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Mysuru • 8-10 November 2024

**The Enchanting Songs of Mysuru**

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# *A Musical Tribute to the Timeless Dasa Traditions in Carnatic Music*

*The Dasa tradition in Carnatic music refers to the devotional compositions of the Haridasas, saintly poets from Karnataka, who lived between the 13th and 18th centuries. Key figures like Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa contributed immensely to this tradition. Purandaradasa, often hailed as the "Father of Carnatic Music," systematized the teaching methodology, including fundamental exercises still in use today. The Haridasas' compositions are primarily in Kannada and are marked by their devotion to Lord Vishnu, simple language, and profound spiritual messages.*

*Their music remains integral to Carnatic concerts and devotional settings, deeply influencing the evolution of the genre.*

*Discover the symphony of Mysuru's grand royal past and Carnatic music's timelessness. From 8-10 November 2024, immerse yourself in melodies that transcend time.*





*music*



*crafts*



*divinity*



*heritage*



*literature and  
story telling*



*cuisine*



*shopping*



*culture and tourism*

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# **MYSURU SANGEETHA SUGANDHA 2024**

(8th to 10th NOVEMBER 2024)

Venue: Karnataka State Open University Convocation Hall, Mysuru

## PROGRAM

### DAY 1: FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

10.30 hrs to 10.45 hrs.

**Mangala Vathyam by Mysore Vijay Surya, Mysuru, Karnataka  
Nagaswaram**

10.45 hrs to 11.15 hrs.

**Ensemble by the students of  
Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, Navanihal, Karnataka  
Nadopasana- Carnatic Music**

11.15 hrs to 11.30 hrs

**BREAK**

11.30 hrs to 12.15 hrs

**Students led by  
N.R. Prashanth, Mysuru, Karnataka  
Group Rendering**

#### **INAUGURAL SESSION**

12.15 hrs to 12.20 hrs

**Welcome Address by Smt. V. Vidyavathi,  
Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**

12.20 hrs to 12.30 hrs

**Address by Shri.Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar,  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament**

12.30 hrs to 12.45 hrs

**Address by Shri.Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State (Tourism)**

12.45 hrs to 13.05 hrs

**Address by Shri.Siddaramaiah,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka**

13.05 hrs to 13.30 hrs

**Presidential Address by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,  
Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Minister  
of Corporate Affairs, Government of India**

13.30 hrs to 13.35 hrs

**Vote by Thanks by Smt. Mugdha Sinha,  
Director General (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**

13.35 hrs to 14.30 hrs

**LUNCH BREAK**

14.30 hrs to 15.15 hrs

**Mysore Vasudevacharya's Compositions  
Ballary M. Raghavendra, Mysuru, Karnataka  
Lecture Demonstration**

15.15 hrs to 16.00 hrs

**T.S. Sathyavathy, Bengaluru, Karnataka  
Carnatic Vocal Music**

16.00 hrs to 16.15 hrs

**BREAK**

16.15 hrs to 17.15 hrs

**T.R. Srinath & Group, Bengaluru, Karnataka  
Carnatic Instrumental Flute Ensemble**

17.15 hrs to 18.15 hrs

**R.K. Padmanabha, Bengaluru, Karnataka  
Carnatic Vocal Music**

18.15 hrs to 19.15 hrs

**Malladi Brothers**

**M. Sreerama Prasad & M. Ravi Kumar Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh  
Carnatic Vocal Music**

19.15 hrs to 20.15 hrs

**Mysuru Nagaraj & Mysuru Manjunath, Bengaluru, Karnataka  
Carnatic Instrumental Violin Duet**

20.15 hrs to 21.15 hrs

**Sudha Raghunathan, Chennai, Tamil Nadu  
Carnatic Vocal Music**



**DAY 2: SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2024**

09.00 hrs to 09.15 hrs  
**Vijay Surya, Mysuru, Karnataka**  
*Nagaswaram*

09.15 hrs to 10.00 hrs  
**Students led by R.N. Sreelatha, Mysuru, Karnataka**  
*Group Rendering*

10.00 hrs to 10.45 hrs  
**Compositions of Purandara Dasa Aravinda Hebbar, Udupi, Karnataka**  
*Lecture Demonstration*

10.45 hrs to 11.30 hrs  
**Mysore D. Balakrishna, Mysuru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Instrumental Veena*

11.30 hrs to 11.45 hrs  
**BREAK**

11.45 hrs to 12.30 hrs  
**Srikantam Nagendra Sastry, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Lecture Demonstration on Mysore Composers*

12.30 hrs to 14.00 hrs  
**BREAK**

14.00 hrs to 14.45 hrs  
**Mohan Kumar Dasarum Tumkur, Tumkur, Karnataka**  
*Harikatha*

14.45 hrs to 15.30 hrs  
**Vijayalakshmi Suresh Balekundre, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Lecture Demonstration on Akka Mahadevi*

15.30 hrs to 15.45 hrs  
**BREAK**

16.45 hrs to 16.30 hrs  
**T.K. Ramachandran, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

16.30 hrs to 17.15 hrs  
**Manasi Prasad, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

17.15 hrs to 18.00 hrs  
**K. Gayathri, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

18.00 hrs to 18.45 hrs  
**S. Shankar, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*



**DAY 3: SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2024**

09.00 hrs to 09.45 hrs  
**Suma Sudhindra, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Instrumental Music- Veena*

09.45 hrs to 10.30 hrs  
**Shri Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar compositions Sukanya Prabhakar, Mysore, Karnataka**  
*Lecture Demonstration*

10.30 hrs to 11.15 hrs  
**M.S. Sheela, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

11.15 hrs to 12.00 hrs  
**BREAK**

12.00 hrs to 12.45 hrs  
**Rudrapatnam Brothers**  
**R N Thyagarajan & R N Tharanathan, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

12.45 hrs to 14.00 hrs  
**BREAK**

14.00 hrs to 14.45 hrs  
**Sarvamangala Shankar, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Talk on Basavanna*

14.45 hrs to 15.00 hrs  
**BREAK**

15.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs  
**Students led by Pattabhi Rama Pandit TS, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Group Rendering*

16.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs  
**Nagamani Srinath, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

17.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs  
**Valedictory Function – Chief Guest Shri. Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka**

18.00 hrs to 19.00 hrs  
**Amrutha Venkatesh, Bengaluru, Karnataka**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

19.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs  
**Sandeep Narayan, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**  
*Carnatic Vocal Music*

20.00 hrs to 21.00 hrs  
**Prize Distribution and Closing Ceremony**

# ***The Masters of Carnatic Music***

The festival brings together an eclectic blend of the masters of Carnatic music who excel in the Dasa tradition - from vocals to folk to instrumental and beyond.



