

INCEPTION REPORT

Shri Ranganatha Swamy Temple
Rangsthala



APRIL 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inception Report for Shri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Rangasthala covers the following chapter contents:

Chapter One “Introduction” gives an insight into the overall project background, project scope, methodology and limitations.

Chapter Two “Site & Setting” details out the regional setting of the project, and geographical factors such as topography and hydrology. Understanding of the history of the temple and site is also covered in this chapter. These studies helped in formulating the vision and concept master plan for the project.

Chapter Three “Vision & Concept Master Plan” captures the vision for the project, the various stages of design ideation, and the concept master plan envisioned for the temple campus.

Chapter Four “Visuals” encompasses the concept visualisation envisioned for the campus.

Chapter Five “Project Estimation” details out the list of sub projects that are formed as per the newly envisioned master plan, and the tentative estimate for each of the same.

Chapter Six “Annexures” comprises of all the supporting documents that have formed the basis of study and design.

INDEX

01. INTRODUCTION 7

- BACKGROUND 8
- ASSIGNMENT TEAM 10
- PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT 11
- METHODOLOGY 11
- LIMITATIONS 11

02. SITE & SETTING 13

- LOCATION 15
- REGIONAL TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY 16
- SITE & CONTEXT 18
- HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE 20
- SITE IMAGES 22

03. VISION & MASTER PLAN 25

- VISION 26
- DESIGN IDEATION 28
- CONCEPT MASTER PLAN 30
- PART PLANS 32

04. VISUALS 35

05. PROJECT ESTIMATION 63

06. ANNEXURES 67

- ANNEXURE 1 68
- ANNEXURE 2 69
- ANNEXURE 3 70
- ANNEXURE 4 76

BACKGROUND

‘Adopt a Monument’ Scheme : *Namma Smaraka*

The Government of Karnataka has launched the ‘Adopt a Monument’ scheme to encourage public and private organisations to adopt heritage monuments across Karnataka for conservation, development, and operation and maintenance of tourist amenities under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs. The development of these heritage sites aims to develop the overall tourism ecosystem in the State in collaboration with multiple stakeholders and promote, conserve, and enhance the heritage monuments of Karnataka.

The Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage (DAMH), Government of Karnataka in close collaboration with the Department of Tourism (DoT), Government of Karnataka and relevant private and public sector entities envisages to develop amenities and facilities at the Heritage Monuments of Karnataka while sustaining the efforts of DAMH to conserve, preserve and protect the Heritage Monuments. This will increase the tourism potential of the monument site by enhancing the tourist experience in a planned and phased manner.

Objectives

Conserve, preserve and protect the Heritage Monuments of Karnataka

Develop facilities and amenities to improve the tourist experience at Heritage Monument sites

Promote cultural & heritage values of the State, and develop avenues to create awareness about the Heritage Monuments sites

Generate employment opportunities and support livelihoods of local communities around the Heritage Monument sites

Develop basic tourism infrastructure in and around Heritage Monuments

Develop & promote sustainable tourism infrastructure and ensure proper Operations and Maintenance

ASSIGNMENT TEAM

DISCOVERY VILLAGE

The seeds for Discovery Village were sown in by one of Bangalore’s best-known health and wellness bellwethers, Mr. Prakash. As a brand rooted in sustainable practices, environmental consciousness and personal wellbeing, it quickly became recognised as a re-imagining of contemporary hospitality and an emblem of nature-based wellness. Discovery Village’s legacy today continues to shine bright, as an ode to the spirit of the outdoors.



CULKEY FOUNDATION

Culkey Foundation - Established in 2019, is a registered not-for-profit organization compliant with 80G regulations. They collaborate with local governments, communities, and stakeholders to bridge the gap between local heritage preservation and global consciousness. Furthermore, they engage in technology and research initiatives, positioning themselves as a culture-tech foundation. As the appointed ‘Project Management Unit’ for the flagship program ‘Namma Smaraka’ under the ‘Adopt a Monument’ scheme by the Government of Karnataka, they’ve partnered with stakeholders to breathe new life into 20 monuments, with an estimated value of \$1.2M donations raised.



URBANFRAME PVT.LTD.

Urban Frame is a knowledge based design company formed in 2007. With a deep understanding of PEOPLE, PROJECTS and the PLANET, the firm believes in creating unique and immersive designs that inspire. They follow a unique research-based approach to planning and designing residential, corporate, institutional, hospitality, and mixed-use developments, and the team has also been involved with Master Planning works ranging from city level Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Smart City developments, and also large scale master planning for integrated townships.



PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

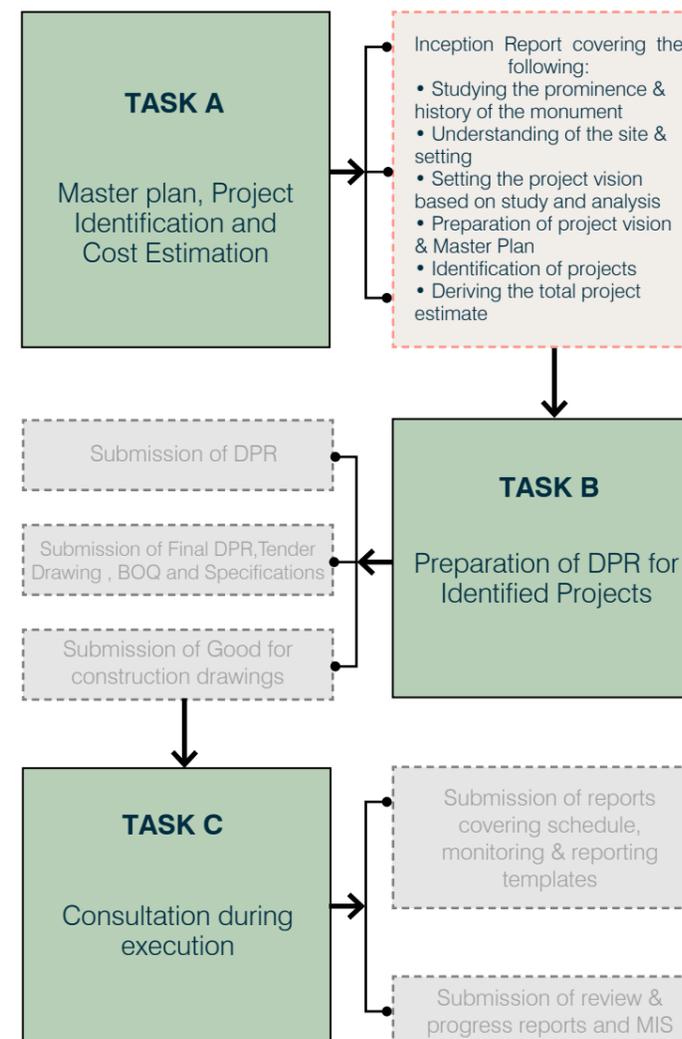
Discovery Village has adopted the following six monuments in Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka as part of the ‘Adopt a Monument’ Scheme which will be executed by Culkey Foundation who is the ‘Project Management Unit’ for the assignment:

