

Karnataka

Formerly (until 1973) **Mysore**

State (pop., 2008 est.: 57,399,000), southwestern India.

Facts and Figures:

Date of Formation 1/11/1956

Total Area 1, 91,791 sq km

Area under forests 38724 sq km

Latitude 11.5 degree and 18.5-degree North

Longitude 74 degree and 78.5-degree East

Capital Bengaluru (or Bangalore)

No. of Lok Sabha seats 28

No. of Assembly seats 224

No. of Districts 27

Largest City Bangalore

Revenue Divisions 4

Revenue Sub-Divisions 49

Revenue Taluks 175

Revenue Villages 27,028

Population (2001) 52,850,562

Population Density 275 per sq. km

Male population 26,898,918

Female population 25,951,644

Sex Ratio 965 females per 1000 males

Literacy rate 66.60%

Per Capita Income (03-04) Rs 21696

ReligionsHindus, Jains, Muslims, Christians

Language (s) spoken Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi & English

Time zone IST (UTC +5:30)

Temperature Min. 6 °C; Max. 40 °C

Average Rainfall varies from 50 cm to 350 cm

Best Time to visit September to February

Railway track length 3,089 km

Road length1, 37,500 Km

National Highways length 2,587 Km



SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ,

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF KARNATAKA



Dr. B.S. Yediyurappa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

CABINET MINISTERS

	Name	Portfolio	Contact Info
1	SHRI B.S. YEDDYURAPPA Chief Minister	a) Department of Cabinet Affairs b) Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms c) Department of Finance including Institutional Finance and excluding Excise, Small Savings & Lotteries d) Intelligence Wing from Home Department e) Urban Development Department - All subjects pertaining to Bangalore City excluding BWSSB. f) Kannada and Culture from Kannada and Culture, Information & Tourism Department g) Mines and Geology from C & I Department h) Forest i) Any other Department not specifically allocated	Room No. 323 Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001 Ph: 22253414, 22253424
2	SHRI GOVIND M. KARJOL	a) Minor Irrigation from Water Resources b) Planning Department c) Statistics Department	Room No. 339,339-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
3	Dr V.S. ACHARYA	Home excluding Intelligence Wing	Room No.315, 315-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
4	SHRI UDASI CHANNABASAPPA MAHALINGAPPA	Public Works Department excluding Ports and Inland Water Transport	Room No.329, 329-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
5	SHRI MUMTAZ ALI KHAN	a) Haj and Wakf from Revenue Department b) Minority Welfare from Social Welfare Department	Room No.38, 39, Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore-560001
6	SHRI RAMACHANDRA GOWDA	Medical Education from Health and Family Welfare Department	Room No.237, 238 Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001

7	SHRI R. ASHOK	a)Transport Department b)Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department	Room No.317, 317-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
8	SHRI S.A. RAVINDRANATH	Agriculture from Agriculture and Horticulture Department	Room No.343, 343-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
9	SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY	a) Tourism from Kannada and Culture, Information and Tourism Department b) Infrastructure Development Department	Room No.328, 328-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
10	SHRI KAGERI VISHWESHWARA HEGDE	Primary and Secondary Education from Education Department excluding Mass Education and Public Libraries	Room No.330, 330-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
11	SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY	Revenue excluding Muzrai , Haj and Wakf	Room No.344, 344-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
12	SHRI B.N. BACCHEGOWDA	Labour Department	Room No.336, 336-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
13	SHRI BASAVARAJ BOMMAI	Major and Medium Irrigation from Water Resources Department	Room No.327, 327-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
14	SHRI JAGADISH SHETTAR	Rural Development and Panchayat Raj including Rural Development Engineering from Department of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	Room No.316, 316-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
15	SHRI B. SRIRAMULU	Health and Family Welfare Department excluding Medical Education	Room No.244, 245 Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore-560001
16	SHRI REVU NAIK BELAMGI	Animal Husbandry from Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department	Room No.230, 231-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
17	SHRI SURESH KUMAR .S.	a) Law, Justice and Human Rights	Room No.262, 262-A & 201- F Vidhana Soudha,

