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## THIS IS A GREAT MOMENT FOR INDIA TO SEE THE SACRED ENSEMBLES OF THE HOYSALAS TEMPLES BEING SUBMITTED FOR INSCRIPTION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST: G KISHAN REDDY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Promotion and Preservation of Culture Incl. UNESCO

The Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023. The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' are on UNESCO's Tentative list since 15th April, 2014 and represent one of the highest points of human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.



Channakeshava Temple, Belur

The first step is submission of the dossier to the World Heritage Centre which will do the technical scrutiny of the same. Sri Vishal V Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO formally submitted the nomination to UNESCO, Director of World Heritage, Mr. Lazare Eloundou today (31<sup>st</sup> January,2022)

Sri Vishal V Sharma tweeted, "#India is proud to nominate the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas for @UNESCO's World Heritage List! Art historians recognize the exceptional sculptural artistry of the ensembles to be among the masterpieces of Asian art. @ASIGol"

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Once the submission is made, UNESCO will communicate back by early March. After that the site evaluation will happen in September /October 2022 and the dossier will be taken up for consideration in July /August 2023.



Hoysalesvara Temple, Halebidu

Sri G Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of Northeastern Region stated "This is a great moment for India to see the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas temples being submitted for inscription in the World Heritage List".

"The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is committed to both Vikas and Virasat. Our efforts in protecting our Virasat is evident from the work the government has been putting in inscribing both our tangible and intangible heritage and also repatriating the cultural heritage that was stolen or taken away from India", the Minister added.



Keshava Temple, Somanathapura

All these three Hoysala temples are protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and therefore conservation and maintenance will be done by ASI. The state government will ensure the conservation of state protected monuments which are around these three monuments since it would add to the visual integrity of the place. The District Master Plan of the state government will also incorporate the buffers of all monuments and build an integrated management plan. The state government will also look at the traffic management issues to be looked into especially around the designated property.

The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, built in the 12th-13th centuries and represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura, attest to the creativity and skill of the Hoysala artists and architects who built these masterpieces of a kind never seen before or since. The Hoysala architects used their profound knowledge of temple architecture in different parts of India to their advantage. The Hoysala temples have a basic Darvidian morphology but show strong influences of the Bhumija mode widely used in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karntata Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas. Therefore, the Hoysala architects made considered and informed eclectic selections of features from other temple typologies which they further modified and then complemented with their own particular innovations. The result was the birth of a completely novel 'Hoysala Temple' form.

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## NB/OA

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