1. Shri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Rangasthala
2. Shri Yoganandeeswara Swami Temple, Nandi Hills
3. Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Alambagiri
4. Sri Bheemeshwara and Nakuleshwara Temple, Kaivara
5. Amrita Sarovara(Pushkarani), Nandi Hills
6. Fort wall & Entrance Gate, Nandi Hills

The Shri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Rangasthala has been taken up as the pilot project out of the above six. UrbanFrame Pvt.Ltd. will be the Project Architect/Master Planner. The assignment entails the following:

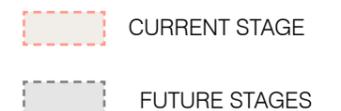
1. Understanding the prominence of the monument and site
2. Analysing the gaps to suggest effective and viable improvements
3. Formulation of a holistic Master Plan that is sensitive to the site and setting

METHODOLOGY



LIMITATIONS

1. All study and analysis have been carried out based on the desktop study, secondary data, and rapid site visits.
2. The base map used for the study and design has been derived from the hand drawn survey sketch provided by the Client, and information from Dishank app.
3. Detailed Site boundary and land ownership with Topographic survey for executing the master plan will have to be provided by the Client in the subsequent stages.



LOCATION

Shri Ranganatha Swamy temple is located in the Chikkaballapur District which is 60km away from Bengaluru City. The temple is about 5km from the Chikkaballapur junction, set in the foothills of Skandagiri Hills, accessed about 1km off the NH 69.



Isha Foundation

Shri Ranganatha Swamy Temple

RTO

Chikkaballapur New Bus Stand

Chikkaballapur town

Skandagiri Hills

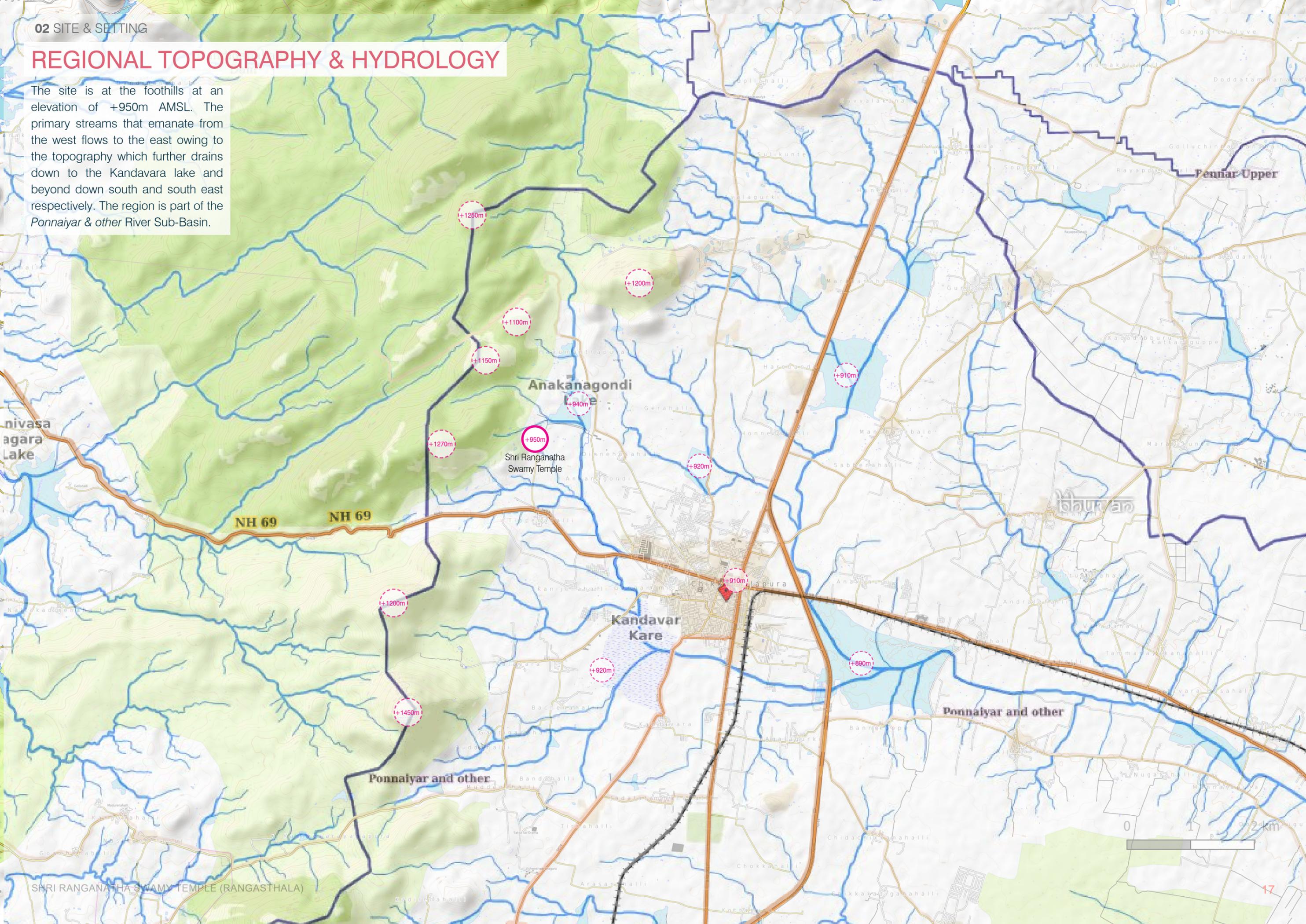
Kandavara Lake

Ajjawara Kere

Kandavara

REGIONAL TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY

The site is at the foothills at an elevation of +950m AMSL. The primary streams that emanate from the west flows to the east owing to the topography which further drains down to the Kandavara lake and beyond down south and south east respectively. The region is part of the *Ponnaiyar & other River Sub-Basin*.



