

KARNATAKA TOURISM AND MYSURU DASARA **(VIA PERMANENT PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS AND STAMPS)**

A Pictorial Cancellation is a postmark, which shows replica / photo / design or a picture highlighting a tourist, religious, historical or an important place or thing. Thus Pictorial Cancellations give wide publicity mainly to places of tourist interest and they are provided at the post offices which are located near such places of tourist attraction.

Karnataka, the sixth largest state in India, has been ranked as the third most popular state in the country for tourism in 2014. It is home to 507 of the 3600 centrally protected monuments in India, the largest number after Uttar Pradesh. The State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums protects an additional 752 monuments and another 25,000 monuments are yet to receive protection. Tourism centres on the ancient sculptured temples, modern cities, the hill ranges, forests and beaches. Broadly, tourism in Karnataka can be divided into four geographical regions: North Karnataka, the Hill Stations, Coastal Karnataka and South Karnataka.

In the last couple of years Karnataka has emerged as a hot spot for health care tourism in India attracting health tourists from all over the world. Karnataka has highest number of approved health systems and alternative therapies. Along with some ISO certified government owned hospitals, private institutions which provide international quality services have caused health care industry to grow up to 30% during 2004-05. Hospitals in Karnataka treat around 8,000 and more health tourists every year.

Karnataka Tourism is responsible for the sustainable development of tourism in Karnataka along with marketing of the destination worldwide. Karnataka's destination branding and marketing is done by India's leading tourism marketing organisation, Stark Communications. Stark is part of The Stark Group under whose umbrella are companies such as Stark Communications, Stark Expo, Starkworld Publishing, Stark Expo, starkwebworks, Stark Tourism Forum. Karnataka Tourism develops hospitality infrastructure through two government-owned companies, Jungle Lodges & Resorts and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.

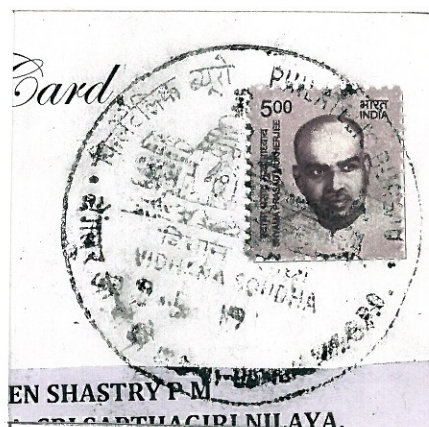
Following dynasty who ruled Karnataka.

1. Kadambas; 2. Gangas; 3. Badami Chalukyas; 4. Rashtrakutas; 5 Western Chalukyas; 6. Hoysalas;
7. Vijayanagara Empire; 8. Bahmani Sultanate and 9. Bijapur Sultanate

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Karnataka Tourism is the popular name of the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka
(Website: karnatakaturism.org).

PHILATELIC BUREAU, BANGALORE G.P.O. - 560 001
VIDHANA SOUDHA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 15.01.1979



Bangalore also rendered Bengaluru, is the capital of the Karnataka and located on the Deccan Plateau in the south-eastern part of Karnataka. Bangalore is well known as a hub for India's information technology sector. The Vidhana Soudha, located in Bengaluru is the seat of the state legislature of Karnataka. It is an imposing building, constructed in a style sometimes described as Mysore Neo-Dravidian and incorporates elements of Indo-Saracenic and Dravidian styles. The cancellation depicts Vidhana Soudha.

BASAVANAGUDI HPO - 560 004
KEMPE GOWDA TOWER (LAL BAGH ROCK) / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 23.07.2013



Bangalore is nearly 500 years old and has grown from a small time settlement when Kempe Gowda, the architect of Bangalore, built a mud fort in 1537 and his son marked the city boundaries by erecting four watch towers. These four towers credited to have founded Bangalore, are in Kempambudhi tank, Mekhri Circle, Lalbagh, and Ulsoor. Kempe Gowda Tower near Lalbagh tank in Lalbagh at the end of Double Road – is on top of a hillock in Lalbagh is the most visited among all the towers. From here you can actually seeing the Bangalore Skyline. The tower is on a rock which is very ancient and believed to be 3,000 million years old according to Geological survey of India. "The Lalbagh rock is called the pillow or bubble rock which was formed nearly 3,000 million years ago when a single bubble of lava settled there."

