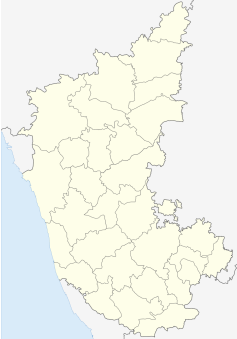# Mysore

This article is about the municipality in India. For its namesake district, see Mysore district.

For other uses, see Mysore (disambiguation).

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Mysore
ಮೈಸೂರು</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Mysuru</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Metropolitan city</td></tr>
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Mysore Palace</td></tr>
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Location of Mysore in Karnataka</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Coordinates: 12.30°N 76.65°E (http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Mysore&params=12.30_N_76.65_E_type:city(887446)_region:IN-KN)Coordinates: 12.30°N 76.65°E (http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Mysore&params=12.30_N_76.65_E_type:city(887446)_region:IN-KN)</td></tr>
</table>

Country	India
State	Karnataka
Division	Mysore
District	Mysore
Government	
• **Type**	Mayor–Council
• **Mayor**	Rajeshwari M C
Area[:4]	
• **Total**	128 km^2 (49.58 sq mi)
Elevation	763 m (2,503 ft)
Population (2011)	
• **Total**	887,446
• **Rank**	53

• Density	6,900/km^2 (18,000/sq mi)
• Demonym	*Mysorean*, *Mysoorinavaru*
Time zone	IST (UTC+05:30)
Postal index number	570 0xx
Vehicle registration	KA 09, KA 55
UN/LOCODE	IN MYQ
Telephone	91-(0)821-XXX-XXXX
Official language	Kannada
Spoken languages	Kannada
Website	www.mysorecity.gov.in (http://www.mysorecity.gov.in/)

Mysore (or **Mysuru**) (🔊 [i]/maɪˈsʊər/) is the second largest city in the state of Karnataka, India, which served as the capital city of Mysore Princely Kingdom (Kingdom of Mysore) for nearly six centuries, from 1399 until 1947. Located at the base of the Chamundi Hills about 146 km (91 mi) southwest of the state capital Bangalore, it is spread across an area of 128.42 km^2 (50 sq mi). According to the provisional results of the 2011 national census of India, the population of Mysore is 887,446; of which male and female are 443,813 and 443,633 respectively. The total population of the urban agglomeration (UA) is 920,550. Mysore City Corporation is responsible for the civic administration of the city, which is also the headquarters of the Mysore district and the Mysore division.

The Kingdom of Mysore was ruled by the Wodeyar dynasty, except for a brief period in the late 18th century when Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan were in power. Patrons of art and culture, the Wodeyars contributed significantly to the cultural growth of the city. The cultural ambience and achievements of Mysore earned it the sobriquet *Cultural capital of Karnataka*.

Mysore is noted for its palaces, including the Mysore Palace, and for the festivities that take place during the *Dasara* festival when the city receives a large number of tourists. It lends its name to the Mysore style of painting, the sweet dish *Mysore Pak*, the *Mysore Peta* (a traditional silk turban) and the garment known as the Mysore silk saree. Tourism is the major industry, while information technology has emerged as a major employer alongside the traditional industries. Mysore depends mainly on rail and bus transport for inter-city connections. It also has an Airport serving the city, also known as Mandakalli Airport. The city was the location of the first private radio station in India. Mysore houses Mysore University, which has produced several notable authors, particularly in the field of Kannada literature. Cricket is the most popular sport in the city, however it has many other sport facilities.
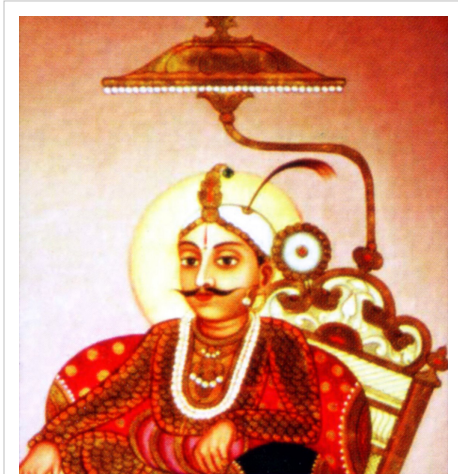
Etymology

