

Wealth of Prosperity and Greenery in Uttara Kannada



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The Beautiful region of Sirsi is home for many elephants, tigers, leopards and many other animals. Sirsi is a hill station surrounded by pretty thick green forest with a touch of many waterfalls. It is a must visit places if one wishes to experience the calmness of nature with a tune of waterfalls. This is the place where one can find an enormous consciousness of environment. Sirsi is also called in Kannada as “Malanadina Hebbagilu”.

It encompasses Sirsi and Siddapur taluks and a small part of Mundagod taluk. The total forest area of the division including protected forests is \approx 1,71,828 ha. The major rivers draining the divisions are Aghanashini, Sharavathi, Varada, Sonda, Dharma and Bedti. Dharma and Varada rivers drain towards the east and eventually join the Tungabhadra river, while the others flow towards west to join the Arabian sea. Bedti is known as Gangavali in the downstream areas. Sirsi division has three subdivisions (Sirsi, Janmane and Siddapur), six ranges (Sirsi, Hulekal, Banavasi, Janmane and Siddapur and Kyadgi), 22 sections and 78 beats. There are two timber depots, at Chipgi and Manmane. Sirsi

division primarily harbours semi evergreen and moist deciduous forests with pockets of wet evergreen forests in the valleys. Portions of the forests of the division towards the east tend to be scrubby.

Areca nut is the essential yield developed in the towns that encompass the city, making it one of the real exchanging communities. The nuts developed here are transported all across India, and furthermore traded abroad. Areca as supari, areca nut or betel nut is the primary crop grown in the villages that surround the city, making it one of the major part subsistence and horticulture based.

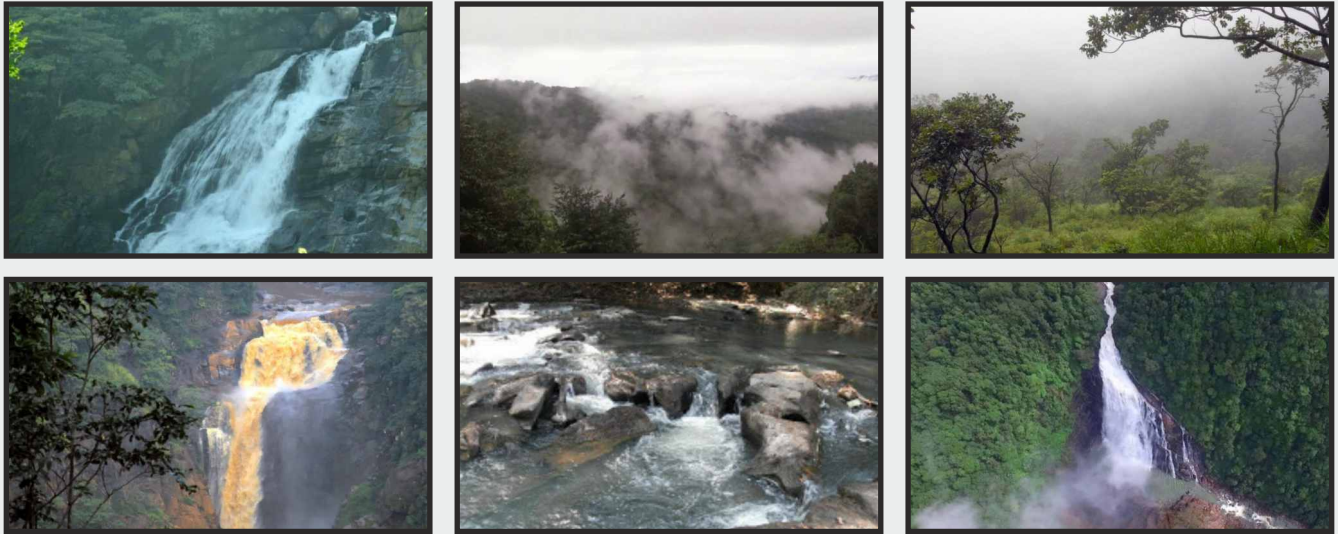
Sirsi is a tourist destination with a recent population estimate of 155,079. It is the largest city, a main commercial center and a business hub in Malenadu. The main businesses around the city are mainly agriculture based. The region is also known for spices such as cardamom, pepper, betel leaves and vanilla, while paddy is a major food crop.

