

Conservation and Preservation of Hanagal Region Temples Moreppa H. Vaddar

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17297321>

ABSTRACT:

The heritage town of Hanagal, known for its magnificent temples, ancient monuments, and spiritual legacy, stands as a silent witness to the artistic brilliance of the Chalukyan era. The conservation and preservation of Hanagal's architectural heritage are vital to protect its cultural identity and historical significance. This study highlights the need for sustainable measures to safeguard the temples, sculptures, and inscriptions that narrate the region's glorious past. Through scientific restoration, community participation, and government initiatives, Hanagal can be transformed into a model of heritage conservation. Preserving Hanagal's treasures is not merely about protecting stones and structures, it is about reviving the spirit of history, culture, and devotion for future generations.

KEYWORDS:

Preservation, Conservation, Monument Act, Antiquities, Tourism.

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Introduction:

Conservation and preservation of ancient monuments involve protecting and maintaining cultural heritage through minimal, necessary interventions to prevent damage and extend a monument's lifespan, as mandated by laws like the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Key entities like the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conduct excavations, maintenance, and conservation programs, while the National Monuments Authority advises on matters of national importance, ensuring heritage sites are safeguarded for future generations.

What is Conservation & Preservation?

- It is the process of taking necessary actions to prolong a monument's life, prevent damage and deterioration, and minimize the impact of natural and human-induced decay.
- It emphasizes maintaining the monument's authenticity and integrity

by retaining original historical materials and architectural details.

Key Regulatory Frameworks (India)

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958: A landmark law that provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites of national importance.
- The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904: An earlier act providing for the preservation of ancient monuments and objects of historical or artistic interest.
- The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972: Also contributes to the protection of cultural heritage.

Hanagal Town:

Conservation and preservation of Hanagal temples involve protecting their cultural and historical significance. Here are some key aspects:

Conservation Efforts:

Documentation and Research: Conduct thorough documentation and research to understand the site's significance and context.

Structural Conservation: Repair and reinforce deteriorating structures using traditional techniques and materials.

Material Conservation: Clean, consolidate, and protect surfaces while preserving the original fabric.

Site Management and Planning: Establish visitor guidelines, monitor footfall, and control access to fragile areas .

Challenges:

Natural Degradation: Environmental factors like weathering, pollution, and biological growth accelerate deterioration.

Human Impact: Urbanization, neglect, and vandalism threaten temple structures and artwork.

Limited Resources: Insufficient funding and skilled labor hinder conservation efforts.

Preservation Strategies

Community Involvement: Engage local communities in conservation efforts to promote ownership and protect sites from encroachment and vandalism.

Sustainable Tourism: Promote sustainable tourism practices to generate revenue for conservation efforts while minimizing negative impacts.

Collaboration and Awareness: Collaborate with local authorities, heritage experts, and the community to develop effective conservation strategies and raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage. Some notable temples in Hanagal that may benefit from conservation efforts include.

Veerabhadra Temple: A highly decorated temple in need of restoration work.

Jain Temple: A Hoysala-style temple built in 1150 AD, requiring conservation and restoration.

Trakeshwara Temple: A significant example of Western Chalukya architecture.

Billeshwara Temple: A temple with intricate carvings and historical significance. By adopting a thoughtful and multi-faceted approach to conservation and preservation, Hanagal's rich cultural and historical heritage can be protected for future generations .

Kalakeri:

Kalakeri village in Haveri district, Karnataka, is home to several ancient temples worth visiting. Some notable ones include.

Someshwara Temple: A historic temple with beautiful architecture, featuring stone pillars and a clean stone courtyard. The temple has stood the test of time and provides a peaceful atmosphere for visitors.

Veerabhadreshwara Temple: A revered temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, showcasing traditional artistry and spiritual significance.

Basaveshwara Temple: A centuries-old temple that has been preserved and renovated by the villagers, contributing to the rich cultural heritage of Kalakeri.

Viragallu and Mastigall: A unique stone structure erected in memory of a brave soldier and his wife, featuring sculptures at four levels and inscriptions in Kannada script dating back to the 13th century. These temples demonstrate the architectural and cultural heritage of the region, influenced by various dynasties, including the Kadamba, Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Kalyani Chalukyas. Visitors can experience the peaceful atmosphere and historical significance of these ancient temples.

Tilavalli:

The temples in Tilavalli village, Haveri district, require conservation and preservation efforts to protect their cultural and historical significance. Here's what we know about these temples and potential conservation strategies:

Temples in Tilavalli :

Shanteshwara Temple: This ancient temple is built by a famous architect named Shri Jakanacharya and features intricate carvings and sculptures. It's believed that Lord Rama visited this place, adding to its historical and mythological significance.

