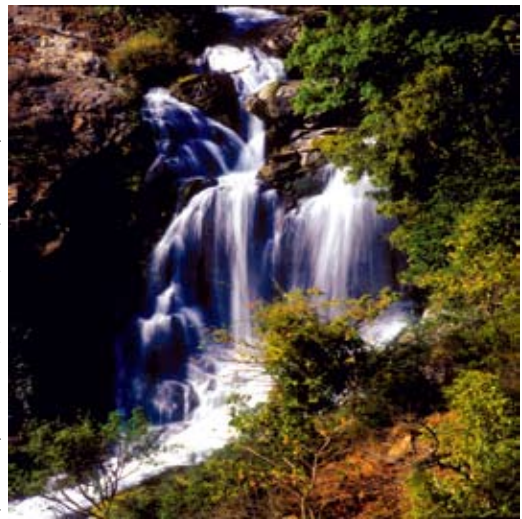


Chapter XIV

Karnataka, The Tourist Paradise

Both nature and human efforts have combined to make Karnataka a Tourist Paradise. Its long sea shore has silvery beaches. The tall Western Ghats are covered lush green forests full of varied *fauna, flora* with a number of east and west flowing rivers originating from the Ghats, enrich the soil of the land and contribute to State's agricultural prosperity. This rivers have created many water falls which are a feast to the eyes of the onlookers. The plain area is renowned for its beautiful river banks and projecting wonderful stony hills looking like natural rock parks. The hilly tracks have many wildlife sanctuaries. The Gangas, Kadambas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagara Rulers, Bahamanis of Gulbarga and Bidar, Adilshahis of Bijapur, Wodeyars of Mysore, Nayaks of Chitradurga and the Keladi rulers have raised wonderful forts, beautiful temples with impressive plastic art in stone and magnificent mosques and mausoleums of Indo-Saracenic style. The advent of the Portuguese and the English introduced European Renaissance architecture, imitation of both gothic and Indo-European styles. They built imposing churches and captivating public as well as private buildings in Karnataka. The National Parks, the Animal and Bird Sanctuaries provide the tourist the sight of wild animals like elephants, tigers, bisons, deers, blackbucks, peacocks and a variety of other animals in their natural habitat. The National Parks also acquaint the visitor with a rich variety of *flora* like tall trees, bushy plants and creepers that try to entwine him. Karnataka is known for its aromatic sandal wood and broad and massive trees of pipal and banyan with their hospitable broad shade. If one is spiritually inclined, there are living seers, whether Hindu, Christian or Muslim who can provide one with spiritual solace. There are also tombs of great religious leaders of Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Jaina. In the precincts of these tombs even today people seek spiritual solace.

Karnataka is blessed with many waterfalls and the tallest water fall in India is at Jog (Shimoga District) where the river Sharavati jumps from a height of 293 mts. into four cascades locally called Raja, Rani, Rocket, Roarer of awesome beauty. Presently the falls become active with full force only during one month following the rainy season (July-October).The



Irupu falls, Madikeri

Cauvery at Shivasamudra (in Mandya district) has twin falls, Gaganachukki and Bharachukki, one km away from each other and their water has been harnessed for production of Hydel power being the first of its kind in the country was installed in 1902. Mandya district has also a fall of the Shimsha, 14 km from Bluff, the power station of Shivasamudra. The river Shimsha is a tributary of the Cauvery and its fall is in Malavalli taluk, Mandya district. Kodagu district with its headquarters at Madikeri, a perennial hill-station, has the Abbi Falls, five km away from it. The Irpu falls of the river Lakshmana Tirtha, in Kodagu District, 48 km from Virajpet, has also an old Rameshwara temple near it. Chikmagalur district has many water falls. The hill station at Kemmannugundi has the Hebbe Falls and it is created by a stream later joining the Bhadra river, and the water jumps down from a height of about 500 feet. Manikyadhara is yet another water fall near the famous pilgrim centre called Baba Budangiri Dattatreya Peetha and here water spills down like small balls and visitors can enjoy a memorable shower bath. The Kallatti Falls at Kallattipura in Tarikere tq is 10 km from Kemmannugundi; water leaps down here from a height of 400 feet and there is an old Veerabhadra temple very near the Falls. Mysore district has the picturesque Chunchanakatte Falls at the place of the same name, besides which there is a Rama temple. Uttara Kannada is famous for its Unchalli (Lushington) also called '*Keppa Joga*' Falls, about 450 feet in height and the Aghanashini river creates this water cascade at a place which can be reached from Yellapur (19 km away) and also from Siddapur (12 km) via, Kolsirsi, Heggane and Unchalli. From Unchalli one has to walk five km from through the thick forest to reach the witnessing spot of this falls. Remnants of wooden Guest house built by Mr. Lushington, the then collector of Karwar facing this wonder full falls is even today noticed. The Magod Falls (situated at a distance of eight km from Yellapur) of the Bedti River can be reached from Siddapura (35 kms) as well as Yellapur in Uttara Kannada. The Chaya Bhagavathi falls, (five kms away from Narayanapur) in Surpur tq, the Yattipota falls near Chincholi, the Gurmitkal falls (four kms from Gurmitkal) in Yadgiri Tq, the Kotikal falls near Badami and the Kabbargi Falls in Koppal district are noteworthy. Belgaum District has the famous Gokak Falls, which is eight km away from the Gokak Town and Gokak Road Railway Station. The 170 feet tall cascade here is called '*Mini Niagara*' for its spread and shape. Hydro Electric Power was harnessed here to mechanically run the cotton mill as early as in 1887. There are many beautiful old temples at Gokak falls beginning from Badami Chalukyas till Later Chalukyan times and Vijayanagara periods and also a suspension bridge across the river Ghataprabha. The artificial but, attractive waterfalls at Sogala (Baihongal Tq.) needs special mention. The Mahadayi river creates the Vajrapoha Falls amidst the thick Jamboti forest in Khanapur taluk. While the river travels towards Goa, it is called Mandovi. A second fall of it at the lower valley from a height of 50 mtrs. although inaccessible, can be



Shivasamudra, Mandya District



Gokak falls, Belgaum District

reached from Asoge, which is six kms. away from this fall. Near Bangalore is Muthyalamaduvu falls not far away from Anekal, and 40 kms from Bangalore. The proper season to visit this pearl valley or muthyala madullu is between September and January and Gokak Falls must be visited in July-August when it will be in full bloom.

To the religious-minded and the devotees of every denomination, there are places worthy of a visit. One of the oldest mosques of Karnataka is in the Gulbarga Fort, built in 1367. by the Bahmani King Muhammad Shah I. It is the biggest mosque in Karnataka, and when compared in plan and design, the mosque resembles the mosque at Cardova in Spain. The Jamiya masjid in Ferozabad of Gulbarga Tq is of Bahamani period. Hirabibi masjid at Hirapur (Gulbarga), masjids at Gogi, Sagar etc. are noteworthy. The Jamiya mosque in Bijapur is another wonderful huge monument built by All Adilshah (16th century). It has a proportionate dome and its *mihrab* is gorgeously painted. The Malika Jahan mosque in black stone is another notable mosque in Bijapur. Bidar has the famous Solha-kamb mosque with 16 cylindrical pillars built in 1423. The Andu masjid, (Bijapur), the Mahal masjid of Afzalpur and the Khali masjid of Aland built during Adilshahi period are some beautiful examples of Islamic architecture. Raichur has Ekminar mosque and Lakshmeshwar (Gadag dt) has artistically raised mosque in the style of a Hindu temple of Adilshahi times. Belgaum has the fine Safa mosque of Adilshahi times in the fort built by Asad Khan Lahiri. Another mosque in the fort is Jamia Masjid raised by Sher Khan of Bijapur in 1586-87. Bhatkal has magnificent Chinnada Palli and the mosque at Mangalore port is known for its fine wood work. The handsome Jamiya Mosque at Srirangapattana with its two tall minarets is the creation of Tipu. Sira has a mosque of Mughul times. The Mosque in the City Market, Bangalore, is a large modern structure in marble with a series of windows crowned by arched canopies and rows of minaret-like pillasters. Tara Mandal masjid in the Taramandalpet near Nagarthpet, Bangalore is the oldest mosque of Tipu time.

The Dargas of Muslim Saints and Kings are equally famous. The Bande Nawaz Darga at Gulbarga is in a sprawling complex where a Mughul mosque is also seen. The Mausoleum of Ahmed Shah Wali, at Ashtur near Bidar is a tall structure with paintings in it. This prince is venerated as a saint by both the Hindus and Muslims. Bijapur has two princely Mausoleums. Ibrahim Rauza, a twin structure is standing on an arched platform. One end of the platform has a tomb and the other end a mosque, both domed structures; the domes emerging from lotus petals and surmounted with metallic pinnacles. Make a beautiful sight. The Gol Gumbaz is a famous mausoleum of another prince. The Yakub Kadri darga at Yadagiri, Sarmast darga at Sagar, Ladle Mashak darga at Aland, Amin Sab darga at Ijeri (Jevargi tq), Chanda Husaini darga at Gogi, Sayad Abib Sha Wali darga at Hirapur near Gulbarga. Haji



Ibrahim Rauza, Bijapur

Khudanma Husaini darga at Chincholi, Chita Sha Wali darga at Chitapur, Khaji Shahabuddin darga at Karjagi (Afzalpur tq) are some of the important dargas situated in Gulbarga District. The Panje Sab Darga at Talikote. Hajisab and Badakalsab darga at Tikota (Bijapur tq) and Hasan Dongri dargah at Bilgi are noteworthy. Darga of Malik Rihan is the most notable with its Polygonal layout, a Mughul Structure at Sira. The Gumbaz at Shrirangapattana where rest Haider and Tipu's mortal remains is a tall structure with a huge dome Its doors have fine inlay work. Syed Madani Darga at Ullala near Mangalore is a modern structure. At the Asar Mahal palace of Bijapur, Hazrat Bal, a hair of the Prophet is believed to be preserved in a holy casket. Wherever there is Muslim population they also raise dargas (*"chillas"*) of Mehboob Subani (famous Saint from Baghdad) and Chamansha Wali. *Uruses* are also held at these places. Many of the *uruses* are very large gatherings, attended by Hindus also as at the Raja Bagh Sawar urus at Yamanur near Navalgund or the one of Ahmadshah Wali at Ashtur near Bidar, which is also considered as the jatra of Veerashaiva Saint Allamaprabhu. A Veerashaiva priest officiates at it, beginning the rituals by doning green robes.

For those interested in churches, the best are at Bangalore, Mysore and Mangalore. Though Christianity was propagated by the efforts of the Portuguese in Kanara (coastal area) far earlier than on the plateau, many of the churches they raised on the coast during the 16th to 18th centuries were razed to the

ground by the Mysore ruler in 1790s. Mangalore has the magnificent St. Rozario Cathedral with its tall frontal towers. The original building was of 1526, rebuilt in 1910. The Milagres Church with beautiful and imposing facade accommodating many artistic images on its parapet, reminds one of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Equally notable is Our Lady of Sorrow Church at Kodialbail built in 1857. It has a tall facade divided into four rectangles of equal size with a pediment atop them. Mangalore has the Shanti Cathedral of the Basel Mission (now C.S.I.) raised in 1862 which is a simple structure with its well-planned layout. Virajpeth in Kodagu has a Catholic Church in Gothic style. It celebrated its bicentenary in 1993. The small Anglican Church in Madikeri, now houses the Government Museum managed by the State Archaeology Department. It has some rare antiquities and beautiful glass paintings.

The St. Mary's Church in Belgaum is a huge granite structure built in 1869 in the Camp area with fine piers in the prayer hall and gorgeous stained glass windows. The St. Philomina Church at Mysore with its two towers of imposing size can be the pride of any town and the building has a crypt. The Abbe Dubois Church (Srirangapattana) is worth mentioning.

Bangalore has its oldest St. Mary's Basilica in Shivajinagar supposed to be raised around 1600, rebuilt in 1832, and it has a tall Gothic tower at the entrance. St. Marks Cathedral that took the present shape in 1927, is



Milagres Church, Mangalore

another imposing structure in the former Cantonment area, now of the Church of South India. The St. Patrick's Church with North-South alignment in Greeco-Roman style, was originally built for Irish soldiers in 1844 and rebuilt in 1898. The Trinity Church on the Mahatma Gandhi Road was the official Anglican Church of British times which was attended by Residents and other officers. It took its present shape in 1908; though originally built in 1851, it has fine ionic pillars and a portico with a majestic look. Its nave is 90 feet long and the back-wall has fine wooden carvings.

The Buddhists had their Tara Bhagavati temples at Belgami (Balligave) near Shiralkoppa (Shimoga dt), Koliwada and Dambal, (both in Gadag dt). Remains of the razed stupas and a large number of Buddhist plaques of Satavahana period were unearthed recently at Sannatti and Kanaganahalli nearby in Gulbarga dt. Buddha Vihara at Aihole and Buddhist remains at Badami (between cave 2 and 3) of Badami Chalukya period are noteworthy. Kadri in Mangalore has three Buddhist bronze images in the Manjunatha temple; and of these, that of Avalokiteshwara is more than five feet tall, and is of ninth century. The Tibetan Settlements at Mundgod in Uttara Kannada and Bailukuppe in Mysore district look like mini-Tibet with their multi-coloured beautiful stupas and artistically painted prayer halls. The two New Baudha Viharas at Gulbarga are worth mentioning. The Mahabodhi Society in Bangalore has a magnificent stupa, and a huge temple on the model of the Bodhagaya temple has been built inside the compound.

Jainism had been a very old religion of Karnataka and Shravanabelagola with its 58 feet tall Gommata (intalled in 981-82 AD) and many Jaina basatis on two rocky hills is the most important Jaina Centre. It is in Hassan dt. and in the neighbouring district of Shimoga is Humcha, famous for the worship of Yakshi Padmavathi. Kambadahalli (Nagamangala taluk) known for its Panchakuta Jaina Basadi (*dwikuta and trikuta*) of 10th C A.D. is unique by its varied amlashila adorning the *shikaras* of the *trikuta* temple with a huge monolithic pillar in front. Simhanagadde in Chikmagalur dt. (Narasimharajapur tq) has an Jaina Matha. Dakshina Kannada has many Jaina centres. Mudabidre has the biggest Jaina Basadi in Karnataka called Thousand-pillared basadi with wonderful Jaina icons, both in metal and wood. The pillars of this 16th century structure are highly artistic. At this place, there are many more Jaina monuments. Neighbouring Karkala town has a Gommata statue installed in the 15th century, and a beautiful Chaturmukha basadi. Another town nearby is Venur which also has monolithic a Gommata installed in 1604; also has the Shantinatha Basadi. Dharmasthala, a famous Shaiva Centre, has a monolithic Gommata installed in the last century. Belgaum district has the beautiful Kamala basadi in Chalukyan style in the Belgaum Fort. The ancient centre Tavanidi near Nippani and newly created centre at Shedbal, where 24 Tirthankaras in white marble have been installed in a cluster, are quite imposing. Lakkundi in



Thousand Pillared basadi Moodabadi, Dakshina Kannada District

Gadag district has a huge Brahma Jinalaya of Chalukyan style, built by a noble lady, Attimabbe. Near Mysore is Gommatagiri with a 20 feet tall Gommata monolith. Tippuru in Maddur Tq has a 20 ft. Gommata image of 10th Century A.D. A picturesque hill, Maleyur in Chamarajnagar taluk with a Parshwanatha basadi atop the hill and also the samadhi of the great Jaina Savant Pujiyapada is another holy centre. This place on a rocky hill has serene atmosphere.

To the Shaivas, Gokarn a is a great all-India centre where the Atmalinga (Mahabaleshwara) of Shiva, brought by Ravana, is believed to have been installed. Nearby is Murdeshwar where a huge modern Shiva temple in Dravidian Style has been raised, renovating an ancient shrine. Both the places are on the sea-shore in Uttara Kannada. At Hampi is the famous Virupaksha Temple, venerated by generations of poets, scholars, kings and commoners. Madikeri has the famous Omkareshwara temple built by the Kodagu rulers during the 19th century. Its domes and arches make it look like an Indo-Saracenic building. Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada is the most popular Shaiva centre in Karnataka. Nanjangud in Mysore dt. has the huge Shrikantheshwara temple, more than 1000 years old. The Chamarajeshwara in Chamarajanagar is built (in 19th Century) by Krishnaraja Odeyar III in memory of his father Chamaraja, and both these huge temples have fine stucco images. The Nanjangud temple is a museum for the study of Shaiva Iconography with its fine stone figures in the round. Bangalore has the Ulsoor Someshwara temple of the 16th century built by the Kempegowda family with an imposing Rayagopura.



Bhoga Nandishwara Temple, Chikballapura District

Later Veerashaiva saints are associated with many places. Kodekal (Gulbarga dt.) Basavanna temple, Kadakola Madivallajjana Matha, Sharana Basaveshwara temple and Dasoha Math at Gulbarga are few more places of worship. The Mahadeshwara Betta in Chamarajanagar dt. is associated with a Veerashaiva Saint ascribed with many miracles. Yediyur in Tumkur dt. has the 'gadduge' of Tontada Siddhalinga Yati, another renowned saint. Balehonnur in Chikmagalur dt. and Ujjini in Bellary dt. are the two among the five (Pancha) major important Veerashaiva Peethas of India in Karnataka. Athani has the 'samadhi' of the famous Veerashaiva Saint Shivayogi. Some of the outstanding Veerashaiva Mathas are seen at Naganur near Bailhongal and Kalmatha in Belgaum, Durudundeshwara Matha at Arabhavi and Mahantaswamy Matha at Murgod are in Belgaum dt. Murugha Matha (Dharwad), Annadaneshwara Matha (Mundargi), Tontadarya Matha at Gadag and Dambal, Moorusavira Matha at Hubli, Murugha Matha and Hukkeri Matha (Haveri), Taralabalu Matha at Sirigere, Murugharajendra Matha at Chitradurga, Banthanala Shivajogi Matha at Chadachan and Mahantaswamy Matha (Ilkal) are equally notable. The 'samadhi' of Sharanabasappa Appa at Gulbarga, the Belimatha in Bangalore, Siddhaganga Matha near Tumkur and Jagadguru Shivaratreshwara Matha at Mysore and Suttur are equally important. Kolar District has Nidumamidi Matha. These places and many more of the Veerashaiva Mathas are visited by pilgrims in thousands.

Of the Advaita School profounded by Adi Shankara, there is the famous Matha at Sringeri in Chikmagalur District. Kudli has another Matha in the same tradition in Shimoga dt. Advaita Matha at Swarnavalli (Uttara Kannada) has several palmleaves collections and this Matha has a large number followers especially the Havayaks of Uttara Kannada district and elsewhere. Avani in Kolar dt., Shivaganga in Tumkur dt. and Sankeshwar in Belgaum dt. are the other prominent centres of this school. Of the Advaita Sampradaya, are the famous Siddharudha Matha at Hubli and the Shivananda Matha at Gadag.

Dattatreya worship is popular in Karnataka and Devala Ganagapur in Gulbarga dt. where the famous saint from Karnataka, Narasimha Saraswati had stayed for long, and Dattatreya devotees from all over throng the place. Kurugadda, an island in the Krishna in Raichur dt. has the *samadhi* of Sripada Vallabha, another devotee of Dattatreya, the *guru* of Narasimha Saraswati. At Balekundri near Belgaum is the '*samadhi*' of another devotee of Dattatreya called Pantha Balekundri Maharaj. Murgod in Belgaum dt. and Agadi in Haveri dt. have similar centres. Inam Dattatreya Peetha at Bababudan Giri in Chikmagalur dt. is worshipped by both Hindus and Muslims. As a Muslim devotee of Dattatreya, Dada Hayath Khalandar stayed and worshipped Dattatreya at this shrine (cave) and the latter's '*samadhi*' (tomb) is also seen on the hill. Maniknagar near Humnabad is another centre of Dattatreya worship and was consecrated by the presence of a saint, Manik Prabhu.