		b) Parliamentary Affairs c) Legislation d) City Corporations from Urban Development Department excluding subjects pertaining to Bangalore City and BWSSB	Bangalore-560001
18	SHRI J. KRISHNA PALEMAR	a) Ports and Inland Water Transport from Public Works Department b) Ecology and Environment Department	Room No.141, 142 Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore-560001
19	SHRI VENKATARAMANAPPA	a) Small Scale Industries from C & I Department b) Sericulture from C & I Department	Room No.342, 341-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
20	SHRI ARAVIND LIMBAVALI	Higher Education from Education Department	Room No.337, 337-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
21	SHRI P.M. NARENDRA SWAMY	Women and Child Development Department	Room No.242, 243 Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore-560001
22	SHRI SUDHAKAR .D.	Social Welfare Department excluding Minority Welfare	Room No.340, 340-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
23	SHRI LAXMAN SANGAPPA SAVADI	Co-operation Department excluding Agriculture Marketing	Room No.232, 231 Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
24	SHRI GULIHATTI D. SHEKHAR	a) Textiles from C & I Department b) Youth Services Department	Room No.243, 241 Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
25	SHRI MURUGESH RUDRAPPA NIRANI	Large and Medium Scale Industries from C & I Department	Room No.301, 301-A Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
26	SHRI SHIVARAJA SANGAPPA TANGADAGI	a) Agriculture Marketing from Co-operation Department b) Sugar from C & I Department	Room No.201, 263 Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560001
27	SHRI KATTA SUBRAMANYA NAIDU	a) Housing from Housing Department	Room No.301, 301A

		b) BWSSB from Urban Development Department c) Information from Kannada and Culture, Information and Tourism Department d) IT & BT Department excluding Science and Technology	Bangalore-560001
28	SHRI UMESH V. KATTI	a) Horticulture and Prisons	Room No.206, 206A Bangalore-560001
29	SHRI BALACHANDRA LAXMANRAO JARKIHOLI	a) Municipalities and Local Bodies (CMCs, TMCs and TPs) from Urban Development Department b) Department of Public Enterprises	Room No.328, 328A Bangalore-560001
30	SHRI ASNOTIKAR ANAND VASANT	a) Fisheries from Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department b) Science and Technology from IT, BT, S & T Department	Room No.133, 134 Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore-560001
31	SHRI K. SHIVANAGOUDA NAIK	a) Mass Education and Public Libraries from Education Department b) Small Savings and Lotteries from Finance Department	Room No.234, 235 Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore-560001
32	SHRI M.P.RENUKACHARYA	Excise from Finance Department	

Lying on the Arabian Sea, it is bordered by the states of Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. It has an area of 74,051 sq mi (191,791 sq km); its capital is Bangalore. Much of its territory is situated on the Karnataka Plateau, in the southern plateau region of the Indian subcontinent and in the hill region of the Western Ghats. The area was ruled by a series of Hindu dynasties before coming under British control in 1831. Mysore returned to native rule in 1881 as a princely state. Its name was changed to Karnataka ("Lofty Land") in 1973. The majority of the population is engaged in agriculture. Rice and sugarcane are cultivated on the coastal plain, and coffee and tea are grown in the hill region. Dravidian languages, especially Kannada, are spoken by most of the population.

It is located on the western coast of the subcontinent. It is bounded by the states of Goa and Maharashtra to the north, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the southeast, and Kerala to the south and by the Arabian Sea to the west. The state extends for about 420 miles (675 km) from north to south and for about 300 miles (480 km) from east to west. Its coastline stretches for some 200 miles (320 km). The capital is Bangalore (Bengaluru), near the southeastern border.

Before the independence of India in 1947, Mysore was a prosperous and progressive but landlocked princely state, with an area of less than 30,000 square miles (78,000 square km), located on the

Karnataka Plateau. The transfer of additional territories to the state in 1953 and 1956 united the Kannada-speaking peoples, gave the state an outlet to the sea, and greatly extended its boundaries. The state took its present name, a Kannada word meaning “Lofty Land,” in 1973. Area 74,051 square miles (191,791 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 57,399,000.