The name *Mysore* is an anglicised version of *Mahishūru*, which means the abode of *Mahisha* in the local Kannada language. Though in Sanskrit *Mahisha* means buffalo, here *Mahisha* refers to Mahishasura, a mythological demon who could assume the form of both human and buffalo. According to Hindu mythology, the area was ruled by the demon Mahishasura. The demon was killed by the Goddess Chamundeshwari, whose temple is situated atop the Chamundi Hills. *Mahishūru* later became *Mahisūru* (a name which, even now, the royal family uses) and finally came to be called Maisūru, its present name in the Kannada language.[1] In December 2005, the Government of Karnataka announced its intention to change the English name of the city to *Mysuru*. This has been approved by the Government of India, but as of 2011 the formalities necessary to incorporate the name change were yet to be completed.

History

Further information: Kingdom of Mysore

The site where Mysore Palace now stands was occupied by a village named Puragere at the beginning of the 16th century.[281] The *Mahishūru Fort* was constructed in 1524 by Chamaraja Wodeyar III (1513–1553),[257] who passed on the dominion of *Puragere* to his son Chamaraja Wodeyar IV (1572–1576). Since the 16th century, the name of *Mahishūru* has commonly been used to denote the city.[31] The Mysore Kingdom, governed by the Wodeyar family, initially served as a vassal state of the Vijayanagara Empire. With the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire after the Battle of Talikota in 1565, the Mysore Kingdom gradually achieved independence, and by the time of King Narasaraja Wodeyar (1637) it had become a sovereign state.[228] Seringapatam (modern-day Srirangapatna), near Mysore, was the capital of the kingdom from 1610.[257] The 17th century saw a steady expansion of its territory and, under Narasaraja Wodeyar I and Chikka

Narasaraja Wodeyar II ruled from 1704 to 1714.

Devaraja Wodeyar, the kingdom annexed large expanses of what is now southern Karnataka and parts of Tamil Nadu, to become a powerful state in the southern Deccan.

The kingdom reached the height of its military power and dominion in the latter half of the 18th century under the de facto rulers Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan. The latter demolished parts of Mysore to remove legacies of the Wodeyar dynasty.[257] During this time, Mysore kingdom came into conflict with the Marathas, the British and the *Nizam* of Golconda, leading to the four Anglo-Mysore wars, success in the first two of which was followed by defeat in the third and fourth. After Tipu Sultan's death in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War in 1799, the capital of the kingdom was moved back to Mysore from Seringapatam,[249] and the kingdom was distributed by the British to their allies of the Fourth Mysore war. The landlocked interior of the previous Mysore Kingdom was turned into a princely state under the suzerainty of the British Crown. The former Wodeyar rulers were reinstated as puppet monarchs, now styled *Maharajas*. The British administration was assisted locally by *Diwan* (chief minister) Purnaiah. Purnaiah is credited with improving Mysore's public works.[249] Mysore lost its status as the administrative centre of the kingdom in 1831, when the British commissioner moved the capital to Bangalore.[251] It regained that status in 1881[254] and remained the capital of the Princely State of Mysore within the British Indian Empire until India became independent in 1947.

The Mysore municipality was established in 1888 and the city was divided into eight wards.[283] In 1897 an outbreak of bubonic plague killed nearly half of the population of the city. With the establishment of the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) in 1903, Mysore became one of the first cities in Asia to undertake planned development of the city. Public demonstrations and meetings were held there during the Quit India movement and other phases of the Indian independence movement.

After Indian independence, Mysore city remained as part of the Mysore State, now known as Karnataka. Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar, then king of Mysore, was allowed to retain his titles and was nominated as the *Rajapramukh* (appointed governor) of the state. He died in September 1974 and was cremated in Mysore city. Over the years, Mysore became well known as a centre for tourism; the city remained largely peaceful, except for occasional riots related to the Kaveri river water dispute. Among the events that took place in Mysore and made national headlines were a fire at a television studio that claimed 62 lives in 1989, and the sudden deaths of many animals at the Mysore Zoo.