For the representation of the Shaivas, there are Nathapanthis. Handibadaganath in Khanapur taluk. Appachiwadi near Nippani and Kadri in Mangalore are their notable centres. Bhairava, a manifestation of Shiva is worshipped in many places, and of these Adichunchanagiri in Mandya dt. and Seethi Betta in Kolar dt. are quite famous. Adichunchanagiri has now the famous Matha of the Vokkaliga community.

Mailara Marthanda or Malatesha or Khandoba is another manifestation of Shiva, whose temples are seen at Gudda Guddapur in Ranebennur taluk, Mannetti Mailara in Bellary dt., Khanapur in Bidar dt., Mangasuli in Belgaum dt., Bellur and Mailarapattana in Mandya dt. All these are popular centres of pilgrimage.

Another popular manifestation of Shaivism is Veerabhadra, He is supposed to be the son of Shiva. Popular centres of his worship are spread all over Karnataka, but Yedur on the banks of the Krishna and Godachi in Belgaum dt., Mugbalu and Savanadurga in Bangalore dt., Channappanapura in Mysore dt, Koppa in the Chikmagalur dt. and the Uddhana Veerabhadra temple at Hampi are some notable pilgrim centres of this God.

Shakti, the consort of Shiva is worshipped by many. The village deities like Maramma, Durgamma, Patalamma, Sappalamma, Plague Amma, Matangamma etc., have been identified with her. Of the Shakti centres to be noted are

Chandralamba at Sannati (Gulbarga), Bagavanti at Ghattaraki, Mayavva at Chinchli, Yellamma at Saundatti, Banashankari near Badami (Bagalkote dt.), Bhuvaneshwari at Hampi, Marikamba at Sirsi (Uttara Kannada), Mookambika of Kollur, Annapurneshwari of Horanadu, Chamundeshwari in Mysore and Hemadramma at Bannur (Mysore dt.), Mahalakshmi at Doddagaddavalli near Hassan, Lakshmi at Goravanahalli, Hasanamba at Hassan, Honnadevi of Shivaganga, Mariyamma at Huskur, Banashankari at Bangalore and the one near Badami and Kolararramma at Kolar are considered to be ancient. These places are visited by devotees of Goddess Shakti.

Among the Vaishnava Centres, Udupi and Melkote are the foremost, the former connected with the Dwaita school and the latter Vishishtadvaita. Lord Krishna (The image is said to have been found in a huge lump of Gopichandana sailing from Dwaraka in Gujarath coast) at Udupi was installed by Acharya Madhwa (1200 - 1280 AD) in the beginning of 13th C.A.D. and he founded eight Mathas to help conduct services of the Lord at Udupi. The Madhwa Vaishnavas have their own holy places like Sonda in Uttara Kannada, where Vadiraja Swamy's 'Brindavan' is seen. The pioneering Uttaradi Matha of the sect is at Hospet. The moola Brindavanas of Jayateertha and Akshobhy theertha are at Malkhed on the bank of the river Kagina and is considered to be a very Vibrating pilgrimage centre for Madhwas. The Navabrindavana or the 'Brindavanas' of nine great seers of the sect is at Anegundi to the north of Hampi in an island amidst the Tungabhadra. Mulabagal in Kolar dt. has the Brindavana of Sripadaraja. Abbur, Nanjangud, Sosale Bhimanakatte, Mahishi,



Shri Krishna Matha, Udupi

Manur, Santebidanur (Andhra Pradesh), Mantralaya (Andhra Pradesh) and Savanur are holy places to the Madhwas, the last named having the *Brindavan* of Satyabodha Teertha of Uttaradhi Matha, a Contemporary of Haider who paid him honours. The great Vaishnava saint, Kanakadasa's *samadhi* is at Kaginele in Haveri dt. where recently a Matha has been founded with the name Kanaka Guru Peetha. Kanakadasa one of the exponents of Haridasa Literature visited Udupi Krishna temple and the God is said to have turned backwards and given him *darshan* through the '*Kanakana kindi*'. also called Dashvatara Kindi. Places like Mannur, Malkhed, Honnali, Kudli, Sosale, Yaragola Holehonnur, Honnali, Budikote etc., are also noteworthy Madhwa centres in the State.

Srivaishnavism was preached by Ramanujacharya during the 12th century and he stayed at Saligrama (Mysore dt. where there is the Bhashyakara Temple in his memory). Tonnur and Melukote in Mandya dt. At the last place he is believed to have renovated the Cheluvanarayana Swamy temple and conducted the pious for long. These are holy places to Srivaishnavas and also to others. There is the Parakala Matha at Mysore and Jeeyar Yatiraja Matha at Bangalore (Malleshwaram).

Apart from the above places which are holy to Srivaishnavas, temples of Vishnu and his incarnation are found all over the state. Reference is already made to Udupi, Melkote, Biligiri Rangana Betta and Himavad Gopalaswamy Betta. Narasimha is worshipped in notable places like Raibag, Surpali, Halasi, Banawasi, Nagamangala and Maddur in Mandya dt. Zarani Narasimha near Bidar. Devarayanadurga and Sibi in Tumkur dt., Toravi near Bijapur and at T. Narasipur in Mysore dt. Ranganatha has two famous centres of worship in islands in the Cauvery at Srirangapattana and Shivasamudra. They are respectively called *AadiRanga*, *Madyaranga* and *Antyaranga* (Srirangam in Tamil Nadu) Both are visited by hosts of devotees. Equally famous Ranganatha temple is seen at Anegondi in Koppal dt. The Chennakeshava at Belur. Keerti Narayana at Talakad, Veeranarayana at Gadag, Soumya Keshava at Nagamangala are famous Vaishnava pilgrimage centres. Vishnu in Bhuvarahavatara form found at Halasi (Belgaum dt.) Varahanatha Kallahalli (Mandya dt.) and Mysore are unique and note worthy. Chunchanakatte in Mysore District and Hiremagalur near Chikmagalur and K.R.Nagar have very old Rama temples. Hanuman as a popular Vaishnava deity has his temples in Hampi, Bannur (Mysore), Banaswasdi near Bangalore, Karanji Anjaneya in Bangalore, Yalagur in Bagalkot dt., Mulbagal in Kolar dt. Kadaramandalagi in Haveri dt. and Kengal Anjaneya and Sanjeevaraya near Channapattana and a host of other places. Muttatti on the banks of Cauvery in Mandya dt. also has a famous Hanuman Temple called Muttatiraya.

Subrahmanya, son of Shiva, has his worshipping centres at Sandur in Bellary district (picturesque hill resort), Ghati Subrahmanya in Bangalore Rural district and Kukke Subrahmanya in Dakshina Kannada district, In certain areas, Kartikeya is identified with serpent worship and an elaborate ritual called Nagamandala is performed in a huge arena decorated with colourd powders and flowers. Around this, special dance rituals are performed by trained priests. Witnessing Nagamandala or a Yakshagana in coastal Karnataka, will be a unique privilege to the visitor. So is seeing Bhuta worship rituals which are colourful and captivating. Other folk arts like Veeragase, intended to please God Veerabhadra hold one spell bound. Dollinakunita to please Biredevaru is a mighty performance. Curious and funny is Somanakunita which entertains the onlookers though the huge mask wearing artists. The Kamsale dance by the Devaraguddas (devotees) of Mahadeshwara and Pathada kunitha of old Mysore region are fascinating.



A Yakshagana Artiste

The pageant of folk arts of Karnataka like Yakshagana, Bayalata etc., captivates the audience for a long period. Janapada Loka near Ramanagara (Mysore-Bangalore Road) and the Regional Resources Centre at the M.G.M. College, Udupi, provide audio-visual tapes, and there is a huge Folk Museum in the Mysore University.

The Sikhs have their famous Nanak Zhara in Bidar, a place believed to have been visited by Guru Nanak. Gurudvar Nanak Math in Gulbarga of modern times is noteworthy. There is a modern Gurudwara at Ulsoor in Bangalore, built of white marble. The Parsees have their fire temple in Bangalore.



Gurudwara at Halsur, Bangalore

The State has many National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries. Of the National Parks one at Bannerghatta near Bangalore is about 100 sq.km. in area Within Which is a Tiger Safari. Bandipur in Mysore and Chamarajnaragar dt. is more than 800 sq.km. in area and famous for its wild elephants .The Kudremukh National Park, 600 sq km in area is on the ranges of the Western Ghats and is known for all kinds of *flora and fauna*. The Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. at Malleswara is amidst the park and has maintained a township and a guest house. The Nagarahole National Park spread over an extent of 640 sq km includes areas both in Kodagu and Mysore districts, has forest lodges to accommodate visitors and this park is famous for its tiger population. The



Shola forest



Bababudangiri, Chikmagalur



Biligiri Rangana Betta (BRT Hills)



Western Ghats, Karnataka

Brahmagiri Wild Life Sanctuary is in Kodagu where nature in all its wild growth and animals in all their wild movements can be seen. This is at more than 2000 to 3000 ft above MSL. Ranebennur Wild Life Sanctuary in Haveri district is more than 100 sq km in area and is known for its agile blackbucks population. Adichunchanagiri has a Peacock Sanctuary. It is a hilly place where there is a Bhairava Temple and a Matha of the Vokkaligas and peacocks can be seen in gay abandon in the mornings. Dandeli Wild Life Sanctuary in Uttara Kannada District is famous for bisons, deers and a variety of other wild fauna.

Ranganatittu near Srirangapattana is a small island in the Cauvery where there is a Bird Sanctuary and emigrant birds of all types like pelican, storks and large numbers of other varieties are found perching on the trees and bushes, feeding or busy flying to feed their young ones. Gudvi Bird Sanctuary in Sorab taluk and Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary in Tirthahalli taluk are famous, and they are in the Shimoga district. An equally famous Bird Sanctuary is at Kokrebellur near Maddur in the Mandya district. Lovers of wild life who admire serenity of the forest and trekking at the hill tracks can visit these places and enjoy the natural bounty of the land of Karnataka. Karnataka has some outstanding Trekking spots. Places like Yana and Kavale caves in Uttara Kannada District. Gottamgotta (Gulbarga dt), B.R. Hills (Chamaraj Nagar), Kabbal durga (Bangalore dt.) Basavanabetta in Mandya dt. Mahadeshwara Betta in Chamarajanagar dt. Madhugiri, Siddara Betta and Shivaganga (Ramanagara) , Nandi and Kolar hills in Kolar district etc., are noteworthy. Herein you come across tanks, rivulets and water falls to help cool your heels. The chirping sound of birds and of wild insects provide you with fine natural music.

Karnataka has many cool and pleasant hill resorts of which Kudremukh is one, mentioned above. Kemmannagundi in Chikmagalur district (in the Western Ghats) is another hill resort surrounded by a park with good accommodation facilities arranged by the Horticulture department (housed at Lalbag, Bangalore). Biligiri Ranganabetta in Chamarajnagar dt. is famous for its ancient Srinivasa temple atop a hill around which temple, there exists a Wild Life Sanctuary. Wild elephants are seen around the place. The place is inhabited by Soliga tribes. Himavathgopalabetta (Gopaldaswamy Betta) is another resort where there is a Venugopala temple atop the hill. Rest house and food facilities are provided in the small hamlet that has grown around the temple.

Devarayanadurga in Tumkur district has temples of Lakshmi Narasimha and Yoga Narasimha atop the hill which is a cool resort and the whole hill is surrounded by picturesque fortification. Nandidurga in Kolar dt. is an ancient place with the Yoganandiswara Temple of Chola times atop it and fortifications around it, built by Haider and Tipu. The place is provided with lodging facilities, and the Horticulture Department has raised an attractive park above the hill. Mahatma Gandhi had stayed here more than once when he was in poor health.

Agumbe known as the Chirapunji of Karnataka in Shimoga district, though not a hill resort, is a hill track from where the sunset can be observed and it is a heavenly experience. There are hill resorts at Ramdurga in Bellary district, Biligiri Rangana Betta in Mysore district, Siddara Betta in Tumkur district, Tadiyanda Mol in Kodagu district and also at Jogimatti in Chitradurga district.

The rivers of Karnataka have several reservoirs of tourist importance. Reservoirs like KRS (Mandya dt), Narayanapur and Almatti (Bijapur dt.), Chandrampalli (Gulbarga dt.) Navil Thirtha (Belgaum dt.), Shimsha (Mandya dt.) Munirabad (Koppal dt.) Lakkavalli (Chikmagalur dt.), Gorur (Hassan dt.), Bichanahalli (Mysore dt.), Harangi (Kodagu dt.) Marikanive (Chitradurga dt.), Gajanur (Shimoga dt.), Hidkal (Belgaum dt.), Karanja (Bidar dt.), Varahi (Udupi district), Supa dam (Uttara Kannada) etc. can serve as interesting picnic and tourist spots.

If you want to bask in the sunshine of the sea shore or get beaten by the oceanic waves, there are fine beaches. At Bengre, which is almost an island and at Ullal, both near Mangalore, are notable beaches. Ullal has provision for cottages and food facilities. Not far away from Mangalore is the beach at Thanneerubhavi near Suratkal where there is the Regional Engineering College. Malpe near Udupi (both places were associated with great Vaishnava saint Madhwacharya) has a long magnificent beach and also an island near it.

Maravanthe in the Kundapur taluk of Udupi district has a fine beach on one side and river Sauparnika on the other, running parallel to the coast for a considerable distance before its confluence with the sea and the highway runs in between sea and the river provides the tourists an enchanting travel experience and the sunset here is a magnificent divine spectacle. Kapu beach near Kundapur is also an enchanting tourist spot. Gokarna, the holy town in Uttara Kannada, has a very long beach which has also become a second resort to many people who visit Goa. Karwar has a number of beaches like Blue Lagoon Beach, Ladies Beach around it and Poet Rabindranath Tagore had unforgettable experiences at Karwar beach to which he has given expression to in poetic prose. Om beach, Murudeshwar and Kasarkod are other beautiful serene beaches of Uttara Kannada Dist. These are only a few among the many. The beaches not only provide you an encounter with the sea, but also give you a chance to taste sea food available there.

The sea coast has some captivating islands too and of these the St. Mary's Island or Tonseparu near Malpe has peculiar pillar-like natural rock formations. The Nethrani Island near Murdeshwar is another captivating Island. Basavaraja Durga near Honavar is an island fort raised by the Keladi rulers during 16th and 17th centuries. It is surrounded by a strong fortification raised by gigantic laterite blocks and the hill has a flat top. Devagad and Kurmagad are two islands near Karwar. Visiting these places will be a wonderful experience.

If the visitor is interested in old paintings, the mural paintings of Vijayanagara times are seen at Hampi Virupaksha temple and also at Haradanahalli in the Chamarajanagar dt. Earlier, there were some paintings in Cave No. 3 at Badami of the 7th century. They have faded. There are old paintings of considerable antiquity at the Jaina Matha in Shravanabelagola. Paintings of Bijapur times are seen at Asar Mahal of the 16th-17th century. Asar Mahal has mostly floral figures now fading. Ragmala paintings and portraits of kings and queens like Chand Bibi are preserved in the Bijapur Museum. A place near Bijapur, Kumatagi has also some wall paintings around a swimming pool. Eighteenth century paintings are seen at Dariya Daulat Palace at Srirangapattana, some of them are war scenes, others personal portraits. The Sibi Temple near Tumkur also has paintings of the 18th century of secular nature besides some astounding erotic figures.

The Eighteenth century paintings are also seen at Chamarajnagar and at Haleparivaravara Chavadi in Kollegal and the Nalkunadu Palace in Kodagu. The paintings on a wooden plank from Kittur have been transferred to the Hire Matha at Amminbhavi in Dharwad dt. The 19th century paintings are seen in the palace of Nippani, (Belgaum dt.), Nargund (Gadag dt.) and two temples in the precincts of the Mysore palace. The Jaganmohan Art Gallery has mural paintings and also traditional paintings of gods and goddesses drawn on cloth and also on glass. The traditional paintings of Mysore are preserved at the Chitrakala Parishat in Bangalore too and they are mostly framed paintings of gods and goddesses of the Mysore style. Small round 'Ganjifa' cards and various 'snake and ladder' type game boards of the 19th century also have fine paintings. Sritatvanidhi, a manuscript of the 19th century has hundreds of miniature paintings. In this series are nine unpublished coloured illustrated manuscripts originally prepared during the time of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III of the Mysore Royal family, are now found in the Oriental Research Institute, Mysore and of which only Shaktinidhi has been recently published. Sritatvanidhi's illustrations are considered to be outstanding and have been recently published in parts by Prof S.K.Ramachandra Rao.

Schools of art also have good collection of modern paintings. The Ideal Fine Arts College at Gulbarga, Vijaya Fine Arts College at Gadag, Arts School of Halbhavi at Dharwad, Arts School of Minajigi at Hubli, Hadapad's Ken School of Art, Chitrakala Parishat and Kalamandira at Bangalore and Art School at Davanagere may be specially mentioned. Art exhibitions called '*Kala Mela*' are generally held in Bangalore, Davanagere, Udupi, Dharwad, Hubli, Gulbarga, Mysore, Mangalore and other centres. Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA) is a Government institution which is functioning in an old heritage building at Mysore.

Of the handicrafts of Karnataka, brocade weaving can be seen at Bangalore, Hubli, and other places. Wood inlay work is practised at Mysore and it is a

unique art. Lacquerware working can be seen at Channapatna, Kinahal and Kalaghatgi. Kinahal in Koppal district is doing special type of works. Sculptors are seen at Mysore, Shivarapatna, Bangalore, Gadag and other centres, carving stone figures. Sandalwood carving is practised by the Gudigars at Sagar, Sorab, Kumta and Honavar who undertake both big and small delicate Pieces. They also use other soft and hard wood as the medium, since sandalwood is very costly. Their delicate works have few equals. Bidar has a special metallic craft called Bidariware in which on a black metal surface fine silvery or gold designs are embossed artistically. The Lambanis are known for their special embroidery work. Doll making is also a special talent found in Karnataka. Wonderful braziers are found at Nagamangala (Mandya dt), Gollaradoddi near Ramohalli (Bangalore dt.), Udupi and Chikkodi (Belgaum dt). Observing the nimble fingers at work on cane or bamboo or with chisel is a hair-raising experience. The Canara Bank at Jogaradoddi and the Sandur Industries at Sandur have opened workshops to make various type of craftsmen to sit under a single roof and work together. A show room is also opened to help them secure remunerative prices for their products. Govt. Cauvery Emporia at Bangalore, Mysore and other centres have showrooms of handi craft products of Karnataka.

Of the Museums in the state, for art lovers, Jaganmohan Art Gallery housed in an old gorgeous palace of Mysore is a must. There are not only fine art works (including some by Raja Ravi Varma) in colours, metals, ivory and wood but a huge collection of musical instruments too of yore. The Mysore Palace has a large collection of art works from various countries, besides a gallery of armoury of olden days including a sword that can be worn round the waist like a belt.

Bangalore Government Museum (1880) too has a collection of ancient arms, a sculpture gallery and a collection of old coins, which are shown at special request. There are exclusive painting collections of noted artists K. Venkatappa and K.K. Hebbar and plaster of paris sculptures of the former. At the district Museum in Shimoga (housed in an old palace) queer items of Keladi rulers are preserved. The Gulbarga Museum has not only the items of Bahmanshahi times but also a huge collection of Buddhist sculptures (Decorative plaques) from Sannati. Chitradurga Museum (1947) has many antiquities connected with the local chieftains, hero-stones, weapons and other items. There are State Government Museums at Gulbarga, Kittur, Hassan, Keladi, Raichur, Basavakalyana, Huvina Hadagali, Dharwad, Gadag, Srirangapatna and Shimoga which are worth Visiting.

