

A KALEIDOSCOPE OF JOYS

THE SOUTHERN STATE OF KARNATAKA HAS MANY SURPRISES UP ITS SLEEVE AND THE BEST WAY TO DISCOVER THIS IS BY ACTUALLY VISITING THE DIFFERENT PARTS TO EXPERIENCE THE MYRIAD CULTURES, FOOD, SIGHTS AND MORE. **BY BINDU GOPAL RAO**

The diverse elements of the state that was formed on November 1, 1956, incidentally celebrated as Rajyotsava Day has a royal connect too. Well, this was always the State of Mysore that was renamed as Karnataka in 1973. The state itself has a motley mix of ancient temples, beautiful mountains, scenic beaches and amazing wildlife.

In fact this is why the Tourism department has aptly branded the state - 'One State Many Worlds'. A pioneer in ecotourism, the state has the second most number of nationally protected monuments in the country, second only to Uttar Pradesh. In fact the state is also emerging as a medical tourism hotspot courtesy its alternative therapy centers as well as holistic health units. Well, most recently Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal checked into a naturopathy center in the State to treat his chronic cough. Likewise Prince Charles' wife, Camilla Parker-Bowles, Duchess of Cornwall has been here several times for holistic healing sessions! This apart the state is home to several important cities like Mysore, Mangalore, Hassan, Coorg, Bijapur and Shimoga, apart from the capital Bengaluru.



The stunning elephant parade during Mysore Dussehra

RING IN THE FESTIVITIES

Think festivals and you instinctively think of Deepavali and Dasara. While these are also celebrated with much pomp and gusto in Karnataka, there are also several unique festivals like the Karaga - said to be one of the oldest festivals (dating back to many centuries) of the state celebrated to honour Goddess Shakti. Held annually at the Dharmarayaswamy temple in Bengaluru in March/April, the nine day festivities derives its name from an earthen pot in which the Goddess is invoked and a grand procession is held in her honour. There is a fire-walking ritual on the last day which sees frenzied activity where the participants are immersed in devotion. Interestingly the person who carries the Karaga has to undergo rigorous rituals including being confined to the temple with

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ROYAL ORCHID'S KARNATAKA FOCUS



ESTABLISHED MORE THAN FOUR DECADES AGO, Royal Orchid Hotels Limited today is among India's fastest growing hospitality chains and even today is in an aggressive expansion mode. Promoted by Chender K Baljee, it has become one of India's

options of business hotels ranging from luxurious 5-star hotels to economy business hotels. It primarily operates 5 and 4 star hotels, enabling it to target the discerning business and leisure traveler. It is present across the

most well-known names in hospitality. Renowned for attention to detail and design, Royal Orchid Hotels offers myriad

country, operating 47 hotels in 33 cities. The group offers area-centric specialties to its guests that provides them the experience and feel of the locality. One such location is Karnataka which is currently among the fastest-growing states in the country. Blessed with great connectivity, it has emerged to become a travel destination as well as a growth driver for various career-centric audiences. The state has the perfect balance of architecture and climate and experiences a lot of migration and tourists. Royal Orchid Hotels with nine hotels across Karnataka in major cities such as Bangalore, Mysore and Shimoga, aims at providing luxury stay and superior service with competitive pricing.

a diet of milk and fruits as the pot he carries is a symbol of the Goddesses' power. In fact his wife becomes a 'widow' and hands over her mangalsutra and bangles to him and he wears the same in the procession. The Karaga bearer is surrounded by many turbaned, bare-chested dhoti-clad Veerakumaras with uncovered swords which is significant as in the event that the Karaga trips and falls, they are supposed stab him. However, till date this is has never happened. The couple remarry post the festival and the Karaga is immersed in the salt water pond from which it was brought originally.



Revellers brave the rain during Mysore Dussehra

This apart, the Hampi Festival is another annual affair that celebrates the birthday of famous poet Purandaradasa. The festival has dance, music, puppet show and fireworks as part of the festivities. Likewise the Pattadakal Dance Festival that takes place in January every year is an ode to different forms of dance and also has a crafts

mela that showcases the traditional arts and crafts of the state. Ugadi is the New Year of Kannadigas and the nine day Dasara festival is celebrated with a display of dolls at home, a tradition unique to the state. If you are in Bengaluru in November, you can also witness the Kadalekai Parishe or the annual groundnut fair near Dodda Ganesha temple, near the

Bull Temple at Basavanagudi.