BANNERGHATTA P. O. - 560 083

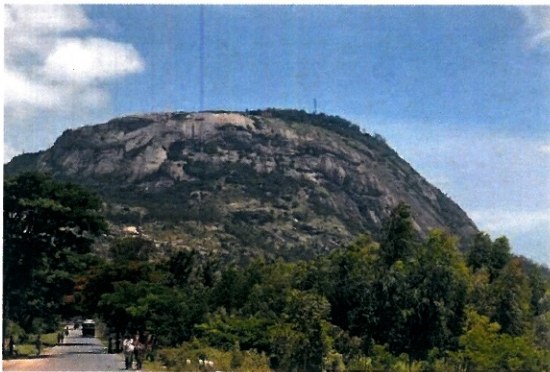
MALABAR BANDED PEACOCK (PAPILIO BUDDHA) / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 23.05.2009



The Bannerghatta National Park is located south of Bangalore city. This hilly place is one of the richest natural zoological reserves. The park covers an area of 104.27 sq. km. and is a major tourist attraction. The country's first Butterfly Park was established here. Bannerghatta has dense forests and scrub land, which are home to wild animals like bison, leopard and wild boar. It is also an important corridor between the Eastern and Western Ghats for migrating elephants. The park is connected to B.R. Hills and Sathyamangalam forest areas, extending all the way up to Wayanad. The environment has a tropical setting — complete with the humid climate, an artificial waterfall, a narrow walking bridge and host plants and shrubs that attract butterflies. The cancellation depicts the outline of the Malabar Banded Peacock (*Papilio buddha*), a butterfly endemic to the Western Ghats.

NANDI HILLS B. O. - 562 118

NANDI, A BULL / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 09.06.1989



Nandi Hills or Nandi betta (Anglicised forms include Nandidurg and Nandydoorg) is an ancient hill fortress built by Ganga Dynasty in southern India, in the Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka state. It is 10 km from Chikkaballapur town and approximately 60 km from the city of Bengaluru. The hills are near the town of Nandi. In traditional belief, the hills are the origin of the Arkavathy river, Ponnaiyar River, Palar River, Papagni and Penna River.

Nandidurga was traditionally held unimpregnable, and its storming by the army of Cornwallis on 19 October 1791 was one of the most notable incidents of the first war against Tipu Sultan of Mysore. A description of the siege is given in Browne's History of Scotland and the records of the 71st Highlanders.

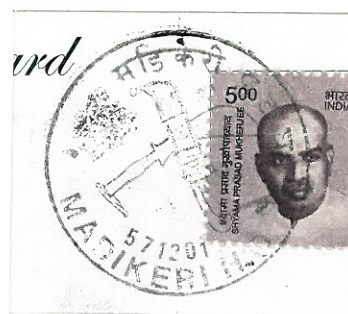
Watching the sunrise at Nandi Hills is popular with tourists.

PHILATELIC BUREAU, MYSORE H. O. - 570 001
ELEPHANT CARRYING HOWDAH / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 11.10.2002



Mysore is the second-largest city in the state of Karnataka, located at the base of the Chamundi Hills about 146 km southwest of the state capital Bangalore. Mysore is noted for its palaces, including the Mysore Palace, and for the festivities that take place during the Dasara festival when the city receives a large number of tourists. It lends its name to the Mysore style of painting, the sweet dish Mysore Pak, the Mysore Peta (a traditional silk turban) and the garment known as the Mysore silk saree. Mysore is well known for the festivities that take place during the period of Dasara, the state festival of Karnataka. The Dasara festivities, which are celebrated over a ten-day period, were first introduced by King Raja Wodeyar I in 1610. On the ninth day of Dasara, called Mahanavami, the royal sword is worshipped and is taken on a procession of decorated elephants, camels and horses. The cancellation depicts elephant carrying the Howdah. (A howdah, or houdah is a carriage which is positioned on the back of an elephant). Cancellation was introduced on the occasion of the inauguration of philatelic bureau at Mysore.

MADIKERI H. O. - 571 201
ODIKATHI & PEECHIKATHI / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 01.04.1992



Madikeri is a hill station town, also known as Mercara, it is the headquarters of Kodagu (Coorg) district. It is a popular tourist destination. Madikeri was formerly known as Muddu raja keru. Muddurajakeri which means Mudduraja's town, was named after the prominent Haleri king, Mudduraja who ruled Kodagu from 1633-1687. Coorgs (the Kodagu men) are identified closely with an 'emblem' of knives (the odikathi and the peecheekathi). These weapons hold great significance for them, and therefore the Peecheekathi is worn on the attire as well. The cancellation features the Odikathi, a dagger and a Peechikathi, a small knife used by the Kodava community as a part of their ceremonial dress.

NAGARAHOLE B. O. - 571 258

GLORIOSA SUPERBA (WILD LILY) / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 06.11.1987



Nagarhole National Park (also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park), is a national park located in Kodagu district and Mysore district in Karnataka, India. It is one of India's premier Tiger Reserves along with the adjoining Bandipur Tiger Reserve. This park was declared the thirty seventh Project Tiger, Tiger reserves of India in 1999. It is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The Western Ghats Nilgiri Sub-Cluster of 6,000 km² (2,300 sq mi), including all of Nagarhole National Park, is under consideration by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for selection as a World Heritage Site.

