



The ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru

Sciences, National Law School of India University, International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore, National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. In the recently announced state budget, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy kept the focus on modernization of infrastructure in primary and secondary schools and higher education sector. Some measures announced included the construction of 1500 new classrooms, upgradation of 5000 classrooms, distribution of learning equipment to 1000 schools and appointment of one estate manager for the maintenance of school buildings. This apart, a 10 days training to one lakh teachers under 'Guruchethana' programme was also announced. The Government is also focusing on higher education through the adoption of new

learning methods through the Next Generation Learning Initiative in Bengaluru Central University. Bengaluru has some of the best educational institutions in India. But in Bengaluru, like in many other urban centres in the country, children across all income groups are flocking to private schools. While the number of private schools is rapidly growing, government schools on the other hand are

increasingly being shut down in the name of low student enrollment. The biggest problem with government schools is poorly trained or absent teachers. These schools also lack modern infrastructure and students are introduced to technology only in the sixth standard. We see concerned citizens and good Samaritans helping once in a while, but that is not enough. "Given that the problem of poorly trained

## MYSORE'S ETERNAL CHARM

Located about 130 km from Bengaluru is the royal heritage city of Mysore. Start your city tour at the majestic Mysore Palace which is the official residence of the Wodeyars who ruled Mysore prior to independence. The Indo-Saracenic architecture that has Hindu, Muslim, Rajput and Gothic influences is where the 10-day Mysore Dussehra festivities take place. The palace itself is a must-see for its beautiful interiors, paintings and galleries that are a mute witness to a rich past. When you are here do stop by at the quaint Railway Museum that has a display of vintage locomotives and railway engines and was established by the Indian Railways in 1979. You can see here some railway gems like the ES 506 4-6-2 locomotive, an Austin Railway Car, built from the 1925 Austin model and an YP #2511 made by Telco and the Maharani's Saloon carriage used by the Queen of Mysore. A stop at the Chamundi Hills is a must considering that she is the presiding deity of the city and revered by the royal family who worship her as their family deity as well. The drive up the hill is scenic and gives you some stunning aerial views of the city. Said to be the yoga capital of the South, Mysore

is home to several wellness places, ashrams and yoga learning centres too. Make time to see the the Government Sandalwood Factory, a heritage building adjacent to the Railway Workshop that is run by the Karnataka Soaps and Detergent Ltd. While production has ceased it is fascinating to see the entire sandalwood processing stages like cutting, chipping, disintegrating wood, distilling, filtering and re-filtering. And when in Mysore shopping for the famed Mysore Silk Sarees must be on your agenda. The sarees are sure to burn a hole in your pocket as they are woven in pure gold thread. However, you can also buy sarees woven in silver threads which though expensive are still worth the price. The silk weaving factory in Mysore owned by Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) is where you can learn about the entire process of silk weaving and see the process from the silk cocoons to the weaving of pure silk fabric. There are several showrooms in the main market that sell silk sarees but the authentic sarees come with the KSIC branding. A stop at the Brindavan Gardens that houses the Krishnaraja Sagar dam engineered by Sir M. Vishveswaraya is a must too.