

Bangalore

For the Visitor

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The City

Bangalore

Bengaluru (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು) Bangalore — metropolitan city —	
	
Clockwise from top: UB City, Infosys, Glass house at Lal Bagh, Vidhana Soudha, Shiva statue, Bagmane Tech Park	
	
Bengaluru (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು) Location of Bengaluru (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು) in Karnataka and India	
Coordinates	12°58′0″N 77°34′0″E
Country	India
Region	Bayaluseeme

State	Karnataka
District(s)	Bangalore Urban
Mayor	Sharadamma ^[1]
Commissioner	Shankarlinge Gowda ^[2]
Population • Density • Metro	8425970 ^[3] (3rd) (2011) • 11371 /km ² (29451 /sq mi) • 8499399 ^[4] (5th) (2011)
Time zone	IST (UTC+05:30)
Area • Elevation	741.0 square kilometres (286.1 sq mi) ^[5] • 920 metres (3020 ft)
Website	Bengaluru ^[6]

Bangalore English pronunciation: /ˈbæŋɡəlɔːr, bæŋɡəˈlɔːr/, also called **Bengaluru** (Kannada: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, *Bengalūru* [?] [ˈbɛŋɡəluːru] ([?] listen)) is the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. Bangalore is nicknamed the Garden City and was once called a pensioner's paradise.^[7] Located on the Deccan Plateau in the south-eastern part of Karnataka, Bangalore is India's third most populous city^[8] and fifth-most populous urban agglomeration. Bangalore is well known as a hub for India's information technology sector.

Today as a large city and growing metropolis, Bangalore is home to many of the most well-recognized colleges and research institutions in India. Numerous public sector heavy industries, software companies, aerospace, telecommunications, and defence organisations are located in the city. Bangalore is known as garden city because of its beautiful gardens. Bangalore is also known as the *Silicon Valley of India* because of its position as the nation's leading IT exporter.^[9] ^[10] ^[11] A demographically diverse city, Bangalore is a major economic and cultural hub and the second fastest growing major metropolis in India.^[12]

Etymology

The name Bangalore is an anglicised version of the town's name in the Kannada language, *Bengalūru*. The earliest reference to the name "Bengaluru" was found in a ninth century Western Ganga Dynasty stone inscription on a "vīra gallu" (ವೀರಗಲ್ಲು) (literally, "hero stone", a rock edict extolling the virtues of a warrior). In this inscription found in Begur, "Bengaluru" is referred to as a place in which a battle was fought in 890. It states that the place was part of the Ganga Kingdom until 1004 and was known as "Bengaval-uru", the "City of Guards" in Halegannada (Old Kannada).^[13] An article, published in *The Hindu*, states:

An inscription, dating back to 890 CE, shows Bangalore is over 1,000 years old. But it stands neglected at the Parvathi Nageshwara Temple in Begur near the city... written in Hale Kannada (Old Kannada) of the 9th century CE, the epigraph refers to a Bengaluru war in 890 in which Buttanachetty, a servant of Nagatta, died. Though this has been recorded by historian R. Narasimhachar in his *Epigraphia of Carnatica* (Vol. 10 supplementary), no efforts have been made to preserve it.^[14]

An apocryphal, though popular, anecdote recounts that the 11th century Hoysala king Veera Ballala II, while on a hunting expedition, lost his way in the forest. Tired and hungry, he came across a poor old woman who served him boiled beans. The grateful king named the place "benda-kaal-uru" (Kannada: ಬೆಂದಕಾಳೂರು) (literally, "town of boiled beans"), which eventually evolved into "Bengalūru".^[15] ^[16]

On 11 December 2005, the Government of Karnataka announced that it had accepted a proposal by Jnanpith Award winner U. R. Ananthamurthy to rename Bangalore to *Bengaluru*.^[17] On 27 September 2006, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) passed a resolution to implement the proposed name change,^[18] which was accepted by the Government of Karnataka and it was decided to officially implement the name change from 1 November

2006.^[19] ^[20] However, this process has been currently stalled due to delays in getting clearances from the Union Home Ministry.^[21]

History

After centuries of the rule of the Western Gangas, Bangalore was captured by the Cholas in 1024 which later passed on to the Chalukya-cholas in 1070. In 1116 the Hoysala Empire, overthrew the Cholas and extended its rule over Bangalore. Modern Bangalore was founded by a vassal of the Vijayanagara Empire, Kempe Gowda I, who built a mud-brick fort and a Nandi Temple in the proximity of modern Bangalore in 1537. Yelahanka is one of the oldest towns in Karnataka and it is believed that it has a history of more than 500 years. It is the home town for the ruling king called Kempegowda (under a provision given by Krishnadevaraya) who built Bangalore City. Kempe Gowda referred to the new town as his "gandubhūmi" or "Land of Heroes".^[16]



Lady Curzon hospital in the Bangalore Cantonment was established in 1864 and later named after the first wife of the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon.

Within Bangalore, the town was divided into smaller divisions – each called a "pete" (IPA: [peːteː]). The town had two main streets – Chikkapete Street, which ran east-west, and Doddapete Street, which ran north-south. Their intersection formed the Doddapete Square — the heart of Bangalore. Kempe Gowda's successor, Kempe Gowda II, built four famous towers that marked Bangalore's boundary. Myth says that the city would befall great calamity if it extended beyond these four towers.^[22] During the Vijayanagara rule, Bangalore was also referred to as "Devarāyanagara" and "Kalyānapura" ("Auspicious City").

After the fall of the Vijayanagara Empire, Bangalore's rule changed hands several times. In 1638, a large Bijapur army led by Ranadulla Khan and accompanied by Shahji Bhonsle defeated Kempe Gowda III and Bangalore was given to Shahaji as a jagir. In 1687, the Mughal general Kasim Khan defeated Ekoji I/Venkoji, son of Shahaji, and then sold Bangalore to Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar (1673–1704) of Mysore for 300,000 rupees.^[23] ^[24] After the death of Krishnaraja Wodeyar II in 1759, Hyder Ali, Commander-in-Chief of the Mysore Army, proclaimed himself the de facto ruler of Mysore. The kingdom later passed to Hyder Ali's son Tippu Sultan, known as the Tiger of Mysore.



Bangalore Palace, built in 1887, was home to the rulers of Mysore

Bangalore fort was captured by the British armies under Lord Cornwallis on 21 March 1791 during the Third Anglo-Mysore War and formed a centre for British resistance against Tippu Sultan,^[25] being incorporated into the British Indian Empire after Tippu Sultan was defeated and killed in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799). The British returned administrative control of the Bangalore "pētē" to the Maharaja of Mysore, choosing only to retain the Cantonment under their jurisdiction. The 'Residency' of Mysore State was first established in Mysore in 1799 and later shifted to Bangalore in the year 1804. It was abolished in the year 1843 only to be revived in 1881 at Bangalore and to be closed down permanently in 1947, with Indian independence. The British, found it easier to recruit employees in the Madras Presidency and relocate them to cantonment area during this period. The Kingdom of Mysore relocated its capital from Mysore city to Bangalore in 1831.^[26] Two important developments during this period contributed to the rapid growth of the city: the introduction of telegraph connections and a rail connection to Madras in 1864.

In the 19th century, Bangalore essentially became a twin city, with the "pētē", whose residents were predominantly Kannadigas, and the "cantonment" created by the British, whose residents were predominantly Tamils.^[27] Bangalore was hit by a plague epidemic in 1898 that dramatically reduced its population. New extensions in Malleswaram and Basavanagudi were developed in the north and south of the pētē. Telephone lines were laid to help co-ordinate anti-plague operations, and a health officer was appointed to the city in 1898. In 1906, Bangalore became the first city in India to have electricity, powered by the hydroelectric plant situated in Shivanasamudra. Bangalore's reputation as the Garden City of India began in 1927 with the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the rule of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV. Several projects such as the construction of parks, public buildings and hospitals were instituted to beautify the city. After Indian independence in August 1947, Bangalore remained in the new Mysore State of which the Maharaja of Mysore was the Rajapramukh.^[28]

Public sector employment and education provided opportunities for Kannadigas from the rest of the state to migrate to the city. Bangalore experienced rapid growth in the decades 1941–51 and 1971–81, which saw the arrival of many immigrants from northern Karnataka. By 1961, Bangalore had become the sixth largest city in India, with a population of 1,207,000.^[29] In the decades that followed, Bangalore's manufacturing base continued to expand with the establishment of private companies such as MICO (Motor Industries Company), which set up its manufacturing plant in the city. Bangalore experienced a growth in its real estate market in the 1980s and 1990s, spurred by capital investors from other parts of the country who converted Bangalore's large plots and colonial bungalows into multi-storied apartments.^[30] In 1985, Texas Instruments became the first multinational corporation to set up base in Bangalore. Other information technology companies followed suit and by the end of the 20th century, Bangalore had firmly established itself as the *Silicon Valley of India*.

Geography

Bangalore lies in the southeast of the South Indian state of Karnataka. It is in the heart of the Mysore Plateau (a region of the larger Precambrian Deccan Plateau) at an average elevation of 920 m (3,018 ft). It is positioned at 12°58'N 77°34'E and covers an area of 741 km² (286 mi²).^[31] The majority of the city of Bangalore lies in the Bangalore Urban district of Karnataka and the surrounding rural areas are a part of the Bangalore Rural district. The region consisting the Bangalore Urban and Rural districts is known as the Bangalore (region). The Government of Karnataka has carved out the new district of Ramanagara from the old Bangalore Rural district.

The topology of Bangalore is flat except for a central ridge running NNE-SSW. The highest point is Vidyaranya pura Doddabettahalli, which is 962 m (3,156 ft) and lies on this ridge.^[32] No major rivers run through the city, though the Arkavathi and South Pennar cross paths at the Nandi Hills, 60 km (37 mi.) to the north. River Vrishabhavathi, a minor tributary of the Arkavathi, arises within the city at Basavanagudi and flows through the city. The rivers



Tipu Sultan's Palace, Bangalore



Bangalore city map, circa 1924 from "Murray's 1924 Handbook".



The Hesaraghatta Lake in Bangalore

Arkavathi and Vrishabhavathi together carry much of Bangalore's sewage. A sewerage system, constructed in 1922, covers 215 km² (133 mi²) of the city and connects with five sewage treatment centers located in the periphery of Bangalore.^[33]

In the 16th century, Kempe Gowda I constructed many lakes to meet the town's water requirements. The Kempambudhi Kere, since overrun by modern development, was prominent among those lakes. In the earlier half of 20th century, the Nandi Hills waterworks was commissioned by Sir Mirza Ismail (Diwan of Mysore, 1926–41 CE) to provide a water supply to the city. Currently, the river Kaveri provides around 80% of the total water supply to the city with the remaining 20% being obtained from the Thippagondanahalli and Hesaraghatta reservoirs of the Arkavathi river.^[34] Bangalore receives 800 million litres (211 million US gallons) of water a day, more than any other Indian city.^[35] However, Bangalore sometimes does face water shortages, especially during the summer season- more so in the years of low rainfall. A random sampling study of the Air Quality Index (AQI) of twenty stations within the city indicated scores that ranged from 76 to 314, suggesting heavy to severe air pollution around areas of traffic concentration.^[36]

Bangalore has a handful of freshwater lakes and water tanks, the largest of which are Madivala tank, Hebbal lake, Ulsoor lake and Sankey Tank. Groundwater occurs in silty to sandy layers of the alluvial sediments. The Peninsular Gneissic Complex (PGC) is the most dominant rock unit in the area and includes granites, gneisses and migmatites, while the soils of Bangalore consist of red laterite and red, fine loamy to clayey soils.^[36]

Vegetation in the city is primarily in the form of large deciduous canopy and minority coconut trees. Though Bangalore has been classified as a part of the seismic zone II (a stable zone), it has experienced quakes of magnitude as high as 4.5.^[37]

Climate

Bangalore experiences a tropical savanna climate (Köppen climate classification *Aw*) with distinct wet and dry seasons. Due to its high elevation, Bangalore usually enjoys a more moderate climate throughout the year, although occasional heat waves can make things very uncomfortable in the summer.^[38] The coolest month is January with an average low temperature of 15.1 °C and the hottest month is April with an average high temperature of 33.6 °C.^[39] The highest temperature ever recorded in Bangalore is 38.9 °C (recorded in March 1931) and the lowest ever is 7.8 °C (recorded in January 1884).^[40] ^[41] Winter temperatures rarely drop below 12 °C (54 °F), and summer temperatures seldom exceed 34–35 °C (<100 °F). Bangalore receives rainfall from both the northeast and the southwest monsoons and the wettest months are September, October and August, in that order.^[39] The summer heat is moderated by fairly frequent thunderstorms, which occasionally cause power outages and local flooding. The heaviest rainfall recorded in a 24-hour period is 179 millimetres (7.0 in) recorded on 1 October 1997.^[42]

Climate data for Bangalore													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	27.0 (80.6)	29.6 (85.3)	32.4 (90.3)	33.6 (92.5)	32.7 (90.9)	29.2 (84.6)	27.5 (81.5)	27.4 (81.3)	28.0 (82.4)	27.7 (81.9)	26.6 (79.9)	25.9 (78.6)	29.0 (84.2)
Average low °C (°F)	15.1 (59.2)	16.6 (61.9)	19.2 (66.6)	21.5 (70.7)	21.2 (70.2)	19.9 (67.8)	19.5 (67.1)	19.4 (66.9)	19.3 (66.7)	19.1 (66.4)	17.2 (63.0)	15.6 (60.1)	18.6 (65.5)
Rainfall mm (inches)	2.7 (0.106)	7.2 (0.283)	4.4 (0.173)	46.3 (1.823)	119.6 (4.709)	80.6 (3.173)	110.2 (4.339)	137.0 (5.394)	194.8 (7.669)	180.4 (7.102)	64.5 (2.539)	22.1 (0.87)	969.8 (38.181)
Avg. rainy days	0.2	0.5	0.4	3.0	7.0	6.4	8.3	10.0	9.3	9.0	4.0	1.7	59.8
Sunshine hours	263.5	248.6	272.8	258.0	241.8	138.0	111.6	114.7	144.0	173.6	189.0	210.8	2366.4
<i>Source no. 1: WMO</i> ^[43]													

Source no. 2: HKO (sun only, 1971–1990)^[44]

Civic administration

Bangalore City officials	
Municipal Commissioner:	Shankarlinge Gowda ^[45]
Chief Commissioner of Income Tax:	M.L Aggarwal
Mayor:	Sharadamma ^[1]
Police Commissioner:	Jyothi Prakash Mirji ^[46]

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP, *Greater Bangalore Municipal Corporation*) is in charge of the civic administration of the city.^[47] It was formed in 2007 by merging 100 wards of the erstwhile *Bangalore Mahanagara Palike*, with seven neighbouring City Municipal Councils, one Town Municipal Council and 110 villages around Bangalore.^[47] The BBMP is run by a city council composed of 250 members, including 198 councillors representing each of the wards of the city and 52 other elected representatives, consisting of members of Parliament and the state legislature.^[48] Elections to the council are held once every five years, with results being decided by popular vote. Members contesting elections to the council usually represent one or more of the state's political parties. A mayor and deputy mayor are also elected from among the elected members of the council.^[48] Elections to the BBMP were held on March 28, 2010, after a gap of three and a half years since the expiry of the previous elected body's term, and the Bharatiya Janata Party was voted into power – the first time it had ever won a civic poll in the city.^[49]

Bangalore's rapid growth has created several problems relating to traffic congestion and infrastructural obsolescence that the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike has found challenging to address. A 2003 *Battelle Environmental Evaluation System* (BEES) evaluation of Bangalore's physical, biological and socioeconomic parameters indicated that Bangalore's water quality and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems were close to *ideal*, while the city's socioeconomic parameters (traffic, quality of life) scored poorly.^[50] The unplanned nature of growth in the city resulted in massive traffic gridlocks that the municipality attempted to ease by constructing a flyover system and by imposing one-way traffic systems. Some of the flyovers and one-ways mitigated the traffic situation moderately but were unable to adequately address the disproportionate growth of city traffic.^[50] In 2005 both the Central Government and the State Government allocated considerable portions of their annual budgets to address Bangalore's infrastructure.^[51] The BBMP works with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Agenda for Bengaluru Infrastructure and Development Task Force (ABIDe) to design and implement civic projects. Bangalore generates about 3,000 tonnes of solid waste per day, of which about 1,139 tonnes are collected and sent to composting units such as the Karnataka Composting Development Corporation. The remaining solid waste collected by the municipality is dumped in open spaces or on roadsides outside the city.^[52]



The Karnataka High Court is the supreme judicial body, housed in the historic Athara Kacheri, in Karnataka and is located in Bangalore.



The Vikasa Soudha, situated adjacent to the Vidhana Soudha, houses many state ministries.

The Bangalore City Police (BCP) has six geographic zones, includes the Traffic Police, the City Armed Reserve, the Central Crime Branch and the City Crime Record Bureau and runs 86 police stations, including two all-women police stations.^[53] As capital of the state of Karnataka, Bangalore houses important state government facilities such as the Karnataka High Court, the Vidhana Soudha (the home of the Karnataka state legislature) and Raj Bhavan (the residence of the Governor of Karnataka). Bangalore contributes three members to India's lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, and 28 members to the Karnataka State Assembly.^[54]

Electricity in Bangalore is regulated through the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM),^[55] while water supply and sanitation facilities are provided by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).^[56]

Economy

Bangalore's ₹ 52346 crore (US\$9.95 billion) economy (2006–07 Net District Income) makes it one of the major economic centres in India,^[57] with the value of city's exports totalling ₹ 43221 crore (US\$8.21 billion) in 2004–05.^[58] With an economic growth of 10.3%, Bangalore is the fastest growing major metropolis in India,^[59] and is also the country's fourth largest fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) market.^[60] With a per capita income of ₹ 74709 (US\$1419.47) in 2006–07,^[57] the city is the third largest hub for high net worth individuals and is home to over 10,000 dollar millionaires and about 60,000 super-rich people who have an investable surplus of ₹ 4.5 crore (US\$1 million) and Rs. 50 lakh (US\$ 95000) respectively.^[61]



The headquarters of Infosys, India's second largest IT company, is located in Bangalore

The headquarters of several public sector undertakings such as Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) are located in Bangalore. In June 1972 the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established under the Department of Space and headquartered in the city.

Bangalore is called the *Silicon Valley of India* because of the large number of information technology companies located in the city which contributed 33% of India's Rs. 144214 crore (US\$ 27 billion) IT exports in 2006–07.^[62] Bangalore's IT industry is divided into three

main clusters — Software Technology Parks of India (STPI); International Tech Park, Bangalore (ITPB); and Electronics City. UB City, the headquarters of the United Breweries Group, is a high-end commercial zone.^[63] Infosys and Wipro, India's second and third largest software companies are headquartered in Bangalore, as are many of the global *SEI-CMM Level 5 Companies*.

The growth of IT has presented the city with unique challenges. Ideological clashes sometimes occur between the city's IT moguls, who demand an improvement in the city's infrastructure, and the state government, whose electoral base is primarily the people in rural Karnataka.^[64] The encouragement of high-tech industry in Bangalore, for example, has not favoured local employment development, but has, instead, increased land values and forced out small enterprise.^[65] The state has also resisted the massive investments required to reverse the rapid decline in intra-city transport which has already begun to drive new and expanding businesses to other centers across India.^[66] Bangalore is a hub for biotechnology related industry in India and in the year 2005, around 47% of the 265 biotechnology companies in India were located here; including Biocon, India's largest biotechnology company.^[67]
[68]

Infosys, Wipro, iGate, Tata Consultancy Services, Accenture, Nokia Siemens Networks and US based companies like Texas Instruments, Google, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, Yahoo, Oracle Corporation, Cisco, Microsoft, Intuit and Intel have their research and development centers along with their corporate offices in Bangalore.

Transport

Air

Bangalore is served by the Bengaluru International Airport (IATA: **BLR**, ICAO: **VOBL**) which started operations from 24 May 2008. The city was earlier served by the HAL Airport which was India's fourth busiest airport.^[69] ^[70] ^[71] Kingfisher Airlines has its registered office in Bangalore.^[72] It is now the fourth busiest airport in India in terms of passenger traffic and the number of air traffic movements (ATMs) with about 280 per day.^[73] The airport is around 40 km from the city centre. The most hassle-free way to commute is by taxi. Meru cabs and Easy cabs have taxis present in the rank at the airport. There are also certain private cab companies.



