

# Bangalore Pete

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This view of the ruined fort at Bangalore

- **Bengaluru Pete** (Kannada: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪೇಟೆ) is an area of Bangalore city. It which was established by Kempegowda I (c. 1510–1570) in 1537.
- Kempegowda also called the Pete he built as his "gandu bhoomi" or "Land of Heroes"
- Pete (Kannada: Market centre) forms a well-defined body of markets which were associated with various trades and professions of the populace in the locality markets and given the names of trades pursued in such markets.

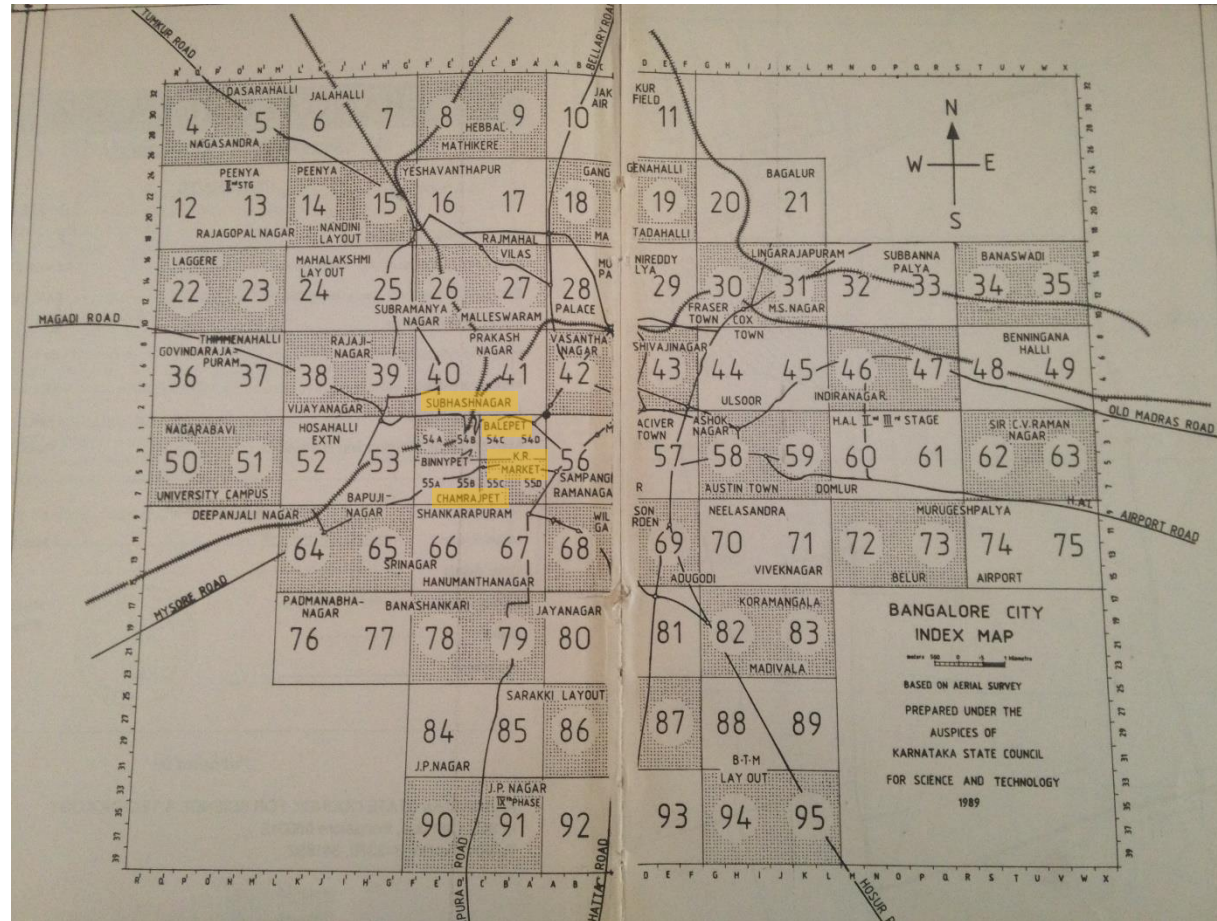


The Bengaluru Pete, established in **1537** around the Mud Fort built by Kempe Gowda I as the nucleus, with an area of 2.24 square kilometres (1 sq mi), has expanded to the present sprawling city of 741 square kilometres (286 sq mi) embracing multi ethnic population of 5.7 million; as per Census of India 2001, the present population is reported as 6.6 million (2007)] and is thus known by the epithet "the Boom city".



In the year 1120 AD, the Hoysala King, Veera Ballala ruled the Deccan plateau or the South of India. On a hunting trip in the forest he lost his way. After a long search he met an old lady in the forest who offered him shelter for the night and served him some boiled beans for dinner. To show his gratitude to this lady for having saved his life, the King constructed a town and named it as Benda Kalooru which means town of boiled beans.