The controversial Kambala is an annual festival celebrated in the South Canara district of Karnataka that involves a traditional buffalo race. Likewise, Naga Panchami, Ganesh Chaturthi and Makara Shankranti are celebrated with great gaiety.

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REVA UNIVERSITY AIMS HIGH



Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University

REVA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU, located on a sprawling green campus spread over 52 acres of land, has been built around state-of-the-art infrastructure. This creates an environment conducive for higher learning and research. It has been constantly updated with modern technology, namely ICT, and seeks to regain a balance in the teaching

and learning system. The main aim of Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University, is to have it being known as the best university and not one of the best. The environment at REVA University exudes oodles of grace and fresh air, and to ensure that the greenery continues to thrive, Dr. P. Shyama Raju fully supports the Swachh Bharat Mission by applying its basic principles to the university campus.

This all-round development was recently recognised by the state government of Karnataka and he was conferred with the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, 2017, for his contribution to the field of education. This is the second highest civilian honour of Karnataka state which is conferred annually on the occasion



Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. P. Shyama Raju was honoured with the coveted Karnataka Rajyotsava Award 2017 by Hon'ble Shri Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka

of the birth of Karnataka state on November 1, celebrated as Kannada Rajyotsava Day. While the ceremony may have been magnanimous, the effort and results were far more glorious.



The popular bise bile bhath

chutney, chitranna or lemon rice, puliogare or tamarind rice and khara pongal. Of course the famed bise bele bhath is a one pot meal made with lentils, rice, vegetables and freshly ground spices and is an absolute must-try when you are here. The best part is that this is a great example of a balanced diet rich in proteins and carbohydrates.

A typical meal includes Kosambri, a salad made with cucumber, sprouts, and grated coconut and seasoned with mustard and green chilies; Palya, a vegetable preparation made with parboiled vegetables, grated coconut, green chilies and mild spices; and Gojju, vegetables cooked in a spiced tamarind curry. The meal will also have Tovve, a mildly seasoned dal curry; Saaru, a rasam; Huli, a thick broth of lentils and vegetables

GASTRONOMY CALLING

Karnataka's cuisine reflects a beautiful story of the state. If you are looking for traditional food, you can have a typical breakfast of idlis served with mildly spiced coconut

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KARNATAKA BANK THE PRIDE OF KARNATAKA



Mr. Mahabaleshwara M.S,
Managing Director &
CEO, Karnataka Bank

**MANGALURU-
HEADQUARTERED
KARNATAKA
BANK**

is one of the time-tested premier scheduled commercial

banks in the private

sector. The bank was established in 1924 and it completed 93 years of purposeful banking on February 18, 2017. The bank has a national presence with 776 branches, 1397 ATMs with 118 e-lobbies/mini e-lobbies in 22 states and two Union Territories. The total turnover of the Bank as on September 2017 stood at ₹ 97,685 crore with deposits of ₹ 56,558 crore and advances of

₹ 41,127 crore. The net profit for the year ended September 2017 was ₹ 227.23 crore. The Bank has paid 40 per cent dividend on its equity shares for the financial year 2016-17. It has a highly dedicated team of around 8,000 employees ably patronized by around 1,57,000 shareholders and around 92 lakh clientele base.

It is a tech savvy bank and was one of the earliest banks to adopt Core Banking Solution, way back in 2000. This has enabled it to provide 'Anywhere', 'Anytime', banking services and other advanced technology based products to its customers and to make rapid strides towards digital banking. Karnataka Bank has won several awards and

accolades under various categories like Social banking, Information Technology, Risk Management, Export Excellence, etc., from renowned institutions and organizations such as IDRBT, FIEO, IBA, ASSOCHAM, CIMSME, CFBP, STP, PFRDA, etc. It has tied up with TOM Technology Services Pvt Ltd to offer an internet-based online money transfer solution 'Remit2India' to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to enable them to remit money to any bank in India from 23 countries worldwide. The bank has exchanged an MoU with New India Assurance Co. Ltd., to introduce "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojna" and with LIC of India to introduce "Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojna".