The Central Government (Archaeological Survey of India) maintains a rich collection of armoury, coins, manuscripts and paintings at the Museum near Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur. Hampi (at Kamalapura) has a similar site museum of Vijayanagara days, and it also contains many objects unearthed during recent excavations there. Srirangapattana's Daria Daulat Palace has a Museum on



Girija Kalyana, a mural painting at Virupaksh Temple



Mural Painting at Khajina Gowda Wade, Raichur



Mural Painting in Revanasiddeshwara Temple, Sira



Jagn Mohan, Palace, Mysore



Museum in Mysore

Tipu (1959) which contains manuscripts, drapery, coins, arms and paintings of his time. Halebidu, Balligave, Banavasi, Lakkundi, Aihole, Badami, Bagali etc., have Museums maintained by the central A.S.I.

In addition to the Folk Art Museum at the Mysore University, the museum at the Janapada Loka at Ramanagara maintained by Karnataka Janapada Parishat founded by H.L. Nagegowda has to be specially mentioned. The Kannada Research Institute, Karnataka University, has a famous Museum of antiquities and its epigraphical gallery is the most notable. There is the Visweswaraya Industrial Museum at Bangalore adjacent to the State Museum, founded (1962) by the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The finest and the best Museum in Karnataka is the 'Manjusha' seen at the famous pilgrim centre Dharmasthala which has a huge collection of all items like vessels, implements of day-to-day use, jewellery, watches, clocks, art pieces, typewriters, cars, coins, weapons, icons, manuscripts, copper plates, curious items, drapery etc., dating back to several centuries. Shashwati is a unique museum for women, having the items they used, created, wore etc., giving a complete picture of their life. It is situated at the N.M.K.R.V. College for Women at Jayanagar, Bangalore.

Karnataka can boast of the best pathology museum in India at the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Belgaum, run by the K L E Society. It is both educative and entertaining, both to a layman and a medical person because all sorts of aberrations in human body in all its dimensions are attempted to be unmasked with detailed academic notes being provided at this museum.

Karnataka has one of the finest zoos in the country at Mysore. The Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden founded in 1892, spread over an area of 100 acres, has a collection of nearly 1000 animals of all variety including many exotic ones like Sloth Bear, Chimpanzee, Orangutan etc., and also the White Tiger. The Bannerghatta National Park near Bangalore, has the Tiger Safari. The Natural Museum and the Fantasy Park at Mysore are recent additions worth mentioning. The big Aquarium with varieties of coloured fishes at Bal Bhavan, Bangalore, is noteworthy.

No survey of Karnataka from the tourist point will be complete without mentioning about its historical forts. The whole range of ancient capitals such as Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Vijayanagara, Badami, Banavasi, Basava Kalyana, Srirangapattana, Keladi, Chitradurga, Mysore, etc. had their forts. In addition, forts were built at strategic centres. There are hill forts at the Nandi Hills (Kolar dt.), Savanadurga (Ramanagara dt.), Madhugiri, Pavagada, Nijagal, Midigeshi etc., in Tumkur dt., Uchangi in Davanagere dt., Bellary and Sandur, in Bellary dt., Jamalabad in Dakshina Kannada, Manzarabad near Sakleshpur in Hassan dt. and Kavaledurga in Shimoga dt., Yadgiri, Waghangeri, Jaladurga, Vanadurga, Shahapur and Surapur in Gulbarga dt., Nargund fort built by Shivaji in Gadag dt. and Parasgad and Hargapur forts in Belgaum dt., also raised by Shivaji.

Bangalore, Devanahalli, Magadi (Ramanagara dt.), Aymangala in Chitradurga dt., Chikbanavar in Hassan dt., Belgaum etc. have fortifications around some part of the towns even now. Rehmanghad and Gummanayakanapalya in Kolar District. Old forts have huge granite stones used without plastering materials. Raichur, Mudugal, Koppal forts too are noteworthy. Srirangapattana fort is protected by the arms (branches) of the Cauvery. The coastal island forts like Bahadurgad, Basavaraja Durga, Devagad and Kurmagad have already been mentioned. Old forts exist in hundreds in Karnataka. A visit to them gives an idea of the ancient architects', stone workers', builders' and military strategists' skill and fore-thought. They carrye your memory to the past, helping you to trace the foot-prints on the sands of time and make you think of men who fought to protect or to scale them, blood that was shed, intrigues involved in capturing them, and a long pageant of past events.

To substitute the efforts made till now to pinpoint the centres of special interest to visitors and tourists of various tastes and temperament, further efforts, are made here to describe some notable and outstanding tourist spots in Karnataka. It is calculated that every year on an average two to three crore people visit Bangalore for a variety of reasons and they also turn tourists and visit Mysore in considerable numbers. They do not know that Karnataka has outstanding tourist spots and good facilities to visit them and also stay at those places. There is enough facility for trekking, water sports, sports like golf, snooker and other sophisticated games. Bangalore and Mysore have horse racing seasons too. Dasara at Mysore is a great Cultural festival. Oflate, this festival is being Celebrated on a large scale and sytled as 'Nada Habba'. The Annual festivals of Hampi Utsav (November) and Kadambotsav (December) are conducted by the State Government regularly at Hampi and Banavasi respectively. Vairamudi and Rajamudi at Melukote is other unique occasions when the *Utsavamurthy* of Lord Narayana adorned with a diamond studded dazzling crown ('mudi') is taken in procession. During which lakhs of people tourists especially from aborad congregate. The Bangalore Karaga on Chaitra Poornima night is also a colourful festival. With this background, some important places are introduced here, in an alphabetical order.

Adichunchanagiri in Mandya dt, 21 km. from Nagamangala and 66 km from Mandya is a noted centre of Bhairava worship on a hill. It was formerly a Natha Pantha centre and is now a seat of the Swamy of the Vokkaliga community. The Gangadhareshwara Temple of the place attracts pilgrims in thousands during its annual *Jatra*. The place has a Peacock Sanctuary locates in natural settings.. The Matha provides accomodation in its guest house to visitors. The place can be reached by bus too.



Bhairaveshwara

Aihole is a great centre of Badami Chalukyan art. The temples numbering over 100 of different styles were raised from the 6th to the 12th century and many experiments in temple construction were carried out, making Percy Brown to call it “one of the cradles of temple architecture.” The place name Aihole which apparently is found mentioned as ‘*Ayyahole*’ was also called *Ayyapura* or *Ayyapolal* can (an *agrahara*) in several inscription from the same place. According to mythology Parashurama after fulfilling his vow of avenging his father’s murder, is said have come to the malaprabha shore and washed his hands and at the sight of the river turing Red he uttered “*Ai ai! Hole!* and this later become Ayyahole. Agasthya is believed to have killed Vatapils brother giant Ilavala here and thus name ‘*Ilavalapuri*’ is another Version. It is 510 km. from Bangalore, 24 km. from Hungund and can be reached from Bagalkote. It has a Jaina and a Vedic rock-cut shrine, both of about 6th Century A.D., the former having fine Tirthankara images in and around and the latter Nataraja dancing, Matrikas surrounding him, in life size but in relief. The place has the Durga Temple which is apsidal and the Ladkhan which is square in plan. Other important temples are Huchimalligudi, Gaudaragudi and Chakragudi, all in a variety of designs. The Meguti on a hill is a Jaina basti which has the famous Aihole inscription of Pulikeshin II and also a Buddhist two-storied rock-cut



Durga Temple, Aihole

shrine below it. The temples here are full of attractive plastic art in stone, and to a student of temple architecture a visit to Aihole is a must. Siddanakolla near it has a beautiful Lajj'agowri sculpture in a rare sitting posture near a small pond, besides the Siddesvara Temple of Badami Chalukya period.

Amritapura in Tarikere taluk Chikmagalur dt. 247 km. away from Bangalore is known by its famous Amriteshwara temple (Hoysala) built by Amrita Dandanayaka during the 12th century. It has a star shaped ground plan, and like many other Hoysala temples, is full of plastic art in stone and is one of the finest in the style. The earliest inscription found in the temple is of 1197 and the temple has a wonderful life-size image of seated Saraswathi.



Amriteshwara Temple, Amritapura

Anegundi is to the North of Hampi across the Tungabhadra and is to be reached by crossing the river with basket boats from Talawar gatta (Hampi) or by road from Ganagavati. It has the famous Huchappayyan Matha, now in ruins with fine Chalukyan glazing pillars and worn out paintings on its ceiling. The ruined palace of the last rulers, Aravidu dynasty, is seen here and their descendants also stay at Anegundi. There is Navabrindavana or the Samadhis of nine Madhwa Saints in an island Kuregadde of the Tungabhadra. The Brindavanas include those of saints Padmanabha Thirtha Kavindrathirtha, Vageshathirtha, Raghuvariyyathirtha, Vyasaraaja thirtha and others. There is the cave shrine of Sheshashayi, the Ranganatha temple, Gagan mahal (Hawa mahal), an interesting Indo-Saracenic structure and a Jaina basti which has a wonderful decorative Chalukyan door frame. Until 1949 Anegundi was a Samsthana ruled by the Chieftains, who were descendants of the Aravidu dynasty. one old *wadha* of this family is still seen here.



Navabrindavana, Anegundi

Annigeri in Dharwad district, 30 km. from Hubli on the Hubli-Gadag line has the famous Amritheshwara temple of Kalyana Chalukya period. It was the headquarters of the once famous rich province of Belvola-300. It was the last capital of Chalukya Someshwara IV (1184-89). It is the



Amritheshwara, Annigeri

birth place of great Kannada Poet Pampa and has a Jain basadi of Parshwanatha. A partially ruined Banashankari Temple and seven mosques are seen at the place, in addition to two Veerashaiva Mathas. Near the railway station is an ancient Veerabhadra temple with some astounding erotic figures.

Aralaguppe is a place in Tumkur dt., six km. from Banasandra railway station where there is a famous Kalleshwara temple in the Ganga-Nolamba style of the 9th century A.D.

Its ceiling has wonderful dancing Shiva sculpture with musical accompanists and eight Dikpalas surrounding him with all their paraphernalia.

There is a Chennakeshava temple of the Hoysala style. The image of Vishnu in the *garbhagriha* is magnificent. There are four Ganga temples at the place.



Amritheshwara, Annigeri)

Arasikere a commercial town and a railway junction in Hassan district, famous for its coconut gardens and is 41 km. from Hassan and 176 km. from Bangalore. The Kattameshwara temple here, is also called Chandramouliswara and referred to as Kalmeshwara in a record of 1220 A.D. It is a fine Hoysala monument with a rare polygonal frontal mantapa with special design. There is a fine Haluvokkalu Temple. There is also Sahasrakuta Jinalaya built in 1220 in the Hoysala style by Racharasa, a minister of Ballala II. Malekal Tirupathi near Arasikere has a Venkataramana temple atop a small hillock being regularly visited by many devotees. from all over the State.



Kattameshwara Temple, Arasikere

Avani in Kolar dt. is 13 km. from Mulabagal, and the place has a Shankara Matha and a wonderful complex of temples of the Nolambas who were ruling from Henjeru or Hemavati in the Madakshira taluk in Andhra Pradesh during the A.D. 9th and 10th Centuries. An early record calls it as the 'Gaya of the South'. According to a legend, sage Valmiki had his Ashrama here, and Sita gave birth to the twins at the same spot. There are Rameshwara, Lakshmaneshwara, Bharateshwara, Shatrughneswara and also Sita and Subrahmanya temples. The Lakshmaneshwara, here is full of plastic art and the most ornate. Atop small hill here Agni Tirtha, a pond, and the Ekantha Ramaswamy Temple are also seen.



Rameshwara Temple Complex, Avani

Bagalkote It was a prominent city in the Badami Chalukya times. It was a commercial centre. Now Bagalokot is a (1997) new district. Carved out from the Bijapur district and consists of taluks of Bagalkot, Bilagi, Jamakhandi, Mudhol, Hungund and Badami. It has a total area of 6,954 sq. km and a population of 16,52,232. Many prehistoric settlements have been identified here, such as Terdal, Gombigudda, Pattadakal, Yelahatti etc. This place is already submerged due to back waters of the Almattidam, has been shifted to a nearby place called Navanagara, is famous from early times and was the capital of Bagadage - 70 under the Later Chalukyas, later ruled by the Adilshahis and the Marathas. Now it is famous for its Cement Production.

Badami the ancient capital of the Early Chalukyas is 500 km. from Bangalore and 113 km. from Bijapur, was also known as 'Vatapi' and 'Badavi'. Its fort was raised by Chalukya Pulakeshin I in 543. He made it his capital and it lasted



Bhoothananatha group of Temples, Badami

till 753 A.D. The place is known for its wonderful rock-cut shrines of Vedic tradition. The fort was renovated by Hyder, and Tipu-built a fine mosque here. The first rock-cut shrine has 18 armed unique Nataraja, at the outset engaged in Tandava dancing, a remarkable figure. On the ceiling of one of the caves is Nagaraja and Vidhyadhara couple. Figures of funny Kubjas or dwarfs are seen in variety of poses. There are more than life-size Bhuvanaraha and Trivikram figures in the II cave. The third cave is the most important and it is called the Vaishnava cave caused to be wrought in 578 A.D. by Mangalesha and here are figures of Paravasudeva seated on coiled serpent, Bhoovaraha, Narasimha and Harihara, all engraved in vigorous style, and are taller than life-size figures. There are also bracket figures with secular scenes on the pillars in the rock-cut shrines. The cave at the top is a Jaina, full of figures of Thirthankaras, Yakshas and Yakshis. The Gommata figure here has long locks. The 'Upper Shivalaya' on the rocky fort on the other bank of Agasthya pond has been identified as an earlier Vaishnava Temple, 'Malegitti Shivalaya' as of Surya and Lower Shivalaya as of Ganapathi. The Jambhulinga Shrine housing Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva is another important monument of the place. Queen Vinayavathi built it in 699 A.D. Badami rock-cut shrines are engraved in hard red sandstone and the figures here are of unrivalled beauty. Banashankari near by, has the Banasankari temple, a big pond encircled by open pillared mantapas and an old temple of Rashtrakuta times. Annual *Jatra* gather on Banada Hunnime in the month of January.

Bagali, situated at a distance of nine km. from Harapanahalli, on the Hadagali Road in Davanagere dt. was known as 'Baguli'. Here is a complex of temples

called Kalleswara which is mentioned in an inscription of 1013. There are twin temples of Later Chalukyan times with attractive intricate plastic art of erotic sculptures on their outer walls and 59 shining polished pillars inside the temple and its *Kapotas*' have most peculiar erotic figures. The A.S.I. has maintained a sculpture shed near this magnificent Chalukyan monument.



Kalleshwara Temple Bagali

Banavasi in Uttara Kannada District was the traditional capital of the Kadambas is found mentioned as Vanavasi, Vyjayanthi, Banousi in several inscriptions. It is a very ancient place, as Ashoka is said to have sent his Buddhist missionaries to 'Vanavasa' and a family called Chutus the feudatory line of the Satavahanas was ruling from here. The place is on the bank of the Varada river and its laterite fort is surrounded by the river on its three sides. Recent excavations at Banavasi have brought to light some Buddhist brick monuments. Chutu prince Nagashri built a Buddhist Vihara, a tank and installed a Naga image at the place according to a Prakrit record of the place. The striking monument at Banavasi, the Madhukeshvara temple has been renovated and expanded by Kalyana Chalukyas, Vijayanagara and the Sode rulers. The Kadamba Nagara (stepped pyramidal) *shikhara* is seen on the *garbhagriha* of this temple. Around this main temple are shrines of Vithoba, Ardha Ganapathi, Rama etc., and to its left is Parvati Shrine and to the right, Narasimha temple of Vijayanagara times. The temple has an intricately carved monolithic cot with highly artistic designs. Records here indicate that Buddhism and Jainism were popular at this place. Not far away from Banavasi is Gudnapur with a massive



Madhukeshwara Temple Complex, Banavasi

tank and a Jain temple now housing Veerabhadra. There must have been a Manmatha temple at the place as indicated by the recently discovered Gudnapur inscription of Kadamba Ravi Varma.

Bangalore is the capital of Karnataka from 1956 and it took the status of a capital in modern times from 1831 when the British Commissioners took over the administration of Mysore State from the Mysore Prince. The old town of Bangalore was built on the left bank of the 'Vrishbhavati' River, which takes its birth as the foot of the Dodda Basavanna image in Basavanagudi saysa stone record here. The place name is found mentioned in a 9th century AD record of Begur as 'Benguluru' 'Bengu' meaning a Shrub colloquially called *Rakta Honne* (Benga trees) . Kempegowda II gave the same name to the new town, he founded i.e., the present Metro City. Earlier, it was the headquarters of the Yelahanka Nadaprabhus who ruled under Vijayanagara Empire and built the new town with the fort. Kempegowda II is believed to have raised the fort in 1537 as per the orders of Emperor Achutharaya of Vijayanagara. The old Gavipura natural cave



Kempegowda Tower, Sankey Road, Bangalore

shrine of Gangadhara built during the Ganga period came to be expanded during the Vijayanagara period and the monolithic Basava in Basavanagudi was got engraved by this family. The family also built the most beautiful Someshwara Temple at Ulsoor. The dynasty also created many tanks which include the Ulsoor tank, Dharmambudhi tank (present Bus Stand), Chennamba tank (now called Chennamma tank) near BSK II stage and Kempambudhi tank. In 1637 Bijapur Army conquered Bangalore and granted it as Jagir to Shahji, Shivaji's father. Shahji and his son Ekoji had Bangalore under their control till 1687 when it was conquered by the Mughul army and the city was given on lease to Chikkadevaraya of Mysore. He built the Venkataramana temple and a new fort beside the existing old fort. Bangalore which had grown as an industrial and commercial centre under the Kempegowda family and the Marathas, was further developed by Chikkadevaraya as he invited weavers from Baramahal (Tamilnadu) area to come and settle down in Bangalore. Later Bangalore was granted as Jahgir to Haider and when he usurped power from the Wodeyars, he strengthened the new fort by using granite blocks.

He built a palace near the Venkataramana temple and started Lalbagh, the famous Botanical Garden of Bangalore. Later a beautiful Glass House was built in 1889 due to the efforts of the government modeled on the Crystal Palace of England. This imposing structure has been renovated with attractive imported coloured glasses recently. Bangalore was captured by the British in 1791 under

the leadership of Lord Cornwallis and it was returned to Tipu after he signed a treaty with them. He dismantled the existing fort as it was found to be more useful to his enemies than to himself. Under Haider, Bangalore grew as a prosperous commercial city also catering to the needs of luxury of the Srirangapattana court. But under Tipu, its trade declined. The British who defeated Tipu in 1799 handed it over to the Mysore Hindu Prince. Diwan Purnaiah rebuilt the demolished fort. The British stationed their troops in 1809 at Ulsoor and a twin town, Bangalore Cantonment emerged helping introduction of European way of life and modern ideas to the old Bangalore town which became the capital in 1831. The Atharakacheri, High Court, Central College, and Museum buildings were raised in the European Renaissance style and English education was introduced into Bangalore. Many churches in European Renaissance style were built in Bangalore during this period. Modern Textile mills like Binny Mill were started in the city. The city came to have a municipality in 1862 and the Cantonment area also had a separate Municipality called Civil and Military Station. The two came to be merged in 1949 to form the Bangalore City Corporation. After Independence, many Central Government Industries were started in the city. There are ancient temples at Begur, Madiwala (Tavarekere), Kadugodi, Hesaraghatta and Dommalur. Other temples like Gavi Gangadhara in a natural cave, Basavanagudi with monolithic Nandi, Rangaswamy temple built around 1600 in the Rangaswamy Temple street, the Someshwara temple at Ulsoor and Kadumalleswara temple in Malleshwaram which had received a grant from Ekoji, are some of the interesting monuments. In addition, a large number of new temples have come up. The Dharmaraya temple of the Tigala community celebrates the famous Karaga festival on the full moon day of Chaitra. *Satya sai Baba Ashram* otherwise called 'Brindavan' started its activities about more than two decades at Kadugodi. Besides having a huge Prarthana Mandir, the Ashram runs several educational institutions. Its Bangalore Branch of the High Tech Mega Hospital has been widely appreciated for its dedicated services and utmost cleanliness. *Omkar Hills*, situated on the outskirts of Bangalore near Kenchenahally is an important religious centre with serene natural settings, where a huge Banyan tree crowns a circular hillock. Around the summit of this hillock a series of mantapa symbolizing the religious insignia of all the major religions Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam have been built with brick and cement in respective traditional styles of architecture. The Omkar Ashram has also taken up the stupendous task of building the 12 Jyotirlinga temples being a miniature representation of respective architectural styles of India. Every year devotees throng this spot especially during the swamiji's birthday. A huge Electronic clock designed by HMT having a temple gong and Shanka for the hourly time beatings are embedded, which gives a pious and pleasant sound to a distance of nearly 1.5km radius. Being just 13 km. from the city this is an important religious place for peace aspiring tourists and devotees. *The Art of Living Centre Ashram* has recently been built by Saint Ravishankar on the Kanakapura Road near the city. Special Bhajans and Art of Living courses are organized on weekly basis. Of late it is attracting tourists from India and also abroad. A huge Rajarajeshwari temple built in Dravidian style at Kenchenahalli on the Mysore Road and the Meenakshi Temple on the Bannerghatta road have been raised more than a decade ago are attracting



A View of the Sankey Tank, Bangalore



A Panoramic View of the Ulsoor Tank, Bangalore



Cubbon Park, Bangalore



Flower show at Lalbagh Glass House Bangalore, Modelled on Crystal Palace London



Ranganatha Temple Avenue Raod, Bangalore



Gavi Gangadhreshwara Temple, Bangalore



Bangalore Palace, An imitation of Windsor Castle, Loandon.



