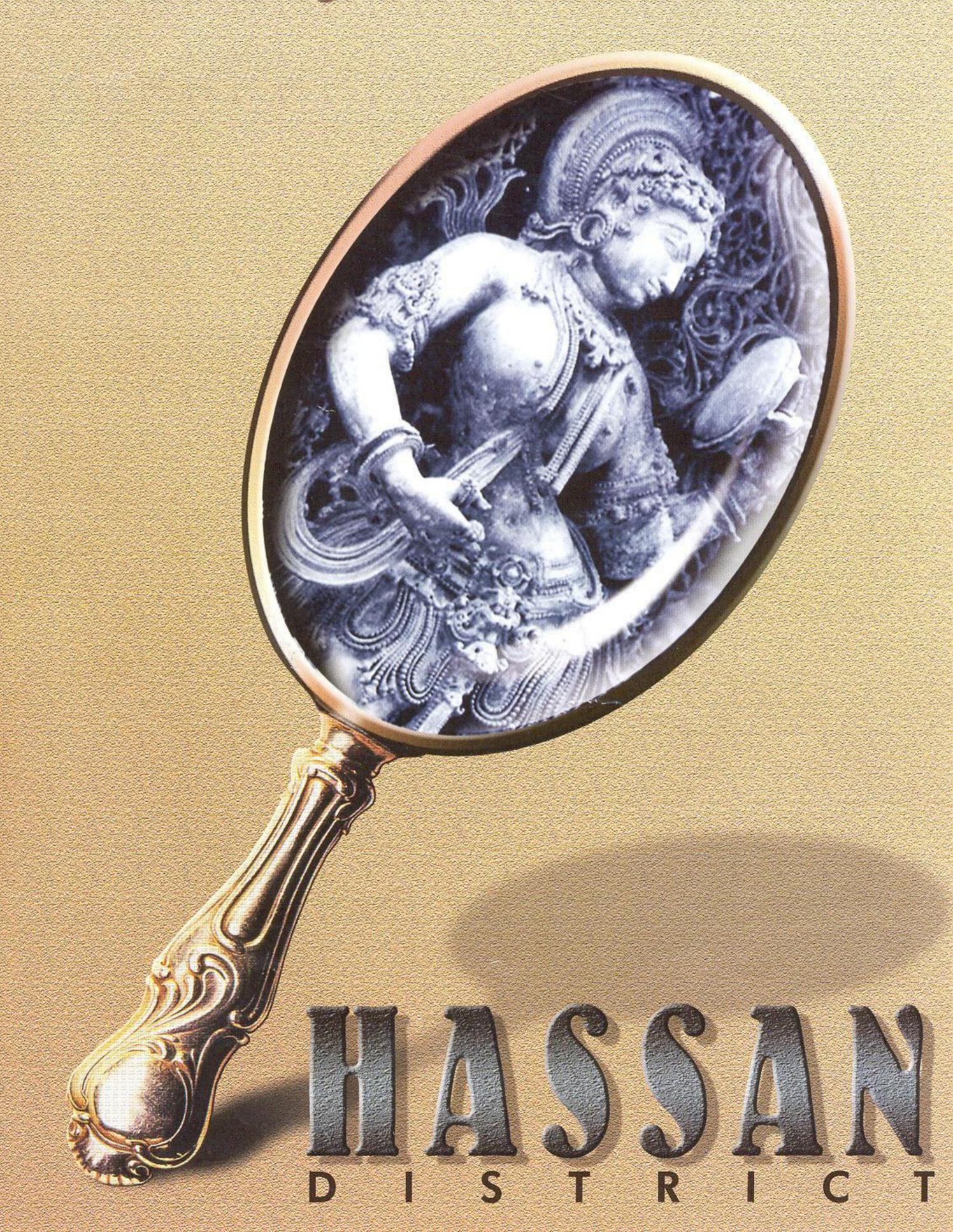
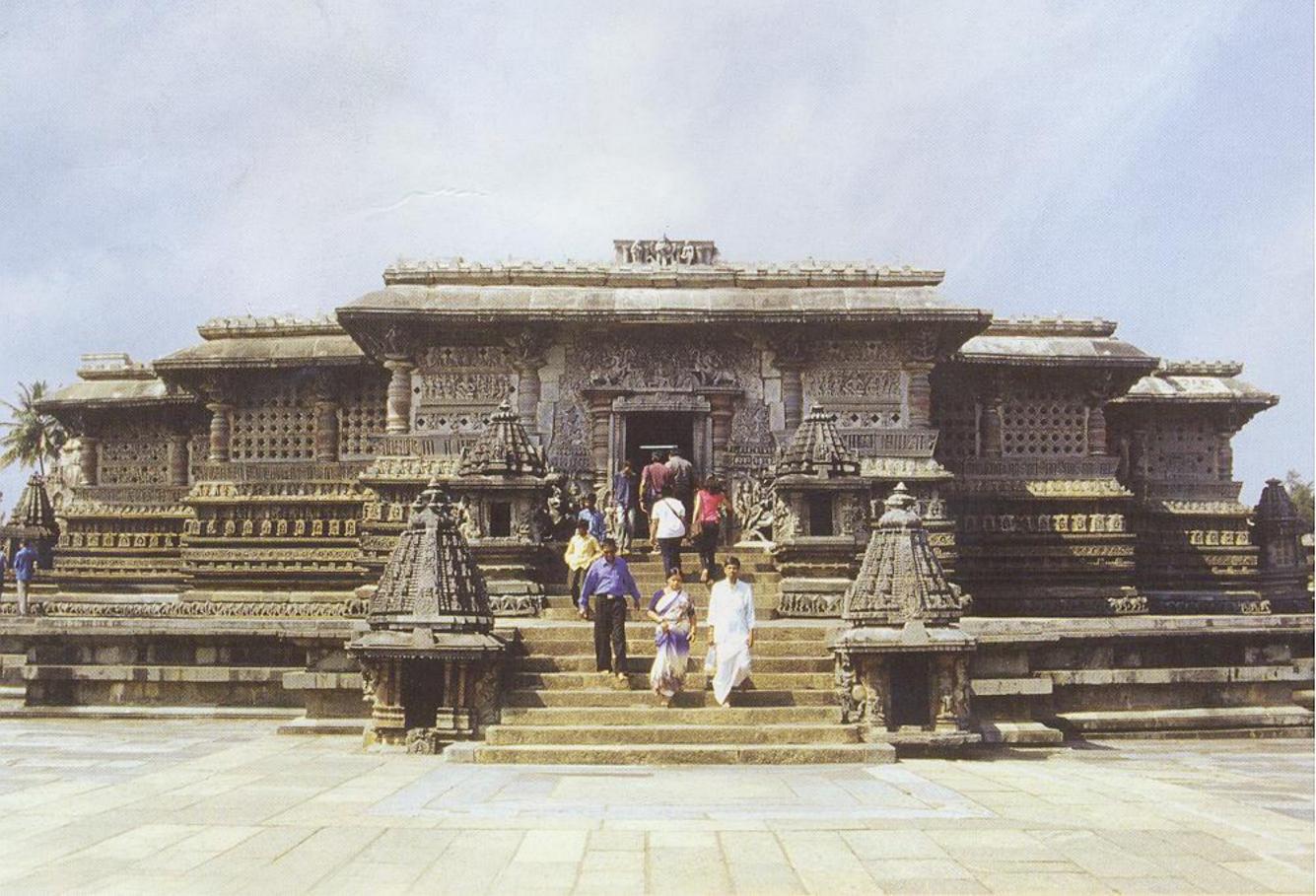
