

# Historical and Cultural Dances Studies of Dharwad Region

### Umadevi S Kanavi

Assistant Professor Department of History, Government First Grade College, Annigeri

### **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction**: Dharwad culture flourished and produced some of the greatest poets, writers and thinkers. Hindustani classical music is a genre that encourages the creativity of the people of the region. Dharwad city is famous for its Carnatic music, art, culture, music, poetry, literature and cuisine. Objective of study: The main objective of this article is historical and cultural dances studies of Dharwad region.

**Methods**: This article describes how this study was conducted; focusing on the selection method, research design and data collection. Data analysis: This article analyzes the significance, relationship and impact of this great achievement of the best of Hindustani classical music culture with Dharwad and Dollu Kunitha at Veeragase academy.

**Conclusion:** Dance is not just a form of entertainment but also the heart of Indian tradition. By embracing and celebrating these traditions, we keep our history alive.

Keyword: Historical studies, Cultural, Dances, Dollu Kunitha, Veeragase

### INTRODUCTION

Dharwad, also known as Dharwar, is a city in the Western Indian state of Karnataka. It is the capital of Dharwad district in the state of Karnataka and together with the city of Hubballi forms a metropolitan area. In 1962, it merged with Hubali to form two cities, Hubali and Dharwad. It covers an area of 213 square kilometers (82 square miles) and is located 430 kilometers (270 mi) northwest of Bangalore on NH-48 between Bangalore and Pune. It was selected for the Sun City/Green City Master Plan. In 2017, the Indian government included the Hubli-Dharwad city in the smart city project, a plan for the overall development of infrastructure in both cities.

Dwarawata, 'dwara' meaning 'gate' and 'wata' or 'wada' meaning 'city'. Dharwad has been a resting place for pilgrims for centuries and is also the location of Malenadu (Western Highlands) and its rock carvings. Dharwad, the (white) gate of Bayalu Seeme, indicates that there was a ruler named BhaskaraDeva in 1117. The fort was built in 1403 in the city of Dharwad by a nobleman of the Vijayanagar kingdom who named the fort 'Dharav' as a cultural village. 1565) after defeating the Vijayanagar king, Dharwad became almost independent within a few years under the leadership of a Hindu governor. However, in 1573, the fort was captured by Sultan Adil Shah of Bijapur and added to the territory of Dharwad. Adil Shah built a fort in the area called Mannakila and Nazratabad.

The strategic importance of Dharwad increased day by day and attracted the attention of later conquerors like Aurangzeb, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Aurangzeb's son Ba Hardur Shah I, Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao, Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan and finally the British colonialists. In 1685, the fort was captured by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. After the collapse of the Mughal Empire, Dharwad came under the rule of the Maratha Peshwa of Pune. Hyder Ali of Mysore captured the state in 1764 and Dharwad Fort in 1778. After the British finally defeated the Peshwa in 1818, Darwar expanded into the territory of the Bombay Presidency of the British East India Company. When the British expanded their territory in the early 19th century, they encountered resistance from local rulers, including Babasaheb and Kitturchinnama of Nalgund.

The climate of Dharwad is hot and dry. Summers are warm and dry; It lasts from late February to early June. Next is the monsoon season, with moderate temperatures and heavy rainfall. From October to February the temperature is very cold and there is almost no rain. Dharwad is 750 meters above sea level. The average annual rainfall is 838 mm (33.0 in). The



population of Hubli-Dharwad increased by 22.99% from 527,108 to 648,298 between 1981 and 1991, and by 21.2% between 1991 and 2001.

Dharwad has won the title of "Cultural Capital of Karnataka". In the 20th century, Dharwad culture flourished and produced some of the greatest poets, writers and thinkers. Hindustani classical music is a genre that encourages the creativity of the people of the region.

