



Laxmi Devi Temple: Hoysala

Why in News

Recently, a **Hoysala-era idol of Goddess Kali** of the **Lakshmi Devi Temple** at **Doddagaddavalli, Karnataka** has been found damaged.

Key Points

▪ Lakshmi Devi Temple:

- Lakshmi Devi temple was built by the Hoysalas in the year **1114 CE** during the rule of king **Vishnuvardhana**.
- The building material is **Chloritic schist**, more commonly known as **soapstone**.
- The temple does not stand on a **jagati** (platform), a feature which became popular in later Hoysala temples.
- The temple is a **chatuskuta construction** (4 shrine and tower). The towers are in **Kadamba nagara** style. The **mantapa is open and square**. The reason for the square plan is the presence of shrines on all four sides of the mantapa.
- There is a **separate fifth shrine of Bhairava**, an avatar of Lord Shiva.
- The main deity is **Goddess Lakshmi** whereas all Hoysala temples are dedicated to either **Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva** and in **some cases to Jains**.
- An [archaeological Survey of India](#) (ASI) monument and is also among the monuments **proposed** for the [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).



▪ Hoysala Temple Architecture:

- It is the building style developed under the rule of the Hoysalas and is mostly concentrated in **southern Karnataka**.
- **Hoysala temples** are sometimes called **hybrid or vesara** as their unique style seems

neither completely dravida nor nagara, but somewhere in between.

- They are easily distinguishable from other medieval temples by their **highly original star-like ground-plans** and a **profusion of decorative carvings**.
- The temples, instead of consisting of a simple inner chamber with its pillared hall, contain **multiple shrines grouped around a central pillared hall** and laid out in the shape of an intricately-designed star.
- The most characteristic feature of these temples is that they grow **extremely complex with so many projecting angles** emerging from the previously straightforward square temple, that the plan of these temples starts **looking like a star**, and is thus known as a **stellate-plan**.



◦ **Some of the famous temples are:**

- **Hoysaleswara (Lord of the Hoysalas) Temple:** At **Halebid, Karnataka** and built in **dark schist stone** by a Hoysala king in AD 1150.
- **Chennakeshava Temple:** At **Somnathpur, Karnataka** and was built around AD 1268 under **Narasimha III**.
- **Kesava Temple:** At **Belur, Hassan** district of Karnataka built by **Vishnuvardhana**.

Hoysala

- During the **12th and 13th centuries**, **Hoysalas of Karnataka** grew to prominence in South India and **became the most important patrons centred at Mysore**.
- They ruled **almost all the present day Karnataka**.
- Their capital was **Belur** which was later shifted to **Halebidu**.
- The period was an important era for the growth of the art, architecture and religion in South India.

[Source:TH](#)

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