SITE & CONTEXT

The site measures 21 Acres 13 Guntas as per the Revenue Sketch with a nala flowing on the northern side from west to east towards a large lake. There are 2 kalyanis within the boundary and one outside the boundary.

The site is approached through *Bhodaganahalli* Village with minor residential settlements around, and resort/adventure activities towards the north.



HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE

The Ranganatha Swamy temple is believed to be built during the Vijayanagar and post Vijayanagar period. Even though there is a mention of the temple in the Mysore Archaeological Reports of 1914 and 1935 editions, Kannada Vishwakosha of Mysore University and Karnataka Gazetteer of Kolar District, no one has been successful in bringing out relevant information about the uniqueness of this great architectural monument.

The temple faces south with a *garbagriha*, rectangular *antarala*, *navaranga*, *rangamantapa*, a large *maharangamantapa*, and a *pathalankana*. The temple has a large *prakara* with four *mahadwaras* at cardinal points. The *garbagriha* and *antarala* possess a *Pradakshinapatha* which is a later addition.

The inner wall of the *garbagriha* is found mostly plain. In the centre, is the image of *sheshashayi Vishnu*. Just above the head is *adishesha*. At the holy feet of the lord, *Bhudevi* and *Sridevi* are in the *asina* position serving the lord. In the centre of the inner wall of the *garbagriha*, the *saptarishis*, *kamadenu*, *kalpavruksha*, the five *ayudhas* of *Mahavishnu*, the *ashtadikpalakas*, *Indra*, *Brahma*, *Shiva*, *Sudarshana*, and *apsaras* are neatly depicted. This is the depiction of the concept of the *bhogashayanamurthy* in *Vaikunta*.

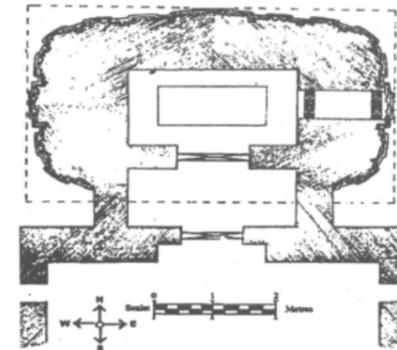


3D scan imagery of the temple
Source: Culkey Foundation

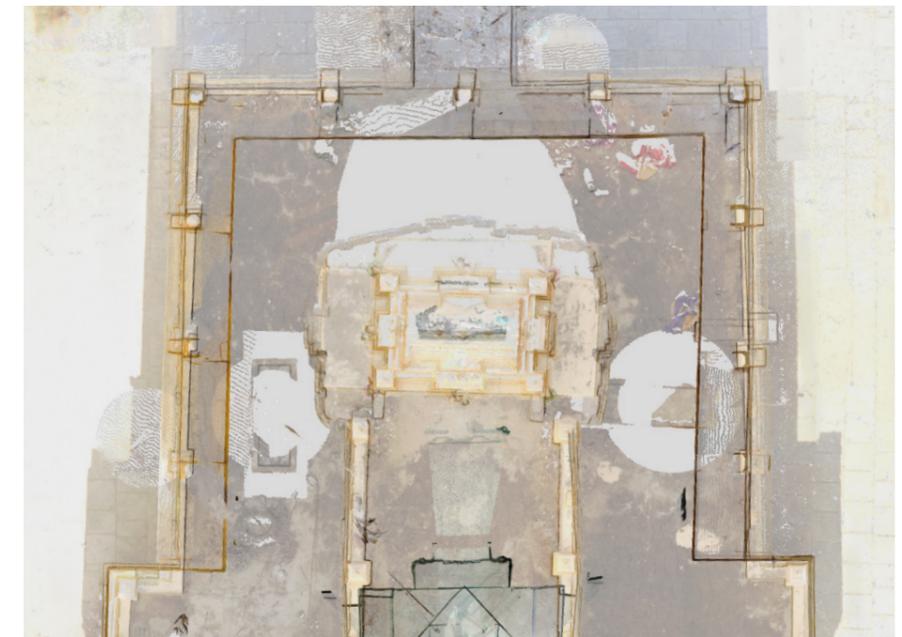


Image of sheshashayi Vishnu
Source: <https://chaloghummne.com/rangasthala-temple-chikkaballapura/5022/>

The *garbagriha* is oval or ellipsoid. While explaining the details of ground plans, Indian architectural texts prescribe different types and shapes: *chaturashra*, *ayatasra*, *trikona*, *vrutta*, *dwasravrutta*, *gajaprushta*, *ashtashra* and *vruttayata*. Square, rectangular, circular and *gajaprushta* ground plans are commonly noticed. The *Vruttayata* ground plan of the Ranganatha Swamy temple is the only and the best example for an exact depiction of the Vedic texts.



