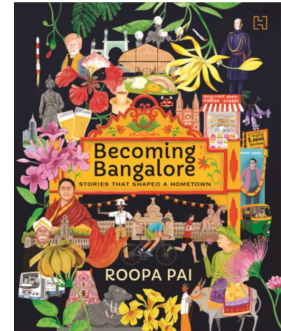


Becoming Bangalore

Stories That Shaped a Hometown

Roopa Pai

ISBN: 9789357316217
 EISBN: 9789357317238
 Subject: Non-fiction – Essays
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 Format: 186 mm X 152 mm
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Draft cover

Lead

SELLING POINTS

- With a gaze both **sweeping** in range and **vivid** in detail, **bestselling author Roopa Pai** pours her love for Bangalore into **75 succinct, flavourful essays** that appeared in the *Hindustan Times* over more than three years and gathered **a host of fans** in the city and beyond.
- The book's unusual format, **a paperback with a jacket** illustrated on both sides, adds to the singularity of the volume.
- This **colourful and compelling tour of quintessential Bangalore** shows off the multifaceted **city's uniqueness** in its enduring interplay of **historicity and modernity**, indigenous **wisdom** and entrepreneurial **initiative**, **literary** pursuits and **sporting** spirit, **neighbourhoods** and **landmarks**, towering **personalities** and **common folk**, and just simply its calm and **rejuvenating 'green' soul**.
- From malaria to maharajas, from chow chow to avarekai, from IISc to ISRO, from bulbs to beer, from Kuvempu to Kadambari, from rockets to torpedoes, from Basavanna to Bahmanji, from cotton to silk, and from horses to cheetahs, the essays meld **engaging vignettes** and **rich research and reportage** to create an **intimate docu-panorama** of the many facets of the metropolis.
- Curated under one of **Bengaluru's four seasons**, lush with distinctive flowers, each piece is prefixed with a **new introduction** and suffixed by **lively responses** from readers and **sparkling trivia**.

ABOUT THE BOOK

What makes a city uniquely itself?

Is it its geography, history, location?

Is it its leaders, aspirations, demographic?

Or is it a palpable spirit, wrought of a combination of all these, that seeps into the soil over centuries and charges the air, infecting residents and visitors alike?

Two decades of exploring, discovering, and reading, writing and talking about her hometown has convinced Roopa Pai that the last is true – cities are neither born nor made, they *become*. In a series of columns written over the past four years, now compiled into this book, she trawls the city's history to tease out bits of the Bangalore jigsaw – a scientist's quest for excellence, a maharani's foresight, an entrepreneur's vision, a chief minister's ambition, a writer's pride in his language, and more – in an effort to trace the genesis of the liberal spirit of the metropolis, its ability to offer inclusive, creative, laid-back spaces amid its frenetic growth. What emerges is a fascinating mosaic that reveals how a little 16th-century settlement on a hill became India's most charismatic city.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roopa Pai is a third-generation Bangalorean who has carried on a very public love affair with her city for as long as she can remember. This computer engineer is also one of India's best-known children's writers, whose many bestselling books are enjoyed as much by adults as by children. For over 20 years now, she has also been leading children and adults on heritage walks around her beloved city and state, as part of her work with Bangalore Walks, a company she co-founded. She has recently translated 100 poems of the celebrated Kannada poet K.S. Nisar into English; the collection will soon be published as a book.

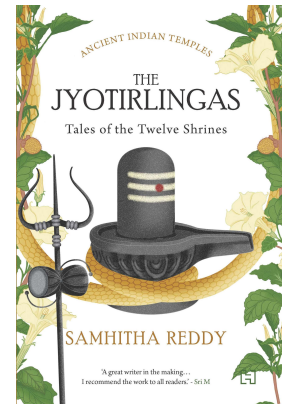
Roopa refers to her city as Bangalore when she is speaking English and Bengaluru when she is speaking Kannada (and absolutely detests people calling it 'Luru'). However, she is happy calling herself a Bangalorean or Bengalurean in every language.

ANCIENT TEMPLES OF INDIA The Jyotirlingas

Tales of the Twelve Shrines

Samhitha Reddy

ISBN: 9789357316194
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Lead

SELLING POINTS

- At last, an **engaging** and **reader-friendly** book that narrates the **eventful** stories of **Lord Shiva** and the origins of the **12 revered jyotirlingas** in India, for anyone and everyone who has ever marvelled at the **beauty of Indian temples** and wondered about the **mythology** that breathes life into their stones.
- The book showcases the tales of faith and fervour, devotion and divinity about the **creation of the sacred shrines** of Lord Shiva, displaying his dual aspects as the god who is equally fierce and beneficent, powerful and compassionate.
- In **12 engrossing and well-told narrations**, and sometimes their **different versions** too, this volume covers the holy pilgrimage sites of the self-manifested or **swyambhu lingams** associated with Lord Shiva: **Somnath** in Saurashtra, Gujarat; **Mallikarjuna** in Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh; **Mahakal** in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh; **Amreshwar** in Omkar, Madhya Pradesh; **Kedar** in the Himalayas, Uttarakhand; **Bheemashankar** at the bank of the River Bheema, Maharashtra; **Vishwanath** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; **Trayambakeshwar** on the bank of the River Gautami, Maharashtra; **Baidyanath** at Chitabhumi, Jharkhand; **Nagesh**, situated between Darukvan Dwarka and Bhet Dwarka, Gujarat; **Rameshwar** at Betubandh, Tamil Nadu; and **Dhushmesh** in Shivalaya, Maharashtra.
- A whole fact-filled, **info-packed section** tells readers all they need to know about the **antiquity, history, construction, beliefs** and other details associated with the 12 divine locations and temples.
- **Plus: How to get there** and other helpful tips about the jyotirlinga **pilgrimage sites**.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Discover the evocative origin stories of the twelve auspicious jyotirlingas and the revered ancient temples that house them.

Chandra's waning glow. The exacting test of Kartikeya and Ganesha. Vindhya's wish for glory. Bheemasura's vengeful quest. Rishi Gautama's confounding blunder. Ravana's devotion and his undoing. Rama's prayer for guidance. Reigns of terror unleashed by malevolent *asuras*, and the immutable faith of devotees. These tales of confrontation, salvation and repentance bring to life the many divine interventions of Shiva in the actions of *manavas*, *asuras* and *devas* alike.

Embark on a journey through the three realms as Shiva resolves epic clashes, protects the zealous, chastises the guilty, forgives the repentant and rewards the devout, while revealing his infinite nature in the form of *swayambhu lingams* formed in the mortal realm. The chronicles of these sites enshrining the deeply venerated god are inextricably tied with Indian culture and traditions, unfolding a compelling canvas of unwavering belief and worship across ages.

Suffixed by unusual facts and travel tips, these lyrical retellings from the *Shiva Purana* weave mythology, history and spirituality into a unique volume to cherish.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A bibliophile and dendrophile, **Samhitha Reddy** is an Indian lawyer who navigates the intricate worlds of international human rights and development with passion and purpose. An avid traveller, Samhitha immerses herself in diverse cultures and cuisines, all while indulging in her love for Indian mythology and history. Whether she is crafting compelling narratives to champion causes close to her heart or savouring local delicacies in hidden cafés, Samhitha's adventures are always a mix of curiosity, compassion and boundless wanderlust.

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Hachette India	Mythology	9789357316194	The Jyotirlingas	Reddy, Samhitha	PB		399	
Hachette India	History	9789357313063	Travelling Treasures	Kumar, Mala	PB		499	