

= Karnataka =

Karnataka (Kannada : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ , IPA : / kʌrʌnʌtʌkʌ , kʌr- /) is a state in south western region of India . It was formed on 1 November 1956 , with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act . Originally known as the State of Mysore , it was renamed Karnataka in 1973 . The capital and largest city is Bangalore (Bengaluru) . Karnataka is bordered by the Arabian Sea and the Laccadive Sea to the west , Goa to the northwest , Maharashtra to the north , Telangana to the northeast , Andhra Pradesh to the east , Tamil Nadu to the southeast , and Kerala to the southwest . The state covers an area of 191 @, @ 976 square kilometres (74 @, @ 122 sq mi) , or 5 @. @ 83 percent of the total geographical area of India . It is the seventh largest Indian state by area . With 61 @, @ 130 @, @ 704 inhabitants at the 2011 census , Karnataka is the eighth largest state by population , comprising 30 districts . Kannada , one of the classical languages of India , is the most widely spoken and official language of the state .

The two main river systems of the state are the Krishna and its tributaries , the Bhima , Ghataprabha , Vedavathi , Malaprabha , and Tungabhadra , in the north , and the Kaveri and its tributaries , the Hemavati , Shimsha , Arkavati , Lakshmana Thirtha and Kabini , in the south . Most of these rivers flow out of Karnataka eastward 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 n?du , meaning " elevated land " . Karu nadu may also be read as karu , meaning " black " , and nadu , meaning " region " , as a reference to the black cotton soil found in the Bayalu Seeme region of the state . The British used the word Carnatic , sometimes Karnatak , to describe both sides of peninsular India , south of the Krishna .

With an antiquity that dates to the paleolithic , Karnataka has 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 and Hindustani traditions .

= = History = =

Karnataka 's pre @-@ history goes back to a paleolithic hand @-@ axe culture evidenced by discoveries of , among other things , hand axes and cleavers in the region . 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 hypothesise about contacts between ancient Karnataka and the Indus Valley Civilisation ca . 3300 BCE .

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 ; the Western Ganga Dynasty was formed with Talakad as its capital .

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 . These dynasties were followed by imperial Kannada empires such as the Badami Chalukyas , the Rashtrakuta Empire of Manyakheta and the Western Chalukya Empire , 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 . Parts of modern @-@ day Southern Karnataka (Gangavadi) were occupied by the Chola Empire at the turn of 11th century . The Cholas and the Hoysalas fought over the region in the early 12th century before it eventually came under Hoysala rule .

At the turn of the first millennium , the Hoysalas gained power in the region . Literature flourished during this time , which led to the emergence of distinctive Kannada literary metres , and the

construction of temples and sculptures adhering to the Vesara style of architecture . 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 .

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 . 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 . 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 . During the sixteenth century , Konkani Hindus migrated to Karnataka , mostly from Salcette , Goa , while during the seventeenth and eighteenth century , Goan Catholics migrated to South Canara , especially from Bardes , Goa , as a result of food shortages , epidemics and heavy taxation imposed by the Portuguese .

In the period that followed , parts of northern Karnataka were ruled by the Nizam of Hyderabad , the Maratha Empire , the British , and other powers . In the south , the Mysore Kingdom , a former vassal of the Vijayanagara Empire , was briefly independent . 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 . 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 . The Kingdom of Mysore was restored to the Wodeyars and Mysore remained a princely state under 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 Indian Rebellion of 1857 - were led by Mundargi Bhimarao , Bhaskar Rao Bhawe , the Halagali Bedas , Raja Venkatappa Nayaka and others . By the late 19th century , the independence 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 .

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 Reorganisation Act of 1956 . The thus expanded state was renamed Karnataka , seventeen years later , in 1973 . In the early 1900s through the post @-@ independence era , industrial visionaries such as Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya born in Muddenahalli , 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 :

The coastal region of Karavali

The hilly Malenadu region comprising the Western Ghats

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 . The highest point in Karnataka is the Mullayanagiri hills in Chickmagalur district which has an altitude of 1 @,@ 929 metres (6 @,@ 329 ft) . Some of the important rivers in

Karnataka are Kaveri , Tungabhadra , Krishna , Malaprabha and the Sharavathi .

