



The tower over the central shrine and its vestibule are intact and intricate. Since the lateral shrines have no towers, their superstructure comprises a stylish row of miniature roofs above the upper eaves. The decorative plan of the walls of the shrines and the hall is of the 'new kind' with two eaves that run around the temple. The first heavy eave runs below the superstructure while the second eave runs around the temple about a meter below the first. In between the two eaves are the

miniature decorative towers on pilasters. Below the second eave is the wall panel of images of Hindu deities and their attendants. Below this, at the base are the six equal width rectangular moldings depict swans, makara, leafy scrolls, horse riders, and elephants. A few hundred meters from Lakshminarasimha Temple is the architecturally complete though less ornate Someshvara temple. Timings: 9 AM – 6 PM

#### ***4.8 Bucesvara Temple, Koravangala***

**Bucesvara Temple, Koravangala, 353G+6PX, Korvangla, Karnataka 573118**

Bucesvara Temple is located at Korvangla, Karnataka at a distance of 12 kms from

Hassan and 185 kms from Bangalore. The temple is protected as a monument of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Koravangala was a major town in pre-14th century Karnataka, featuring at least six temples on the eastern banks of a manmade lake. Two temples are within the Buceswara temple prakara (compound), these were built about 1173 CE; the second temple is to the eastern end of the complex and to the north of main temple; it is a smaller and simpler Bhairava temple, a form of the Hindu god Shiva.



Three temples are to the north of Buceswara temple – Govindeswara temple (Shiva), Nakeswara temple (Shiva) and a Surya temple, completed between 1160 and 1170 CE. One is almost totally ruined and to the east-northeast, likely also late 12th-century (it is unclear to whom this was dedicated). From the inscriptions found near these temples, it is evident that the northernmost temples here are about 15 to 20 years older than the Buceswara temple. They were commissioned by Buci's older brothers, Govinda and Naka.

The Buceswara temple (also spelt Bucheshwara or Bucheshvara) is an elegant specimen of 12th century of Hoysala architecture. It is considered to be the flag-bearer of Hoysala architecture. The temple was built in 1173 A.D. by a rich officer called Buci (or Buchiraja), to celebrate the coronation of Hoysala King Veera Ballala II.





The temple is a divikuta (two shrines) that face each other. These shrines are connected by a closed mantapa (hall) and an open mantapa. At the eastern end of the complex is a small shrine whose deity is the Bhairava, a form of the Hindu god Shiva. The western shrine facing the east, containing an image of Surya (the Sun god in Hinduism) has a staggered square plan, its kalasa and Hoysala crest (warrior stabbing a lion) are intact, and the decorative features on the shikhara (tower over shrine) and the outer walls are “conventional” by Hoysala standards. Artworks of Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism and the Vedic deities are reverentially displayed, along with panels depicting scenes from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata Purana. Also included are scenes of artha and kama (mithuna, amorous couples

The entrance is very small and guarded by elephants. There are beautifully carved dwarapalaka statues on either side. This entrance leads to a Mukha mandapa which is supported by 32 pillars. The ceiling is partitioned into 13 parts and each is carved beautifully with lotus flowers. The navaranga is square and stands on four central lathe-turned round pillars. The ceiling of the navaranga has 9 ankanas decorated with different types of moldings. The open sabha mandapa is star-shaped, standing on four central lathe-turned round pillars.





The sanctum sanctorum has a huge Shivalinga made of black stone. As usual, there is a Nandi statue in front. There is a small shrine on the left of the sanctum dedicated to Ganesha. The Dravidian shikara on the main garbhagriha is a grand structure with 3 talas, surmounted by a vedika and kuta roof with a kalasa. The outer walls of the temple are decorated with various forms of Lords Shiva and Vishnu. On the wall panel, the carving of the Gajendramoksha sequence is an absolute marvel. At the eastern end of the complex is a small shrine of Bhairava. There is also a big inscription stone inside the temple compound.

#### ***4.9 Nageshwara and Channakeshava Twin Temples, Mosale***

**Nageshwara and Channakeshava Twin Temples, Mosale, Karnataka 573120**

Nageshwara and Channakeshava Twin Temples are located at Mosale, Karnataka at a distance of 16 kms from Hassan and 196 kms from Bangalore.

Among the several Hoysala temples in Hassan district is the lesser-known temple complex at Mosale. Two temples stand side by side in the complex a few feet apart. Surrounded by a wall, the twin temples exhibit many similarities except for the deities in the sanctum sanctorum and the images on the exterior walls.