Plan of the inner sanctum/ garbagriha
Source: The Proceedings of the Indian History Congress - The Only Architectural Monument - V.Anuradha



3D scan imagery of the garbagriha
Source: Culkey Foundation

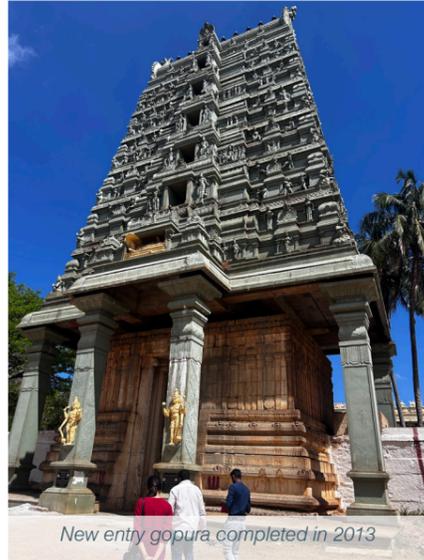
The Navaranga and rangamantapa possess many ornate pillars, which is flanked by the outer pradakshina patha with a pillared portico. The plinth, wall, and pillars have a typical Vijayanagar influence. The decorative motifs and mouldings suggest that it was built by a rich patron; however, there is no mention of any patron, king, or dynasty anywhere in the temple.

Source of text: The Proceedings of the Indian History Congress - The Only Architectural Monument - V.Anuradha



Image of the ornate pillars before it was secured with metal grills
Source: <https://rashminotes.com/2016/06/07/rangasthala-chikkaballapura-a-tryst-with-history/>

SITE IMAGES



New entry gopura completed in 2013



View of the outer pouli from the southwest corner



Grilled entry mantapa to the Garbha Griha



Kalyani to the southwest of the temple



Katte to the south of temple entry



Stone wheels placed in the southwest corner of the site



New entry gopura completed in 2013



View of southwest katte in the outer pouli



West entry gateway



Stone gateway on the north side of the site



16-sided octagonal shaped kalyani in the north-east side of the site



View of the Hari-Hara Betta towards the north



Rooms incorporated in the outer pouli



Outer pouli rooms in dilapidated condition



Outer pouli rooms in dilapidated condition



View of the Rangasthala lake towards the northeast



Metal ratha parked in the southwest corner of the site



Dilapidated public amenities on the east side



VISION

A journey through multiple enclosures, where each unfolds a unique cultural and spiritual experience to the visitor

DESIGN IDEATION

The temple master plan is explored through 6 design principles that captures the tangible and intangible elements of the site that can help curate an experience that is inclusive, responsive, and rooted.

The user experience is curated as moving outwards from the *garbagriha*:

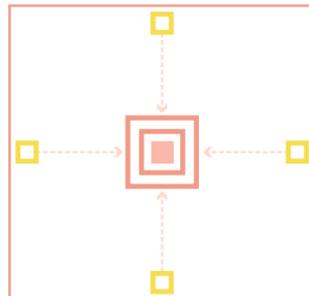
- **DIVINE** Garbagriha
- **CELEBRATORY** : the mud pathway
- **GROVE** : enclosure of existing trees on site
- **CONGREGATIONAL** : the new enclosure created for community engagement
- **SOLACE** : connecting back to the hills and nature

ENCLOSURE



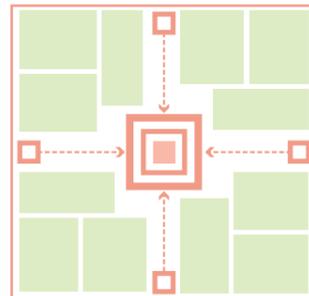
Defining a new sense of enclosure to the temple complex

FOCAL POINT



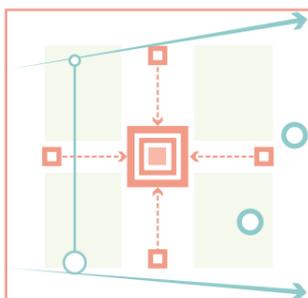
Creating directional nodes to emphasise the temple in the centre

SEQUENCE



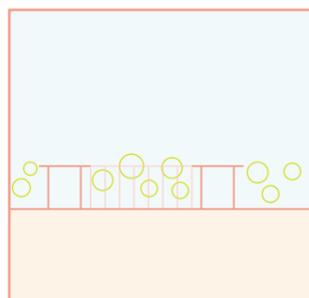
Built and landscape pockets creating a curated visitor experience

BLUE NETWORKS



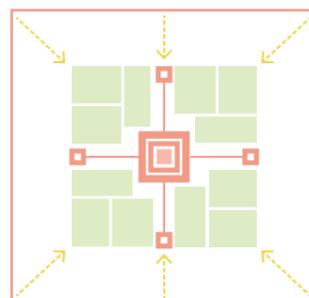
Integrating the water systems in and around the site