Delhi Gate Bangalore Fort, an artwork by Janmes Hunter

a large number of devotees *Amrita Anandamayi Ashram* has also started its branch in the city and has been attracting thousands of devotees regularly. *Sri Koladamath* on the Siddaiah road has been undertaking several social as well as people oriented programmes since several decades.

ISKCON now situated atop a small hillock arranged in a row of rising shikaras overlooking the hillock is an attractive spectacle. It spreads in an area of seven acres on the West of chord Road in Rajajinagar is an hitech temple complex and is regarded as an important tourist destination of this garden city. The temple complex has been architecturally designed in such a way that it is visible as a glowing hillock during night and can be described as a visual bounty. How this huge temple complex came to be created makes an interesting episode. About 25 years ago ISKCON was founded (1978) in a rented building (Rs.2000 PM) and made a humble beginning. Later on with the efforts of the organisers it gained prominence and today it is one among the most celebrated 108 ISKCON branches functioning all over the world. Its natural elevation of the land area has been fully exploited and an attractive but, complicated architectural designing has been accomplished with utmost cleanliness and perfection. There are five typical Dravidian *shikharas* built at three stages with a tall attractive *rayagopura* at the main entrance. The central *garbhagriha* has been designed on the Egyptian Pyramidical Model with three cells in a row comprising the images of Sri Nitay Gowrang in the first cell to the left Sri Radhakrishna Chandra in the central cell and Krishna-Balarama in the cell to the right. There are short but, attractive Dravidian styled *shikharas* above all the three cells. There is a spacious/pentagonal central hall in front of the three *garbhagrihas* with a hallow domical ceiling decorated with delicate stained glasses intercepted by brass partitions. The pentagonal roof drops have excellent Mysore traditional glass paintings depicting *Krishna's* life history. The artistic designing of this pentagonal hall has been a beautiful creation with aesthetic outlook has been largely appreciated.

Besides these there are small shrines dedicated to Sri Venkatesha and Sri Narasimha with separate short Dravidian styled *shikhars*. Facing the main temple is a 56 ft. tall *dwajastambha* covered with gold plated decorated brass sheets. Special pujas are offered thrice daily one at sunrise, at noon and in the evening. Annually special pujas are performed during Gokula Ashthami (Lord Krishna's birthday), Nandotsava and Vaikuntha Ekadashi. Daily delicious prasadam prepared with utmost hygienic method are offered to the devotees visiting the temple. Another impressve programme of this organisation is the 'Akshaya Patra' yojana initiated mainly to cater the needs of less privileged children studying in government schools in the rural areas. Recently, the same scheme is being extended in and around the city of Hubli. Being very much inside the Mega city The ISKCON temple offers a beautiful, serene and calm atmosphere for the visiting devotees. ISKCON also conducts elocution competitions on the Krishna's lifetime episodes and also on other Vaishnava philosophy. It conducts also several cultural activities all through the year. *Bhakti Vedantha*, a monthly magazine dedicated to spread the gospel of Vaishnava philosophy and also the spiritual ideologies of ISKCON is being published regularly. Vishwa Shanti

dhama, Lord Shiva (near Air Port) etc., are the new additions to the long list of temples in Bangalore. *Mukthi Naga Temple* The Bruthath Mukthi Naga Temple, situated near the Big Banyan Tree (*Dodda Aalada Mara*) in Ramohalli in the neighbourhood of Kengeri village, has been built over a small hillock in picturesque surroundings. Traditionally this place was called *Junjappana bayalu* where, it is believed, numerous serpents were dwelling. Ramohalli is situated at a distance of 18 kms. from Bangalore off the Bangalore-Mysore road. To approach this spot (5 km. from the Highway) one has to take deviation after Kengeri near Kumbalgodu village. It is just one km. from Ramohalli bus stand. In accordance with the sanctity of the place the construction of the Mukthi Naga Temple is underway. At present the tallest image of the seven hooded Naga has been installed inside a spacious *garbhagriha*. There is a *navaranga* in front of the *garbhagriha* still under construction. It is proposed to build this with 24 pillars in typical Dravidian style by using granite stone. This temple is surrounded by small shrines like *Parvati Devi*, *Thrayambakeshwara*, *Lakshmi-Narasimha* and *Patladamma*. This huge Mukthi Naga Temple, built in 2005, is being managed by a private trust under the stewardship of Dharmadhikari Daivagna Subrahmanya Shastri.



Mukti Naga Temple, Ramohalli, Bangalore

The Muslims have the Taramandal Sangeen Jamia Masjid built by a Mughal Officer in around 1687. The Ibrahim Shah Shahib's Mosque at Kumbarpet was raised in 1761, the Jamia Mosque at the City market is the creation of the 1940s and it is a vast modern building, equally impressive, built by using white marble. There is a dargha of Mastansab Wali at Cottonpet which is highly respected by Hindus as well as Muslims.

The oldest Church in Bangalore is St. Mary's Basilica in Shivajinagar supposed to have been originally built in around 16th Century, but took the existing shape in 1832. There is the Trinity Church of the Anglicans on the M.G. Road and St. Marks Cathedral on the same road. St. Patrick church was originally for Irish Catholic soldiers and St. Andrew's, on the Cubbon Road for the Scottish soldiers. The Catholic Cathedral is St. Xaver's, a large granite building. The London Mission raised the Hudson Memorial Church. There are many Jain Basadis of which the one in Gandhinagar and Jayanagar notable

though modern. The Sikhs have their Gurudwara at Ulsoor, and Parsis have their fire temple. Bangalore has beautiful gardens like Lalbagh and the Cubbon Park, which are the pride of the city. One of the fine large modern buildings raised by using granite is Vidhana Soudha built in traditional Dravidian style. Of late the government has constructed Vikasa Soudha beside Vidhana Soudha immitating the same traditional Dravidian style of Vidhana Soudha is nearing completion. Tipu's palace is a wooden structure and Bangalore Palace is modelled on the Windsor Palace of Britain. Bangalore has the Govt. Museum, Sir M. Visveswaraya Industrial Museum and the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetorium. Bangalore is well connected by roads, railways and airways and has pleasant weather, attracting tourists from far and near. Bangalore being a celebrated education and advanced technical education as well as higher research facilities, boasts of several Educational Institutions suchas Bangalore University, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts-South Zone (IGNCA) started recently, Agricultural University, the Indian Institute of Science, Institute for Astrophysics, Indian Statistical Institute, Institute for Social and Economic change (ISEC), National Law School, Regional Institute of English, National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL), Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) and many others. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Institute of Management and all modern amenities for education. It has industries producing tractors, railway coaches, aeroplanes, etc. and finer things like silk sarees and sandal wood images. It is called the electronic and Silicon City of India, for its unparallel progress in the field of computer science and Information Technology.

International Technological Park: The 28 hectares International Tech Park, Bangalore is located in Whitefield – 12 kms from Bangalore Airport and 18 kms from the city centre. It currently comprises of four buildings – ‘Discoverer’, ‘Innovator’, ‘Creator’ and ‘Explorer’ totaling close to 1.6 million sq.ft. of office, production, commercial and retail space. All these buildings are centrally air-conditioned, set in attractively landscaped surroundings, the buildings have a very a modern facade with granite cladding for the lower three floors and glittering glass and aluminium paneling for the floors above. The four buildings are connected at the lower ground floor level which houses the Tech Park Mall. The Mall comprises of various amenties, services and recreational centre complementing the ‘work, live play’ environment. Office space modules are customed to the tenants requirements and a number of configurations are possible. Office units are available for lease or purchase. Apart from the world class services and amenities, the buildings are provided with reliable power by a Dedicated power plant, water supply, communications network with five leading service providers located in the park and other necessities. The ITPL is built on the plug-and-play concept, providings tenants with all necessary amenities, ample car parking, a state-of-theart Building Management System and more, making business a pleasure. Adding to these benefits is the fact that the International Tech Park ahs become a landmark in the IT scenario, and a perfect address for any business in IT or IT – enabled services. It has a Residential Tower of 51 apartments, infrastructure and other facilities. The Residential Tower is ideal for those who wish to live close to their offices. There’s



St. Patrick's Church, Residency Road, Bangalore



Francis Xavier Cathedral, Bangalore



Hazart Sayyad Masjid, Bangalore



Hazarath Tavakal Masthan Sab's Dargah, Balepet, Bangalore



Biocon Tech Park, Bangalore

a separate parking lot with space allotted for each apartment as well as a children's playground. The residents enjoy complete benefits of the Tech Park Mall which provides business convenience to the tenants like banking, shopping, restaurants and travel reservations and Health Club. The Residential Tower is a safe place to live in with round-the-clock security and other safety features. The IT Corridor of Bangalore runs between Electronic City till Old Madras Road which possesses hundreds of Software as well as Hardware companies, a real tourist spot frequented regularly by people across the Globe.

Bankapura in Haveri district about 80 km. away from Dharwad is in Savanur taluk The town was built by Bankeya, a commander of Amoghavarsha Nripatunga (9th century) and later under the Chalukya many beautiful temples were raised in the city including the wonderful Nagareshwara temple in the fort. There is another Chalukya temple in the town called Siddeshwara. When the place was conquered by Ali Adilshah in about 1567, his records claim to have destroyed many temples and the Nagareshwara in spite of the damage it has suffered is a magnificent monument. There is a beautiful mosque in the fort. Pancharabhavi,



Nagareshwara Temple, Bankapura

a swimming pool like structure in the town has an attractive queer design. Bankapur has the Kilari Cow Breeding Centre and a rabbit breeding centre with its office inside the fort. The Bijapur commanders, who had this place as their headquarters, later shifted to Savanur, and were famous as Savanur Nawabs.

Basava Kalyana, the taluk headquarters in Bidar Dt, is 80 km. away from Bidar. It was the capital of the Later Chalukyas, It has an old fort renovated by the Bahamanis and inside it is an Archaeological Museum. Not much ancient remains of the Chalukyan or the Kalachuri times remain here except the dilapidated Narayanapur temple of the Chalukyas in the outskirts of the town. There is a modern Basaveshwara temple,



Stone Horse, Basava Kalyana

Prabhudevara Gadduge, celebrated Jurist of the Kalyana Chalukyan period. Vijnaneshwara's Cave, Madivala Machiah's Pond, Akka Nagamma's Cave, fully renovated Siddheshwara temple and a new structure called Anubhava Mantapa. The Qaji's mosque is an impressive structure. There is also Raja Bagh Sawar Dargah. Basava Vana has been formed to commemorate the eighth birth centenary of Saint Basaveshwara.

Basavana Bagewadi in Bijapur dt. is 43 km. to the east of Bijapur and is a Tq. headquarters where Sharana Basaveshwara was born (12th Century). It was an *agrahara*. Basaveshwara was the son of the head of this institution. The main temple here the Basaveshwara, is of Chalukyan style, but called as Sangamanatha in records. The Samadhis of Siddhameshwara and Gurupadeshwara of the



Basaveshwara Temple, Basavana Bagewadi

Inchageri school of spiritual pursuit are seen here. A spot here identified as Basava's ancestral house is declared as protected zone by the Trust.

Basaral Having a famous Hoysala temple, Basaralu is at a distance of 24 km from Mandya to its north. During the Hoysala times it was an *agrahara* called Basurivala. The Mallikarjuna temple here was built by Harihara, the Dandanayaka of the Hoysala king Narasimha II, in the name of his father.

The temple was endowed by Narasimha II, Virasomesvara, Narasimha III and Paleyagar Kempa Bhairarasa, as known from the inscriptions.

The Mallikarjuna temple ranks among the most fine examples Hoysala art. The temple is built on a stellar platform measuring one metre in height. This is a trikutachala structure. The sanctum in the west has at its front a sukanasi



Mallikarjuna Temple, Basaral

and the northern and southern sanctums open to navaranga extending to the east. The southern sanctum has at its entrance, the Vaishnava dwarapalas. An image of Surya is placed now in place of Vishnu. On the lintel of the navaranga are found the relief sculptures of Tandaveshvara and dvarapalas on its either side. The navaranga walls have fine artistic perforated windows. The niches in the outer walls have within them the sculptures of Saraswati, Ganesha, Mahisasuramardini. The adhistana has six horizontal friezes sculptured with the rows of elephants, horses, lions, panels of Puranic scenes, crocodiles and swans. The episodes from Ramayana are depicted on the southern entrance followed by the episodes from Mahabharata and Bhagavata. The sculptures on the walls which draw the attention of the visitors are Durga, Yoganarasimha, Bhairava, Halayudha, Manmatha-Rati, Bali-Vamana. Near this temple is the Vishnu temple also built during the Hoysala times.

Belavadi in Chikmagalur dt. is known for its fine Veerannarayana temple of the Hoysalas. It is a triple (*trikuta*) shrine with its cells housing beautiful images of Veerannarayana, Venugopala and Yoganarasimha of wonderful workmanship. It has a record of 1206 and the temple must be previous to it and the place is 29 km. from Chikmagalur. The local people claim that it was the Ekachakranagara of Mahabharata days. There is also a Ganapathi temple called as Huttada Ganapathi.



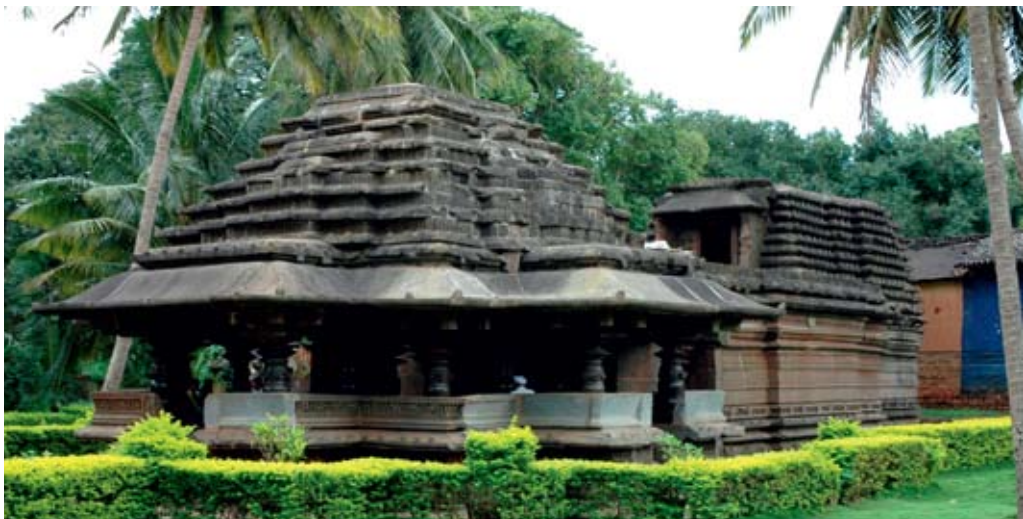
Verrannarayana Temple, Belavadi

Belgaum ancient 'Venugrama' (Bamboo village) is the District Head Quarters and was also Divisional Headquarters till recently, 502 kms away from Bangalore, on the Bangalore-Pune National Highway. It was the capital of the Rattas who shifted to this place from Saundatti during the close of 12th century A.D. The place has a fort inside which built by one Ratta Officer called Bichiraja in 1204 A.D. exhibits the execution of a totally refined style of temple architecture. It has excellently and artistically carved Kamala Basadi having huge protruding lotus

petals of stone (Kamala) in its ceiling and this beautiful structure in Chalukyan style houses Neminatha Teerthankara image. The place came under the Sevunas (Yadavas) and Vijayanagara and later conquered by Mahamood Gawan in 1474 on behalf of the Bahamanis. The fort was strengthened by the Adilshahis and there is an excellent structure, Safa Mosque with three entrances, has rich floral and impressive calligraphic designs. Two of its pillars have Kannada Inscriptions in Nagari Scripts, one of 1199 of Ratta King Kartaveerya IV and another of 1261 is of Sevuna (Yadava) Krishna. The Persian Inscription here states that the mosque was built by Asad Khan, Bijapur Commander. The Jamia Masjid in the fort was built by Sher Khan in 1585-86,. There is a dargah of Khanjar Wali near it. Belgaum later came under the Mughuls (who called it Azamnagar) and the Marathas till its conquest by the British in 1818. Then the British founded their Cantonment here and made it the head-quarters of Maratha Light Infantry. The St. Mary's Church here was built in 1869. The Maruthi temple here is quite vast and has some antiquities of Chalukyan times. The fort has Chalukyan Pillars spread all over. The Kapileshwar temple in Shahpur area was of Chalukyan times, now totally renovated. Shapur a suburb of Belgaum was in Sangli State. Vadgaon - Madhavapur another suburb of the Belgaum city was in a separate state called Junior Kurundawad. Near Vadgaon, a Satavahana settlement has been indentified with the head of stucco Buddha figure has been excavated. Belgaum has a City Corporation. It is a place with pleasant weather. It played a leading part in the freedom movement. The Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College here has a highly educative pathological museum.



Statue of Rani Channamma, Belgaum



Kamala Basadi, Fort, Belgaum.

Belgami, ancient 'Balligave' or 'Baligrama', the capital of the prosperous province of antiquity called Banavasi - 12,000, is 12 km. away from the taluk hq. viz., Shikaripur and three km from Shiralkoppa. It was the place where Allamaprabhu was born and Akkamahadevi was married to Chalukya Governor of the palce called Kaushika or Keshimayya. The palace has the Kodimatha which was the Kedareshwara Matha of the Kalamukhas who were known for their learning. They ran a centre of learning Ghatikasthana or a University here. The Matha is a beautiful Chalukyan triple shrine on the bank of a tank. The Tripurantaka temple adorned by the narrative panels of Panchatantra stories, is another Chalukyan temple. Allamaprabhu is believed to have been attached to this temple. It was a cosmopolitan town with Mathas of five various denominations. A Buddhist Tarabhadra image has been found here. There was also a Buddhist Vihara here. There is a small Nagareshwara temple, the Panchalingeshwara temple and Veerabhadra temple which are all Chalukyan. The Kalika temple is of Vijayanagara times. Hoysala Vishnuvardhan's famous queen Shantala, and the builders of the Belur Temple, Dasoja and Chavana belonged to this place. A Chalukya general installed a *Bherunda Stambha* to commemorate his victory. The place has a museum run by A.S.I. Belgami had been a great centre of learning and cultural activity.