A bowl of kosambri



cooked with ground coconut, spices, tamarind and special spice powder. Another rice dish, vangibath, a spiced rice with eggplant, ragi mudde or steamed ragi dumplings served with soppina saaru (a light

rasam made with fresh greens) are also well known dishes.

Likewise when you head to the South Canara district you get to experience a mix of authentic vegetarian Udupi food as well as coastal delights like those made with white meats including local fish, crab, prawn, and squid preparations marinated with coconut, ginger, turmeric and local spices. Bhatkal for instance is home to Laun Miriya Mhaure, a fish preparation cooked in a red chilli masala while Ankola is known for Kotte Roti, an idli-like preparation that soaks up the curry. And while in Mangalore do try the Neer Dosa, a crepe made with rice batter and Kori Roti, crisp wafers made of dry rice and fish and prawn chutneys and pickles. And if you are in Coorg, the Pandi curry or the pork dish is the most famous alongside

other pork based delicacies that will entice your palate. And to wash it all down what better than the best fresh filter coffee made with beans from Chikamangalur or Sakleshpur as well as masala majjige, buttermilk with ginger, green chili paste, and coriander.

WATER MATTERS

Karnataka is home to many waterfalls and if you visit them in the right season (post monsoons) it is a great experience to see natural water gushing down in its full glory. The Abbey Falls in Coorg, located about 10 km from Madikeri in the Western Ghats in the midst of thick coffee bushes and tall trees entwined with pepper vines, can be accessed via a short walk on the hanging bridge that takes you very close to them. Likewise the small

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GOGTE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S MANY DISTINCTIONS



KARNATAK LAW SOCIETY'S GOGTE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (GIT), the flagship institute of Karnatak Law Society, Belagavi, was incepted in 1979 and it is included under sections 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act 1956, permanent affiliate and an autonomous institution under Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi. Spread across a sprawling

mango meadow of over 23 acres, GIT houses eight under-graduate and nine post-graduate disciplines including MBA and MCA

programs. GIT has the honour of sheltering over 4500 students and more than 250 highly qualified and motivated workforce. The institute also has the distinction of getting NBA accreditation by AICTE for the third time in succession, in 2015. In the recent visit of NBA, five of its programmes, viz. Civil Engg., Mechanical Engg., Electrical &

Electronics Engg., Electronics & Communication Engg. and Computer Science & Engg. were conferred with the accreditation status.

A degree from the accredited programme has global acceptability and assurance about the quality of education. GIT is accredited with grade "A+" by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Research and innovation have been key strengths of GIT.

A band of research scholars pursue Ph.D. and M.Sc. (Engineering) by research through approved research centres in all the streams including Management Studies. The institute has been growing steadily on the R & D front with funding support from agencies like AICTE, DST, UGC, VTU, etc. The institute has to its credit some patents, thousands of research papers and many product innovations.



Jog Falls, one of the highest plunge falls in India

but magnificent Achakanya Falls is a fascinating sight in the monsoons. Surrounded by lush greenery all around, this waterfall is hidden being located within the dense forest range of Western Ghats and a trek will take you to them.

The Alekan or Alekhan falls

Kannada descends from a height of about 50 feet to a natural pond formed below and you can witness some magnificent sunsets as well thanks to the endless stretch of the Arabian Sea. For a simpler experience head to the Balmuri Falls, a famous picnic spot about

located around 18 km from Charmadi Ghats in Chikamagalur can also be reached via a tough trek along a 90 foot drop. The Apsarakonda Falls in Honnavar taluk of Uttara

18 km away from Mysore, on the way to the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam. The waterfall is smaller compared to most falls. Barachukki and Gaganachukki are two waterfalls situated near Shivanasamudra in Mandya district created by the Cauvery that runs down a 75 metre gorge before it divides into two branches that flows around the island of Shivanasamudra. They are very easy to access.

