



Hoysal Malleshwara and keshva temple a study (special referrence to hoysala someshwara-1250 ad)

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Abstract

This temple situated in a place called Hulikal. It is about 4 KM to the Thandaga and 8KM to the Thumkur. Mallesvara is called locally by the people as Kallesvara. It is a typical Hoysala temple, though small in Dimensions.

Keywords: hoysal a, malleshwara kesava, temple, architecture, garbhagriha, sukhanasi, navaranga, sculptures

Introduction

This temple situated in a place called Hulikal. It is about 4 KM to the Thandaga and 8KM to the Thumkur. Mallesvara is called locally by the people as Kallesvara. It is a typical Hoysala temple, though small in dimensions. It has a garbhagriha, about 5 feet square on open vestibule, a navaranga of four pillars and a small porch borne on bell-shaped pillars. Its outer walls and stone towers mostly intact, being held in place by the large quantity of earth thrown around it by a neighboring water course. The outer walls are ornamented with pilasters. The parapet is also intact. The corners of the towers have in later times, been surmounted by brick and mortar Nandis.

The navaranga ceiling have padma. The central ceiling however is raised on two sets of corner stone's. At the back of the navaranga stand two towered niches and another of Bhairava are now kept in tem. In the south-west corner of the navaranga stands a mutilated image of Shanmukha Riding on a peacock. By its side is a dwarfish standing figure of Madhava, holding gadha, chakra, shanka and padma. There are also a number of Naga stones and a small Nandi.

The linga inside the garbhagriha appears to have been much damaged by the action of Water. It has a gnarled appearance. A new Kannada inscription of the Hoysala period was discovered to the south-east of the temple. It belongs to the reign of Hoysala King Someshwara.

Thandaga is a village about 8 Kmts to the south-east of Nonavinakere. It exists at least from the Hoysala days and has been called Shankara Naryanapura in the inscriptions. As is usual with the ancient Agrahara towns, it is built on an elevated ground with the Kesava temple standing at the centre of the village.

The Kesava temple is a typical Hoysala building of about the 13 century. It has a garbhagriha with a soapstone tower, a vestibule and a navaranga with four pillars and a small porch of one ankana to the east. The temple is built on a floating foundation of large slabs without any platform. It has five carnies without ornamentation except for the dentil projections

and the crossshaped and uncarved moldings'. The upper wall has ornamental pilasters and variedly shaped towards pavilions borne on one two or four pillars. The one on the south outer wall of the navaranga has four pillars and is finally designed.

The cell is cruciform in plan and has the original stone vimana intact with three tiers of carved turrets. The old parapet-with its Kirtimukhas and scroll is also intact. In the south west corner of the temple is now kept a mutilated Hoysala image of keshava about 5 feer high, with its padma and the hand holding the gada is broken. It appears to have been brought from elsewhere and stored here. On the wall of the cell are the images of standing Vishnu in various attitudes, of Ugra-Narasimha, Brahma and Uma-Mahesvara. The Someasutra has a lion face.

The porch which is borne on two bell-shaped soapstone pillars has a deep ceiling of lotus design with a padma pendant. On the floor is carved the prostrate figure, about 4 feet long of the chieftain who got the temple constructed. He lies with his face downwards, his folded hands extended beyond his head and his wet hair tied up in a loose knot. He wears dhoti and waist-cloth and anklers, armllets and bracelets.

The navaranga has indirnted square wall pilasters and round bell-shaped pillars of the usual Hoysala type. The ceilings are domes with padma design, excepting the central one in which a ribbed dome rises over two sets of corner stone's well carved with rosette friezes on the sides and lion faces on the lower surfaces. Against the west wall of the navaranga there are two niches without the sikharas and without their original gods.

The doorway of the vestibule which is supported by jambs having perforated screens bears on its lintel a fine sculpture piece with Gajalakshmi seated under a low serpentine torana with mango pendants. The vestibule is well list by the perforated domed ceilings. In the garbhagriha stands on a Garuda pedestal the image of kesava, about 5 feet high. Sine it is covered with much wax, it does not appear to advantage. This also belongs to the Hoysala king Somesvara's reign.

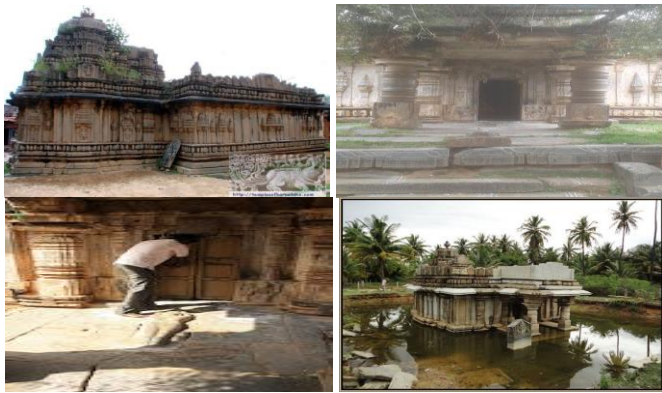


Fig 1: Thandga Hoysala Temple



Fig 2

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