Kedareshwara Temple, Belgam

Bellary is a district headquarters, situated at a distance of 306 kms to the north-west of Bangalore. It has spread round two rocky hills, and one of them called Balahari Betta has a temple. The fort built round the hill in Vijayanagara times is still intact. It passed into the hands of Bijapur, Marathas, the Nizam and Haider. After the fall of Tipu, the town was ceded to the British by the Nizam. The Durgamma (Ballaramma) temple here has the deity represented by the heap of earth. The place has two large mosques. A Government Medical College was founded here in 1961 Bellary now has grown as a great centre of apparel manufacturing.



Beautiful stone Fort, Bellary

Belur in Hassan district (222 kms. from Bangalore) also a Taluk Head Quarters is famous for its magnificent Hoysala temple complex. The Chennakeshava temple here was completed in 1116 A.D. by Hoysala Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas Calling the god as Vijaya Narayana. The magnificent image is 3.7 mtr. tall and the temple standing on a platform has exquisite plastic art work on its outer walls and bracket figures of dancing girls in various poses, in perfect proportion. There are shrines of Kappe Chenniga, Andal, Saumya Nayaki, etc., in the precincts of this temple enclosed by a Prakara with 'gopura' (entrance tower) built by Belur Nayaka, a Vijayanagar feudatory. The temple here is a classic example of Hoysala art and Belur was one of the Hoysala capitals.



Chennakeshava Temple, Belur

Bhadravati, an industrial town in Shimoga dt., 256 km. away from Bangalore, was formerly called 'Benkipura'. There is a 13th Century Lakshminarasimha Temple in Hoysala style here. The Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Works, a Cement Factory (1938) and Paper Factory (1935) function at this place on the banks of the Bhadra river.



Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati

Bhagamandala, Kodagu dt. 288 km. from Bangalore and 35 km. from Madikeri is on the banks of the Cauvery. It has a Shiva temple called Bhagandeshwara. It has gabled roofs covered with copper plates and has magnificent wooden carving representing Shaivapuranas gaily painted. The attractive wooden figures, big and small engage the attention of the onlooker. Ganapathi, Vishnu and Subrahmanya are other shrines here. This serene place with natural beauty will have big jatra on Tula Sankramana.



Bhagandeshwara Temple, Bhagamandala

Bidar, the District headquarters, described as Viduranagara, a place of Mahabharatha times, is 740 kms. to the north of Bangalore. It is a cool place, being at an altitude of 664 metres. The Bahmanshahi rulers made it their capital, in c, 1426 and fortified it. It is still intact. Inside it are the Solha Kamb mosque (1423) and palaces like Takht Mahal, Chini Mahal and Rangeen Mahal; some of them are highly decorated with mosaic and wood work etc. The fort has magnificent doorways and massive bastions. Gawan's Madrasa in the town is a gorgeous imposing building of Indo-Saracenic style. After the decline of Bahamanis, the Barid-Shahis ruled over Bidar and it was taken over by the Bijapur rulers in 1619. Later it fell to Aurangzeb, and finally it came under the Nizam. Jharani Narasimha temple here is quite famous. Ashtur near Bidar has tombs of Bahmani Sultans which are tall structures, and one of them has paintings. The Gurudwara at Bidar is built at Nanak Zhira, which is described as a fountain created by Guru Nanak during his visit.



Fort, Bidar

Bijapur, the district headquarters, 579 km. away from Bangalore is one of the most important centres of Indo-Saracenic art, being the capital of the Adilshahis of Bijapur (1489-1686). The place is found mentioned as 'Vijayapura' in an inscription of 12th Century A.D. The Gol Gumbaz here has the biggest dome in India, 126 feet in diameter at its base and is the Mausoleum of Mohammed Adilshah (1626-56). It has an astonishing whispering gallery and it covers an area of 15,000 square feet. Ibrahim Rauza is a marvellous mausoleum of Ibrahim II (1580-1626) which stands on a platform supported by rows of arches, and at one end is the mosque and at the other the tomb. Henry Cousens called this, 'the Tajmahal of the South'. Anand Mahal, Gagan Mahal, Asar Mahal etc. are the other important monuments of this place. There are fine tanks like Tajbavadi and Chandbavadi. Asar Mahal has attractive paintings now fading away due to weathering. The fort round the town has 96 bastions and six imposing doorways. Mulki-Maidan here is a huge gun weighing 55 tons. Near Gol Gumbaz is a Museum. The place has a Municipal Corporation. It has many grand artistic mosques like Kali Masjid, Mecca Masjid, Malika Jahan's Mosque and the Jami Masjid, the biggest one with a proportionate large dome. The Mahtar Mahal, the entrance of mosque has delicate stone brackets of intricate workmanship. To the west of the citadel is a Dattatreya temple, where a pair of sandals of Narashimha Saraswati are worshipped and the shrine was raised by Ibrahim II. There is a Parshwanatha basadi (1927) in the city and



Gol Gumbaz Illuminated, Bijapur



Bara Kaman Structure, Bijapur



Parshwanatha Image, Bijapur

many modern temples of which twenty Shivalinga temple (1954) is notable. Bijapur had a population of over one million in its hay days and was a great commercial centre, called as “the Queen of Deccan”. After its take over by Aurangzeb, the city lost its importance. It regained its importance after the British who made it their district headquarters during 1870s.

Chamarajanagar, the district head quarters, newly carved out of Mysore dt. is 56 kms. away from Mysore, formerly called Arikutara situated in Punnata Nadu during the Ganga period. It was the birth place of Chamaraja OdeyarVTII, in whose memory the Chamarajeshwara temple was raised (1825), It also has Parshwanatha basadi, Lakshmikantha and Virabhadra temples of early Times. Narasamangala, an ancient place close by, having an intact temple of the Ganga period is another important place with rich antiquities to be essentially visited by the tourists.



Chamarajeshwara Temple

Chikmagalur, the district headquarters of the coffee growing Malnad area, is 251 kms. from Bangalore and was known as ‘Kiriya Mugali’ in inscriptions and ‘Piriya Mugali’ is Hiremagalur, an extension of this town where there is a Kodandarama temple of Hoysala times. (Mugali is the name of a plant). The Sangeen Mosque here is an old structure. Jarni Mosque built during the 19th century is the largest one in the district. St. Joseph’s Cathedral and St. Andrews Church (1880) are the other impressive monuments. The Kattiramma temple here has a priest of the SC community. The Kannika Parameshwari and the Rukmini Panduranga are modern temples. The town is placed in the backdrop of the Chandradrona Parvata or Bababudan Hill of the Western Ghats and Inam Dattatreya Peetha is 35 km. from here.



Kodanda Rama Temple, Hiremagalur

Chitradurga, the famous hill fort town, the district headquarters, 202 km. away from Bangalore is on the Pune-Bangalore road. It had a feudatory dynasty of Vijayanagara, called the Nayakas known for their heroic exploits. They built this hill fort with seven rounds of ramparts, a picturesque sight. In the high forts there are temples of the Sampige Siddheswara, Hidimbeshwara (a cave shrine), Ekanatheshwari, Phalguneshwara, Gopalkrishna,



Ekanatheshwari Temple Prakara, Chitradurga

etc., amidst thick rocky surroundings. Those who know the heroic history of Chitradurga rulers will go into raptures while seeing the magnificent bastions, doors and ramparts of this vast hill-fort. The *Galimantapa*, opposite to the Hidimbeshwara is a unique tall stone structure. Near Rangayyana Bagilu is the Archaeological Museum. In the town are temples of Chennakeshava, Venkataramana, Anjaneya etc. and the Murugharajendra Brihanmatha is a venerable centre of the Veerashaiva sect.

Dambal or Dhammavolal now in Gadag dt. is 21 kms. from Gadag. It is also known as 'Dharmapolalu' in ancient inscriptions. It was a Buddhist Centre too. The Doddabasappa and the Someshwara are the two notable Chalukyan temples here and the Doddabasappa has multigonal star-shaped *garbhagriha*. With fine sculptural representations and a huge Nandi image. The Someshwara could have been an old basadi. In the old ruined fort, there is a huge Ganapati image in a small shrine. The town has a 400 year old vast tank. There is the Thontada Siddhalingeswara Matha at the place.



Doddabasappa Temple, Dambal

Davanagere, now a district Headquarters, 267 km. from Bangalore, on the Pune-Bangalore Road is also a modern industrial town that grew round a tank where itinerant traders took rest. The tank had the name Davanikere, 'Cattlerope Tank', dauoni being the rope tying the cattle. It was earlier a suburb of ancient centre Betur, a township under the Sevunas, and it was granted as a Jahgir by Haider Ali to Appaji Ram one of his officers who was responsible for its growth as a commercial centre. Davanagere grew as a centre of textile industry. It has also grown as an educational centre with a medical and engineering college. The Iswara of Anekonda Village is an important temple here.

Devala Ganagapura in Afzalpur taluk Gulbarga dt. is 651 km. away from Bangalore. It is to be reached from Ganagapur railway station. Sri Narasimha Saraswati who had stayed here for long and was granted a jahgir by the Bahmani Sultan. The Saint had cured the Sultan of a serious (incurable) boil. The saint is treated as an incarnation of Dattatreya and devotees from Maharashtra and Karnataka throng the place daily.



Dattapaduke, Devala Ganagapura

Dharmasthala is a very prominent Shaiva Centre where Manjunatha (Shiva) is worshipped by Madhwa Vaishnava priests of Shivalli tradition and the temple administrator or Dharmadarshi is Jaina and the temple treats Bhutas

(the remnants of animistic cult, in which departed persons are deified and treated as the 'ganas' of Shiva. It is 75 km. from Mangalore and is amidst hilly green attractive settings. The temple has the main Manjunatha Linga and Devi. The place has Chandranatha Basti and a Gommata monolith 11.9metres in height, installed in 1980's. The 'Manjusha' Museum here is unique. Buses are available from all major centres of Karnataka and choultries for stay are plenty. There is a well executed food serving system for all the tourists irrespective of their caste or creed. The temple management runs many institutions of learning.



Sri Manjunatha Temple, Dharmasthala

Dharwad, a district headquarters on the Pune-Bangalore Road, 437 km. from Bangalore is the cultural headquarters of North Karnataka. It was the home of Alur Venkatrao, the father of Karnataka Unification Movement, poet Bendre and outstanding Hindustani Vocalists Mallikarjuna Mansur. Now a part of Hubli - Dharwad Corporation, Dharwad became the district headquarters when it came under the British from the Marathas in 1818, and grew to be a centre of learning due to the English School opened in 1848, high school opened by the Basel Mission in 1868 and the Training College was initiated in 1867 which became the centre of Kannada Movement. The Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha (1890) sowed the seeds of Kannada Renaissance.

Mentioned as "Dharawada" in a record of the 12th century of the Kalyana Chalukyas, the place came under the Sevunas, Vijayanagara, Bijapur, Mughuls, Marathas, and Haider and Tipu. The Vijayanagara rulers built a fort here which was strengthened by Bijapur rulers. Its door-frame alone remains now. The Durgadevi temple near the fort is renovated now and the Someshwara on Kalghatgi Road has a Chalukyan temple and a tank. The Mailara Linga temple at Vidyagiri is a Kalyana Chalukyan monument converted into a mosque by



Fort Gateway Dharwad

Bijapur army but again changed as a temple by the Peshwas. The place has many temples like Venkataramana, Nandikola Basavanna, Dattatreya, Ulavi Basavanna etc. The Murugha Matha is a centre of religious activity. The Sanskrit College is a four-storeyed building of the late 19th Century. The Karnataka University (1949), the Agricultural University (1986) and the All India Radio Station gave new life to the educational and cultural life of the the city. Dharwad played a prominent part in the freedom movement. Dharwad firing in 1921 which killed three Khilafat Workers caused a stir in the country. Dharwad has churches of the Basel Mission and the Catholics.

Doddagaddavalli

is a village 14 km. from Hassan known for its Lakshmidevi temple with five *garbhagrihas*, built in 1114 A.D. by a merchant called Kallahana Rahuta. It is one among the; earliest Hoysala works. It is called Dakshina Kolhapura and Lakshmi worshipped here represents Shakta Lakshmi. Bhairava and other deities are also worshipped here.



Mahalakshmi Temple, Doddagaddavalli

Gadag-Betgeri is a twin city Municipality on the Dharwad-Guntakal Railway line, 80 km. from Dharwad and Gadag has become the district head quarters since 1997. It is a great centre of Kalyana Chalukyan art with the large Trikuteshwara temple, originally Rashtrakuta, later expanded by the Kalyana Chalukyas into a vast complex, and it has Trikuteshwara temple complex triple shrines once housing Shiva, Brahma and



Trikuteshwara Temple Complex, Gadag-Betgeri

Surya. The Saraswati temple in its precinct has the finest shining decorative pillars, and the Saraswati image, though now damaged, is the finest examples of Chalukyan Art. Recently a newly carved Saraswati image in the same Chalukyan style has been installed as the earlier one had broken up. The place has the Someshwara and Rameshwara temples of Chalukyan style, is also known for its religious harmony. The Veeranarayana temple of Chalukyan times, completely renovated in Vijayanagara times including the image of Narayana too replaced. The great Kannada poet Kumaravyasa composed his famous *Karnataka Bharatha Kathamanjari* by staying in this temple. Gadag has a mosque of Adilshahi times, highly artistic. There is a Church too of the Basel Mission (Now C.S.I.). Betageri has many artistic herostones, some dating back to 9th-10th centuries. ('Kaldugu' is the old name of Gadag and 'Battakere', 'Round Tank' of Betgeri). Gadag-Betageri are famous for weaving industry, and of late, Gadag has excelled In printing. To reach Lakkundi, Dambal, Itgi and Kukanur, Gadag is the gateway.

Gokarna situated in coastal Karnataka is 453 kms. from Bangalore and about 55 kms. from the district head quarters Karwar, is described as a Shaiva Centre, on par with Kashi and Rameshwar and the Mahabaleshwara Temple here has indications of atleast being originally built during 11-12th Century and the Portuguese destroyed it during the 18th century and it was renovated then. There is a famous Ganapathi Temple and the deity here is two-armed, standing, and is atleast 1500 years' old. Tamragauri is another shrine here. The Bhadrakali and Venkataramana temples, Jatayuteertha, Kotiteertha etc., are other holy places here. Gokarna has a long beach on the west and the Western Ghat ranges closeby in the east and is in a wonderful natural settings. Atmalinga brought by Ravana got struck here and his efforts to extricate it resulted in his throwing the coverings of the Linga to Dhareshwar, Gunavanteshwara, Murdeshwar and



Dwibahu Ganesha, Gokarna

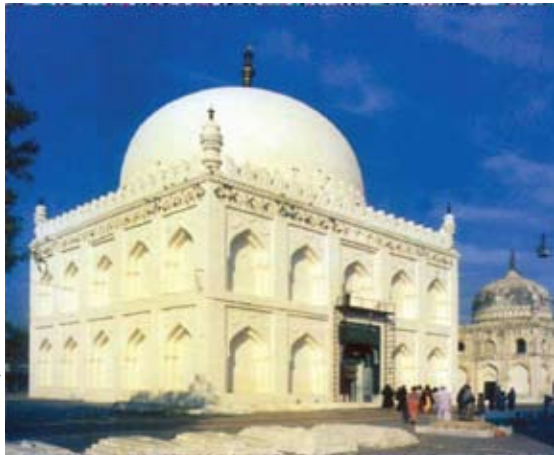
Shejjeshwar Temples (the last place is near Karwar), according to tradition. All these places are in Uttara Kannada district.

Gulbarga, the district and divisional head-quarters, formerly in the Nizam's State, is 623 km. from Bangalore, was the first capital of the Bahmanis from 1347. Kannada records call the place as 'Kallumbarige', or 'Kalubarige' and it



Sharana Basaveshvara Temple, Gulbarga

was named later by Muslims as Gulbarga, giving it a floral touch. In Kannada 'Kalburgi' means a stony land or stone roofing. The fort here was originally built by one Raja Gulchand, a feudatory of the Warangal Kakatiyas, and was rebuilt by All-ud-din Bahmani with 15 majestic towers. Inside the fort is the huge wonderful mosque built by Muhammed Bahmani in 1367 and it covers 38,000 sq. feet area. The place has a huge sprawling complex housing the tomb of Bande Nawaz, the great Sufi saint, who came to Gulbarga in 1413. His tomb's walls have paintings and a mosque built by the Mughuls is near the tomb. The Khandar Khan's mosque and Hirapur mosque (1585) built by Chandbibi are some other monuments here, and the tomb of Sultan Hassan and Firoz Shah are imposing structures. In all there are seven mausoleums of Bahamani



Dargah of Khwaja Bande Nawaz, Gulbarga

sultans. Sharana Basappa Appa's tomb here is highly venerated. The place has many modern temples and Gulbarga University is housed here. outside the city in an attractive campus. The State Archaeology Museum here has Buddhist plaques brought from Sannati. The City has a Municipal Corporation.

Halasi in Khanapur taluk, 14 km. from Khanapur Railway Station, and was the second capital of the Kadambas of Banavasi, It has the oldest basadi of Karnataka, built by the Early Kadambas who patronised Jainism. But the basadi is in dilapidated condition now. The huge Bhuvanaraha Narasimha temple here was rebuilt by the Goa Kadambas during the 12th Century A.D., and has fine tall images of Varaha, Narasimha, Narayana and Surya. Halasi was the headquarters of a major province called Halasige - 12,000 under the Kalyana Chalukyas. The place has a fort, and also temples of Gokarneshwara, Kapileshwara, Swarneshwara and Hatakeshwara. The place is in the background of Western Ghats in lush green atmosphere.



Bhuvanaraha Temple, Halasi

Halebid (former Dwarasamudra) in Belur taluk, Hassan dt., 27 kms. away from Hassan was the capital of Hoysalas after Belur. It has one of the finest Hoysala temples said to have been started by Ketamalla, a commander of Vishnuvardhana in a 1121 A.D. The twin Shiva Temples with a common platform and two *garbhagrihas*, one besides the other have a common broad *navaranga*. One of them houses Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleshwara Linga and the other Shanthaleshwara Linga. In front of the Hoysaleshwara is the Nandimantapa and behind that is a shrine of Surya with a two-metre-tall image. The temple doorways are highly ornate and impressive. Outer walls have rows of



Gajasuramardhana, Halebid

Intricate figures narrating episodes from epics like Ramayana, Bharatha and Bhagavata. The place has a Parshwanatha basadi with highly polished pillars in which on-lookers queer images are reflected. There is a Museum of the A.S.I. The Kedareshwara temple is another monument built by Ketaladevi, Ballala II's Queen. *Chatchatnahalli* (nearby) has an attractive Hoysala *Trikuta temple* with rich architectural refinement built by Chatta Dandanayaka in 1220.