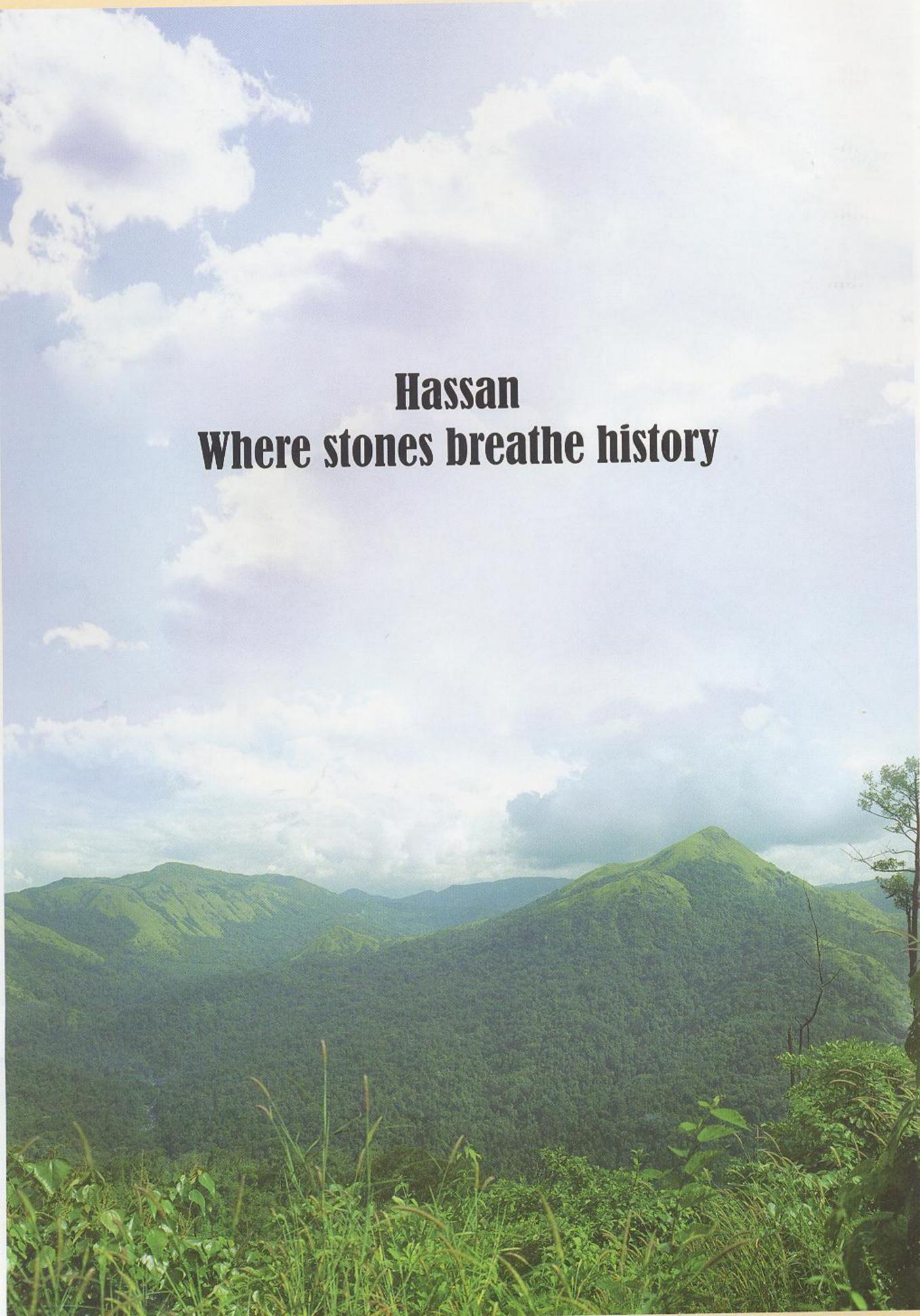
Mirroring Grace in Slone