Among other falls in Karnataka the noteworthy ones include Barkana Falls, Shimoga; Benne Hole Falls and Burude Falls (both in Karwar), Chunchanakatte Falls, Mysore; Chunchi Falls, Mekedatu; Dabbe Falls and Hidlumane Falls (both in Shimoga), Dondole Falls, Ujre; Godachinamalki Falls and Gokak Falls (both in Belgaum), Hebbe Falls, Kallathi Falls and Honnamma

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IN MANGALORE, GET REAL WITH LAND TRADES



WHETHER IT IS RESIDENTIAL SPACE OR COMMERCIAL SPACE

that you are looking for, the common gateway for finding the best of both in Mangalore is Land Trades. Established in 1992, and now in its Silver Jubilee Year, Land

residential offering, presently nearing completion, is 'Solitaire', a towering 32-storey skyscraper. With just 143 spacious apartments (2BHK / 3BHK / 4BHK and 5BHK Duplexes) and wide array of luxuries, this is an elite address that one would

Trades is the city's top property developer. Among its string of successful mega projects are some of the city's new landmarks. Its latest

love to own. Situated on Hat Hill with a direct lookout to the sea, its centre point of attraction is the 360 degree spectacular view from any area of the city. Milestone 25, the firm's commercial project commemorating its Silver Jubilee, will soon be the new eye stopper at the city's busy Collector's Gate Junction, Balmatta. This is by far the most desirable location for doing business in Mangalore, offering excellent space for showrooms, retailing and offices with all modern support features. Not only is it the nerve centre of the affluent section of the city, but the vantage point of Milestone 25 also makes its presence very compelling.

Falls (all in Kemmanagundi) and Iruppu Falls, Coorg. Of course the most well known falls are the Jog Falls about, 8 km north-west of Sagar town. This is where the Sharavati river flowing over a rocky bed about 227 metres wide leaps from the chains of the ghats. The water has four distinct falls, presenting a sense of transcendent grandeur and sublimity and are rightly named as Raja, Roarer, Rocket and Rani.



Wild elephants in the Bandipur National Park

The state has a rich diversity of flora and fauna. It has a recorded forest area of 38,720 sq km which constitutes 20.19 per cent of the total geographical area of the state. This is where 25 per cent of the elephant population and 20 per

EXPLORE YOUR WILD SIDE

If you love wildlife, Karnataka has an enviable set of national parks and sanctuaries that are home to several species of animals and birds.

cent of the tiger population of India reside. The Bandipur and Nagarhole national parks, part of the Nilgiri biosphere and Kabini, are great places to sight these animals. You

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JAGGI VASUDEV CALLS UPON STUDENTS TO ADAPT HUMAN VALUES

JAGGI VASUDEV OF ISHA FOUNDATION has emphasized the need to update human values on par with technological updates. Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev was speaking after inaugurating Gokul Foundation's newly constructed building complex of Ramaiah Indic Specialty Ayurveda Restoration Hospital in Bengaluru. He had an interaction with lecturers and students at an open-air theatre of M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology. Speaking on the occasion, Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev said technology had developed by leaps and bounds. "It is very important for students to update human values on par with the speed at which technology is being updated. Human values have to be developed."



Sadguru opined that students should not focus in only on scoring high marks but have to give importance to other curricular activities too. "Learning is a continuous process and it has no age limit. So, the students should not focus in only on learning from text books. There is a lot to learn from the outside world. Importance

should be given to human values," he said. Sadguru said education gives inspiration and it is very important to have inspiration and interest to do any work.

"We have to work for the betterment of society after availing education. Education can get its real value only when it is used for the betterment of society. M.S. Ramaiah Education Institution has a long history. It has achieved a milestone in education as well as medical segment. It has done a commendable job by the introduction of ancient medicine by opening an ayurvedic hospital."

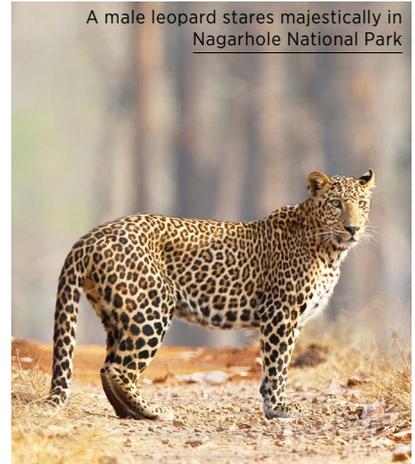
Dr M R Jayaram, chairman of Gokul Education Trust, was present on the occasion.



