

# MALNAD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

(An Autonomous Institution under Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi)



Hassan – 573202, Karnataka, India

## **Social Connect and Responsibility**

**(22AI308)**

Activity Report on:

“Heritage Visit”

Submitted by

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# INTRODUCTION

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration

The tradition of collecting of smaller objects such as artworks and other cultural masterpieces belonged to "antiquarian interest". The first collections in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Period consisted either of highly selected assemblages or "the whole world in a room" type encyclopedic collections. These were the first stages of a long institutionalization process. Their selection was based on notions of value inherent for the time and place of the acquisition or the rarity, aesthetic quality of the object.

The emergence of the concept of cultural heritage is a result of a long historical development in which different values were attached to monuments, buildings, works of arts, artifacts, landscapes, etc. The systematic destruction or losses of these objects led to phrases such as "outstanding universal value" and to the declaration that these objects belong to "humanity". These ideas were developed through an understanding that cultural heritage and the natural environment with which it is intimately entangled, is unique and irreplaceable. The emergence of the concept is directly related to the idea of protection or conservation.

Like that “The Ancient Hoysala Shri Doddagaddavalli Lakshmi Devi Temple” is one of heritage place which is located near Hassan in Karnataka.

## The Ancient Hoysala Shri Doddagaddavalli Lakshmi Devi Temple

The ancient Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple is a revered Hindu shrine dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, the temple is known for its historical significance and architectural splendor, attracting devotees seeking blessings and spiritual solace. The temple's rich cultural heritage and religious practices make it a noteworthy pilgrimage destination in the region.

### Location :

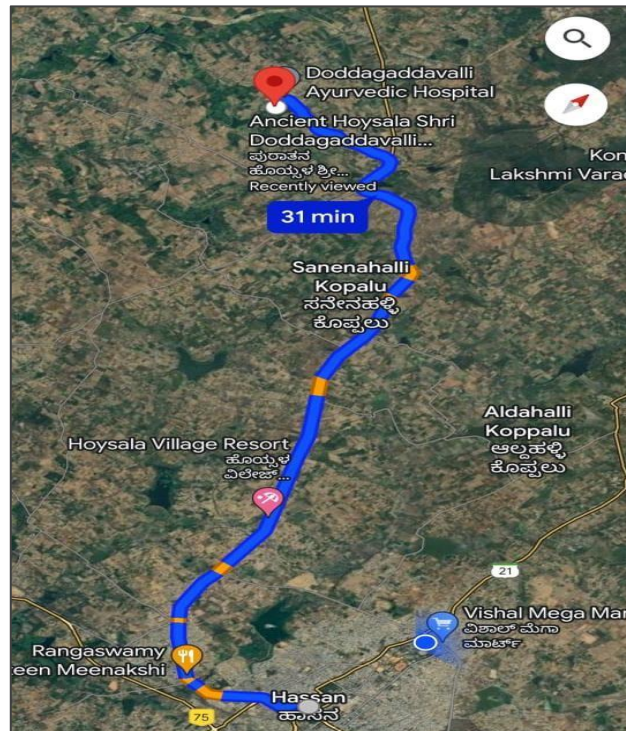


Fig. Location of the Temple

Doddagaddavalli is called Gadumballi in historic inscriptions. It is located about 20km northwest from Hassan city, about 16 kmsouth of Halebidu and about 25km southeast from Belur (NH 373). The temple is to the south side of the modern village, on the banks of a historic water reservoir.

## History:

The Lakshmi Devi temple, was built in 1113 CE by a wealthy merchant Kullahana Rahuta and his wife Sahaj Devi during the reign of 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 holds a sacred aura, with legends and folklore surrounding its establishment, contributing to its spiritual significance. It has been a center of devotion and worship, drawing pilgrims and patrons across generations. The preservation of its historical and religious heritage continues to make the Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple an enduring symbol of faith and cultural legacy.



Fig. Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple

The temple is a chaturskuta 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.

The main temple consists of four-shrines that share a common mantapa (hall), each sanctum being a square and aligned to a cardinal direction.

- The eastern shrine has Goddess Lakshmi
- The northern shrine is dedicated to Kali-Durga
- The western to Shiva, and the southern is empty and likely Vishnu.
- The complex has a separate Bhairava shrine to the northeast of the main temple and four small shrines at the corners inside a nearly square prakara (compound). All nine temples are notable for its pyramidal north Indian style Nagara shikhara

## Architecture:

The temples complex is within a seven feet high prakara (compound), almost a 115 feet square. It had a dvara-mantapa to its west and a dvarasobha to its east, but these along with the original compound decoration is now missing except for the door frames and the mantapa like structure. It is likely that the original town was near the manmade reservoir. At the center is the chatuskuta (four-shrine) main temple with a shared mandapa. Thus, the complex consists of nine shrines.

At the entrance of the chatushkuta are two large stone sculptures adorned with intricate jewellery on either side of the doorway.