Gloriosa superba is a species of flowering plant in the family Colchicaceae. Common names include flame lily, climbing lily, creeping lily, glory lily, gloriosa lily, tiger claw, and fire lily. This plant is poisonous, toxic enough to cause human and animal fatalities if ingested. It has been used to commit murder, to achieve suicide, and to kill animals. Every part of the plant is poisonous, especially the tuberous rhizomes.

KOKKARE BELLUR B. O. - 571 433

FLYING PELICAN / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 28.01.1992



Kokkarebellur village is named after the painted stork (Ibis leucocephalus) called "kokkare" in Kannada language. Birds are seen nesting in clusters of 15 to 20 pairs per tree and are thought to use the same tree each year. They arrive after monsoon rains ends in September when the birds create their nests, lay eggs from October to November, thereafter fledge around for three months after laying of eggs, till March and tirelessly feed their hatchlings through the summer season. As summer peaks in May, they re-migrate, year after year, except when they sense drought conditions in their colonial habitat. Village women turning sentimental about the birds returning to their homeland say.

SRIRANGAPATNA S. O. - 571 438

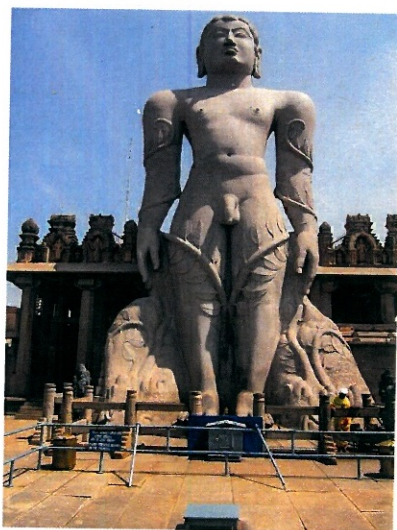
SWORD AND HEADGEAR OF TIPU SULTAN / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 20.06.1987



Srirangapatna is a town in Mandya district, located near the city of Mysore. It is of great religious, cultural and historic importance. The town takes its name from the celebrated Ranganathaswamy temple which dominates the town, making Srirangapattana one of the most important Vaishnavite centers of pilgrimage in south India. Srirangapattana became the de facto capital of Mysore under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Srirangapattana was the scene of the last and decisive battle fought between Tipu Sultan and a combined force of 50,000 men provided equally by the Nizam of Hyderabad and the East India Company under the overall command of General George Harris.

SRAVANABELAGOLA S. O. - 573 135

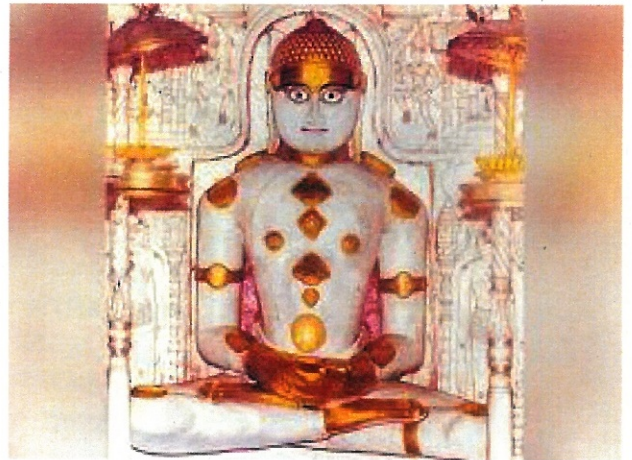
GOMMATESHWARA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 02.01.1978



Shravanabelagola is a city located in the Hassan district, 158 km from Bangalore. The statue of Gommateshwara Bahubali at Sravanabelagola is one of the most important pilgrimage destinations in Jainism, one that reached a peak in architectural and sculptural activity under the patronage of Western Ganga Dynasty of Talakad. Chandragupta is said to have died here in 298 BC after he became a Jain monk and assumed an ascetic life style. The cancellation depicts Monolithic statue of Gommateshwara.