Dharwad city is famous for its Carnatic music, art, culture, music, poetry, literature and cuisine. Iconic place associated with Kannada language and culture. The Karnataka Vidyavadhakar Sangha also played an important role in bringing together literary enthusiasts.) A place like Sadhankeri in front of the house is a peaceful place where poets get inspiration while writing poetry. Reputation of the winner. Da Ra Bendre, V. K. Golkar, Girish Karnad. Da Ra Bendre's nickname is "Ambikatanayadatta". Da Ra Bendre describes Sadhankeri as the inspiration for his poems praising the beauty of nature. He received the Padma Shri Award in 1968 and his poem "Naaku Tanti" earned him the Jnanapeeta award.

Vinayaka Krishna Gokak (VK Gokak) is a leading Kannada writer and expert on English and Kannada literature. His epic masterpiece "Bharatha Sindhu Rashmi" earned him the Jnanapeeta Award in 1990. In 1998, he received the Jnanapeeta award for his outstanding contribution to Kannada literature and drama. Girish Karnad received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Statistics from the Karnataka College of Arts, Dharwad (affiliated with the University of Karnataka).

### **Objectives of Study:**

The main objective of this article is historical and cultural dances studies of Dharwad region. Cultural dances studies of Dharwad region only focuses on Dollu Kunitha and Veeragase.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article describes how the current research was conducted; Methodology describes the methods and techniques used to collect data, how the data is analyzed, interpreted, and how conclusions/conclusions are drawn.

### Study on Culture Dances of Dharwad:

Dharwad has always been the birthplace of classical music and the best education and is famous for producing many geniuses and music gurus. This significant achievement is the result of Dharwad's outstanding Hindustani classical music culture and academic achievements. Lawyers, professionals, musicians, singers; Dharwad has a lot of skills in all possible fields. Dharwad is famous as the headquarters of the Kirana Gharana tribe and is home to classical singers like Basvaraj Rajguru, Sawai Gandharva, Pandit Musicians and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, personalities like Girish Karnad, Kirtinath Kurtakoti, J.B.S Patil, I.P.S. It hosts writers such as. Politicians, journalists and the list go on. There are many temples around as Dharwad belonged mostly to Hindu rulers, but the Mughals also controlled the city as Muslims constituted 26% of the population and some are scattered in and around the Dharwad mosque. Christians also constitute 5.6% of Dharwad's mixed population and although they are a minority in the area, there are some beautiful churches built centuries ago in the Dharwad-Hubli area. Christian and Sikh communities constitute 0.4% of Dharwad's population. Dollu Kunitha, Veeragase, Nandikolu Kunitha, Jodu Halige, Lambani Nruthya, Veerabhadra Kunitha are the local dance styles of Dharwad. However, this article examines two of them, Dollu Kunitha and Veeragase.

### Dollu Kunitha:



This is a popular inspiration. The large drum is decorated with colorful fabrics and is hung around the man's neck. The dance is sometimes accompanied by songs related to religion or war. The Dollu Kunithà is full of energy and is performed



all over the state during festivals and celebrations. It is a popular folk festival associated with the worship of Sree Beeralingeshwara, who is considered a form of Lord Shiva, which has become a religious tradition of the Kuruba Gowda community in North Karnataka. The dollu or drum is associated with Lord Shiva, who is known for his aggressiveness and intense dance (bhairava tandava dance) when he is angry. It is believed that Shiva made drums from the skin of the demons he killed. Great devotees of Lord Shiva from the Kuruba community celebrate the slaying of demons by beating drums. Men and women can become members of the Dollu Kunith team.

### Performance

While the group delivers maximum and high performance, Dollu Kunitha's performance can never be ignored. Drumming is usually done in a circle or semicircle; the drummer beats the drum rhythmically with singing and music. Playing drums and dancing for hours. Therefore, only men can participate in Dollu Kunitha. Lighter, smaller drums have recently been introduced to suit everyone. Villagers and spectators often dance and have fun with the Dollu Kunithà group. Dollu Kunith often performs at Kalaga Festival Parade, Mysuru Dasara, Jambu Savari, Bengaluru Habba and various temple festivals.