Mysore Kings (1399-present)	
Under Vijayanagara Empire (1399-1565)	
Yaduraya Wodeyar	(1399–1423)
Chamaraja Wodeyar I	(1423–1459)
Timmaraja Wodeyar I	(1459–1478)
Chamaraja Wodeyar II	(1478–1513)
Chamaraja Wodeyar III	(1513–1553)
Independent Wodeyar Kings (1565-1761)	
Timmaraja Wodeyar II	(1553–1572)
Chamaraja Wodeyar IV	(1572–1576)
Bettada Wodeyar	(1576–1578)
Raja Wodeyar I	(1578–1617)
Chamaraja Wodeyar V	(1617–1637)
Raja Wodeyar II	(1637–1638)
Narasaraja Wodeyar I	(1638–1659)
Dodda Devaraja Wodeyar	(1659–1673)
Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar	(1673–1704)
Narasaraja Wodeyar II	(1704–1714)
Krishnaraja Wodeyar I	(1714–1732)
Chamaraja Wodeyar VI	(1732–1734)
Krishnaraja Wodeyar II	(1734–1766)
Under Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan (1761-1799)	
Krishnaraja Wodeyar II	(1734–1766)
Nanjaraja Wodeyar	(1766–1772)
Chamaraja Wodeyar VII	(1772–1776)
Chamaraja Wodeyar VIII	(1776–1796)
Under British Rule (1799-1950)	
Krishnaraja Wodeyar III	(1799–1868)
Chamaraja Wodeyar IX	(1881–1894)
Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV	(1894–1940)
Jayachamaraja Wodeyar	(1940–1950)
(Monarchy abolished) **Titular monarchy** (1950-present)	
Jayachamaraja Wodeyar	(1950-1974)
Srikanta Wodeyar	(1974-2013)
Kantharaja Urs Wodeyar	(2013-present)

Administration and utilities

The civic administration of the city is managed by the Mysore City Corporation, which was established as a municipality in 1888 and converted into a corporation in 1977. Overseeing engineering works, health, sanitation, water supply, administration and taxation, the corporation is headed by a mayor, who is assisted by commissioners and council members.[43] The city is divided into 65 wards and the council members (also known as *corporators*) are elected by the citizens of Mysore every five years. The council members in turn elect the mayor. The annual budget of the Corporation for the year 2011−2012 was ₹ 426.96 crore (US$70.88 million). Among 63 cities covered under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission,

Office of the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) in Gagana Chumbi Double Road of Kuvempunagar, Mysore

Mysore City Corporation was adjudged the second best city municipal corporation and was given the *"Nagara Ratna"* award in 2011.

Urban growth and expansion is managed by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA), which is headed by a commissioner. Its activities include developing new layouts and roads, town planning and land acquisition. One of the major projects undertaken by MUDA is the creation of an Outer Ring Road to ease traffic congestion. Citizens of Mysore have criticised MUDA for its inability to prevent land mafias and ensure lawful distribution of housing lands among city residents. The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation is responsible for electric supply to the city.

Drinking water for Mysore is sourced from the Kaveri and Kabini rivers.[53] The city got its first piped water supply when the Belagola project was commissioned in 1896. As of 2011, Mysore gets 42.5 million gallons water per day. Mysore sometimes faces water crises, mainly during the summer months (March−June) and in years of low rainfall. The city has had an underground drainage system since 1904. The entire sewage from the city drains into four valleys: Kesare, Malalavadi, Dalavai and Belavatha.[56] In an exercise carried out by the Urban Development Ministry under the national urban sanitation policy, Mysore was rated the second cleanest city in India in 2010 and the cleanest in Karnataka.

The citizens of Mysore elect four representatives to the Legislative assembly of Karnataka through the constituencies of Chamaraja, Krishnaraja, Narasimharaja and Chamundeshwari. Mysore city, being part of the larger Mysore Lok Sabha constituency, also elects one member to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. The politics in the city is dominated by three political parties: the Indian National Congress (INC), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS).