KARKALA H. O. - 574 104

SEATED TIRTHANKARA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 05.02.1991

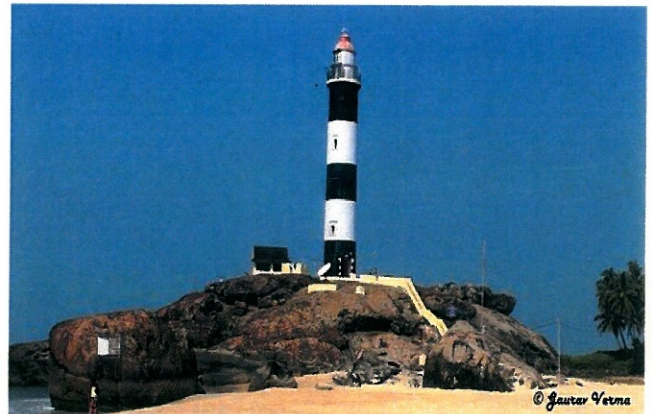


Karkala is a town and the headquarters of Karkala taluk in the Udupi district of Karnataka, located about 380 km from Bangalore. It lies near the Western Ghats. The town was called Pandya Nagari during the period of Jain rule, and later became known as Karikallu, then Karkal and finally to Karkala. Karkala is a town of historical importance and a pilgrim centre for Jains. Jainism is widely practised here. The single stone 13 meter high statue of Gomateshwara (Lord Bahubali) is located about 1 km from the center of the town and is the second tallest in Karnataka.

The word tirthankara signifies the founder of a tirtha which means a fordable passage across the sea of interminable births and deaths (called saṃsara). Tirthankaras are variously called "Teaching Gods", "Ford-Makers", "Crossing Makers" and "Makers of the River-Crossing."

KAUP S. O. - 574 104

LIGHT HOUSE / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 20.08.2017



The Kapu light house was built in 1901 and has for these many years stood on the rocks guiding thousands of sailors and warning the presence of dangerous rocks. It stands 27.12 m above the base. The lighthouse is open for visitors between 5:30 AM to 6:30 AM and the panoramic view offered is magnificent.

The stairs keep getting steeper and steeper as you ascend. At the last spiral there is a room where there are wooden steps, it's more like a ladder to be precise where you will have to snug yourself thru and arrive at the balcony of the Light house. You are allowed for just a few minutes before the ticket checker starts asking people to vacate space for more who are waiting. Remember its best to get up as one of the first batch of people as this will give you a few minutes extra to enjoy the view from the top and may be take a few photos for keeps.

MOODBIDRI S. O. - 574 227

SAAVIRA KAMBADA (1000 PILLARS) BASADI / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 18.11.2016



Saavira Kambada Temple (Savira Kambada Basadi) or Tribhuvana Tilaka Cuḍamaṇi, is a basadi or Jain temple noted for its 1000 pillars in Moodabidri, Karnataka, India. The temple is also known as "Chandranatha Temple" since it honors the tirthankara Chandraprabha, whose eight-foot idol is worshipped in the shrine.

The town of Moodabidri is noted for its eighteen Jain temples but Saavira Kambada Temple is considered the finest among them. The Basadi was built by the local chieftain, Devaraya Wodeyar in 1430 with additions made in 1962. The shrine has a 50 feet tall monolith manasthambha (erected by Karkala Bhairava Queen Nagala Devi). There is a matha at Moodabidri responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of temples in Moodabidri. It is known as the Jain Varanasi of the South. A bhattaraka seat exists at Moodabidri responsible for administering the 18 temples at Moodabidri and the other temples in the surrounding areas. The name given to the bhattaraka of Moodabidri is Charukeerthi.

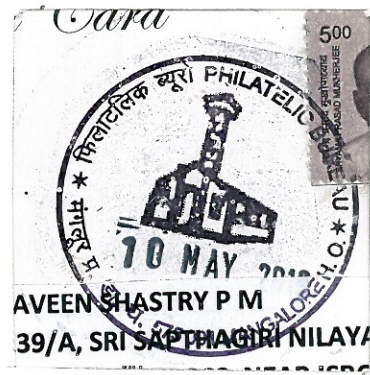
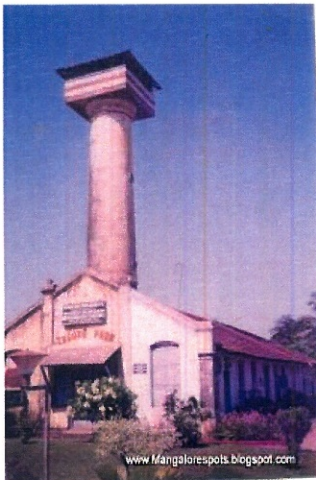
VENUR S. O. - 574 242

GOMMATESHWARA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 18.11.2016



Venur is a small town in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka state situated on the bank of river Phalguni. Venur though a small town was once a great seat of Jainism. It was the capital of the Ajila Dynasty and one of the most prominent Kings of them Thimmanja Ajila built a colossus of Gommateshwara 38 feet high in 1604 AD. He was a direct descendant of Chamundaraya, who built one at Shravanabelagola. Venur colossus is the shortest of all the three Gommateshwara's within the radius of 250 km around it. It also stands in an enclosure, on the same pattern as that of Shravanabelagola. The Kings of Ajila Dynasty ruled here from 1154 AD to 1786 AD. The current descendant of the Ajila Dynasty is Thimmannarasa Dr. Padmaprasad Ajila.

