



# Hoysala's Sri Madhava Perumal Temple Reveals Trade Route

[Source: TH](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, Inscriptions found at **Sri Madhava Perumal Temple** indicate the existence of a major trade route over 1,000 years ago, connecting the **Kongu region in western Tamil Nadu** with **southern Karnataka and Kerala**.

## What are the Key Facts About the Madhava Perumal Temple?

### ▪ About:

- It is dedicated to the **Hindu deity Vishnu**, who is worshipped as **Madhava Perumal**. It is located in **Mylapore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The Mylapore region came under the rule of the [Hoysala dynasty](#), particularly **King Veera Ballala III**.
- The general of the Hoysala army, constructed **Dhandanayaka Fort**, 680 years ago. The **temple** in the [Dravidian style](#) of architecture was constructed inside the fort.
  - The area was later ruled by the [Vijayanagara Empire](#) and [Tipu Sultan](#).
  - The Battle of Sathyamangalam (1790), during the [Third Anglo-Mysore War](#) (1790-1792), also took place near the fort.
- The temple is believed to be the **birthplace of Peyalvar**, one of the first three of the **twelve Alvar saints** of the **6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century CE**.
- The temple, largely **submerged in the water-spread area** of the **Bhavanisagar dam in Erode district**, became visible as the water level in the dam dipped.

### ▪ Temple Inscription:

- The inscriptions revealed the existence of a **village named Thuravalur**.
- The area served as a **trunk road**, and **traders crossed River Bhavani and River Moyar** to reach Wayanad in Kerala and various places in Karnataka.
- **Construction of the Bhavanisagar dam** in 1948 resulted in the relocation of nearby residents and the shifting of temple idols to new locations in 1953.

## Bhavanisagar Dam

- It is located in **Erode district**, Tamil Nadu, India.
- The dam is constructed on the **Bhavani River**. It is one of the world's largest earthen dams.
- **Bhavani River originates from the Nilgiri hills** of the Western Ghats, enters the [Silent Valley National Park in Kerala](#) and flows back towards Tamil Nadu. The Bhavani River is one of the main tributaries of the **Cauvery River**.

## What are the Key Facts about Hoysala Dynasty?

▪ **Origin and Rise:**

- The Hoysalas were **feudatories of the [Chalukyas of Kalyana](#)**, or the Western Chalukya Empire.
  - The first kings came from the hills **northwest of Dorasamudra (present-day Halebid)**, which became their capital in 1060 AD.
- The most notable rulers of the Hoysala dynasty were **Vishnuvardhana, Veera Ballala II, and Veera Ballala III**.
  - **Vishnuvardhana** (also known as Bittideva) was the **greatest king** of the Hoysala dynasty.
- They governed areas spanning **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** in the **Kaveri (Cauvery) river valley** between the **11<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> century**.
- Later, the **Vijayanagar dynasty succeeded** the Hoysalas.

▪ **Religion and Culture:**

- The dynasty patronised various religions, such as **Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism**.
- **King Vishnuvardhana** was initially a Jain but later converted to Vaishnavism under the influence of the [Saint Ramanuja](#).

▪ **Temple Architecture:**

- The Hoysala Temples were built **during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries CE**, showcasing the **unique architectural and artistic brilliance of [Vesara style](#)**.
- Among Hoysala temples, **Chennakeshava Temple in Belur, Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebid, Keshava Temple of Somanathapur** are [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) and protected by [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#).
- Hoysala architecture is known for its **distinctive blend of Bhumija style** prevalent in Central India, the **Nagara traditions** of northern and western India, and the **Karnataka Dravida** modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.
  - These contain **multiple shrines** grouped around a **central pillared hall** and laid out in the shape of an intricately designed star.
- They are **made out of soapstone** which is a relatively soft stone, the artists were able to carve their sculptures intricately.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the:(2012)**

- (a) three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- (b) three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- (c) three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- (d) three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

**Ans: c**

### Mains

**Q. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss (2013)**