Demographics

According to the provisional results of the 2011 census of India, Mysore had a population of 887,446, consisting of 443,813 males and 443,633 females, The total Population of Urban Agglomeration(U/A) is 9,20,550. The gender ratio of the city is 1000 females to every 1000 males and the population density is 6,910.5 per square kilometre (17,898 /sq mi). According to the census of 2001, 76.8% of thepopulatiion are Hindus, 19% are Muslims, 2.8% are Christians, and the remainder belong to other religions. The population exceeded 100,000 in the census of 1931 and grew by 20.5 per cent in the decade 1991−2001. As of 2011, the literacy rate of the city is 86.84 per cent, which is higher than the state's average of 75.6 per cent. Kannada is the most widely spoken language in the city. Approximately 19% of the population live below the poverty line, and 9% live in slums. According to the 2001 census, 35.75% of the population in the urban areas of Karnataka are workers, but only 33.3% of the population of Mysore are. Members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes constitute 15.1% of the population. According to the National Crime Records Bureau of India, the number of cognizable crime incidents

Chamundeshwari Temple atop the Chamundi Hills

reported in Mysore during 2010 was 3,407 (second in the state, after Bangalore's 32,188), increasing from 3,183 incidents reported in 2009.

The residents of the city are known as *Mysoreans* in English and *Mysoorinavaru* in Kannada. The dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing of Kaveri river water often leads to minor altercations and demonstrations in the city. Growth in the information technology industry in Mysore has led to a change in the city's demographic profile; likely strains on the infrastructure and haphazard growth of the city resulting from the demographic change have been a cause of concern for some of its citizens.

Economy

Tourism is the major industry in Mysore. The city attracted about 3.15 million tourists in 2010. Mysore has traditionally been home to industries such as weaving, sandalwood carving, bronzework and the production of lime and salt. The planned industrial growth of the city and the state was first envisaged at the *Mysore economic conference* in 1911. This led to the establishment of industries such as the Mysore Sandalwood Oil Factory in 1917 and the Sri Krishnarajendra Mills in 1920.[:270, 278]

Multiplex in the Infosys campus at Mysore

In a survey conducted in 2001 by *Business Today*, Mysore was ranked the fifth-best city in India in which to conduct business. For the industrial development of the city, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has established four industrial areas in and around Mysore, in the Belagola, Belawadi, Hebbal and Hootagalli areas. Major industrial companies in Mysore include Infosys, Bharat Earth Movers, J. K. Tyres, Wipro, Falcon Tyres and Larsen & Toubro. There were setbacks when motorcycle manufacturer Ideal Jawa and the Sri Krishnarajendra Mills closed. Efforts have been made to revive them, such as the takeover of the Krishnarajendra Mills by the Atlantic Spinning and Weaving Mills, but they have run into other problems.

The growth of the information technology industry in the first decade of the 21st century has resulted in the city emerging as the second largest software exporter in Karnataka, next to Bangalore. The city contributed Rs. 1363 crore (US$275 million) to Karnataka's IT exports in the financial year 2009–2010. Infosys Limited has established one of its major technical training centres in Mysore, and Wipro has established its Global Service Management Center (GSMC) there. Non-IT related services have been outsourced from other countries to companies in Mysore.

Education

Before the advent of the European system of education in Mysore, *agraharas* (Brahmin quarters) provided Vedic education to Hindus, and *madrassas* provided schooling for Muslims.[:459] Modern education began in Mysore when a free English school was established in 1833. In 1854 the East India Company promulgated the *Halifax Dispatch*, which suggested organising education based on the western model in the princely state of Mysore.[:494] The first college to be set up for higher education was the Maharajas College, founded in 1864. In 1868 the Mysore state decided to establish *hobli schools* to extend education to the masses.[:497] Under this scheme, a school providing free education was established in each *hobli* (a locality within the city). This led to the establishment of a *normal school* in Mysore which trained teachers to teach in the *hobli schools*. A high school exclusively for girls was established in 1881 and later converted into the *Maharanis Women's College*. The *Industrial School*, the first institute for technical education in the city, was established in 1892; this was followed by the Chamarajendra Technical Institute in 1913.[:601] While the modern system of education was making inroads, colleges such as the *Mysore Sanskrit college*, established in 1876, continued to provide Vedic education.[:595]

