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The City Rhythms...A Context of Bangalore

Abstract

From the day-to-day activities that we perform daily, at home and at work, it is possible to vaguely identify recurring patterns. If we can describe such individual routines in terms of time and space, it may become rhythmic in nature. Our urban environment is influenced strongly by the regular goings on and the arrival and departure of people. The festivals, fairs, seminars, events and so on are all ways of celebrating the cultural, social and religious aspects of city life. When it comes to the transport systems and built infrastructure, the regular intervals at which trains arrive at various platforms, the frequency of buses plying inside the city, and even the landing and takeoff of airplanes at busy airports can all be related to time and space. Everything involves a repetitive pattern of activities, which creates a kind of discipline, motivation and enthusiasm, and also help us understand the city better. The rhythms of the city serve as the tools to understand the various aspects of city life. Hence, it is our responsibility to maintain and continue their occurrence.

Keywords

Rhythms, Patterns, Intervals, Festivals, Occurrence

1. What is 'rhythm'?

It is a strong, regular and repeated pattern of movement or sound. This overall meaning —of consistent reappearance of pattern in a specific period— can be interpreted to a wide variety of repeated natural or man-made marvels with a periodicity— from microseconds to several seconds to several minutes or hours, or even over many years. Rhythm can also be defined as planned crusade through space; an easy, connected path along which the eye follows a regular prearrangement of patterns. Therefore, this concept of being 'rhythmic' can be applied and well interpreted in case of a city's day-to-day activities.



City rhythm is a metaphor for the regular comings and goings in cities, the repetitive activities, the sounds heard often and the smells experienced regularly in urban spaces. The concept of city rhythm makes it possible to understand the multiple aspects of city life. Traditional approaches to urban thinking focus on one such rhythm only, normally the dominant one. This leads to the exclusion of many other aspects of city life.

There is also a Dominant rhythm, which focuses only on one rhythm is an image used in concurrence with city rhythm. It is —the most prevailing rhythm in an urban area. This rhythm which enables and shapes, and this shaping and forming of time and space, both within the city and in distant places through networks. These dominant rhythms are not always static. While Religious rhythms were more common and leading in the past, but in the present-day context mostly economic rhythms prevail.

Let us take the case of Bengaluru. It is the primary administrative, commercial, cultural, Industrial, and knowledge capital of the Karnataka state, India.

Not only Bangalore, the capital and largest city of Katakana state, but is also one of the most culturally varied cities in the country, with over 62 per cent of its inhabitants' containing migrants from other parts of India. Historically, a multiethnic city, Bangalore has experienced a dramatic cultural and social change with the dawn of liberalization and development of the information technology and business process.

Let us now take a look at the various types of city rhythms that are observed in Bangalore.

2. Rhythms based on type of activity

- Socio-religious rhythms (KadalekaiParishe or the Groundnut Fair)
- Cultural and literary rhythms (Bengaluru Habba, Janapada Mela, Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, and so on)
- Religious rhythms (Bengaluru Karaga, Banashankari Fair, Harohara, GaliAanjaneya Temple Fair, and so on)
- Economic rhythms (Sunday markets, monthly markets, auctions etc)
- Political rhythms (Elections, Budgets, Winter sessions etc.)

3. Rhythms based on the time or the duration of the occurrence

- Daily rhythms (flower selling, vegetable selling, hawkers, daily newspaper distribution, every day transportation networks, and so on)
- Weekly rhythms (weekly trains, weekly magazines, weekly garbage collection, and so on)
- Monthly rhythms (monthly payments, rents, and so on)
- Annual rhythms (*Kadalekaiparishe* (Groundnut Fair), Bengaluru Habba, Janapada Mela, and so on.
- Bi-annual rhythms (Aero show)
- Seasonal rhythms (Seasonal flowers and fruits, flower show, and so on)
- Natural rhythms (summer, winter and rainy season)



4.KadalekaiParishe(Groundnut Fair)-A socio-religious rhythm

KadalekaiParishe, the annual Groundnut Festival, is a significant ritual held on the last Monday of *Karthika Masa* near the bull temple in Basavanagudi area of Bangalore. The two-day long celebrations fascinate thousands of people from all over the city, who throng there to buy fresh groundnuts at the fair.



Figure 1 Girls buying the peanuts

Source: Wikipedia

The fair commences with the customary puja at the Doddaganapathi temple in Basavanagudi. Several groundnut cultivators from different parts of state, like Chintamani, Magadi, Kolar etc. and some places in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu participate and sell their crops at the fair. To create awareness about environmental protection, street plays and cultural programmes will be organized.