### Veeragase



Veeragase is a popular dance form. This is the symbol of heroism and bravery of Lord Virat Bhadra. The advocates of this organization, who dance with religious enthusiasm during festivals, especially Shravana and Kartika, are called Lingadevaru. Cultural heritage and traditional arts. In this blog post, we will examine the origins, history, importance, costumes, music and choreography of Veeragase. Join us on an exciting journey to discover the intricate nuances and fascinating performances of this beautiful dance form. Because he belongs to the Veerashaiva tradition, a Shaivite sect that worships Lord Shiva as the ultimate god. Veeragase is often followed with devotion during religious festivals, especially during the annual Shivaratri festival and other events of Lord Shiva. He is known for his bravery and devotion to Lord Shiva. This is a map and celebration of ancient martial arts, legendary figures and ancient stories. The theme of Veeragase mainly revolves around the victory of good over evil, the bravery of warriors and the grace of Lord Shiva.

Different regions and communities in Karnataka have their own unique variations of Veeragase, each displaying unique choreographic styles, music and designs. With great acting and storytelling, Veeragase has engaged not only the Veerashaiva community but also people from different communities in Karnataka. It has become an important part of festivals, rituals and gatherings, captivating audiences with its beautiful displays and important traditions. Historical Background and Mythological Influence Viragas are a folk dance of Karnataka, whose creations are closely associated with the culture and religion of the region. Let's understand this to understand the importance of Veeragase in local culture and storytelling. Veerashaiva philosophy expresses the principles of honesty, courage and devotion, which are also reflected in the meaning of Veerashaiva. Other myths and legends. The dance often depicts parts of Hindu mythology, such as the story of Shiva's cosmic dance (Tandava), battles with demons, and manifestations of divine power. and God's grace. The dancers depict mythological heroes, warriors and immortals with dynamic movements, expressive gestures and complex footwork. The theme of Veeragase revolves around the victory of good over evil, preservation of Dharma (righteousness) and the order of the universe ruled by Lord Shiva.

### **Cultural significance**

Veeragase has a huge cultural impact in Karnataka, especially in the Veerashaiva community. This is a devotional sacrifice performed during religious festivals, ceremonies and good times dedicated to Lord Shiva. Dance is a form of spiritual expression that seeks divine blessings and celebrates Lord Shiva. Every movement, gesture, and expression conveys an



idea, character, and story from story to story. The sounds of traditional instruments such as drums, cymbals and wind instruments enhance Veeragase's expressive power, captivating the audience with its lively energy and theatrical flair. Lord Shiva and Parvati: Velagas often depict episodes from the lives of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. This includes love stories, Shiva's cosmic dance (Tandava) and Parvati's devotion and devotion to Lord Shiva. The dance captures the grace, passion and cosmic energy associated with powerful deities. These wars represent the eternal struggle between good and evil, righteousness and injustice. The dancers represent the heroic deeds of legendary warriors who fought bravely to uphold Dharma (righteousness) and preserve the order of the world. mother.

The dancers depict the adventures, hardships and triumphs of Lord Rama, Goddess Sita and great friends like Hanuman. Scenes from the Ramayana such as exile, battle with demons and return to Ayodhya are reenacted with gestures and facial expressions. Purana story of Lord Krishna and Radha from Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita. It depicts the playful dialogue, love and passion between the dancers Krishna and Radha. The dance captures the essence of Krishna's passion, ferocity and grace as well as Radha's passion and desire for Krishna. Ghasi also paid tribute to Veerashava, saints, philosophers and historical figures. The dancers describe the teachings, virtues and spiritual wisdom of these respected people; It highlights their contribution to the Veerashaiva tradition and its values of courage, compassion and passion. Veeragase also includes symbolic gestures, metaphorical interpretations, and conceptual ideas. Every movement, gesture and expression is the essence of meaning that conveys the truth of thought, morality and spirituality to the viewer.