Karnataka consists of four main types of geological formations ? 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 . 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 3 @, @ 638 @. @ 5 mm (143 in) per annum , far in excess of the state average of 1 @, @ 139 mm (45 in) . Agumbe in the Shivamogga district receives the second highest annual rainfall in India . 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 38 @, @ 724 km² (14 @, @ 951 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 .

= = Sub @-@ divisions = =

There are 30 districts in Karnataka :

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 .

At the 2011 census , Karnataka 's ten largest cities , sorted in order of decreasing population , were Bangalore , Hubballi @-@ Dharwad , Mysuru , Gulbarga , Mangaluru , Belagavi , Davangere , Ballary , Vijayapur and Shivamogga . Bangalore Urban , Belagavi and Mysore were the most populous districts , each of them having a population of more than three million . Bangalore Rural and Kodagu districts had a population of less than one million .

= = Demographics = =

According to the 2011 census of India , the total population of Karnataka was 61 @, @ 095 @, @ 297 of which 30 @, @ 966 @, @ 657 (50 @. @ 7 %) were male and 30 @, @ 128 @, @ 640 (49 @. @ 3 %) were female , or 1000 males for every 973 females . This represents a 15 @. @ 60 % increase over the population in 2001 . The population density was 319 per km² and 38 @. @ 67 % of the people lived in urban areas . The literacy rate was 75 @. @ 36 % with 82 @. @ 47 % of males and 68 @. @ 08 % of females being literate . 84 @. @ 00 % of the population were Hindu , 12 @. @ 92 % were Muslim , 1 @. @ 87 % were Christian , 0 @. @ 72 % were Jains , 0 @. @ 16 % were Buddhist , 0 @. @ 05 % were Sikh and 0 @. @ 02 % were belonging to other religions and 0 @. @ 27 % of the population did not state their religion .

Kannada is the official language of Karnataka and spoken as a native language by about 66 @. @ 26 % of the people as of 2001 . Other linguistic minorities in the state were Urdu (10 @. @ 54 %) , Telugu (7 @. @ 03 %) , Tamil (3 @. @ 57 %) , Marathi (3 @. @ 6 %) , Tulu (3 @. @ 0 %) , Hindi (2 @. @ 56 %) , Konkani (1 @. @ 46 %) , Malayalam (1 @. @ 33 %) and Kodava Takk (0 @. @ 3 %) . In 2007 the state had 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 was

2 @. @ 2 .

In the field of speciality health care , Karnataka 's private sector competes with the best in the world . 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 .

= = Government and administration = =

Karnataka 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 . The Legislative Council is a permanent body of 75 members with one @-@ third (25 members) retiring every two years .

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 . 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 . The people of Karnataka also elect 28 members to the Lok Sabha , the lower house of the Indian Parliament . 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 , 30 districts , 175 taluks and 745 hoblies / revenue circles . 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 , is entrusted with the responsibility of managing forests , environment and wildlife of the district , he will be assisted by the officers belonging to Karnataka Forest Service and officers belonging to Karnataka Forest Subordinate Service . 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 . 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 . Border disputes involving Karnataka 's claim on the Kasaragod and Solapur districts and Maharashtra 's claim on Belgaum are ongoing since the states reorganisation . 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 Ashoka at Sarnath . The emblem also carries two Sharabhas with the head of an elephant and the body of a lion .

= = Economy = =

Karnataka had an estimated GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) of about US \$ 58 @. @ 23 billion in the 2008 @-@ 09 fiscal year . The state registered a GSDP growth rate of 7 % for the year 2007 @-@ 2008 . Karnataka 's contribution to India 's GDP in the year 2004 @-@ 05 was 5 @. @ 2 % . With GDP growth of 56 @. @ 2 % and per capita GDP growth of 43 @. @ 9 % , Karnataka is now on the 15th position among all states . At the end of 2004 , the unemployment rate in Karnataka was 4 @. @ 94 % compared to the national rate of 5 @. @ 99 % . For the fiscal year 2006 @-@ 07 , the inflation rate in Karnataka was 4 @. @ 4 % , compared to the national average of 4 @. @ 7 % . In 2004 ? 05 , Karnataka had an estimated poverty ratio of 17 % , less than the national ratio of 27

@. @ 5 % .

