

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER - 10

OUR STATE KARNATAKA - PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS



We learn about the following in this chapter,

- The greatness of our state and its heritage.
- The origin of the name 'Karnataka' and the form of the state.
- The geographical location, size, land and water frontiers, and neighbouring states of Karnataka.
- The features of Karnataka.
- Physical divisions of Karnataka.
- The hills and highest peaks of Karnataka.

In the previous class, you have studied about physical geography. In this lesson we will study about our state Karnataka, the land of Kannadigas. It is one of the Indian States which has its own greatness and heritage. Our land has an ideal situation and is blessed with diverse relief features, flora and fauna, different types of soil, river systems, minerals and human resources. It is a prosperous land with its own literature, art and culture and has religious, spiritual and historically famous pilgrim centres. Many places in Karnataka are famous for their world heritage sites and its natural beauty and abundance of wild life.

Origin of the name : The name 'Karnataka' has been in use from ancient times. This land used to be called '*Karunadu*' (kar+nadu = a land of black soil). The word '*Karunat*' refers to Karnataka in the ancient Tamil work '*Shilappadikaram*'. *Karunat* means the land which is on a elevated plateau. It has been mentioned in Nrupatunga's grammatical work *Kavirajamarga* that Karnataka extended from the Cauvery river upto the Godavari river. After Independence, India was divided into many states. In 1953, nine southern districts which were till then under the rule of the Mysuru kings, were brought together to form the 'Mysuru State'. Later, when the States were reorganized on linguistic basis, areas with Kannada-speaking people in Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras and Kodagu provinces were brought together. Thus, on 1st November 1956, the 'Vishal Mysuru State' came into being. It is in fond commemoration of this event that Rajyotsava is celebrated every year on 1st November. In 1973, in response to the wishes of Kannadigas, our State was renamed as Karnataka.

Geographical Location

Karnataka is one of the 28 States of India. It is situated in the Southern part of India, in the Western Central area of the peninsular region. It extends from $11^{\circ}31'$ North to $18^{\circ}45'$ North latitude and $74^{\circ}12'$ East to $78^{\circ}40'$ East longitude. Its length is 750 km., stretching from Aurad taluk in Bidar district in the northern-most tip of the State to Chamarajnagar district in the south. Its width is 400 km. from west to east. Karwar in Uttar Kannada district is at the western end whereas Mulbagal taluk in Kolar district is at the eastern end. Karnataka state has both land and water frontiers too. The Arabian Sea in the west, states of Maharashtra in the