QUAINTNESS

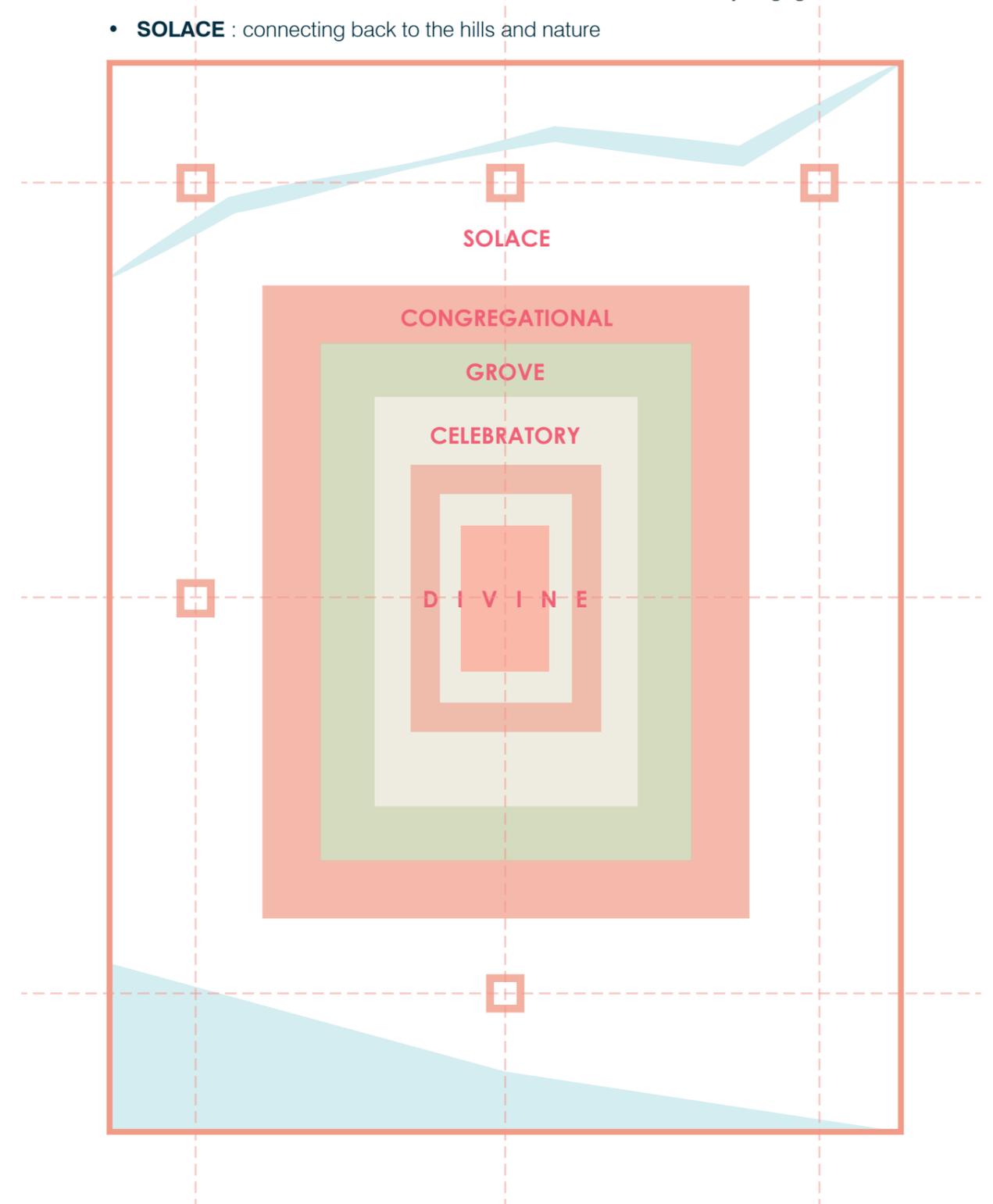


Creating an architectural scale that is sensitive to the history & context

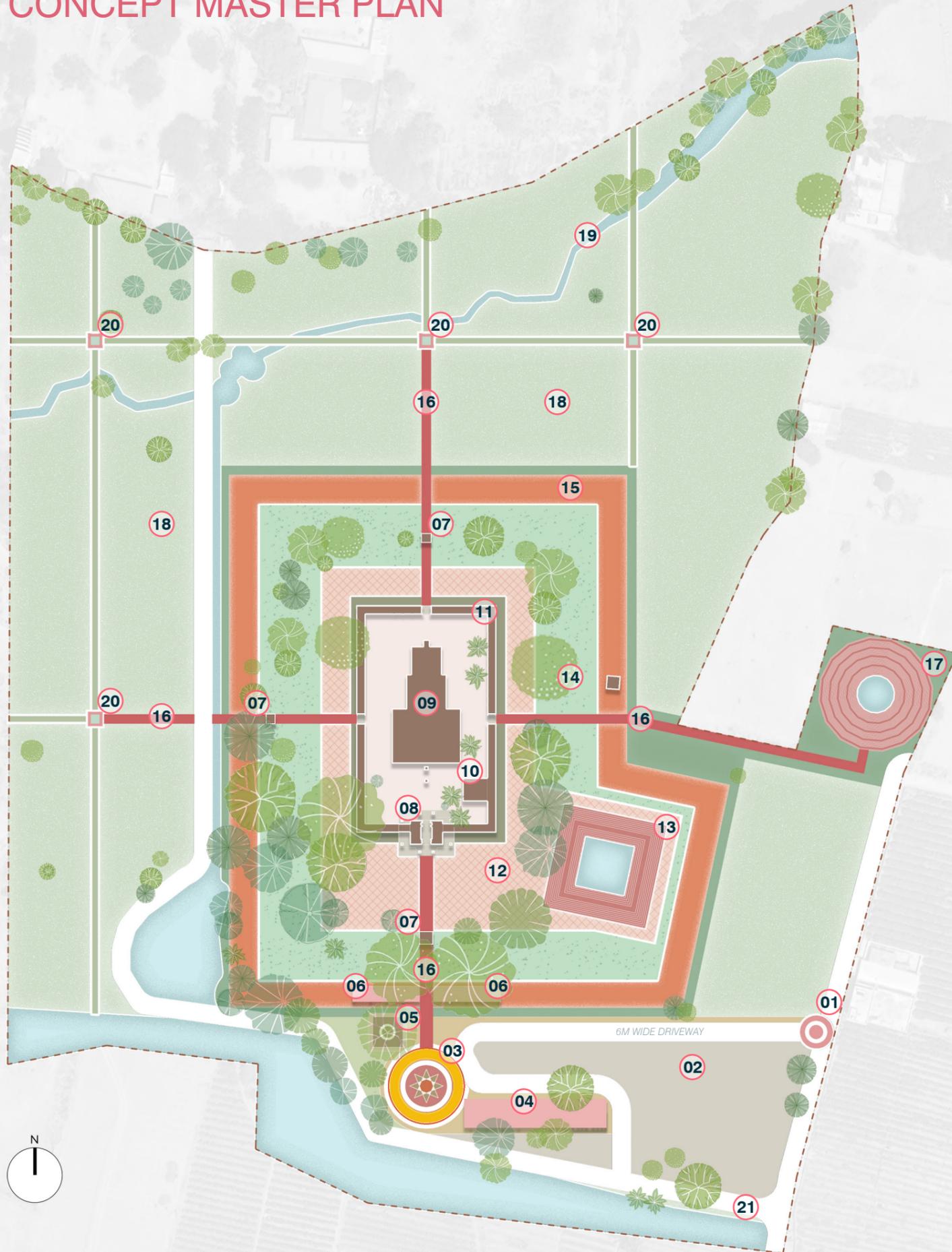
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Flexible spaces created for the community to engage



