

Karnataka Gazette

June 15, 2026
Monday

www.karnatakagazette.com

9 pages

A BLEND OF MUSIC, NATURE AND ART:



Throughout history, Karnataka has been a place of Historical prominence, scenic charm and artistic considerations. With rulers like the Hoysalas, Chalukyas, the Deccan Sultans and the Vijayanagar Empire, Karnataka developed one of the richest built heritage. The Western Ghats cover Karnataka and are a UNESCO heritage site along with Hampii which is its capital. Moreover, art, folk traditions and storytelling have found their own unique space in Karnataka's culture. "Whenever I feel the southern breeze, whenever I listen to pleasant speech,

whenever sweet strains of music fall on my ears, whenever I behold the jasmine in full bloom My mind turns to you,
O Banavasi,
My dear land."

Aforementioned is a verse from a poem by Pampa who was one of the first classical Kannada poets. He describes Banavasi, a place in Karnataka, representative of its scenic beauty, its patronage of Art and the blends of rich Carnatic music with birds chirping around, as his dear land.

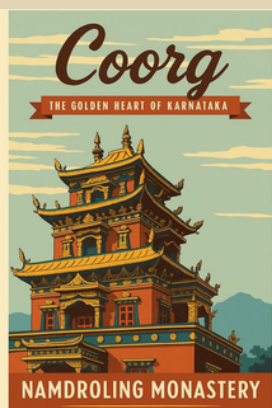
EDITORIAL

The heritage of Karnataka can be viewed through the lens of intersectioning forms of life. It is one place in India that has a beautiful natural heritage which both aids craft heritage and inspires Art and Literature about the state. As previously mentioned, Karnataka's scenic beauty does not escape classical literature found here and appears in the form of poetry or as scenic background to epics set here. The coconuts grown in Karnataka are used as craft material by women and tribal groups which allows these people to further the living heritage of Karnataka. The camaraderie shared by marginalised groups by sharing occupations of craft production and sharing artistic spaces shapes the people's lives and ways of livelihood. The traditional dances and folk music of Karnataka act as tools of conveyance of these intersections of the state that make it as beautiful as it is. Moreover, the geographical spacing of Karnataka has aided constructions of the past and have ended up making Hampi a UNESCO site. In this way then, material evidence becomes testimony of the fact that Karnataka has been a beautiful state, nurtured by patrons of Art, craft, music, and so forth.

Due to the respective importance of these intersecting entities present in Karnataka, their preservation takes primacy. Moreover, the presence of indigenous communities in the Western Ghats including forest dwelling tribes, requires organisations to ensure the preservation of the natural assets of the state. Furthermore, to ensure a proper livelihood for artisans and women, governmental and non governmental organisations must intervene as responsibility takers. Doing so automatically allows for the preservation of culture, and historical traditions.



Shadow Puppetary in Karnataka



NAMDROLING MONASTERY TOUR!!

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THE CRADLE OF TEMPLES

Karnataka is referred to as the cradle of temples. Known for two specific types of temples, namely Southern Vimana with a square storeyed superstructure and Rekhanagara, noted for its curvilinear tower. The rulers in Karnataka constantly experimented with temple building techniques and styles, leading up to the immense number of these. The contributors to the same include the Chalukyas, the Hoysalas, the Cholas and the Vijaynagar rulers. The styles of the temples evolved and saw greater additions with changing dynasties. One case in point is the Virupaksha Temple in Hampi.

By the time of the Vijaynagar rulers, built heritage, particularly temples came to be seen as symbols of power and prestige. The greater the temples, the more powerful the ruler who got it built. Thus, big gateways called Gopurams began to be added to these temples so that they are visible from afar and as grand as could be. This can be seen in the Hazara Rama Temple as well as in the additions made in the Virupaksha temple. By this the important architectural components of temple architecture included the Garbha Griha that is the womb chamber, the Shikhara that is the overstructure and the Mandapa that is the area where devotees offered prayers.



FUN FACT!!

The 123 feet tall idol in the Murudeshwar Shiva Temple at Bhatkal is the world's second-largest statue of Lord Shiva.

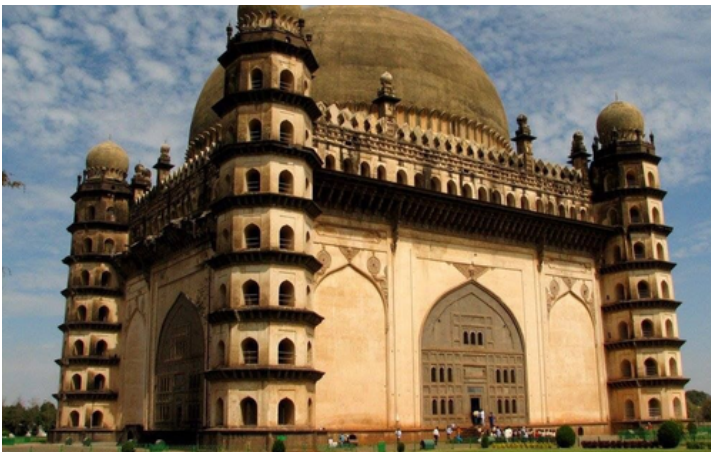


GUESS WHO?