Hampi the site of the capital of Vijayanagara (1336), 10 km. from Hospet in Bellary dt. was an ancient city and Buddhist remains of the early Christian era are found here. Known as Pampakshetra, because of Pampadevi temple, is on the banks of Tungabhadra. On the Hemakuta Hill behind the famous Virupaksha temple of Chalukyan times, there is a Badami Chalukya temple. Poet Harihara in Kannada has praised God Virupaksha during the 12th Century. This, rocky hilly area with Anegundi to the north of the river is identified as Kishkindha of Ramayana times. Virupaksha



An aerial View of Virupaksha Complex, Hampi

temple was provided with a long Kalyana Mantapa which is a pillared pavilion with complex artistic monolithic pillars by Krishnadevaraya (1509-1529) in commemoration of his victory against Bijapur and the Gajapatis. Its entrance tower called Bhistappayyana Gopura became the model for all Vijayanagara Gopuras built all over South India, called as Rayagopuras. Also called as an Open-Air Museum, Hampi has the Krishnaswamy temple, Hazara Ramaswamy Temple, Achutaraya Temple housing Ranganatha, Kodandaramaswamy temple, Vithalaswamy temple, Irugappa's Basti (called Ganigitti Jinalaya (1385), Uddhana Virabhadra temple, monolithic Lakshmi Narasimha (29 Feet tall installed by Krishnadevaraya in 1529), huge Badavi Linga, Kamala Mahal, Elephants' stable, Mahanavami Dibba, monolithic Ganeshas called as Kadalekalu and Sasivekalu Ganesha and a large number of other temples and monuments. Recent excavations have brought to light many palace foundations, a fine stepped tank with polished stone Royal enclosure, several Noblemen quarters and some Jaina bastis and some Buddhists plaques. The 'Moorish quarter' has a mosque. The foreign visitors to the capital during the 15th and 16th centuries have called it bigger than Rome. They are stunned by the grandeur of its Dasara Festival and the trade of the town. People from the East and the West were seen there. The City was destroyed and deserted in 1565, but its remains continued to be intact, though in ruined condition, spread over more than 25 square km. area. Kamalapura has an ASI Site Museum. The Kannada University is also functioning from a new campus nearby, named as "*Vidyaranya*". Hampi is included in the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Hangal, now in Haveri dt. is also a taluk headquarters. It was the capital of the Hangal Kadambas, feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana. It is mentioned as 'Panungal' in early records and identified by tradition with Viratanagara of Mahabharatha days Eighty km. away from Dharwad, it was once the headquarters of a district called Panungal-500. The Tarakeshwara temple here is a huge structure with wonderful series of images and polished tall Chalukyan pillars spread over a vast area. The Virabhadra, Billeshwara and Ramalinga etc., are other important temples and the Ganesha temple near Tarakeshwara has a northern curvilinear (Nagara) *Shikhara*. The town is on the left bank of the Dharma river, and has ruins of some fortification on the river bank. There is also a famous Veerashaiva Kumaraswamy Matha here.



Tarakeshwara Temple, Hangal

Harihara, on the banks of Tungabhadra, is 277 km. from Bangalore on the Pune-Bangalore Rd, in Chitradurga dt. The rivulet Haridra joins it here and the place was called Kudalur, and it is called as Harihara now because of the temple of the name (of Hari and Hara unified), built by Polalva Dandanayaka under Hoysala Narasimha in 1233 left on the bank of the Tungabhadra river. This is a highly artistic monument reflecting a high degree of architectural perfection and artistic speculation. This is a highly artistic monument. There are also temples of Srirama, Dattatreya and Ishwara and the place grew to be an industrial centre with the Kirloskars starting their unit. Now the Harihara Polyfiber factory is started near Kumarapatna, a suburb of Harihara, but within Haveri dt. border.



Hari -Hareshwara Temple, Harihara

Hassan The district headquarters, Hassan town is at a distance of about 150 kms from Bangalore connected by roads and railway and has all modern amenities including hotels. The originally town was supposed to be called as Chennapatna which was founded in 11th century by Bukkanna Nayaka, a Chola officer. He erected a fort and petta on the site of his encampment. Channapattana means a handsome city. He also created a large tank.

According to tradition this place was conferred on Sanjeeva Krishnappa Nayaka, by the Hoysalas. The smiling Goddess Hasanamma is believed to have directed him to build a fort. The Nayaka did accordingly and named the fort Hasana after the Goddess. Thus this place is believed to have been established

in late 12th century. The Sthalapurana speaks of this place as called as 'Simhasana' and associates it with Janamejaya of the Kuru dynasty.

This place was one of the prominent centres of Hoysalas. This was also ruled by various dynasties from the days of Gangas. Chikkadevaraja won over this place in 1690 A.D.

There are two Hoysala temples dedicated to Chennakeshava and Virupakshehswara. The former temple was built by Pradhana Heggade Lakumaiah, a chief under Narasimha I and the latter is believed to have been renovated by Vidyaranya, the pontiff of the Sringeri Matha. The Hasanamba temple is a structure of post Vijayanagara period. The presiding deity is an anthill and the temple is devoid of an architectural excellence. In this temple complex, a shrine is dedicated to Siddeshwara. This temple opens only once in a year on Ashwayuja bahula dwitiya for a duration of one week.

Together with these temples, there are the shrines of Kolala Gopalakrishna and Gangadhareshwara situated of the bank of the local tank Devigere. There is also a Jaina basti which is about 900 years old.

This place known as a 'Poor man's Ooty' is gaining tourist importance, with facilities for tourists to stay in government guest houses and hotels. Regular bus service from Bangalore, Mysore, Madikeri, Mangalore, Hubli and Shimoga exists. From here reaching, Belur Halebidu and other Hoysala Centres of art is easy. It has railwayconnection also to Bangalore and Hubli, and Hassan – Mangalore line is closed for gauge conversion which may be over soon



Siddeshwara Temple, Hassan

Haveri, now a district head quarters, situated on NH4, is 340 kms away from Bangalore. It derives its name from the tank that lies 2.5 kms from the town, built in 10-11th Century. It has few ancient temples and the Siddeshwara temple complex here of Chalukyan times is known by its sculptural decorations. Ugranarasimha and Kalleshwara are the other important temples of early times. The Virakta Matha, Hukkeri Matha, Hosamatha, Murugaswami Matha and the Raghavendra Matha of Madhwa tradition are important. The annual fair of the Hukkeri Matha occurs in the month of January, while Siddeshwara fair falls during Dasara period. It was known for cardamum processing till recently, and is now famous for its beautiful cardamum garlands.



Siddeshwara Temple, Haveri

Horanadu in Chikmagalur district, situated 15 kms. from Kalasa. Besides its local history, it is also famous by its Annapurneshwari temple and its scenic beauty. Pilgrim from different parts visits it in large number through out the year. Thousands of devotees are being fed by the temple authorities regularly, in accordance with the name of the presiding deity of the place.



Annapurneshwari Temple, Horanadu

Hosaholalu An ancient agrahara, situated at a distance of two km east of Krishnarajapet is Hosaholalu, a great centre of the Hoysala period. The Lakshminarayana temple, the Hariharesvara temple and the Viranjaneya temple, the Parswanatha Basadi and also the remains of the fort around the town are the places worthy of visit here.

The Lakshminarayana temple is a trikutachala having the Lakshminarayana image in the central shrine and with an antarala and a five-tiered vimana. The shrine to the right has the idol of Lakshminarasimha, but the shrine to the left is vacant now, but formerly had the image of Venugopala as is sculptured on the lintel. All the three shrines open to a common navaranga. In the devakostas of the navaranga, the sculptures of Ganapati and Mahisasuramardini are



Lakshminarayana Temple, Hosaholalu

placed. The pillars in Hoysala style are highly polished and on the brackets of the pillar are found the sculptures of beautiful damsels (the Madanikas), a unique feature of the Hoysala art. In front of the navaranga are the pillared

sabhamantapa and the mukhamantapa. The temple is placed on a high platform or adhishtana having the richly carved friezes of elephant, horses, foliage, Puranic panel, makara (crocodile), swans etc. The wall has been divided in two stages. The lower stage of the wall is ornamented with the sculptures of gods and goddesses like Brahma, Vishnu, Lakshminarayana, Keshava, 24 forms of Vishnu, Paravasudeva, Yoganarasimha, Lakshminarasimha, Indra, Rama-Lakshmana, Harihara, Bhairava Bhairavi, Kali, Adhishakti, Govardhanadhari Krishna, Kalingamardana, Lakshmi, Natyasaraswati, etc. In the upper part of the wall is found the decorative motifs of single pillar, and dual pillar sikhara and devakoshtas and episodes of epics are carved out. Images of gods are found in some devakoshtas. Recently a Devi shrine has been built to the left side of the temple. There are no inscriptions giving details regarding the temple, but stylistically this temple can be assigned to the 13th century.

To the left side of this temple, on the way to the main entrance of the fort is the Parshwanatha Basadi. This basadi has been restored in recent times. In the sanctum are placed the images of Parshwanatha, Anantanatha and Yakshi Padmavathi. In the navaranga one can see the beautiful sculptures of Dharanendra Yaksha, Padmavathi Yakshi and a broken sculpture of Bahubali which are said to be brought from Bilibetta.

Hubli, a part of Dharwad-Hubli twin City Corporation is 408 km. away from Bangalore, on the Bangalore - Pune road, is both a railway junction and an industrial town. Rayara Hubli, also called 'Eleya Puravada Halli' or 'Purballi' was the old Hubli, where there is a Bhavani Shankara temple and Jaina basti. Under Vijayanagara Rayas, Rayara Hubli grew as a commercial centre, famous for trade in cotton, saltpetre and iron. The British opened a factory here when it came under the Adilshahis. Shivaji looted the factory in 1673. The Mughuls conquered it and the place came under the Savanur Nawab who built a new extension named Majidpura and trader Basappa Shetty built new Hubli around the Durgadabail (fort maidan). There is the famous Moorusavira Matha, and the Matha authorities claim that it was begun by a Sharana of Basaveshwara's period. Hubli was conquered by the



Sri Jagadguru Gurusiddheshwara Gadduge, Hubli

Marathas from the Savanur Nawab in 1755-56. Later Haider conquered it, but it was recaptured by the Marathas in 1790, and the old town was administered by one Phadke under the Peshwa and the new town by Sangli Patwardhan. British took old Hubli in 1817 and the new town with 47 other villages was handed over to the British by the Sangli Patwardhan in lieu of the subsidy in 1820. Hubli is



Hebic Memorial Church, Dharwad

a prosperous handloom weaving centre and has a Textile Unit. The Railway Workshop started here in 1880, made it a reckonable industrial centre. The Bhavanishankar temple in old Hubli and the impressive Chaturlinga temple in Unakal are of Chalukyan times. The Siddharudhaswamy (1837-1929) Matha in Old Hubli is visited by hundreds. In addition to the impressive Moorusavira Matha, Rudrakshi Matha and Hanneradu Yattina Matha. There is Mahdi mosque at Bandiwadagase and Mastan Sofa Mosque in Old Hubli. Of the churches, the Church of Ascension (1905), Church of Holy Name (1928), St. Joseph's (1858) and the St. Andrew's (1890) are notable. Unakal has a church of the Basel Mission and there is a Gurudwara of the Sikhs in Vidyanagar. The place has Medical (Govt.), Engineering and other colleges having all educational facilities. It has Indira Gandhi Memorial Glass House and Nripatunga Park on a Hillock. *Kundgol*, 15 km. south of Hubli, has the huge Shambhu Linga temple of Chalukyan times.

Ikkeri a capital town of the Keladi Nayakas from 1512, is avery near to Sagar in Shimoga dt. The Aghoreshwara Temple here of the Kalamukha sect is a 16th Century monument of great attraction. There is also a Parvathi temple nearby. The Italian traveller Pietro Della Valle gives a long description of this capital he had visitied in 1623. Keladi is another place nearby the original capital. It has the Rameshwara and Veerabhadra temples. There is also a Museum having rich collection of several sculptures besides, having a rich treasure of Palm leaf manuscripts. The museum has also brought out several invaluable books on several subjects of historical importance.



Aghoreshwara Temple, Ikkeri

Itagi in Yalburga taluk can be easily reached from Gadag (about 40 km.) and is within the reach of Bhanapur, a Railway station in Gadag-Hospet line. It has the best of the Kalyana Chalukya temple called Mahadeva, described as “*Devalaya Chakravarthi*” (Emperor among temples) in early inscriptions, built by Mahadeva Dandanayaka, a commander of great Chalukya ruler Vikramaditya VI in 1112 A.D. This huge temple of fine polished pillars, intricately carved broad doorways and deep Bhuvaneshwaris in the ceiling with miniature carvings is a magnificent structure of ever lasting beauty. There are a number of other temples around it and there is a huge tank in front. A Saraswati Matha meant for the residence of students is also there. Percy Brown called the temple “as one of the best” after Halebid. Kukanur, 10 km. from here has the Navalinga temple complex of the Rashtrakutas besides the Mahamaya, Kalleshwara and Mallikarjuna of Kalyana Chalukya times.



Mahadeva Temple, Itagi

Kalagi in Chitapura taluk, 60 kms from Gulbarga was formerly the provincial headquarters of Mannedadi-1000 during Later Chalukyan times. It has five Later Chalukyan temples. Among them, the Mallikarjuna temple standing in the heart of the village built by Bana Mahamandaleshvara Vira Gonkarasa in 1163 A. D. is a beautiful piece of architecture, erected by a team of 12 sculptors headed by Ramoja. The Parswanatha basadi near Banasankari temple, a *trikuta* of 11th Century A.D., housing Parswanatha Thirthankara in the main shrine.

The Kalinga temple complex situated half a km. south of the village on the bank of Kalagi stream, has some temples richly adorned with several dieties of lavish ornamentation. The Karidevaru (Suryanarayana) here, a *trikuta*, although now in ruins has the sculptures of Vishnu, Brahma, Maheshwara, Bhairava, Nataraja, Uma-maheshwara, Mahishamardini, Ganapati and the Madanikas in different postures on its walls. It may be the Jayalingeshwara temple referred in a 13th century epigraph.

The Kaleshwara temple here, earliest of the place, being referred to as Svayambhu Kaleshvar in a record of 1103 A.D., spaciouly placed, is crowded by Nilakanta, Revana Siddeshwara, Iswara, Someshwara and Bibbeshvara on either



Bracket Figure of Kalagi

sides with a common sabha mantapa. Adjacent to it are Kasivishvanath, Ramalinga and Nandi temples. On the north bank of Kalagi stream are, Isvara and Narasimha temples amidst a Puskarani.

Kambadahalli, A great Jaina centre with a complex basti of the Ganga times, Kambadahalli lies at a distance of 16 km west of Nagamangala on the Sravanabelgola road. The epigraphic evidence reveals that the place was called Bindiganavileya Tirthabasadi. The tall manastambha here has helped to use the word Kambadahalli for the place. There is a wonderful complex of seven basadis comprising a trikuta Adinatha, a dwikuta basadi, and to the north of it another dvikuta Santinatha Basadis built in three different stages. In the Adinatha trikuta Basadi Adinatha Tirthankara's image is in centre facing North and on its either sides facing east and west Neminatha and Shantinatha Tirthankara images are installed. In the antarala of the central sanctum the sculptures of about two-metre tall Parswanatha and Yaksha-Yakshi are found. The sculptures in the north-west corner of the navaranga are those of Santinatha's Yaksha and Yakshi. Other sculptures here are those of Dharanendra, Gomukha, Kushmandini, Padmavathi and Jvalamalini. The central bhuvanesvari has the beautiful carving of Suparsvanatha surrounded by the Ashtadikapalakas and the Kshetrapalas.

The mantapa in front of the navaranga is a later addition. There is an octagonal pedestal with Ashta-dikpalakas. The four-tiered adhithana has on it pilasters, decorated capitals and in the devakoshtas (niches) with the Tirthankara sculptures in them. The kapota is decorated by the panel of hamsas (swans). There are Dravida vimanas in three tiers upon the sanctums. The



An Aerial view of the Panchakuta Basadi, Kambadahalli

stupi of the eastern sikhara is circular whereas the stupi of the western and southern sikharas are square and octagonal respectively, which is a special feature rarely to be found elsewhere. About 10 ft. north of the mukhamantapa of the trikuta basadi, there are two sanctums opposite to each other with separate sukhanasis and navarangas. The space between these two sanctums is now added an open mantapa. The sanctums have with them the images of Tirthankaras in seated posture. The Santinatha Basadi which is to the north of the Panchakuta Basadi is a structure of the 12th century built by Boppa, the son of Gangaraja, the Hoysala General. The adhithana of the this basadi has fine sculptures of elephant, lion, horse, vyali, bull etc. The navaranga has in it the sculptures of Neminatha, Dharanendra, Gomukha and Padmavati Yakshi. The bhuvaneshvari has the seated Tirthankara surrounded by Ashtadikpalakas. In the western sanctum there is the idol of Shantinatha Tirthankara which is 3.5 metre high and the eastern sanctum is now used as the entrance. In front of the Panchakuta basadi to the north there is Brahma Sthambha which is about 15 mtr tall and is considered as one of the beautiful brahmasthambhas in Karnataka, and it is this which has given the place name.

Kannambadi, a Becharak village having the Krishnarajasagar Dam built across the river Cauvery. It had the Kanneshwara (Ganga) and the Gopalakrishna (Hoysala) temples of 10th and 13th Century A.D. respectively, now submerged in backwaters. Of late, both the temples have been shifted and re-constructed on a higher plain in a make-shift place due to the efforts of one philanthropist of Bangalore. These temples are attracting the tourists in large numbers. The sculptures of these temples which were preserved in the newly built temples at North Bank village situated on the northern side of the K.R.S. Dam, are being shifted to the make shift temple in a phased manner. Krishnaraja Sagar (Mandya dt.) is a dam across the Cauvery, with the beautiful Brindavan gardens. The garden with musical fountain is to be seen in the evenings.



Gopalakrishna Temple, Kannambadi

Karkala in Dakshina Kannada (52 km. from Mangalore) has been a notable Jaina Centre with the seat of Jaina dynasty called Bhairarasas or the Santaras whose prince Veera Pandya raised the Gommata Statue here in 1432. They also built the ornate Chaturmukha basadi with four entrances, housing Arhat, Malli and Suvrata Tirthankaras in 16th century characters the Ananthashayana and Venkataramana temple, here are of considerable antiquity and on the bank of Ramasamudra tank is another basadi of early times. The St. Lawrence church here is highly venerated. Mudabidri in Dakshina Kannada, situated 35 kms. away from Mangalore is one of the famous Jaina Centres of South India. Among the 18 basadis here, the Tribhuvana Tilaka Chudamani Basadi, also known as thousand pillared Basadi is the biggest. Other basadis are also attractive and the Jaina Matha has rare Jain manuscripts and remarkable metallic images. It was the capital of Chautas and in their old palace, there are some wooden pillars having Navanari Kunjara and Panchanari Turaga motifs on them.



Gommatashwara Statue, Karkala

Karwar is the district headquarter 60 km from Bangalore of Uttar Kannada district bordering Goa. The town was founded in 1863 by the British, naming it after Kadwad village (in the interior on the banks of the Kali, where they had their factory from 1638) which they used to call as 'Karwar'. Karwar has one of the finest facilities for all-weather port with a row of islands like Anjadiv, Kurmagad, Devgad etc., protecting it from storm. It has some of the finest beaches and is to the South of the Kali which meets the sea here.



Water rafting, Karwar Beach

Across the Kali, crossing a new bridge is Sadashivagad, a hill fort built by Sonda Sadashiva Nayaka. Sadashivagad has a Durga temple and a Darga of Peer Kamruddin. Binaga is to the South of Karwar. It has a modern Caustic Soda factory. Goods movement along the Kali from her mouth reached Kadra, later taken by land to the interior during medieval times. Anjadeev Island (under Goa administration) is near Binaga. The Sea Bird Naval project of the Indian Navy has come up near Karwar recently and is already functioning.

Kittur on the Dharwad-Belgaum Road, 33 km from Dharwad was the headquarters of a Desagati (minor principality) which became famous due to the revolt of Desayini Channammaji against the British in 1824. The place has the ruined Wada, a bastion, which formed part of fortification. The State Govt. Museum here has many antiquities collected from the Desai Wada. Inside the fort is the Kalmeshwara-Temple and the place has Veerashaiva Mathas called Chauki Matha and Hire Matha. Kittur has a Women's Sainik School. At *Bailhongal*, a taluk headquarters, the Samadhi of Channammaji, on which her bronze statue is installed. *Degaon*, five kms from Kittur has a 12th Century Kamala Narayana Temple in Chalukyan style, built by the Goa Kadambas. It is a fine monument known for its sophisticated art work. *Okkunda*, 10 kms. from Bailhongal was an important town of Rashtrakuta times (850 A.D.). Now submerged due to Navilthirtha dam, is known by its Jaina and Shaiva Temples of Later Chalukyan times which are accessible only during summer season.



