



INTACH
Mangaluru Chapter

CHENNU

MANGALURU CITY PROFILE

Published by
ART KANARA TRUST



All rights reserved.
The copyright for this publication is vested in the © **Art Kanara Trust**.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior written permission of the publisher, except where permitted by law.

Title
Chennu: Mangaluru City Profile

Editor
Shalmali Shetty

Publisher
Nemiraj Shetty
Secretary, Art Kanara Trust
e: artkanaratrust@gmail.com

Kodialguthu Centre for Art & Culture
5-12-1139/1, G. G. Road, Ballalbagh,
Mangaluru - 575 003

ISBN: 978-81-959711-1-4

First Edition: January 2023
Number of Pages: 24
Number of Copies: 500
Price: ₹180/-

Designed at:
Mindcraft Studios

Printed at:
Prakash Offset Printers, Mangaluru

Publication initiated by:
INTACH Mangaluru Chapter

Publication supported by:
SUEZ Projects Pvt. Ltd., Mangaluru

PROJECT TEAM

Concept
Subhas Chandra Basu, Convenor,
INTACH Mangaluru Chapter
e: intachmangaluru@gmail.com

Text
Caroline D'Souza, Niren Jain,
Shalmali Shetty, Subhas Chandra Basu,
Prithuma Monteiro

Layout and Design
Sharvani Bhat, Sujith K. V.

Photography
Yajna, Murali M. Abbemane,
Subhas Chandra Basu, Shalmali Shetty,
Vivek Gowda, Skanda Vrishank

Illustrations
Santhosh Andrade, Reshma S. Shetty

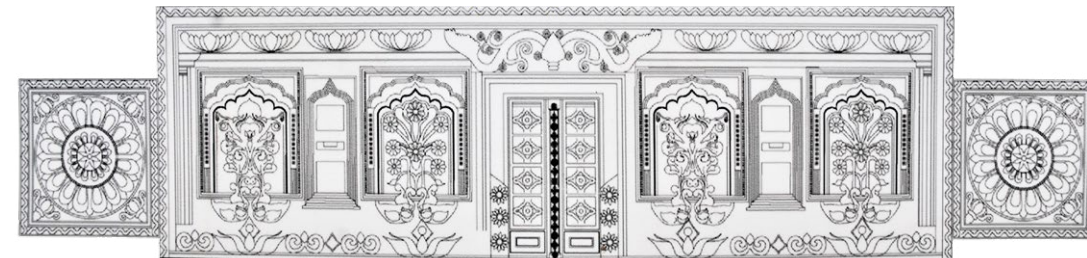
Project Coordinators
Rajendra Kedige, Harish Kodialbail

Front Cover:
Chennu Nalike; Yajna, 1990s
Chennu Nalike is an ancient traditional folk dance form, practised particularly by the Mogera community. This is performed by singing *Pardanas* during the harvest months of February and March.



CHENNU

MANGALURU CITY PROFILE



Zeenath Baksh door frame (detail);
Courtesy: Srinivas School of Architecture

CONTENTS

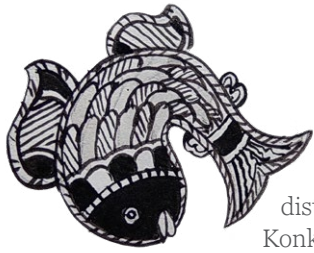
Introduction	04
Historic Profile	04
Geographic / Demographic Profile	06
Physical Profile: Climate, Environ & Ecology	07
Economy & Industry	08
Education	10
Socio-Cultural	12
<i>Ethnography & Linguistics</i>	12
<i>Built Heritage & Cultural Institutions</i>	14
<i>Art, Culture & Festivals</i>	17
<i>Gastronomy</i>	19
Present & Future	22
Bibliography	24



Pilivesha | Photo: Vivek Gowda, 20/22



South Kanara District of Madras Presidency | 1925
Source: Basel Mission Archives RNo. KARVAR-31.101



INTRODUCTION

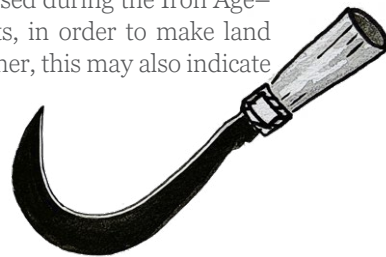
The city of Mangaluru falls within the region of Tulunadu—a distinct cultural landscape in south-western India along the Konkan coast to the north and Malabar coast to the south. The geographical boundaries of Mangaluru include the Netravati river in the south, the Gurupura river in the north and the Arabian Sea to the west. Through the course of time, this strip of the coastal plain stemming from the undulating lowlands and rolling off the Western Ghats, has remained a land apart, separated from the elevated hinterland that forms the Deccan Plateau.

The Arabian Sea ensured constant contact from seafarers of the Western world like the Romans, Greeks and Pre-Islamic Arabs since the beginning of the first millennia; and later on the Portuguese, French, Dutch, Germans and the British, amongst others, who contributed towards the shaping of the cosmopolitan port town.

