

Sacred Ensembles Of Hoysalas Inscribed On UNESCO World Heritage List

Why In News

- The **SACRED Ensembles Of The Hoysalas**, Which Includes Three Temples In Karnataka, Has Been Inscribed On The UNESCO's World Heritage List. The Hoysala Temples, As They Are Also Known, Will Be India's 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Announcement Was Made By The Agency In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Where The **45th Session Of The World Heritage** Committee Is Being Held.



Announced By

- The Announcement Was Made By **The Agency In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, Where The 45th Session Of The World Heritage Committee Is Being Held.
- "India Submitted The Nomination Dossier For The Sacred Ensembles Of The Hoysalas To The World Heritage Centre In January 2022."



3 Temples Inscribed

- The Three Temples Include The –
- **Chennakeshava Temple**, The Main Temple In The Complex At Belur (Hassan District), Located At The Centre Of The Traditional Settlement Which Is Surrounded By The Remnants Of A Mud Fort And A Moat.
- **The Hoysaleswara Temple** On The Banks Of Dwarasamudra Tank In Halebidu (Hassan District), A Town Which Has Many Protected And Unprotected Temples, Archaeological Ruins And Mounds.
- **Keshava Temple** At The Centre Of Somanathapura Village (Mysore District).

Hoysala Architecture

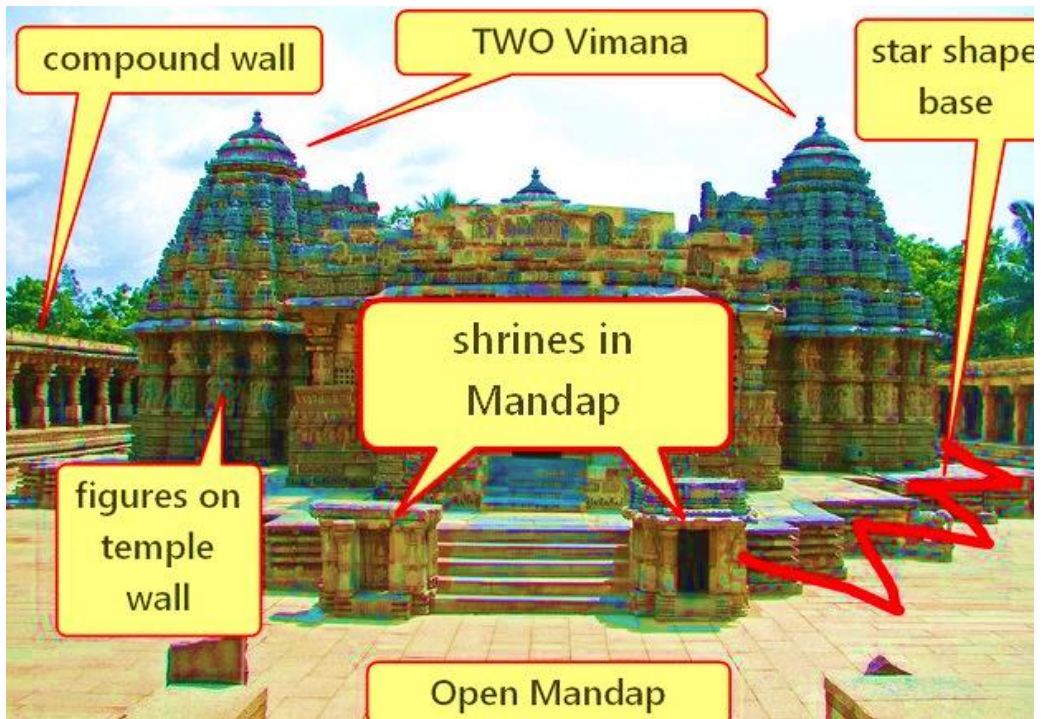
- Hoysala Architecture Is The Building Style In Hindu Temple Architecture Developed Under The Rule Of The Hoysala Empire Between **The 11th And 14th Centuries**, In The Region Known Today As Karnataka, A State Of India.
- The Sacred Ensembles Of The Hoysalas, Constructed During The 12th And 13th Centuries Are Represented Here By The Three Components Of Belur, Halebid, And Somnathapura.
- One Of The Distinctive Features Of Hoysala Architecture Is The **Star-Shaped Ground Plan Of Many Of Their Temples**.



