

Study of Vijaynagars Temple Architecture with reference to Balakrsna Temple

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Introduction-

The temple of Balakrsna also called Krsnasvami is located in the krsnapura suburb of the capital city. This suburb, established by krsnadeva Raya developed around this temple In course of time a big bazar grew in front of this temple during the rule of sadasiva Raya, the virabhadra temple now known as uddanvirabhadra temple was built in this area

The Balakrsna temple facing east, is one of the very few dated temples in Hampi this is a typical Vijaynagara temple built to install the sacred image of Balakrishna brought from Udaygiri during the campaign against the Gajapati in 1513-14 A, D The main temple facing the matanga hill, consists of garbhagruha, an antarala, an ardhmandapa, a navaranga and a large open pillared mukhamandapa, the navaranga has three entrances one in the front and two on the sides the side entrances are adjoined by small pillared porches An added feature of the temple is that the mukhamandapa has on the front a small four pillared porch attached to it, the entrances into the mukhamandapa are through a flight of steps, built on both sides of the mandapa.

The temple also includes the parivara shrines built at its four corners, there are two more small shrines in the prakara, The whole complex, situated within a courtyard is enclosed by a wall . Along the prakara wall runs a pillared cloister, now in ruins at certain place Theprakara which is considerably large it entered through gateways. The main gateway being set on the east

Though the plan of the Balakrishina is compact and developed , it lacks a few necessary components like mandapa In the well- developed mid-sixteenth century vijaynagara temple complex these mandapas are an integral part, particularly under Achyuta Raya and sadasiva Raya However. It should be noted that such mandapas were built during krishndevaraya 's time, as additions to the existing structures. As can be seen in the Hazar Rama, vitthala, and the virupaksa temples at the capital. In the Hazara Rama, the utsava mandapa was built in 1521 A, D as an adjunct to the main temple by Timmaraja an officer of krishnadeva Raya krsndevaraya himself added the rangamandapa to the virupaksa temple in 1510 A, D and the hundred- pillared hall. To the vitthala in 1515 A, D

The temple has an adhithana of about 5 feet in height The various mouldinges of the adhithana include upana, jagati, designed with lotus petals a kumuda, a broad gala conspicuous kapota, which the kumuda in the antarala and the ardhmandapa sections, this tripattakumuda is kighly articulated and resembles a designed bracelet of exquisite beauty and workmanship The gala is divided into a series of compartments.

The adhisthana on the backside of the garbhagrha has a prominent projection The projection is a wide as the width of the garbhagrah inside the pradaksinapatha has projections on the side wall to true are found on the ardhmandapa section also

The garbhagrha is square in shape and is devoid of the image that was installed in 1515 A,D In it was once consecrated the image of Balakrishna, At present , the image is exhibited in the Government museum at madras The garbhagrha is built at higher plane than that of the antarala by about a foot , A notable feature of the grabhagrha is that it does not possess a conventional dvvara Instead It has only a passage from the antarala, as noted above the idol of Balakrsna is missing but the original pitha on which it was kept is still found in the garbhagriha, It has the figure of garuda on it The walls of the garbhagrha are plain and do not possess any projections and recesses inside The ceiling is also plain

The navaranga is considerably large it is about 20 square, It is at a height of about a foot from that of the mukhamandapa In the middle of the navaranga is a raised square platform , now disturbed on the four corners of the platform are located four pillars and the navaranga has eight puspabodiges projecting out of the inner walls in line with the pillars they are found flanking the four passages of the navaranga. The absence of pilasters is notable

The temple of Balakrishana as noted earlier was built to install the sacred image of Balakrishna brought from, udayagiri by krishnadevaraya the image was consecrated on 16th February 1515 A ,D

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