Find out which ruler's sculpture this is. Also name the temples that he has built.

MORE ON BUILT HERITAGE :

These temples had embellishments in the forms of carvings of scenes from the epics including the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. The architectural styles showed blends of Shaiva, Vaishnava, Jaina as well as Buddhist traditions. Overtime, the coming of the Deccan Sultans added to Karnataka's built heritage by introducing Islamic architecture in terms of their building techniques. With the establishment of the independent Bahmani rule, there came into vogue a distinct style which drew in initial stages from the existing Tughluq style of Delhi.

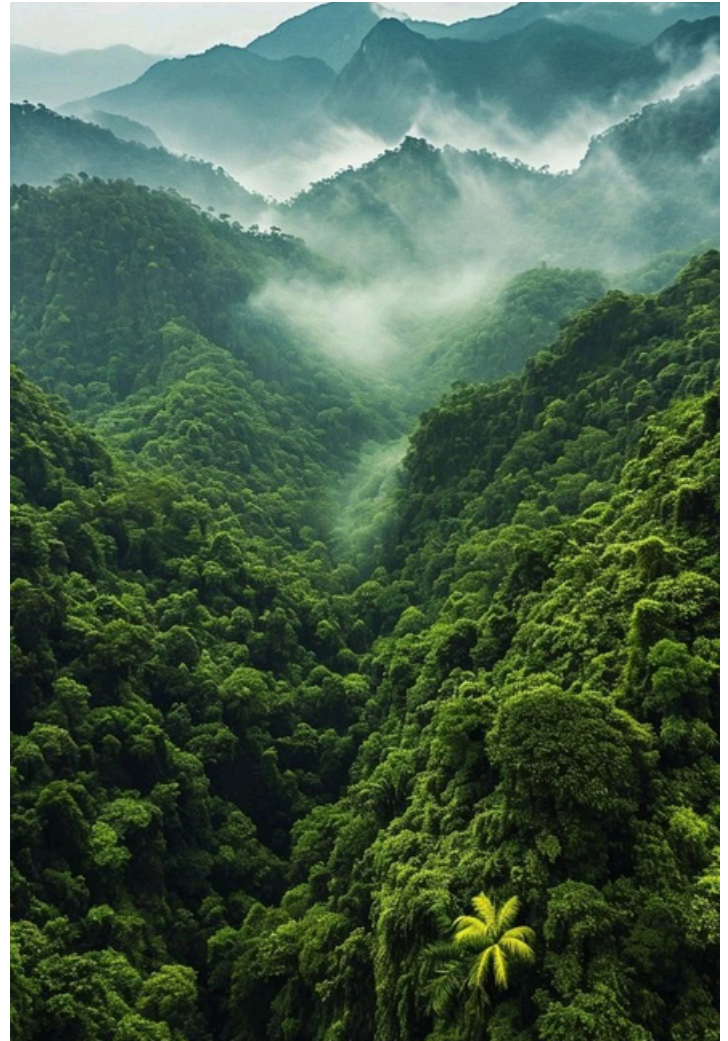


The Gol Gumbaz is an example of the Indo Islamic Architecture found in Bijapur constructed by the Sultans. As time progressed, modern architecture began coming to the fore which included the construction of churches in the Graeco-Roman form of architecture.



CLOUDS ON LAND, HEAVEN ON EARTH -

The Western Ghats that run through Karnataka are a UNESCO heritage site. With the evergreen forests and the misty rainfall, their presence makes Karnataka one of the most beautiful places in the world. Besides being home for the tribal or indigenous people since ages, the ghats support the subsistence of scores of people living in the western and southern parts of India, directly or indirectly. Around 10 wildlife sanctuaries of the Western Ghats are situated in Karnataka.



Coconuts also play an immensely important role in Karnataka's natural heritage. Coir, a golden fiber taken from coconut husks is ready to shape a green economy. In villages like Mandya, Channapatna, and Kundapura, women gather daily to spin and weave coir ropes and mats. Not only is this a step towards a sustainable life but it also provides livelihood to women and a chance to leave a life of self reliance and dignit

Cruise to Kudremukha National Park!
Book a 2n/3d cruise to visit the tranquil beauty of the Western Ghats and engage with locals.