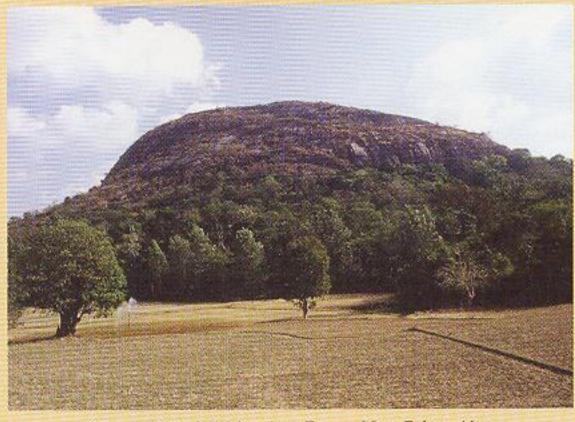


Hassan Where stones dance down the centuries

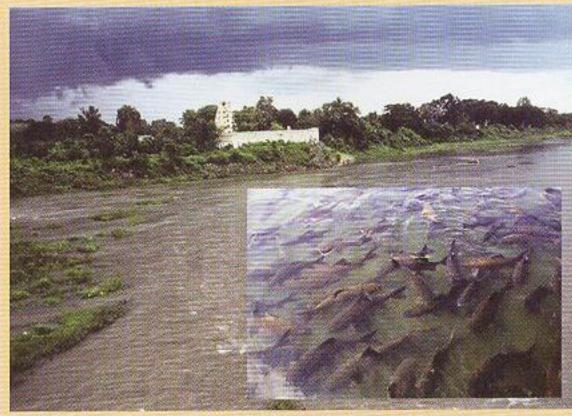


In the stillness is the dancing Adancing girl brozen in stone As she dances to a silent beat Sheer poetry in stone. The magic of the sculpton's hand His son's and grandson's Chiselsonandon For over a 100 years Of artistic wizardry in stone. To the tinkling of her payals' Downthe centuries Downthe centuries Captured in time. Captured in time. Hoysala Statue