### **T.S. SATHYAVATHY**

Sathyavathi trained under her sister and later R. K. Srikantan in Carnatic vocal music. She developed expertise in musicology under B. V. K. Sastry and Mridangam under K. Venkataraman. A seasoned performer at national and international venues, she first performed at 16 in Karnataka Ganakala Parishat, Bengaluru.



### **M. RAGHAVENDRA**

A Carnatic vocalist from Karnataka, Raghavendra holds degrees in commerce and music. He served in All India Radio, eventually becoming Assistant Station Director. Known for his lyrical clarity and emotional depth, he is an "A" grade artist. He now lives in Mysore after retiring from AIR.



### **T.R. SRINATH & GROUP**

T. R. Srinath began flute lessons at eight, later studying under renowned flautists and vocalists. Winning first prize in AIR Music Competitions in 1976, he became a graded AIR artist. An “A” grade artist since 1988, he has performed at prestigious venues in India and internationally.



### **N.R. PRASHANTH**

Prashanth, a B-High artist of All India Radio, trained under esteemed teachers like R. K. Padmanabha and Smt. Neela Ramgopal. A dedicated performer, he taught Carnatic music in Singapore, rising to Academy Registrar. An engineer by education, he now performs at prestigious forums globally.





### **R.K. PADMANABHA**

RKP is a renowned Carnatic vocalist, performer, and music teacher from Karnataka. He established the “Sapta Swara Devatha Dhyana Mandira” to honor musicians. Since 2004, he has been the President of Karnataka Ganakala Parishat. RKP has received the Kempegowda Award and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.



### **THE MALLADI BROTHERS**

Malladi Sreeramprasad and Malladi Ravikumar are a Carnatic music vocalist duo. They started their music education under Malladi Sriramurthy and Malladi Suri Babu, their grandfather and father respectively. Subsequently they studied under Sripada Pinakapani, Nedunuri Krishnamurthy and Voleti Venkatesvarulu.



## **SUDHA RAḠUNATHAN**

received her initial training in Carnatic music from her mother V. Choodamani. From the age of three, she began to learn bhajans, Hindu devotional songs. Her tutelage continued under B. V. Lakshman. In 1977, she received an Indian government scholarship to study music under a doyenne of Carnatic music, Dr. M.L Vasantha Kumari, whose student she remained for thirteen years.



## **VIJAYSURYA**

Shri Vijaysurya, born on July 16, 1996, is a highly talented and versatile musician, renowned for his exceptional Nadaswaram performances. Encouraged by his parents, he has mastered multiple instruments, including flute, saxophone, and clarinet. Vijaysurya is celebrated for blending traditional melodies with various genres in his performances.



**R.N. SREELATHA**

An “A top” grade Carnatic vocalist, Dr. R. N. Sreelatha has performed on prestigious platforms worldwide. As Karnataka’s first woman with a doctoral degree in Carnatic music, she has guided multiple PhD students. She also serves as a member of the Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy.

**ARAVINDA HEBBAR**

A retired Botany professor, V. Aravinda Hebbar is passionate about promoting music. He has authored books on botany and music and founded the ‘Raga Dhana’ initiative. Hebbar also leads ‘The Lathangi School of Music’ in Udupi and is currently a member of Karnataka Sangeeta Nritya Academy.



### **SRIKANTAM NAGENDRA SASTRY**

Vid. Dr. Srikantham Nagendra Shastry belongs to the esteemed Chintalapalli Parampara. Trained under his grandfather, uncle, and other renowned teachers, he mastered various aspects of music and tala techniques. A respected performer and scholar, Shastry has delivered lectures and concerts at prestigious platforms across India.



### **MOHAN KUMAR DASARU TUMKUR**

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### **VIJAYALAKSHMI SURESH BALEKUNDRE**

Dr. Vijaya is Karnataka's first lady cardiologist and pioneer in pediatric cardiology. Formerly Professor and HOD at Sri Jayadeva Institute, she is a brilliant academic with 39 gold medals and pioneering work in acute rheumatic fever. Author of key medical texts, she has received 68 awards, including the Rajyotsava award.



### **T.K. RAMACHANDRAN**

A 1991 batch IAS officer, T. K. Ramachandran has served the Tamil Nadu government in various capacities. A B.Tech and M. Tech graduate, he is also a Carnatic vocalist, trained by Chitraveena Ravikiran and Sangeeta Kalanidhi T. Brinda. He has performed extensively across India.



## MANASI PRASAD

Manasi, a Carnatic vocalist, has performed at prestigious venues worldwide, including Madras Music Academy and Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival. An ICCR-empaneled artist, she has toured six continents. With over 25 years of experience, she is a celebrated performer in India, the U.S., Europe, and beyond.



## K. GAYATHRI

Smt. Gayatri, a disciple of Suguna Purushothaman and Suguna Varadachari, is an award-winning Carnatic vocalist. She has received multiple Senior Best Vocalist awards and is noted for her pallavi renditions. A Master of Philosophy in Music, she is currently pursuing a PhD in Carnatic music.



### **S. SHANKAR**

Vidwan S. Shankar, a Carnatic vocalist, trained under his mother and Smt. Nagarathna Bai. An AIR "A top" grade artist, he has performed extensively in India and the U.S. Known for his robust voice and mastery over raga renditions, he has also directed music for AIR and Doordarshan.



### **SUMA SUDHINDRA**

Suma Sudhindra is an acclaimed veena exponent in the Carnatic genre. Trained by Raja Rao and Chitti Babu, she received the Rajyotsava Award in 2001. Based in Bangalore, she is passionate about music and an avid bonsai collector. Her spouse is a dentist, and she has two daughters.



### **SUKANYA PRABHAKAR**

Dr. Sukanya Prabhakar is a highly accomplished Carnatic vocalist with over 40 years of concert experience. An “A” grade artist with All India Radio and Doordarshan, she has also directed numerous musical features for All India Radio. In addition to her performances, Dr. Sukanya has authored several authoritative books on music and serves as the publisher of Surabhi Sinchana, a respected quarterly music magazine. Her contributions to the field have earned her numerous prestigious awards and accolades, affirming her prominent position in the world of classical music.