- The town had two main streets: Chickkapete Street ran east-west and Doddapete Street ran north-south.















Their intersection formed Doddapete square — the heart of then Bangalore. Kempe Gowda's successor, Kempe Gowda II, built temples, tanks including Kempapura and Karanjikere tanks and four watching towers that marked Bengaluru's boundary

The four watchtowers built at the time in Bengaluru are still seen today.

in Lal Bagh

near Kempambudhi tank

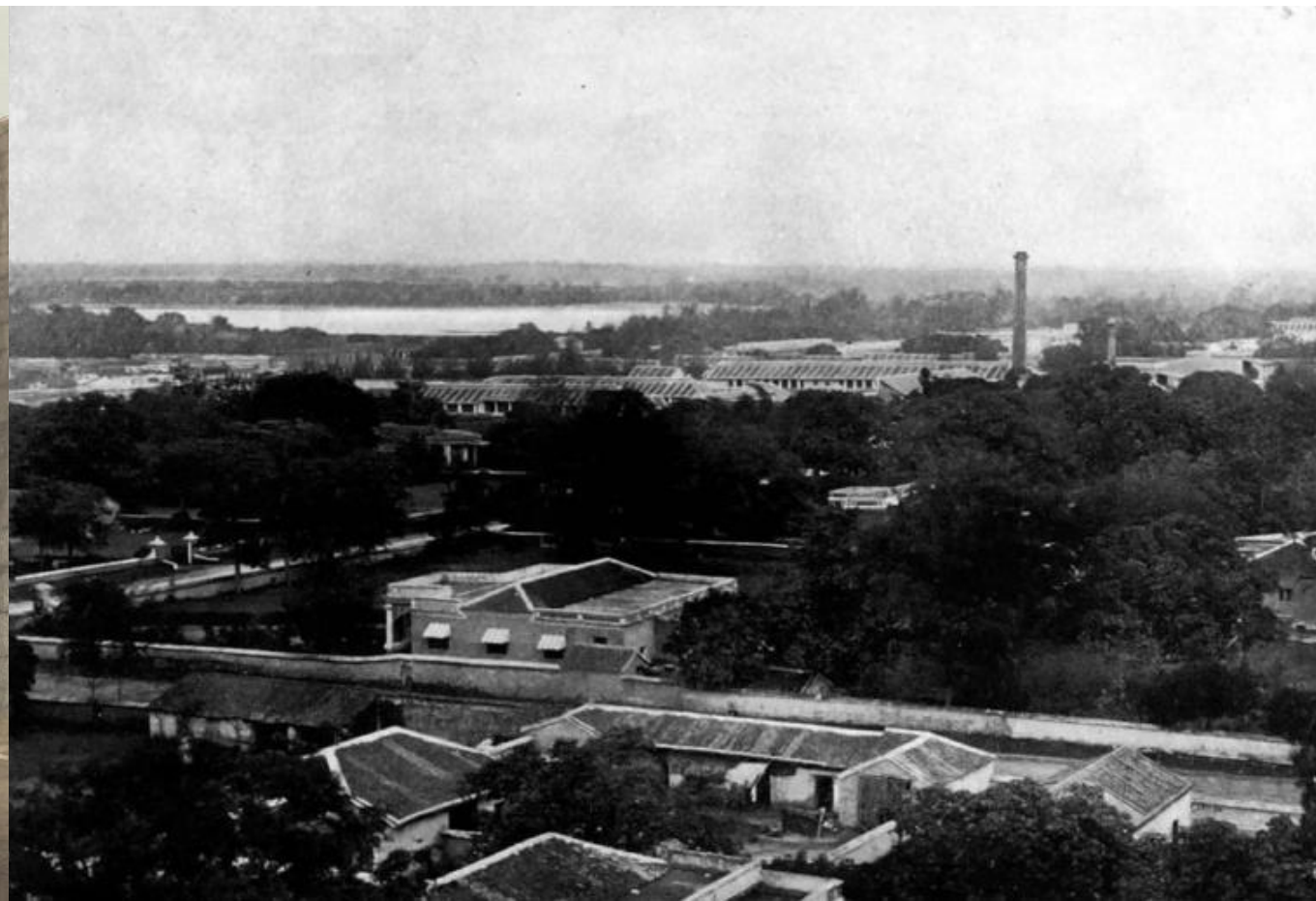
near Ulsoor Lake

near Mekhri Circle





- Soon after Hyder Ali took over the Mysore State, Bangalore served as a political seat and continued to do so until the end of the Tipu Sultan period in 1799. After the establishment of the British Cantonment in 1809, the pete area lost its importance as the new town had modern features such as wide roads and a drainage system.
- Residents of the pete began to look at new spaces outside the pete region, and this led to the dismantling of old houses, which were modified into commercial establishments. Amazingly, all the houses of the old capital town are now shops or commercial establishments. Nowhere else in south India can such an example be found of an entire old city being converted into a commercial area.