Remains of Palace and Fort Kittur

Kolar, the district headquarters, 72 km away from Bangalore is on the Bangalore-Madras Road, called as "Kualalapura", the first capital of the Gangas, has the famous Kolaramma temple, originally of the Gangas, later renovated by the Cholas. Kolaramma is Mahishamardini and she is one among the seven Mothers (Sapta Matrikas) Installed there. In another shrine next to it are attractive individual stucco figures of Sapta Matrikas. The Someshwara, Venkataramana and Kodandarama are other major temples in the town. Someshwara Temple built in early Hoysala period is a State protected monument now in bad shape. The 'Makbara' here has the graves of Haider Ali's relations. Kolar is known for its local product, the country blanket (Kambli). *Antaragange* three km away from Kolar, on the Kolar hills has a perennial stream emanating from the mouth of a bull. It is considered as a holy spot. The hill top has several places like Teruhalli (old pre-Vijayanagara temple), Papparajanahalli and many other seven villages. This hillock overlooking the Kolar town is a fine trekking track for the Adventure Tourism.



Someswara Temple, Kolar

Kokkare Bellur, A natural bird sanctuary, Kokkare Bellur village lies 18 km away to the northwest of Maddur. From the month of January to July pelicans come here from different quarters, build their nests on trees here and lay eggs and raise their young ones and later go back to their own places after winter. The pelicans of the Hejjarle species come here in large number. Some of them are slightly reddish, some are slightly dark and many of them are white. These pelicans feed on fish from the tank in the village. The villagers take care to see that the birds are not disturbed. The place is also declared as the National Protected Bird Sanctuary.



Birds Sanctuary, Kokkare Belluru

Kollur, one of the Shakti worship centres of Karnataka, situated 42 km. from Kundapur in Udupi District is famous by its Mukambika temple ascribed to Adi Shankaracharya. The Goddess installed on a Shri Chakra, consecrated by the saint Adi Shankara along with the Chandramoulishwara of the place was renovated and worshipped by the Keladi rulers in medieval times, is in fine natural settings on the base of “Kodachadri”.



Mukambika Temple, Kollur

Koppal, now a district headquarters is ancient 'Kopana' a major holy place of the Jainas, has two Ashokan inscriptions at Palkigundu and Gavimatha. It has a hill fort. It was the capital of a branch of Shilaharas under the Chalukyas of Kalyana. Mundargi Bheema Rao and Hammige Kenchanagouda died fighting against British here in June 1858 (during the 1857 rising series). Palkigundu is described as



A Sketch Map of Fort, Koppal

the Indrakila parvata of epic fame and there is an ancient Shiva temple called the Male Malleshwara. *Kinhal* 13 kms away from Koppal is famous for its traditional colourful lacquerware work.

Kotilingeshwara, Kotilingeshwara temple is situated in the village Kammasandra in the Bangarpet taluk is attracting pilgrims from all over South India. This place is located on the Bangarpet KGF road. This temple project was initiated by saint Sambhashivamurthy who has his original hermitage called Valmiki Ashrama at Kammasandra who was born here on 23rd August 1947 has an ambition of accomplishing the installation of one crore shivalingas by the ardent devotees thronging the holy place. Hence the place gets the name Kotilingeshwara. This temple complex consists of more than 70 Lakhs miniature Shivalingas already installed by the devotees through their donations and voluntary contributions. Besides this there are temples dedicated to Manjunath and Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara. At the entrance to the temple complex is a tall rayagopura built in Dravidian style. The Manjunatha temple consists of a *garbagriha*, *antharala* and *navaranga* and an open *mukhamantapa*. Inside the *garbagriha* is a tall Shivalinga and there is a smaller *shikhara* atop this. There are some sculptures representing shivapurana. The Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara temple has three cells in a row consisting of all the three deities with an *antharala* and modern *navaranga*. In front of this temple is a huge Bilwa tree where it is traditionally believed young couple tying trunk is thus surrounded by innumerable miniature cradles tied on it.

There is a huge shivalinga measuring 108 ft. tall and facing this is a stone bull measuring 35 ft. tall. The annual *jatra* is held here during shivaratri when lakhs of people visit the place. There are choultries maintained by the temple trust for the convenience of the pilgrims.



Kotilingeshwara Temple, Near Bangarpet

Lakkundi in Gadag taluk, 12 km from Gadag is one of the most famous centres of Kalyana Chalukyan art. The place has the highly ornate Kashi Vishveshwara temple in damaged condition, a twin temple, one housing Shivalinga and the other facing it of God Surya, now not seen. Another notable monument of the place is the huge Brahma Jinalaya



Brahma Jinalaya, Lakkundi

ascribed to a noble lady called Dana Chintamani Attimabbe. This small town, full of ruined temples like Mallikarjuna, Lakshminarayana, Manikeshwara, Virabhadra, Nanneshwara, Someshwara, Nilakanteshwara and others. Lakkundi also has a Museum of the A.S.I. There is a darga of Zindeshah Wali.

Lakshmeshwara, or ancient 'Huligere' or 'Puligere'. the headquarters of Puligere- 300 district in historical times, in Shirhatti taluk, is 72 km from Dharwad. The Somanatha and the Lakshmaneshwara are famous temples here and over 50 stone records found here speak of its cultural importance. It was a Jaina Centre and Shankha basadi appears to be of the days of the Chalukyas of Badami, subsequently renovated. The Kali Masjid here is an ornate structure, built by Bijapur Commander Ankush Khan. Before Independence, the place belonged to the Miraj Patwardhan State.



Somanatheshwara Temple, Lakshmeshwara

Maddur, a taluk headquarters in Mandya dt. is 20 km from Mandya. It is described in early Tamil records as "Maranduru" (in Tamil, Marandu to mean medicine) and the Temple referred too there as Vajjnatha (God of medicine). While traditions ascribe it to sage Kadamba and Arjuna, it was also called as Narasimha-Chaturvedi Mangalam in the Hoysala records. Madduramma is the village goddess of the place. The Narasimha Swamy Temple here of the Hoysalas has the seven feet Narasimha sculpture. The Varadaraja temple is a Chola structure with a 12 feet tall Varadaraja image. Vaidyanathapura five kms. from Maddur situated on Shimsha bank is famous for its Vaidyanatha temple of Chola period. Shivapura nearby place



Narasimha Temple. Maddur

was the site where the first session of Mysore Congress was held in 1938. There is a modern building 'Satyagraha Saudha' to commemorate it.

Madhugiri in Tumkur dt, 43 km from Tumkur, is famous for its massive hill fort. Its ancient name is Maddagiri and it has temples of Venkataramana and Malleshwara built by Vijayanagara feudatories. There is also a Mallinatha basadi. Rani Virammaji of Keladi was held captive here by Haider Ali and later, Marathas released her, but she died on her way to Pune. The fort has majestic gateways called Antaralada Bagilu, Diddibagilu, Mysore Gate etc. *Midigeshi* 19 km from here is another tall hill fort of importance in Medieval times.



Rocky Hillock, Madhugiri

Madikeri, the headquarters of the Kodagu district is on the ranges of Western Ghats, 250km from Bangalore. It was the capital of a royal family called the Haleri Rajas whose rule was ended by the British in 1834. The place has a fort and a palace building in which district office now functions. The walls of the building have some paintings. There is an old Church inside the fort which houses the State Archaeology Museum. The Omkareshwara Temple and the tombs of the Kodagu Rajas, Doddaveera Rajendra and Lingarajendra are all in Indo-Saracenic style. The Raja's Seat overlooking the valley gives a panoramic view of the surrounding coffee and paddy growing lush green lands. The Kodavas have their own distinct culture and folk arts; they are known for their hospitality and valourous military qualities. Near Madikeri is 'Roshanara,' the residence of the late. Field Marshall K.M. Kariyappa.



Raja seat, Madikeri

Magadi, a taluk headquarters of Bangalore Rural dt., is 41 km from Bangalore. Kempegowda was forced to leave Bangalore in 1638 and make Magadi his headquarters where his family built the fort and the Rameshwara temple. There is also the Someshwara temple built in 1712 with Kempegowda's hazara near it. Its wall paintings are now fading. Tirumale is a



Ranganatha Temple, Magadi

hill near the town where there is a vast Ranganatha Temple, but actually the deity being worshipped is Srinivasa as Srinivasa is standing in *samabhangi* with *shanka chakra*, *varada* and *katihasta* as per the *Shilpashastra*.

Mahadeshwara Betta, a hill very close to the Eastern Ghats, is 220 kms from Bangalore and 142 kms from Mysore and is in Chamarajanagar dt. A saint called Mahadeshwara who it is said, could ride tiger, lived here during the 14th and 15th century has his *gadduge* here. The hill is full of thick forests and thousands of pilgrims visits the place which has guest houses and other facilities. It is a very picturesque spot of natural beauty.



Mahadeshwara Temple, Mahadeshwara Betta

Mandya, The district head-quarters, Mandya lies at a distance of 100 km southwest of Bangalore and 42 km northeast of Mysore on the Mysore- Bangalore highway. It is also connected by Railway. An inscription speaks of the place as 'Manteya', its old name and it was also an agrahara. Mandya is an important industrial and commercial centre. The Mysore Sugar company (1933) was the first of its kind to be established in India. Mandya and its surrounding villages bloomed 72 Mandya District Tourism Gazetteer 73 with greenery after the creation of K. R. Sagar dam and the farmers built good cooperative societies and educational institutions. The district is famous for its Bannur (sheep) mutton, an extra-ordinary delicacy, which is served in local hotels.



Lakshmi Janardhana Temple, Mandya

There is a Janardanaswamy temple here, held in sanctity and its jatra in summer is attended by thousands. The place is described as ancient Vedaranya according to local tradition.

Mangalore is the ancient town 'Mangalapura' and is on the west coast of Karnataka with both an old and a modern port. It is the head-quarters of the Dakshina Kannada District. It was for long the capital of the Alupas. The Vijayanagara rulers posted one of their governors here. It came under the Banga feudatory and the Portuguese opened a factory here for trade and brought Roman Catholic religion too. Conquered by Haider, it became the chief port of Mysore and Sultan's Battery near the port is the remnants of his rule. When

it fell to the English (1799) they made it the district headquarters of Kanara. The Basel Mission that came here in 1834 started an English school, printing, tile (terracotta) factory and weaving have helped to modernise the place. The first Kannada newspaper 'Mangalura Samachara' (1834) was a missionary venture.

Mangalore has the old Mangaladevi temple and the Kadri Manjunatha temple where once Buddhists had stayed. There are fine bronze statues of Avalokiteshwara and Dhyani Buddha and some laterite caves around Kadri temple. The Venkataramana, Mahamayi and the huge modern Gokarna Natha are important temples of Mangalore. Bengre has a fine beach. The Light House Hill has the Idagah. The St. Aloysius College here has a chapel with fine paintings. St. Rozario Church, Church of the Most Holy Rosary and the Milagres Church are some fine Christian monuments here.

Shanti Cathedral of the Bassel Mission is also famous. The port area has an old mosque with fine wood work. Dongarkery has the Shamir mosque. Mangalore is famous for its Sea Food and jasmine known for its unique aroma. A second grade college, founded by Madras Government in Mangalore around 1869, was the first

of its kind in Karnataka. Mangalore has now a University. It has tile, coffee curing, fish processing and cashew processing units. Beedi production is a home industry. Mangalore Fertilizers and petro chemicals Industries is a major public enterprise. Mangalore has a City Corporation.



Mangaladevi, Mangalore



Rozario Church, Mangalore

Melukote, the temple town in Mandya district is a great centre of pilgrimage. The Cheluvanarayana Swamy here was for long worshipped by Acharya Ramanuja (12th Century). The temple came to be expanded under Vijayanagar and Mysore rulers. The latter presented the temple with many costly jewels including Vairamudi, a diamond-studded crown. On the hilltop there is a Narasimha temple also. Melukote is a great centre of traditional Sanskrit learning and the Samskrita Academy here is a newly founded institution having a huge collection of ancient palm Leaf Manuscripts with modern amenities.



Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple, Melukote

Mysore, the district and divisional headquarters, is the ancient royal capital and the garden city. It is 139 km west of Bangalore. Though described as 'Mahishapura', the old records speak 'Mayisooru' which has nothing to do with Mahisha or Mahishasura. In the inscriptions found here and elsewhere the place name has been mentioned as 'Mayisooru' which means 'mayi' (antelope) and 'Ooru' meaning place. The Mysore royal palace is a major attraction with Indo-Saracenic exterior and Hoysala interior, completed in 1907. It is illuminated during holiday evenings. The palace's Kalyana Mantapa has fine wall paintings of the Dasara procession and Durbar scenes done in 1930s and 1940s by the Palace artists. Besides the several temples situated in the palace complex, the Kote Anjaneya, Kote Maramma, Parshwanatha (near corporation), Kanyaka Parameshwari (Doddapet and Shivaram Pet), Renuka Yellamma (Mysore Karaga fame) near zoo garden, Satyanarayana (Vantikoppal), Raghavendra Math, etc., are also important. The Chamundi Hill has a Mahishasura Statue outside, done in cement and a large entrance tower at the Chamundi Temple. Beside this temple, there is a tenth century Mahabala temple and records call the hill as "Marbala Betta". The hill has steps and on way is a monolithic Nandi. Lalita Mahal Palace is a hotel now. Another Palace Cheluvamba mansion which is a heritage building houses C.F.T.R.I. The Jagan Mohan Art Gallery also was a palace. The Parakala Matha is an imposing building near this.



Chamundeshwari Temple, Mysore



Illuminated Royal Palace, Mysore



Monolith Bull, Chamundi Hill, Mysore

Mysore has the famous zoo garden too. The Oriental Manuscript Library is also housed in an impressive building. The University was founded in 1916. The Suttur Matha, the Railway Museum, the Premier Studio, the Ramakrishna Ashrama and the Sachidananda Ganapathi (Dattatreya Peetha) Ashrama are other attractions of Mysore. The St. Philomina Church is an impressive Gothic style of architecture with imposing towers in N.R. Mohalla of Mysore. Mysore is the most important tourist centre of Karnataka. Its Dasara festival is the most attractive pageant. Brindavan Gardens raised on the other bank of KRS dam with attractive musical fountain is very close to Mysore city and also easily approachable. Mysore has grown to be an industrial centre too with the Railway workshop, Ideal Jawa Factory, B.E.M.L. Unit, Vikrant Tyres, etc., The Natural Museum near D.F.R.L. in Siddartha Layout and the Fantasy Park on Bangalore Road are the recent additions of tourist interest. It has a City Municipal Corporation. Of late Mysore is being developed as a second IT city of Karnataka with the founding of Software Industries of International repute. Mysore has been declared as a State Heritage city recently.



Mahishasura, Chamundi Hill



St. Philomena Church, Mysore



Dasara Procession

Nanjangud, a taluk head quarters in Mysore district, situated 20 kms. from Mysore on the bank of Kapila is famous due to the Nanjundeshwara temple, almost 1000 years old. It is a big complex having Nanjundeshwara and Parvati temples enclosed by *prakara* with a huge Gopura on the entrance Gateway and on the *hara* of the *prakara*, beautifully designed stucco figures of gods and goddesses in rows are executed effectively. It is interesting to note that Tippu made donations to this temple of an Emerald Necklace. There is a Raghavendraswamy Matha, Suttur Matha and Siddappaji's shrine of the Manteshwamy tradition.



Nanjundeshwara Temple

Narasamangala, Situated in the interior place, about twentyfour km from chamarajanagar, Narasamangala belongs to the same taluk and to be reached through Amachavadi. This was an agrahara of scholarly Brahmins called Narasimha Mangala, perhaps founded by Ganga rules Narasimha (921-33 AD). The place has a wonderful temple of the Gangas called the Rameswara. The monument can be ascribed to 9th or 10th century AD. This small temple has a magnificent shikhara with remarkable stucco figures, still intact, for more than 1000 years. The figures include Shiva in standing A side view of the Rameswara Temple, Narasamangala posture on the head of Nandi, Tandaveswara, Uma, and Dakshinamurthy, Vishnu, Garuda, Ugra Narasimha etc. They are very proportionate creations. The garbhagriha has a huge Shivalinga in a square pedestal (peetha), one metre in height. To the northeast of the temple here is a shrine of Saptamatrikas. To any lover of Ganga art, this place is a must. But the place, though having motorable road, has no regular bus facility. It has a sculpture shed maintained by the Archeological Survey of India.



Rameswara Temple, Narasamangala

Pattadakal saw the Badami Chalukyan art in its full bloom. It is 22 km away from Badami and 514 km from Bangalore. The best temples like the Virupaksha (Trailokeshwara) and the Mallikarjuna (Lokeshwara) were built by the queens of Vikramaditya II (734-44 A.D.) in memory of his three victorious march against Kanchi, the Pallava capital. These magnificent



Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

temples with their nicely engraved lively figures on walls and the massive square pillars are in sand stone. Pattadakal itself was known as Kisuvolal ('Red Town') as the sand stone and soil here are reddish in colour. The Sangameshwara, Papanatha, Chandrashekhara, Jambulinga and Kadasiddeshwara are the other major temples here, and Pattadakal has also a Jaina basadi of the Rashtrakuta times with two beautiful elephants in its front. The Galaganath temple here which is dilapidated, has curvilinear (rekhanagara) *shikhara*. This place is included in the World Heritage Series by the UNESCO.



Sunrise in the ceiling of Papanatha temple

Raichur, the headquarters of the district of the same name is 475 km away from Bangalore. It has a hillfort originally built in 1294 by a Kakatiya (of Warangal) officer and later expanded by the Bahamanis. A 41 -feet long slab near the Raichur bus stand, fixed into the fort wall has a Telugu record and also sculptures of the scene of how huge slabs were transported atop the hill with the help of buffalo driven carts. The outer fortification has five majestic gateways, the

Sikandari Darwaza and Sailani Darwaza being impressive. The Navrangi Darwaza is created by Vijayanagara rulers with many court scenes of Vijayanagara. The town has a majestic Ekminar mosque of the days of Mohammed Shah Bahmani, The lone minaret is 65 feet tall. The Jami Masjid here is the biggest of its kind. There are many modern temples in the town of which Manikprabhu and the Ramalingeshwara temples are notable.



Raichur Fort an art work by Ishwar

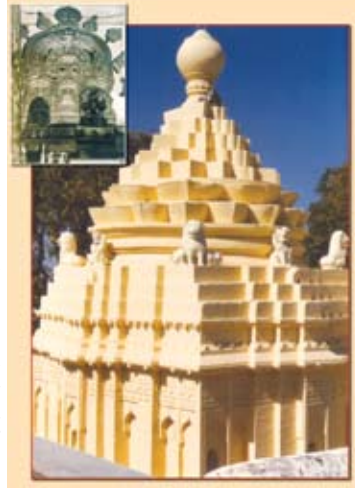
Sandur is a taluk headquarters in Bellary district. It is in a valley surrounded by hills, and the hills abound in quality iron and manganese ore. Sandur is derived from 'sandu' in Kannada, meaning a 'pass'. It was formerly under the Maratha rulers called the Ghorpades till 1947 and the palace surrounded by a fort is an attractive building. The town has a Vithoba temple with impressive pillars. One of the hill ranges has the



Kartikeya Temple, Sundur

attractive Kumaraswamy temple and also the Parvati temple. The Parvati temple perhaps was the original Kumaraswamy temple of Badami Chalukya times which now houses a recent Parvati figure and the Shanmukha (Kumaraswamy) temple is a Rashtrakuta structure with a modern image. The twin temples are excellent pieces of art and are in a serene place, and are surrounded by rose gardens. The place is 12 km. from Sandur town. Not far away from here is the Nandihalli Post-Graduate Centre of the Gulbarga University and 16 km. away from Sandur is Ramanadurga or Ramgad. There is a Rama temple on this cool hill resort, commemorating Kumara Rama, a historical figure who died fighting against Delhi Sultan's army.