### **M.S. SHEELA**

M. S. Sheela, a Carnatic and devotional singer, is an AIR and Doordarshan artist. A disciple of R. K. Srikantan, she received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2019. Her singing spans classical, light music, and devotional genres, making her a celebrated vocalist in India.





### **R N THYAGARAJAN & R N THARANATHAN**

Rudrapatnam Brothers, R. N. Thyagarajan and Dr. R. N. Tharanathan, are a renowned Carnatic vocal duo from Karnataka. Hailing from a family of musicians, they were awarded the Padma Shri in 2018, becoming the first Carnatic vocal duo to receive the honor from the Government of India.



### **SARVAMANGALA SHANKAR**

Dr. Sarvamangala Shankar is a music educator and organizer, having completed her M.A. in Music from Bengaluru University. She has led music workshops and events across Karnataka, promoting classical music education. She has also served as a member of the Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy.



### **PATTABHI RAMA PANDIT TS**

T. S. Pattabhirama Pandit is a traditional Carnatic vocalist trained by masters like K.V. Narayanaswamy. An AIR “A” grade artist, he has performed at prestigious festivals in India and abroad. His repertoire includes compositions from the Trinity and other renowned composers.



### **NAGAMANI SRINATH**

Dr. G. N. Nagamani Srinath is an acclaimed Carnatic vocalist and AIR “A Top” artist. Known for her rich voice, orthodoxy, and improvisational prowess, she has performed internationally. With over 55 years of experience, she has carved a distinct niche in Carnatic music as a teacher, composer, and concert performer.



### **AMRUTHA VENKATESH**

Amrutha Venkatesh, a celebrated Carnatic vocalist, has performed extensively in India and the U.S. She is known for her analytical approach and versatile repertoire. An AIR "A Top" artist, she is also a composer and tunes compositions by various masters.



### **SANDEEP NARAYAN**

Sandeep Narayan, born in the U.S., is a leading Carnatic vocalist. He trained under Shri KS Krishnamurthy and Shri Sanjay Subrahmanyam. After completing his studies in California, he moved to Chennai in 2002 to pursue music full-time. He is now a globally recognized performer and teacher.



### **D. BALAKRISHNA**

D. Balakrishna, a Carnatic veena artist, was trained by his father, the legendary Doraiswamy Iyengar. His first stage performance was in 1975. An AIR “top grade” artist, he has performed at prestigious venues, including the Madras Music Season, and continues the rich Mysore veena tradition.



### **MYSORE BROTHERS**

The violinist duo, Mysore Nagaraj and Mysore Manjunath, trained under their father, violinist Sri Mahadevappa. Known for their performances worldwide, they received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2017. They have also conducted academic workshops at prestigious universities across the U.S., Japan, Europe, and Australia.



### **ARCHANA AND SAMANVI**

Archana and Samanvi have performed over 100 concerts across prestigious stages in cities like Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore. They have graced renowned Sabhas such as Music Academy and Krishna Gana Sabha. Co-authors of Keerthanas of Karnataka, they've also released 101 compositions on YouTube under the 'Daasaarchane Project.'



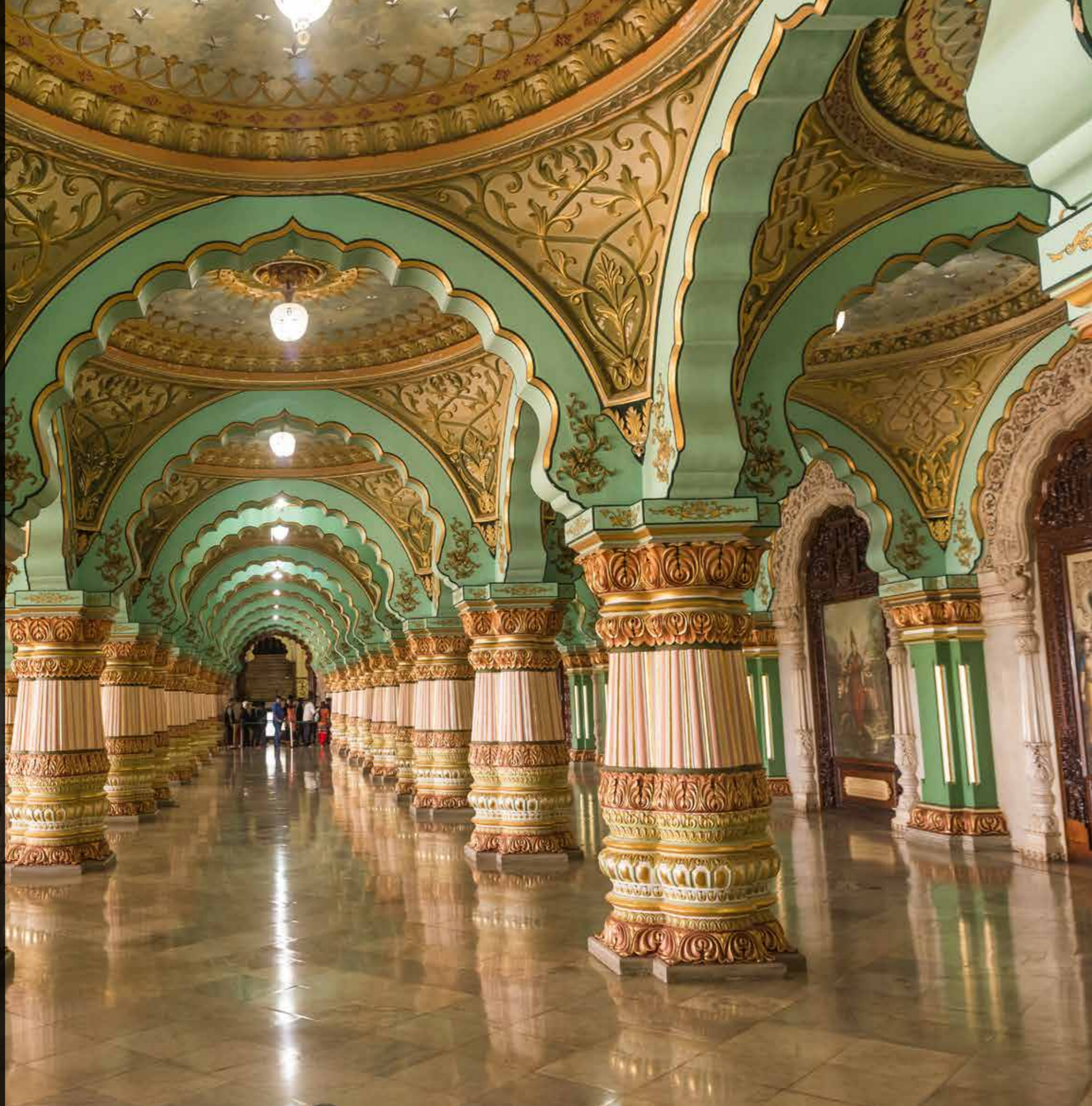
### **ABHIRAMA BODE**

Vidwan Abhirama Bode is a renowned Carnatic vocalist, trained under Vidushi R A Ramamani and Vidwan T A S Mani. A B-High graded AIR artist, he has performed widely across India and abroad. Recipient of awards like the DK Pattammal Award, he is currently an Assistant Professor at Sri Sathya Sai University.