- The Material Used In Temple Construction Is **Choloritic Schist** Which Is Also Known As **Soapstone** That Are Soft And Amiable To Carving.
- The Hallmark Of Hoysala Architecture Is Its Incredibly **Detailed And Ornate Carvings**.



- While The Hoysala Temples Maintain A Fundamental **Dravidian Morphology**, They Exhibit Substantial Influences From The **Bhumija Style** Prevalent In Central India, The **Nagara Traditions** Of Northern And Western India, And The Karnataka **Dravida Modes** Favoured By The Kalyani Chalukyas.



Chennakeshava Temple

- Construction Of The **Chennakeshava Temple** At Belur In Commenced During The Period Of **King Vishnuvardhana** In **1117 CE** And Took 103 Years To Complete.
- The Temple Is Dedicated To **Lord Vishnu** Known As **Chennakesava**, Which Means Beautiful (Chenna) Vishnu (Keshava).



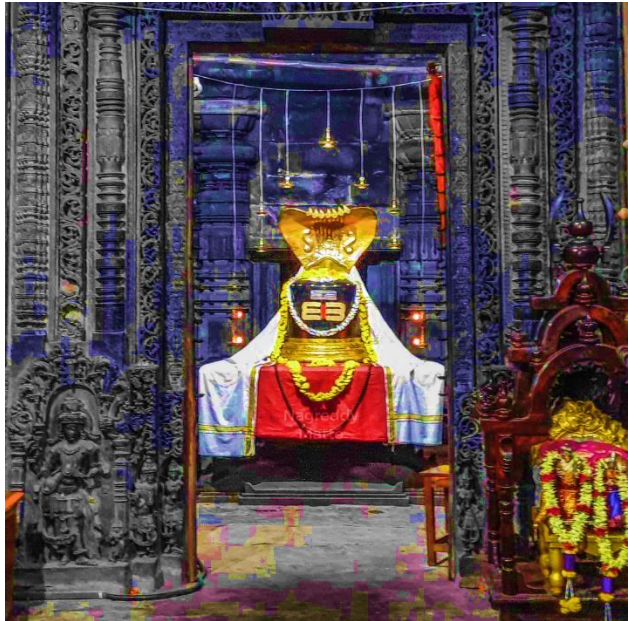
- The Richly Sculptured Exterior Of The Temple Narrates Scenes From The Life Of Vishnu And His Reincarnations And The Epics, Ramayana, And Mahabharata.
- However, Some Of **The Representations Of Shiva** Are Also Included.



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Hoysaleswara Temple

- The Hoysaleswara Temple Was Commissioned In 1121 CE The Temple Is **Dwikuta**, Which Means Two Temples Called "**Hoysaleshwar**" And "**Shantleeshwar**."
- The Temple, Dedicated To Shiva, Built By Wealthy Citizens And Merchants Of Dorasamudra.



- The Temple Is Most Well-Known For The More Than **240 Wall Sculptures** That Run All Along The Outer Wall.
- Halebid Has A Walled Complex Containing **Three Jaina Basadi** (Temples) Of The Hoysala Period As Well As A Stepped Well.



Keshava Temple

- Keshava Temple At Somanathapur In Mysuru District Was Commissioned By Somanatha Dandanayaka During The Regime **Of Narasimha III In 1268 CE.**
- Trikuta Temple Dedicated To Lord Krishna In **Three Forms – Janardhana, Keshava And Venugopala.**

- Unfortunately, The Main Keshava Idol Is Missing, And The Janardhana And Venugopala Idols Are Damaged.



Influence Of Chola And Chalukya Art

- Decoration Of The Western Chalukyas Influenced The Hoysala Decoration. The Pillar Image Called “Sthambha Buttalikas” Seen In Hoysala Art Bears Evidence Of Chola And Chalukya Art.
- In Chennakeshava Temple, The Image Of Mohini Seen In One Of The Pillars In The Mandapa Bears A Fine Example Of Chola Art In Hoysala Art.
- The Hoysala Artists Ornamented Both The Top And Surface Of The Pillars While Chalukya Artists Left The Top Plain And Decorated Only The Surface.



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