CONCEPT MASTER PLAN



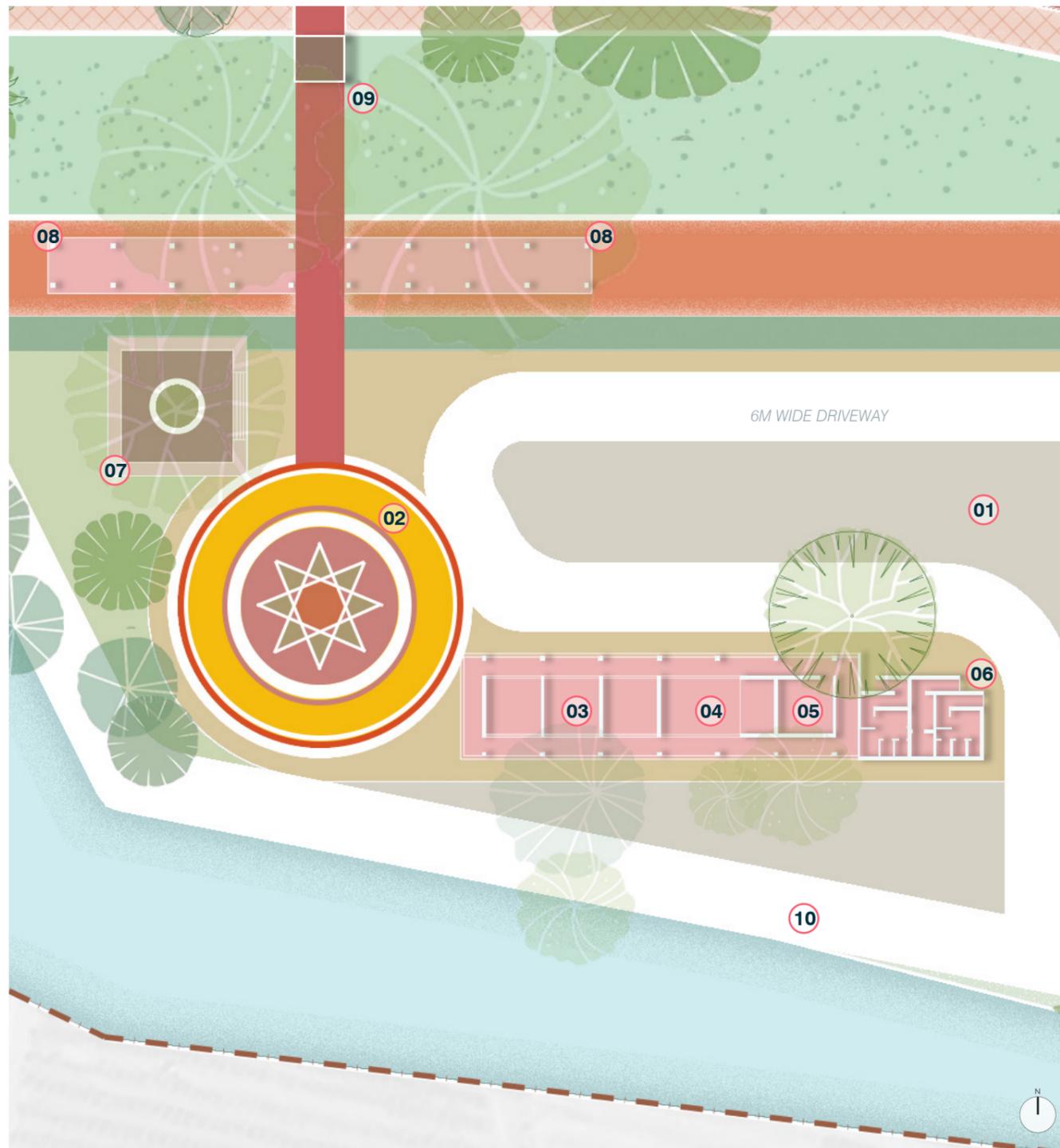
01. ENTRY (STAMBHA PLAZA)
02. PARKING ZONE
03. CHAKRA PLAZA
04. SECURITY/KIOSKS/
CAFETERIA/ TOILET BLOCK
05. EXISTING KATTE
06. PROPOSED MANTAPA
07. EXISTING GATEWAY
MANTAPA
08. ENTRANCE GOPURA
09. GARBAGRIHA
10. DEVI TEMPLE
11. EXISTING OUTER PRAKARA
12. CELEBRATORY PATH
13. KALYANI
14. THE GROVE
15. CONGREGATIONAL PATH
16. CONNECTING SPINE
17. CHAKRA THEERTHA
18. FLEXIBLE LANDSCAPE
19. NALA
20. PROPOSED TREE KATTE
21. RE-ROUTED 6M ROAD TO
RESORT