The new Bengaluru International Airport is located in Devanahalli.

Rail

A rapid transit system called the *Namma Metro* is being built. A 7 km stretch from Bayappanahalli to MG Road was opened to public on 20 October 2011.^[74] Once completed, this will encompass a 42.3 km (26.3 mi) elevated and underground rail network comprising 41 stations. It is expected to connect central locations in Bangalore to Devanahalli and the Chikballapur regions.^[75] ^[76] This much-delayed project is the city's primary response to the worsening intra-city transport infrastructure which has become a major deterrent to continued business growth.^[66]

Bangalore comes under the South Western Railway zone of the Indian Railways. Bangalore City Railway station and Yesvantpur Junction connect it to the rest of the country through the Indian Railways. The *Bangalore Rajdhani Express* connects the city to New Delhi, the capital of India. Bangalore is also connected by rail to most cities in Karnataka, as well as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bhopal, and other major cities in India.^[77] The sprawling Rail Wheel Factory is Asia's second largest manufacturer of Wheel & Axle for Railways and headquartered in Yelahanka, Bangalore.

Road

Three-wheeled, green and yellow auto-rickshaws, referred to as *autos*, are a popular form of transport. They are metered and can accommodate up to three passengers. Taxi services within Bangalore is provided by several operators. Taxis, commonly called *City Taxis*, are usually available only on call. Taxis are metered and are generally more expensive than auto-rickshaws.

Buses operated by Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) are an important means of public transport available in the city, and are highly reliable.^[79] While commuters can buy tickets on boarding these buses, BMTC also provides an option of a bus pass to frequent users.^[79] BMTC runs air-conditioned luxury buses on major routes, and also operates shuttle services from various parts of the city to the Bengaluru International Airport.^[80] The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation operates 6,918 buses on 6,352 schedules, connecting Bangalore with other parts of Karnataka as well as other states. The main bus depots that BMTC maintains are the Kempegowda Bus Station, locally known as "Majestic", Shantinagar Bus Depot, and Shivajinagar Bus Depot.



BMTC's Volvo buses are a popular mode of commuting within Bangalore.^[78]

Demographics

Population Growth			
Census	Pop.		%±
1971	1654000		—
1981	2922000		76.7%
1991	4130000		41.3%
2001	5101000		23.5%
2011	8425970		65.2%

Source: Census of India^[81] ^[82]



The Nandi Temple is a famous temple located in Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

Religion in Bangalore

Religion	Percent
Hindus	79.3%
Muslims	13.3%
Christians	5.8%
Jains	1.1%
Others†	1%

Distribution of religions

†Includes Sikhs (<0.1%), Buddhists (<0.1%).

With an estimated population of 5.8 million in 2001,^[5] Bangalore is the third most populous city in India and the 28th most populous city in the world.^[83] Bangalore was the fastest-growing Indian metropolis after New Delhi between 1991–2001, with a growth rate of 38% during the decade. Residents of Bangalore are referred to as *Bangaloreans* in English *Bengaloorinavaru* in Kannada.^[84]

The cosmopolitan nature of the city has resulted in the migration of people from other states to Bangalore,^[85] which has in recent years given rise to tensions between immigrants and locals.^[86] Scheduled Castes and Tribes account for 14.3% of the city's population. Besides Kannada, other major languages spoken in the city are Tamil, Telugu, Hindi,

English.^[87] A good number of Konkani speakers have settled in Bangalore since last century from Canara districts of Karnataka and Goa.^[88] Similarly, Marathi is spoken by a small but significant minority of the society.^[89]

According to the 2001 census of India, 79.4% of Bangalore's population is Hindu, roughly the same as the national average.^[90] Muslims comprise 13.4% of the population, which again is roughly the same as the national average, while Christians and Jains account for 5.8% and 1.1% of the population, respectively, double that of their national averages. Anglo-Indians also form a substantial group within the city. Women make up 47.5% of Bangalore's population. Bangalore has the second highest literacy rate (83%) for an Indian metropolis, after Mumbai. Roughly 10% of Bangalore's population lives in slums^[91] —a relatively low proportion when compared to other cities in the developing world such as Mumbai (50%) and Nairobi (60%).^[92] The 2008 National Crime Records Bureau statistics indicate that Bangalore accounts for 8.5% of the total crimes reported from 35 major cities in India.^[93]

Culture

Dasara, a traditional celebration of the old Kingdom of Mysore, is the state festival and is celebrated with great vigour.

Bangalore is known as the *Garden City of India*^[94] because of its greenery and the presence of many public parks, including the Lal Bagh and Cubbon Park.

The city celebrates its most important and oldest festival, "Karaga Shaktyotsava" or Bangalore Karaga.^[95] Deepavali, the "Festival of Lights", transcends demographic and religious lines and is another important festival. Other traditional Indian festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Ugadi, Sankranti, Eid ul-Fitr, and Christmas are also celebrated.

Bangalore is home to the Kannada film industry, which churns out about 80 Kannada movies each year.^[96]

The diversity of cuisine is reflective of the social and economic diversity of Bangalore. Roadside vendors, tea stalls, and South Indian, North Indian, Chinese and Western fast food are all very popular in the city. Udupi restaurants are very popular and serve predominantly vegetarian, regional cuisine. Bangalore has a wide and varied mix of restaurant types and cuisines and Bangaloreans deem eating out as an intrinsic part of their culture, so much that Bangalore Restaurant Week — an event that involved some of the best restaurants in Bangalore — was held between November 12 to 21, 2010.

Bangalore is also a major center of Indian classical music and dance. Classical music and dance recitals are widely held throughout the year and particularly during the Ramanavami and Ganesh Chaturthi festivals. The Bengaluru Gayana Samaja has been at the forefront of promoting classical music and dance in the city.

The city has a vibrant English and regional language theater scene with organizations such as Ranga Shankara and Chowdiah Memorial Hall leading the way. Bangalore is also sometimes called as the "Pub Capital of India" and is one of the premier places to hold international rock concerts.^[97]



The Lal Bagh Glass House at night; famous for its flower shows, it is now a heritage monument.









Bangalore Karaga, one of the oldest and most important festivals in the heart of Bangalore.



Yakshagana – a theatre art often performed in the town hall

Sister cities

Bangalore is currently twinned with three sister cities:^[98] ^[99] ^[100]

City	Region	Country
Minsk	 Minsk Region	 Belarus
San Francisco	 California	 United States
Cleveland	 Ohio	 United States

Sports

Cricket is the most popular sport in Bangalore. A significant number of national cricketers have come from Bangalore, including former Indian cricket team captains Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble. Some of the other players who have represented India include Javagal Srinath, Gundappa Vishwanath, Syed Kirmani, E. A. S. Prasanna, Venkatesh Prasad, Sunil Joshi, Robin Uthappa, Vinay Kumar, Roger Binny and Abhimanyu Mithun. Many children play gully cricket on the roads and in the city's many public fields. Bangalore's main international cricket stadium is the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 55,000^[101] and has hosted matches during the 1987 Cricket World Cup, 1996 Cricket World Cup and the 2011 Cricket World Cup. The Chinnaswamy Stadium is also the home of India's National Cricket Academy.



The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is Bangalore's premier cricket stadium.

The Indian Premier League franchise Bangalore Royal Challengers, the Premier Hockey League franchise Bangalore Hi-fliers, and the Karnataka Premier League franchisees Bangalore Brigadiers and Provident Bangalore are based in the city. India's Davis Cup team members, Mahesh Bhupathi^[102] and Rohan Bopanna^[103] also reside in Bangalore. The city hosts the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Bangalore Open tournament annually. Beginning September 2008, Bangalore has also been hosting the Kingfisher Airlines Tennis Open ATP tournament annually.^[104] Bangalore is also home to the Bangalore Rugby Football Club (B.R.F.C)

Bangalore has a number of elite clubs, like Century Club, The Bangalore Golf Club, the Bowring Institute and the exclusive Bangalore Club, which counts among its previous members Winston Churchill and the Maharaja of Mysore.^[105] The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited SC is based in Bangalore. Other sports personalities from Bangalore include national swimming champion Nisha Millet, world snooker champion, Pankaj Advani and former All England Open badminton champion Prakash Padukone.

Education

Until the early 19th century, education in Bangalore was mainly run by religious leaders and restricted to students of that religion.^[106] The western system of education was introduced during the rule of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, when two schools were established in Bangalore. Subsequently, Wesleyan Mission established a school in 1851 and the Bangalore High School which was started by the Government in 1858.^[107]

In post-independent India, schools for young children are mainly based on the kindergarten form of education.^[108] Primary and secondary education in Bangalore is offered by various schools which are affiliated to one of the boards of education, such as the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC), ICSE, CBSE, IB and NIOS.^[109] Schools in Bangalore are either government run or are private (both aided and un-aided by the government).^[110] After completing their secondary education, students either attend Pre University (PUC) or continue High School in one of three *streams* – Arts, Commerce or Science.^[111]

Alternatively, students may also enroll in Diploma courses. Upon completing the required coursework, students enroll in general or professional degrees in universities. The Bangalore University, established in 1886, provides affiliation to about 500 colleges, with a total student enrollment exceeding 300,000. The university has two campuses within Bangalore – Jnanabharathi and Central College.^[112]

Indian Institute of Science, which was established in 1909 in Bangalore, is the premier institute for scientific research and study in India.^[113] Nationally renowned professional institutes such as the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), National Institute of Design (NID), National Law School of India University (NLSIU), the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B), the Indian Statistical Institute and International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B) are located in Bangalore.^[113] The city is also home to the premier mental health institution in India National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS). Bangalore also has some of the best medical colleges in the country, like St. John's Medical College (SJMC) and Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI).

Media

The first printing-press was established in Bangalore in the year 1840.^[114] In 1859, *punjab kesri* became the first English bi-weekly newspaper to be published in Bangalore^[115] and in 1860, *Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini* became the first kannada newspaper to be circulated in Bangalore.^[114] Currently, *Vijaya Karnataka* and *The Times of India* are the most widely circulated Kannada and English newspapers in Bangalore respectively, closely followed by the *Prajavani* and *Deccan Herald* both owned by the Printers (Mysore) Limited – the largest print media house in Karnataka.^{[116] [117]}

Bangalore got its first radio station when All India Radio, the official broadcaster for the Indian Government, started broadcasting from its Bangalore station on 2 November 1955.^[118] The radio transmission was AM, until in 2001, Radio City became the first private channel in India to start transmitting FM radio from Bangalore.^[119] In recent years, a number of FM channels have started broadcasting from Bangalore.^[120] The city also has India's Oldest Amateur (Ham) Radio Club – Bangalore Amateur Radio Club VU2ARC^{[121] [122]} celebrating its Golden Jubilee along with Hamfest India HFI 2009 this November^[123] amongst various clubs for HAM radio enthusiasts.^[124] There are two operational community radio stations in Bangalore called Radio Active and Ramana Voices, managed by Mahaveer Jain College and Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy of the Blind (SRMAB), respectively. The latter is being co-managed by a media advocacy group in Bangalore called VOICES.



Indian Institute of Science – the premier institute of science in India.

Bangalore has a number of newspapers and magazines that cater to the varied interests. number of news channels operate in the city, as well as in the state too. Magazines like Open and 080 cater to lifestyle, citizen issues and fashion, newspapers like Mid-Day, Bangalore Mirror, Vijaya Karnataka provide localised news updates. On the web, Explocity provides listings information. Deccan Herald, The Times of India and The Hindu provide e-paper services. Bangalore got its first look at television when Doordarshan established a relay centre here and started relaying programs from 1 November 1981.^[125] A production center was established in the Doordarshan's Bangalore office in 1983, thereby allowing the introduction of a news program in Kannada on 19 November 1983.^[125] Doordarshan also launched a Kannada satellite channel on 15 August 1991 which is now named DD Chandana.^[125] The advent of private satellite channels in Bangalore started in September 1991 when Star TV started to broadcast its channels.^[126] Though the number of satellite TV channels available for viewing in Bangalore has grown over the years,^[127] the cable operators play a major role in the availability of these channels, which has led to occasional conflicts.^[128] Direct To Home services are also available in Bangalore now.^[129]

The first Internet service provider in Bangalore was STPI, Bangalore which started offering internet services in early 1990s.^[130] This Internet service was however restricted to corporates, until VSNL started offering dial-up internet services to the general public at the end of 1995.^[131] Currently, Bangalore has the largest number of broadband Internet connections in India.^[132]

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- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike – (Municipal government) (<http://www.bbmp.gov.in/>)
- Official Website of Bangalore Development Authority (<http://www.bdabangalore.org/>)
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- Bangalore travel guide from Wikitravel

History of Bangalore

Bangalore ([ⓘ] /ˈbæŋɡəlɔːr/; Kannada: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, IPA: [bɐŋɡaɭuːru]) is the capital and the largest city of the Indian state of Karnataka.

Bengaluru as it is known today was founded by Kempe Gowda, who built a mud fort in the city. Bengaluru is called IT capital of India.

Gangas, Cholas and Hoysalas



The Hoysala architecture is noted for its elaborate motifs.

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. Later in 1537, a local chieftain, Kempe Gowda helped design this town and give it its modern shape.

The Gangas ruled Gangavadi from Kolar starting c. 350 and later shifted their capital to Talakadu. Their rule often extended over large parts of Tamilnadu.^[1] An article, published in *The Hindu*, states^[2] :

An inscription, dating back to 890 AD, shows Bengaluru is over 1,000 years old. But it stands neglected at the Parvathi Nageshwara Temple in Begur near the city ... written in hale Kannada (old Kannada) of the 9th Century, the epigraph refers to a Bengaluru war in 890 AD in which Buttanachetty, a servant of

Nagatta, died.

Though this has been recorded by historian R. Narasimhachar in his "Epigraphia of Carnatica" (Vol. 10 supplementary), no efforts have been made to preserve it. *The inscription stone found near Begur reveals, that the district was part of the Ganga kingdom ruled from Gangavadi until 1024 C.E and was known as 'Benga-val-oru', the City of Guards in old Kannada.* In 1024 C.E, the Chola Empire captured the city. Today, little evidence can be seen of this period. A small village in south Bengaluru and one in Anantapur district bear the Chola name but the residents are of native stock. The later Gangas often fought alongside the Chalukyas, Rastrakutas and the Hoysalas. In 1117 C.E, the Hoysala king Veera Ballala II defeated the Cholas in the battle of Talakad which lead to the downfall of the Chola empire. There are also theories that the name has a floral origin and is derived from the tree Benga or "Ven-kai", also known as the Indian Kino Tree (*Pterocarpus marsupium*).^[3] The city as it is known today was named by Kempe Gowda I.

There is an inscription dated 1628 C.E in the Ranganatha Temple in Telugu. The English translation of which is "Be it well, When Rajadhi-Raja-Parameshwara Vira Pratapa Vira-Maha-Deva Maharaya seated in the Jewel throne was ruling the empire of the world: When of the Asannavakula, the Yelahanka Nadu Prabhu Kempanacharya-Gauni's grandson Kempe Gowda's son, Immadi Kempegaunayya was ruling a peaceful kingdom in righteousness with the decline of the Vijayanagar empire, the eclipse of the rule of Yelahanka Nadu Prabhus took place at the dawn of the 17th century."

Vijayanagara and Kempe Gowda

Kempe Gowda I (1510–1570), Modern Bengaluru was founded by a feudatory of the Vijayanagara Empire, who built a mud fort in 1537. Kempe Gowda also referred to the new town as his "gandu bhoomi" or "Land of Heroes".^[4] Within Bangalore, the town was divided into *petes* (IPA: [pete]) or market. 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.^[5]

The four watching towers built then in Bengaluru are still seen today.

- in Lal Bagh
- near Kempambudhi tank
- near Ulsoor Lake

- near Mekhri Circle

Sultanate of Bijapur

It was captured by the Maratha chief Shahaji Bhonsle, father of Shivaji, then working for the Adil Shahi sultans of Bijapur in 1638. During the siege of Bengaluru, Shivaji's elder brother **Shambaji** was killed by Shahaji's rivals, led by the Ghorpade of Mudhol, for which Shivaji was to later exact revenge.

Mughal Influence

After conquering the Sultanate of Bijapur, the Mughals under the commandership of Khasim Khan, then arrived in Bengaluru, which was then ruled by Shivaji's brother Vyankoji Bhonsale as a jagir (fief) of Bijapur in 1686; Vyankoji retreated further south.

The Mughals in turn leased Bengaluru to the subsidiary Kingdom of Mysore's ruler Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar in 1689. In 1759, the Wodeyar's Commander-in-Chief Haider Ali made himself the *de facto* ruler of the Mysore Kingdom, including Bengaluru, but maintained the Wodeyars as a figurehead.

Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan

When Hyder Ali died, his son Tipu Sultan deposed the weak Wodeyar, proclaimed himself Sultan. Under Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali the state progressed economically and trade flourished with many foreign nations through the ports of Mangalore. Several attempts by the British to capture Bengaluru were repulsed by the Mysorean Army, most notably in 1768 when Hyder Ali forced Colonel Nicholson of the British Army to lift his siege of Bengaluru. The French under Napoleon had promised to drive the British from India. Tipu successfully stalled the British in the first, second and third Anglo-Mysore Wars.

Bangalore fort was captured by the British armies under Lord Cornwallis on 21st March 1791 during the Third Anglo-Mysore War and formed a centre for British resistance against Tippu Sultan,^[6] being incorporated into the British Indian Empire after Tippu Sultan was defeated and killed in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799). A prominent role was played by the Madras Sappers in the capture of the Fort and subsequent development of the cantonment and the city. Bangalore is the permanent home of this Indian Army regiment since the mid-nineteenth century.

Wodeyars and British East India

Upon the passing of Tipu Sultan, the Wodeyars returned to the throne of Mysore, and therefore Bengaluru, although only as figureheads. Bengaluru remained part of British East India until Indian independence in August, 1947.

The 'Residency' of Mysore State was first established at Mysore in 1799 and later shifted to Bengaluru in the year 1804. It was abolished in the year 1843 only to be revived in 1881 at Bengaluru and finally to be closed down in 1947 with the departure of the British. (<http://rajbhavan.kar.nic.in/history/fromresi-rajbhavan.htm>)

The British troops which were first stationed at Srirangapatna after the fall of Tipu Sultan in 1799 were later shifted to the Civil and Military Station of Bengaluru in 1809.

The salubrious climate of Bengaluru attracted the ruling class and led to the establishment of the famous Military Cantonment, a city-state close to the old town of Bengaluru. The area became not only a military base for the British



Lady Curzon hospital in the Bengaluru Cantonment was established in 1864 and later named after the first wife of the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon.

but also a settlement for a large number of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and missionaries.

In Cantonment, the names of many of its streets are derived from military nomenclature — Artillery Road, Brigade Road, Infantry Road and Cavalry Road. The South Parade (now known as Mahatma Gandhi Road), was to the south of the Parade Ground. The Plaza theatre was constructed in the year 1936 on the South Parade and was used by the soldiers for viewing Hollywood movies. The British representative maintained a residence within the cantonment area and his quarters was called the Residency and hence the name Residency Road. Around 1883, three developments were added to the cantonment — Richmond Town, Benson Town and Cleveland Town.

The Cantonment has retained its distinct atmosphere through the years with large populations of Anglo-Indians and Tamils from the British era.



Bangalore Palace, built in 1887, was home to the rulers of Mysore

Water shortages

The lack of water supplies within the city of Bengaluru was first tackled in 1873 by building a chain of tanks called Miller's Tanks in the Cantonment area. Prior to this water was pumped from the Halsoor, Shoolay and Pudupacherry tanks which were insufficient for the Civil and Military Station. The city area drew water from a *Karanjee* system from Dharmambudhi and Sampangi tanks. The Great Famine of 1875-77 and the failure of the monsoons led to drying of all these water bodies. During this time water carriers *Bihistis* supplied water. In 1882 the Sankey Reservoir was constructed at the cost of 5.75 Lakhs by Richard Hiram Sankey and collected rain water from an area of 2.5 square miles (6.5 km²). The water was said to be unsavoury and impure. On June 23, 1896 water was pumped from the Chamarajendra Reservoir (Hessarghatta) which dammed the waters of the Arkavathi. This tank went dry for one year in 1925. It was built at the cost of Rs 20,78,641. On 15 March 1933, the Thippagondanahalli Reservoir was put into service. On 21 May 1961, the Integrated Water Supply Scheme was inaugurated. This system collected water from the Cauvery river near Halgur and pumped up at Thorekadanahalli, Voddaradoddi, Gantakanadoddi and Tatguni and stored in reservoirs at Mount Joy, Byrasandra and High Grounds.^[7]

Plague-Crisis of 1898

Bengaluru was hit by a plague epidemic in 1898. The epidemic took a huge toll and many temples were built during this time, dedicated to the goddess Mariamma. The crisis caused by this epidemic catalyzed the improvement and sanitation of Bengaluru and, in turn, improvements in sanitation and health facilities helped to modernize Bengaluru.

