

REZORCE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

[REGISTERED UNDER THE INDIAN TRUSTS ACT, 1882]
NOT – FOR – PROFIT R&D INSTITUTION

Tuesday, 22 October, 2013

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Through

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Respected Sirs,

Sub: Hoysala Heritage Sites as Tourism Destination

Karnataka is lucky to be endowed with some of the finest sculptural monuments that can invoke pride in every Indian. Hoysala period [1163 – 1268] was one of the finest periods in the history of the state in this respect.

Action Requested

1. This note is a request to convert some of these wonderful examples of "Karnata" temple building tradition into a tourism circuit on same lines as Rajasthan Government has done of its forts and extend the tourism experience in the state.

2. KSTDC to introduce weekend and holiday tourist services from Bangalore, Mangalore and Mysore to these tourism destinations
3. Include these sites in the education tours program specified for government school children
4. Link rural folks [Janapada] arts to perform during the scheduled KSTDC programs on weekends and advertize them in a manner that is done by Rajasthan and Maharashtra Tourism
5. Build basic tourist infrastructure including guide service, clean toilets and gardens around these temples and encourage private sector [including home stays] to provide bed and traditional breakfast facilities around these temples.

Introduction

Hoysala dynasty ruled large parts of the state between 1026 AD and 1355 AD. The twelve kings of this dynasty outdid each other in their contribution to the culture and sculpture in the state. In the process of excelling the architecture standards set by their rivals of the time, Chalukyas of Badami, the state has a wonderful heritage to preserve today.

The social, cultural and religious events of the period & the political and economic stability ensured that the kings focused on rigorous temple building during this period. The outcome was a stylistic transformation of the "Karnata" style of temple building.





These temples are reflective of the religious trends of the time. We have a steady mix of Sri Vaishnava, Veerashaiva and Jain temples standing beside each other even today.

Karnataka has rightly restored Belur and Halebid on the tourist map of the state. A good percentage of the 0.55 million International tourists and 27.5 million Indian tourists visit the two temples and marvel at the sight of the wonderful architectural heritage it represents.

The Opportunity Today

Belur and Halebid represent the essence of the Hoysala style of architecture adequately. However, there are more than 20 other wonderful temples of the time within the state which are in reasonable good condition, and can, with little effort, be converted into attractive tourist destinations.

Each of the twenty sites represents something unique in its structure and style. They have similarities that a lay visitor can appreciate, even as he can dwell on its uniqueness.

	
Staggered Square Plan at Belavadi	Stepped Tank at Hullekere
	
Open Mantapa at Amruthapura	Star Shaped Vimana at Hosaholalu

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Our heritage provides us a reasonably good opportunity to showcase these sites as an alternate to the forts tourism that Rajasthan represents or best of what Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Iran or Syria can offer visitors

The global positioning and development of these tourist destinations provide a good opportunity to enable rural development in each of these twenty sites.

It will provide local people in twenty towns spread over four districts ample revenue earning opportunities and lead to development of these places. These are ideal venues from a stand point of rural home stay and weekend gateway from all the four premier cities in Karnataka.

If the destinations can be advertised heavily, Chickmagalur and Hassan District can attract a reasonable number of hotel and accommodation projects

The ready auditorium and picturesque background that these temples provide can be an ideal platform for a monthly music and performing art festival in each of these places [on same lines as what is being done in Hampi]. They will be the impetus for folk artisans to perform regularly in their neighbourhood.

Apart from wildlife destinations and corporate clubs, there is scope for more corporate retreats in the state.

Current Legal Position

All the temples are government managed at this time and come within the ambit of the Muzrai department. They are all listed as protected monuments by the Archeological Survey of India under The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958. There is no legal impediment to converting them into tourist destinations.

Budgets

The state can also consider reinforcing the structures and repairing any damages to these 20 structures. Some of the possible sources, if the state government can't immediately set aside any budget for this activity include:

1. The National Culture Fund of the Ministry of Culture has only covered Halebid under the Scheme. Some of the restoration work can be proposed under the Fund.
2. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has the "Managudi" program for temple restoration. Around 13,000 temples are being restored by TTD across Andhra Pradesh. The Chairman of TTD has indicated interest to extend the program to other states.
3. Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatha Dharmosthana Trust, Dharmasthala has already helped restore some structures.

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4. SV Institute of Traditional Sculpture and Architecture can be sourced to provide technical help for reconstruction.

We further request you to start weekend one – day tour packages from Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli and Mangalore to these places to encourage our own people to visit the places often.

The Hoysala Sites

Place	District	Temple	Construction	Tenure
Hullekere	Tumkur	Channakeshava temple	1163	Narasimha I
		Kalyani [Stepped Tank]	1163	Narasimha I
Aralaguppe	Tumkur	Chennakesava	1250	VeeraSomeshwara
Arasikere	Hassan	Ishwara temple	1220	VeeraBallala II
Harannahalli	Shimoga	Someshwara	1235	VeeraSomeshwara
		Lakshminarasimha	1235	VeeraSomeshwara
Amruthapura	Chickmagalur	Amruteshwara	1196	VeeraBallala II
Javagal	Hassan	Lakshminarasimha	1250	VeeraSomeshwara
Doddagaddavalli	Hassan	Lakshmidivi	1113	Vishnuvardhana
Halebeedu	Hassan	Hoysaleswara	1120	Vishnuvardhana
		Parsvanatha	1133	Vishnuvardhana
		AkkanaBasadi	1181	VeeraBallala II
		Adinatha	1181	VeeraBallala II
		Kadareswara	1200	VeeraBallala II
Belur	Hassan	Channakeshava	1117	Vishnuvardhana
		Chennigaraya	1117	Vishnuvardhana
MosaleHosahalli	Hassan	Nageshwara	1200	VeeraBallala II
		Parsvanatha	1120	Vishnuvardhana
		PrasannaChennakeshava	1200	VeeraBallala II
Holenarasipura	Hassan	Lakshminarasimha	1168	Narasimha I
Belavadi	Hassan	Veeranarayana	1200	VeeraBallala II
Hosaholalu	Mandya	Lakshminarayana Lakshminarasimha Gopala Krishna	1250	VeeraSomeshwara
Basaralu	Mandya	Mallikarjuna	1234	VeeraNarasimha II
Kikkeri	Mandya	Brahmeshwara	1171	Narasimha I
Anekere	Hassan	Chennakeshava	1119	Vishnuvardhana
Shantigrama	Hassan	Yoganarsimha, Dharmeshwara Keshava	1119	Vishnuvardhana
Harihar	Hassan	Harihreshwara	1224	VeeraNarasimha II
Koravangala	Hassan	Govindeshwara, Nakeshwara Bucheshwara	1173	VeeraBallala II

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Place	District	Temple	Construction	Tenure
Anathi	Hassan	Lakshminarayana	1119	Vishnuvardhana
		Digambareswara	1119	Vishnuvardhana
Nuggehalli	Hassan	Lakshminarasimha	1246	VeeraSomeswara
		Sadashiva	1249	VeeraSomeswara
Somanathapura	Mysore	Keshava	1268	Narasimha III

We request you to convey a meeting of the concerned departments [Tourism, Muzrai, Education and ASI] and start promoting these heritage sites as alternate weekend tourist destinations with KSTDC tours during weekends and on holidays

We look forward to your immediate action

Yours sincerely



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