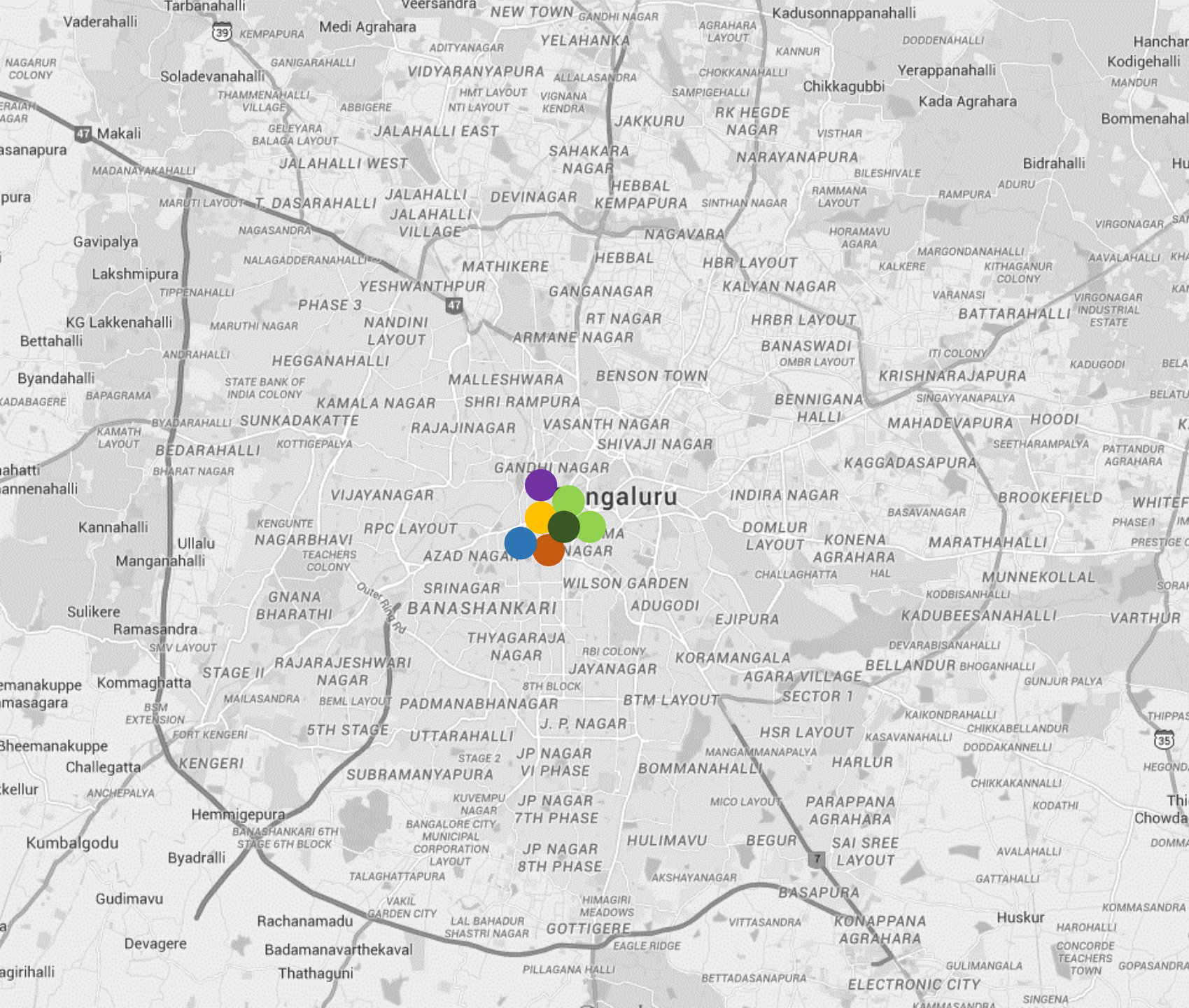




- The Pete was divided into main and sub-roads. There are some references to old street names such as 'Surya beedi' running from east to west and 'Chandra beedi' running from north to south, now called Chickpete Road and Avenue Road respectively. The nucleus of the Pete was Chandra beedi, also known as Dodda pete beedi.
- The Pete contains a large number of temples, dargahs and mosques, built in different periods from 1537 onwards. The Ranganatha temple, Jain temple, mosque in Taramandala (said to have been built by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb), the Tawakkal Mastan Shah Dargah and Rice Memorial Church are a few of the important monuments in the area.







The well known markets are the **Tharagupete**—**market** for **grains**, the **Balepete** —**for Bangles** and **musical instruments**, the **Chikkapete** and the **Nagarthpete** for **textile trade**, the **Ballapurpete** and the **Ganigarapete** market where **oil** is extracted by people of the Ganiga community, the Tigalarapete—flower market of gardeners, the **Cubbonpete** — **textile** manufacture by people of the Devanga community



Chikpete



Malleshwaram Market





KR Market



Russell Market