Telephone lines were laid to help coordinate anti-plague operations. Regulations for building new houses with proper sanitation facilities came into effect. A health officer was appointed in 1898, the city was divided into four wards for better coordination and the Victoria Hospital was inaugurated in 1900 by Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of British India.



Karnataka High Court.

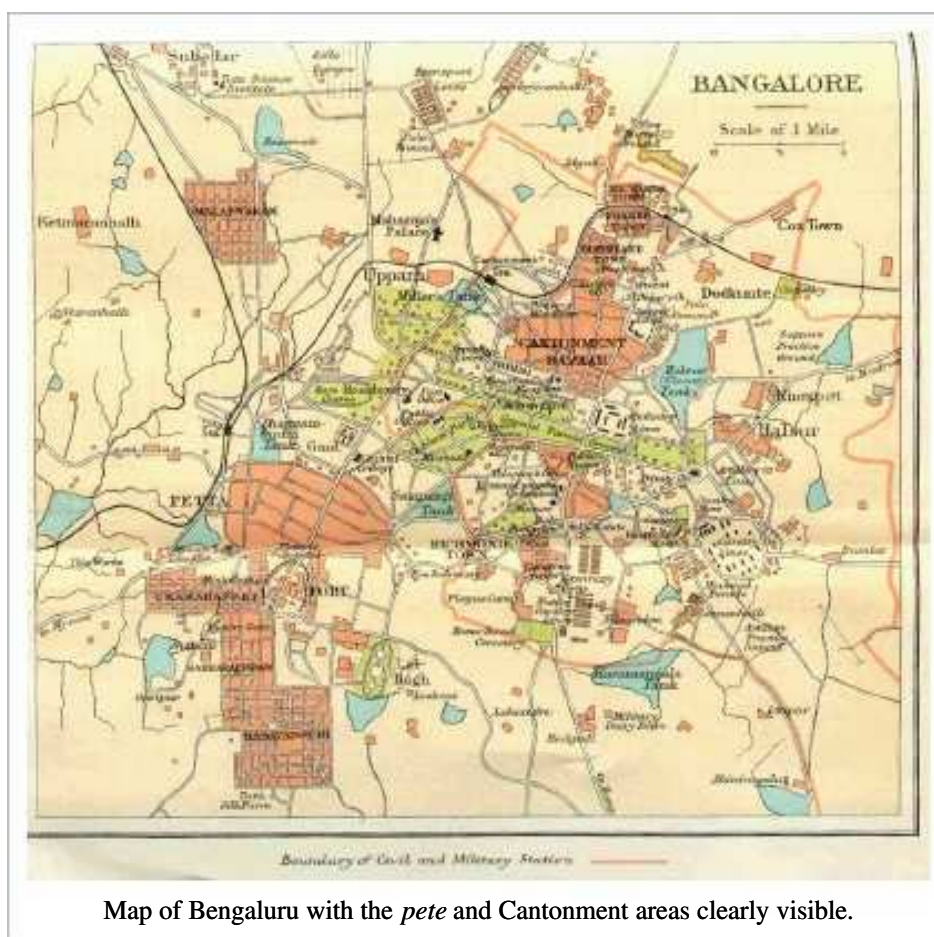
1900s

In 1906, Bengaluru became the first city in Asia to have electricity, supplied by the hydroelectric plant situated in Shivanasamudra.

Basavanagudi (named either after the Basavanna Temple or the Bull Temple in the village of Sunkenahalli) and Malleshwaram (named after the Kadu Malleshwara Temple in the old Mallapura village) were created during this time. Kalasipalyam (near the old fort) and Gandhinagar were created between 1921-1931. Kumara Park came into existence in 1947 and Jayanagar in 1948.



The Vidhana Soudha, the seat of Karnataka's legislative assembly, is located in Bengaluru.



Map of Bengaluru with the *pete* and Cantonment areas clearly visible.

In the 1960s and 1970s an elite neighborhood was developed in the former gardens of the Bengaluru Palace, which was known as "Palace Orchards" now called Sadhashivnagar. The area is now home to many of the wealthy members of Bengaluru society, celebrities and politicians.

Post Independence Industrialization created further growth of extended from the Peenya Industrial Area in the west to Indiranagar and Whitefield in the east; from Yelahanka Town in the north, to J.P. Nagar in the south. Presently the city has overtaken these places to spread out, as the city chokes with over 7 million population and ever choking road traffic.

Garden City

Prior to developments in the last few decades, Bengaluru was a well laid out city with many spacious gardens, which provided it the moniker, the Garden City. It therefore served traditionally as a retreat for people from the surrounding South Indian regions. Even today, the city administration manages to maintain several excellent parks. Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh are just two such examples.

Notes

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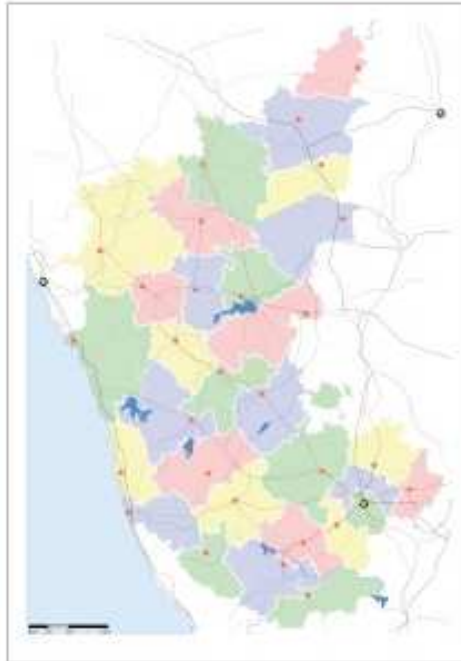
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Karnataka





Map of Karnataka

Coordinates (Bangalore): 12°58′13″N 77°33′37″E

Country	 India
Established	1956-11-01
Capital	Bangalore
Largest city	Bangalore
Districts	30
Government	
• Governor	Hansraj Bhardwaj
• Chief Minister	D. V. Sadananda Gowda (BJP)
• Legislature	Bicameral (224 + 75 seats)
Area ^[1]	
• Total	191791 km ² (74050.9 sq mi)
Area rank	8th
Population (2011) ^[2]	
• Total	61130704
• Rank	9th
• Density	318.7/km ² (825.5/sq mi)
Time zone	IST (UTC+05:30)
ISO 3166 code	IN-KA
Official language	Kannada ^[3] ^[4]
Literacy	69.3% (18th)
HDI	 0.600 (medium)
HDI rank	25th (2005)
Website	karunadu.gov.in ^[5]

Karnataka (Kannada: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ [kəɾˈnɑːʈəkɑː] (listen)) is a state in South West India. It was created on 1 November 1956, with the passing of the States Reorganisation Act and this day is annually celebrated as Karnataka Rajyotsava (Formation Day). It is the land of Kannadigas, Tuluvas, Konkans and Kodavas. Originally known as the *State of Mysore*, it was renamed *Karnataka* in 1973.^[6]

Karnataka is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, Goa to the northwest, Maharashtra to the north, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the southeast, and Kerala to the southwest. The state covers an area of 191976 square kilometres (74122 sq mi), or 5.83% of the total geographical area of India. It is the eighth largest Indian state by area, the ninth largest by population and comprises 30 districts. Kannada is the most widely spoken and official language of the state.

The two main river systems of the state are Krishna and its tributaries (Bhima, Ghataprabha, Vedavati, Malaprabha, and Tungabhadra) in the north, and the Cauvery and its tributaries (Hemavati, Shimsha, Arkavathi, Lakshmana Thirtha and Kabini) in the south. Both these rivers flow eastward and fall into the Bay of Bengal.

Though several etymologies have been suggested for the name Karnataka, the generally accepted one is that *Karnataka* is derived from the Kannada words *karu* and *nādu*, meaning *elevated land*. *Karu nadu* may also be read as *Karu* (black) and *nadu* (region), as a reference to the black cotton soil found in the Bayaluseeme region of Karnataka. The British used the word *Carnatic* (sometimes *Karnatak*) to describe both sides of peninsular India, south of the Krishna River.^[7]

With an antiquity that dates to the paleolithic, Karnataka has also been home to some of the most powerful empires of ancient and medieval India. The philosophers and musical bards patronised by these empires launched socio-religious and literary movements which have endured to the present day. Karnataka has contributed significantly to both forms of Indian classical music, the Carnatic (Karnataka Music) and Hindustani traditions. Writers in the Kannada language have received the most number of Jnanpith awards in India.^[8] Bangalore is the capital city of the state and is at the forefront of the rapid economic and technological development that India is experiencing.

History



Mallikarjuna temple and Kashi Vishwanatha temple at Pattadakal, North Karnataka built successively by the Chalukya Empire and Rashtrakuta Empire are UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Karnatakan pre-history goes back to a paleolithic hand-axe culture evidenced by discoveries of, among other things, hand axes and cleavers in the region.^[9] Evidence of neolithic and megalithic cultures have also been found in the state. Gold discovered in Harappa was found to be imported from mines in Karnataka, prompting scholars to hypothesize about contacts between ancient Karnataka and the Indus Valley Civilization ca. 3000 BCE.^{[10] [11]} Prior to the third century BCE, most of Karnataka formed part of the Nanda Empire before coming under the Mauryan empire of Emperor Ashoka. Four centuries of Satavahana rule followed, allowing them to control large areas of Karnataka. The decline of Satavahana power led to the rise of the earliest native kingdoms, the Kadambas and the Western Gangas, marking the region's emergence as an independent political entity. The Kadamba Dynasty, founded by Mayurasharma, had its capital at Banavasi;^{[12] [13]} the Western Ganga Dynasty

was formed with Talakad as its capital.^{[14] [15]}

These were also the first kingdoms to use Kannada in administration, as evidenced by the Halmidi inscription and a fifth-century copper coin discovered at Banavasi.^{[16] [17]} These dynasties were followed by imperial Kannada empires such as the Badami Chalukyas,^{[18] [19]} the Rashtrakuta Empire of Manyakheta^{[20] [21]} and the Western Chalukya Empire,^{[22] [23]} which ruled over large parts of the Deccan and had their capitals in what is now Karnataka. The Western Chalukyas patronised a unique style of architecture and Kannada literature which became a precursor to the Hoysala art of 12th century.^{[24] [25]}

Parts of modern-day Karnataka were occupied by the Chola Empire between 990-1210 AD.^[26] This process started under Rajaraja Chola I (985-1014) and continued under his son Rajendra Chola I (1014–1044).^[26] Initially Gangapadi, Nolambapadi and Tadigaipadi, all parts of modern Mysore, were conquered and annexed under Raja Raja Chola I. Rajendra Chola I "marched up to Donur, he also captured Banvasi, a good part of the Raichur doab and sacked Manyakheta" itself, which was the Western Chalukyan capital.^[26] During the time of the Chalukya ruler Jayasimha after his defeat by Rajendra Chola I, the Tungabhadra river was recognized tacitly as the boundary between the two kingdoms.^[26] During the rule of Rajadhiraja Chola I (1042–1056), Dannada, Kulpak, Koppam, the fortress of Kampili, Pundur, Yetagiri and the Chalukyan capital Kalyani were sacked.^[26] In 1053, Rajendra Chola II after defeating the Chalukyas in war advanced to Kollapura where he erected a pillar of victory before returning to his capital at Gangaikondacholapuram.^[27] In 1066, the Western Chalukya ruler Somesvara's forces were defeated by the next Chola ruler Virarajendra, who then again defeated the Western Chalukyas at Kudalasangama, and set up a pillar of victory on the banks of the Tungabhadra.^[28] In AD 1075 Kulottunga Chola I won a victory against Vikramaditya VI at Nangili in Kolar district and made himself the master of Gangavadi.^[29] The Cholas eventually lost Gangavadi in 1116 to the Hoysalas under Vishnuvardhana.^[26]



Hoysala Empire sculptural articulation in Belur.



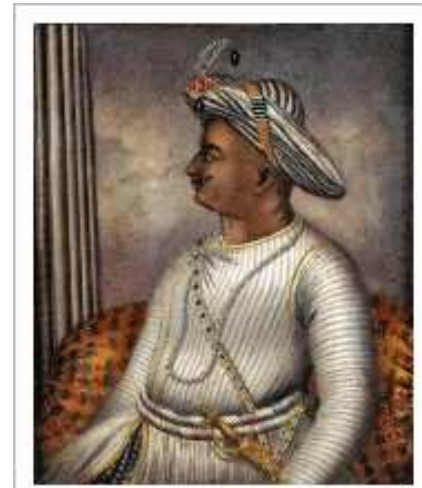
Statue of Ugranarasimha at Hampi (a World Heritage Site), located within the ruins of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

At the turn of the first millennium, the Hoysalas gained power in the region. Literature flourished during this time, which led to the distinctive Kannada literary metres and the construction of temples and sculptures adhering to the Vesara style of architecture.^{[30] [31] [32] [33]} The expansion of the Hoysala Empire brought minor parts of modern Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under its rule. In the early 14th century, Harihara and Bukka Raya established the Vijayanagara empire with its capital, *Hosapattana* (later named Vijayanagara), on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in the modern Bellary district. The empire rose as a bulwark against Muslim advances into South India, which it completely controlled for over two centuries.^{[34] [35]}

In 1565, Karnataka and the rest of South India experienced a major geopolitical shift when the Vijayanagara Empire fell to a confederation of Islamic sultanates in the Battle of Talikota.^[36] The Bijapur Sultanate, which had risen after the demise of the Bahmani Sultanate of Bidar, soon took control of the Deccan; it was defeated by the Moghuls in the late 17th century.^{[37] [38]} The Bahamani and

Bijapur rulers encouraged Urdu and Persian literature and Indo-Saracenic architecture, the Gol Gumbaz being one of the high points of this style.^[39] During the sixteenth century, Konkani Hindus migrated to Karnataka, mostly from Salcette, Goa,^[40] while during the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the Mangalorean Catholics migrated to South Canara, in Karnataka, especially from Bardes, Goa, as a result of food shortages, epidemics and heavy taxation imposed by the Portuguese.^[41]

In the period that followed, parts of northern Karnataka were ruled by the Nizam of Hyderabad, the British, and other powers. In the south, the Mysore Kingdom, former vassals of the Vijayanagara Empire, was briefly independent.^[42] With the death of Krishnaraja Wodeyar II, Haidar Ali, the commander-in-chief of the Mysore army, gained control of the region. After his death, the kingdom was inherited by his son Tippu Sultan.^[43] To contain European expansion in South India, Haidar Ali and later Tippu Sultan fought four significant Anglo-Mysore Wars, the last of which resulted in Tippu Sultan's death and the incorporation of Mysore into the British Raj in 1799.^[44] The Kingdom of Mysore was restored to the Wodeyars and Mysore remained a princely state under the British Raj.



An inveterate enemy of the British, Tipu Sultan of Mysore Kingdom was one of the most powerful rulers in India before the advent of the British Raj.

As the "doctrine of lapse" gave way to dissent and resistance from princely states across the country, Kittur Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna and others spearheaded rebellions in Karnataka in 1830, nearly three decades before the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Other uprisings followed, such as the ones at Supa, Bagalkot, Shorapur, Nargund and Dandeli. These rebellions - which coincided with the 1857 war of independence - were led by Mundargi Bhimarao, Bhaskar Rao Bhave, the Halagali Bedas, Raja Venkatappa Nayaka and others. By the late 19th century, the freedom movement had gained momentum; Karnad Sadashiva Rao, Aluru Venkata Raya, S. Nijalingappa, Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Nittoor Srinivasa Rau and others carried on the struggle into the early 20th century.^[45]

After India's independence, the Maharaja, Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar, allowed his kingdom's accession to India. In 1950, Mysore became an Indian state of the same name; the former Maharaja served as its *Rajpramukh* (head of state) until 1975. Following the long-standing demand of the Ekikarana Movement, Kodagu- and Kannada-speaking regions from the adjoining states of Madras, Hyderabad and Bombay were incorporated into the Mysore state, under the States Reorganization Act of 1956. The thus expanded state was renamed Karnataka, seventeen years later, in 1973.^[46] In the early 1900s through the post-independence era, industrial visionaries such as Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya born in Muddenahalli, near Kanivenarayanapura, Chikballapur District played an important role in the development of Karnataka's strong manufacturing and industrial base.

Geography

The state has three principal geographical zones:

1. the coastal region of Karavali
2. the hilly Malenadu region comprising the Western Ghats
3. the Bayaluseeme region comprising the plains of the Deccan plateau

The bulk of the state is in the Bayaluseeme region, the northern part of which is the second-largest arid region in India.^[47] The highest point in Karnataka is the Mullayanagiri hills in Chickmagalur district which has an altitude of 1929 metres (6329 ft). Some of the important rivers in Karnataka are Kaveri, Tungabhadra, Krishna, Malaprabha and the Sharavathi.



Jog Falls are the highest plunge waterfalls in India, formed by Sharavathi River.

Karnataka consists of four main types of geological formations^[48] — the *Archean complex* made up of Dharwad schists and granitic gneisses, the *Proterozoic* non-fossiliferous sedimentary formations of the Kaladgi and Bhima series, the *Deccan trappean and intertrappean deposits* and the tertiary and recent laterites and alluvial deposits. Significantly, about 60% of the state is composed of the *Archean complex* which consist of gneisses, granites and charnockite rocks. Laterite cappings that are found in many districts over the Deccan Traps were formed after the

cessation of volcanic activity in the early tertiary period. Eleven groups of soil orders are found in Karnataka, viz. Entisols, Inceptisols, Mollisols, Spodosols, Alfisols, Ultisols, Oxisols, Aridisols, Vertisols, Andisols and Histosols.^[48] Depending on the agricultural capability of the soil, the soil types are divided into six types, viz. Red, lateritic, black, alluvio-colluvial, forest and coastal soils.

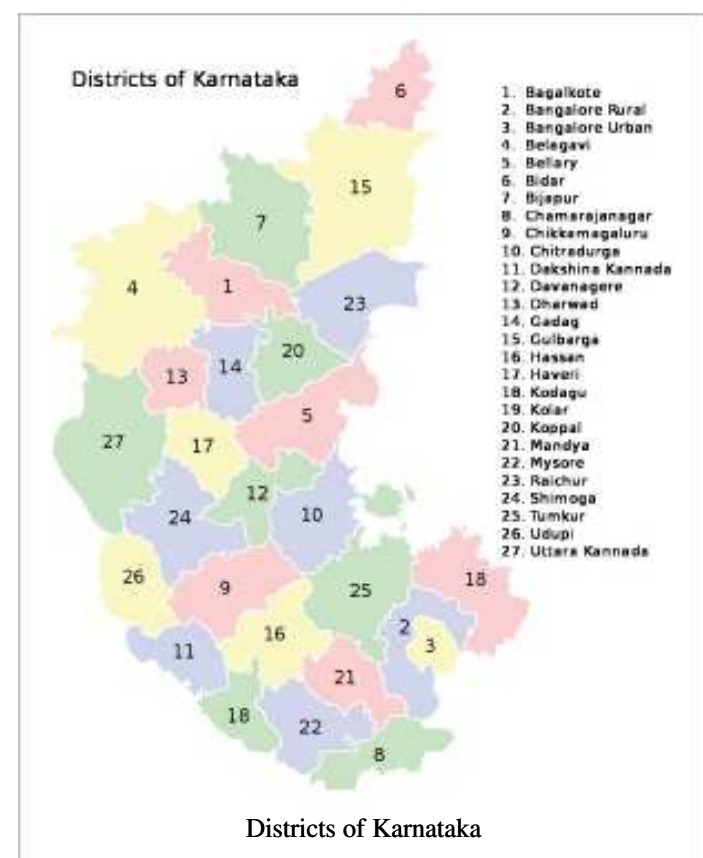
Karnataka experiences four seasons. The winter in January and February is followed by summer between March and May, the monsoon season between June and September and the post-monsoon season from October till December. Meteorologically, Karnataka is divided into three zones — coastal, north interior and south interior. Of these, the coastal zone receives the heaviest rainfall with an average rainfall of about 3638.5 mm (143 in) per annum, far in excess of the state average of 1139 mm (45 in). Agumbe in the Shivamogga district receives the second highest annual rainfall in India.^[49] The highest recorded temperature was 45.6 °C (114 °F) at Raichur and the lowest recorded temperature was 2.8 °C (37 °F) at Bidar.