Giant squirrel *Ratufa Indica* in Bandipur National Park

HERE IS AN ENVIABLE SET OF NATIONAL PARKS AND SANCTUARIES THAT ARE HOME TO SEVERAL SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA IN SOUTH INDIA HAS A RICH DIVERSITY OF FLORA AND FAUNA

can also spot other animals like leopard, wild dog, sloth bear, hyena, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, four-horned antelope, gaur and wild boars. At Kabini, you also have the option to take a boat safari where you can see the marsh crocodile, monitor lizard and a variety of water birds. The common langur, bonnet macaque, jungle cat, slender loris, leopard cat, civet cat, mongoose, common otter, giant flying squirrel, giant squirrel, porcupine, jackal, mouse-deer, hare and pangolin are also found in these parks. You will need to book a safari at the offices of these parks in advance and typically there is an early morning and later afternoon safari that is conducted. The Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the banks of the River Kali at Dandeli in North Karnataka and also happens to be



A male leopard stares majestically in Nagarhole National Park

the second largest sanctuary in the state. This is a natural habitat for tigers, leopards, black panthers, elephants, gaur, deer, antelopes, crocodiles and a variety of snakes, apart from avian species like the golden-backed woodpecker, crested serpent eagle, white

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IBA BANGALORE CARVES A NICHE



Mr. Manish Jain, Founder & CEO, IBA

BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, MODELS, STYLE AND PRODUCTS

have undergone a massive change in past decade or two. This has resulted in a sea change in the way knowledge is shared and management courses are taught. The role played by Indian institutes in taking the legacy of education to new heights has been

phenomenal, and Indus Business Academy (IBA), Bangalore, has proved to be a torchbearer that has always challenged its own pedagogy to meet the requirements of the business and corporate worlds. Established in 2001, IBA Bangalore has emerged as one of the most successful business institutions in the heart of the Silicon Valley of India. Under the able leadership of its Founder & CEO Dr. Manish Jain, who has been awarded and felicitated at many platforms for his passion and contribution in the development of higher education, IBA Bangalore has successfully carved a niche for itself as one of the most respected management institutions in India today.

IBA has consistently been ranked among India's top B-schools with IBA

Bangalore being ranked in the list of first 20 B-schools out of the 5000+ in the country to get international accreditation. IBA differentiates itself from other B-Schools by its innovative pedagogy and its teaching excellence. Says Dr. Manish Jain, "We never compromise on quality education and keep our curriculum updated not only as per market demands but also as per future trends. At IBA we focus on the future career growth of our students along with, of course, present employability." IBA's unique 'Osmotic Learning Model', that is 3D (Discussion, Dialogue and Discourse) representation of learning, aims at making its students future and industry oriented and most importantly, better human beings.

SPOTLIGHT **KARNATAKA**

breasted kingfisher, grey hornbill, great pied hornbill and Malabar pied hornbill. The Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, a protected area and a tiger reserve, situated amidst Western Ghats in Chikmagalur and Shimoga, is rich in wildlife with diverse range of flora and fauna. The Anshi National Park in North Karnataka has semi-evergreen and evergreen forests and a rich bio diversity as

well. If you are in Bengaluru, stop by at the Bannerghatta National Park that is a combination of a zoo and national park and has safaris

The Golden Chariot allows you to explore Karnataka in style

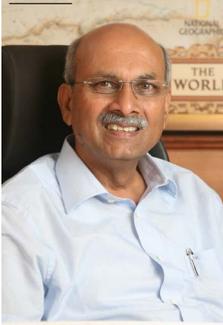


that take you through a tiger zone, bear zone, leopard zone and more. The Kudremukh National Park in Dakshina Kannada is home to the

Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, dhole, golden jackal, lion-tailed macaque, sloth bear, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer and more.

