit and a place in heaven (*Anusasanaparva of Mahabharata*) In ancient and medieval period construction of tank was done not only by kings, ministers and officials but also rich individuals, traders and sometimes even by the ordinary people. Some tanks were built by collectively. In ancient period, the king advised and give suggestions to his subjects to build the new tanks, repaired the old damaged tanks and made gift of land for maintenance of tanks (*Arthashastra* by Kautilya)

### The Basa Uru Province (Kampana)

Basa Uru or Basavuru-140 was an administrative unit (*Kampana*), in the province of Banavasi-12000 of ancient Kuntaladesa. This *Kampana* was existed from 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. to 13<sup>th</sup> century A. D. Modern Hirebasuru of Hanagal *taluk*, was the head quarter. The rulers of Senavara and Khachara family ruled over Basavuru-140. It was covered presently the area of eastern parts of Hanagal *taluk* and western parts of Haveri and Byadagi *taluks*. The river *Varada* was bonded the northern and eastern borders of Basavuru *Kampana*. This *Kampana* attained prosperity in the field of economy and culture. Many inscriptions of this area refer construction of many tanks for irrigation and other purposes.

### Historical Tanks of Basa Uru Kampana

In many places of Basavuru *Kampana*, inscriptions refer the construction, renovation and the maintenance of tanks and gifts granted for the same purpose. They are;

**Mallur Tank-** Mallur of Byadagi *taluk* was one of the villages comes

under Basavuru -140. One of the Mallur inscriptions refers that the reign of Trilokyamallaadeva (1059 A D). It states that Rajaditya of the Jimutavahana lineage and Khechara family who was the *Nadgavunda* of the division of 140 went with his wife Pampadevi, to Mallavura made a gift of land and of taxes for the tank of the place (SII Vo-XVIII, No-65). Another grant of land for the same tank made by *Mahaas-andivigrihi, Manevergade* and *Dhandanayaka Gundamayya* is also recorded.

**Devagiri Tank-**Devagiri is one of the important historical places from the Kadamba period. Presently it is in Haveri *taluk*. It was also under Basavuru 140 in ancient and medieval period. One of the inscriptions of Devagiri dated A D 1102, states that Tribhuvanasingi Pandit, who was governing Devagiri, Tammuge Kalasuru and other divisions, made a grant of land for the installation of god Tribhuvanavara. It also refers to a tank built by him to the east of Tammuge. The grant was made into the hands of the Twelve *Devaputras* (SII Vo-XVIII, No-105).

**Kaginele Tank-** Kaginele was the sub unit of Basavuru -140 and the inscriptions referred it as Kaginele-12. Presently Kaginele is in Byadagi *taluk*. The inscription of Kaginele itself refers the reign of Tribhuvanamallaadeva dated A.D. 1122. The record eulogies of Kalagavunda and Kali Shetti and latter built a temple of Siva at Kaginele and a tank for feeding horses, water sheds and gardens. It further records the gift of land made by Kala Gavunda to the temple of god Brahmesvara, built by Kali Shetti (SII Vo-XVIII, No-120). This inscription also refers flower garden, betel nut garden, paddy fields and it shows that the tank was built for the purpose of irrigation.

### The Heggere : A Historical Tank

From ancient and medieval period Haveri was famous for a beautiful historical Siddesvara temple, an Agrahara and Heggere. Heggere is one of the largest historic and ancient reservoirs in Haveri *taluk*. An inscription of Haveri belonging to the reign of Trailokyamallaadeva, dated A. D. 1157 states that Heggade Rudradeva and other *Karanas* made grant of money and taxes to the tank at the *Agrahara* town Haveri. Rudradeva is stated to be a subordinate of Kesiraja who was a subordinate of Kalachuri Bijjala, bears some of the permanent titles. The tank is stated and it has been constructed by the mythical king Nala in *Kritayuga* (S I I Vo-XVIII, No-159). Another inscription of the Kalachuri Bijjaladeva, states that *Sunkavergade* and *Dandanayaka Ratnabhata* made gifts of land to the tank and to the gods Siddesvara and Indresvara.