Land

Physiographically, Karnataka is divided into four distinct regions—the coastal plain, the hill ranges (the Western Ghats), the Karnataka Plateau to the east, and the black-soil tract to the northwest. The coastal plain represents a continuation of the Malabar Coast, with sand dunes giving place inland to small alluvial plains and lagoons. The coast itself is difficult to access, except by sea.

To the east of the coastal plain, the Western Ghats rise sharply to reach an average elevation of 2,500 to 3,000 feet (750 to 900 metres). The upland terrain of the Ghats is known as Malnad. The region is a watershed, and from its crest numerous swift streams flow to the plains, including the Sharavati River, which is the source of the tremendous Jog (Gersoppa) Falls (830 feet [253 metres] high).

Other rivers—including the Kaveri (Cauvery) to the south and the Tungabhadra, a tributary of the great Krishna River, to the north—flow over the undulating, eastward-sloping plains of the Karnataka Plateau. These plains are known as the Maidan. The plateau region has an average elevation of about 1,500 feet (450 metres).

The northwestern part of the state is characterized more by its soil than by its relief. In this region, underlying volcanic rock produces a soil known as regur, the humus-rich, cotton-growing black soil of India. By contrast, the soils of the adjacent Karnataka Plateau are generally porous and infertile, except in the river basins, where they are loamy and somewhat fertile. Soils in the coastal plain include iron-rich clays in the inland areas and sandy alluvial deposits toward the coast itself.

Climate

The climate of Karnataka is subtropical, with winter (January and February), summer (March through May), southwest monsoon (June through September), and post-monsoon (October through December) seasons. Maximum daily temperatures in winter reach the upper 80s F (low 30s C), while in the summer months temperatures rise into the low 100s F (about 40 °C). Annual precipitation ranges from roughly 20 inches (500 mm) in the more arid portions of the Maidan to nearly 160 inches (4,000 mm) in the wettest parts of the coastal plain. Most of the state’s annual precipitation falls between June and September; much of the remainder is brought by a less-significant northeast monsoon that blows during the post-monsoon season. The winter months are particularly dry.

Plant and animal life

While coconut palms line the lagoons of the coastal plain region of Karnataka, monsoon forests cover the Malnad area of the Western Ghats, and scrub forests and scrublands stretch across the drier plains of the Maidan. The monsoon forests are especially rich in wildlife, which includes tigers, elephants, gaurs (wild cattle), and deer. Wild boars, bears, and leopards inhabit the Maidan. Peacocks are among the state’s common birds. Karnataka has many wildlife sanctuaries, including the large Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary in the northwest, which abuts the Mahaveer sanctuary in Goa. The state also has several

national parks, among the most notable of which are at Bandipur, in the south, near the border with Tamil Nadu, and at Nagarhole, in the southwest, near the border with Kerala.

Population composition

As speakers of Dravidian languages, most of Karnataka's people are considered to be the descendants of the so-called Dravidian population of India that was driven southward between about 2000 and 1500 bce by the descent into the Asian subcontinent of speakers of Indo-Aryan languages. Although the Dravidians of South India remain distinct from the Indo-Aryans of North India, centuries of interaction between the two groups has resulted in many shared linguistic and cultural characteristics. Today in Karnataka, the northern region exhibits a somewhat greater degree of such mixture than does its southern counterpart.

Kannada, which is a Dravidian language, is spoken by a large majority of the population and is the official language of the state. Hindi is sometimes used in trade and business. Toward the borders of the state, other languages, such as Tamil and Telugu, both Dravidian, and Marathi and Konkani, both Indo-Aryan, are also spoken. Konkani is associated particularly with the city of Mangalore, in southwestern Karnataka.

The predominant religion in the state is Hinduism. Jainism and Buddhism—once widespread—still have practitioners, however. Small portions of the population follow Islam and Christianity.

Settlement patterns

About two-thirds of the population of Karnataka was rural in the early 21st century, but with increasing industrialization, the pace of urbanization has continued to accelerate. The principal cities are Bangalore, the capital, and Mysore, both in the southern part of the state. Other major urban centres include Hubli-Dharwad, Mangalore, Belgaum, Gulbarga, Davangere, Bellary, Shimoga, Bijapur, and Raichur.