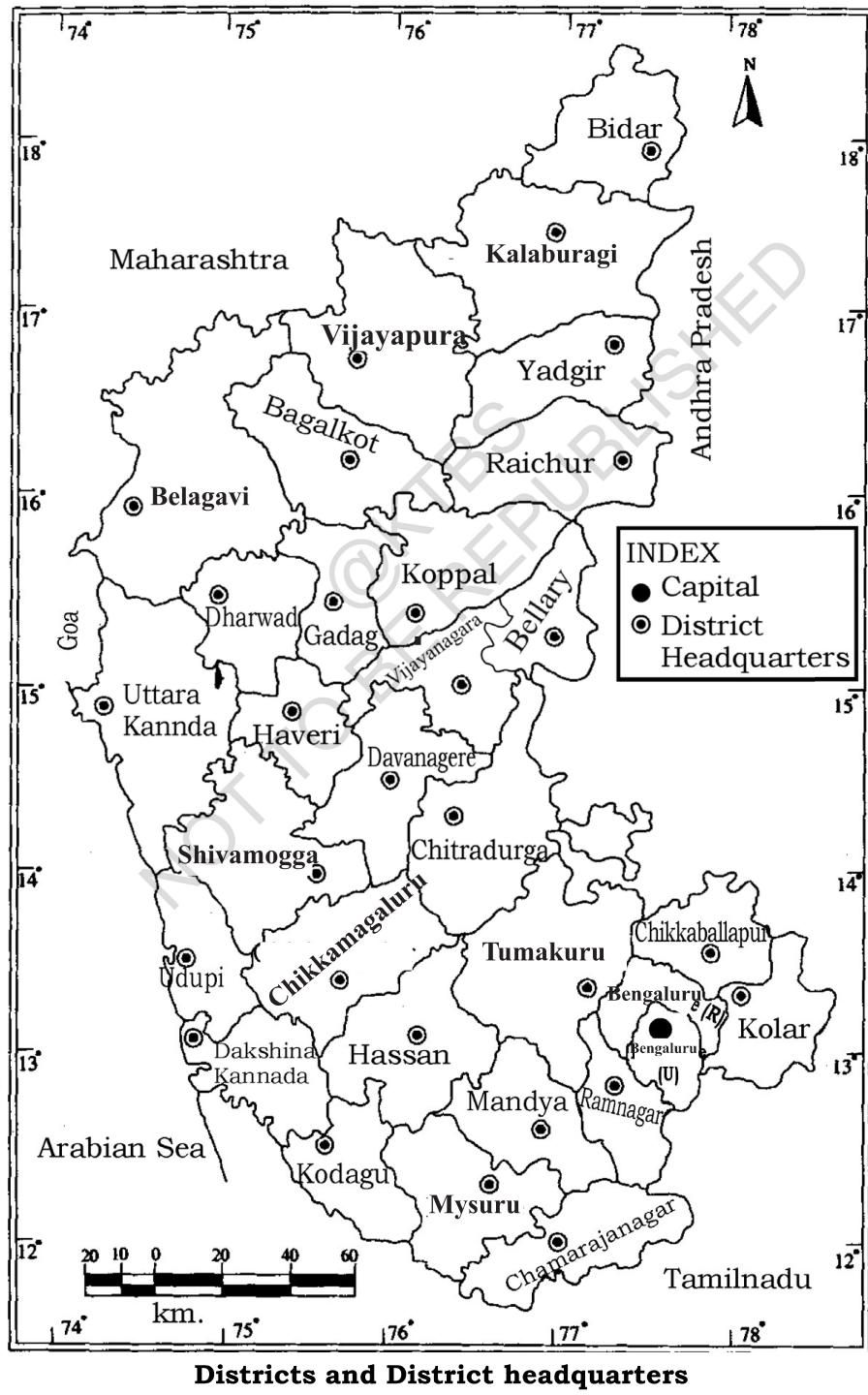


Location of Karnataka in India

north, Andhra Pradesh in the east, Tamil Nadu in the south and south-east, Kerala in the south-west, and Goa in the north-west form its frontiers. The shape of Karnataka resembles a cashewnut.

Size

Karnataka stretches over an area of 1,91,791 sq.kms. It is India's eighth largest state with regard to area, and according to the 2011 census, it has the ninth position, with a population of 6,11,30,704.



Karnataka occupies 5.83 % of India's geographical area.

At present, there are 30 districts in our State. These districts comprises 176 taluks, 747 hoblies, 347 towns and cities and 27,481 villages. Belagavi district is the largest in size, and Bengaluru Urban district is the smallest. Bengaluru is the capital of Karnataka. The State has been divided into four divisions for administrative convenience. They are: Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi and Kalaburagi.

Do you know this :

Bidar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Yadgir, Ballari and Vijayanagara districts of Hyderabad, Karnataka, are provided a special status by the central Government.

Physical Divisions

Karnataka state is a part of peninsular India and has diverse physical features. Its southern part consists of undulating topography, whereas the northern part is a vast plain. There is great contrast between the Coastal areas and Malnad region. The land slopes slightly towards the east and steeply towards the west. This is traversed by many ridges with valleys and gorges. Most of the area of the state is 450 to 900 meters above sea level. Some areas are more than 1800 meters above sea level.

On the basis of structure and relief, Karnataka can be divided into three important physical divisions : 1. The Coast 2. The Malnad and 3. The Maidan.

1. The Coast

As a result of the reorganization of states on linguistic basis, Karnataka aquired sea coast and coastal plains as part of its territory. This physical division lies between the Arabian Sea and the Malnad region. The coastline extends to 320 kms from Mangaluru in the south to Karwar in the north. Its width varies from 12 to 64 kms. It is broad in the south and becoming narrow (with steep slopes) towards the north. Its height is more than 200 meters above sea level. It is called the '**Canara or the Karnataka Coastline**'. Many fast flowing rivers cut through the coastal areas is formed by sea erosion. The rivers have formed estuaries. However, there are no deltas in this area.

There are many ports along the coastline. Among them, '**New Mangaluru**' is the major port in Karnataka. Bhatkala, Malpe, Karwar, Kumta, Belekere and Honnavar are fishing ports. Many beautiful beaches are formed along the sea-coast, attract tourists. Some of the prominent beaches are Panambur, Ullal and Someswara beaches near