The city is surrounded by forest, and the region

has a number of waterfalls, Mattighatta is a V-shaped two stepped waterfalls amidst the strong walls like rocks that remind sequences as in Mokedatu near Kanakapura region. Mattighatta waterfalls are popularly called Hasehalla. It is small in size but pours forcibly. Those who are interested in trekking and regular trekkers love this place as it gives great fun in climbing till beginning of waterfalls and viewing from the top and can see the valley closely.

Devimane Ghat

Devimane Ghat on the way between Karwar and Sirsi, it is linked between Sirsi to Kumta. It has five sharp curves on the hilly roads of Western Ghats. The surrounding is filled with thick green forest on the lofty hills fully covered with fog during early morning or in winter season with full of mist. Typically, all tourists take a stop at Devimane to have this excellent view. Just beside the road, there is a small Devi temple and this is



Water falls

One may come across varieties of endangered species of birds and butterflies in this area. As we started our journey from Sirsi on Kumta road to reach Hegdekatte at 15 Km and Mattighatta road up to 7-8 km to find Devanahalli village. After covering another 15 km we get Mattighatta. Here starts the tough journey cum trekking downhill for about 2 km to enter Kelagina Keri. There is an alternative option to view this falls. One may choose to go by trekking the hill top to view the falls or trek down below to view it at the base. We ventured to walk further and crossed a few houses. It was really tough time for my friends to reach the bottom of the waterfalls and return. The courteous treatment of visitors by the natives particularly the women folk was wonderful and highly appreciable. Compared to other falls unforgettable experience was trekking to the black formation wood place with cool and calm.

one of the best spots for photographers and for nature lovers.

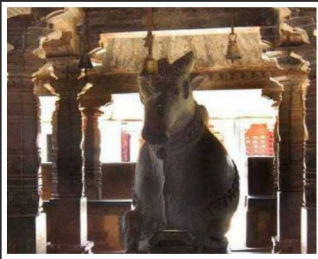
Unchalli, Benne Hole and Shivaganga Falls

Unchalli falls is created by a 116 m height drop in the Aghanashini river located in Siddapur taluk. Here the river takes a deep plunge to create this spectacular view with picturesque falls. This falls is also known as Keppa Joga because of the deafening sound it makes. There is a view point constructed to here to have a view of the falls. Rainbow and mist here gives additional beauty to the location with roaring sound of the falls.

Benne hole falls is one among the beautiful waterfalls in Uttarakannada. In Kannada, 'benne' means butter and 'hole' means big streams. The name of this place itself indicates a lot of explanation about its beauty. It is a big stream flows with all in force and looks jet white and

one of the best photographic spots and suitable place for the nature lovers.

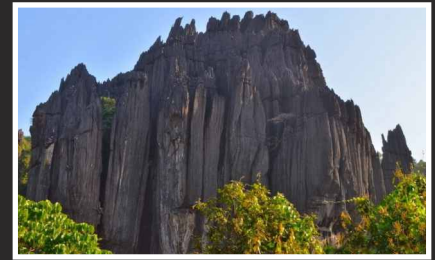
Shivaganga Falls is located at a distance of 45 km from Sirsi. The falls is surrounded by thick forest. Shivaganga is one of the unique waterfalls in the Western Ghats. The small river falls from 74 m height flows into a deep valley covered with evergreen forest and presents a charming view. The thick green forest, pleasant foggy weather with misty waterfalls gave fame to Sirsi. This place is suitable for visit especially during, rainy season.



Temples



Bhairaveshwara Shikara



Mohini Shikara

Devarahole and Kailasa Gudde

Devarahole is a part of the Shalmala river, which originated near Sirsi. The spot is amidst in the lush green forests of Sahyadri and there are carvings of Lingas, Goddess Durga, God Vishnu, God Anjaneya and many other deities along the banks of the river. Thousands of pilgrims and devotees visit Devarahole to perform pooja on the occasion of Shivarathri.