Agriculture and forestry

Agriculture engages the majority of the population. The coastal plain is intensively cultivated, with rice as the principal food crop, followed by sorghum (jowar) and millet (ragi). Sugarcane is the main cash crop, supplemented by cashews, cardamom, betel (areca) nut, and grapes. Coffee and tea plantations are located on the cool slopes of the Western Ghats; Karnataka is one of the country's chief sources of coffee. In the eastern region, irrigation enables the cultivation of sugarcane, some rubber, and such fruits as bananas and oranges. The black soil of the northwest supports cotton, oilseeds, and peanuts (groundnuts).

The forests of the Malnad area in the west produce a significant portion of the world's supply of sandalwood. Oil processed from sandalwood in Mysore also is a leading state export. Other important forest products include teak, eucalyptus, rosewood, bamboo, and such substances as tanning dyes, gums, and lac (used in the manufacture of varnishes).

Resources and power

Karnataka is mineral rich. The state is a major source of chromite, and it is one of the few states of India that produces magnesite. High-grade iron ore reserves are tapped most notably in Bellary district, in the east-central part of the state. Kolar Gold Fields, near Bangalore, yielded much of the country's gold in the 20th century; by the early 21st century, however, virtual depletion of the deposits and high operating costs forced the mines to close. Other minerals that have been extracted in Karnataka, albeit in small quantities, include mica, copper ore, bauxite, and garnet.

Karnataka's many hydroelectric plants generate enough power not only to meet local needs but also to distribute to neighbouring states. The hydroelectric station on the Sharavati River near Jog Falls is an especially large facility that supplies power to many of Karnataka's industries. Additional energy is provided by thermal- and wind-powered plants.

Manufacturing

The mineral resources of the state feed the iron and steel mills of Bhadravati and the heavy engineering works of Bangalore. Other industries in the state include cotton milling, sugar processing, and the manufacture of textiles, food products, electrical machinery, fertilizers, cement, and paper. Both Mysore and Bangalore have long-established sericulture industries that produce much of India's mulberry silk.

Transportation

The obstacle formed by the Western Ghats has hindered the building of railroads to link the state's numerous minor ports to the plateau in the interior. Bangalore, in the southeast, is the main focus of rail transportation. The port of Mangalore, in the southwest, is connected to Mumbai (Bombay) by tracks running parallel to the coast through the state of Goa.

The import and export trade relies primarily on road transport, but many roads in the western part of the state become impassable during the rainy season. National highways run from Bangalore east to Chennai (Madras) in Tamil Nadu, north to Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, northwest to Mumbai, and west through Hassan to the coast of Mangalore. Airports are located at Bangalore, Belgaum, and Mangalore.

Constitutional framework

The government of Karnataka, like that of most other states and territories in India, is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The head of state is the governor, who is appointed by the president of India. The governor is aided and advised by a chief minister, who, in turn, is assisted by a Council of Ministers. Karnataka is one of the few Indian states with a bicameral legislature, consisting of a Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of directly elected members and a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), members of which are elected variously by the Legislative Assembly, by local leaders, and by teachers and graduates.

The state High Court is subordinate to the Supreme Court in New Delhi; it consists of a chief justice and several additional judges, who are appointed by the president of India in consultation with the chief

justice of India and the governor of the state. There are also district and subordinate courts. A public service commission, whose members are appointed by the governor, functions in an advisory capacity.

The state is divided into more than two dozen districts, which are grouped into four divisions. Each district is headed by a deputy commissioner, who also serves as the district magistrate and collector. There are several levels of administrative units below the district level.

Health and welfare

A state insurance scheme covers sickness, maternity, and employment injuries and provides medical treatment to workers (and their families) in various professions. Welfare schemes are run by the government for socially and economically disadvantaged groups. State agencies also provide welfare services specifically for women and children.