PART PLANS

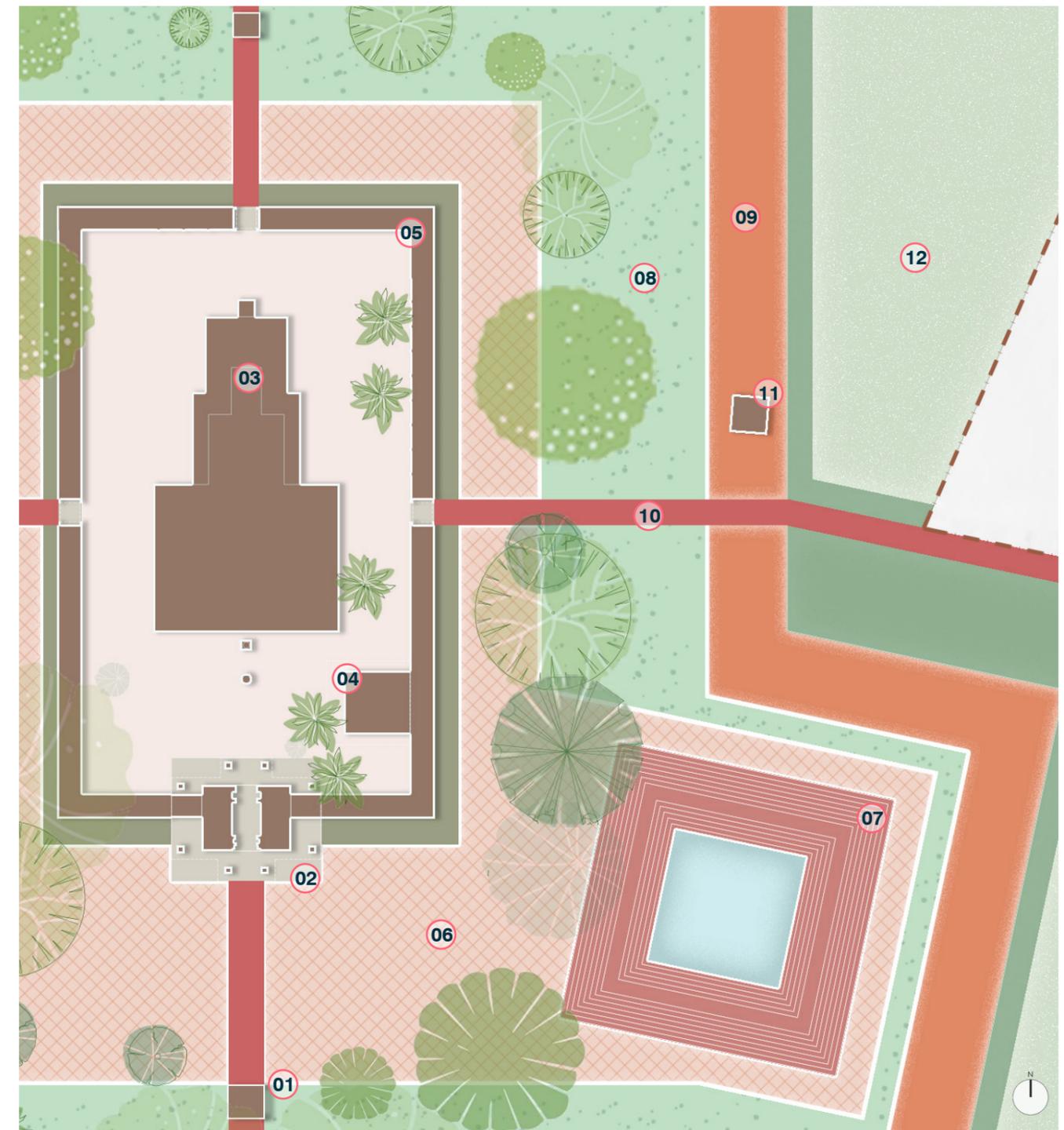
THE ENTRY EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01. PARKING ZONE | 07. EXISTING KATTE |
| 02. CHAKRA PLAZA | 08. PROPOSED MANTAPA |
| 03. KIOSKS | 09. EXISTING SOUTH GATEWAY |
| 04. CAFETERIA | 10. RE-ROUTED 6M ROAD TO RESORT |
| 05. SECURITY/CONTROL ROOM | |
| 06. TOILET BLOCK | |



THE ENCLOSURE EXPERIENCE

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 01. EXISTING SOUTH GATEWAY | 06. CELEBRATORY PATH | 11. EXISTING GANAPATHI TEMPLE |
| 02. ENTRANCE GOPURA | 07. KALYANI | 12. FLEXIBLE LANDSCAPE |
| 03. GARBAGRIHA | 08. THE GROVE | |
| 04. DEVI TEMPLE | 09. CONGREGATIONAL PATH | |
| 05. EXISTING OUTER PRAKARA | 10. CONNECTING SPINE TO CHAKRA THEERTHA | |



