

Vesara style

Vesara (Chalukyan or Deccan style) is a type of Indian architecture primarily used in temples lying in the region between Vindhya and river Krishna.

Vesara is a combination of Dravida and Nagara temple styles.

The semi-circular structures of the Buddhist Chaityas are also incorporated in some of the temples of this style.

The temples of Halebidu, Belur, Somnathapura and Pattadakal are some of the examples of this style.

12th Century monument resurrected from ruins

With the investment of Rs. 4.5 crore from the Infosys foundation, restoration works at the 12th century Someshwara temple complex have begun.

The Vesara style Somanatheshwara temple in Lakshmeshwar in Karnataka.

It is one of the marvels of the Kalyan Chalukya architecture and has four doorways with beautiful sculptural details.

The Vesara style main structure has a unique Vimana (tower) having intricate designs.

It is surrounded by smaller shrines, which had been corroded due to nature's vagaries.

A statue of a Jain Tirthankara on a parapet wall of the temple underlines its Jain heritage.



Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh

A unique feature of the Buddhist heritage sites in north coastal Andhra Pradesh is that the objects found at the site indicate the presence of various architectural styles.

It has distinguished south and north Indian styles and also styles from overseas.

Other famous Buddhist sites are Amravathi, Nagarjunakonda, Chandavaram etc.

Evidence of Buddhist monastery found

Retrieved objects indicate that the site flourished between 3 century BC and 8 century AD.

A treasure trove of historical evidence of immense heritage value has been found at the Vommili village, Visakhapatnam district.

The objects retrieved from a trial excavation on the surface include a standing image of the Vajrayana deity 'Heruka'.

Heruka is terracotta elephant head, conical mud bowls, thumb and finger print designs on polished black ware, dull chocolate-coloured slipware and herringbone patterns.

Site was used for cultivation for a long time, causing damage to some of the historical evidence.

The idol of 'Heruka' was found by the villagers and placed under a tree and was being worshipped.

Channapatna craft to its original glory

- 1) Channapatna handcraft can be traced to the reign of Tipu Sultan
- 2) invited artisans from Persia in the making of the wooden toys.
- 3) The traditional wooden toy-and-doll craft, with perfected lacquer-ware of Channapatna (on the Bangalore-Mysore highway).
- 4) It is protected by a geographical indication (GI) tag but today a crisis stares the industry in the face.
- 5) The art is known for its mix of vegetable dye and food grade pigments, with natural shellac insect residue.
- 6) It obtained from the trees of Amaltaas and Kusum in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa.
- 7) Although Channapatna's toy industry survives, what pains is the near-absence of lacquering that attaches a heritage value to it.