Crawford Hall, the administrative headquarters of the University of Mysore

The education system was enhanced by the establishment of the University of Mysore in 1916. This was the sixth university to be established in India and the first in Karnataka. It was named *Manasagangotri* ("fountainhead of the Ganges of the mind") by the poet Kuvempu. The university caters to the districts of Mysore, Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajanagar in Karnataka. About 127 colleges, with a total of 53,000 students, are affiliated with the university. Its alumni include Kuvempu, Gopalakrishna Adiga, S. L. Bhyrappa, U. R. Ananthamurthy and N.R. Narayana Murthy. Engineering education began in Mysore with the establishment in 1946 of the National Institute of Engineering, the second oldest engineering college in the state. The Mysore Medical College, founded in 1924, was the first medical college to be started in Karnataka and the seventh in India. Institutes of national importance in the city include the Central Food Technological Research Institute, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, the Defence Food Research Laboratory, and the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing.[:18]

Mysore

8

Culture

Main article: Culture of Mysore

Mysore painting depicting the goddess Saraswati

Referred to as the *cultural capital* of Karnataka, Mysore is well known for the festivities that take place during the period of *Dasara*, the state festival of Karnataka. The *Dasara* festivities, which are celebrated over a ten-day period, were first introduced by King Raja Wodeyar I in 1610. On the ninth day of *Dasara*, called *Mahanavami*, the royal sword is worshipped and is taken on a procession of decorated elephants, camels and horses. On the tenth day, called *Vijayadashami*, the traditional *Dasara* procession (locally known as *Jumboo Savari*) is held on the streets of Mysore which usually falls in the month of September or October.. the image of the Goddess Chamundeshwari is placed on a golden *mantapa* on the back of a decorated elephant and taken on a procession, accompanied by tableaux, dance groups, music bands, decorated elephants, horses and camels. The procession starts from the Mysore Palace and culminates at a place called *Bannimantapa*, where the *banni* tree (*Prosopis spicigera*) is worshipped. The *Dasara* festivities culminate on the night of *Vijayadashami* with a torchlight parade, known locally as *Panjina Kavayatthu*.

Mysore is called the *City of Palaces* because of several ornate examples in the city. Among the most notable are Amba Vilas, popularly known as Mysore Palace; Jaganmohana Palace, which also serves as an art gallery; Rajendra Vilas, also known as the summer palace; Lalitha Mahal, which has been converted into a hotel; and Jayalakshmi Vilas.[87−88] The main palace of Mysore was burned down in 1897, and the present-day structure was built on the same site. Amba Vilas palace exhibits an Indo-Saracenic style of architecture on the outside, but a distinctly Hoysala style in the interior.[82] Even though the Government of Karnataka maintains the Mysore palace, a small portion has been allocated for the erstwhile Royal family to live in. The Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion was constructed by Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar for his daughter Jayalakshammanni. It is now a museum dedicated to folk culture and artifacts of the royal family.

The Mysore painting style is an offshoot of the Vijayanagar school of painting, and King Raja Wodeyar (1578–1617 CE) is credited with having been its patron.[:1] The distinctive feature of these paintings is the *gesso* work, to which gold foil is applied.[:3] Mysore is known for rosewood inlay work; around 4,000 craftsmen were estimated to be involved in this art in 2002. The city lends its name to the Mysore silk saree, a women's garment made with pure silk and gold *zari* (thread). *Mysore Peta*, the traditional indigenous turban worn by the erstwhile rulers of Mysore, is worn by men in some traditional ceremonies. A notable local dessert that traces its history to the kitchen in the Mysore palace is *Mysore pak*.

