

Govindeshwara and Nakeswara temple of Koravangala – An Overview

Dr.K.Prabhu

Assistant Prof & chairman, D.O.S. in Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore-06 (India)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 12 June 2019

Keywords

Koravangala, Hoysala, Buchheshwar, Govindeshwar and Nakeshwar, Shreekarana and Tantraadikaariss, Garbhagruha, Sukhnasi, Navaranga, Bhubaneswar, Adhithana.

*Corresponding Author

Email: kalaswamyhn80[at]gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The Koravangala village is located 14 km away from southwest of the city of Hassan. During the Hoysala rule, this village was an important Agrahara center of Seegenadi. Eight inscriptions and temples namely Buchheshwar, Govindeshwar and Nakeshwar are found here. From the inscriptions it is found that Govindda, Naakana, Kaalimayya and Bhoochiraja who were Hegdes, Shreekarana and Tantraadikaariss built Govindeshwara, Nakeshwar Kaleshwara and Buchheswara temples respectively during the reign of the first Narsahendra.

The Koravangala village is located 14 km away from southwest of the city of Hassan. During the Hoysala rule, this village was an important Agrahara center of Seegenadi. Eight inscriptions and temples namely Buchheshwar, Govindeshwar and Nakeshwar are found here. From the inscriptions it is found that Govindda, Naakana, Kaalimayya and Bhoochiraja who were Hegdes, built Govindeshwara, Nakeshwar Kaleshwara and Buchheswara temples respectively during the reign of the first Narsahendra. Among them the existence of Bhoochiraja can be seen during reigns of Narasimha as well as Second Ballala. And these four brothers are known to be the sons of Madamiyya and Makavve.

Govindeshwara Temple: It is located within the compound of the temples which is below the village lake. The inscription states, this temple was built by Govind (Govindamayya) who was a Tactician and Hegde, during the reign of Narasimha in B.C. 160. This inscription describes the temple as “Dr̥ghatarādhiṣṭānabandhabandhuramur̥ vṛittapariṇāharamaṇīya stambha sambhṛtamunenipa śaṅkarāvāsamaṇī vāsavasamāṇavibhaṇī vibhānurūpadim̥”. The sanctum facing eastern side consists of a garbhagriha, an open sukhnasi, a Navaranga and a small Mantapa. It has another shrine on the front. Perhaps it was built for the sun. As both the Sunigudi and Govindeshwara temples have the same mantapam, it is also known as the Dwigoota Temple. The Buchheshwar temple of the village also has a similar structure.

Garbhagruha/ sanctum and Sukhanasi: It is a square shaped Garbhagruha with 6 x 6 feet in size. No phallus or sculptures are found in this. Its doorway is very simple, with two sides of the door having two sloping knobs with no sculptures on it. Following the sanctum, the portion of the Sukhnasi has a door with open with a 6 x 6 feet area. At the top is vitaana in naabischanda style.

Navaranga: Navaranga is about 14 x 15 feet wide with four Hoysala style Shreekaara pillars. These pillars have a

Chaturshra Peetha, a four-angle cylinder, Cubic shaped cylinder, Kantha, Escutcheon and a Musthibhanda bodhige. As the name implies, Navaranga has 9 courtyards. Except the middle courtyard, the all other 8 courtyards the sculpture of Vidyadhara holding garland and of the Garuda sculpture on the north direction can be seen. The remaining Bhuvaneshwari sculptures have a simple Shatapatra Padma structure. Bhubaneswar of this middle courtyard consists three steps. Sculptures of musicians and orchestras around Tandaveshwara of central Shilapalakha can be seen. The structure of the frescoes can be found on the lower belts of this Bhuvaneshwari. There are no other chambers and sculptures are found in Navaranga. Pillars adjoining the wall are decorated beautifully. The doorway of the Navaranga is impressive having total panchhashakes with diamond, valli, pillar and valli including another decorative carved branch. The sculpture of Gajalakshmi is in its lalatabimba. And carved sculptures of standing lions on both sides can also be seen. There are Shaiva gatekeepers standing on the dual side of the door. And there are also women's attendees. These gatekeepers are seen holding Trishoola and Dhamaru in their back hands and Abhaya hasta and Gada in front hands. Attractive spiral carvings can be found around these Shaiva gatekeepers. There is a Mantapa on the north and south sides of the Navaranga, in which Bhuvaneshwari sculpture has been carved beautifully. The Bhuvaneshwari sculpture takes octagonal shape as it gets within. It is about 3 feet deep, with Astadikpaalakas sculptures carved directionally. Distributing the porch of Govindeshwara temple part of Sukhnasi and the sanctum can also be seen here. Might be it was built was for the sun. Both Garbhagudi and Sukhanasi are about 6.5*6.5 feet in size, with no sculptures. Its door is built in a great way. The entrance consists of a Vallishaake, Sthambhashaake, and Jaalandra, with a Sun sculpture in Lalaata. At the top, Padma structure has been carved which has double sided patterns on the two sides of it. Rati Manmatha sculptures on the two sides of the door have also been carved. Sha Shettar commented that this kind of structure could be found in the Kalyani Chalukyas temples and Jeenaalayas.