PHILATELIC BUREAU, MANGALORE H. O. - 575 001
LIGHT HOUSE / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 11.09.1989



Mangalore is the chief port city of Karnataka. It is located about 350 kilometres west of the state capital, Bangalore. Mangalore lies between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghat mountain ranges, and is the administrative headquarters of the Dakshina Kannada (formerly South Canara) district in south western Karnataka. Mangalore derives its name from the local Hindu Goddess Mangaladevi. Light House Hill is situated in Hampankatta, the heart of Mangalore City. It is the location of two famous educational institutions in Mangalore, namely St. Aloysius College and Kasturba Medical College. This "Light House" was built by Hyder Ali, an erst while ruler of Mysore. The huge watchtower in the hill served as a base for the British, from where many resident commanders of the British Navy would monitor the movement of travelling ships. The cancellation depicts the 18th Century Light House.

MALPE S. O. - 576 108
ST. MARY'S ISLAND / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 17.01.2015



St. Mary's Islands, also known as Coconut Island and Thonsepar, are a set of four small islands in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Malpe in Udupi. They are known for their distinctive geological formation of columnar basaltic lava. Scientific studies indicate that the basalt of the St. Mary's Islands was formed by sub-aerial subvolcanic activity, because at that time Madagascar was attached to India. The rifting of Madagascar took place around 88 Mya. The islands form one of the four geological monuments in Karnataka state, one of the 26 Geological Monuments of India declared by the Geological Survey of India in 2001. The monument is considered an important site for "Geo Tourism".

According to folk legend, in the year 1498, Vasco da Gama landed at St. Mary's Islands on his journey from Portugal, fixed a cross on the island and named one of these islands, O Padrão de Santa Maria, as a dedication to Mother Mary, before proceeding to Kozhikode in Kerala. It is from this name that the islands got their current name.

ATTUR KARKALA B. O. - 576 117

ST. LAWRENCE SHRINE / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 17.01.2015

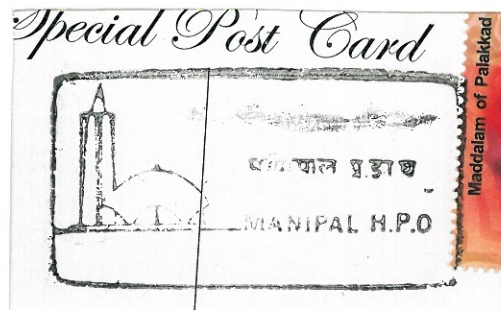


St. Lawrence Shrine or Attur Church (Portuguese: São Lourenço de Carcoal, English: St. Lawrence of Karkala) is a Roman Catholic church in Karkala, India. It was built in 1759 and is purported to be the site of many miracles. It is characterized by its Attur Jatre or Attur Festival. Attur Church is situated on the outskirts of Karkala in the Karnataka state of India. It is situated 58 km from Mangalore.

History tells us that the Christians of this place too were among those who suffered captivity of Tippu Sultan from 1784-1799 AD. The parish church in those days was situated at a place about 7 kilometers away from the present church. Tippu destroyed it and took the Christians to Shrirangapatna as captives. Those Christians who returned after freedom from captivity built a church with a thatched roof on the way to Karkala in the year 1801, under the leadership of a Goan priest. In the year 1839 it was replaced by another building. It was about 4 kilometers away from the previous one. This new building happened to be on the back of the present church and was facing west. A small flower garden is standing in that place now.

MANIPAL H.P. O. - 576 119

THE VENUGOPAL TEMPLE (LORD GOPI KRISHNA TEMPLE) / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 04.12.1988



Manipal is a university town in the state of Karnataka. It is a suburb within Udupi city and is administered by Udupi City Municipality. It is located in the rocky hinterland of the Malabar Coast of south west India, about 8 km east of the Laccadive Sea. The Venugopal temple in Manipal is situated within the Manipal Institute of Technology Campus. It has a very beautiful visage and houses a beautiful idol of Shri Venugopala. The cancellation depicts the Venugopal (Lord Gopi Krishna) temple.