About 38724 km² (14951 sq mi) of Karnataka (i.e. 20% of the state's geographic area) is covered by forests. The forests are classified as reserved, protected, unclosed, village and private forests. The percentage of forested area is slightly less than the all-India average of about 23%, and significantly less than the 33% prescribed in the National Forest Policy.^[50]

Sub-divisions

There are 30 districts in Karnataka:

- Bagalkote
- Bangalore Rural
- Bangalore Urban
- Belgaum
- Bellary
- Bidar
- Bijapur
- ChamaraJanagar
- Chikkaballapur^[51]
- Chikkamagaluru
- Chitradurga
- Dakshina Kannada
- Davanagere
- Dharwad
- Gadag
- Gulbarga
- Hassan
- Haveri
- Kodagu
- Kolar
- Koppal
- Mandya
- Mysore
- Raichur
- Ramanagara^[51]
- Shimoga
- Tumkur



- Udupi
- Uttara Kannada
- Yadgir

Each district is governed by a district commissioner or district magistrate. The districts are further divided into sub-divisions, which are governed by sub-divisional magistrates; sub-divisions comprise blocks containing panchayats (village councils) and town municipalities.

As per the 2001 census, Karnataka's six largest cities sorted in order of decreasing population were, Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwad, Mysore, Gulbarga, Belgaum and Mangalore. Bangalore is the only city with a population of more than one million. Bangalore Urban, Belgaum and Gulbarga are the most populous districts, each of them having a population of more than three million. Gadag, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts have a population of less than one million.^[52]

Demographics

Population Growth		
Census	Pop.	% ±
1951	19402000	—
1961	23587000	21.6%
1971	29299000	24.2%
1981	37136000	26.7%
1991	44977000	21.1%
2001	52851000	17.5%
Source:Census of India ^[53]		

According to the 2001 census of India, the total population of Karnataka is 52,850,562, of which 26,898,918 (50.9%) are male and 25,951,644 (49.1%) are female, or 1000 males for every 964 females. This represents a 17.3% increase over the population in 1991. The population density is 275.6 per km² and 34.0% of the people live in urban areas. The literacy rate is 66.6% with 76.1% of males and 56.9% of females being literate.^[2] 83% of the population are Hindu, 11% are Muslim, 4% are Christian, 0.8% are Jains, 0.7% are Buddhist, and with the remainder belonging to other religions.^[54]

Kannada is the official language of Karnataka and spoken as a native language by about 64.8% of the people. Other linguistic minorities in the state as of 1991 are Urdu (9.7%), Telugu (8.3%), Tamil (3.8%), Marathi (4.0%), Tulu (3.4%), Hindi (1.9%), Konkani (1.8%), Malayalam (1.7%) and Kodava Takk (0.3%).^[55] The state has a birth rate of 2.2%, a death rate of 0.7%, an infant mortality rate of 5.5% and a maternal mortality rate of 0.2%. The total fertility rate is 2.2.^[56]

In the field of super-specialty health care, Karnataka's private sector competes with the best in the world.^[57] Karnataka has also established a modicum of public health services having a better record of health care and child care than most other states of India. In spite of these advances, some parts of the state still leave much to be desired when it comes to primary health care.^[58]

Government and administration



Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore (seat of the Legislative Assembly)

Karnataka, like other Indian states, has a parliamentary system of government with two democratically elected houses, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Legislative Assembly consists of 224 members who are elected for five-year terms.^[59] The Legislative Council is a permanent body of 75 members with one-third (25 members) retiring every two years.^[59]

The government of Karnataka is headed by the Chief Minister who is chosen by the ruling party members of the Legislative Assembly. The Chief Minister, along with the council of ministers, drives the legislative agenda and exercises most of the executive powers.^[60]

However, the constitutional and formal head of the state is the Governor who is appointed for a five-year term by the President of India on the advice of the Union government.^[61] The people of Karnataka also elect 28 members to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament.^[62] The members of the state Legislative Assembly elect 12 members to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

For administrative purposes, Karnataka has been divided into four revenue divisions, 49 sub-divisions, 29 districts, 175 taluks and 745 hoblies/revenue circles.^[63] The administration in each district is headed by a Deputy Commissioner who belongs to the Indian Administrative Service and is assisted by a number of officers belonging to Karnataka state services. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, an officer belonging to the Indian Police Service and assisted by the officers of the Karnataka Police Service, is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining law and order and related issues in each district. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, an officer belonging to the Indian Forest Service, also serves the government. Sectoral development in the districts is looked after by the district head of each development department such as Public Works Department, Health, Education, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, etc. The judiciary in the state consists of the Karnataka High Court (*Attara Kacheri*) in Bangalore, district and session courts in each district and lower courts and judges at the taluk level.

Politics in Karnataka has been dominated by three political parties, the Indian National Congress, the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Bharatiya Janata Party.^[64] Politicians from Karnataka have played prominent roles in federal government of India with some of them having held the high positions of Prime Minister and Vice President. Three cabinet levels ministers in the current United Progressive Alliance government are from Karnataka. Notable among these is Former Chief Minister and Honorable Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Veerappa Moily. Border disputes involving Karnataka's claim on the Kasaragod^[65] and Sholapur^[66] districts and Maharashtra's claim on Belgaum are ongoing since the states reorganisation.^[67] The official emblem of Karnataka has a *Ganda Berunda* in the centre. Surmounting this are four lions facing the four directions, taken from the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath. The emblem also carries two Sharabhas with the head of an elephant and the body of a lion.

Economy

Karnataka, which had an estimated GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) of about US\$ 58.23 billion in 2008-09 fiscal year. Karnataka recorded the highest growth rates in terms of GDP and per capita GDP in the last decade compared to other states.^[68]

The state registered a GSDP growth rate of 7% for the year 2007-2008.^[69] Karnataka's contribution to India's GDP in the year 2004-05 was 5.2%.^[70] Karnataka was the fastest growing state over the past decade in terms of GDP and per capita GDP. With GDP growth of 56.2% and per capita GDP growth of 43.9%, Karnataka now has the sixth highest per-capita GDP of all states.^[71]

Till September 2006 Karnataka received a Foreign Direct Investment of ₹ 78.097 billion (\$ 1.7255 billion) for the fiscal year 2006-07, placing it third among the states of India.^[72] At the end of 2004, the unemployment rate in Karnataka was 4.94% compared to the national rate of 5.99%.^[73] For the fiscal year 2006-07, the inflation rate in Karnataka was 4.4%, compared to the national average of 4.7%.^[74] As of 2004-05, Karnataka had an estimated poverty ratio of 17%, less than the national ratio of 27.5%.^[75]

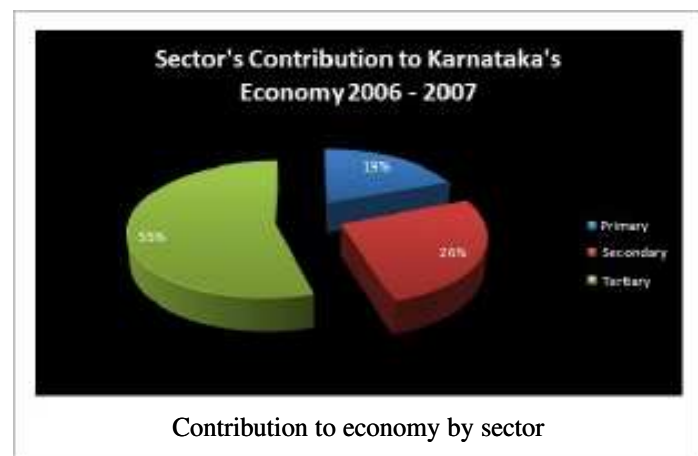
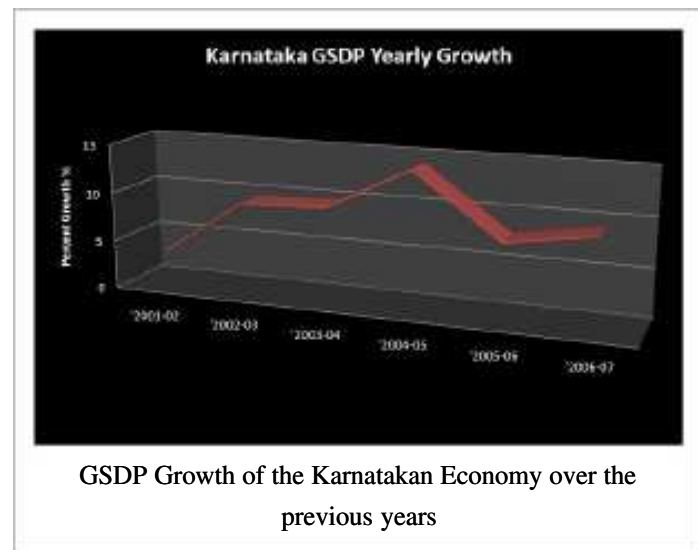
Nearly 56% of the workforce in Karnataka is engaged in agriculture and related activities.^[76] A total of 12.31 million hectares of land, or 64.6% of the state's total area, is cultivated.^[77] Much of the agricultural output is dependent on the southwest monsoon as only 26.5% of the sown area is irrigated.^[77]

Karnataka is the manufacturing hub for some of the largest public sector industries in India, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, National Aerospace Laboratories, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Indian Telephone Industries, Bharat Earth Movers Limited and Hindustan Machine Tools, which are based in Bangalore. Many of India's premier science and technology research centers, such as Indian Space Research Organization, Central Power Research Institute, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Central Food Technological Research Institute, are also headquartered in Karnataka. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited is an oil refinery located in Mangalore.

Since the 1980s, Karnataka has emerged as the pan-Indian leader in the field of IT (information technology). As of 2007, there were nearly 2,000 firms operating out of Karnataka. Many of them, including two of India's biggest software firms, Infosys and Wipro are also headquartered in the state.^[78] Exports from these firms exceeded ₹ 50,000 crores (\$12.5 billion) in 2006-07, accounting for nearly 38% of all IT exports from India.^[78] The Nandi Hills area in the outskirts of Devanahalli is the site of the upcoming \$22 Billion, 50 square kilometer BIAL IT Investment Region, one the largest infrastructure projects in the history of Karnataka.^[79] All this has earned the state capital, Bangalore, the sobriquet *Silicon Valley of India*.^[80]

Karnataka also leads the nation in biotechnology. It is home to India's largest biocluster, with 158 of the country's 320 biotechnology firms being based here.^[81] The state also accounts for 75% of India's floriculture, an upcoming industry which supplies flowers and ornamental plants worldwide.^[82]

Seven of India's leading banks, Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank, Corporation Bank, Vijaya Bank, Karnataka Bank, Vysya Bank and the State Bank of Mysore originated in this state.^[83] The coastal districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada have a branch for every 500 persons—the best distribution of banks in India.^[84] As of March 2002, Karnataka had 4767 branches of different banks with each branch serving 11,000 persons, which is lower than the



national average of 16,000.^[85]

A majority of the 3500 crore silk industry in India is headquartered in Karnataka State, particularly in the North Bangalore regions of Muddenahalli, Kanivenarayanapura, and Doddaballapura the upcoming sites of a 70 crore "Silk City".^{[86] [87]}

Transport

Air transport in Karnataka, as in the rest of the country, is still a fledgling but fast expanding sector. Karnataka has airports at Bangalore, Mangalore, Hubli, Belgaum, Hampi, Bellary and Mysore with international operations from Bangalore and Mangalore airports.^[88] Major airlines such as Kingfisher Airlines and Kingfisher red are based in Bangalore.

Karnataka has a railway network with a total length of approximately 3089 kilometres (1919 mi). Until the creation of the South Western Zone headquartered at Hubli in 2003, the railway network in the state was in the Southern and Western railway zones. Several parts of the state now come under the South Western Zone, with the remainder under the Southern Railways. Coastal Karnataka is covered under the Konkan railway network which was considered India's biggest railway project of the century.^[89] Bangalore is extensively connected with inter-state destinations while other important cities and towns in the state are not so well-connected.^{[90] [91]}

Karnataka has 11 ports, including the New Mangalore Port, a major port and ten other minor ports.^[92] The New Mangalore port was incorporated as the ninth major port in India on 4 May 1974. This port handled 32.04 million tonnes of traffic in the fiscal year 2006-07 with 17.92 million tonnes of imports and 14.12 million tonnes of exports. The port also handled 1015 vessels including 18 cruise vessels during the year 2006-07. The inland water transport within the state is not well developed.

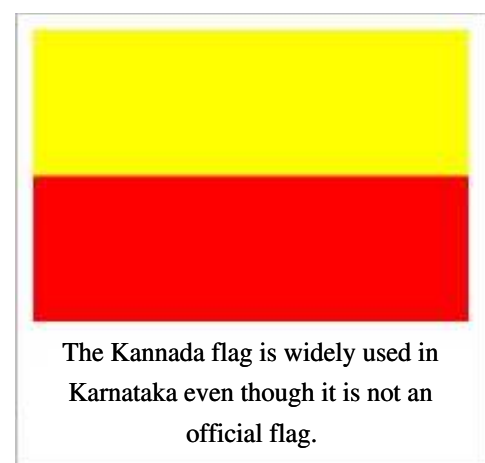
The total lengths of National Highways and state highways in Karnataka are 3973 kilometres (2469 mi) and 9829 kilometres (6107 mi), respectively. The KSRTC, the state public transport corporation, transports an average of 2.2 million passengers daily and employs about 25,000 people.^[93] In the late nineties, KSRTC was split into three corporations, viz., The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, The North-West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation and The North-East Karnataka Road Transport Corporation with their headquarters in Bangalore, Hubli and Gulbarga respectively.^[93]

Culture

The diverse linguistic and religious ethnicities that are native to Karnataka combined with their long histories have contributed immensely to the varied cultural heritage of the state. Apart from Kannadigas, Karnataka is home to Tuluvas, Kodavas and Konkanis. Minor populations of Tibetan Buddhists and tribes like the Soligas, Yeravas, Todas and Siddhis also live in Karnataka. The traditional folk arts cover the entire gamut of music, dance, drama, storytelling by itinerant troupes, etc. Yakshagana of Malnad and coastal Karnataka, a classical dance drama, is one of the major theatrical forms of Karnataka. Contemporary theatre culture in Karnataka remains vibrant with organizations like Ninasam, Ranga Shankara, Rangayana and Prabhat Kalavidaru continuing to build on the foundations laid by Gubbi Veeranna,



Kingfisher Airlines is based in Bangalore.



The Kannada flag is widely used in Karnataka even though it is not an official flag.

T. P. Kailasam, B. V.

Karant, K V Subbanna, Prasanna and others.^[94] Veeragase, Kamsale, Kolata and Dollu Kunitha are popular dance forms. The Mysore style of Bharatanatya nurtured and popularised by the likes of the legendary Jatti Tayamma continues to hold sway in Karnataka and Bangalore also enjoys an eminent place as one of the foremost centers of Bharatanatya.^[95]

Karnataka also has a special place in the world of Indian classical music with both Karnataka^[96] (Carnatic) and Hindustani styles finding place in the state and Karnataka has produced a number of stalwarts in both styles. While referring to music the word 'Karnataka', the original name given to the South Indian classical music does not mean the state of Karnataka. The Haridasa movement of the sixteenth century contributed seminally to the development of Karnataka (Carnatic) music as a performing art form. Purandara Dasa, one of the most revered Haridasas, is known as the *Karnataka Sangeeta Pitamaha* ('Father of Karnataka a.k.a.Carnatic music').^[97] Celebrated Hindustani musicians like Gangubai Hangal, Mallikarjun Mansur, Bhimsen Joshi, Basavaraja Rajaguru, Sawai Gandharva and several others hail from Karnataka and some of them have been recipients of the Kalidas Samman, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards.



A Yakshagana artist



Dharwad pedha.

Gamaka is another classical music genre based on Carnatic music that is practiced in Karnataka. Kannada Bhavageete is a genre of popular music that draws inspiration from the expressionist poetry of modern poets. The Mysore school of painting has produced painters like Sundarayya, Tanjavur Kondayya, B. Venkatappa and Keshavayya.^[98] Chitrakala Parishat is an organisation in Karnataka dedicated to promoting painting, mainly in the Mysore painting style.

Saree is the traditional dress of women in Karnataka. Women in Kodagu have a distinct style of wearing the saree, different from the rest of Karnataka.^[99] Dhoti, known as *Panche* in Karnataka is the traditional attire of men. Shirt, Trousers and Salwar kameez are widely worn in Urban areas. Mysore Peta is the traditional headgear of southern Karnataka, while the *pagadi* or *pataga* (similar to the Rajasthani turban) is preferred in the northern areas of the state.

Rice (Kannada: ಅಕ್ಕಿ) and Ragi form the staple food in South Karnataka, whereas Jolada rotti, Sorghum is staple to North Karnataka. Bisi bele bath, Jolada rotti, Ragi mudde, Uppittu, Masala Dose and Maddur Vade are some of the popular food items in Karnataka. Among sweets, Mysore Pak, Belgaavi Kunda, Gokak karadantu, and Dharwad pedha are popular. Apart from this, coastal Karnataka and Kodagu have distinctive cuisines of their own. Udupi cuisine of coastal Karnataka is popular all over India.

