

## CLICK HERE FOR THE PERFECT HOLIDAY

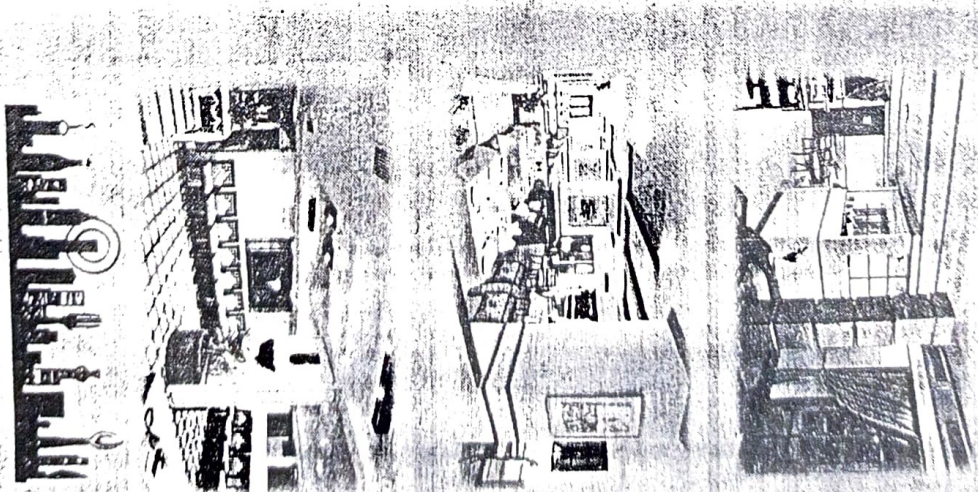
The inimitable Bill Gates once prophesied that with the popularizing of the Internet, the world would be a mere fingertip away; how right he was, and if you can find everything from (information on) species of extinct dinosaurs to the perfect partner (definitely not the prehistoric cave vane!) and now even wedding ceremonies, then it only stands to reason that our great land, namma Karnataka nadu must be represented in all its glory and majesty, and that would include its script as well. (Mr Varal Nagaraj are you reading this?) Credit for the introduction of the Kannada script on the Net can rightly be bestowed upon Mr Muralidhar Padaki whose company Padaki iNet Value Pvt Ltd have a number of other firms to boast of. During the past two years of its existence, Padaki iNet, has been internet consultant to 'idayavani', the first Kannada daily -- in text format -- on the Net. The company also has its own web-site, [www.mybangalore.com](http://www.mybangalore.com) provides valuable Bangalore - based information, including a page called 'Mangaldhama', detailing from a variety of perspectives, the numerous kalyan mantaps available in Bangalore along with useful and very vital tips on how to ensure that the venue is as perfect as the rest of the day itself. They have even created a bulletin board wherein Kannada social and cultural associations around the world can

feature upcoming events. This, says Muralidhar, has been a real boon to homesick Kannadigas travelling around the globe, for whichever part of the world they happened to find themselves in, all they had to do, was get onto the site and then drop in to the Association in that particular city to find a warm welcome, numerous friends and a taste of home awaiting them.

Having performed this service as it were, Muralidhar then decided to get on to something equally innovative: this time help to the harried would-be holidayer, in his new avatar of virtual travel agent. Says he, "Go to a 'conventional' travel agency and what do you find? Very often, they are trying to promote destinations or hotels from which they derive maximum benefit. Well, when the Department of Tourism approached us to create a web-site for them, we knew we could do something which would make us stand out from the crowd. What we have done therefore, is divide Karnataka into circuits: coastal, hill, wildlife, northern and southern. Each circuit has specific destinations with information on how to get there, where to stay, the conducted tours available, a brief history of the place, the surrounding area, and other miscellany like shopping, restaurants, main festivals etc. Amongst the hotels listed, if a person wishes to make a booking at one

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