NANDALIKE B.O. - 576 111

KANNADA POET AND WRITER MUDDANA & MANORAME (IMAGINARY WIFE OF THE POET) / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 24.01.2015

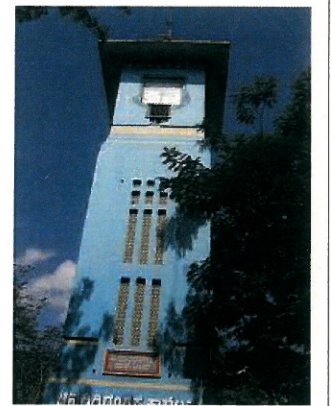


Nandalike is the birthplace of Kannada poet and writer Muddana (b. January 24, 1870 - d. February 15, 1901) better known as Mahakavi (Great Poet) or Mahakavi Muddana. His name at birth was Lakshmi Naaranappa. His birthplace being Nandalike, he is sometimes also known as Nandalike Lakshminaanappa. Muddana was a physical trainer in a High School in Udupi, but became interested in Kannada poetry. He has written epics like Adbhuta Ramayana, Sri Rama Pattabhisheka, Sri Ramashwamedham, Yakshagana Prasangas, Ratnavathe Kalyana and Kumara Vijaya.

Muddana experimented with a style that was hitherto unknown to Kannada. He introduced the character of Manorame (imaginary wife of the poet) in his story. In the prose poetic work Ramashwamedha poet tells her the story of the Ashwamedha sacrifice conducted by Sri Rama. This technique of storytelling is the first of its kind in Kannada literature. Among all the versions of the Ramayana, Muddana's Ramashwamedha written in the late 19th century commands a place of its own because it introduces us to a literary tradition called the sallapa - a lively, cheerful conversation between the writer and his wife that veers into the actual telling of the tale.

DAVANAGERE H.O. - 577 001

CHANNAGIRI RANGAPPA CLOCK TOWER / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 20.01.2017



Davanagere was earlier significant for its cotton mills and was a textile centre. Also called the Manchester of Karnataka, the city started as a business place right from the days of Haider Ali. History states that the Nizam presented the city to a Marathi leader, Apoji Ram, encouraging entry of merchants in the place. It is also known for a number of dishes like dosa, butter or benne dosa, benne masala dosa, kara mandakki (puffed rice with spice), atikai bonda and nargis mandakki.

Sri Chennagiri Rangappa Clock Tower is another must see if you are in the city of Davanagere. This is a clock tower and serves as an important landmark in the city. It has a length of 75 ft and was led foundation by a Deewan of Mysore. The clock tower gets its name from Sir Chennagiri Rangappa who financed it. While there was a mechanical clock initially, it has now been replaced with a HMT solar clock.

HALASHI B. O. - 591 142

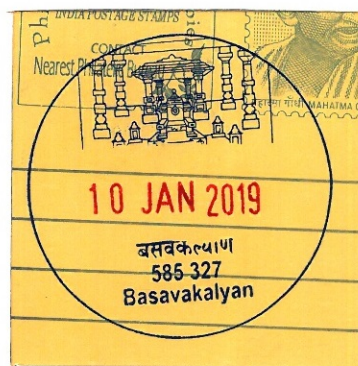
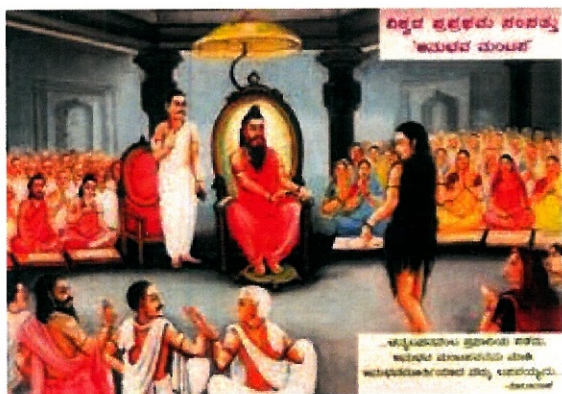
KADAMBA ROYAL LOGO / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 04.05.1993



The Kadambas of Halasi was a South Indian dynasty during the Late Classical period on the Indian subcontinent, which originated in the region of Halasi, Karnataka; who were known for their own style of temple building. The Kadamba dynasty was founded by Mayurasharma in about 4th century AD. It was believed that Mayura was the first king of the dynasty and was the ruler during the time of Pallava King Vishnugopa of Kanchipuram. After losing to North Indian Emperor Samudragupta, Vishnugopa's army had weakened. Mayura seized the opportunity, formed his own army and drove away the Pallavas from Kannada territory. On reaching Chandravalli (near Chitradurga), Mayura took shelter in a cave and founded his own dynasty. Banavasi, near Sirsi, was their first capital and their rule extended to Gomantak or present day Goa. Halasi was a centre of confluence of Jainism, Vaishnavism and Shaivism during early Kadambas. It was headquarters of Halasige-12,000 province including parts of Belgaum District, Dharwad District and Haveri District.