### Clothes and Costumes Worn by Vilagos Dancers

Clothes: Vilagos dancers usually wear traditional clothes that reflect the heritage and beauty of Karnataka. This includes:

Male Dancers: Male dancers usually wear loincloths or traditional trousers and colorful shirts or angavatrams (shoulder coverings). Beautiful borders, embroidery or hand-painted flowers can be found to add a traditional feel to the garments. Saris and dresses are decorated with intricate patterns, zari work or mirror work, creating a striking visual effect.

Palette: Veeragase clothing has a rich and beautiful color palette that reflects celebration, energy and celebration. Bright colors such as red, green, blue, yellow and orange are often used to create contrast and harmony. The choice of colors reflects the beauty of Karnataka's cultural heritage and regional appeal. Handcrafted or embroidered with meticulous attention to detail. These designs are often inspired by nature, mythology, geometric shapes and traditional art. Floral prints, peacock prints, paisley prints and temple-style patterns are frequently seen in Veeragase garments, adding a touch of elegance and cultural symbolism. Cultural specificity includes

Beads: Colorful beads, pearls and sequins are used to embellish the edges, borders and patterns of the garment. Beads add shine and texture to clothes, creating a beautiful and beautiful look. Rhythmic chimes add an auditory element to the dance, emphasizing the dancer's steps and movements. The headpiece completes the entire look of an outfit, adding a touch of opulence or tradition to the ensemble. These accessories complement the costumes, enhance the actors' stage presence and add cultural and artistic value to the performance.

Karnataka plays an important role in tourism, especially in regions where dance genres are abundant. Festivals, religious festivals and public performances held in Veeragase mostly attract tourists and tourists. This promotes cultural tourism and encourages tourists to explore the rich heritage and culture of Karnataka. Dancers, actors and cultural enthusiasts from different regions and origins come together to learn, enjoy and perform Veeragase. This promotes cultural understanding, appreciation and collaboration, promoting a sense of unity and diversity in the cultural landscape of Karnataka. Dancers and choreographers often experiment with new movements, music and creative interpretations to keep the dance form alive and relevant. This new performance attracts a new audience, especially young people, who appreciate the blend of ancient and modern in Veeragase's performance.

The efforts of cultural institutions, education and culture enthusiasts ensure that the dance form is passed on to future generations. Education, mentoring and cultural leadership to promote Veeragase contributes to its importance and importance in preserving the folk culture of Karnataka. Immigrants come together to celebrate a legacy of events. Local communities, cultural organizations and religious organizations promote Veeragase through festivals, competitions and rituals, creating social, social and cultural environments. He created jobs for dancers, musicians, costume designers and promoters.

Additionally, Veeragase's performances attract visitors and generate revenue for local businesses, hospitality and tourism-related events. Its scenic nature, cultural significance and simplicity make it a valuable and important part of the cultural landscape of modern Karnataka. Peace surrounds nature. We saw the ongoing conflict of these values as we moved from the geographical landscape to the beautiful world of Veeragase folk dance. With his beautiful works, narratives and



mythological narratives, Veeragase reflects the richness of the culture of Karnataka. It is a testament to the deep values of courage, passion and art that have fascinated generations. Veeragase celebrates harmony with culture, making it an iconic symbol of Karnataka heritage.

### **CONCLUSION**

Dance complements each other to create unique works of art and entertainment. Combining movement, movement and emotion, dance is the perfect story for an artist. After all, dances are not just a form of entertainment but the pulse of India's heritage. By embracing and celebrating these traditions, we keep our history alive.

### **REFERENCES**

- [1]. "Chapter XIV, Karnataka, The Tourist Paradise". Archived from the original on 4 March 2009. Retrieved 30 March 2009.
- [2]. "District Census Handbook: Dharwad" (PDF). censusindia.gov.in. Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. 2011.
- [3]. US Directorate of Intelligence. "Country Comparison:Population". Archived from the original on 13 June 2007. Retrieved 1 October 2011. Kosovo 1,825,632 July 2011 est.
- [4]. "2010 Resident Population Data". U.S. Census Bureau. Archived from the original on 19 October 2013. Retrieved 30 September 2011. West Virginia 1,852,994