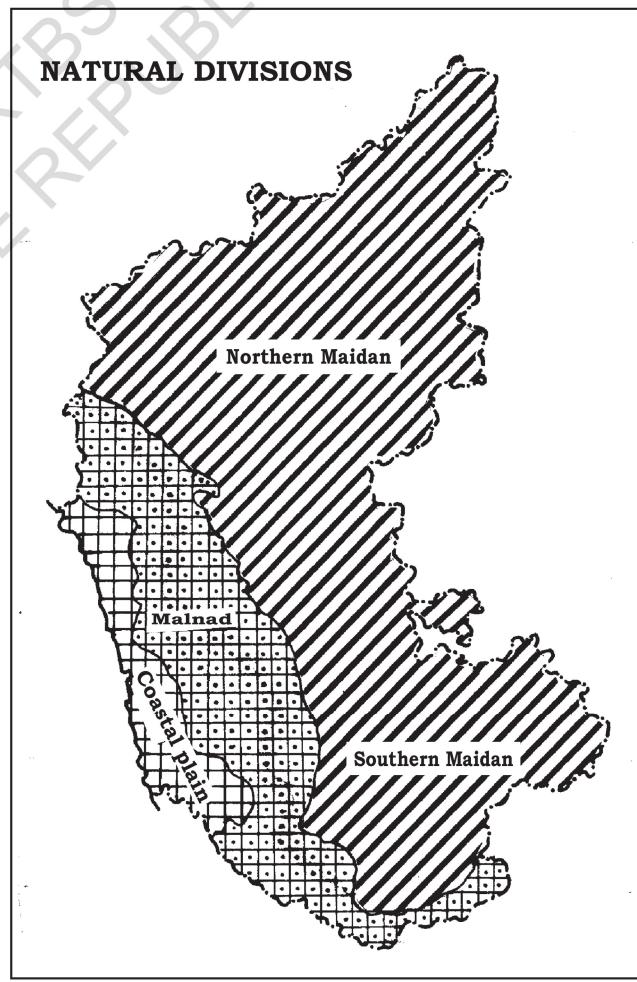
Mangaluru, Malpe near Udupi, Karwar in the north, Murdeshwar near Honnavar, Maravanthe and Om beach near Gokarna. There are some small islands located near the sea-coast. Among them are St. Mary's Island (Coconut Island), near Malpe, Anja near Karwar and Devgadh, Kanjigudda islands are notable. The main occupation of the people near the coast is fishing. Agriculture is also another important occupation. Crops like cashew, coconut, arecanut, cardamom and paddy are grown here. Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttarakannada are the coastal districts of Karnataka.

2. The Malnad

The Western Ghats in our state are referred to as Malnad or the land of hills. They are also called the Sahyadris. Malnad runs parallel to the coastline from north to south. They have steep terrace like slopes in the west and gentle slope to the east. Hence they are called Ghats. They are 650 kms in length and 50-76 kms in width. The height ranges from 900 to 1500 meters from sea level. These hills obstruct the rain-bearing winds from the Arabian Sea and cause heavy rains often more than 200 cms. The highest peaks in this region are Mullaiyanagiri, Kudremukh, Kalhattagiri, Rudragiri and Deveerammanagudda. All these Peaks are in Chikkamagaluru district. Besides these the other peaks of Malnad region are Ballalarayanadurga, Mertigudda,

Do you know this?

- The New Mangaluru Port is called 'The Gateway to Karnataka'.
- St. Mary's Island is referred locally as 'Ton-sepaar'.
- There is a Netrani island near Murudeswara and it has plenty of pigeon. So it is known as 'pigeon island'.



Pushpagiri and Kodachadri. Among them, Mullaiyanagiri (1913 mtrs) is the highest peak in the State.

The routes, from the eastern plains of Karnataka to the coastal plains across the Western Ghats are called the mountain passes. The important passes are :

1. **Charmadi Ghat** - It links Mangaluru and Chikkamagaluru.
2. **Shiradi Ghat** - It links Hassan - Sakleshpur and Mangaluru.
3. **Agumbe Ghat** - It links Shivamogga and Udupi.
4. **Hulikal Ghat** - It links Shivamogga and Kundapur.

Since Malnad region receives heavy rainfall, it has attractive hill resort covered with dense evergreen forests. It is the birthplace of many rivers which, when they fast down the steep slopes, form wonderful waterfalls. The Jogfalls (Sharavathi river), is the highest waterfall of India. The other prominent water falls are the Unchalli, Magod, Gokak, Shivanasamudra and Abbey falls. The rivers have led to the formation of valleys and gorges. Coffee, tea, rubber plantations and spices are grown abundantly on the slopes. Since coffee is grown widely in Chikkamagaluru, it is called 'The Land of Coffee'. Kodagu district is known as the 'Kashmir of Karnataka' because of its cool weather. As oranges are grown abundantly in Kodagu district, it is also referred to as the 'Land of Oranges'. At present, Malnad has been identified as 'Biodiversity Zone' and protected. Hassan, Kodagu, Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru are the districts of Malnad region.

3. The Maidan (Plain)

To the east of Malnad is a vast plain with a height of approximately 450 to 760 meters. This area is irrigated by the Krishna, the Tungabhadra and the Cauvery. There are many ridges in this area. It has land sloping towards the east, rising in height from north to south. The maidan can be divided into two parts : (i) The Northern maidan (ii) The Southern maidan.