KLE SOCIETY - OVER A CENTURY OF COMMITMENT TO TRANSFORMING LIVES

Dr. Prabhakar B. Kore, M.P.,
Chairman, K.L.E. Society,
Belagavi



**SEVEN
TEACHERS
SUPPORTED
BY THREE
PATRONS**

started a school and founded the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society at Belgaum

on November 13, 1916. KLE today has 258 institutions, 1,25,000+ students and 16,000+ employees contributing to education, healthcare and agriculture. Establishment of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (2006) and KLE

Technological University (2015) have paved the way for nurturing and empowering skilled professionals. KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research which is ranked among the Top 100 Universities as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework is contributing to path-breaking work in women's and children's health through international collaborations with National Institute of Health (USA), WHO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UK Medical Research Council, etc. KLE Technological University is committed to promoting entrepreneurship and is partnering the "Make in India" initiative of the Government of India.

KLE Society, with a combined

capacity of 4,000+ beds including 1,700 charitable beds, has emerged as a leading provider of modern healthcare at affordable prices. The visionary efforts of its present Chairman, Dr Prabhakar Kore, MP, and the Board of Management, have enabled the organization define the societal landscape in the region. The global status of the organization is aptly complemented by the fact that nearly 60 per cent of its institutions are based in the rural areas. Stepping into a new century of commitment, the organization surges ahead, striving through innovation and research to emerge as the leading educational destination for the global community.



The Golden Chariot has been named after the iconic stone chariot of Hampi

LUXURY JOURNEYS

If you have a week and want to explore Karnataka in style, hop on to the Karnataka special luxury train the Golden Chariot that will transport you to the lap of luxury taking you on the only luxury train in South India. Named after the iconic stone chariot of Hampi the train is done up in majestic hues of purple and gold and has 18 coaches, 11 of which are reserved for guests. Named after the various dynasties that once ruled Karnataka, each coach has four rooms equipped with a TV and an attached bathroom. Apart from Wi-fi, the train has a gym, spa, business centre and control room so it is like a hotel on wheels!

Running between October and March each year, the train offers two

RUNNING BETWEEN OCTOBER AND MARCH EACH YEAR, THE GOLDEN CHARIOT TRAIN OFFERS TWO ITINERARIES, THE SOUTHERN SPLENDOUR AND THE PRIDE OF SOUTH. NAMED AFTER THE VARIOUS DYNASTIES THAT ONCE RULED KARNATAKA, EACH COACH HAS FOUR ROOMS EQUIPPED WITH A TV AND AN ATTACHED BATHROOM.

itineraries, the Southern Splendour and the Pride of South. The Pride of Karnataka offers you a sneak peek into the diverse sites of the state including heritage, history, architecture and wildlife. This includes stops at the heritage city of Mysore, a wildlife experience at Kabini, a visit to the historical sights of Tipu Sultan's summer palace and tomb in Srirangapatna and Hassan where you can see the unique 57-foot monolithic statue of Bahubali in Shravanbelagola as well as the sculptural marvels of the Halebid and Belur temples. You also visit the UNESCO world heritage sites Hampi and Pattadakal as well as the caves of Badami as part of the week long itinerary. The food is another highlight and the mix of local and international cuisine on board will

The Mysore Palace is one of the most-visited tourist attractions in Karnataka



whet your appetite.

TOURISM INITIATIVES

Tourism minister Priyank Kharge and his team ensures that there is something new all the time, The Tourism Department of Karnataka has recently launched Prathama (Pravasi Thana Mahiti) an online management information system that will collect, collate and disseminate information relevant to tourists. The website hosts the list of tourist destinations,

hotels, resorts and homestays, facilities for tourists and more. In fact the government also dedicates each year to a specific aspect of tourism and 2017 has been declared as “The year of the wild”. The tourism department will also be opening 12 eco trails in the Western Ghats and reduce the movement of unauthorized trekkers here. Likewise the famed annual Dasara festivities at Mysore are offered as a package that includes accommodation, meals,

sightseeing and events at the Palace.

In fact the Golden Chariot has a special run at this time too. The tourism department has also curated royal walks to enable tourists to explore the heritage-rich city of Mysuru. It is creditable the the department is instrumental in promoting destinations in a unique way through events and festivals that showcase the potential of the destination and this is what makes Karnataka a place like no other. ■

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