Nearly 56 % of the workforce in Karnataka is engaged in agriculture and related activities . A total of 12 @. @ 31 million hectares of land , or 64 @. @ 6 % of the state 's total area , is cultivated . Much of the agricultural output is dependent on the southwest monsoon as only 26 @. @ 5 % of the sown area is irrigated .

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 HMT (formerly Hindustan Machine Tools) , which are based in Bangalore . Many of India 's premier science and technology research centres , such as Indian Space Research Organisation , 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) . In 2007 , there were nearly 2 @, @ 000 firms operating in Karnataka . Many of them , including two of India 's biggest software firms , Infosys and Wipro , are also headquartered in the state . Exports from these firms exceeded ? 50 @, @ 000 crores (\$ 12 @. @ 5 billion) in 2006 @-@ 07 , accounting for nearly 38 % of all IT exports from India . The Nandi Hills area in the outskirts of Devanahalli is the site of the upcoming \$ 22 billion , 50 square kilometre BIAL IT Investment Region , one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of Karnataka . All this has earned the state capital , Bangalore , the sobriquet Silicon Valley of India .

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 . The state accounts for 75 % of India 's floriculture , an upcoming industry which supplies flowers and ornamental plants worldwide .

Seven of India 's banks , Canara Bank , Syndicate Bank , Corporation Bank , Vijaya Bank , Karnataka Bank , Vysya Bank and the State Bank of Mysore originated in this state . The coastal districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada have a branch for every 500 persons ? the best distribution of banks in India . In 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 .

A majority of the silk industry in India is headquartered in Karnataka State , much of it in Doddaballapura , and the state government intends to invest ? 70 crore in a " Silk City " at Muddenahalli , near Bangalore International Airport .

= = 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 , Belgaum , Hubli , Hampi , Bellary and Mysore with international operations from Bangalore and Mangalore airports . Major airlines such as Kingfisher Airlines and Kingfisher Red were based in Bangalore .

Karnataka has a railway network with a total length of approximately 3 @, @ 089 kilometres (1 @, @ 919 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 . Bangalore and Hubli are extensively connected with inter @-@ state destinations while other important cities and towns in the state are not so well @-@ connected .

Karnataka has 11 ports , including the New Mangalore Port , a major port and ten minor ports , of which three were operational in 2012 . 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 3 @, @ 973 and 9 @, @ 829 kilometres (2 @, @ 469 and 6 @, @ 107 mi) , respectively . The KSRTC , the state public transport corporation , transports an average of 2 @. @ 2 million passengers daily and employs about 25 @, @ 000 people . In the late nineties , KSRTC was split into three corporations , viz . , The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation , The North @-@ East Karnataka Road Transport Corporation and The North @-@ West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation with their headquarters in Bangalore , Gulbarga and Hubli respectively .

= = 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 organisations like Ninasam , Ranga Shankara , Rangayana and Prabhat Kalavidaru continuing to build on the foundations laid by Gubbi Veeranna , T. P. Kailasam , B. V. Karanth , K V Subbanna , Prasanna and others . Veeragase , Kamsale , Kolata and Dollu Kuniha 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 centres of Bharatanatya .

Karnataka also has a special place in the world of Indian classical music , with both Karnataka (Carnatic) and Hindustani styles finding place in the state , and Karnataka has produced a number of stalwarts in both styles . The Haridasa movement of the sixteenth century contributed significantly 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 ') . 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 . Noted Carnatic musicians include Violin T. Chowdiah , Veena Sheshanna , Mysore Vasudevachar , Doreswamy Iyengar and Thitte Krishna Iyengar .