# The Story of Mysuru

Mysore, now officially called Mysuru, has a rich and complex history that stretches over several centuries. Once the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore, the city has played a central role in the region's political, cultural, and economic development.



# The Story of Mysuru



“THE WODEYARS, ORIGINALLY FEUDAL LORDS UNDER THE VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE, GRADUALLY GREW IN POWER AND ESTABLISHED THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AFTER THE FALL OF VIJAYANAGARA IN THE MID-16TH CENTURY”

## The History of Mysore: From Kingdom to Cultural Hub

Mysore, now officially called Mysuru, has a rich and complex history that stretches over several centuries. Once the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore, the city has played a central role in the region’s political, cultural, and economic development. Its history is marked by the rise and fall of dynasties, colonial influence, and its eventual transformation into a cultural hub known for its palaces, art, and festivals.

## Early Beginnings and the Wodeyar Dynasty

Mysore’s history is deeply intertwined with the Wodeyar dynasty, which ruled the region for more than 500 years. The city’s earliest historical records date back to the 9th century, when the Ganga dynasty held sway in the region. However, the foundation for what Mysore would become was laid in the late 14th century when the Wodeyars established their kingdom.

The Wodeyars, originally feudal lords under the Vijayanagara Empire, gradually grew in power and established their sovereignty after the fall of Vijayanagara in the mid-16th century. In 1610, Raja Wodeyar I moved the capital from Srirangapatna to Mysore, marking the city’s transformation into the seat of power for the growing kingdom. Under the Wodeyars, Mysore expanded its territory, and the city began to flourish as a center of culture and commerce. The Wodeyar rulers were known for their patronage of the arts, literature, and

architecture, setting the foundation for Mysore’s later reputation as a cultural hub.

## Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan: The Rise of Mysore’s Power

The 18th century brought a dramatic shift in Mysore’s history, marked by the rise of Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan, two of the most formidable leaders in South Indian history. Hyder Ali, a military leader under the Wodeyars, seized control of Mysore in 1761, effectively sidelining the Wodeyar rulers. Under his leadership, Mysore grew into a powerful kingdom, rivaling the British, Marathas, and the Nizam of Hyderabad in military strength.

Tipu Sultan, known as the Tiger of Mysore, succeeded his father in 1782 and continued to strengthen Mysore’s position as a major power in southern India. He was a fierce opponent of British expansion and engaged in several wars with the British East India Company, known as the Anglo-Mysore Wars. Tipu Sultan’s administration is remembered for his modern reforms, including attempts at industrialization, military modernization, and foreign alliances, as well as his support for religious tolerance.

Despite his efforts, Tipu Sultan was killed in 1799 during the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War when British forces, allied with the Marathas and Nizam, stormed his capital at Srirangapatna. His death marked the end of Mysore as a major independent power, and the British reinstated the Wodeyars as

nominal rulers under British suzerainty.

## Mysore Under British Rule and the Modern Wodeyars

After Tipu Sultan’s defeat, the British installed the Wodeyar dynasty as rulers of Mysore, though the kingdom was now a princely state under British control. The Wodeyars, under British supervision, ruled the state from the early 19th century until India’s independence in 1947. During this period, Mysore became one of the most progressive princely states in India. The reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV (1902–1940) is often considered a golden era for Mysore. Under his rule, Mysore became known for its modern infrastructure, progressive policies, and patronage of the arts. The king implemented far-reaching social and economic reforms, including investments in education, public health, and industry, earning the city the nickname “Model State” for its progressive administration. During his reign, several institutions, including the University of Mysore and the Mysore Palace, were established, further cementing the city’s importance.

## Post-Independence Era

After India gained independence in 1947, Mysore became part of the newly formed Indian Union. The princely state of Mysore was merged with the Union of India, and in 1956, the reorganization of states based on linguistic lines led to the creation of the state of Karnataka, with Mysore as one of its key cities.

In 2014, the city officially reverted to its traditional name, Mysuru. Today, Mysuru is known for its cultural heritage, educational institutions, and thriving tourism industry. Its annual Dasara festival remains one of the grandest celebrations in India, continuing a legacy of grandeur that has defined the city for centuries.

From its early days as the capital of a small kingdom to its emergence as a powerful state under Tipu Sultan and the Wodeyars, Mysore’s history is a tale of resilience, cultural patronage, and progress. Today, Mysuru stands as a symbol of Karnataka’s rich cultural legacy and continues to attract visitors with its historical landmarks, palaces, and traditions.



# Des voyages Fabuleux

Mysuru (or Mysore), known for its palaces, cultural heritage, and the grandeur of the annual Dussehra festival, attracts visitors from across the world





## Des Voyages Fabuleux



“FOR THOSE SEEKING TO STEP OFF THE BEATEN PATH, THESE ATTRACTIONS ARE WELL WORTH DISCOVERING.”

### **Discovering Mysuru's Hidden Gems: Offbeat Attractions in the City**

Mysuru (or Mysore), known for its palaces, cultural heritage, and the grandeur of the annual Dussehra festival, attracts visitors from across the world. The iconic Mysore Palace, Chamundi Hill, and Brindavan Gardens are the staple highlights of any travel itinerary. However, beneath the surface of these popular attractions lie lesser-known gems that offer a quieter, more intimate experience of the city's charm. This essay explores some of Mysuru's lesser-visited sites, which provide a refreshing perspective on the city's rich history, natural beauty, and cultural depth.

### **Railway Museum: A Journey Through India's Rail Heritage**

One of the less frequented attractions in Mysuru is the Railway Museum, a delightful spot for history and engineering enthusiasts. Located near the Mysuru Junction Railway Station, this museum provides insight into the evolution of railways in India. Established in 1979, it houses an impressive collection of vintage locomotives, carriages, and rare photographs documenting the growth of rail transport in the country. Visitors can view the first steam engines, luxurious royal carriages, and even take a short joy ride on a mini-train within the premises.