Kailasa Gudde is a beautiful entertaining picnic place located about 7 km from Sirsi forest. This is a big hilly area covered by the forest. Here we have a view tower and one can watch the beautiful scenery of the forest surrounded by the hills is a best trekking area.

Banavasi and Sonda Temple

Banavasi was one of the capitals of Kadamba Kings, who established the first Kannada Empire. It is located 23 km away from Sirsi. It is the same place where Pampa, the famous poet of Kannada wrote his epics. He was so much impressed with this place wished to get birth again as a cuckoo or bee in Banavasi. It was also the ancient place of learning for the scholars within and neighbouring states.

Sonda is a temple a town and the site of the Vadiraja Mutt. It is located at a high attitude of

2000 m and it was an important city during the reign of the Swadi Kings from of the 16 to the 18th centuries. 'Sri Vadiraja' established a Mutt here to spread the Dvaita philosophy of Sri Madhavacharya.

Musukina Bavi and Sahasralinga

This is situated in Sirsi city, the well was constructed by the Sonda Kings. At that time, this place was used for bathing purpose. Nowadays city municipality has created a small park and fountain to attract the tourists and for weekend entertainment. There is a long underground tunnel connects Banavasi and Sirsi.

Sahasralinga is a pilgrim place located about 17 km from Sirsi. There are thousands of stones with

Shiva Linga carved on them by the sides and some like Bulls (Basava) belongs to Lord Shiva. Because of these uncountable carvings, the place gets the name 'Sahasra Linga' (thousand lingas). History says all these Shiva Lingas were built by the King Sadhashivaraya during 1678-1718. When the water level is not high enough one can actually see all those carvings. Best time for visit would be winter and early summer.

Yana

Yana is a village in the forests near Kumta, which is known for the unusual karst rock formation. It is located in the Sahyadri mountain range of the Western Ghats, about 60 kms from Karwar port, 40 km from Sirsi, and 31 km from Kumta. Yana is one of the wettest villages in the world and it is cleanest village in Karnataka and second cleanest village in India. The two unique rock outcrops near the village are a tourist attraction and easily approachable by a small trek through 0.5 km of forests from the nearest road head.

Yana is famous for two massive rock outcrops known as the Bhairaveshwara shikara and the Mohini shikara ("Shikara" means "hill"). The huge rocks are composed of solid while the Mohini shikara is 90 m height. Yana is also well known as a pilgrimage centre because of the cave temple below the Bhairaveshwara shikara, where a Swayambhu ("Self manifested") linga has been formed water drips from the roof over the linga, adding to the sanctity of the place. During annual festivities held here during the Shivaratri, a car festival is also held. The place and surrounding hillocks are also known for evergreen scenic forest.

A note for locating places around Yana village by GPS: Yana village; Bhairaveshwara Shikara, Yana; Mohini Shikara, Yana; Yaa Rocks, Yana; Yana caves; Yana Parking lot and Vibhooti Falls, on Mattighatta Road, Achave are all located in close vicinity. However, there is no short road connecting all these places. Earlier the people used to get tired to climb this hilly region

but now there are convenient transport facilities. Thus, there was a saying that 'Sokku iddare Yana, Rokka iddare Gokarna' in Kannada (Sokku, capacity or energy; Rokka, money)

Final Words

There is a great pleasure in visiting Sirsi division which is covered through greenery of nature, where one can get pleasant, cool and fresh climate. Agriculture is the main occupation here. But it should be developed in vast level of globalization because most of these people are not having awareness. They mainly rely on the traditional way of agriculture. But they are good in organic farming as they maintain cattle. Sugarcane cultivation plays a vital role. They prepare the jaggery called "Zhoni Bella". Pineapple will be grown in large scale and produce jam and juice. Areca is the major commercial crop. Owing to such traditional indigenous attitudes and cultivation practices, Sirsi has maintained its lush forest and ambient climatic conditions.

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