BASAVAKALYAN S. O. - 585 327

ANUBHAVA MANTAPA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 10.01.2019



Anubhava Mantapa, established by Basava in the 12th Century C.E. is located in Basavakalyan in Bidar district of Karnataka. It is the first religious parliament in the world whose literal meaning is "experience pavilion". and was an academy of mystics, saints and philosophers of the Veerashaiva faith in the 12th century. It was the fountainhead of all religious and philosophical thought pertaining to the veerashaiva. It was presided over by the mystic Allama Prabhu and numerous Sharanas from all over Karnataka and other parts of India were participants. This institution was also the fountainhead of the Vachana literature which was used as the vector to propagate Veerashaiva religious and philosophical thought. Other giants of veerashaiva theosophy like Akka Mahadevi, Channabasavanna and Basavanna himself were participants in the Anubhava Mantapa. The Anubhava Mantapa also called as the Mahaamane.

The Anubhava Mantapa worked to build a Vibrant casteless, creedless Society with full of Human Values propagated through Vachanas.

BIDAR G N JHIRA S. O. - 585 482

GURU NANAK JHIRA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 09.01.2019

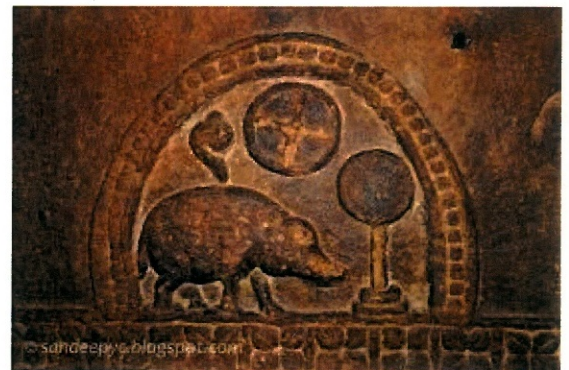
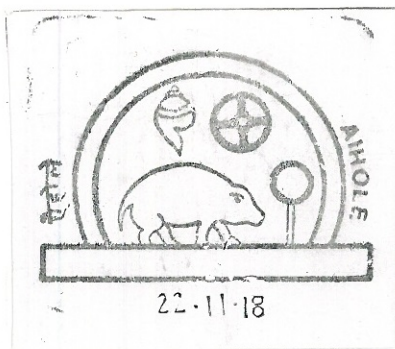


Guru Nanak Jhira Sahib is a Sikh historical shrine situated in Bidar, Karnataka. Gurdwara Nanak Jhira Sahib was built in the year 1948 and is dedicated to the first Sikh guru Guru Nanak. Bidar has a very long association with Sikhism as this is the home town of Bhai Sahib Singh, one of the Panj Pyare (five beloved ones), who offered to sacrifice their heads and were later baptised as the first members of the Khalsa.

During his second udasi (missionary tour) of south India between 1510-1514 A.D., Guru Nanak after sojourning through Nagpur and Khandwa visited the ancient Hindu temple of Omkareshwar on the Narmada and reached Nanded (where 200 years later Guru Gobind Singh spent his last days). From Nanded he proceeded towards Hyderabad and Golconda where he met Muslim saints and then arrived at Bidar to meet Pir Jalaluddin and Yakoob Ali.

AIHOLE B. O. - 587 138

CHALUKYAN ROYAL EMBLEM / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 28.02.1990



Aihole is referred to as Ayyavole and Aryapura in its inscriptions and Hindu texts from 4th to 12th century CE, as Aivalli and Ahivolal in colonial British era archaeological reports.

Aihole has been a part of Hindu mythologies. It has a natural axe-shaped rock on the Malaprabha river bank north of the village, and a rock in the river shows a footprint. Parashurama, the sixth Vishnu avatar, is stated in these legends to have washed his axe here after killing abusive Kshatriyas who were exploiting their military powers, giving the land its red color. A 19th-century local tradition believed that rock footprints in the river were those of Parashurama. A place near the Meguti hillocks show evidence of human settlement in the pre-historic period. Aihole has historical significance and has been called a cradle of Hindu rock architecture.

The Durga temple is the best known and studied of the Aihole temples. It has a misleading name, because the temple is not named after goddess Durga. According to one theory, it stands near the ruins of a fort-like enclosure or durg during a time of late medieval era Hindu Muslim conflict in the region.