Though not as famous as the Mysuru Palace, the Railway Museum offers a unique glimpse into a key chapter of India's industrial history. The peaceful environment and uncrowded spaces make it a great spot for a family outing, especially for those curious about the heritage of India's railways.

### **Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion: A Royal Residence Turned Museum**

Mysuru's reputation as the city of palaces extends beyond the grand Mysore Palace. The Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, perched on a hill within the campus of the University of Mysore, is a hidden treasure that many tourists overlook. Once the residence of Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar's daughter, Princess Jayalakshmi, this mansion is now a museum that showcases an impressive collection of artifacts related to Karnataka's folk and performing arts.

The museum highlights ancient folk instruments, costumes, and historical artifacts, preserving the cultural heritage of Karnataka. The architecture of the mansion itself is an amalgamation of European and Indian styles, with intricate woodwork, stained glass windows, and expansive courtyards. Though it is often missed by tourists who flock to the main palace, Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion provides a more intimate look at Mysuru's royal history and its deep cultural roots.

### **Lingabudi Lake: A Serene Nature Escape**

For nature lovers, Mysuru offers several serene spots that are often overshadowed by the city's urban attractions. Lingabudi Lake, located in the southwest part of the city, is one such tranquil haven. Unlike the more frequented Karanji Lake, Lingabudi Lake is a lesser-known wetland area that serves as a biodiversity hotspot, particularly for birdwatchers. The lake is surrounded by dense vegetation and attracts a variety of bird species, including herons, egrets, and kingfishers, making it an excellent location

for bird photography.

The peaceful environment and natural beauty of Lingabudi Lake offer a perfect respite from the bustling city. Early mornings or late afternoons are ideal times to visit, when the lake is especially picturesque, with migratory birds flying over the still waters and the surrounding greenery bathed in soft sunlight.

### **St. Philomena's Church: A Gothic Architectural Marvel**

While St. Philomena's Church is one of the largest churches in India, it remains less crowded compared to some of Mysuru's more central attractions. This towering Gothic structure, inspired by the Cologne Cathedral in Germany, features impressive stained-glass windows and intricate stone carvings. Built in 1936, the church is dedicated to St. Philomena, a 3rd-century saint and martyr.

Visitors are often struck by the grandeur of the church's architecture, including twin spires that rise over 175 feet into the sky. The calm and reverential atmosphere inside the church contrasts with the busyness of the surrounding city, providing a peaceful retreat for those seeking spiritual solace or simply wishing to admire the artistry of Gothic design.

### **Shuka Vana: A Paradise for Bird Lovers**

Mysuru is home to the unique Shuka Vana, a bird sanctuary located within the premises of the Avadhoota Datta Peetham ashram. This sanctuary, founded by Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, is

home to over 2,000 parrots from 450 species. What makes Shuka Vana particularly special is its focus on caring for injured and orphaned birds.

Visitors to Shuka Vana can witness an astounding variety of colourful and exotic parrots, some of which are rare and endangered. The sanctuary also promotes environmental awareness, teaching visitors about the importance of protecting bird habitats. Though it may not be as famous as the Mysuru Zoo, Shuka Vana is a paradise for bird enthusiasts and nature lovers.

### **Melody World Wax Museum: A Musical Journey Through Wax Sculptures**

While wax museums may not be a new concept, the Melody World Wax Museum in Mysuru offers a unique twist by focusing exclusively on music and musical instruments. Situated in the heart of the city, this museum features life-sized wax figures of musicians from different genres, along with over 100 musical instruments from around the world.

The museum takes visitors on a journey through various musical traditions, from Indian classical to jazz, rock, and tribal music. Each exhibit is meticulously designed to reflect the musical style it represents, making this museum a hidden gem for both music lovers and those interested in cultural history.

7. Walking beside Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Lake, located near the famous Brindavan Gardens, offers a peaceful and scenic escape from the city's bustling attractions.

The lake, formed by the KRS Dam on the river Cauvery, is a serene expanse of water surrounded by lush greenery. As you stroll along its shores, you can enjoy the gentle breeze and the tranquil ambiance, with stunning views of the sunset reflecting on the water. Birdwatchers may spot various migratory species around the lake, making it a perfect destination for nature lovers and those seeking quiet contemplation in the beauty of Mysuru's landscape.

**A visit to Nagarhole National Park** (also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park) offers an exciting wildlife experience just a short drive from Mysuru. Nestled in the foothills of the Western Ghats, this sanctuary is a UNESCO World Heritage site and part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Rich in biodiversity, Nagarhole is home to elephants, tigers, leopards, and over 250 species of birds. Visitors can explore the park through guided jeep safaris or boat rides along the Kabini River, offering a chance to witness wildlife in its natural habitat. The park's dense forests, flowing streams, and diverse wildlife make it a must-visit for nature and adventure enthusiasts.

While Mysuru's famous landmarks continue to draw visitors from around the globe, the city's less visited sites provide equally enriching experiences. From quiet lakes and historical mansions to unique museums and bird sanctuaries, these offbeat destinations offer a more tranquil and authentic experience of Mysuru. Exploring these hidden gems allows visitors to delve deeper into the city's history, culture, and natural beauty, revealing facets of Mysuru that are often overlooked.

# Flavours of Mysore's Kitchen

Mysuru, known for its rich cultural heritage, offers a culinary experience that reflects its traditional roots and diverse influences.



## Flavours of Mysore's Kitchen



“MYSURU, KNOWN FOR ITS RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, OFFERS A CULINARY EXPERIENCE THAT REFLECTS ITS TRADITIONAL ROOTS AND DIVERSE INFLUENCES”

Mysuru, known for its rich cultural heritage, offers a culinary experience that reflects its traditional roots and diverse influences. The city's cuisine is a blend of Karnataka's flavors, with an emphasis on local ingredients, subtle spices, and age-old recipes. Here's a glimpse into some of Mysuru's most iconic dishes.

### **Mysore Masala Dosa**

One of Mysuru's most beloved dishes is the Mysore Masala Dosa, a crisp rice crepe spread with a spicy red chutney and filled with a potato masala. It's typically served with coconut chutney and a tangy sambar, making it a must-try for breakfast or a light meal.