Today, the heterogeneous town of Mangaluru is the administrative headquarters of the Dakshina Kannada district and the largest urban coastal centre of Karnataka. The city, like most other rapidly developing urban centres today, faces similar challenges—those of population growth leading to extensive urbanization and globalization due to increased trade—therefore, undergoing a loss of its unique identity (tangible and intangible); and environmental changes due to the exploitation of natural resources.

HISTORIC PROFILE

Mythological accounts and indigenous folk tales of the land of Tulunadu have been handed down through oral means across practices such as the singing of the *Pardanas*. The more popular Brahmanical narrative however states that Lord Parashurama provided land to the natives along the west coast by yielding his axe to the ground which made the seas roll back and reveal land for man to live on (Parashurama Srishti). Anthropologists like John Fryer of the East India Company have stated that the reference made to the axe has references to the tools and weapons used during the Iron Age—to clear forests descending from the Western Ghats, in order to make land available for agrarian communities to settle on. Further, this may also indicate the advent of Brahmanism over the coastal region.



HISTORIC TIMELINE

UPTO 14 CE

1

Alupas were an important dynasty that ruled the territories of Tulunadu, offering their willing submission to the various ruling warlords, with Mangaluru being their first capital (the Kadambas in the 6th century).

Vijayanagara Dynasty ruled the Tulunadu region by dividing it into two rajyas -Mangaluru and Barkuru.

2

VIJAYANAGARA PERIOD | 1336 - 1600

KELADI NAYAKAS | 1600 - 1760

3

The Bekal Fort built at Kasaragod is attributed to the Keladi Nayakas. The Portuguese governed Mangaluru was defeated by Queen of Ullal-Rani Abbakka Chowta with the help of the Bijapur Sultan of Ahmed Nagar and the Samudiri of Calicut.

It was Tipu Sultan's father Hyder Ali who took a liking to this part of the kingdom and developed it actively, by installing new industries (especially military ones) in and around the city, modernizing its fortifications and renovating the port where he set up a military dockyard and shipbuilding facilities.

4

HYDER ALI | TIPU SULTAN | 18 CE

THE BRITISH | 19 CE

5

After the British battle against Tipu in 1799 CE, they established the cantonment next to the indigenous CBDs (Central Business Districts). The old Mangalore fort was done away with, and a district office was created along with other administrative offices which have remained the core of the CBD to this day.

The German Protestant Basel Mission came to Mangaluru in 1834 and established educational institutions and various industries such as for weaving and printing, as well as tile factories along the river banks. The clayey laterite soil was deemed perfect to manufacture the Mangalore Tile that changed the urban skyline and the built form of the region, while having a ubiquitous influence on pitched roof landscapes nationally. Around the same time, various Catholic missions, alongside other local bodies, set up schools, colleges and hospitals which dotted the expanding urban landscape and continued to be major revenue generators well into the 21st century.

