

Hoxsala temples are India's nomination for World Heritage tag

The Hoxsala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka

- Have been finalized as India's nomination for consideration as **World Heritage** for 2022-2023.

Sacred Ensembles of the Hoxsalas

- The sacred ensembles of the Hoxsalas are extraordinary expressions of spiritual purpose.
- The sacred ensembles of the Hoxsalas at Belur and Halebid are examples of the artistic genius and cultural accomplishments of the Hoxsalas remaining today.

[I] Belur: Chennakeshava Temple Complex

Channakeshava Temple



- At the center of the old walled town located on the banks of the **Yagachi River**.
- The complex itself was walled in a rectangular campus with four rectilinear streets around it for ritual circumambulation of the deity.
- Construction of the temple commenced in 1117 AD and **took a 103 years to complete**.
- The temple was **devoted to Vishnu**.
- The richly sculptured exterior of the temple narrate scenes from the life of Vishnu and his reincarnations and the **Ramayana, and Mahabharata**.
- However, some of the **representations of Shiva** are also included.

[II] Halebid: Hoysaleshwara Temple

Hoysalesvara Temple

Halebidu



- At the zenith of the Hoysala empire, the capital was shifted from Belur to Halebid that was then known as Doragamudhra.
- Built in 1121CE during the reign of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleshwara.
- The temple, dedicated to Shiva, was sponsored and built by wealthy citizens and merchants.
- 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 of three Jaina basadi (temples) of the Hoysala period as well as a stepped well.

[III] Somnathpur: Kesava Temple



- The Keshava temple at Somanathapura is another magnificent Hoysala monument, perhaps the last.
- This is a breathtakingly beautiful Trikota 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.