### **Mysore Pak**

Perhaps the most famous culinary export from Mysuru is the sweet treat Mysore Pak. Made from ghee, sugar, and gram flour, it has a rich, melt-in-the-mouth texture that has delighted both locals and visitors for over a century.

### **Ragi Mudde**

A staple in Karnataka, Ragi Mudde (millet balls) is popular in Mysuru as well. This simple and nutritious dish is often served with sambar, yogurt, or a spicy curry, reflecting the traditional, rustic cuisine of the region.

### **Bisi Bele Bath**

Bisi Bele Bath, a flavorful rice dish cooked with lentils, vegetables, and a special spice mix, is a popular comfort food in Mysuru. The dish is often served with a side of crunchy papad or fried snacks.

### **5. Chiroti**

Chiroti is a traditional layered pastry made from flour and sugar, deep-fried to a crispy texture and sprinkled with powdered sugar or soaked in cardamom-flavored milk. It's a delicate, festive sweet that holds a special place in Mysuru's culinary heritage.

Mysuru's cuisine is a reflection of the region's history, using simple ingredients to create dishes that are flavorful, comforting, and full of tradition. Whether it's the spiced savory offerings or the rich sweets, the food of Mysuru offers a delightful culinary journey for anyone visiting the city.



# A Shoppers' Paradise

A Shopper's Guide to Mysuru: Discovering Local Treasures  
Mysuru, often referred to as the cultural capital of Karnataka, is not just famous for its royal heritage, but also for its vibrant shopping scene.



## A Shoppers' Paradise



“A SHOPPER’S GUIDE TO MYSURU: DISCOVERING LOCAL TREASURES MYSURU, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF KARNATAKA, IS NOT JUST FAMOUS FOR ITS ROYAL HERITAGE, BUT ALSO FOR ITS VIBRANT SHOPPING SCENE.”

### **A Shopper’s Guide to Mysuru: Discovering Local Treasures**

Mysuru, often referred to as the cultural capital of Karnataka, is not just famous for its royal heritage, but also for its vibrant shopping scene. The city’s bustling markets, handicrafts, and locally made goods offer a unique blend of tradition and craftsmanship. Shopping in Mysuru is a delight for those looking to explore both traditional and contemporary items that reflect the city’s rich cultural roots. Whether you are searching for silks, sandalwood products, or local snacks, Mysuru offers an array of treasures that cater to every kind of shopper.

#### **Mysore Silk: A Timeless Classic**

One of the most iconic items to buy in Mysuru is Mysore silk. Known for its rich texture and intricate designs, Mysore silk sarees are made from pure silk and embellished with real gold zari (thread). The fabric has been a symbol of royal elegance for centuries, with the tradition of silk weaving in Mysuru dating back to the time of the Wodeyar dynasty.

A visit to the KSIC Mysore Silk Showroom on Sayyaji Rao Road offers a chance to purchase authentic silk sarees directly from the government-run Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC). The silk here is renowned for its high quality, luxurious sheen, and intricate borders, making it a prized possession for saree lovers and a perfect gift for special occasions.

### **Sandalwood Products: A Fragrant Souvenir**

Mysuru is also world-famous for its sandalwood products. The region’s high-quality Mysore sandalwood has been prized for its fragrance and used in the making of perfumes, soaps, oils, and carved artifacts. Shopping for sandalwood products in Mysuru is a must, with items like sandalwood oil, incense sticks, and sandalwood figurines making for perfect souvenirs.

Head to the Cauvery Handicrafts Emporium, a government-run store that offers a wide selection of authentic sandalwood products. Whether it’s a small piece of sandalwood soap or a beautifully carved sandalwood statue, these items capture the essence of Mysuru’s artisanal heritage.

#### **Channapatna Toys: Handmade Craftsmanship**

Another unique item to pick up in Mysuru is the colorful, hand-crafted Channapatna toys, which are made in the nearby town of Channapatna. These toys are traditionally crafted from wood and painted with natural dyes, making them eco-friendly and safe for children. Available in a variety of shapes, including animals, vehicles, and traditional dolls, these toys are a delightful keepsake for both children and adults alike. You can find Channapatna toys in many handicraft stores around Mysuru, including at Cauvery Emporium, which supports local artisans by showcasing their handmade goods.

### **Mysuru’s Delectable Delights: Sweet Treats**

No shopping trip in Mysuru is complete without indulging in some local snacks and sweets. Mysore Pak, a rich and buttery sweet made from ghee, gram flour, and sugar, is the city’s most famous treat. First created in the royal kitchen of the Mysore Palace, Mysore Pak is a must-try for anyone visiting the city. Popular shops like Guru Sweets and Nandini Sweets are well-known for selling authentic Mysore Pak that melts in your mouth.

Besides sweets, Mysuru also offers a range of local spices, coffees, and traditional snacks that make great culinary souvenirs.