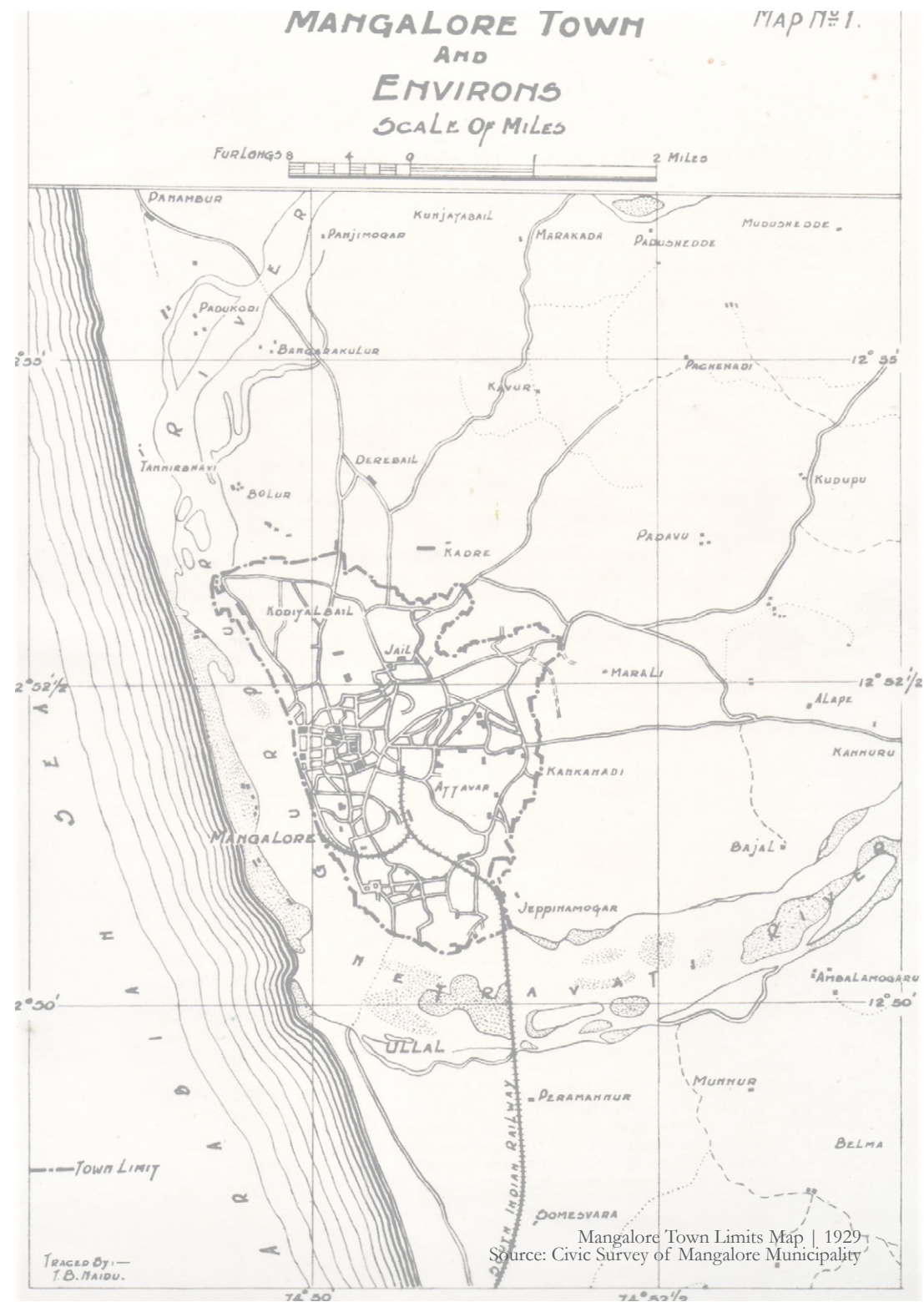
6

THE BASEL MISSION | 1834

In the early 19th century, the establishment of the Basel Mission in Mangaluru altered the town's morphology forever.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Bhatt, P. Gururaja, *Studies in Tuluva History and Culture, from the Pre-historic Times Upto the Modern*; Kallianpur Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Memorial Trust: 1975
2. Caldwell, Robert, *A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages*; University of Madras: 1856
3. Chakraborti, Dilip K., *The Ancient Routes of the Deccan and Southern Peninsula*; Aryan Books International, New Delhi: 2010
4. Doddamane, A. Wahab, *Muslims in Dakshina Kannada: A Historical Study Upto 1947 and Survey of Recent Developments*; Green Words Publication: 1993
5. Goitein, Shelomo Dov, & Friedman, Mordechai Akiva, *India Traders of the Middle Ages: Documents from the Cairo Geniza*; India Book; Leiden Brill: 2011
6. Karashima, Noboru, 'Preface' in *A Concise History of South India: Issues and Interpretations*; Oxford University Press, New Delhi: 2014 str. 2
7. Lafont, Jean Marie, *Chitra: Cities and Monuments of Eighteenth Century India from French Archives*; Oxford University Press, New Delhi: 2001
8. Michell, George & Arni, Clare, *Kanara A Land Apart: The Artistic Heritage of Coastal Karnataka*; The Marg Foundation, Mumbai: 2012; Sv. vol. 64 str. 124 pages: Chiefly color illustrations; 32 cm 9788192110639 819211063X
9. Rao, B. Surendra & Gowda, K. Chinnappa, 'Foreword' in *The Retrieved Acre: Nature and Culture in the World of Tuluva Mangalore*; The Director, Mangalore University: 2003; stránky 5-7
10. Rao, Nagendra Shiva, *Tulunadu: Making of the Region*; academia.edu: 2019; National Seminar on the History and Culture of South India str. 3
11. Ghosh, Amitava, *In an Antique Land*; Granta Books, London: 1992
12. Report, *Civic Survey of Mangalore Municipality*: 1929
13. Chakrabarty, Dr. Mita, *Mask: In Collection of the Indian Museum (A Catalogue of the Mask Gallery)*; Indian Museum, Kolkata | <https://indianmuseumkolkata.org/collection/NTc%3D?page=2>
14. Rai, Dr. B.A. Viveka, *Mangaluru Darshana: Volume 1, 2 and 3*; The Commissioner, Mangalore Urban Development Authority: 2016
15. Basel Mission Archives | <https://www.bmarchives.org/>
16. Census of India | <https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/>
17. Mangalore City Corporation | <http://www.mangalurucity.mrc.gov.in/>
Mangalore | <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangalore>



Tulunadu, situated in the southwestern coastal region of Karnataka, has a distinct identity resulting from several layers of historic development and cultural influences. Mangaluru, locally known as Kudla, is one of the region's ancient and prominent sea trade centres. The region's rich biodiversity comprises numerous west-flowing rivers and a sensitive coast bordered by the Western Ghats to its east, making it a UNESCO world natural heritage site. Despite having many external cultural influences, the region has managed to maintain its unique cultural character, with Tulu, one of the five major Dravidian languages, still being the most widely spoken tongues. The local landscape, built-form, literature, performing arts, crafts and rituals, represent the historic saga of the region. However, there have been many emerging threats to both the natural and cultural heritage due to various anthropogenic, economic and developmental pressures. There is an urgent need to sensitize the local people and the future generations on the significance of conserving our rich regional heritage.

INTACH Mangaluru Chapter was established in 2016.