Education

With a literacy rate that had reached about two-thirds by the early 21st century (a rate higher than the national average), Karnataka has one of the most highly educated populations in India. The state has a large number of schools and educational institutions, nearly half of which are managed by the government; the remainder are operated by local boards and private bodies. Compulsory free primary education is provided in most towns and villages. Among Karnataka's oldest and most prominent institutions of higher learning are the Indian Institute of Science (1909), Bangalore University (1964), and the University of Agricultural Sciences (1964), all in Bangalore, as well as the University of Mysore (1916), Karnatak University (1949) in Dharwad, Gulbarga University (1980), and Mangalore University (1980).

Cultural life

Karnataka possesses a rich cultural heritage, compounded by the contributions of successive dynasties, which have fostered various religions and philosophies that, in turn, have influenced literature, architecture, folklore, music, painting, and other arts. The town of Shravana Belgola, 56 miles (90 km) from Mysore, is especially significant for its ancient buildings and monuments. It contains notable examples of architecture from the Mauryan empire (c. 320–185 bce), as well as a colossal, 10th-century stone figure of Bahubali (Gommateshvara), the Jaina saint. Indeed, such enormous monolithic Jaina statues are peculiar to the Kannada-speaking region of India. The influence of the Chalukya (543–757 ce) and the Pallava dynasties (4th to 9th century) is still apparent in temple architecture stemming from the 7th century ce.

History

The name Mysore (from the Sanskrit word for “buffalo town”), as Karnataka formerly was called, derives from the destruction of the buffalo-demon Mahishasura by the goddess Chamunda. The prehistory of Mysore is embedded in legends that concern the struggle that took place in southern India between Aryan peoples, who invaded from the north, and the original Dravidian inhabitants; in legendary form this struggle is represented as a conflict between devils and demons on the one hand and gods and goddesses on the other. The documented history of the region focuses mostly on the princely state of

Mysore as it existed before 1953, for no one dynasty succeeded in ruling the whole region occupied by the Kannada-speaking peoples—the area that essentially constitutes present-day Karnataka.

After the reign of Ashoka, leader of the Mauryan empire in the mid-3rd century bce, the principal dynasties in the area of Mysore were the Kadambas, the Western Gangas (who were in power from the 3rd to the 11th century ce), the Banas, and various feudal lords of the Pallava dynasty, which ruled from the early 4th to the late 9th century. The fertile upper Tungabhadra River region and the land between that river and the Krishna were taken from the Kadambas in the 6th century by the Chalukyas, a powerful dynasty in what is now central Karnataka. The efforts of both the Chalukyas and their competitors, the Rashtrakuta dynasty (mid-8th to late 10th century), to unite the plateau and exploit the softer lands of the coastal plains enriched Mysore but led to reprisals from the Tamils to the east and south.

By the 12th century the Hoysala dynasty had absorbed Gangavadi (as the state of Mysore was then called), but after the Hoysalas had been obliged to submit to the sultan of Delhi in the mid-14th century, Mysore gradually came under the sway of the state of Vijayanagar, whose capital of the same name stood on the site now partly occupied by the village of Hampi on the Tungabhadra River in contemporary Karnataka. In the latter part of the 16th century the Vijayanagar empire faded, giving place to Mughal power north of the Tungabhadra River and to the rajas of Mysore in the south. In the 17th century the Wadiyars (or Wodeyars) of Mysore profited from the conflict between the Mughal empire and the Marathas in western India. In 1610 the Wadiyar ruler of Mysore seized Seringapatam; later, Bangalore was also acquired and Wadiyar power consolidated. Later rulers of Mysore took advantage of the internal power struggles that occurred among the Mughals after the death in 1707 of Aurangzeb—the last great Mughal emperor—to expand their control.

The gains of the Wadiyars were relatively short-lived, however, as maladministration at home and interference in wars of succession in the plains ultimately led to the usurpation of power in 1761 by the military adventurer Hyder Ali. His invasions of the Malabar Coast and the Karnataka Plateau extended Mysore's dominion, but they also led to a series of confrontations with the British known as the Mysore Wars, to the death of his colourful and energetic son Tippu Sultan in 1799, and to the eventual conquest of Mysore by the British.

Mysore was governed by a British commissioner from 1831 to 1881, when administration was once again restored to the Wadiyars. The last of the Wadiyars became governor of the state after territorial reorganizations in 1953 and 1956. The state was renamed Karnataka in 1973.