Religion

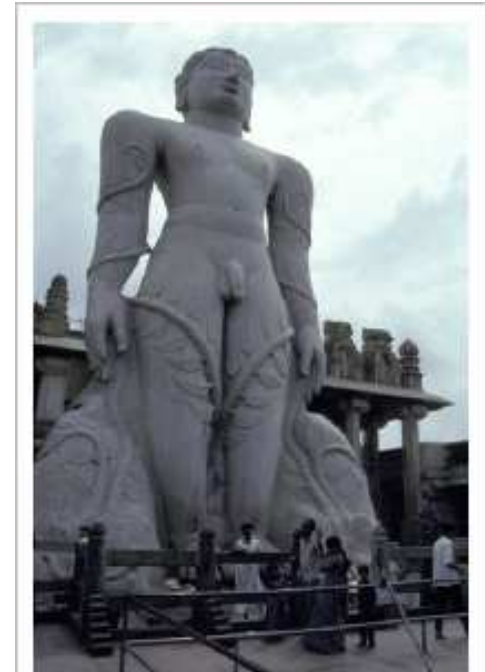
Adi Shankaracharya chose Sringeri in Karnataka to establish the first of his four *mathas*. Shri Madhvacharya (Kannada: ಶ್ರೀ ಮಧ್ವಾಚಾರ್ಯರು, Śrī Madhvācārya) (1238–1317) was the chief proponent of Tattvavāda (Philosophy of Reality), popularly known as Dvaita or Dualistic school of Hindu philosophy - one of the three most influential Vedānta philosophies. Madhva was one of the important philosophers during the Bhakti movement. He was a pioneer in many ways, going against standard conventions and norms. According to tradition, Madhvācārya is believed to be the third incarnation of Vāyu (Mukhyaprāṇa), after Hanumān and Bhīma. The Haridasa (Kannada: ಹರಿ ದಾಸ) devotional movement is considered as one of the turning points in the cultural history of India. Over a span of nearly six centuries, several saints and mystics helped shape the culture, philosophy and art of South India and Karnataka in particular by exerting considerable spiritual influence over the masses and kingdoms that ruled South India.[1]

This movement was ushered in by the Haridasas (Kannada: ಹರಿ ದಾಸರು, literally meaning 'servants of Lord Hari') and took shape in the 13th century - 14th century CE, period, prior to and during the early rule of the Vijayanagara empire. The main objective of this movement was to propagate the Dvaita philosophy of Madhvacharya (Madhva Siddhanta) to the masses through a literary medium known as Dasa Sahitya (literature of the servants of the Lord. Purandaradasa often called "Pithamaha" of Carnatic Music for his immense contribution in simplifying carnatic music, he was the "Guru" of Swamy Haridas (Tansen's guru) who pioneered Hindustani music in North India.) Ramanujacharya, the leading expounder of Viśiṣṭādvaita, spent many years in Melkote. He came to Karnataka in 1098 AD and lived here until 1122 AD. He first lived in Tondanur and then moved to Melkote where the Cheluvanarayana Temple and a well organised Matha were built. He was patronized by the Hoysala king, Vishnuvardhana.^[100]

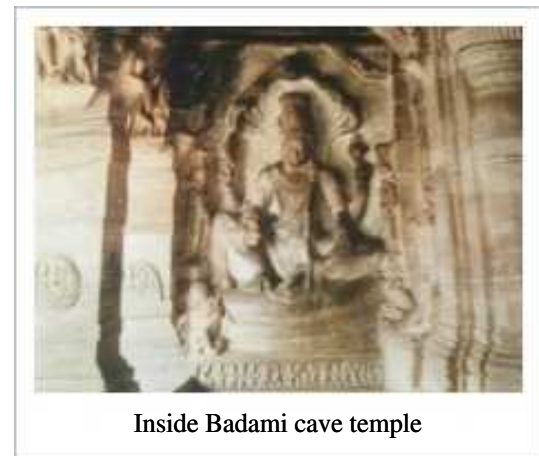
In the twelfth century, Veerashaivism emerged in northern Karnataka as a protest against the rigidity of the prevailing social and caste system. Leading figures of this movement were Basava, Akka Mahadevi and Allama Prabhu, who established the Anubhava Mantapa which was the center of all religious and philosophical thoughts and discussions pertaining to Ligayats. These three social reformers did so by the literary means of 'Vachana Sahitya' which is very famous for its simple, straight forward and easily understandable Kannada language. Lingayatism preached women equalism by letting women wear Linga i.e. god around their neck which was prohibited in those days. Basava shunned the sharp hierarchical divisions that existed and sought to remove all distinctions between the hierarchially superior master class and the subordinate, servile class. He also supported intercaste marriages and Kaayaka Tatva of Basavanna bases itself on Karma Siddhanta (Philosophy of Karma). This was the basis of the Lingayat faith which today counts millions among its followers.^[101]

The Jain philosophy and literature have contributed immensely to the religious and cultural landscape of Karnataka.

Islam, which had an early presence on the west coast of India as early as the tenth century, gained a foothold in Karnataka with the rise of the Bahamani and Bijapur sultanates that ruled parts of Karnataka.^[102] Christianity reached Karnataka in the sixteenth century with the arrival of the Portuguese and St. Francis Xavier in 1545.^[103] Buddhism was popular in Karnataka during the first millennium in places such as Gulbarga and Banavasi. A chance



The Gomateswara (982–983) monolith at Shravanabelagola is one of the foremost centers of Jain pilgrimage today.



Inside Badami cave temple

discovery of edicts and several Mauryan relics at Sannati in Gulbarga district in 1986 has proven that the Krishna River basin was once home to both Mahayana and Hinayana Buddhism.

Mysore Dasara is celebrated as the *Nada habba* (state festival) and this is marked by major festivities at Mysore.^[104] Ugadi (Kannada New Year), Makara Sankranti (the harvest festival), Ganesh Chaturthi, Nagapanchami, Basava Jayanthi, Deepavali, and Ramzan are the other major festivals of Karnataka.

Language



Halmidi inscription (450 CE) is the earliest attested inscription in Kannada language
(right-click to enlarge).

The Kannada language is the official language of the state, the native language of approximately 65% of its population and one of the classical languages of India.^[105] ^[106] Kannada played a crucial role in the creation of Karnataka: linguistic demographics played a major role in defining the new state in 1956. Tulu, Kodava Takk and Konkani are other major native languages that share a long history in the state. Urdu is spoken widely by the Muslim population. Less widely spoken languages include Beary bashe and certain dialects such as Sankethi. Kannada features a rich and ancient body of literature covering topics as diverse as Jainism, Vachanas, Haridasa Sahitya and modern literature. Evidence from edicts during the time of Ashoka the Great suggest that the Kannada script and its literature were influenced by Buddhist literature. The Halmidi inscription, the earliest attested full-length inscription in the Kannada language and script, is dated to 450 CE while the earliest available literary work, the Kavirajamarga, has been dated to 850 CE. References made in the Kavirajamarga, however, prove that Kannada literature flourished in the *Chattana*, *Beddande* and *Melvadu* metres during earlier centuries.^[107]

Kuvempu, the renowned Kannada poet and writer who wrote *Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate*, the state anthem of Karnataka^[108] was the first recipient of the "Karnataka Ratna" award, the highest civilian award bestowed by the Government of Karnataka. Contemporary Kannada literature is well recognized in the arena of Indian literature, with seven Kannada writers winning India's highest literary honour, the Jnanpith award, which is the highest for any language in India.^[109] Tulu is spoken mainly in the coastal districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada. *Tulu Mahabharato*, written by *Arunabja* in Tulu script, is the oldest surviving Tulu text.^[110] The Tulu language now uses the Kannada script due to the gradual decline of the Tulu script, which was in use until a few centuries ago. The Kodavas who mainly reside in the Kodagu district, speak Kodava Takk. Two regional variations of the language exist, the northern *Mendale Takka* and the southern *Kiggaati Takka*.^[111] Konkani is mostly spoken in the Uttara Kannada district and in some parts of the Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts. Both Kodava Takk and Konkani use the Kannada script for writing. English is the medium of education in many schools and widely used for business communication in technology-related companies and BPOs.

All of the state's languages are patronised and promoted by governmental and quasi-governmental bodies. The Kannada Sahitya Parishat and the *Kannada Sahitya Akademi* are responsible for the promotion of Kannada while the *Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Akademi*,^[112] The *Tulu Sahitya Akademi* and the *Kodava Sahitya Akademi* promote their respective languages.

Karnataka being a multilingual state, various linguistic groups have been demanding for separate states based on language in the regions where those languages are spoken by the majority. Tuluvas and Kodavas are major ethnic groups which aspire to form separate states.

Education

As per the 2001 census, Karnataka had a literacy rate of 67.04%, with 76.29% of males and 57.45% of females in the state being literate.^[113]

The state is home to some of the premier educational and research institutions of India such as the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institute of Management, the National Institute of Technology Karnataka and the National Law School of India University.

As of March 2006, Karnataka had 54,529 primary schools with 252,875 teachers and 8.495 million students,^[114] and 9498 secondary schools with 92,287 teachers and 1.384 million students.^[114] There are three kinds of schools in the state, viz., government-run, private aided (financial aid is provided by the government) and private unaided (no financial aid is provided). The primary languages of instruction in most schools are Kannada and English. The syllabus taught in the schools is either of the CBSE, the ICSE or the state syllabus (SSLC) defined by the Department of Public Instruction of the Government of Karnataka. However, some schools follows NIOS syllabus. The State has one Sainik School in Bijapur also.



Indian Institute of Science is one of the premier institutes of India located in Bangalore.

In order to maximize attendance in schools, the Karnataka Government has launched a mid-day meal scheme in government and aided schools in which free lunch is provided to the students.^[115] Statewide board examinations are conducted at the end of the period of secondary education and students who qualify are allowed to pursue a two-year pre-university course; after which students become eligible to pursue under-graduate degrees.

There are 481 degree colleges affiliated with one of the universities in the state, viz. Bangalore University, Gulbarga University, Karnatak University, Kuvempu University, Mangalore University and Mysore University.^[116] In 1998, the engineering colleges in the state were brought under the newly formed Visvesvaraya Technological University headquartered at Belgaum, whereas the medical colleges are run under the jurisdiction of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences. Some of these baccalaureate colleges are accredited with the status of a deemed university. There are 186 engineering, 39 medical and 41 dental colleges in the state.^[117] Udupi, Sringeri, Gokarna and Melkote are well-known places of Sanskrit and Vedic learning. An Indian Institute of Technology Muddenahalli has been approved by the central government as part of the 11th 5 year plan. This will be the first IIT in Karnataka State.^[118] In addition, a 600 crore Visvesvaraya Institute of Advanced Technology (VIAT) is being constructed in Muddenahalli-Kanivenarayanapura.^[119]

Tulu language is taught as an optional subject in the twin districts of South Canara and Udupi.^[120]

Media

The era of Kannada newspapers started in the year 1843 when Hermann Mögling, a missionary from Basel Mission, published the first Kannada newspaper called *Mangalooru Samachara* in Mangalore. The first Kannada periodical, *Mysuru Vrittanta Bodhini* was started by Bhashyam Bhashyacharya in Mysore. Shortly after Indian independence in 1948, K. N. Guruswamy founded *The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited* and began publishing two newspapers, the Deccan Herald and Prajavani. Presently the Times of India and Vijaya Karnataka are the largest-selling English and Kannada newspapers respectively.^[121] ^[122] A vast number of weekly, biweekly and monthly magazines are under publication in both Kannada and English. Udayavani, Kannadaprabha, Samyukta Karnataka, Vaartha Bharathi, Sanjevani, Eesanje, Hosa digantha, Karavali Ale are also some popular dailies published from Karnataka.

Doordarshan is the broadcaster of the Government of India and its channel DD Chandana is dedicated to Kannada. Prominent Kannada channels include ETV Kannada, Zee Kannada, Udaya TV, U2, TV 9, Asianet Suvarna and Kasturi TV.^[123]

Karnataka occupies a special place in the history of Indian radio. In 1935, *Aakashvani*, the first private radio station in India, was started by Prof. M.V. Gopaldaswamy at Mysore.^[124] The popular radio station was taken over by the local municipality and later by All India Radio (AIR) and moved to Bangalore in 1955. Later in 1957, AIR adopted the original name of the radio station, *Aakashvani* as its own. Some of the popular programs aired by AIR Bangalore included *Nisarga Sampada* and *Sasya Sanjeevini* which were programs that taught science through songs, plays and stories. These two programs became so popular that they were translated and broadcasted in 18 different languages and the entire series was recorded on cassettes by the Government of Karnataka and distributed to thousands of schools across the state.^[124] Karnataka has witnessed a growth in FM radio channels mainly in the cities of Bangalore, Mangalore and Mysore which has become hugely popular.^{[125] [126]}

Sports

Karnataka's smallest district, Kodagu, is a major contributor to Indian field hockey, producing numerous players who have represented India at the international level.^[127] The annual Kodava Hockey Festival is the largest hockey tournament in the world.^[128] Bangalore has hosted a WTA tennis event and, in 1997, it hosted the fourth National Games of India.^[129] The Sports Authority of India, the premier sports institute in the country, and the Nike Tennis Academy are also situated in Bangalore. Karnataka has been referred to as the cradle of Indian swimming because of its high standards in comparison to other states.^[130]

One of the most popular sports in Karnataka is cricket. The state cricket team has won the Ranji Trophy six times, second only to Mumbai in terms of success.^[131] Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore regularly hosts international matches and is also the home of the National Cricket Academy, which was opened in 2000 to nurture potential international players. Many cricketers have represented India and in one international match held in the 1990s; players from Karnataka composed the majority of the national team.^{[132] [133]}

The Karnataka Premier League, an inter-regional Twenty20 cricket tournament is a cricket tournament played in the state. The Royal Challengers Bangalore, an Indian Premier League franchise, is based in Bangalore.

Sports like kho kho, kabaddi, chinni daandu and goli (marbles) are played mostly in Karnataka's rural areas.

Notable sportsmen from Karnataka include Prakash Padukone who won the All England Badminton Championships in 1980 and Pankaj Advani who has won three world titles in cue sports by the age of 20 including the amateur World Snooker Championship in 2003 and the World Billiards Championship in 2005.^{[134] [135]}

Cycling talent of Karnataka needs a special mention. Off late Bijapur district has produced some of the best known Road Cyclists in the national circuit. Premalata Sureban was part of the Indian contingent at the Perlis Open '99 in Malaysia. In recognition of the talent of cyclists in the district, the State Government has already laid a cycling track at the B.R. Ambedkar Stadium here, spending ₹ . 40 lakh.^[136]



Anil Kumble, former captain of the Indian Test team, is the highest wicket-taker for India in international cricket.

Flora and fauna

Karnataka has a rich diversity of flora and fauna. It has a recorded forest area of 38720 km² (14950 sq mi) which constitutes 20.19% of the total geographical area of the state. These forests support 25% of the elephant and 10% of the tiger population of India. Many regions of Karnataka are as yet unexplored, so new species of flora and fauna are found periodically. The Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, includes the western region of Karnataka. Two sub-clusters in the Western Ghats, viz. Talacauvery and Kudremukh, both in Karnataka, are on the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO.^[137] The Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks, which fall outside these subclusters, were included in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in 1986, a UNESCO designation.^[138] The Indian roller and the Indian elephant are recognized as the state bird and animal while sandalwood and the lotus are recognized as the state tree and flower respectively. Karnataka has five national parks: Anshi, Bandipur, Bannerghatta, Kudremukh and Nagarhole.^[139] It also has 25 wildlife sanctuaries of which seven are bird sanctuaries.^[139]



The state bird, Indian Roller.

Wild animals that are found in Karnataka include the elephant, the tiger, the leopard, the gaur, the sambar deer, the chital or spotted deer, the muntjac, the bonnet macaque, the slender loris, the common palm civet, the small Indian civet, the sloth bear, the dhole, the striped hyena and the golden jackal. Some of the birds found here are the Great Hornbill, the Malabar Pied Hornbill, the Ceylon frogmouth, herons, ducks, kites, eagles, falcons, quails, partridges, lapwings, sandpipers, pigeons, doves, parakeets, cuckoos, owls, nightjars, swifts, kingfishers, bee-eaters and munias.^[139] Some species of trees found in Karnataka are *Callophyllum tomentosa*, *Callophyllum wightianum*, *Garcinia cambogia*, *Garcinia morealla*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Flacourtia montana*, *Artocarpus hirsutus*, *Artocarpus lacoocha*, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, *Grewia tilaefolia*, *Santalum album*, *Shorea talura*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Vitex altissima* and *Wrightia tinctoria*. Wildlife in Karnataka is threatened by poaching, habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflict and pollution.^[139]

Tourism



Keshava Temple, Somanathapura.

By virtue of its varied geography and long history, Karnataka hosts numerous spots of interest for tourists. There is an array of ancient sculptured temples, modern cities, scenic hill ranges, unexplored forests and endless beaches. Karnataka has been ranked as the fourth most popular destination for tourism among the states of India.^[140] Karnataka has the second highest number of nationally protected monuments in India, second only to Uttar Pradesh,^[141] in addition to 752 monuments protected by the State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums. Another 25,000 monuments are yet to receive protection.^{[142] [143]}

The districts of the Western Ghats and the southern districts of the state have popular eco-tourism locations including Kudremukh, Madikeri and Agumbe. Karnataka has 25 wildlife sanctuaries and five national parks. Popular among them are Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park and Nagarhole National Park. The ruins of the Vijayanagara Empire at Hampi and the monuments of Pattadakal are on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. The cave temples at Badami and the rock-cut temples at Aihole representing the Badami Chalukyan style of architecture are also popular tourist destinations. The Hoysala temples at Belur and Halebidu, which were built with Chloritic schist (soapstone) are proposed UNESCO World Heritage sites.^[144] The Gol Gumbaz and Ibrahim Rauza are famous examples of the Deccan Sultanate style of architecture. The monolith of Gomateshwara Bahubali at Shravanabelagola is the tallest sculpted monolith in the world, attracting tens of thousands of pilgrims during the Mahamastakabhisheka festival.^[145]



Gol Gumbaz at Bijapur, has the second largest pre-modern dome in the world after the Byzantine Hagia Sophia.



Mysore Palace at Night, Mysore, Karnataka.

The waterfalls of Karnataka and Kudremukh are listed as must-see places and among the "1001 Natural Wonders of the World".^[146] Jog Falls is India's tallest single-tiered waterfall with Gokak Falls, Unchalli Falls, Magod Falls, Abbey Falls and Shivanasamudra Falls among other popular waterfalls.

Several popular beaches dot the coastline, including Murudeshwara, Gokarna and Karwar. In addition, Karnataka is home to several places of religious importance. Several Hindu temples including the famous Udipi Sri Krishna Matha, the Marikamba Temple at Sirsi, the Sri Manjunatha Temple at Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya Temple and Sharadamba Temple at Shringeri attract pilgrims from all over India. Most of the holy sites of Lingayatism, like Kudalasangama and Basavana Bagewadi, are found in northern parts of the state. Shravanabelagola, Mudabidri and Karkala are famous for Jain history and monuments. Jainism had a stronghold in Karnataka in the early medieval period with Shravanabelagola as its most important center.





Painting of Mysore style

Recently Karnataka has emerged as a hot spot for health care tourism. Karnataka has the highest number of approved health systems and alternative therapies in India. Along with some ISO certified government-owned hospitals, private institutions which provide international-quality services have caused the health care industry to grow by 30% during 2004-05. Hospitals in Karnataka treat around 8,000 health tourists every year.^[147]

Notes

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- [12] From the Talagunda inscription (Dr. B. L. Rice in Kamath (2001), p. 30.)
- [13] Moares (1931), p. 10.
- [14] Adiga and Sheik Ali in Adiga (2006), p. 89.
- [15] Ramesh (1984), pp. 1–2.
- [16] From the Halmidi inscription (Ramesh 1984, pp. 10–11.)
- [17] Kamath (2001), p. 10.
- [18] The Chalukyas hailed from present-day Karnataka (Keay (2000), p. 168.)
- [19] The Chalukyas were native *Kannadigas* (N. Laxminarayana Rao and Dr. S. C. Nandinath in Kamath (2001), p. 57.)
- [20] Altekar (1934), pp. 21–24.
- [21] Masica (1991), pp. 45–46.
- [22] Balagamve in Mysore territory was an early power centre (Cousens (1926), pp. 10, 105.)
- [23] Tailapa II, the founder king was the governor of Tardavadi in modern Bijapur district, under the Rashtrakutas (Kamath (2001), p. 101.).
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- [25] Foekema (2003), p. 9.
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- [27] A History of South India, K.A.Nilakanta Sastri (1955), p.172.
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External links

- Official website of the Government of Karnataka (<http://www.karnataka.gov.in/>)
 - Karnataka Government Information Department (<http://www.karnatakainformation.org/>)
 - Karnataka (<http://www.dmoz.org/Regional/Asia/India/Karnataka/>) at the Open Directory Project
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Karnataka Government

Government of Karnataka

 <p>State Emblem</p>	
Seat of Government	Bangalore
Executive	
Governor	Hans Raj Bhardwaj
Chief Minister	D V Sadananda Gowda
Legislature	
Speaker	K G Bopaiah
Members in Assembly	225
Council	Karnataka Legislative Council
Chairman	Veeranna Mattikatti
Members in Council	75
Judiciary	
High Court	Karnataka High Court
Chief Justice	J S Khehar
http://www.karnataka.gov.in	

The **Government of Karnataka** is a democratically elected body with the Governor as the constitutional head. The Governor who is appointed for a period of five years appoints the Chief Minister and his council of ministers. Even though the governor remains the ceremonial head of the state, the day to day running of the government is taken care of by the Chief Minister and his council of ministers in whom a great deal of legislative powers is vested.

Administrative divisions

Karnataka State has been divided into four Revenue divisions, 49 sub-divisions, 29 districts, 175 taluks and 745 hoblies/Revenue Circles for administrative purposes.^[1] The State has 27,028 inhabited and 2,362 uninhabited villages, 281 towns and 7 municipal corporations. Bangalore is the sixth largest urban agglomeration out of 23 metropolis, urban agglomerations and cities in India. It is among the fastest growing cities in the world.

Political and administrative reorganisation

Karnataka took its present shape in 1956, when the states of Mysore and Coorg (Kodagu) were merged with the Kannada-speaking districts of the former states of Bombay and Hyderabad, and Madras. Mysore state was made up of ten districts, Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mandya, Mysore, Hassan, Chikmagalur (Kadur), Shimoga and Chitradurga; Bellary had been transferred from Madras state to Mysore in 1953, when the new Andhra State was created out of Madras' northern districts. Kodagu became a district, and Dakshina Kannada (South Kanara) district was transferred from Madras state, North Kanara, Dharwad, Belgaum District, and Bijapur District from Bombay state, and Bidar District, Gulbarga District, and Raichur District from Hyderabad state.