#### **Local Markets: Vibrant and Colorful**

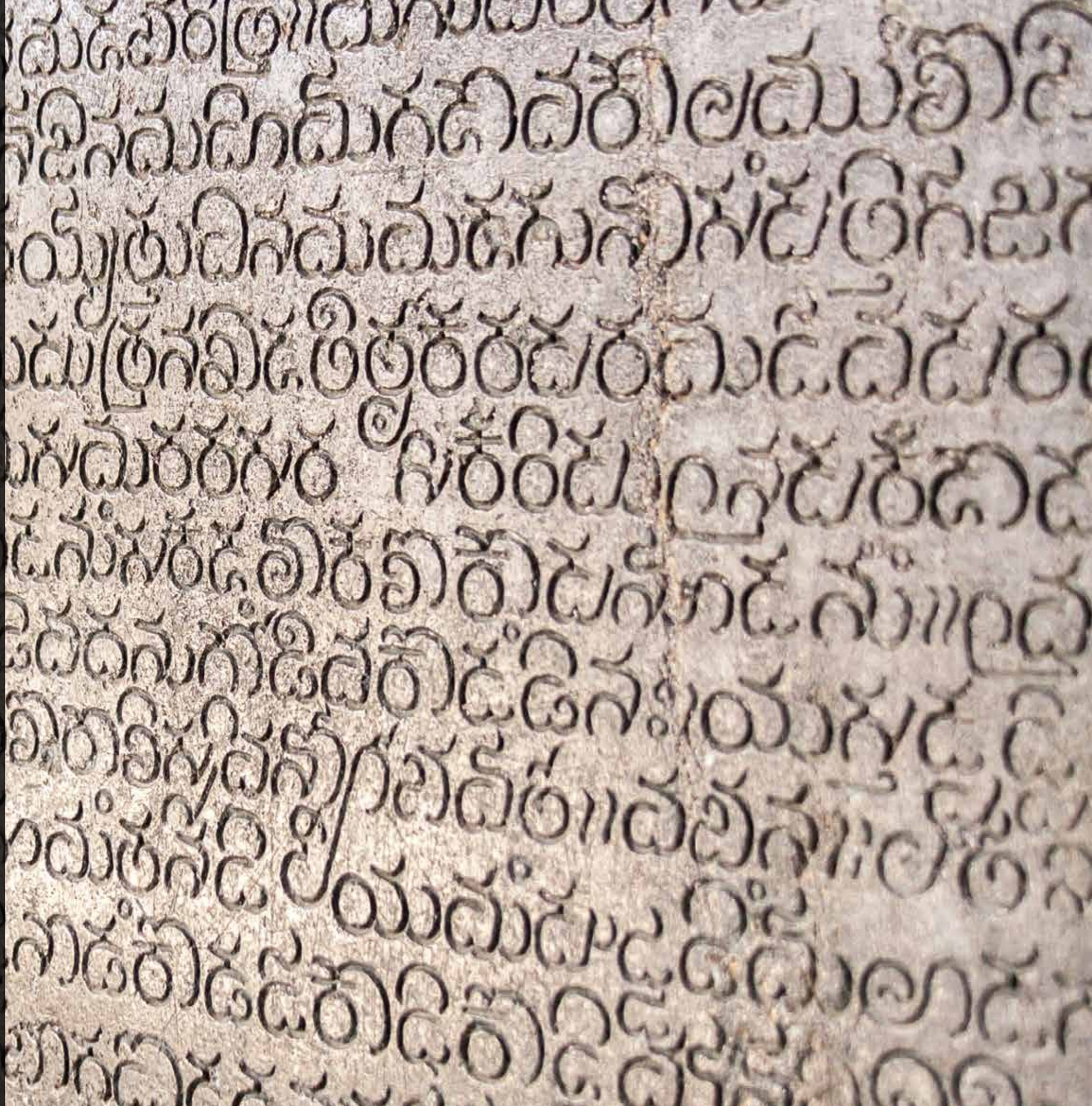
To experience the true essence of shopping in Mysuru, a visit to the Devaraja Market is a must. This vibrant, bustling marketplace is a sensory delight, with rows of vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, and traditional items like kumkum (vermillion), incense, and bangles. The market is also a great place to buy fresh spices and essential oils, both of which are central to Mysuru’s rich culinary and wellness traditions.

For those looking for traditional handicrafts, jewellery, or textiles, the Ashoka Road area offers plenty of local shops and boutiques that sell handcrafted items at reasonable prices.

Shopping in Mysuru is a cultural experience in itself, offering a window into the city’s rich heritage and artisanal craftsmanship. From the luxurious feel of Mysore silk sarees to the fragrance of sandalwood products and the vibrancy of local markets, the city is a shopper’s paradise. Whether you’re buying souvenirs for loved ones or indulging in traditional crafts for yourself, Mysuru’s shopping destinations provide a unique opportunity to take home a piece of its cultural legacy.

# Kannada Language and Literature

Kannada, the official language of Karnataka, is one of the oldest Dravidian languages and has a literary history that spans over 2,000 years.



# Kannada Language and Literature



“KANNADA, THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF KARNATAKA, IS ONE OF THE OLDEST DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES AND HAS A LITERARY HISTORY THAT SPANS OVER 2,000 YEARS.”

## **Kannada Language and Literature: A Rich Cultural Heritage**

Kannada, the official language of Karnataka, is one of the oldest Dravidian languages and has a literary history that spans over 2,000 years. It is spoken by nearly 45 million people worldwide, and its literature is renowned for its diversity, richness, and cultural depth. From ancient inscriptions to modern poetry, Kannada has developed through multiple stages, influenced by the dynasties that ruled the region, as well as the religious, cultural, and social movements that shaped Karnataka's history.

### **Origins and Evolution of Kannada**

The origins of Kannada can be traced back to its Proto-Dravidian roots. It has evolved over several centuries, transitioning through various stages like Old Kannada, Middle Kannada, and Modern Kannada. The earliest known records of the language are found in Halmidi, a small village in Karnataka, where a stone inscription dated to the 5th century CE contains one of the earliest known written forms of Kannada.

Old Kannada (roughly from the 6th to the 12th century CE) was the language of administration and culture during the reign of the powerful dynasties of Karnataka, such as the Kadambas and the Chalukyas. Many inscriptions from this period showcase the use of Kannada in royal decrees and temple inscriptions, marking the rise of Kannada as a written language.

Middle Kannada (12th to 18th century)

saw the development of literary styles and the influence of Jainism, which played a significant role in shaping early Kannada literature.

### **Jain Influence and Early Literature**

The early Kannada literature was deeply influenced by Jainism, especially during the reign of the Rashtrakuta and Hoysala dynasties. Jain scholars contributed significantly to Kannada's literary landscape, producing religious texts, poetry, and philosophical works. The 10th-century poet Pampa, considered one of the greatest early Kannada poets, wrote the epic Adipurana, a retelling of the Jain version of the Ramayana. Along with Ponna and Ranna, Pampa is part of the “Three Gems of Kannada Literature” (Ratnatraya) from this era.

These early writers laid the foundation for classical Kannada literature, focusing on themes of ethics, philosophy, and devotion. Jain influence is also evident in Vachana Sahitya, a form of short, pithy prose that later became a hallmark of Kannada literature.

### **Bhakti Movement and Vachana Literature**

By the 12th century, the Bhakti movement—a spiritual movement that emphasized personal devotion to God—had a profound impact on Kannada literature. This period saw the rise of Vachana literature, with poets like Basavanna, Akkamahadevi, and Allama Prabhu contributing powerful compositions in praise of Shiva. Vachanas were simple yet profound, often written

in free verse, rejecting complex Sanskrit traditions in favor of direct expressions of devotion and social equality.

These vachanas were revolutionary, not only for their literary value but also for their progressive ideas on caste, gender, and religion. They continue to resonate in contemporary Kannada literature and social thought.

### **Modern Kannada Literature**

In the 20th century, Kannada literature witnessed a renaissance, marked by the emergence of several notable writers who experimented with themes of modernity, social change, and individualism. Writers like Kuvempu, Karnataka's first Jnanpith Award laureate, played a pivotal role in shaping modern Kannada literature. Kuvempu's works, such as Sri Ramayana Darshanam, reinterpreted traditional epics through a contemporary lens.