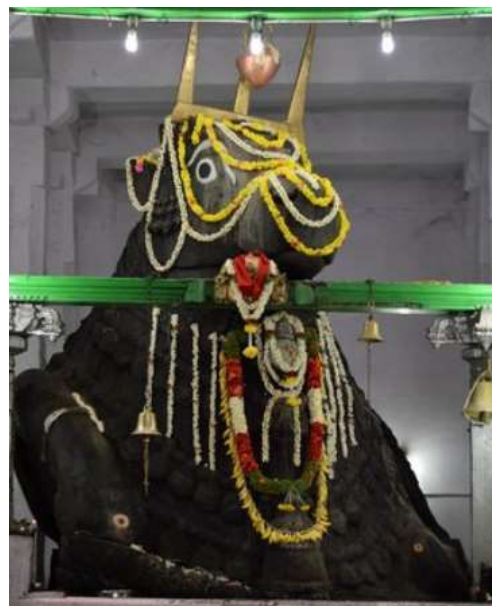


Figure 2 Idol of Bull during the Peanut fair

Source: Wikipedia



Figure 3 The idols on the sale during the fair

Source: Wikipedia



Figure 4 The ambience during the fair

Source: Wikipedia



5. Bengaluru Habba

This annual cultural fest is hosted in the first week of December, where several cultural events including, dance, music and drama are presented.

The highlight of the fest is that all sections of people participate in a unique display of communal harmony. The special prayer offered at Tawakkal Mastan Darga (mosque) is the true example of the same.



Figure 5 Varied events of the Bangalore fest

Source: Wikipedia

Bengaluru Habba is an arts & crafts festival that lasts for 10 days involving magnificent performances, by national and international artists. It is a platform to present various performances—such as dance, drama, musical concerts, jazz, rock shows, folk and theatre performances, fashion shows, and so on—and capture the attention of those genuinely interested in theatres. There are additional events, such as handloom and khadi exhibition, golf tournament, tennis ball cricket, vintage car rally and many other competitions. The event is now organised by the Artists Foundation for Arts (AFFA).

6. Kannada Sahitya Sammelana

A true instance of socio-cultural rhythm, the Kannada Sahitya Sammelana is an annual three- event that witnesses a congregation of authors, poets and Kannadigas. Its sole aim is to preserve and develop the Kannada language, its literature, culture, arts and music. It was Started in 1915 by H. V.

Nanjundaiah, it is now organised by the Kannada Sahitya Parishad.



Figure 6 Street play during the conference logo of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana

Source: Wikipedia

7. Bengaluru Karaga-a religious rhythm

Bengaluru Karaga, an important annual, religious tradition held in the Dharmaraja Temple, is considered to be the major celebration of the city, and is still organized in the central parts of Bengaluru. It is an example of religious rhythm and five-day festival of the Tigalas, a community that wandered from Tamil Nadu, has many distinctive features. Not only it stands out for its powerful religious fervour, regular rituals and constant traditions over centuries, but it follows a fixed pathway with strategic stopovers for the procession, with people welcoming the procession and paying their respects at all the temples en route.



Figure 7 Dharmaraja temple during Karaga

Source: Wikipedia



8. Economic Rhythms-Sunday Bazars

Streets of Bengaluru like Chikpet Sunday Bazaar, Avenue Road, flower markets of Malleswaram, K.R market and Gandhi Bazar, Commercial Street, Dubai Plaza, Food streets etc. are known for Street shopping. The fun and liveliness of street shopping of the city has always been unique.

BVK Iyengar road in Chikpet is an excellent example of Sunday Bazar which has an amazing feature to enjoy our Sunday as the market exposes to different colours and shades displaying another side of the city.

9. Political Rhythms- Elections

Different types of Elections in India are the best examples of Political Rhythms as they occur in regular intervals. During these Elections some of the essential arrangements will be made at different levels to facilitate the people for voting



Figure 8 Sunday Bazar at BVK Iyengar's Road

Source: metrosaga.com

10. Daily Rhythms-City Market

The fruits and vegetable markets, stationary shops, grocery shops, merchandise etc. work on daily basis.

They open and close every day. The flower, vegetable and fruit markets especially need to be cleaned regularly to maintain them

properly. The garbage has to be cleared regularly by the municipality.



Figure 9 Images of Krishna Raj market (City market)

Source: Wikipedia

11. Dominant rhythms-BPOs and call centres at night

Employees of BPO and Call Centres travel during night time – a daily rhythm but during night time. As a result of this, the notion of work time has changed to 24/7. So, the city never sleeps. The night life is predominant in Bangalore because of increased number of BPOs and Call centres.

12. Transportation Hub as a daily rhythm

Intra city & Inter city Transportation:

- The public transportation within the city and the Transportation from city to city are the best examples of daily rhythms
- Regular arrival and Departure of the Trains in the city, Daily plying of Metro from morning 6 am to night 11am as a means of public transport.
- Regular Landing and take-offs of the flights in the City Airport all these are



the best examples of City rhythms which keeps our city active, energetic, engaged and lively.



Figure 20 Bangalore railway station Bangalore Metro

Source: Wikipedia

Similarly, we can identify numerous rhythms in our daily life and in different parts of city based on specialities and uniqueness of the localities.

13. Conclusion:

A quotation by Christopher Alexander.....

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

The above quote can be well-connected with the Rhythms of the City as they are created by human beings, in turn cities will provide many things to mankind.

City Rhythms act as the tools to understand the city life. They keep our cities active, engaged, energetic and lively.

It is our responsibility to maintain and continue their occurrence consistently. They strongly influence on our culture and life style and they are educative to our children.

The city rhythms help us to shape our city with respect to culture, social, Religious and

economic and political aspects which in turn largely influence on our daily lifestyle

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