

# OUR BANGALORE

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## VERSE VIRALITY

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## ART ON THE GO

As Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) earns the prestigious UNESCO Prix Versailles 2023 accolade, Our Bangalore explores its captivating artworks. **Page 6**



## BRUSHES OF INCLUSIVITY

Explore the transformative power of makeup in fostering inclusivity, as artists from the city's trans community carve their own vibrant paths. **Page 4**



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# SCHOOL'S OUT?

As the govt's 45-day ultimatum to unauthorised schools enters its final stretch, stakeholders brace for potential closures and heated debates ahead

**COVER STORY** by SHIVANI VENUGOPAL

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In case of unauthorised school closures, lists of affected schools will be published on notice boards and local newspapers. Steps will be taken to enrol affected students in nearby schools. Parents also have the option to enrol their children in other nearby schools

**MADHU BANGARAPPA**, MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Bindu Gopal Rao

As you navigate the airline terminal in Bangalore's T2, you cannot miss the stunning artwork that dominates the space. Specifically, one of the sets of ten Kinnala Winged Figures made using teak wood by artist Santosh Kumar Chitragara, suspended from the ceiling representing angels blessing passengers is an arresting visual.

The set has two 30-inch, three 24-inch and five 18-inch figures that have been crafted using the ancient indigenous Kinnala craft. "As this is a place where people fly, I decided on the concept of angels coming down from the heavens - it is like when you are flying in the clouds and descending. I took about 3.5 months to get this ready and when I see this at the airport, I feel very proud," says Chitragara. Bangalore's Terminal 2 (T2) is a tribute to the Garden City and is inspired by four principles - garden, sustainability, technology, art and culture. The artworks that span both the domestic and international terminals have a story that is waiting to be discovered.

**Heart for art**

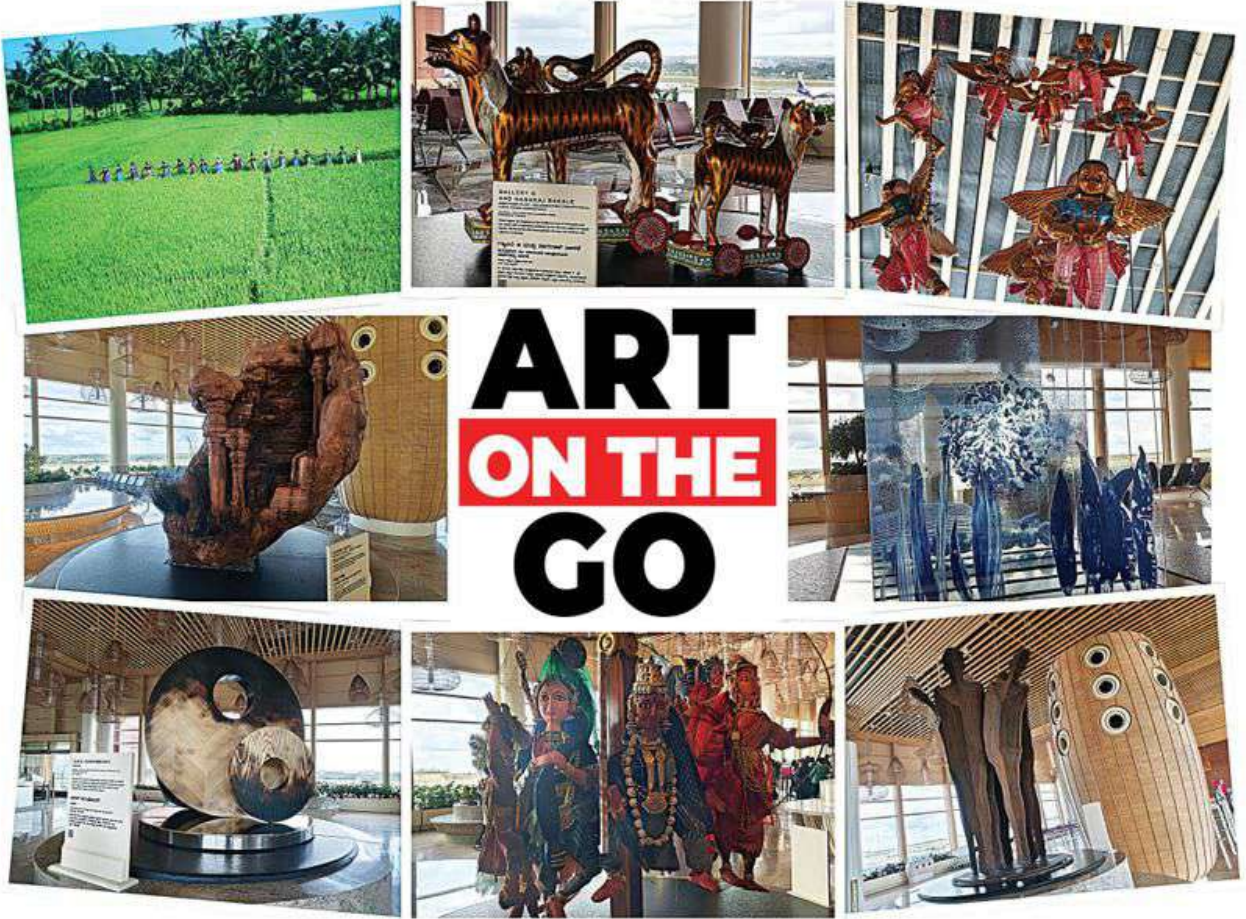
In 2019, the team at Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) would always have a space for art to take away the stress of travel for guests. The art that was chosen came from an open call where the team received close to 300 nominations (for 17 pieces of art). The second call happened in 2022 and the current artwork is from this process.