Activity

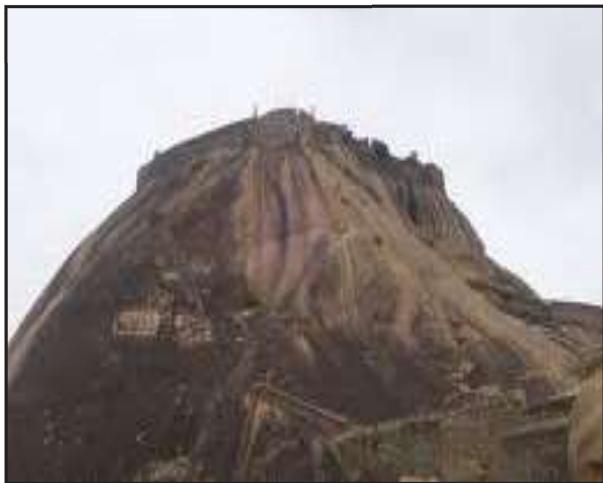
In which of the Physical division is your district situated? Name your neighbouring districts. Make a list of special features of your district.

i) The Northern maidan : It is a vast plain land with black soil, and is an extensive plateau. It is around 365 to 610 meters above sea level. Hills and hillocks can be seen at different places. Prominent among them are Naragund hill, Parasagada gudda, Gurumitkalgudda and Ilkal gudda. Areas to the east of Saudatti and Badami have limestone with faulting. It has produced rugged landforms. The most important waterfall of the region is Gokak falls. it is 62mts height and created by the Gataprabha river. Chayabhagavathi and Sogala are the other water falls in this region. The districts of Bidar, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Yadgiri, Gadag, Koppal, Raichur, Ballari, Haveri, Bagalkot and some parts of Dharwad and Belagavi districts are located in the northern maidan. This region is very hot in summer and it is called the 'land of sunshine'. Dry crops like jowar, bajra, groundnut, cotton and pulses are mainly grown here.

ii) The Southern maidan : This area extends from the Tungabhadra river basin in the north to Chamrajnagar district in the south. It is a plateau with abundant red soil. It has uneven surface with many ups and downs, and has a height of 900 to 975 meters. It is higher than the northern maidan and slopes towards the east. There are many hills. They are, Chitradurga hills, Narayana durga, Savanadurga and Shivaganga in Bengaluru rural district, Madhugiri hill in Tumakuru district is the biggest 'monolith hill' in Asia, Nandi hills, Chennakeshava hill, Kavaledurga and Skandagiri hill (Harihareswara hill) in Chikkaballapura district, Adichunchanagiri hills in Mandya district, Biligirirangana hill, Malemadeswara hill, Himad gopalaswamy hills



Mullaiyanagiri



Madhugiri - a single rock hill

in Chamarajanagar district, Chamundi hill in Mysuru district are prominent. This area is in the rain-shadow of the Western Ghats. The Cauvery, Palar and Pennar are the important rivers flowing through this region. Ragi, paddy, sugarcane, groundnut, mulberry, vegetables, a variety of fruits and flowers are the main crops grown here. Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru and Chamarajnagar districts are in the Southern maidan.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words :

1. We celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava on _____.
2. The year in which the State was named as Karnataka is _____.
3. The State to the east of Karnataka is _____.
4. The largest district in Karnataka is _____
5. The total area of Karnataka is _____ sq.kms.
6. _____ island is located near Malpe.
7. _____ are called Sahyadris.
8. Agumbe Ghat links _____ and _____.
9. _____ district is known as the Kashmir of Karnataka.

II. Discuss in groups and answer the following questions :

1. Give the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of Karnataka.
2. Name our neighbouring states.
3. Which are the four administrative divisions of Karnataka?
4. Explain the geographical location of Karnataka in India.
5. Mention the important physical divisions of Karnataka.
6. Write a note on the relief features of Malnad region.
7. Give an account on the coastal plains of Karnataka.
8. Name the main hills of Southern maidan.
9. Mention the mountain passes in the Western Ghats.

III. Match the following :

A

1. Jogfalls
2. Om beach
3. Nandi hill station
4. Monolith hill
5. Land of sunshine

B

- a. Mangaluru
- b. Northern maidan
- c. Sharavati river
- d. Gokarna
- e. Chikballapur
- g. Madhugiri

IV. Activities :

1. Draw an outline map of Karnataka, mark and name its districts and also indicate the latitudinal and longitudinal positions.
2. Mark and name the coastal districts and the districts of Malnad on the map of Karnataka and collect pictures of famous waterfalls.

V. Project :

1. Draw an outline map of your district/town/city with the help of your teacher, indicate its latitudinal and longitudinal positions and mark the neighboring districts.

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