Sannati in chitapur taluk of Gulbarga district, situated 48 kms from chitapur and 18 kms from Nalwar railway station, on the left bank of river Bhima, is one of the important pre-historic and historic sites of Karnataka. It was an important Buddhist centre during both the Mauryas and the Sathavahanas. So far four Asokan edicts have been found at Sannati. In Kanaganahalli, a near by place, Buddhist stupas of Sathavahana period have been unearthed. Excavations held at this place have proved beyond doubt of its Sathavahana township. Some findings speak of its contact with Rome. But now the Chandralamba temple of the place has revived its lost glory. It is situated on a mound containing Mauryan remnants, built later during Rashtrakuta period and expanded during Later Chalukya period. People from different places throng here on the occasion of Sankramana, Sravana and Navarathri.



Chandralamba Temple Sannati

Saundatti in Belgaum district is a taluk headquarters (74 km. from Belgaum) and the town proper has a fort on the hill built during the 18th Century, by the Sirasangi Desai with eight bastions. Earlier it was also the capital of the Rattas who later shifted their headquarters to Belgaum. There are two small Jaina basadis of Ratta times and the temples of Ankeshwara, Puradeshwara, Mallikarjuna, Venkateshwara and the Veerabhadra. The Puradeshwara is of the Kalyana Chalukyas, dilapidated now. The Ankeshwar was built by the Rattas in 1048, also in Chalukyan style. The Renukasagar waters (from the Naviluteertha dam across the Malaprabha) touch the outskirts



Yellamma Temple, Saundatti

of Saundatti. Yellmmmanagudda, 12 km. away from Saundatti is on a hill. This original Rashtrakuta basadi is now used to worship Yellamma or Renuka and the devotees visit it in hundreds daily. Two km. away is Parasgad, a wonderful hill fort, expanded by Shivaji, now getting dilapidated.

Shimoga a district headquarters, 274 km. from Bangalore is on the bank of the Tunga river. It was a notable centre under the Keladi Nayakas. Their palace now houses a museum of State Archaeology Department. The Kote Seetharamanjaneya temple and Sri Raghavendra Matha are the oldest in the town. Shimoga is a centre of paddy and areca trade and there is a Govt. sandal oil factory here. It is a cool place near the ranges of the Western Ghats. The place has the Bhimeshwara, Lakshminarayana and Guddekal Siddheshwara temples and the Sacred Heart Church of the Catholics.



Kuvempu University, Shimoga

Sirivala, situated 15 kms from the taluk head quarters Shahapur, on the right bank of Bhima has more than 20 ancient temples. Among them, 10 are within the village seven scattered on the Anabi road and the remaining three situated on the other side of the stream flowing across the village. Among the last three, named Sujnyaneshvara, Nannaiah and Nagaiah temples, the last two are of Rashtrakuta period. Among the temples scattered across Anabi



Sujnyaneshwara Temple, Sirivala

road, five are *Ekakutas* and the remaining two are *dvikuta* temples in dilapidated condition. The Pushkarnies at Sujnyaneshvar and on the Anabi Road, have the narrative panels of PanchaTantra stories depicted beautifully. Of the ten temples in the village, Siddalingesvar temple is unique by its *sarvatobhadra* plan. It is a Panchakuta temple with the main shrine at the centre and the remaining four situated on its four directions adorned with richly ornamented designs. One of the epigraphs of the place refer to Sharana Revana Siddaiah and his father Shivayogi Shantimaiah and confirm their affiliation with this place. The great Sharana Siriyalasetty is locally believed as a native of this place. There are other temples like Bala Bhimeshwara, Mallikarjuna, underground temple, Hanumantha, and an un named temple although in ruins are noteworthy.

Shivagange, a prominent pilgrimage centre in Bangalore Rural dt., is about 60 km. from Bangalore. It is a conical shaped hill and one of the caves has Shiva (Gangadhara) shrine and another cave has Honnadevl of Ganga times originally in a natural cave, which was expanded by the Hoysalas and subsequent rulers including the Kempegowdas of Bangalore. The place was also known as Kakudgiri according to tradition. One can climb further on the hill and there is Kempegowda's Hazara with Vijayanagara style pillars, and at the top of the hill is an image of Kumbhi Basava. Below the hill there is a shiva temple called Shanteshwara, the Shankara Matha of Sringeri tradition and also a huge tank which has relief sculptures



A Panoramic View Shivaganga Hill

narrating epic events. There is a Lingayat Matha called Mahanta Matha on the hill, and once it is said, there were 64 Lingayat Mathas at the place. Of the many images in the Shiva temple, one of Kempegowda as a devotee is notable.

Shravanabelagola in Hassan District, 157 km. away from Bangalore is an important Jaina centre. There is a pond and two stony hills, called Chandragiri and Indragiri. Chandragiri has the Chandragupta basadi of the Ganges and the Parshwanatha basadi here is the biggest. The town below the hill has the Jaina matha whose walls have very old paintings. Indragiri has the Gommata monolith, 58' tall, installed by a Ganga general and scholar Chavundaraya, in 982 A.D. There is also Siddhara basadi, Odegal basadi, Chennanna basadi, Chauwisa Tirthankara basadi besides the finely engraved Tyagada Brahmadeva pillar with excellent floral designs. To the north of the town is Jinanathapura which has Aregal basadi and the Shantinatha basadi of Hoysala times. Shravanabelagola has over 500 inscriptions, and some of them record the death of Jaina ascetics and laymen by observing starvation ('sallekhana'). Gommata here is an image of unrivalled beauty. Head Anointing (*Maha Masthakabhisheka*) festival is held once in 12 years.



Monolithic Statue of Gommateshwara, Shravanabelagola

Sira Tumkur district a taluk headquarters is 52 km. from Tumkur. The town called Siriya was founded by Rangappa Nayaka of Ratnagiri, a feudatory of Vijayanagara. It was conquered by the Mughuls in 1686 and they raised a beautiful garden called Khan Bag. The Jumma masjid here is a fine monument built in 1896 and the Malik Rihan's tomb is another impressive structure. The fort is still there in parts, was expanded by the Mughuls. The Gopalakrishna temple here has no image, and it is said to be housed in the Narayana temple. The place was the centre of a Mughul Fauzdari and Kasim Khan was the first fauzdar. Haider secured it as a gift later. *Seebi*, 24 km. to the south of Sira was known earlier as Sibburu and

there is a Narasimhaswamy temple built during the 18th century by Nallappa an officer under Haider Ali. Nallappa has written '*Haider-naame*' in Kannada. The temple is profusely decorated with mural paintings depicting the themes of Ramayana, Mahabharata and Dashavatara. There are many secular themes including erotic figures in good number.



Peer Mallik Rihan's Dragah, Sira

Sirsi, a taluk headquarters in Uttara Kannada is 90 kms. from Karwar. In a record of 1150 AD from Tamadi Kallala in Siddapura Taluk, it is mentioned as "Sirise". The place has the Shankara, Ganapathi and Veerabhadra of early times, the Triyambakeshvara and the Gopalakrishna are of recent times. The Marikamba temple of the place is said to have been built in 1689, is most significant. Its architecture is marvellous. Its Car festival which occurs bi-annually in the month of Magha is attended by devotees in thousands. Mahatma Gandhi, visited this place in 1934, since Sirsi being a notable centre of freedom movement,



Marikamba Temple, Sirsi

Somanathpur, ten km. away from T. Narsipur, the taluk headquarters and 40 km, from Mysore, has the best of the Hoysala temples constructed when the Hoysala art was in full bloom. The three *vesara shikharas* of the Keshava temple are in good condition. Somanathpur was called Vidhyanidhi *agrahara* and Somanath Dandanayaka, the commander of Hoysala Narasimha III built the *trikuta* temple and the place was named after him. It is the finest monument of

the place. The other temples are the Panchalingeshwara. Lakshminarayana and Narasimheswara. The Keshava temple is enclosed by a courtyard of 215 feet in length and 177 feet in breadth. It stands on a platform with triple shrines with three majestic *shikharas* on them with a common *navaranga* and main entrance. It is profusely decorated on the outer walls and there are rows of figures of Natya Saraswati, Natya Ganapathi, Mahishamardini, Varaha, Ishwara, Indra etc., and smaller figures narrating Vaishnava epics. The *navaranga* has 16 *ankanas* each with a highly decorative floral or geometric designs. The Keshava image in the main shrine is missing but Janardana and Venugopala are seen in other two *garbhagrihas*, are really charming. The *shikharas* look like highly decorated *rathas*. The panels on the walls of the Keshava have sign-manuals of sculptors like Mallitamma, Baleya, Chaudeya, Chamaya, Bharmaya, Nanjaya and Yelasamayya. The Keshava temple is a must for every lover of Hoysala art. The Panchalinga do not have much of embellishment, but it has five Shiva shrines in a row.



Chenna Keshava Temple, Somanathpur, (Art Work by S.Kalappa)

Sonda in Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada is 35 kms. away from Sirsi. It is in the middle of thick forest. It was the headquarters of the Sonde rulers who were feudatories of Vijayanagara. The place when occupied by Haider Ali in 1763 lost its importance though it was a major town earlier to that. Its large number of monuments are spread over a wide area in the forest. It was a Jaina centre, and has the samadhi of great scholar Bhattakalanka (died in 1604). There is a small Jaina Matha here. The Swarnavalli Matha near sonda is of the Smartha tradition. Arasappa Nayaka, a prince, was a devotee of Vadirajatirtha (1480-1600), a great Madhwa saint, who shifted his matha (one of the eight of Udupi) to this place and his Samadhi (Brindavana) is seen here. He is considered as the first saint to enter the Brindavana alive much before saint Raghvendrathirtha of Manthralayam. There is a Trivikrama temple raised by him. The Swarnavalli Matha of the Havyaka Brahmins found near Sonda has a rich collection of traditional Palm



Vadirajamatha, Sonda

Leaf Manuscripts. There is also the Shankaranarayana temple at Sonda and the Gaddige Matha. The river Shalmala creates a falls of 91 metres height called the Shivaganga falls, at a place five km. from Sonda. The Sahasralingas on the rocky path of the river is a wonderful scene. Thousands visit this place with utmost devotion.

Sringeri is one of four centres in India where Acharya Shankara founded his Mathas. The place in Chikmagalur district is 334 km. away from Bangalore and is a taluk headquarter. Sringeri has an old Parshwanatha basadi. There is the Sharadamba temple ascribed to Acharya Shankara and the magnificent Vidyashankara temple on the banks of the Tunga river, built during the 14th century. It has 12 pillars inside called Rashikambhas and sun's rays fall on a specific pillar in the morning on each solar month. There is the Sachchidananda Vilasa Ashrama, the Kalabhairava temple, and temples built in memory of Narasimha Bharati and Chandrashekara Bharati, the previous pontiffs. The Sringeri Matha grew to be jahgir as Vijayanagara, Mysore, and other families made munificent grants. Tipu also made liberal donations to the matha. Sringeri is a quiet serene place with many guest houses for visitors. It is a centre of Samskrit Learning also.



An imposing architecture of Vidyashankara Temple, Sringeri

Srirangapattana in Mandya district is a holy place. It was also the capital of the Mysore rulers. Under Haider and Tipu, it had a population of 1.50 lakhs. It is 14 km. from Mysore, and is an island in between two branches of the Cauvery. The Ranganath temple here is ascribed to a chieftain who raised it during the 9th Century A.D. Later Hoysala prince Vinayaditya expanded the temple during the 12th Century. The fort here was built in 1454. The Mysore rulers made it their capital in 1610 in the days of Raja Wodeyar, who took it from the Vijayanagara Governor. The Ranganatha temple is called Adi Ranga which has Hoysala, Vijayanagara and later features and the Gppura (entrance) is in Vijayanagara style. Not far away from the



Sri Ranganatha Temple, Srirangapattana

temple is the mosque with twin impressive polygonal minarets. Its suburb, Ganjam has Dariya Daulat palace of Tipu and Gumbaz, the Mausoleum of Haider and Tipu both impressive structures of Indo-Saracenic style. The palace has paintings, fine wood work and it houses a museum. Paschima Vahini (the Western flow) of the river here, has many temples and old rest houses is a very serene place. The Abbe Dubbois Church and Nimishamba temple nearby are worth seeing.

Surpur, is a taluk centre in Gulbarga district, 520 km. from Bangalore. Its real name is Surapur and it was the headquarters of a feudatory Nayakas in the heart of Sagaranaadu. The place has a fine fort but the parts of palaces inside are being dismantled. Its prince Venkatappa Nayaka had revolted against the British in 1858. Meadows Taylor was the Resident here and his residence, Taylor Manzil is now used as a guest house. There is a Gopalaswamy temple in the town.



Gopala Swamy Temple, Surpur

Talakad in Mysore district is a holy place on the banks of the Cauvery, 29 km. from T. Narasipur, its taluk headquarters. It was the second capital of the Gangas. They built the Pataleshwara and the Maruleshwara temples here. Hoysala Vishnuvardhana conquering it from the Cholas, built the Kirti Narayana temple. The Vaidyanatheshwara is another Shiva temple here. The Arkeshwara at Vijayapura not far away from Talakadu, three Shiva temples here and the Mallikarjuna on hill nearby called Mudukutore together are Pancha Lingas and a Jatra in honour of these five Shiva temples is held once in 12 years called Pancha Linga Darshana. Talakadu is full of sands, carried by the wind from the dried bed of the river, which has a bund across it here, built by Madhava Mantri of Vijayanagara during the 14th century. In summer, the dried bed supplies the sand. Excavations conducted recently have brought to light remains of the early centuries of the Christian era which include beads, a gold smelting clin etc., and also the remains of a basadi and two well-like cylindrical structures made by joining earthen rigs.



Keerthinarayana Temple, Talakad (Non Under reconstruction)

Talakaveri is the point of origin of the Cauvery river in Kodagu district, 28 km. from Madikeri on the ranges of the Brahmagiri hill. There is a small square tank from which the Cauvery is believed to emanate and move for some distance as a subterranean flow. There are two shrines dedicated to Ishwara and Ganapathi here. On Tula Sankramana day Cauvery is believed to start her flow afresh from the square tank and a large Jatra takes place here. Brahmagiri has steps from here, and atop the hill there are some remains of sacrificial attar. This quiet resort is amidst hilly forest surroundings. Tinthini, in Surapur taluk of Gulbarga dt, on the bank of Krishna is famous due to the religious harmony. Maunappaiah, the Vishwakarma saint's tomb here is worshipped both by Hindus and Muslims with due respect.



Cauvery Ugamasthana, Talakaveri

Tumkur is the district headquarters, 70 km. to the north of Bangalore. It is called Tummugere' in a 10th Century record. The oldest temple here is Lakshminarayana built in 1560. It came under Mysore during the 17th century when a Maruti temple was built. Nearby Kyatsandra the Siddhaganga Kshetra is situated on a hill. There is a Veerashaiva Matha at Siddhaganga known for its unique educational service. It runs a free hostel feeding nearly 5000 students. It also runs many educational institutions including an engineering college. Siddhaganga has the samadhi of Siddhalingeswara, a Veerashaiva saint and there is a natural spring called Siddhaganga.



Anjaneya Facing the Tank, Tumkur

Udupi, a holy place and now a district headquarters is 58 kms. away from Mangalore. The Krishna temple here built and the main deity of Krishna was installed by Acharya Madhwa (1200-1280 AD) during the 13th century. He founded eight Mathas to conduct the services of Lord Krishna in turns. This changing of turn, Paryaya festival, is held once in two years in January. The place has Kadiyali Durga temple, Ambalapadi Shakti temple, Raghavendra Matha and the Venkataramana swamy temple. *Malpe* a near by port has fine beach and the Vadabhandeshwara temple of Balarama. *Manipal* near



Sri Kirshna, Udupi



Cart Festival, Udupi

Udupi is a great educational centre with a well equipped modern hospital and a pathological museum. It has a deemed University, MARE.

Ulavi in Uttara Kannada, 32 km. from Yellapur can be reached from Haliyal also. It is amidst thick forests, where there is the Samadhi of Chennabasavanna (the nephew of Saint Basaveshwara) who sought shelter here after leaving Kalyana in about 1167 when the Kalachuri king had resorted to a witch hunt against the Sharanas after the death of Bijjala. Gavi Matha here is a series of caves in which the Sharanas lived. One cave is named after Akka Nagamma, Chennabasavanna's mother. The imposing structure here is the Samadhi of Chennabasavanna which has Nandi installed in the sanctum. The *Shikhara* of this sanctum has stucco figures of the Sharanas. The temple was expanded by the Sode rulers. Every month on Poornima days, a jatra is held and the annual jatra is held on Shivaratri days. Hundreds visit the place daily. There are some rest houses for visitors. There is also a fort in ruins called Baburayana Kote.



Chennabasavanna's Temple, Ulavi

Vajrapoha Falls, This scenic place 23 km from Khanapur is situated amidst hilly surroundings of the Jamboti forest, not easily accessible. One has

to travel from Jamboti upto a point four km beyond Chapoli and then cross the river Mahadayi which leads to an elevated flat hillock. The river flowing in a serpentine fashion takes a first jump from a height of about 60 metre forming a milky block and then falls into a rocky valley with thunderous sound. Then the river takes another jump form a height of 50 metres, and the second jump from a height of 50 meters. But the second jump cannot be viewed from this point. The second falls can be reached from Asoga village near Khanapur by walk covering a distance of six km. The place is fit for a visit between November and January.

Yana, A revenue village 24 km from Kumta and 45 km from Sirsi. Yana can be approached from Kumta via Katgal-Harita (on the Kumta- Sirsi road) after taking a deviation to the far left of Harita. One has to walk a distance of 9 km through the irregular forest route which is open only during summer. This leads to a steep valley and then crossing the Vaddi Pass the spot can be reached. The place can also be reached from Sirsi, via the Devimane Ghat and Harita and also from Hegdekatta one can reach by walking nine km crossing the steep ghats. There is no motorable road to reach the place. Standing at the foot of the hill, one can see two beautiful steep hillocks of a height of 90 meters and 120 meters which are locally called Mohini Shikhara and Bhairaveshwara Shikhara respectively. The rocks are a solid composition of black crystalline lime stone whose sides have roughened due to constant exposure to air. A narrow path leads about half way up the side of the huge rock to a big horizontal gap or a deep cave measuring three meters at the entrance. Bees have closely nitted



Mohini and Bhairaveshwara Shikaras, Yana

combs hanging from a ledge high on to the corners of the rocks. In the middle of the cave there is a two meter tall Shivalinga, called Bhairaveshwar and water drips from the hanging rock over the head of the Linga which is described as Gangodbhava. To the south of this is a little cave opening which has the bronze icons of Chandika and Durga. Through the middle of the rocks flows a stream locally called Chandihole or the silver stream and it joins the Aghanashini river at Uppinapattana. According to tradition Bhasmasura who had received super powers from Shiva of reducing to ashes, anything that he could touch, ventured to use this boon against the donor i.e., Shiva who was forced to take shelter in these mountains. Vishnu in the form of a Mohini finally reduced Bhasmasura to ashes. The white ash-like soil found all around the place is ascribed to this burning of the demon. The annual jatra held here during Shivaratri attracts thousands. It is a belief that, people should take bath in 'Danditirtha' (stream) and take the holy waters then on to Gokarna for worshipping Mahabaleshwara there.

Yediyur in Tumkur district (Kunigal taluk) has the samadhi (matha) of Tontada Siddhalingeswara Yati, a famous Veerashaiva saint who lived during the 16th century. The place is 30 km. away from Kunigal, Pilgrims who visit the place in hundreds daily are fed free, and there are rest houses for them. The Matha has a fine wooden chariot (ratha) with some interesting sculptures. The place has a Varadaraja temple and two Veerashaiva Mathas. The Matha's building has some old paintings on walls.



Siddhalingeswara Temple, Yediyur