BADAMI S. O. - 587 201

NATARAJA / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 29.09.1987

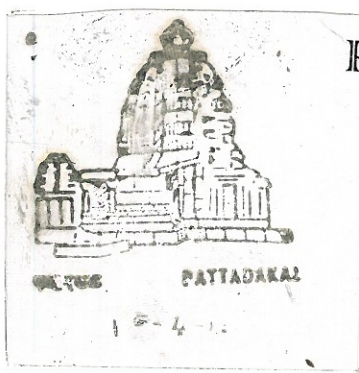


Badami, formerly known as Vatapi, is a town and headquarters of a taluk by the same name, in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka, India. It was the regal capital of the Badami Chalukyas from AD 540 to 757. It is famous for its rock cut structural temples. It is located in a ravine at the foot of a rugged, red sandstone outcrop that surrounds Agastya lake.

The cancellation portrays the Tandava-dancing Shiva as Nataraja on the rock face to the right of entrance. The image, 5 feet (1.5 m) tall, has 18 arms in a form that expresses the dance positions arranged in a geometric pattern, which Alice Boner – a Swiss art historian and Indologist, states is a time division symbolizing the cosmic wheel. The eighteen arms express Natya mudras (symbolic hand gestures), with some holding objects such as drums, a flame torch, a serpent, a trident and an axe. Shiva has his son Ganesha and the bull Nandi by his side.

PATTADAKAL B. O. - 587 221

GALAGANATHA TEMPLE / DATE OF INTRODUCTION: 30.09.1987



The Galaganatha temple lies to the east of the Jambulingeshwara temple. Unlike the previous two temples, ASI estimates this temple to be from the mid 8th century, whereas Michell states that it is likely from late 7th century.[28] The temple is a northern rekha-nagara style with a linga, and a vestibule (antarala) within the temple sanctum (garbha griha). Outside the temple is a seated Nandi that faces the sanctum.

The sanctum has a covered circumambulatory path (pradakshina patha), indicating that this Hindu tradition was well established by 7th to 8th century. Various mandapas exist in this temple, such as a social or community hall (sabha mandapa), used for ceremonial functions, and a mukha mandapa, of which only the foundation remains.

The entrance to the mandapa is flanked by the river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna. The Galagatha temple is mostly in ruins, except for the southern part which contains a carved slab showing an eight-armed Shiva killing the demon Andhaka, while wearing a garland of skulls as a yajnopavita (sacred thread across the chest).

MYSURU DASARA



Mysuru Dasara is the Nadahabba (state-festival) of the state of Karnataka in India. It is a 10-day festival, starting with Navaratri (Nava-ratri means nine-nights) and the last day being Vijayadashami. The festival is observed on the tenth day in the Hindu calendar month of Ashvin, which typically falls in the Gregorian months of September and October.

The Hindu festival of Dasara, Navratri and Vijayadashami celebrates the victory of good over evil. It was the day in the Hindu legends when Goddess Chamundeshwari (Durga) killed the demon Mahishasura. Mahishasura is the demon whose slaying by the Goddess gave the city the name Mysuru. The Mysuru tradition celebrates the warriors and the state fighting for the good during this festival, ritually worshipping and displaying the state sword, weapons, elephants, horses along with Hindu Devi goddess in her warrior form (predominantly) as well as the Vishnu avatar Rama. The ceremonies and a major procession is traditionally presided by the king of Mysuru.

The city of Mysuru has a long tradition of celebrating the Dasara festival with grandeur and pomp to mark the festival. The Dasara festival in Mysuru completed 400th anniversary in year 2010,[5] while evidence suggests the festivities were observed in Karnataka state by the Vijayanagara Empire kings in the 15th century.

The Dasara festivities began with the Vijayanagar kings as early as the 15th Century. The festival played a historical role in the 14th-century Vijayanagara Empire, where it was called Mahanavami and the festivities are shown in the relief artwork of the outer wall of the Hazara Rama temple of Hampi.

The Italian traveller Niccolò de' Conti described the festival's intensity and importance as a grandeur religious and martial event with royal support. The event revered Durga as the warrior goddess (some texts refer to her as Chamundeshwari). The celebrations hosted athletic competitions, singing and dancing, fireworks, a pageantry military parade and charitable giving to the public.

After the fall of the Vijayanagar to Deccan Sultanates, these Hindu celebrations came to an end under Muslim rulers. The Wodeyars of Mysore formed a kingdom in Southern parts of the Vijayanagara Empire and continued the Mahanavami (Dasara) festival celebration, a tradition started initially by Raja Wodeyar I (1578-1617 CE) in the year 1610 at Srirangapatna.

DASARA GOMBE

Dasara Gomba is an orderly arrangement of dolls made of clay in a tiered platform normally containing 9 steps. This is tradition followed from generations in all most every family in KARNATAKA. Dolls of various themes collected and skilfully displayed over a 9 day period during Dasara. The main dolls are those of KING & QUEEN made of wood called "PATTADA GOMBE" which are dressed up in attractive designs. This tradition owes its origin to the Vijayanagar era.