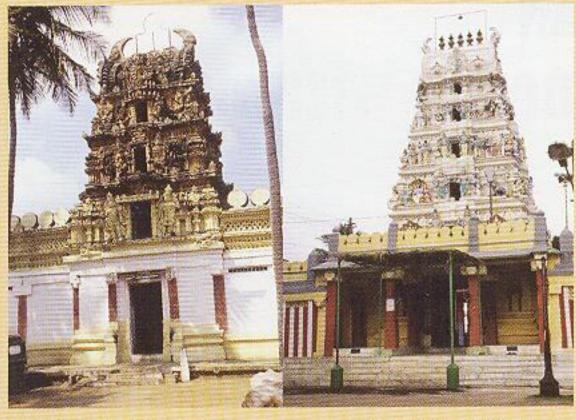




Magana Thinda Maharajana Durga, Near Palya, Alur

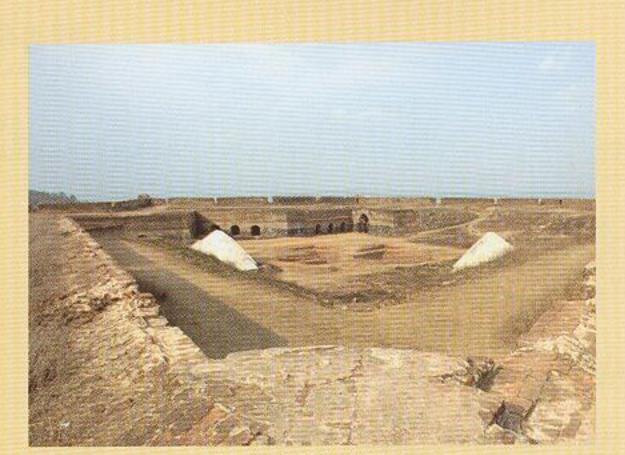


Rameshwara Temple & Fish in Kaveri River Ramanathapura



Agasthyeshvara Temple Ramanathapura

Lakshminarasimha Temple Holenarsipur



Manjarabad Fort, Sakleshpur

History & Heritage of Hoysala

Remnants of a golden era mesmerize you to another realm, where history whispers footprints in reverence of an ancient city, Hassan. A city steeped in history and hushed silence. Awesome wizardry in stone and precise workmanship have breathed life in sculpted profusion.

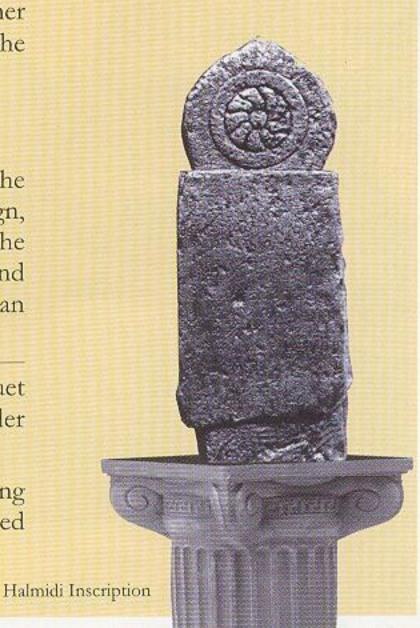
Backtracking the centuries, you are confronted with epoch-making history. Controlling this kingdom from the 11th to the 13th century, were the renowned Hoysalas. Their capital was Dwarasamudra, also known as Dwaravati-pura. Fragments of its former glory are still scattered around Halebid. Fast forward to the present, Hassan is still the gateway to Belur, Halebid and Shravanabelagola.

A Saga in Stone

A string of magnificent temples at Belur and Halebid were constructed during the Hoysala era, each architectural masterpiece outdoing the other in creativity, design, imagination and above all, detailed, filigree workmanship. It was during the regime of the Hoysalas that the art of sculpture flourished as it was nurtured, encouraged and flourished, leaving behind a legacy of exquisitely etched temples that narrate an Indian religious epic.

Bisleghat: Forests which remain evergreen all year round, have earned it the sobriquet of "Poor Man's Ooty". 105 kms south-west of Hassan, it joins the north-eastern border of Kodagu & South-eastern border of Dakshina kannada district.

Magana Thinda Maharaja Durga: Legend reveals that this name means "the king who consumed the flesh of his own son unknowingly." On realization, he committed suicide by jumping from the fortress, that is an octagonal-shaped, built on a hillock.









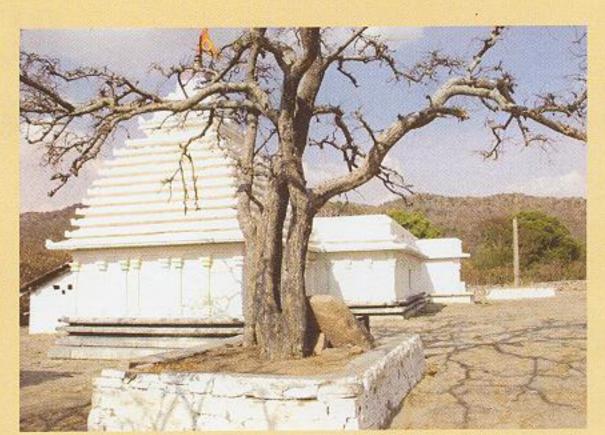
Bucheswara Temple, Koravangala



Shivalaya, Arsikere



Someshwara Temple, Haranahalli



Shankaralinga Temple, Nagapuri

Happening Hassan

Today, Hassan is one of the oldest districts of Karnataka. It beckons to the tourist, the historian, the architect, the archeologist and the student to slake their thirst for its breathtaking past; to inhale its awe-inspiring history, to savour its architecture and to take home remembrances of a bygone aeon.

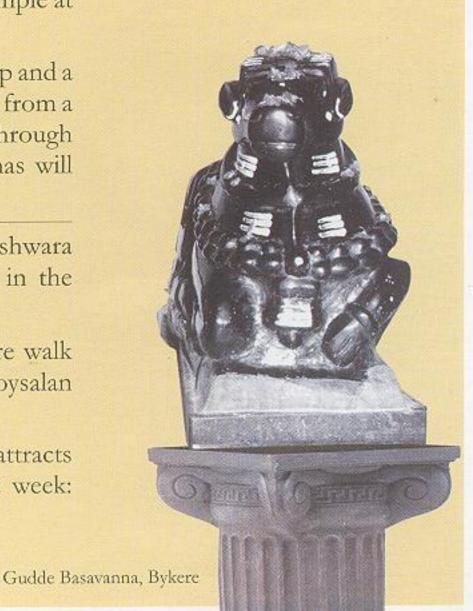
The district is also rich in its ancient heritage, portraying architecture of timeless beauty, which touched its zenith of glory during the regime of the Hoysalas. The most exquisite among them are the Channakeshava Temple at Belur, and the Hoysaleshwara temple at Halebeedu, aptly referred to as the 'Gem of Indian Architecture'.