In 1989, Bangalore Rural district was split from Bangalore and, in 1997, Bagalkot district split from Bijapur, Chamrajnagar district split from Mysore, Gadag district split from Dharwad, Haveri district split from Dharwad, Koppal district split from Raichur, Udupi district split from Dakshina Kannada, and Davanagere district was created from parts of Bellary, Chitradurga, Dharwad, and Shimoga.

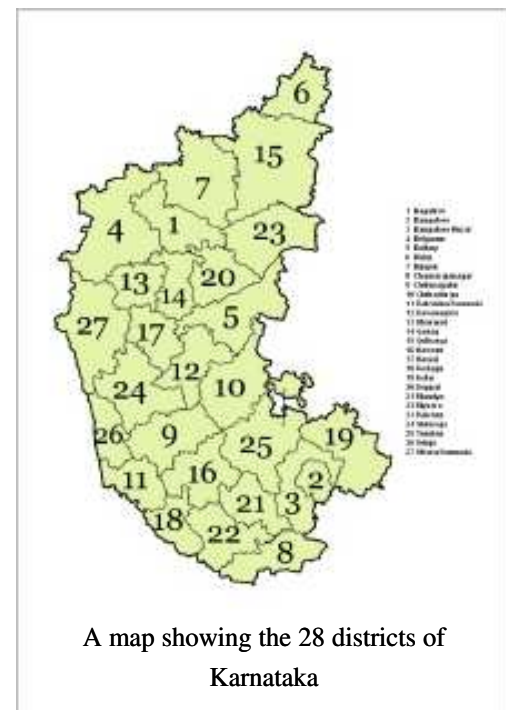
In 2008, Bangalore Rural district was split into two and a new district of **Ramanagaram** was constituted. In the same way district of **Chickballapur** was carved out of the erstwhile Kolar district.

Legislature

The State legislature is bicameral and consists of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Legislative Assembly consists of 224 members with one member nominated by the Governor to represent the Anglo-Indian community. The term of office of the members is five years and the term of a member elected to the council is six years.^[2] The Legislative Council is a permanent body with one-third of its members retiring every two years.^[3]

Ministry

The government is headed by the Governor who appoints the Chief Minister and his council of ministers. The Governor is appointed for a period of five years and acts as the constitutional head of the State. Even though the governor remains the ceremonial head of the state, the day to day running of the government is taken care of by the Chief Minister and his council of ministers in whom a great deal of legislative powers is vested.



A map showing the 28 districts of Karnataka



The Vidhana Soudha is the seat of Karnataka's Legislative assembly

The Secretariat headed by the secretary to the governor assists the council of ministers. The council of ministers consists of cabinet Ministers, ministers of state and deputy ministers. The chief minister is also assisted by the Chief Secretary, who is the head of the administrative services.

List of present Karnataka cabinet ministers

As of 2008, the government of Karnataka consists of 34 ministers. The important portfolio of finance has been retained by the Chief Minister.

Department(s)	Minister
Chief Minister (Including Finance, Kannada Languages and Cultural, Cabinet Affairs, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Intelligence Wing, Urban Development, Mines and Geology, Forest)	DV Sadananda Gowda
Higher education, Planning, Statistics	V.S. Acharya
Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Justice and Municipal Administration	S.Suresh Kumar
Energy	Shobha Karandlaje
Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	Jagadish Shettar
Sugar and Horticulture	S.A. Ravindranath
Medical Education	S.A.Ramadas
Home, Transport	R. Ashok
Social Welfare (Excluding Minority Welfare)	A.Narayanaswamy
Small Scale Industries and Sericulture	Raju Gouda
Revenue	
Tourism and Infrastructure Development	
Housing, IT, BT, and BWSSB	
Health and Family Welfare (Excluding Medical Education)	
Labour	B.N. Bacche Gowda
Primary and Secondary Education (Excluding Mass Education and Public Libraries)	Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri
Animal Husbandry	Revu Naik Belamgi
Ports and Inland Water Transport, Ecology and Environment	J. Krishna Palemar
Excise	M.P. Renukacharya
Public Works Department (Excluding Ports and Inland Water Transport)	Udasi Channabasappa Mahalingappa
Agriculture Marketing & Sugar, Minor Irrigation, Kannada & Culture, Information & Tourism, Textiles and Youth Services	Govind .M. Karjol
Medium and Major Irrigation	Basavaraj Bommai
Medium and Major Industries	Murugesh Rudrappa Nirani
Women & Child Development	C.C.Patil
Housing Department (Including Slum Clearance Board)	V. Somanna
Co-operation (Excluding Agriculture Marketing)	Laxman Sangappa Savadi
Municipalities, Local Bodies and Public Enterprises	Balachandra Jarkihol
Fisheries, Science and Technology	Anand Asnotikar
Mass Education, Public Libraries, Small Savings and Lotteries	Revu Naik Belamgi
Haj, Wakf and Minority Welfare	Ali Khan

Forest Department from Forest, Ecology & Environment Department	C. P. Yogishwar
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Bureaucrats

Deputy Commissioners are appointed as the highest officers to look after each district.

Karnataka Panchayat Raj

Panchayat Raj (Rule of Village Committee) system is a three-tier system in the state with elected bodies at the Village, Taluk and District levels. It ensures greater participation of people and more effective implementation of rural development programmes. There will be a Grama Panchayat for a village or group of villages, a Taluk level and the Zilla Panchayat at the district level.

All the three institutions will have elected representatives and there is no provision for nomination by the Government to any of these councils. Karnataka is the first in the country to enact new Panchayat Raj Act. Incorporating all provisions of 73rd Amendment to the Constitution.

Executive

A district of an Indian state is an administrat, headed by a Deputy Commissioner or District Magistrate, an officer belonging to the Indian Administrative Service. The district magistrate or the deputy commissioner is assisted by a number of officers belonging to Karnataka Civil Service and other Karnataka state services.

A Deputy Commissioner of Police, an officer belonging to the Indian Police Service is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining law and order and related issues of the district. He is assisted by the officers of the Karnataka Police Service and other Karnataka Police officials. A Deputy Conservator of Forests, an officer belonging to the Indian Forest Service is responsible for managing the Forests, environment and wild-life related issues of the district. He is assisted by the officers of the Karnataka Forest Service and other Karnataka Forest officials and Karnataka Wild-Life officials. Sectoral development is looked after by the district head of each development department such as PWD, Health, Education, Agriculture, Animal husbandry, etc. These officers belong to the various State Services.

Police Administration

The state is divided into 20 police districts, 77 sub-divisions, 178 circles, State Police consists of 20 police districts, 4 Police Commissioners at Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore and Hubli-Dharwad cities, 77 sub-divisions, 178 circles, 696 police stations, and 317 police out-posts. There are six ranges viz., Central Range at Bangalore, Eastern Range at Davanagere, Northern Range at Gulbarga, Southern Range at Mysore and Western Range at Mangalore. The Government Railway Police is headed by a D.I.G. of Police.^[4]

Units that assist the state in law and order include Criminal Investigation Department (Forest Cell, Anti-Dowry Cell, etc.), Dog Squad, Civil Rights Enforcement Wing, Police Wireless and Police Motor Transport Organization and Special units. Also Village Defence Parties protect persons and property in the village and assist the police when necessary. The Police force is at times supplemented by Home Guards.

Politics

Karnataka politics is dominated by the Indian National Congress (INC), Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The previous government was a coalition government of JDS and BJP. The Chief Minister for an initial term of 20 months was H. D. Kumaraswamy of JDS and the post was supposed to subsequently be transferred to BJP's B. S. Yeddyurappa. A political fall out due to the failure in transfer of power to Yedurappa broke the coalition. The state was then under President's rule until the elections in May 2008. As a result of the BJP victory in those elections B. S. Yeddyurappa became chief minister of Karnataka.

Elections

Last Assembly elections: Karnataka state assembly elections, 2008

Footnotes

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- [2] A Jayaram. "Council polls may not give Congress majority" (<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/2002/05/31/stories/2002053104000400.htm>). *Online Edition of The Hindu, dated 2002-05-31*. 2002, The Hindu. . Retrieved 2007-06-04.
- [3] "Karnataka Legislative Council" (<http://legislativebodiesinindia.gov.in/States/kanataka/karnatakacouncil-w.htm>). *Online webpage of Legislative bodies in India*. Government of India. . Retrieved 2007-06-04.
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Judiciary

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- <http://pib.nic.in/archieve/lreleng/lyr2003/roct2003/30102003/r301020037.html>
- <http://karnatakajudiciary.kar.nic.in/>

Transport

- <http://www.rto.kar.nic.in> Transport Department - All RTO's in Karnataka
-

Geography

Lakes in Bangalore

Lakes in Bangalore city (Kannada:ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು) in Karnataka are numerous, and there are no rivers close by.^[1] Most lakes in the Bangalore region were constructed in the Sixteenth century by damming the natural valley systems^[2] by constructing bunds.

The effect of urbanization has taken some heavy toll on the Beautiful lakes in Bangalore^[3]. The lakes in the city have been largely encroached for urban infrastructure and as result, in the heart of the city only 17 good lakes exist as against 51 healthy lakes in 1985.^[4] Urban development has caused 16 lakes getting converted to bus stands, Golf courses, playgrounds and residential colonies, and few tanks were breached under the malaria eradication programme.^{[5] [6]}

In recent years, the Management of Lakes traditionally done by the government agencies witnessed experimentation by the Lake Development Authority with a limited public–private sector participation in respect of three lakes, which has proved controversial and resulted in almost a reversal of the policy.^[7]



Sun rise at Ulsoor Lake

History

The earliest history of creation of lakes in and around the city is traced to the founders of Bangalore or Bengaluru –the Kempe Gowdas– in the Sixteenth century and later by the Wodeyars of Mysore Kingdom and the British.^[7]

Most of the lakes and tanks were man made for purposes of drinking water, irrigation and fishing needs and they have also favorably influenced microclimate of the city. pollution The lake waters have also served as “Dhobhi Ghats” or places where washer–men (‘dhobis’ is the locale usage in India), have traditionally used them as a means of livelihood for washing clothes and drying them. The lakes have also served to replenish ground water resources in the vicinity, which are tapped through wells for drinking water.^[7]

In the 1960s the number of tanks and lakes was 280 and less than 80 in 1993. Until 1895 unfiltered water was supplied from tanks like Dharmambudhi (present day Bus station), Millers tank (Area opposite Cantonment railway station), Sankey and Ulsoor tanks. From 1896 water was supplied from Hessarghatta and from 1933 it was also obtained from Thippagondanahalli. In the 1970s the scheme to pump water from the Cauvery river 100 kilometres away was begun. The water needed to be raised up by 500 metres. The water demand in 2001 was 750 million litres per day and the actual supply is only 570 million litres per day and the per capita usage is about 105 litres per day. The national standard is 150 litres per day while the international standard is 200 litres per capita per day.^[8]

Encroachment of Lakes

Most of the lakes have vanished due to encroachment and construction activity for urban infrastructure expansion. The city once had 280-285 lakes of which 7 cannot be traced, 7 are reduced to small pools of water, 18 have been unauthorisedly encroached by slums and private parties, 14 have dried up and are leased out by the Government. 28 lakes have been used by the Bangalore Development Authority to distribute sites and build extensions for residential areas. The remaining lakes are in fairly advanced state of deterioration.^[9]

Some of the major lakes that disappeared over the years are [10][11]:

- Shoolay lake changed to Football stadium
- Akkithimmanhalli lake changed to Corporation Hockey stadium
- Sampangi lake changed to Kanteerava Sports Complex
- Dharmambudhi lake changed to Kempegowda Bus Station
- Challaghatta lake changed to Karnataka Golf Association
- Koramangala lake changed to National Games Complex in Ejipura
- Siddikatte Lake has now become KR Market
- Karanji tank is the Gandhi Bazar area
- Kempambudhi is now a sewerage collection tank
- Nagashettihalli lake changed to Space department
- Kadugondanahalli lake changed to Ambedkar Medical College



Dharmambudhi, Sampangi and Koramangala lakes visible on 1924 map.

- Domlur lake changed to BDA layout
- Millers lake changed to Guru Nanak Bhavan, Badminton Stadium
- Subhashnagar lake changed to Residential layout
- Kurubarahalli lake changed to Residential layout
- Kodihalli lake changed to Residential layout
- Sinivaigalu lake changed to Residential layout
- Marenahalli lake changed to Residential layout
- Shivanahalli lake changed to Playground, Bus stand
- Chenamma tank changed to a burial ground, Banashankari 2nd Stage
- Puttenahalli tank changed to J.P. Nagar 6th Phase
- Jakkarayanakere is converted into a sports ground
- Kamakshipalya Lake is converted into a sports ground
- Baalayyana Kere (kamakshipalya) is converted into a sports ground
- Dasarahalli tank is converted into Dr. B.R Ambedkar Stadium
- Kaikondrahalli lake is now an apartment complex (SJR watermark)

Topography and Hydrology

The topographic setting of the city has radial slopes towards east and west with a smooth ridge running north to south; rainfall over the ridge area gets divided and flows east or west into the three gentle slopes and valleys of Koramangala–Challagatta, Hebbal and Vrishabavathi. Doddabettahalli 1062 m (3484.3 ft) is the highest point on this ridge. These naturally undulating terrain of hills and valleys, lends itself perfectly to the development of lakes that can capture and store rainwater. Small streams are formed by each valley starting with the ridge at the top. A series of shallow tanks varying in size are developed. The gentle topography has also good potential of ground water development.^{[12] [13]}

Water resources are important for urban areas as they provide for a wide range of uses.^[14] Bangalore, with annual rainfall of 900 mm (3.0 ft) with three different rainy seasons covering nine months of the year. June to October is the

rainy season accounting for 64% of the total annual rainfall in the S-W monsoon period and 324 mm (1.1 ft) during the N-E monsoons (November – December).^[13] It has a salubrious climate with an annual mean temperature of 24 °C (75.2 °F) with extremes ranging from 37 °C (98.6 °F) to 15 °C (59.0 °F).^{[12] [15]} The streams between ridges and valleys have been dammed at suitable locations creating a cascade of reservoirs in each of the three valley systems. Each lake stores rain water from its catchments with excess flows spilling downstream into the next lake in the cascade.^[12] The storm water runs off through drains only. These drains often carry sewage in it, which results in the lakes getting polluted. Many lakes have reportedly springs at the bottom of the lakes, some of which are stated to be choked due to silt, which also feed the lakes.^{[13] [16]}

The dependence on lakes, tanks, ponds, wells and other sources, in the past for supply of raw water to the city was de-linked with treated supplies arranged from river based schemes such as the "Chamarajendra Water Works" (Hesaraghatta Lake) built in 1894 and the "Chamarajasagar Reservoir" at T G Halli across the Arkavathy River in 1933 and subsequent sourcing from the Cauvery River schemes.^[15]

List of lakes

Further information: Bangalore

Of the several freshwater lakes and water tanks, the notable are the Madiwala Lake, the Hebbal Lake, the Ulsoor Lake and the Sankey Tank.

Notable lakes in Bangalore are:

- Bellandur Lake - The largest lake in the city, situated to the southeast.
- Ulsoor lake - Situated in Halasuru near M G Road. Facilities for boating, park, children's play area, fountains, Ganesha Chaturthi immersion place.
- Sankey tank - Renovated lately. park, Ganesha Chaturthi immersion place, jogging area.
- Madiwala Lake - One of the biggest lakes. Park, children's play area are there.
- Lalbagh lake - Situated in Lalbagh garden.
- Puttenahalli Lake
- Vengaihnakere
- Jarganhalli lake

- Nagavara lake
- Agara lake
- Kempambudhi Lake

Other lakes in Bangalore are Allalasanra, Attur Lake, BTM Lake, Chinnappannahalli, Doddanekundi, Kalkere, Kowdenhalli, Keravanhalli, Karithimmanhalli, Kaikondanahalli, Kodigenahalli, Mahadevpura, Uttarhalli, Doraikere, Dipanjali, Malgan and Yelahanka.

Status of two of the centrally located lakes, namely, the Ulsoor Lake and the Sankey tank, which have been restored by the Forest Department of the State, are elaborated in the following sections.



Many lakes in Bangalore are filled with weeds. View of the Hebbal lake before restoration

Flora and fauna

The lakes in Bangalore are rich in flora and fauna (some species are pictured in the gallery) biodiversity.^[12]

Vegetation

Lake vegetation comprise: typha, lily, nelumbo, algae, tapegrass (*Vallisneria spiralis*), mosses, ferns, reeds and rushes (*Juncaceae*)

Avifauna

The birds recorded are: Purple Moorhen also known as Purple Swamphen, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Cormorants, Brahminy Kite, Darter, Kingfishers, Weaver birds (*Ploceidae*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Grey Herons, Indian Pond Herons, Dab Chicks, Coots and Teals (*Anas crecca*) can be found here.



A bird flying over Hesaraghatta Lake in Bangalore

Limnology

The lakes are rich in the following fish species. Common Carp, Grass Carp, catla, Rohu, *Ompok bimaculatus*, *Notopterus notopterus*, *Anguilla bicolor bicolor* (Indonesian shortfin eel), *Puntius ticto* (Ticto barb), *Puntius dorsalis*, *Tilapia Sp.* and *Cirrhinus mrigalai*

Fauna

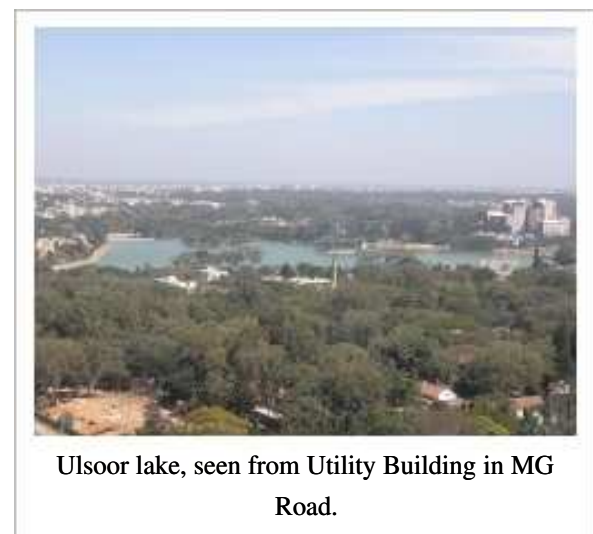
The fauna recorded are: Freshwater Turtles (Terrapin), Frogs, Nails, Crabs, Molluscs and many more species.

Status of lakes

The lakes of the city have been largely encroached for urban infrastructure, and as result, in the heart of the city only 17 good lakes exist as against 51 healthy lakes in 1985. According to a scientific study carried out by the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the water bodies of the city have reduced from 3.40 per cent (2324 ha (5742.7 acres)) in 1973 to just about 1.47 per cent (1005 ha (2483.4 acres)) in 2005 with built up area during the corresponding period increasing to 45.19 per cent (30476 ha (75307.8 acres)) from 27.30 per cent (18650 ha (46085.2 acres)). The adverse results of such large change are reported to be:^[4]

- Frequent flooding and micro-climatic changes in the city
- Undesirable impact on the diversity of flora and fauna
- Decrease in the number of migratory birds
- Fishing community and washer-men will be robbed of their livelihood

A recent study says most of the bangalore lakes are toxic with very less dissolved oxygen.^[17]



Ulsoor lake, seen from Utility Building in MG Road.