Fig. Shows sculpture of Hoysalas



The toran on the outer walls of the garbha griha, which opens directly to a mantapa, has six Betalas dancing along with Nagakanya and Vishkanya, usually not found in Hoysala temples. The ranga mantapa (main hall) is dimly lit, having limited perforations in the side walls, and its ceiling is supported by eighteen lathe-turned pillars



Fig. Shows Sculpture of Hoysalas

On entering, on the left there are two sculptures of large demonic living corpses called betala. These stand guard outside the shrine of Kali. The nude betalas give a frightening appearance with their tongues hanging out and holding a severed human head and a sword in either hand. The presence of these sculptures indicates the influence of tantra cult in the construction of the temple.



Fig. Betala

The sculptures of the ancient Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple are a testament to the exquisite craftsmanship of the Chola dynasty. Intricately carved figures adorn the temple, depicting various deities, mythological scenes, and intricate patterns. These sculptures not only showcase the artistic prowess of the time but also serve as a visual narrative of Hindu mythology.

The depictions often include scenes from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, showcasing the devotion to storytelling through stone. Each sculpture is carefully detailed, reflecting the cultural and religious ethos of the period. These artistic expressions contribute to the temple's unique identity and make it a treasure trove of historical and artistic significance. Sculptures of the ancient Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple are a testament to the exquisite craftsmanship of the Chola dynasty.

### **Carved ceilings :**

The richly carved ceilings have intricate craftsmanship and the panel outside Kali's shrine show Shiva doing Rudra Tandav and playing the Rudra Veena. Other circular images depict Kubera and Rambha on a horse in the north direction, Agni riding on a one-horned ram and holding his weapon Shakti in the south-east direction, Yama riding his buffalo and holding his danda in the South, Goddess Niruti in her human form in the south-west, and Varuna riding a crocodile in the West. In the centre of the hall is Indra with his consort Indrani riding the Airavat elephant



Fig. Carved ceilings

## Goddess Lakshmi in standing posture:

This is a very rare sculpture of Goddess Lakshmi in standing posture, while goddess Lakshmi is mostly found in sitting posture and holds Shankha, Chakra, Gadha, Hasta. To the right of the sanctum is Lord Boothanatheshwara, in the form of Shiva Linga. It is believed that devotees cannot worship the lord by laying down, as you have idols of Gods and Goddesses on all four directions and worshipping the lord by laying down.



Fig. Goddess Lakshmi in standing posture

The main shrine facing east has a 3-foot-tall image of the goddess Lakshmi with an attendant on either side. The image holds Vishnu's icons – a conch in the upper right hand, a chakra in the upper left, a rosary in the lower right and a mace in the lower left. In the shrines facing north, south and west respectively are the images of Kali (a form of Durga), the god Vishnu, and Boothanatha Linga (the universal symbol of the god Shiva). A sculpture of Tandaveswara (dancing Shiva) exists in the circular panel at the center of the ceiling of the mantapa.

Other notable artwork are those of Gajalakshmi (form of Lakshmi with elephants on either side), Tandaveshwara and Yoganarasimha (avatars of Vishnu) found on the doorway of the temple. The main attraction of this beautiful temple is that it includes the worship of both Shaivism and Vaishnavism.



## **Goddess Lakshmi Devi :**

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Fig. Goddess Lakshmi Devi

## **Goddess Maha Kali :**

The Goddess Maha Kali , which was fractured is a unique one. The iconographic features, attributes and her posture are noteworthy for their characteristic carvings. The Devi is seated right on the dead body of a rakshasa figure who serves as her asana. The main peetha is depicted with a seated image of an emaciated bhuta figure. The Goddess has eight arms, spread in circular architectonic form holding various weapons. The Devi's right-side arms have a khadga, trishula, gada and arrow, while on the left, a bowl, damaru, bow and noose are depicted. On the northern wall of the Maha Kali garbagriha, there is a seated image of Devi identical in her style and depiction of attributes to the idol inside.

Maha Kali's strong frontal posture with her benign facial details makes the divine highly spiritual. She has been worshipped here as the village deity. The corroborating images and ambience of the Maha Kali shrine directly associates the image with tantric practices. The doorway and its *lalata pattika* (upper jamb) have *bhuta mukhas*, while either sides of the walls have depictions of life-sized *bhuta* figures in standing posture as door guardians. The *bhuta* figures are supposed to accompany the Devi in her expeditions against demons.



Fig. Goddess Maha Kali

**Old Kannada inscription dated 1115 AD in the Lakshmi Devi temple at Doddagaddavalli.**



## **Specialty of the ancient Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple**

The specialty of the ancient Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple lies in its unique architecture, adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures that reflect the artistic finesse of the Chola dynasty. The temple is revered for its spiritual ambiance and the divine presence of Goddess Lakshmi, attracting devotees seeking blessings for prosperity and well-being.

The sanctity of the temple is enhanced by various rituals and festivities that are celebrated with enthusiasm, creating a vibrant religious atmosphere. The historical and cultural significance, coupled with the spiritual aura, makes the Shri Doddagadhavali Lakshmi Devi Temple a distinctive and cherished pilgrimage site.

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