The Adhithana and Bhatti: The Adhithana is a 3 feet structure and consists a Upaana, Jagati, Padma, Thripata Kumuda, and Upaana parts have submerged in the earth. Maakarmukha Pranalas have been built both sides of the two sanctums of the temple at the North West it. The pillar is decorated with aviaries and Bhramhakantha Bhatti, the Padma has been craved in the Kostas. Next to Bhatti, the Uttara, Vaajana and Kapotha parts can be found in the Prasthara rea. The peak does not appear in the temple with a two-foot tall manual wall. At the entrance of the temple, there are six decorative murals and two beautiful pillars that are supported by the roof.

Nakeshwara temple: The temple is built on the south side of the Govindeshwara Temple. An inscription of A.C. 12 century found at this village states about the construction of this temple. Though the inscription doesn't specify the period the temple was built, it is clear that it was built during the reign of Narasimha as it inscription text describes the Hoysala dynasty of Narasimha. On the basis of this inscription text, it is learned that Nagaswara (Nakyamayya), who was a Mahaprada, Shri Shakti and Tantraka, built the Nakeshwara temple in Koramangala of Seagenadai in the reign of Narasimha. The temple is located in the Eastward consisting of the sanctum sanctorum, an open Sukhnasi and the Navaranga.

Garbhagruha/ Sanctum sanctorum, and Sukhnasi: This construction is a square shaped sanctum sanctorum with 5.5. foot area without lingam or any other sculptures. Its doorway is also simple without any decorative carvings and sculptures. Sukhnasi has been found next to sanctum sanctorum, with an area of 5.5 feet. Its doorway is simple and there are jaalandras on either side of the door.

Navaranga: Next to Sukhnasi, Navaranga of four pillars with 11*12 feet are found where all its Bhuvaneshwaris are built with naabhischandra style. These pillars have a Chaturshra Peetha, a four-angle cylinder, 16 angles, Kantha, Escutcheon and a Mandi Phalaka and a bodhige. The Navarath gate has a very simple structure, with a sculpture of Gajalaxmi in Lalatabimba.

Adhithana and Bhatti: The Adhithana is two feet height in size and consists Upaana, Jagati, Padma and every part of the pillar is of Manchabhnada style. The Adhithana upaana part is submerged in earth and there is a simple pranaala on the north side of the north side of Adhithaana. The pillar is simple, with a brahmakanta bhitti and paada. Next to Bhatti, there are Uttara, Vaajana and Kapotha parts can be found. About a two-foot tall manual wall has been built in recent days. In fact, the Nakeshwara Temple is said to be a temple simple without any decoration and special architectural features.

Mantapa next to Nakeshwara temple: The Mantapa consists of a three-and-a-half-footed Adhithana which includes parts of Upaana, the Jagati, the Chaturasrama Kumuda, Pattika, and Kapotha. Few sculptures are carved in some selected locations around the premises, mainly Bhairava, Nataraja, Venugopal, Anantha Shayana and Yaksha-Yakshi sculptures can be mentioned. Some curls carvings and Keerthimukhas can be seen on these sculptures. To enter this Mantapa there are steps on East and West directions. The Dravidian-style peaks and Kosthasa are built on both sides of this Mantapa. However, there are no sculptures found inside these four Kosthaks. The mantapa consists of 24 pillars and 13 beautiful Bhuvaneshwaris built by the Leth machine. Chaturshra Peetha, a four-angle cylinder, Kantha, Mandi Phalaka, Musthibhanda and Bodhige. The half pillars also include all other parts except the Peetha. The central Bhuvaneshwari of this Mantapa is attractive and has 3 steps. In addition, the sculptures of Asthadikpaalakas have also carved directionally, with interior carvings inside it. On the top of the Adhithaana Mantapa, orbits are constructed around to sit and flower petals and curls carvings are carved in the back. The mandap roof consists of porch and Kapotha parts. The open mantapa, which is located at the complex of the Nakeshwara and Govindeshwara temples, is a major attraction.

These temples and other structures are of great significance to the Hoysala art and architecture, and it is can be said that the State Archaeological Survey has conserved them.

Photographs



Govindeshwara temple side view



Pillars of Navaranga



Doorframes of Navaranga



Bhuvaneshwari in Porch



Temple right side view



Nakeshwara Temple



Navaranga



Open Porch



Complex of Temples

References

1. Epigraphica Carnatica, Vol 08
2. Gazetteer of Hasan District 1971
3. Mysore Archeological Report 1933
4. Shetter, S., The Hoysala Temples, Vol 1 & 2
5. Manoj, J., Devalaya Vastu Vijnana
6. Srikantashastri, s., Hoysala Vastushilpa
7. Hayavadanarao, c., Mysore Gazetteer, Vol 02, Part 1
8. Dr.K.M.A., The Indian Temple Forms
9. Udayaravi, Hasana Zilla Vyishistya, Zilla Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Hasan
10. Goruru Ananthraju, Hasana Zilleya Darshana, Hasana
11. Gopal, R., Hasan Zilleya Ithihasa mattu Puratattava, Directorate of Archaeological Museum, Mysore.