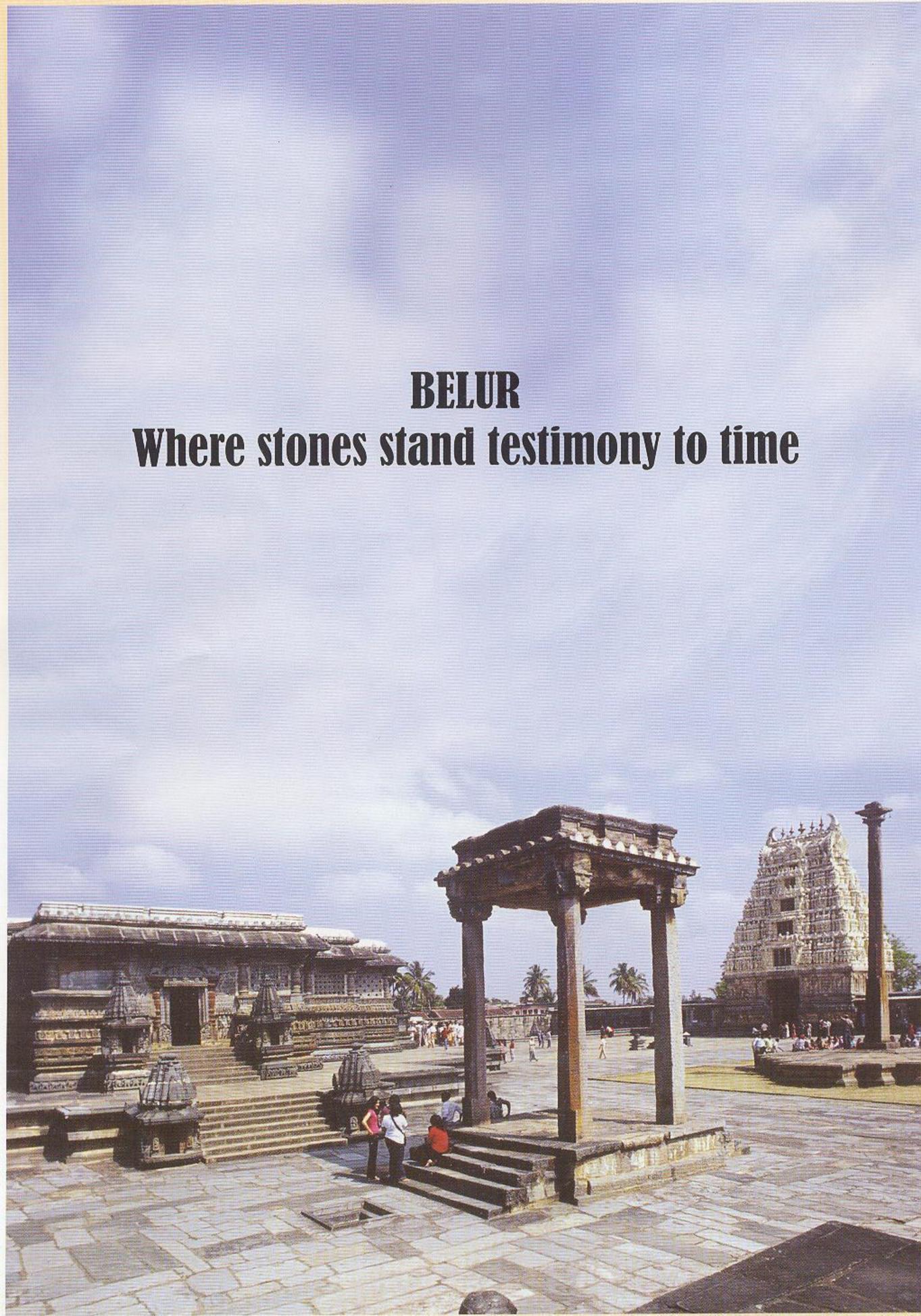
Hassan is a mosaic of antiquity. Besides being studded with gems of workmanship and a treasure trove of tourist delights, it combines ancient heritage and natural beauty, from a constellation of temples to scenic hillsides and green forests. As you travel through Hassan to Belur, Halebid and Shravanabelagola, various fragrances and aromas will arrest your senses: sandalwood, coffee and cardamom.

Haranahalli: 33 kms from Hassan is an ancient fort, built in 1070 AD by Someshwara Raya during the Hoysala period. Signature Hoysalan architecture is evident in the temples of Nagarlthi tank, Chennakeshava & Someshwara.