Mysore is the location of the International Ganjifa Research Centre, which researches the ancient card game *Ganjifa* and the art associated with it. The Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA) offers education in visual art forms such as painting, graphics, sculpture, applied art, photography, photojournalism and art history. The Rangayana repertory company performs plays and offers certificate courses in subjects related to theatre. Kannada writers Kuvempu,

The ex-prince of Mysore Kingdom, who continued to use the title of Prince and traditions of the royal family.

Gopalakrishna Adiga and U. R. Ananthamurthy were educated in Mysore and served as professors at the Mysore University. R. K. Narayan, a popular English-language novelist and creator of the fictional town of Malgudi, and his cartoonist brother R. K. Laxman spent much of their life in Mysore.

Geography

Mysore is located at 12.30°N 74.65°E (http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Mysore&params=12.30_N_74.65_E_) and has an average altitude of 770 metres (2,526 ft). It is spread across an area of 128.42 km^2 (50 sq mi)[:4] at the base of the Chamundi Hills in the southern region of Karnataka. Mysore is the southern-most city of Karnataka, and is a neighboring city of the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the south, flanked by the state cities Mercara, Chamarajanagara, and Mandya. People in and around Mysore extensively use Kannada as medium of language. However, due to its close vicinity to Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Tamil can be found spoken around Mysore, and Malayalam a few. Besides, English is also used and recognized equally.

Mysore has several lakes, such as the Kukkarahalli, the Karanji, and the Lingambudhi lakes. In 2001, total land area usage in Mysore city was 39.9% residential, 16.1% roads, 13.74% parks and open spaces, 13.48% industrial, 8.96% public property, 3.02% commercial, 2.27% agriculture and 2.02 water.[:35] The city is located between two rivers: the Kaveri River that flows through the north of the city and the Kabini River, a tributary of the Kaveri, that lies to the south. Though Mysore is situated in a relatively seismic zone 2 of the earthquake hazard zoning of India, earthquakes of magnitude greater than 4.5 on the Richter scale have been recorded in the vicinity of the city.

There are numerous old buildings thought the city of Mysore: six palaces and one atop the Chamundi Hills, and large mansions like Lansdowne Building, Oriental Research Library building, Crawford Hall (functioning as the headquarters of the University of Mysore), Chief Justice Guest House, Corporation Office et cetera.

Climate

Mysore has a tropical savanna climate designated *Aw* under the Köppen climate classification. The main seasons are summer from March to June, the monsoon season from July to November and winter from December to February. The highest temperature recorded in Mysore was 38.5 °C (101 °F) on 4 May 2006, and the lowest was 7.7 °C (46 °F) on 16 January 2012. The city's average annual rainfall is 804.2 mm (31.7 in).

Climate data for Mysore (1901–2000)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	36.3 (97.3)	37.8 (100)	38.2 (100.8)	38.0 (100.4)	38.5 (101.3)	38.4 (101.1)	37.9 (100.2)	37.5 (99.5)	38.1 (100.6)	37.5 (99.5)	37.2 (99)	35.8 (96.4)	38.5 (101.3)
Average high °C (°F)	28.6 (83.5)	31.1 (88)	33.6 (92.5)	34.3 (93.7)	32.9 (91.2)	29.2 (84.6)	27.7 (81.9)	28 (82)	28.9 (84)	28.8 (83.8)	27.9 (82.2)	27.5 (81.5)	29.87 (85.74)
Average low °C (°F)	16.2 (61.2)	17.9 (64.2)	20.1 (68.2)	21.2 (70.2)	21 (70)	20.1 (68.2)	19.6 (67.3)	19.5 (67.1)	19.3 (66.7)	19.5 (67.1)	18.2 (64.8)	16.5 (61.7)	19.09 (66.39)
Record low °C (°F)	7.7 (45.9)	10.2 (50.4)	13.8 (56.8)	17.5 (63.5)	21.1 (70)	17.5 (63.5)	16.8 (62.2)	16.3 (61.3)	15.4 (59.7)	14.2 (57.6)	10.7 (51.3)	8.3 (46.9)	7.7 (45.9)
Rainfall mm (inches)	4.8 (0.189)	5.1 (0.201)	11.6 (0.457)	62.4 (2.457)	145.7 (5.736)	67.3 (2.65)	74.3 (2.925)	78.6 (3.094)	117.6 (4.63)	158.7 (6.248)	63.8 (2.512)	14.3 (0.563)	804.2 (31.662)
Source: India Meteorological Department													

