Hoxsala temples are India's nomination for World Heritage tag

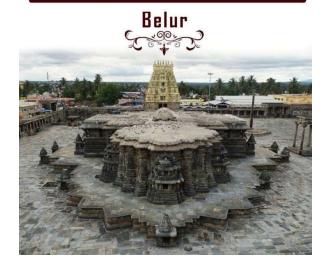
The Hoxsala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka

 Have been finalized as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for 2022-2023.
 Sacred Ensembles of the Hoxsalas

- · The sacred ensembles of the Hoxsalas are extraordinary expressions of spiritual purpose.
- The sacred ensembles of the Hoxsalas at Belur and Halebid are examples of the artistic genius and cultural accomplishments of the Hoxsalas remaining today.

[I] Belur: Chennakeshava Temple Complex

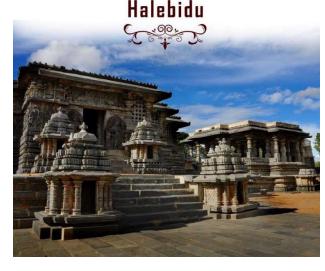
Channakeshava Temple



- · At the center of the old walled town located on the banks of the Yagachi River.
- The complex itself was walled in a rectangular campus with four rectilinear streets around it for ritual circumambulation of the deity.
- Construction of the temple commenced in 1117 AD and took a 103 years to complete.
- . The temple was devoted to Vishnu.
- The richly sculptured exterior of the temple narrate scenes from the life of Vishnu and his reincarnations and the Ramayana, and Mahabharata.
- However, some of the representations of Shiva are also included.

[II] Halebid Hoysaleshwara Temple

Hoysalesvara Temple



- At the Zenith of the Hoxsala empire, the capital was shifted from Belur to Halebid that was then known as Dorasamudhra.
- · Built in 1121CE during the reign of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleshwara.
- · The temple, dedicated to Shiva, was sponsored and built by wealthy citizens and merchants.
- The temple is most well-known for the more than 240 wall sculptures that run all along the outer wall.
- Halebid has a walled complex containing of three
 Jaina basadi (temples) of the Hoxsala period as well as a stepped well.

[III] Somnathpur: Kesava Temple



- · The Keshava temple at Somanathapura is another magnificent Hoxsala monument, perhaps the last.
- This is a breathtakingly beautiful Trikuta
 Temple dedicated to Lord Krishna in three forms Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopala.
- Unfortunately, the main Keshava idol is missing, and the Janardhana and Venugopala idols are damaged.