Management

Historically lakes in the Bangalore region were managed by a plethora of government agencies such as the Forest Department, Minor Irrigation Department, Horticulture Department, Public Works Department (PWD), Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Tourism Department, City Municipal Councils and Panchayats; each organization claiming its own jurisdiction of ownership and maintenance rights resulting in a deficient, inconsistent and uncoordinated approach.^[7]

Expert Committees set up by the Karnataka Government, since 1986, highlighted the failure of the various bodies maintaining lakes in protecting them and also suggested that:^[18]

- Existing tanks not be breached but retained as water bodies
- Efforts should be made to ensure that the tanks are not polluted by discharge of effluent and industrial wastes
- Prevent silting up of the tanks by offshore development through tree planting and also removal of encroachments
- Breached Tanks not be used for formation of sites but should be used to create tree parks



A recent view of the Sankey tank restored fully

- De-weed all tanks and develop aquatic life
- The tank areas where there are no atchkat (agricultural land) should be transferred to the Forest Department for developing tree parks/foreshore tree planting and formation of regional parks
- Encroachments on tank areas by the Bangalore Development Authority / Bangalore City Corporation / Minor Irrigation Department to be removed
- Monitoring of progress of all the above activities by the Forest Department, Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore City Corporation, Minor Irrigation Department, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Town Planning Department
- Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to be entrusted with the responsibility for the maintenance of water bodies in a clean and safe condition
- Examine possibility of construction of more tanks along the natural valleys with surplus runoff and implemented.

A Public Interest Litigation was also filed in July 1985 citing the recommendations of the Expert Committee for implementation and the High Court duly directed the Government of Karnataka to take immediate steps for acting on the recommendations. The Government initiated action to establish a separate authority to address the problem of lakes and implement the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the Lake Development Authority was thus established in July 2002.^[18]

Lake Development Authority

The Government of Karnataka, following the directive of The Honourable High Court of Karnataka and considering the unchecked deterioration of lakes in and around Bangalore and keeping in line with their critical role in maintaining healthy environs and recharging of ground water, set up the Lake Development Authority (LDA) in July 2002 as a registered society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1959, as a non-profit organization and a para-statal body with a mandate of

working solely for the regeneration and conservation of lakes in and around Bangalore city within BMRDA jurisdiction in the first instance, would be extended to other parts of Karnataka subsequently.

A Governing Council and other groups have been set up for the smooth functioning of the LDA. LDA's jurisdiction has been extended, in July 2003, to cover other city corporations and town municipalities in the State.^[18] The Authority is high powered body headed by a Chairman who is the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka as Vice-Chairman, with a Chief Executive Officer, Lake

Development Authority as Member Secretary with other members drawn from Planning, Science and Technology Department, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, Finance Department, Information and Tourism Department, Urban Development Department, Minor Irrigation Department, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department all at the level of Principal Secretaries to the State Govt, Director, NRCD, as representative from MOEF, Government of India, The Secretary (Environment & Ecology), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, the Secretary to Government (Horticulture) Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Chairmen of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board and Commissioners of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and Bangalore Development Authority.^[18]



View of lake in Lal Bagh.

The defined charter of functions of the LDA is:^[7]

- Restoring lakes and facilitation of restoration of depleting ground water table.
- Diverting/treating sewage to generate alternative sources of raw water and preventing contamination of underground aquifers from wastewater.
- Environmental Impact Assessment studies
- Environmental mapping and GIS mapping of lakes and surrounding areas.
- Improving and creating habitat for water birds and wild plants.

Reducing sillage and non-point water impacts.

- Improving urban sanitation and health condition especially of the weaker sections living close to the lakes.
- Impounding run-off water to ensure recharge of ground water aquifers and revival of bore wells.
- Monitoring and management of water quality and lake ecology.
- Utilising the lake for the purpose of education and tourism.
- Community participation and public awareness programmes for lake conservation.

The LDA initially identified 2,789 large, medium and small lakes within Bangalore Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (BMRDA) limits including 608 within the limits of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to take remedial and restoration measures. The Authority sought financial support from various funding agencies to implement identified activities. Several organizations and funding agencies have been involved in restoration of lakes in Bangalore and the activity has been coordinated by the Lake Development Authority. The details are:^[19]

- With funding from Indo-Norwegian Environment Programme (INEP), the Hebbal Lake, Madivala Lake and Dodda Bommasandra Lake have been restored by the Forest Department of the state
- The National Lake Conservation Programme (NLCP) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India have funded restoration works of Vengaihnakere, Jaraganahalli – Sarakki and Nagavara lakes implemented by the Forest Department of the state
- The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) or the Bangalore City Municipal Corporation has carried out restoration works of the Yediyur Lake, the Kempambudi Lake, the Ulsoor Lake, the Sankey tank, the Tavarekere and the Byrasandra (Jayanagar) Lake.

Apart from the above lakes, LDA is coordinating lake restoration works, outside the Bangalore city, in other parts of the state with funding from the National Lake Conservation Programme (NLCP)

Privatization

In 2004, the LDA began a process of "public-private participation" where private companies bid for the lakes to "develop and maintain" them for the next 15 years with the specified Terms of Reference. The tender specified the following Terms of Reference.^[7]

- Desilting, dredging, sewage diversions, constructed wetland, bio-remedial measures
- Construction of water treatment plants, chain link fencing

This was to be followed by beautification of lakes through:

- Landscaping and gardening
- Foreshore and island development
- Creation of tree parks, Rock gardens
- Walkways, Jogging path, cycling track
- Fountains, Children play area
- Electrification for illumination
- Boat jetty
- Eco friendly restaurants
- Urban (joy) fishing, bird watching, Butterfly Park, aviaries and boating

The following lakes were leased out to private parties; the Hebbal Lake to E.I.H, the Nagavara Lake to Lumbini Gardens and the Venkanayakere to ParC Ltd out of which the first two were initially allotted.^[7] In May 2006, LDA leased out the Hebbal Lake, one of the largest lakes in Bangalore, to East India Hotels (the Oberoi group) for a period of 15 years for an annual lease amount of Rs. 72,10,000 (about US\$ 1.44 million) and an annual escalation of 1.5% in the amount and an Investment of Rs.16,75,00,000 (about US\$0.34 million) with a security deposit of 1.5% (Rs.25,12,500 – about US\$0.50million) under the Public-Private Partnership policy.^[7] ^[20] The Nagavara Lake was leased to Lumbini Gardens Pvt Ltd in April 2005 for a period of 15 years for an annual lease amount of Rs.4023,000 (about US \$0.80 million) with an annual escalation of 1.5 % of this amount every year for the 15 –year lease period and with Investment of Rs.7,01,00,000 (about US\$ 14.02 million) with a security deposit of 2% of this amount (Rs.14,20,000 – about US\$0.284million).^[7]

As per the lease agreement, the above referred agencies were to carry out the development and maintenance of the lakes by:^[7]

- Setting up water treatment plant
- Dewatering the lake
- Controlling of storm water entry by building check dams
- Do land scaping, build a rose garden and also a rock garden
- Build jogging tracks and erect fountains
- Put up 4.5 m (14.8 ft) high Buddha statue.
- Develop an artificial beach as an amusement activity
- Develop water sport activities such as aqua karting, water scooter rides and paragliding
- Set up food courts, restaurants, including a floating restaurant



View of controversial Hebbal Lake from the airport road

Impact of privatization

The social damage caused due to privatization, as reported by a researcher, are:^[7]

- There is dichotomy in the functions allocated by the vesting of powers with LDA to maintain only the water body and some part of the shore line while the shore and lands adjoining the lakes, which also play an important role in the overall maintenance and health of lakes, are with district bodies. This state of affairs creates a complex situation of not addressing the lake as a continuum with land.
- The lakes are being developed as stand alone water bodies without a linkage to other lakes
- Land use regulations are violated as the private developers of the two lakes have not sought permission for change in land use from the Bangalore Development Authority for converting the Nagavara and Hebbal Lakes for commercial use; a case of non compliance of the law.
- Fauna dependent on the lake, like birds, fish and others are disturbed by the excess and disturbing human activity
- Conversion of the lakes and their surrounding areas into exclusive resorts, with entry fee access to the lake areas. The private developers are in the real estate/hospitality business with profit motive
- Violation of land use regulations by the private organizations while implementing the scheme
- Proposed construction of a 223–room Hotel at the side of Hebbal Lake is indication that private developer has taken the lease purely for commercial and business purposes. Such a development would exclude access to the lake for the general public.
- Lakes are Common Property Resources, in which a group of people have co–user rights. The impact of the privatization scheme would, therefore, need to be addressed legally
- The socio–economic impacts or apprehensions of the people such as fishermen dependent on the lake for livelihood is that there could be restrictions on their fishing rights and washer–men (dhobis) also have similar apprehensions

Protests

The above private sector activities have resulted in major protests from citizen groups. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has been urged by 500 residents requesting for abandoning the programme of handing over lakes to privatization of lakes as they are developed as recreation focal points.^[21] Civil rights groups are in the fore front of these protests as they allege that the lake which is a Common Property Resource is illegally fenced off and thus only privileged few could access it^[22] While the private developer contends that the lake will be a unique recreational place, the others feel that the entry fee of Rs 20 per person would exclude the traditional users (farmers, fishing communities, cattle herders, washer–men, and casual workers) of the lake. Environmentalists mention that the lake's wetland ecology sustained scores of water birds but it will soon become only a pretty hygienic bowl. Environmentalists also say that four types of vegetation in the ecosystem grow at different water depths, sustaining about 30 species of birds. Birds such as sandpipers and crows will find the lake too deep once the lake is deepened by removing the silt. Deep water birds such as ducks and cormorants will be disturbed by boating.^[23]

LDA's contention

The Lake Development Authority contends that the organization is not adequately staffed and that they do not have the finances for maintaining lakes on an ongoing basis. Hence, the alternative is leasing out lakes to private parties.^[7]

Public interest litigation (PIL)

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in 2008 by an Environmental Support Group (a Trust) and a public spirited individual of Bangalore in the High Court of Bangalore citing 16 respondents with the Lake Development Authority (LDA) as the second main respondent and the favoured respondents (at serial number 14,15 and 16) namely M/s Biota Natural Systems (I) Pvt. Ltd, M/s Lumbini Gardens Ltd., and M/s E. I. H. Limited, in respect of the ongoing privatisation of lakes/tanks in Bangalore. The PIL contends that:^[24]

- Actions taken by the respondents are against settled legal norms in respect of Management and conservation of such ecologically sensitive water bodies (also wildlife habitats) and which support a variety of customary and traditional rights
- Water bodies are located in prime areas of the city and beneficiaries of privatization of these are largely hoteliers and builders, as it is not an environmentally progressive purpose but more a manipulation of the policy with profit motive
- The constitution of the Lake Development Authority (Respondent) expressly prohibits privatizing these public water bodies against the wider public interest

PIL has sought redress from the Honorable High Court by way of issue of writ or order in the nature of Mandamus repealing the 'Lease Deeds' executed by Respondent (the LDA) in favour of the beneficiary respondents (to whom the lakes were leased – Respondents 14, 15 and 16) and requested the Court to direct the Government of Karnataka (as first Respondent) to ensure full compliance with the law and policies relating to protection and conservation of lakes/tanks/wetlands.^[24]

Policy turnaround

With the privatization approach for development and management of lakes not proving to be popular, and considering the serious protests by the public and the pending Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Karnataka seeking redress, the Government of Karnataka has now decided to make amends with a paradigm shift in its approach by declaring that the State Government would undertake, through its agencies such as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), BBMP and Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), the rejuvenation works of 27 lakes in the Phase I by allocating finances to the extent of Rs 1.5–2 crores (US\$ 375,000 to 500,000) per lake which would involve.^[25]

- Desilting of the lake bed
- Diversion of sewage and other processes
- Free access to the public
- Discontinue the policy of privatization of lakes and
- Revisit the allotments already made to private parties in view of reported misuse of the lake property by encroachment for private gains

The LDA has transferred 17 lakes to BBMP while rest of the lakes are now controlled by Karnataka Forest Department.^[26]

Gallery





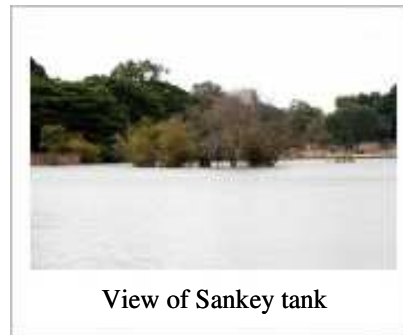
Purple Heron



Grey Heron



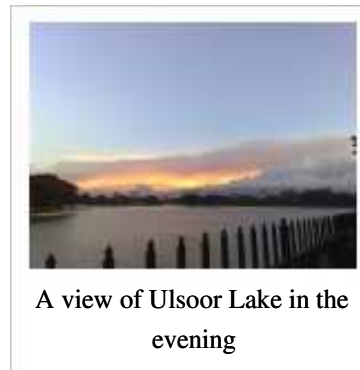
Tilapia

Vallisneria spiralis or
Tapegrass

View of Sankey tank



Renovated Sankey tank

A view of Ulsoor Lake in the
evening

Reflection of trees at Lalbagh

Lalbagh lake shot early in the
morning

KIRAN FROM EMT

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Hebbal lake

Hebbal Lake is located in the north of Bangalore at the mouth of National Highway 7, along the junction of Bellary Road and the Outer Ring Road (ORR). It was one of the three lakes created in 1537 by Kempe Gowda. Like most lakes or "tanks" in the Bangalore region it was formed by the damming natural valley systems^[1] by the construction of *bunds*. The spread of the lake in a study in 2000 was found to be 75 ha with plans for extending it to make up 143 ha.^[2]



Board at entrance of lake in 2008

Limnology

The catchment area of the lake was found to be 3750ha^[2] and this area includes the residential areas of Yeshwanthpur, Mathikere, Rajmahal Vilas Extension, Bharat Electronics Limited and Hindustan Machine Tools Limited colonies. In 1974 the lake area was 77.95 ha and in 1998 it was 57.75 ha.^[3] Based on the rainfall of the region, the annual catchment was estimated at 15.2 million cubic metres with 3.04 million cubic metres during the Northeast Monsoon, 10.12 million cubic metres during the Southwest Monsoon and 3.28 million cubic metres in the dry season. The storage capacity of the lake was estimated in 2000 to be 2.38 million cubic metres with desilting raising it to 4.07 million cubic metres.^[2] Sewage inflow into the lake has altered the chemistry



View of the lake in 2008

and biology of the lake. Most measured physico-chemical properties of the waters of the lake exceed the acceptable standards for sewage effluent discharge set by the Indian Standards Institute (Indian Standards: 2490, 1982).^[4]

Ecology

The lake is predominantly eutrophic due to the inflow of sewage. The nutrients support the profuse growth of Water Hyacinth and *Typha* in the shallow zone. The habitat is favoured by many species of water birds including large waterbirds such as the Spot-billed Pelican, Eurasian Spoonbill, Shoveller, Pintail, Garganey, Little Grebe, Coot and Spot-billed Duck. The shallow zone supports sandpipers and other waders as well as Purple Moorhens, Purple Herons and Grey Herons.^[5]

In the late 1990s, an ecological experiment was conducted with the introduction of *Neochetina bruchi* and *Neochetina eichhorniae* weevils from Argentina to control the growth of water hyacinth.^[6]

Management

Historically lakes in the Bangalore region were managed by the Public Works Department, but The lake was managed by Karnataka State Forest Department. The management was transferred in 2002 to the Lake Development Authority, a non-profit society started with the aim of managing lakes in the Bangalore region.

A project for lake restoration funded under the Indo-Norwegian Environment Programme at a cost of Rs. 2.7 crore (USD 700,000) led to major changes in the ecosystem beginning in 1998. Two artificial islands were created using the soil from desilting under this project. These vegetated islands have become the roost sites of many water-birds. Desilting was ostensibly taken up in 2003 as part of this program.^[7]



Hebbal lake seen from flyover.

Citizen protests

Water resources are of importance in urban areas and there are a wide range of uses.^[8] In 2004 the LDA began a process of "public-private participation" where private companies bid for the lakes to "develop and maintain" them for the next 15 years. This led to a major outcry from citizen groups.^{[9] [10] [11]} The lakes at Hebbal, Nagawara and Vengaihnakere are leased for 15 years to East India Hotels Ltd., Lumbini Developers and ParC Ltd. respectively.^[7]

The LDA leased out Hebbal Lake, one of the largest lakes in Bangalore, to East India Hotels (The Oberoi group) for a period of 15 years for an annual lease amount of Rs. 72,10,000 and an annual escalation of 1.5% in the amount, under the Public-Private-Partnership policy. The developments included building a boating jetty, a handicraft and curio gift centre and an island restaurant. The private bidder was also expected to undertake desilting (as done already in 2003) and they were permitted to charge entry fees.^{[12] [13]} The LDA claimed that this would increase the recreation options for the people but also encourage eco-tourism, support bio-diversity, recharge ground water and help maintain eco-balance.



Tree planted by Jens Stoltenberg during the review of the lake project funded by NORAD

Precedents set in the Intellectuals Forum v. State of Andhra Pradesh judgement of the Supreme Court of India (C A No. 1251/2006), state that "the tank is a communal property and the State authorities are trustees to hold and manage such properties for the benefit of the community and they cannot be allowed to commit any act or omission which will infringe the right of the community and alienate the property to any other person or body". Opposing citizen groups point out that the privatization scheme represents a clear contempt of court. The Karnataka Fisheries

Department was asked not to renew the contracts with fishermen at Hebbal Lake in violation of the privatization agreement that stated that the move would “respect traditional rights” of the users.

The privatisation of Hebbal lake has been pointed out as a threat to the bio-diversity of these lakes, particularly the birdlife. The threats come from plans to introduce recreational facilities and human activities on the shore apart from draining and drying of the lake for various operations.


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External links

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Sankey tank

Sankey Tank	
	
Location	Bangalore District, Karnataka
Coordinates	13°01′N 77°34′E
Lake type	Freshwater
Primary inflows	Rainfall and city drainage
Catchment area	1.254 km (0.8 mi)
Basin countries	India
Surface area	15 ha (37.1 acres)
Max. depth	9.26 m (30.4 ft)
Shore length¹	1.7 km (1.1 mi)
Surface elevation	929.8 m (3050.5 ft)
Islands	1
Settlements	Bengaluru
¹ Shore length is not a well-defined measure.	

Sankey tank (Kannada:ಸೌಯಾಂಕೆ ಕೆರೆ), a manmade lake or tank, is situated in the western part of Bangalore in the middle of the suburbs of Malleshwaram, Vyalikaval and Sadashiva Nagar. The lake covers an area of about 15 ha (37.1 acres). At its widest, the tank has a width of 800 m (2624.7 ft)^[1] Sankey tank was constructed by Col. Richard Hiram Sankey (RE)^[2] of the Madras Sappers Regiment, in 1882, to meet the water supply demands of Bangalore. The tank was also known as *Gandhadhakotikere*, as the Government Sandalwood Depot used to be located near the lake.^[3]

History

Sankey reservoir was constructed in 1882 and the works cost Rupees 575000. It was linked to the Miller's tank and Dharmambudhi tank and was built as a safeguard against water shortages, such as that experienced in the Great Famine of 1875-77. The quality of water was not very good and when Lord Connemara, Governor of Madras visited in July 1888 it was commented upon by a local wit: "The men who are thrown off their horses and killed on the spot at Bangalore are the only ones that are allowed by doctors not to have died from drinking bad water".^[4]

Threats

The threats posed to the survival of the lake, which were also identified by the local people (morning joggers) using the lake, refer to: ^[5]

- Contamination of water with sewage flowing in from seven points, which are connected to storm water drains
- Choked drains with garbage and sewage
- Leaking sewage pipes connected to a public toilet at a park
- Decrease in the biological oxygen demand and high BOD content due to sewage
- Threats to fish and plants. During the tests conducted in 2001 also the DO was reported to vary from 3.7 to 8.1, BOD between 2 and 8 and the pH varied from 7.1 to 7.5. ^[6]
- Reduction number of ducks, fish and migratory birds due to polluted condition of the lake waters

Restoration actions

The tank was converted into a park by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) with funds provided by the Government of Karnataka. In addition, the following were also implemented. ^[5]

- Removing encroachments
- Alum purification treatment to absorb toxic elements and germs
- Nursery towards the north.
- Paved Walkways
- Landscaped parks
- Special tank for idol immersion during Ganesh Chaturthi festival
- Restoration of swimming pool

Legal land encroachment tangle

In 2004, local builders' proposal to construct a multistory building in the Sankey tank bed was challenged by petitioners in the Karnataka Lok Adalat (Peoples Court, an adjunct of the High Court). But the Court was informed by the Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BMP) that it had not sanctioned any plan for the proposed building and that it would take immediate action to prevent any such steps by the developer taken without a no-objection certificate from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. ^[7]

The Lok Adalat ordered the Forest Department to repossess 0.52 ha (1.3 acres) of land belonging to it from the real estate developers who had set out to build an apartment block there. The Lake Development Authority also recommended that no construction or development activity should be allowed within a distance of 100 m (328.1 ft) from lakes in order to ensure that the water bodies in the city are not encroached and their conservation and protection are not stalled. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) informed the court that the proposal of Abhishek Builders and Mantri Developers to build an 18–floor luxury apartment block near the Sankey Tank has been turned down as gross violations were noted under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. ^[8]



Sankey tank was developed into a park in early 2000

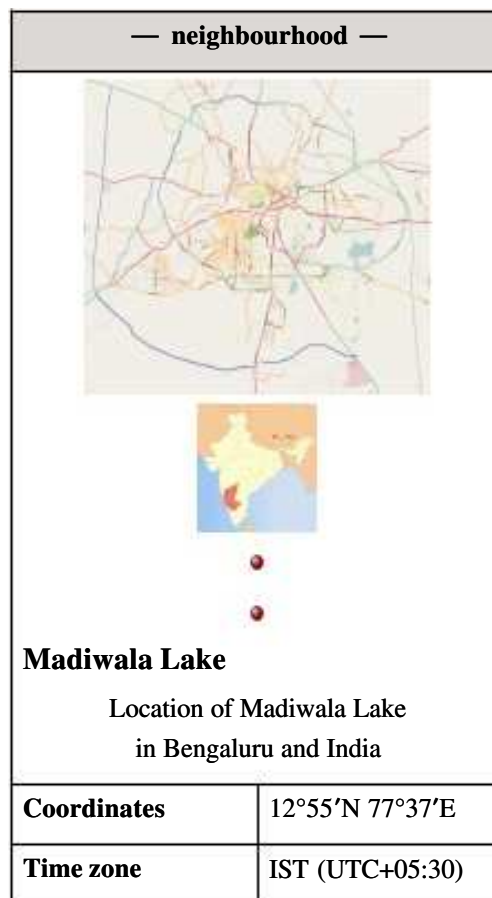


A recent view of the Sankey tank developed into a park

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Madiwala Lake



Madiwala is a locality in Bangalore, India. It is a center of bustling activity from grocery markets to IT to shopping malls like Total mall. Being at the center of the IT corridor it is well known across Bangalore.