Gamaka is another classical music genre based on Carnatic music that is practised 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 . 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 . 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 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 , Benne Dose , Masala Dose and Maddur Vade are some of the popular food items in Karnataka . Among sweets , Mysore Pak , Karadantu of Gokak and Amingad , Belgaavi Kunda 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 (788 ? 820) chose Sringeri in Karnataka to establish the first of his four mathas (monastery) . Madhvacharya (1238 ? 1317) was the chief proponent of Tattvav?da (Philosophy of Reality) , popularly known as Dvaita or Dualistic school of Hindu philosophy ? one of the three most influential Ved?nta 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 , Madhv?c?rya is believed to be the third incarnation of V?yu (Mukhyapr??a) , after Hanum?n and Bh?ma . The Haridasa (Kannada : ???????) 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 .

This movement was ushered in by the Haridasas (literally " 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 is widely recognised as the " Pithamaha " of Carnatic Music for his immense contribution . Ramanujacharya , the leading expounder of Vi?i???dvaita , 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 patronised by the Hoysala king , Vishnuvardhana .

In the twelfth century , Lingayatism 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 centre 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 equality by letting women wear Ishtalinga i.e. Symbol of god around their neck . Basava shunned the sharp hierarchical divisions that existed and sought to remove all distinctions between the hierarchically superior master class and the subordinate , servile class . He also supported inter @-@ caste marriages and Kaayaka Tatva of Basavanna . This was the basis of the Lingayat faith which today counts millions among its followers .

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 . Christianity reached Karnataka in the sixteenth century with the arrival of the Portuguese and St. Francis Xavier in 1545 .

Buddhism was popular in Karnataka during the first millennium in places such as Gulbarga and Banavasi . A chance 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 . There are Tibetan refugee camps in Karnataka .

Mysore Dasara is celebrated as the Nada habba (state festival) and this is marked by major festivities at Mysore . 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 = =

The Kannada language serves as the official language of the state of Karnataka , as the native language of approximately 65 % of its population and as one of the classical languages of India . Kannada played a crucial role in the creation of Karnataka : linguistic demographics played a major role in defining the new state in 1956 . Tulu , Konkani and Kodava are other minor 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 , Dharwad Kannada , Mangaluru Kannada or Malnad Kannada , and Bengaluru Kannada .

Kannada features a rich and ancient body of literature including religious and secular genre , covering topics as diverse as Jainism (such as Puranas) , Veerashaivism (such as Vachanas) , Vaishnavism (such as Haridasa Sahitya) and modern literature . Evidence from edicts during the time of Ashoka the Great (reigned 274 ? 232 BCE) suggest that Buddhist literature influenced the Kannada script and its literature . The Halmidi inscription , the earliest attested full @-@ length inscription in the Kannada language and script , dates from 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 native composition meters such as Chattana , Beddande and Melvadu during earlier centuries . The classic refers to several earlier greats (purvacharyar) of Kannada poetry and prose .

Kuvempu , the renowned Kannada poet and writer who wrote Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate , the state anthem of Karnataka was the first recipient of the " Karnataka Ratna " award , the highest civilian award bestowed by the Government of Karnataka . Contemporary Kannada literature has received considerable acknowledgement in the arena of Indian literature , with eight Kannada writers winning India 's highest literary honour , the Jnanpith award .

Tulu is spoken mainly in the coastal districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada . Tulu Mahabharato , written by Arunabja in the Tigalari script , is the oldest surviving Tulu text . Tigalari script was used by Brahmins to write Sanskrit language . The use of the Kannada script for writing Tulu and non @-@ availability of print in Tigalari script contributed to the marginalisation of Tigalari script . Konkani is mostly spoken in the Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada districts and in parts of Udupi . 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 . Kodava Takk use the Kannada script for writing and Konkani use the Kannada as well as Devanagari script for writing . English is the medium of education in many schools and widely used for business communication in most private companies .

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 , The Tulu Sahitya Akademi and the Kodava Sahitya Akademi promote their respective languages .

= = Education = =

As per the 2011 census , Karnataka had a literacy rate of 75 @. @ 60 % , with 82 @. @ 85 % of males and 68 @. @ 13 % of females in the state being literate . In 2001 the literacy rate of the state were 67 @. @ 04 % , with 76 @. @ 29 % of males and 57 @. @ 45 % of females being literate . The state is home to some of the premier educational and research institutions of India such as the Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad , the Indian Institute of Science , the Indian Institute of Management , the National Institute of Technology Karnataka and the National Law School of India University .