Once the art works were ready, the team took time to decide on the exact placement of each of the art works as it needed to have a right fit to make a difference to the passengers. Yamini Telkar, Head - Art Programmes, BIAL explains, "We were clear that we wanted to humanise the experience for passengers as they interact with the art pieces. The art works reflect the expressions of passengers which is the naurasa (nine emotions). All the art work is diverse in medium, form and subject but the common element is about how we respond to human emotions."

**Art attack**

There are 60 commissioned artworks by 43 artists that are inspired by Karnataka's rich heritage and culture and naurasa that is mentioned in Bharata's Natya Shastra. Anupama Hoskere, a Bangalore-based artist, whose installation of wood puppets called "Spiral of life" is a set of the traditional Sutra-da Bombe (string puppets) of Karnataka. Depicting the nine emotions, these wood puppets took a year and a half to make from concept to delivery. "Made out of wood with traditional costuming and foil work, some of the ornaments are also crafted in wood. It has been an exciting journey for me to make these and as we were given full freedom as

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**ART  
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artists, this piece of art gives me immense happiness," says Hoskere.

**Digital fix**

Like Goan artist Subodh Kerkar, whose digital artwork "Navarasa" is a performance installation. "Since I had been working on a new medium of performance installations with the fishermen of Goa, I decided to explore the navarasa through dance. We put out a call for women who could wear a saree and come to a beach and we had an overwhelming 200 plus women signing up. Preeti Kamal, whose Instagram handle is naariinsaree, suggested that we make the formation in the shape of an eye. For the next one, we did a similar call for women in Bharatanatyam costumes and Mansi, a graphic designer at the Museum of Goa

and Bharatnatyam dancer herself, choreographed some simple steps. Also, as you do not really see dancers on the seaside, this came out well. The other one I did was when I visited Ankola in Karnataka and worked with the women from the Halakki tribe to walk in the forest," says Kerkar.

**Sky connection**

Another large installation (85" X 25" X 95") called "The Moon" by Bangalore artist Krishnaraj Chonat looks like a coracle (country boat) from one side and the moon on the other. And the little girl is sitting atop the installation modelled on his daughter.

Chonat explains, "I grew up near the old airport as my father was working in Hindustan Aeronautics. The site where the run-

way of the airport ended, there was a lake with many coracles. That lake was supposed to be the Bellandur Lake that had extended there. I wanted to do something associated with that - one side being the coracle and the other, moon. And the idea behind this sculpture was 'where you stand is what you see' and indicates how you can further your horizons; interpretations can vary based on how one sees it."

Similarly, "Meghdoot", a stunning suspended cloud-like installation (12 x 8 x 6 Feet) made using wood charcoal, cotton rag pulp and carbon fibre by Bangalore based artist Shantamani Muddaiah.

"I work with natural fibres, especially charcoal. I am keen on understanding the role of carbon in our life. I use material as a metaphor and Bangalore becomes an important city to understand in terms of development and growth. Meghdoot was an opportunity to interact with people in transit and came as a messenger to help people reflect on sustainability and reflect on what we are and what we are doing to our own environment," says Muddaiah.

The next time you are in T2, spend time looking at them and you can interpret it for yourself. Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Operating Officer, BIAL, concludes, "T2 is the new gateway to India and as it reflects Silicon's city's world class technology, we wanted it to be a space that also reflected the art and culture of Karnataka."

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**YAMINI TELKAR, HEAD - ART PROGRAMMES, BIAL**