Transport

Road

Mysore city bus

Mysore is connected by National Highway NH-212 to the state border town of Gundlupet, where the road forks into the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.[1] State Highway 17, which connects Mysore to Bangalore, was upgraded to a four-lane highway in 2006, reducing travel time between the two cities. A project was planned in 1994 to construct a new expressway to connect Bangalore and Mysore. After numerous legal hurdles, it remains unfinished as of 2012. State Highways 33 and 88 which connect Mysore to H D Kote and Madikeri respectively. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and other private agencies operate buses both within the city and between cities. A new division of KSRTC called Mysore City Transport Corporation (MCTC) has been proposed. Within the city, buses are cheap and popular means of transport, auto-rickshaws are available, and *tongas* (horse-drawn carriages) are popular. Mysore also has a 42.5-kilometre (26.4 mi) long ring road that is being upgraded to six lanes by the MUDA.

Horse Cart in Mysore

Rail

Mysore railway station has three lines, connecting it to Bangalore, Hassan and Chamarajanagar. The first railway line established in the city was the Bangalore–Mysore Junction metre gauge line, which was commissioned in 1882. All railway lines that serve the city are single track, impeding faster connections to the city. Though there are plans to double the Bangalore–Mysore track at least, as of 2012 the project is unfinished. All trains that connect to Mysore are operated by South Western Railway Zone, Hubli of Indian Railways. The fastest train to serve the city is the Shatabdi Express.

Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi at the Mysore Junction

Air

Mysore Airport has scheduled commercial air services. SpiceJet began operating flights from Mysore to Chennai via Bangalore from 14 January 2013. The airport, which was unused for many years, was put back into use in October 2010, when Kingfisher Airlines started a daily service to Bangalore. However, this flight was cancelled in November 2011 because of low profitability. Spice Jet now flies alternative day flights from Bangalore to Mysore.

Media

Newspaper publishing in Mysore started in 1859 when Bhashyam Bhashyacharya began publishing a weekly newspaper in Kannada called the *Mysooru Vrittanta Bodhini*, the first of a number of weekly newspapers published in the following three decades. A well-known Mysore publisher during Wodeyar rule was M. Venkatakrishnaiah, known as the father of Kannada journalism, who started several news magazines. Many local newspapers are published in Mysore and carry news mostly related to the city and its surroundings, and national and regional dailies in English and Kannada are available, as in the other parts of the state. Sudharma, the only Indian daily newspaper in Sanskrit, is published in Mysore.

Mysore was the location of the first private radio broadcasting station in India when *Akashavani* (voice from the sky) was established in the city on 10 September 1935 by M.V. Gopalaswamy, a professor of psychology, at his house in the Vontikoppal area of Mysore, using a 50-watt transmitter. The station was taken over by the princely state of Mysore in 1941 and was moved to Bangalore in 1955. In 1957, *Akashvani* was chosen as the official name of All India Radio (AIR), the radio broadcaster of the Government of India. The AIR station at Mysore broadcasts an FM radio channel at 100.6 MHz, and Gyan Vani broadcasts on 105.2. BIG FM and Red FM are the two private FM channels operating in the city.

Mysore started receiving television broadcasts in early 1980s, when Doordarshan (public service broadcaster of the Indian government) started broadcasting its national channel all over India. This was the only channel available to Mysoreans until Star TV started satellite channels in 1991. Direct-to-home channels are now available in Mysore.