An undated Inscription found near Ganesh temple at Haveri refers to the reign of Vira Kandaradeva. According to this Chamundaraya who was a subordinate of the king and was governing from his capital

Puligere revived the grant of the *Agrahara* town of Haveri. The grant states to have been formally protected by the Hoysala Ballala, but later on it lapsed owing to the activities of unrighteous persons. From the context it appears that the inscription records the tradition that the mythical king Nala founded an *Agrhara* town of Haveri and he also constructed a tank. It seems that the town was called Nalapuri (S. I. I. Vo. XVIII, No-242).

For the first time the Heggere tank is mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> century inscription of Kalachuri ruler. The tank has a catchment area of 647 acres and must have supplied water for the irrigation of a large area. The tank was accomplished by throwing up an earthen embankment on the southern side of the tank; it runs about 1800mts, the embankment is 16 mts thick at the base and 6 mts at the top. The height of the embankment from the floor of the tank is 15 mts, the top surface of the embankment used as road for the carts. The embankment had slope on both sides, the water side of the bund waivered with small boulders and stones. The rear side of the bund was strengthened with loads of earth and rammed well. The makers of the tank intended to provide the water for agriculture purpose.

The embankment was provided with two sluices, for irrigation of the plain below and these two sluices now not remained as perfect as when they were built. Both the sluices were built on the same principles. Now they are not working condition. The cannels on opposite sides of the sluices filled with silt, hence they are not functioning.

The work is provided with waste weirs, one at the east side and another at the west side of the embankment. The east waste weir measuring 84 mts length and 10 mts width. The height of waste weir is previously 3.5feet but now the small scale irrigation department raises the height up to 06 feet. The west waste weir is small and it runs about 30 mts in length.

Due to negligence of government and as well as public now the tank is not in good condition. The public converted it in to an agricultural land and encroached the area of tank. The bottom of the tank is filled with silt and covered with bushes; instead of removing the silt the small scale irrigation department increased the height of the waste

wire up to the bond of the tank. The National Highway Authority used the soil of this tank according their convenience to construct the highway. This historic tank now appears like a big pond. It is because there is no sufficient rain every year and the feeder canals from Hommaradi and Kaginele tanks which supply the water in rainy season are not in good condition. There are two sluices to this tank which are not in working condition

For the development of the Heggere tank some of the local leaders organized a committee. This committee is creating the awareness of this historic tank by organizing rallies and conducting lectures. Many memorandums were submitted to the respective authorities, District Commissioner and Chief Minister of Karnataka. If it develops no doubt it attracts the various birds from various countries of the world and also it may become a tourist spot.

### Conclusion

Haveri district has a rich and long history. It was a seat of many ruling dynasties. Even it is famous for historical monuments, tanks and is a place of many religious saints. The Basa Vuru province in the region was an administrative unit in the ancient past. The province was famous for her many historical tanks. Those tanks were very much helpful for drinking water and irrigational activities. Therefore, they enjoyed the royal patronage. The members of royal families and rich individuals made grants for construction and maintenance of those tanks. It was considered as sacred and a part of religious activity. In recent years, these tanks have lost their importance due to the negligence. If the policy makers turned their attention towards the tanks it may helpful to upliftment of water levels and promotion of agriculture.

The public has a great reverence on Heggere, when there is a shortage of rain; they celebrate a *parva* and pray for rain. Another belief that the soil or mud of this tank has a power to eradicate the skin diseases especially white patches (K. P. Daily, dt 17 Feb 2008 ).The public around the villages of Heggere celebrate a fair every year on the eve of *Makarāsankranti*. Some Naga sculptures are in a single chamber cell built on east embankment of Heggere.