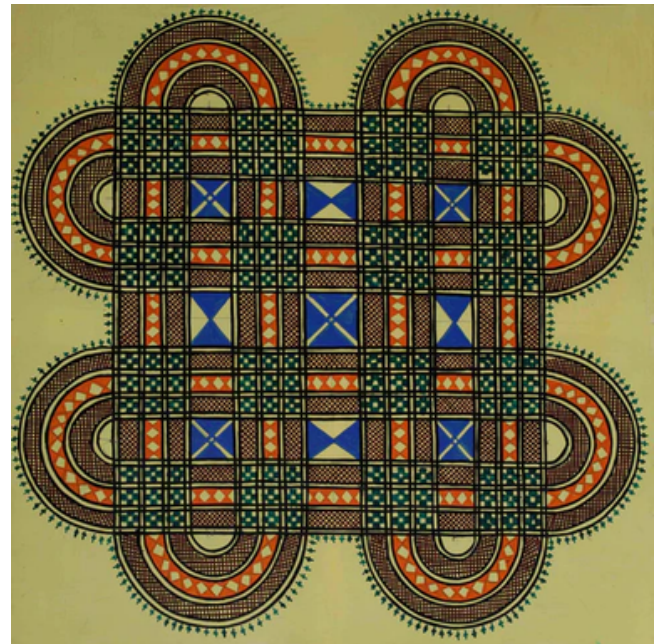


KARNATAKA THROUGH ART :



Chitrakathi storytelling traditions of Maharashtra and Karnataka combine oral narration with intricate hand-painted art. The word Chitrakatha is the combination of two terms: “Chitra” meaning painting and “Katha” meaning classic storytelling in any form. This specific panel shows Rama and his brothers. This form of art is generally used for telling epic stories of the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.

It is impossible to discuss the craft tradition of Karnataka without mentioning Chittara, a form of tribal folk art. The tribal women who practice the art that is replete with myriad signs and segments are from the Deewaru community. While there are no exact records of this art’s origin, its roots are believed to be traced back as early as the 10th century CE. Bearing a close resemblance to Warli paintings, Chittara paintings represent the rustic liveliness of village life, local birds and animals, flowers used in their ceremonies, and more.



ROPE MAKING WORKSHOP!!

Join us in making ropes and mats out of Karnataka’s coir, encouraging a sustainable lifestyle!



FIND OUT THE DIFFERENT GEOMETRIC PATTERNS USED IN CHITTARA ART AND WRITE AT LEAST 3 OF THEM DOWN -

TELLING STORIES THROUGH DANCE AND MUSIC :

Yakshagana is one of Karnataka's most recognisable traditional dance forms. It is a unique blend of dance, drama, music, and dialogue based largely on stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other local legends. The artists wear elaborate costumes, striking face paint, and towering headgear. These performances typically begin at dusk and continue late into the night.



Huli Vesha, meaning “Tiger Costume,” is a vibrant, high-energy folk dance popular in the coastal districts, often referred to as the “Tiger Dance.” This is typically performed during Navratri and the dancers dress as tigers for the same.

The Haridasas of Karnataka played an important role in the development of classical carnatic music. They were contributors to the Bhakti Movement. This was revolutionary for the common man because these compositions were in simple Kannada. *Janapada Geethe* or folk music is yet another thriving music form of Karnataka. Noteworthy among the folk music genre are the Vachanas of Basavanna, an ardent Shaivaite .



GUESS WHO?

Identify the person in the picture. Is he the father of Carnatic Music? - _____

ACTIVITY TIME!

FIND THE WORDS -

- 1) BIJAPUR SULTANS
- 2) CHITTARA
- 3) JANAPADA GEETHE
- 4) SHIKHARA
- 5) CARNATIC MUSIC
- 6) GARBHA GRIHA
- 7) KRISHNADEVA RAYA
- 8) VIJAYANAGAR
- 9) CHITRAKATHI
- 10) GOPURAM
- 11) MANDAPA
- 12) YAKSHAGANA

A	S	C	N	A	I	M	V	O	M	B	K	Y	R	K
R	H	I	L	E	N	U	A	D	G	Z	K	A	T	R
A	I	S	E	O	K	A	K	N	G	V	G	O	I	I
T	K	U	M	A	H	X	G	W	D	A	T	H	R	S
T	H	M	S	I	N	D	V	A	N	A	T	C	E	H
I	A	C	T	E	Q	Q	Z	A	H	A	P	Z	U	N
H	R	I	N	E	T	O	Y	C	K	S	R	A	P	A
C	A	T	N	N	S	A	E	A	K	P	K	F	L	D
S	I	A	V	C	J	N	R	O	B	X	H	A	K	E
S	V	N	W	I	X	T	I	I	W	C	S	T	Y	V
X	K	R	V	U	I	G	O	P	U	R	A	M	X	A
K	H	A	A	H	I	R	G	A	H	B	R	A	G	R
S	T	C	C	H	X	W	E	I	Z	G	S	J	K	A
E	H	T	E	E	G	A	D	A	P	A	N	A	J	Y
B	I	J	A	P	U	R	S	U	L	T	A	N	S	A

FILL IN THE BLANKS -

_____ is a natural heritage site under UNESCO and it passes through Karnataka.

_____ is referred to the form of storytelling through Art.

The huge entrance to the temple is called _____ .

Coir is extracted from _____ .



PUT YOUR THINKING CAPS ON!

Q. Do you think it is important to make sites like the Western Ghats heritage sites to ensure a livelihood for indigenous communities? What can we do to help?

Q. Craft traditions are dying because local artisans don't get adequate resources and are often left to fight for their subsistence. Find out ways in which craft heritage can be preserved, giving examples from Karnataka.



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