

## **Culture & Civilization** **(Focussing particularly on Karnataka)**

Course Co-ordinator: Dr.M.S. Nagaraja Rao  
# 15, Gangothri Layout  
I Stage, I Cross,  
Mysore-570 009  
Ph: 2344766, 2344833 (O)  
2543271, 2344944 (R)  
Cell Phone: 9448355124, 9945900573  
E-mail: [msnrao@sancharnet.in](mailto:msnrao@sancharnet.in)  
[dcismsn@rediffmail.com](mailto:dcismsn@rediffmail.com)

India is one of the world's ancient civilizations. The greatness of India is that it continues to be a living tradition, which can be traced back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium B.C. However, we will try to understand the culture of India, focusing particularly on Karnataka. We will notice in our study that Indian culture exhibits remarkable unity, inspite of having diverse languages and religious traditions. Therefore understanding one region will help appreciate Indian culture in general, though not in its entity. However in order to provide a proper perspective, we will begin with a study of the earliest known civilization, viz., Indus Valley civilization, and proceed to learn about Vedic Culture, for which we have a huge body of literature. We then focus our attention on the chosen area i.e., Karnataka.

### **The Course consists of 7 Units:**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Unit 1 | Indian Culture & Early civilization      |
| Unit 2 | Historical Perspective                   |
| Unit 3 | Art & Architecture                       |
| Unit 4 | Religion & Philosophy                    |
| Unit 5 | Indian Literature, focusing on Karnataka |
| Unit 6 | Classical arts: Dance, Music & Painting  |
| Unit 7 | Folk Traditions & Arts                   |

## Course Schedule

<b>Introduction to Indian Culture</b>	<b>No. of Lectures</b>
<b>Unit 1 Indian Culture &amp; Early Civilization</b>	
Vedic culture	1
Great Epics of India: Ramayana } Great Epics of India: Mahabharatha }	2
Indus Civilization } Early Cultures of Karnataka }	1
<b>Unit 2 Historical Perspective</b>	
Karnataka: A Chronological Perspective	1
<b>Unit 3 Art &amp; Architecture of Karnataka</b>	
Karnataka: Architectural forms	1
Early Chalukyan Art } Rashtrakuta Art }	1
Hoysala Art } Vijayanagar & its Architecture } Islamic Art in Karnataka }	2
<b>Unit 4 Religion &amp; Philosophy</b>	
Hinduism: Saivism & Vaishnavism } Hinduism: Shankara, Madhva, Ramanuja }	1
Buddhism & Jainism in Karnataka	1
<b>Unit 5 Indian Literature focusing on Karnataka</b>	
Indian Literature: Sanskrit & South Indian Literature	2
<b>Unit 6 Classical Arts</b>	
Classical Dance of South India	1
<b>Unit 7 Folk Tradition &amp; Arts</b>	
Folklore & Folk Traditions of Karnataka	1

### **Unit 8 Cultural Excursions & Events**

In addition to academic lectures, the program has envisaged cultural excursions. They include:

- a) Visit to Mysore Palace
- b) Visit to Sravanabelagola, Belur & Halebid  
(ancient Monuments of 10-12<sup>th</sup> century A.D.)

Readings:

- In praise of Hoysala (Marg Publication)
- Guide to Belur
- Guide to Halebid
- Guide to Sravanabelagola
- Homage to Sravanabelagola

- c) Visit to Melkote
- d) Visit to the Great Buddhist Temple at Bylakuppe

**Readings:**

- In praise of Badami, Aihole & Pattadakal (Marg Publication)
- Splendors of Vijayanagar Empire (Marg Publication)
- Guide to Hampi by devakunjari

Besides the above travel program, the course includes the following cultural events:

- 1) Screening the film GANDHI by Sir Richard Attenborough
- 2) One Cultural Evening (Classical Dance or Music Concert)