Sports

The Wodeyar kings of Mysore were patrons of games and sports. King Krishnaraja Wodeyar III had a passion for indoor games. He invented new board games and popularised the *ganjifa* card game. Malla-yuddha (traditional wrestling) has a history in Mysore dating back to the 16th century. The wrestling competition held in Mysore during the *Dasara* celebrations attracts wrestlers from all over India. An annual sports meeting is organised there during the *Dasara* season too.

Race Club from Chamundi Hills

In 1997 Mysore and Bangalore co-hosted the city's biggest sports event ever, the National Games of India. Mysore was the venue for six sports: archery, gymnastics, equestrianism, handball, table tennis and wrestling. Cricket is by far the most popular sport in Mysore. The city has four established cricket grounds, but is yet to host an international cricket match. Javagal Srinath, who represented India for several years as its frontline fast bowler, comes from Mysore. Other prominent sportsmen from the city are Prahlad Srinath, who has represented India in Davis Cup tennis tournaments; Reeth Abraham, a national champion in the heptathlon and a long jump record holder; Sagar Kashyap, the youngest Indian to officiate at the Wimbledon Championships; and Rahul Ganapathy, a national amateur golf champion. The Mysore race course hosts a racing season each year from August through October. India's first youth hostel was formed in the Maharaja's College Hostel in 1949.

Tourism

Mysore Palace

Mysore is a major tourist destination in its own right and serves as a base for other tourist attractions in the vicinity. The city receives large number of tourists during the 10-day *Dasara* festival. One of the most visited monuments in India, the Amba Vilas Palace, or Mysore Palace, is the centre of the *Dasara* festivities. The Jaganmohana Palace, The Sand Sculpture Museum the Jayalakshmi Vilas and the Lalitha Mahal are other palaces in the city. Chamundeshwari Temple, atop the Chamundi Hills, and St. Philomena's Church, Wesley's Cathedral are notable religious places in Mysore.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens

The Mysore Zoo, established in 1892, the Karanji and Kukkarahalli lakes are popular recreational destinations. Mysore has the Regional Museum of Natural History, the Folk Lore Museum, the Railway Museum and the Oriental Research Institute. The city is a centre for yoga-related health tourism that attracts domestic and foreign visitors, particularly those who, for years, came to study with the late ashtanga yoga guru K. Pattabhi Jois.

A short distance from Mysore city is the Krishnarajasagar Dam and the adjoining Brindavan Gardens, where a musical fountain show is held every evening. Places of historic importance close to Mysore are Srirangapatna, Somanathapura and Talakad. B R Hills, Himavad Gopalaswamy Betta hill and the hill stations of Ooty,   Sultan   Battery

and Madikeri are close to Mysore. Popular destinations for wildlife enthusiasts near Mysore include the Nagarhole National Park, the wildlife sanctuaries at Melkote and B R Hills and the bird sanctuaries at Ranganathittu and Kokrebellur. Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai National Park, which are sanctuaries for gaur, chital, elephants, tigers, Indian leopards and other threatened species, lie between 40 and 60 mi (64 and 97 km) to the south. Other tourist spots near Mysore include the religious locations of Nanjanagud and Bylakuppe and the waterfalls at Shivanasamudra.

Sister cities

Mysore is currently twinned with Cincinnati and Cupertino.[2][3]

St. Philomena's Church

Wesley Cathedral, Mysore

City	Region	Nation
Cincinnati	Ohio	United States
Cupertino	California	United States

List of notable people

- Prabhu Deva
- Prakash Raj
- Dr. Vishnuvardhan

Maharajas of Mysore

People from Mysore

Notes

[1] Deve Gowda Javare Gowda (1998), p. 82.

[2] Cincinnati, meet your sister (http://liveweb.archive.org/http://news.cincinnati.com/proart/20120710/news/307020097/cincinnati-meet-your-sister?pagerestricted=1). Cincinnati Enquirer (2012-07-11)

[3] Green signal for Mysore-Cincinnati pact – Times Of India (http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-04/mysore/33035245_1_rajeshwari-puttaswamy-pact-sister-city). Timesofindia.indiatimes.com (4 August 2012). Retrieved on 2012-11-26.

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