The Navodaya (new dawn) literary movement in the early 20th century, driven by nationalistic and reformist ideas, pushed Kannada literature into new realms of thought. Bendre, Shivaram Karanth, and Gopalakrishna Adiga are among the luminaries who contributed to Kannada's poetic and literary traditions during this time. Modern Kannada literature encompasses various genres, including novels, short stories, plays, and poetry, and addresses themes of rural life, urbanization, politics,

and identity. Authors like U.R. Ananthamurthy, Girish Karnad, and Poornachandra Tejaswi have brought Kannada literature to global recognition with their thought-provoking works that blend tradition with modernity.

### **Kannada's Status Today**

Today, Kannada is not only a spoken language but also a medium of instruction, administration, and cultural expression in Karnataka. It has a robust literary tradition that continues to evolve, with writers contributing to its richness in various forms of writing.

In 2008, Kannada was granted Classical Language status by the Government of India, recognizing its antiquity, rich literary tradition, and independent nature. This honor further cements Kannada's place as one of India's most distinguished languages.

Kannada language and literature stand as a testament to Karnataka's rich cultural and intellectual history. With its deep roots in ancient traditions and a modern literary legacy that continues to flourish, Kannada represents a linguistic and cultural bridge between the past and the present, celebrating the diversity and dynamism of South India's literary heritage.

# Divine Mysuru

Temples in and Around Mysuru: A Journey Through Spiritual Heritage Mysuru, known for its palaces and rich cultural history, is also home to several ancient and sacred temples that reflect the city's deep-rooted spirituality and architectural brilliance.





## The Divine Mysuru



“TEMPLES IN AND AROUND MYSURU: A JOURNEY THROUGH SPIRITUAL HERITAGE MYSURU, KNOWN FOR ITS PALACES AND RICH CULTURAL HISTORY, IS ALSO HOME TO SEVERAL ANCIENT AND SACRED TEMPLES THAT REFLECT THE CITY’S DEEP-ROOTED SPIRITUALITY AND ARCHITECTURAL BRILLIANCE”

### Temples in and Around Mysuru: A Journey Through Spiritual Heritage

Mysuru, known for its palaces and rich cultural history, is also home to several ancient and sacred temples that reflect the city's deep-rooted spirituality and architectural brilliance. These temples, located both within the city and in nearby areas, provide a glimpse into the region's religious traditions, artistic heritage, and the devotion of its people. Here's a guide to some of the most significant temples in and around Mysuru.

#### Chamundeshwari Temple

Perched atop Chamundi Hill, the Chamundeshwari Temple is one of Mysuru's most famous religious landmarks. Dedicated to Goddess Chamundeshwari, an incarnation of Goddess Durga, the temple holds immense significance for both locals and visitors. The temple is believed to date back to the 12th century and was further expanded by the Wodeyars of Mysore. The architecture of the temple is a fine example of Dravidian style, with a towering seven-tiered gopuram (entrance tower) adorned with intricate carvings.

The temple is a pilgrimage site, especially during the Dasara festival, when devotees from across the country visit to seek the blessings of the goddess. Apart from its spiritual significance, Chamundi Hill offers panoramic views of Mysuru city, making the journey to the temple a blend of devotion and scenic beauty.

#### Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangapatna

Located about 15 kilometers from Mysuru, in the town of Srirangapatna, is the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, one of the most important Vishnu temples in South India. Dedicated to Lord Ranganatha (a reclining form of Vishnu), the temple is one of the three major temples on the banks of the river Kaveri, known as the Triranga Kshetras.

The temple's history dates back to the 9th century, built in the Hoysala and Vijayanagara architectural styles. The sanctum houses a grand idol of Lord Ranganatha in a reclining posture on the serpent Adishesha, symbolizing peace and cosmic balance. Visitors can admire the temple's stone carvings, which depict various scenes from Hindu mythology. Its serene location on an island in the Kaveri River adds to the temple's spiritual ambiance, making it a must-visit for both pilgrims and history enthusiasts.

#### Nanjundeshwara Temple, Nanjangud

Located about 25 kilometers from Mysuru, the Nanjundeshwara Temple in Nanjangud is a revered Shaivite temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Nanjundeshwara, also known as Srikanteshwara, is worshiped as the "healer," and the temple is often called the "Kashi of the South" due to its religious significance.

The temple's history stretches back over a thousand years, with various dynasties,

including the Cholas, Hoysalas, and Vijayanagara rulers, contributing to its construction and expansion. The sprawling temple complex is known for its massive gopurams, elaborate stone carvings, and serene surroundings along the banks of the Kapila River. Devotees flock to the temple for special rituals, especially during the Maha Shivaratri festival, when grand celebrations take place.

#### Trinesvaraswamy Temple

Located near the northern gate of the Mysore Palace, the Trinesvaraswamy Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Though not as well-known as some other temples in Mysuru, it holds great historical importance. The temple is believed to have been built during the reign of the Wodeyar dynasty and features classic Dravidian architecture, with intricate carvings and sculptures adorning the exterior.

The temple is relatively quiet compared to other religious sites in the city, making it a peaceful spot for meditation and worship. Visitors can combine a visit to the Trinesvaraswamy Temple with a tour of the nearby Mysore Palace, offering a blend of cultural and spiritual experiences.

#### Lakshmiramana Swamy Temple

Another important temple within Mysuru city is the Lakshmiramana Swamy Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu. This temple is

one of the oldest in Mysuru, dating back to the 15th century. It is historically significant as it was here that the Wodeyar kings would offer prayers and seek divine blessings before important events, such as their coronation or the Dasara festival.

The temple's architecture is simple yet elegant, with well-preserved carvings that depict scenes from Hindu epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Despite its central location, the temple retains a peaceful atmosphere, offering a quiet retreat for worshippers and visitors alike.

#### Conclusion

Mysuru and its surrounding areas are home to a rich variety of temples, each with its own history, architectural style, and religious significance. Whether it's the grandeur of Chamundeshwari Temple, the serenity of Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, or the healing power of Nanjundeshwara Temple, these sacred sites offer a glimpse into the region's spiritual heritage. For those visiting Mysuru, exploring these temples is not only a journey of devotion but also a chance to appreciate the architectural brilliance and cultural history that define this beautiful city.



# Incredible India



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