Nagapuri: Close to Hirekallu Gudda, Nagapuri offers an unusual 7km nature walk through thick forests, which leads to the Shankar Linga Temple with Hoysalan architecture. Twin forts from the Hyder Ali regime still exist here.

Kenchammana Hoskote: A statue of the deity Kenchamba on an ant-hill attracts thousands of devotees. The temple housing the deity is open only thrice a week: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Scenic surrounding make this place worth a visit.







Rear View of Channakeshava Temple, Belur



Channakeshava Temple, Hullekere



Hanging Bridge, Konanur



Kechamba Temple, Kechammana Hoskote Aallanatha, Kondajji

Belur - chronicles etched in stone

Its simply impossible to step into a Hoysalan temple at Belur, and not experience the sublime. Its intricate and elaborately ornate architecture and amazing sculptures have awed generations over the centuries, whispering to their souls.

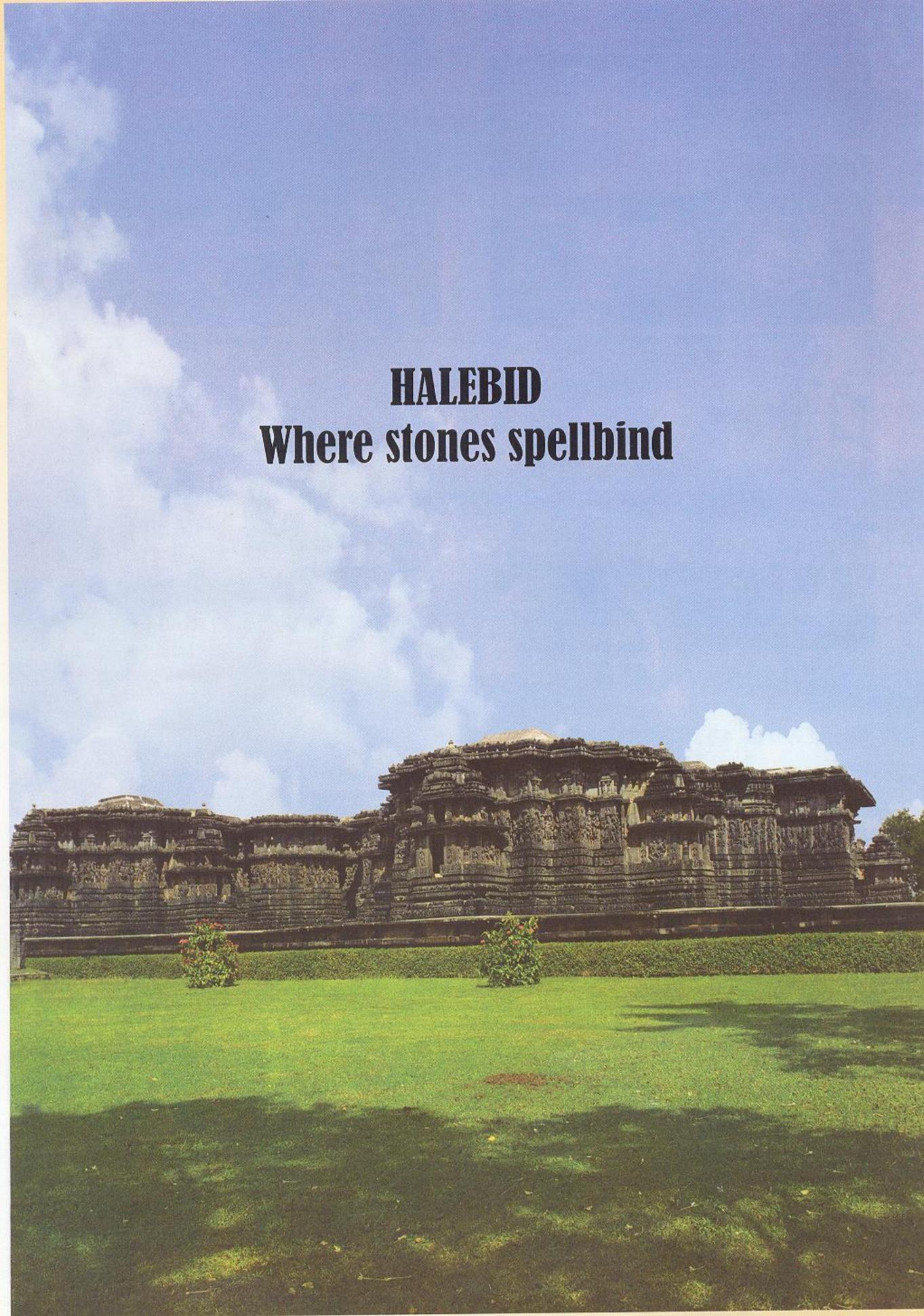
These temples have become rich repositories of ancient Hindu culture. The temple at Belur is still functional but the one at Halebid, though open to the public, is no longer in use for devotional purposes.