Architecture: The temple showcases Indian architecture with a mantapa, antarala, and sanctum. It has 44 pillars supporting the mantapa and three entrances.

Conservation Efforts:

Documentation: Conduct thorough documentation of the temple's architecture, sculptures, and inscriptions to understand its historical significance.

Restoration: Use traditional techniques and materials to restore the temple's structure and sculptures.

Protection: Implement measures to protect the temple from natural degradation, human impact, and other potential threats.

Challenges:

Limited Resources: Insufficient funding and skilled labor can hinder conservation efforts.

Natural Degradation: Environmental factors like weathering and erosion can damage the temple's structure and sculptures.

Potential Solutions:

Collaboration: Collaborate with local authorities, heritage experts, and the community to develop effective conservation strategies.

Sustainable Tourism: Promote sustainable tourism practices to generate revenue for conservation efforts while minimizing the negative impact on the temple.

BALAMBIDA:

To find specific information on the conservation and preservation

of temples in Balambida village, Haveri district, I recommend checking with local authorities or heritage organizations. However, here are some general insights into temple conservation in Haveri district:

Temple Conservation Efforts:

Government Initiatives: The Archaeological Survey of India protects monuments like the Nagareshvara Temple, showcasing the government's commitment to preserving cultural heritage.

Cultural Significance: Temples in Haveri district, such as Siddhesvara and Tarakeshwara, are not only religious sites but also showcase Chalukya architecture, highlighting the importance of preservation.

Community Involvement: Local communities play a crucial role in maintaining temples, ensuring their cultural and spiritual significance is preserved for future generations.

Potential Conservation Strategies:

Documentation and Restoration: Conduct thorough documentation and restoration of temples using traditional techniques and materials.

Sustainable Tourism: Promote sustainable tourism practices to generate revenue for conservation efforts while minimizing the negative impact on temples.

Collaboration and Awareness: Collaborate with local authorities, heritage experts, and the community to develop effective conservation strategies and raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage. Some notable temples in Haveri district that may benefit from conservation efforts include.

Siddhesvara Temple: A classic example of Western Chalukyan art, featuring intricate carvings and sculptures.

Tarakeshwara Temple: A 12th-century temple with beautiful sculptures and carvings, showcasing Chalukya architecture.

Nagareshvara Temple: A 12th-century temple with exquisitely designed architecture, protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Galageshwara Temple: A temple with unique architecture and intricate carvings, built during the Chalukya period.

BANKAPUR:

Bankapur in Haveri district is home to the Bankapura Peacock

Sanctuary, a conservation reserve dedicated to protecting peacocks. Established in 2006, the sanctuary spans 139 acres within the historic Bankapura Fort. Here are some key aspects of conservation and preservation efforts in Bankapur:

Conservation Efforts:

Peacock Conservation: The sanctuary is exclusively engaged in the conservation and breeding of peacocks, with over 1,000 peacocks and peahens.

Habitat Preservation: The sanctuary's high mounds and deep trenches provide a perfect home for peacocks, while crops like maize, jowar, and horse gram are grown for cattle and serve as a delicacy for peafowl.

Minimal Human Intervention: Limited human activity has helped in the breeding of peacocks, allowing them to thrive in their natural habitat.

Preservation of Historical Sites:

Bankapura Fort: The fort, built in 454 AD, has been ruled by various dynasties, including the Kadambas, Chalukyas, and Hoysalas. Efforts are being made to preserve the fort's historical significance.

Nagareshwar Temple: This 11th-century temple, with 66 pillars carved out of grey stone, is an example of Chalukya architecture and is being preserved as part of the sanctuary's cultural heritage.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Balancing Conservation and Tourism: While tourism can support conservation efforts, it's essential to ensure that human activity doesn't disrupt the peacocks' habitat.

Community Engagement: Engaging local communities in conservation efforts can help promote the sanctuary's significance and ensure its long-term preservation. By supporting conservation and preservation initiatives, Bankapur's rich cultural and natural heritage can be protected for future generations.

Conclusion:

The heritage of Hanagal reflects the glorious legacy of Karnataka's art, architecture, and devotion. Conserving and preserving its ancient temples and monuments is not only a duty but also an act of honoring our

ancestors' creativity and craftsmanship. Through proper restoration, public awareness, and sustainable tourism, Hanagal can once again regain its historical grandeur. Protecting these treasures ensures that the stories carved in stone continue to inspire generations to come. The preservation of Hanagal is, therefore, a step toward safeguarding our cultural soul and celebrating the timeless beauty of our heritage.

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Funding:

This study was not funded by any grant.

Conflict of interest:

The Authors have no conflict of interest to declare that they are relevant to the content of this article.

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