In March 2006 , Karnataka had 54 @, @ 529 primary schools with 252 @, @ 875 teachers and 8 @. @ 495 million students , and 9498 secondary schools with 92 @, @ 287 teachers and 1 @. @ 384 million students . 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 two Sainik Schools in Coorg Sainik School in Kodagu and in Bijapur Sainik School in Bijapur .

To maximise attendance in schools , the Karnataka Government has launched a midday meal scheme in government and aided schools in which free lunch is provided to the students . 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 . 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 . Udupi , Sringeri , Gokarna and Melkote are well @-@ known places of Sanskrit and Vedic learning . In 2015 the Central Government decided to establish the first Indian Institute of Technology in Karnataka at Dharwad . Tulu and Konkani languages are taught as an optional subject in the twin districts of South Canara and Udupi .

= = = High Literacy Districts = = =

= = 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 , Deccan Herald and Prajavani . Presently the Times of India and Vijaya Karnataka are the largest @-@ selling English and Kannada newspapers respectively . A vast number of weekly , biweekly and monthly magazines are under publication in both Kannada and English . Udayavani , Kannadaprabha , Samyukta Karnataka , VarthaBharathi , 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 Janasri News , Colors Kannada , Zee Kannada , Udaya TV , TV 9 , Asianet Suvarna and Kasturi TV .

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. Gopalaswamy in Mysore . 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 broadcast 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 . Karnataka has witnessed a growth in FM radio channels , mainly in the cities of Bangalore , Mangalore and Mysore , which has become hugely popular .

= = 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 . The annual Kodava Hockey Festival is the largest hockey tournament in the world . Bangalore has hosted a WTA tennis event and , in 1997 , it hosted the fourth National Games of India . 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 .

One of the most popular sports in Karnataka is cricket . The state cricket team has won the Ranji Trophy seven times , second only to Mumbai in terms of success . 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 . The Royal Challengers Bangalore , an Indian Premier League franchise , The Bengaluru Football Club , an Indian Football League : I @-@ League franchise , The Bengaluru Yodhas , a Pro Wrestling League franchise , The Bengaluru Top Guns , a Premier Badminton League franchise and The Bengaluru Bulls , a Pro Kabaddi League franchise are based in Bangalore . The Karnataka Premier League is an inter @-@ regional Twenty20 cricket tournament played in the state .

Notable sportsmen from Karnataka include B.S. Chandrasekhar , Ravi Shastri , Sanjay Manjrekar , Anil Kumble , Javagal Srinath , Rahul Dravid , Venkatesh Prasad , Robin Uthappa , Vinay Kumar , Gundappa Vishwanath , Syed Kirmani , Stuart Binny , Ashwini Ponnappa , Mahesh Bhupathi , Rohan Bopanna , 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 .

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 .

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

= = Flora and fauna = =

Karnataka has a rich diversity of flora and fauna . It has a recorded forest area of 38 @,@ 720 km² (14 @,@ 950 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 . The Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks , which fall outside these subclusters , were included in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in 1986 , a UNESCO designation . The Indian roller and the Indian elephant are recognised as the state bird and animal while sandalwood and the lotus are recognised as the state tree and flower respectively . Karnataka has five national parks : Anshi , Bandipur , Bannerghatta , Kudremukh and Nagarhole . It also has 27 wildlife sanctuaries of which seven are bird sanctuaries .

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 . Some species of trees found in Karnataka are Callophyllum tomentosa , Callophyllum wightianum , Garcina cambogia , Garcina 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 .

= = Tourism = =

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 . Karnataka has the second highest number of nationally protected monuments in India , second only to Uttar Pradesh , in addition to 752 monuments protected by the State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums . Another 25 @, @ 000 monuments are yet to receive protection .

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 . 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 .

The waterfalls of Karnataka and Kudremukh are listed as must @-@ see places and among the " 1001 Natural Wonders of the World " . 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 , Malpe and Karwar . In addition , Karnataka is home to several places of religious importance . Several Hindu temples including the famous Udupi 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 centre .

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 .