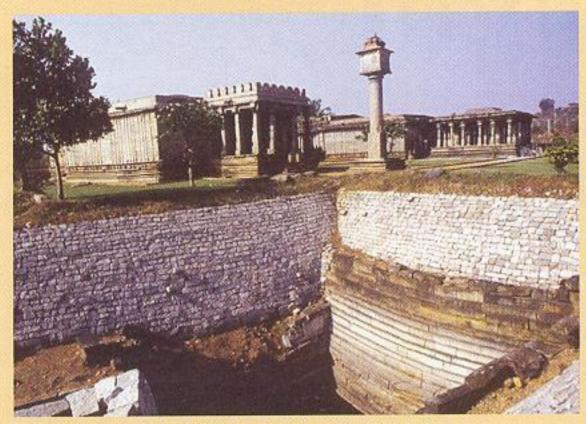
Set on the banks of River Yagachi, Belur, was formerly known as Velapuri/Velur. Over more than a thousand seasons, Belur became synonymous with its architecturally amazing temples that boast of elaboration designs, attention to the minutest detail, a keen eye and a practiced hand, that are unparallel worldwide.

Of all the temples, the Chennakeshava Temple is one of the finest examples of Hoysalan architecture. It was completed in 1116 by Hoysala Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas. It took 103 years to complete due to the awesome, intricate workmanship that is reflected in these sculptures and freizes. Elephants, episodes from the epics and sensuous dancers feature here. The Veeranarayana Temple houses the shrines of Kappe Chenniga, Andal, Saumya Nayaki, and other dieties.

Other significant 12th century sculptures are the Dancing Ganapati, Belur Sculpture and Nritya-Ganapati sculpture in Hoysalan style are found here.



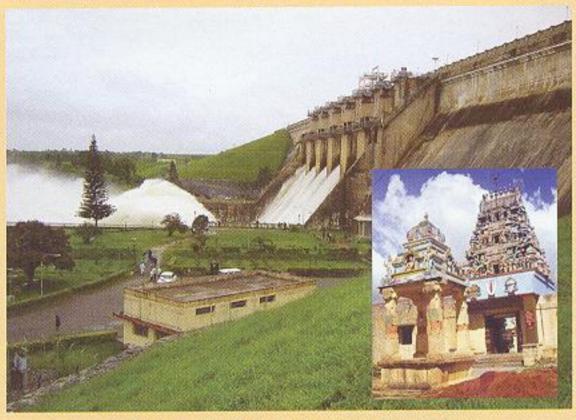




Jain Temple Complex, Halebid



Lakshmi Temple, Doddagaddavalli



Hemavathy Dam & Narasimha Temple, Gorur



Lakshminarasimha Temple, Javagal

Halebid - mesmerising beauty

Halebid, locally pronounced as Hale'beedu, was formerly known as Dwarasamudra, the Gateway to the Seas. Over the years, this flourishing city, resplendent in glory and splendour, grew wealthy, with fabulous riches procured from conquests.

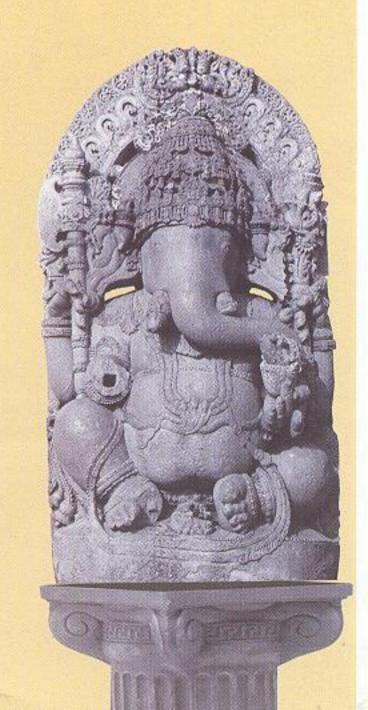
Dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries AD, Halebid flourished as the capital of the Hoysala Dynasty for almost two centuries, after which, two devastating invasions reduced Halebid to shambles as 'The Ruined City'. Sadly, its destruction even reached the Temple of Shiva, leaving it bereft of any glory.

The world famous temples of Hoyaleshwara and Kedareshwara here exhibit the most astounding workmanship, while Jain Bastis in the region rank among the highest in terms of architectural tradition.

Gorur: The Yoganarasimha temple lies on the banks of River Hemavathy, 9 km north of Arkalgud, Hassan, where Hoysalan temples of Trikuteshwara, Vasudeva & Kailaseshwara temple are seen.