Renowned missionary hospital St. John's Medical college Hospital is at Madiwala.

Widely spoken languages are English ,Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam, Hindi.

Madiwala Lake

Madiwala lake is one of the biggest lakes in Bangalore, India spread over an area of 114.3 hectare. It is situated in the BTM Layout at 12° 54' 28" North, 77° 37' 0" East in Bangalore city. It is a home to many migratory birds.

Administration and Facilities

The Madiwala Lake comes under the administration of Karnataka State Forest Department which carries out the routine maintenance of this lake. There is also a beautiful Children park, and parking lot. The boating facility has been discontinued recently.

Pelican Migration

The Madiwala lake sees a huge number of Spot-billed Pelican migration in the winter(November–December). These Spot-billed Pelicans live in groups. The main food is fish. Pelicans take small flight across the lake for fishing. These migratory birds can also be sighted in Sri Lanka. They provide a great sight while landing. Typically their wing spans for about 8.5 feet. The pelicans in this lake share their food with the local fishermen. Local people have great love towards these migratory birds. Egrets can also be sighted along with these birds.

Key Landmarks

Bangalore Cantonment

The **Bangalore Cantonment** (1806–1881) was a military cantonment of the British Raj based in the Indian city of Bangalore. The cantonment covered an area of 13 square miles, extending from the Residency on the west to Binnamangala on the east and from the Tanneries in the north to Agram in the south. By area, it was the largest British military cantonment in South India. The British garrison stationed in the cantonment included three artillery batteries, and regiments of the cavalry, infantry, sappers, miners, mounted infantry, supply and transport corps and the *Bangalore Rifle Volunteers*. The Bangalore Cantonment was directly under the administration of the British Raj, while Bangalore City itself was under the jurisdiction of the Durbar of the Kingdom of Mysore.^[1]

History and Layout

Prior to the arrival of the British, Bangalore had been the stronghold of several Hindu dynasties including the Gangas, Cholas, Hoysalas and the Vijayanagara Empire. In the 18th century, the dominion of Bangalore passed on to Haider Ali. After a series of successive wars known as the Anglo-Mysore Wars with Haider Ali's son, Tipu Sultan, the British captured the city and all of the Kingdom of Mysore in 1799.

Capture of Bangalore Fort

Bangalore was the strongest fort of Tipu Sultan and during the Third Anglo-Mysore War, Lord Cornwallis decided to reduce this fort before the storming of Seringapatam.^[2]

Tipu Sultan followed Cornwallis' army, placing him in the awkward position of having an undefeated enemy army at his back while besieging the a strong fortification. Tipu kept away hoping to take assault when underway in flank. Over the next twelve days, two companies of the Madras Pioneers provided sappers for eight batteries, dug several parallels and a trench up to the fort ditch. Cornwallis attacked secretly on the night of March 21, 1791. The Madras Pioneers, led by Lt Colin Mackenzie, crossed the ditch with scaling ladders, mounted the breach and entered the fort, while the artillery engaged the fort with blank ammunition. With a breach made, the main stormers rushed in and the fort was captured after a hand-to hand fight in which a thousand defenders were killed. Cornwallis captured the fort and secured the force against Tipu.^[2]

The Madras Pioneers, went on to make Bangalore their permanent home.

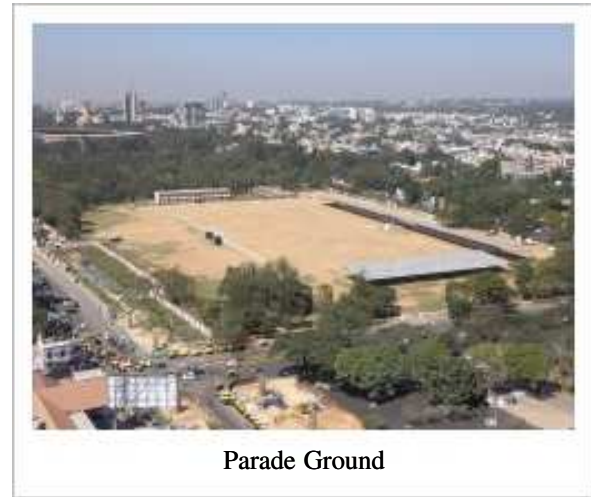
Establishment of cantonment

The British found Bangalore to be a pleasant and appropriate place to station their garrison and therefore moved their garrison to Bangalore from Seringapatam. The origin of the word *cantonment* comes from the French word *canton*, meaning *corner* or *district*. Each cantonment was essentially a well-defined and clearly demarcated unit of territory set apart for the quartering and administering of troops.^[3] The heart of the Bangalore Cantonment was the Parade Ground. The Civil and Military Station (CMS) grew around the Parade Ground.



Lady Curzon hospital in the cantonment was established in 1864 and named after the first wife of the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon.

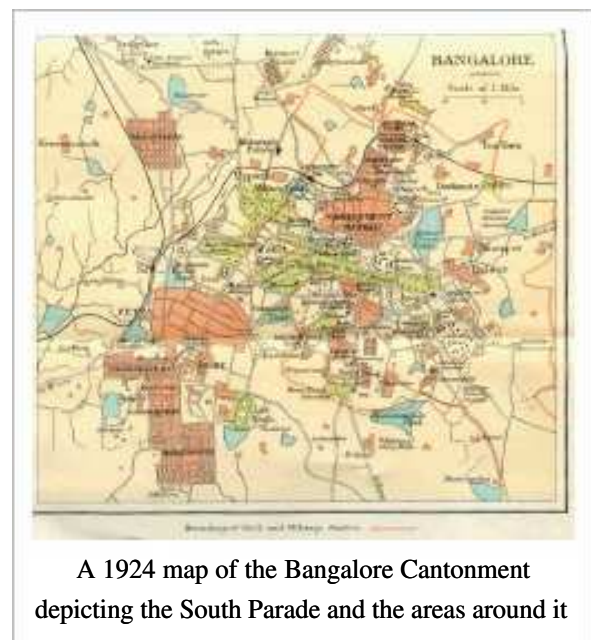
The installation of the Bangalore Cantonment attracted a large number of migrant workers from Tamil Nadu and other neighboring states of the Kingdom of Mysore.^[4] Bangalore rapidly became the largest city in the Kingdom of Mysore. In 1831, the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore was moved from Mysore city to Bangalore. The Bangalore Cantonment grew independent of its twin-city, referred to as Bangalore *pete* (IPA: [ˈpeːteː]). The *pete* was typically congested with a traditional Kannadiga population, while the Bangalore Cantonment, with more *lung space* had a colonial design with a population that consisted of residents from other parts of India and Britain. In the 19th century, the Bangalore Cantonment had clubs, churches, bungalows, shops and cinemas. The Bangalore Cantonment had a strong European influence with public residence and life centered around the South Parade, now referred to as MG Road. The area around the South Parade was famous for its bars and restaurants with the area known as *Blackpally* becoming a one-stop shopping area^[5] The Cubbon Park was built in the Bangalore Cantonment in 1864 on 120 acres (0.49 km²) of land. The St. Mark's Cathedral was built on the South Parade grounds. The settlements adjacent to the South Parades was known as *Mootocherry* which was occupied by Tamil settlers from the North Arcot and South Arcot districts of Tamil Nadu.



Parade Ground

Development

The names of many of the cantonment's streets were derived from military nomenclature such as *Artillery Road*, *Brigade Road*, *Infantry Road* and *Cavalry Road*. The city of Bangalore still retains many of the colonial names of its streets. A resident to the King of Mysore, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV lived within the cantonment area and his quarters was called the "Residency" and hence the name *Residency Road*. Areas around the South Parade that essentially were public living areas were named after their European residents. A municipal corporation was established for the Bangalore Cantonment in 1863. After Indian independence in 1947, corporation merged with the Bangalore *pete* municipal corporation to form the Bangalore City Corporation, now known as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.



A 1924 map of the Bangalore Cantonment depicting the South Parade and the areas around it

Bangalore was part of the Madras Presidency, and in 1864, the city was connected to Madras by rail. Still called the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Station, it is one of many railway stations servicing the city of Bangalore.^[6] Around 1883, Richmond Town, Benson Town and Cleveland Town were added to the cantonment. The population of the Bangalore *pete* and cantonment fell dramatically in 1898 when a bubonic plague epidemic broke out. The epidemic took a huge toll and many temples were built during this time, dedicated to the goddess Mariamma. The crisis caused by this epidemic catalyzed the improvement and sanitation of Bangalore and, in turn, improvements in sanitation and health facilities helped to modernize Bangalore. Telephone lines were laid to help coordinate anti-plague operations. Regulations for building new houses with proper sanitation facilities came into effect. A health officer was appointed in 1898 and the city was divided into four wards for better coordination and the Victoria Hospital was inaugurated in 1900 by Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of British India. In 1881, the British officially stopped recognizing Bangalore as a cantonment and instead considered it to be an "assigned tract", and administered under the auspices of the Mahārājah of Mysore, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV. However, the British retained their garrison in the city until 1947. After Indian independence, Bangalore Cantonment was merged with the rest of Bangalore City under the dominion of the Mysore State.

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- Latest news headlines from Bangalore Cantonment (<http://local.currentsamachar.com/bangalore.php>)

Bangalore Fort

Bangalore Fort was originally built by Kempe Gowda a feudatory of the Vijayanagar Empire and the founder of Bangalore as a mud fort. It was converted into a stone fort by Haider Ali in 1761. It was a stronghold of Tipu Sultan that was captured by the army of the British East India Company led by Lord Cornwallis on 21 March 1791 during the Third Mysore War (1790–1792). Only the Delhi gate of the fort presently exists on Krishnarajendra Road bearing a marble plaque recording the spot where a breach in the fort wall delivered Bangalore Fort to the British. There also exists a wooden palace of Tipu sultan, and his armoury in the old fort area.

The Bangalore fort, ca. 1791, was described as follows:^[1]

Bangalore, like Madras, had a fort, with a *pettah*, or fortified town, outside it. This lay-out was a feature of almost all the cities or settlements in India, the fort providing a place of refuge for most of the inhabitants if the *pettah* was in danger of capture. The fort at Bangalore had a perimeter of about one mile; it was of solid masonry, surrounded by a wide ditch which was commanded from 26 towers placed at intervals along the ramparts. To its north lay the *pettah*, several miles in circumference and protected by an indifferent rampart, a deep belt of thorn and cactus, and a small ditch. Altogether Bangalore was not a place which invited attack.

—Sandes, Lt Col E.W.C. (1933) *The Military Engineer In India, Vol 1*



Ruins of the Bangalore Fort in 1860



Plan of Bangalore Fort, 1792

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Cubbon Park

Cubbon Park

— neighbourhood —



Avenues and road within the Park



Cubbon Park

Location of Cubbon Park
in Bengaluru and India

Coordinates	12°58'N 77°36'E
Country	India
State	Karnataka
District(s)	Bangalore Urban
Time zone	IST (UTC+05:30)

Cubbon Park (Kannada: ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್) is a landmark 'lung' area of the Bangalore city, located (12°58'N 77°36'E) within the heart of city in the Central Administrative Area. Originally created in 1870, when Major General Richard Sankey was the then British Chief Engineer of Mysore state, it covered an area of 100 acres (0.40 km²) and subsequent expansion has taken place and the area reported now is about 300 acres (1.2 km²). It has a rich recorded history of abundant flora and fauna plantations coupled with numerous impressive and aesthetically located buildings and statues of famous personages, in its precincts.^[1] ^[2] This public park was first named as "Meade's Park" after Sir John Meade, the acting Commissioner of Mysore in 1870 and subsequently renamed as Cubbon Park after the longest serving commissioner of the time, Sir Mark Cubbon. To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar's rule in Mysore State, in the year 1927, the park was again renamed as "Sri. Chamarajendra Park", in memory of the 19th Century ruler of the state Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar (1868 – 94) during whose rule the park came into existence.^[3] The landscaping in the park creatively integrates natural rock outcrops with thickets of trees, massive bamboos, with grassy expanse and flowerbeds and the monuments within its limits, regulated by the Horticulture Department of the Government of Karnataka. The predominantly green area of the park has many motorable roads, and the well laid out walking paths running through the park are frequented by early morning walkers and the naturalists who study plants in the tranquil natural environment.^[3]



A Map of Cubbon Park made with Openstreetmap



Delonix or ornamental Gulmohar flower seen in profusion in the Cubbon Park

Tourists visiting this Park in the city of Bangalore have nicknamed the city itself as 'Garden City'.^[4]

The importance of the Park to the city's environment is best stated by two Urban Architects who have won the national competition to design 'Freedom Park.'

Access

The Park is accessible from M.G. Road, Kasturba road, Hudson Circle and Ambedkar Veedhi (Road). The motorable roads which run through the park are allowed for light motor vehicles only. All locations of the park are accessible through walking paths. The Park is open to the public at all times but the roads are closed for traffic from 5 A.M to 8 A.M every day.^[5]

Botanical assets

Indigenous and exotic botanical species found in the park are about 68 genera and 96 species with a total of around 6000 plants/trees. Indigenous species found in the park are:^[6] artocarpus, cassia fistula, ficus, polyalthias etc., and exotic species such as araucaria, bamboo, castanospermum australe, grevillea robusta, millettia, peltophorum, schinus molle, swietenia mahagoni, tabebuia. sp etc.

Amongst the ornamental and flowering exotic trees lining the roads in the park are the Grevillea robusta (silver oak)—the first oaks introduced to Bangalore from Australia^[3]—and the delonix or the gulmohar tree (bright red flowers with long petals) along the Cubbon road in the park, which is a widely cultivated tropical ornamental tree around the world.^[7]

Avenues

The avenue of araucarias along with canna beds on either sides of the road from the Central Public Library to Hudson circle, avenue of Swieteninas in the Northern side of the park, the Java fig avenue along the road leading to the Government Museum, polyalthia avenue along the road from Queen's statue to King Edward statue and the chestnut tree avenue from the Chamarajendra statue to Siddalingaiah circle are testimony to the botanical richness of the park. From the Attara Kacheri towards the East, terrace garden developed on a gradient provides a beautiful sight. Other attractions at the Park are the Ringwood circle, lotus pond and bamboo grove nook.^[3]

Gallery



Bamboos and other trees in Cubbon Park



Avenues and road within the Park



A view of Cubbon Park



Peguensis/ovalifolia or Moulmein Rosewood tree



Pongam or Honge (Pongamia pinnata) planted as avenue trees



The Java Pink Cassia or Cassia javanica



Spanish Mahogany tree found in Cubbon Park



Grevillea robusta (silver oak)



Gulmohar tree

Historical buildings and monuments integral to the park

The formal gardens, from the central hall of the original Attara Kacheri (means 18 government offices) now the Karnataka High Court, extends along the central promenade developed symmetrically with avenues, to the Museum building. Another impressive artistic structure is the Iyer Potty Hall, which houses the Central Library with a rose garden as a frontage. Other buildings located within or at the periphery of the park are 1) the Indira Priyadarshini Children's Library, 2) the Venkatappa Art Gallery, 3) the Aquarium (stated to be the second largest in India), 4) the YMCA, 5) Yuvanika — the State Youth Centre, 6) Century Club, 7) Press Club, 8) Jawahar Bal Bhavan, 9) Tennis Pavilion, 10) the Cheshire Dyer Memorial Hall and 11) the Ottawa Chatter^[3].



Statue of Queen Victoria inside Cubbon Park

A bandstand, in an octagonal shape made with cast-iron, was built in the early part of the 1900s. Before India's Independence, the British Royal Air Force used to play western band music at the band stand every Saturday evening^[8]. An attraction for children is the well planned children's amusement park as part of Jawahar Bal Bhavan, which has the toy train, Puttani Express that runs (0.75 miles or 1.2 km) within the Park, the Doll museum and a boating facility. A 20 million year old fossilized tree — a gift from the Geological Survey of India, is also reported at the park^[9].

Memorials in the form of marble statues in honour of Queen Victoria (installed in 1906), King Edward VII (installed in 1919), Major General Sir Mark Cubbon, Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar (installed in 1927) and Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer (installed in 1913) are seen located in front of the historical buildings within the park^[3].

Attara Kacheri

Attara Kacheri, built in 1864 A.D during British rule, is a stone structure in an intense red hue, a two storied building with Corinthian columns in Gothic Style of architecture and is located at the entrance to the Park. The Public offices (Secretariat of the Government of Karnataka) were located here from 1868 AD to 1956 AD, which were later moved to the Vidhana Soudha, opposite to it. The building now accommodates the Karnataka High Court. In



Originally Attarakacheri now the High Court of Karnataka in Bangalore at the entrance to Cubbon Park

the Central Hall a portrait of Sir Mark Cubbon decorates the ceiling. An equestrian statue of Cubbon by Baron Marochetti is located at the back of the building^[10] .^[11] .

Museum

The State Archeological Museum, one of the oldest in India, built in 1876 by Colonel Sankey, located within the Park, is similar in design to the Attara Kacheri in its architectural style and hue. While the original collection in the museum belonged to Benjamin L. Rice of the Mysore Gazetteer, antiquities from Mohenjodaro period are on display in the Museum. Exhibits in the Museum include specimens of Vijaynagar and Halebid architecture, ancient coins and stone inscriptions as old as 5000 years.^[11] .^[12] .

Seshadri Iyer memorial hall

Seshadri Iyer Memorial Hall, built in 1915 AD in a classic European style with Tuscan and Carinthian columns, in honour of Sir K.Seshadri Iyer who was Dewan of Mysore State from 1883 to 1901, is an impressive red building with gables. It houses the Seshadri Memorial library^[11] .The memorial building is ensconced in the middle of the park, framed by the greenery of the park and with a beautiful frontage of the rose garden^[9] .The Library has an area of 300 km² and functions as the Apex of the Karnataka Public Libraries system, which is governed by State Library Authority.In the year 2000 AD, the Library was awarded the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation Award for the best state central library in India in recognition of its outstanding contribution to meritorious services rendered in the spread of knowledge and gearing up of library movement in the city of Bangalore in particular and in the state of Karnataka in general. The library has presently a collection of 2.65 lakh books and also a Braille section.



A rear view of Sir Seshadri Iyer Memorial Library in Cubbon Park