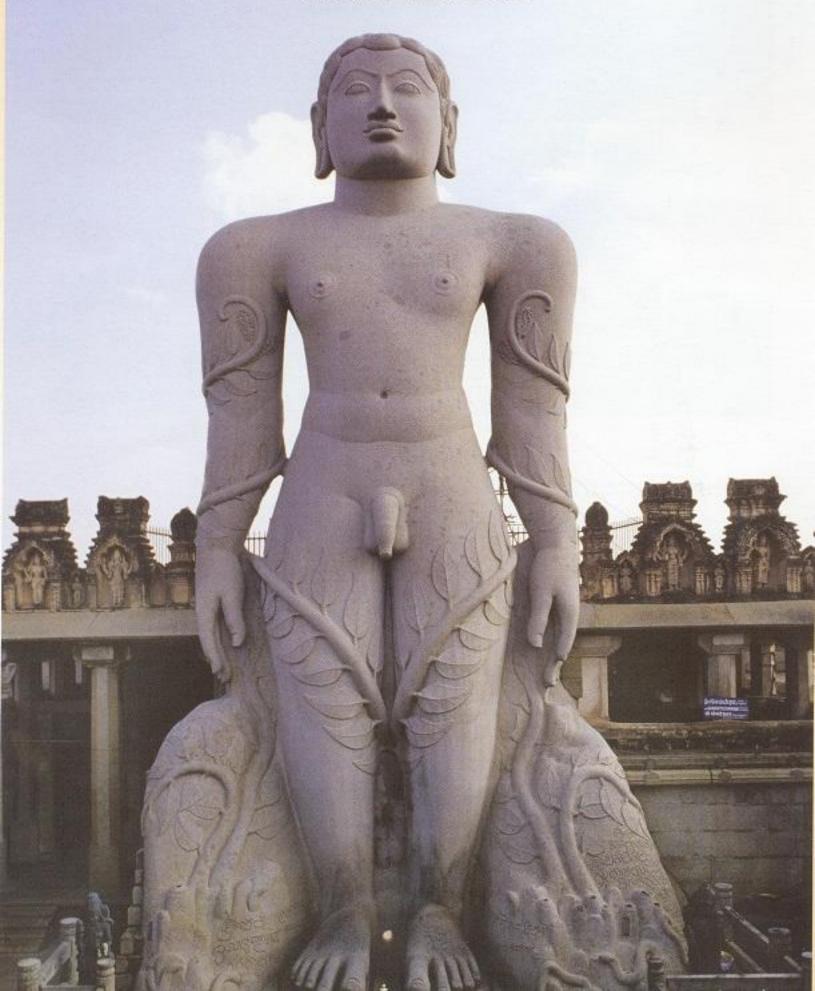
Garudana Giri: Located 27 kms from Arasikere, is a conspicuous hill fort, Garudanagiri. It was fortified by the Wodeyars of Mysore in 1660 for forest protection. Here one can visit Venkataramana, Baneshwara & Keshava Temples too.

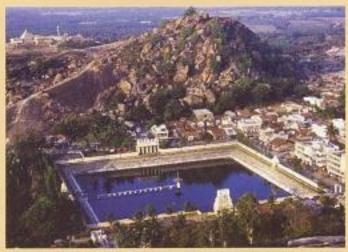
Shanthigrama: Founded by Shantala Devi, the chief queen of the Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana in 12th century, this village has four ancient temples from the Hoysala era and is 12 kms from Hassan.



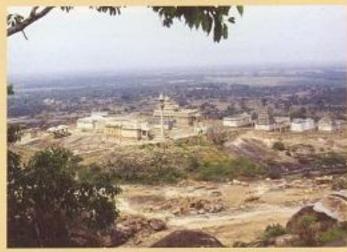
Ganesha Halebid

SHRAVANABELAGOLA Where stones stand head and shoulders Above the rest





View of Chandragiri & pond, Shravanabelagola



Chandragiri, Shravanabelagola



Shanthinatha Basadi, Shravanabelagola



Channakeshava Temple, Anekere

Shravanabelagola - lofty ideals

Shravanabelagola, the Monk of the White Pond, is a tiny hamlet, around 48 km from Hassan. It is the recipient of ongoing global historical recognition because of the imposing monolithic statue of Lord Bahubali (Gomateshwar) that stands the tallest in the world. Erected in about 980 A.D, to reach the statue, one has to climb a flight of 614 rock-hewn steps.

This striking statue soars to a height of 58 feet, and from this lofty altitude, it surveys the panoramic view of Hassan, a silent sentinel in stone. Considered as the most sacred Jain pilgrimage centre in Karnataka, thousands of devotees flock here to perform the Mahamastakabhisheka - a spectacular ceremony held once in 12 years, when this 1000-year-old statue is bathed with milk, curd, ghee, saffron and gold coins.

For Jains, visiting this gigantic statue of Gometeshwar, atop the hill of Indragiri is regarded as a pilgrimage. Etched out of a single rock, it is awe-inspiring. Its tranquil expression and mystic smile on the perfectly mapped countenance of the idol's face leaves a lasting impression.

The statue represents the highest values in life, renouncing selfishness. It symbolizes man's victory over 'karma' and its renouncing of worldliness is a standing testimony to the skill of the sculptor.

Palya: Located 8 kms from Alur are the Lakshmijanardhana, Rameshvara & Tripurantukeshwara temples. Here, two streams, Shankathirtha & Chakrathirtha flow into one, Padmathi. It is also the hermitage of Saint Jamadagni.