ACCESS ROAD VISUALLY TERMINATING AT THE EXISTING TREE KATTE



AERIAL VIEW OF THE SOUTH SIDE WITH THE PROPOSED CHAKRA PLAZA AND ENTRY MANTAPAS





AN EVENING VIEW OF THE ENTRY MANTAPA THAT BECOMES A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY INTERACTION



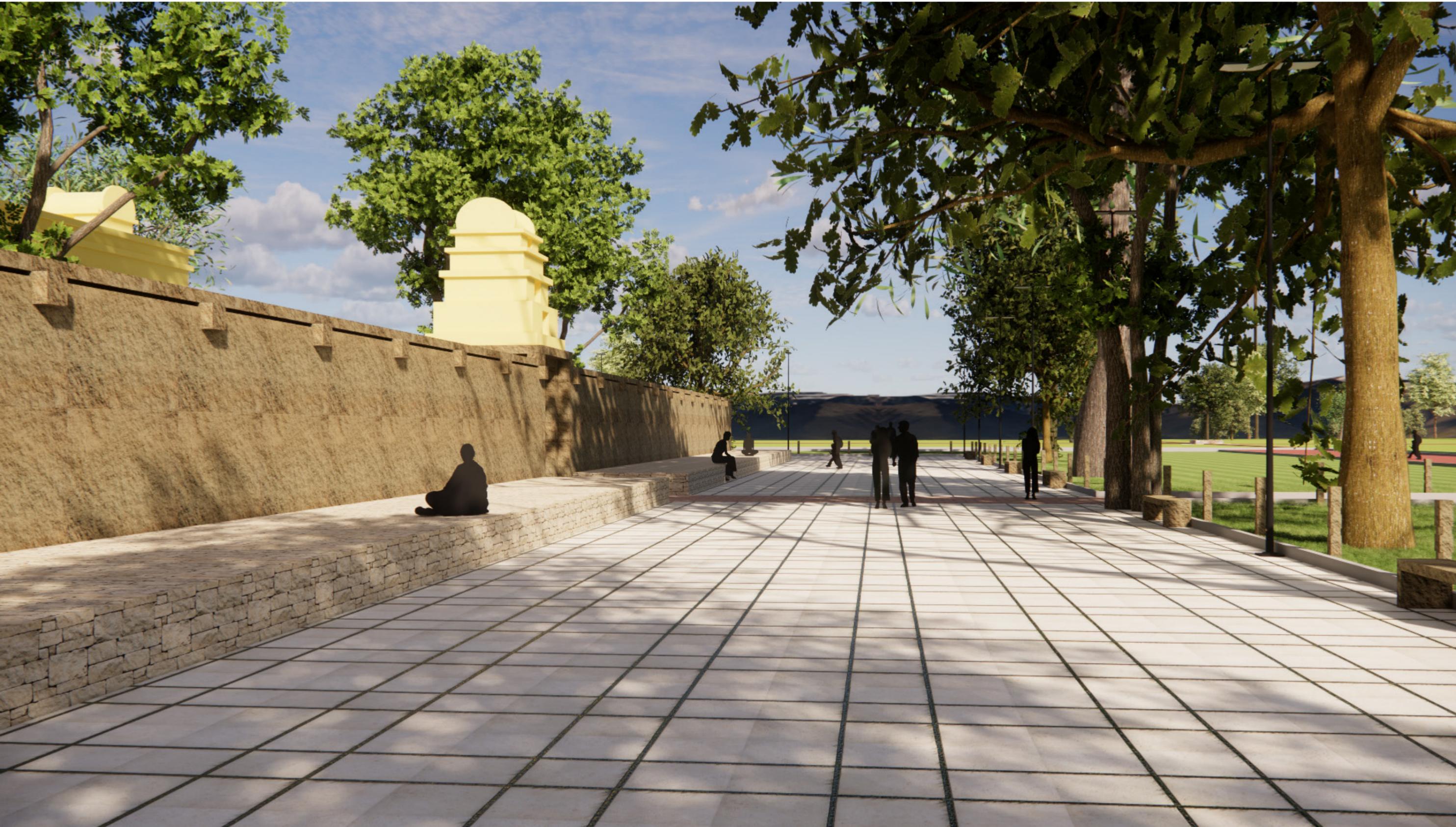
THE CONNECTING SPINE THROUGH THE SOUTH
ENTRANCE GATEWAY



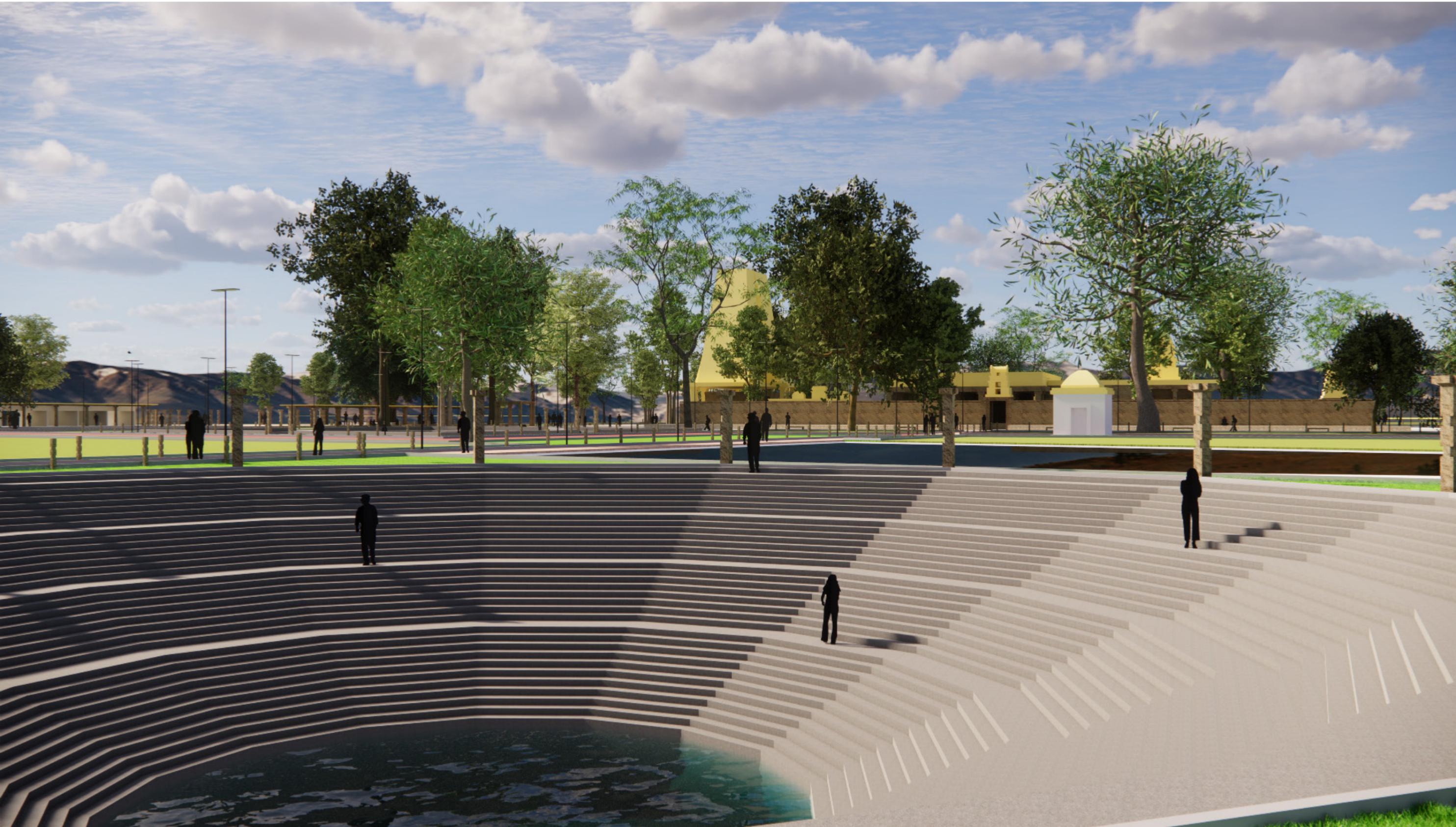




CELEBRATORY PATH IN THE EAST OVERLOOKING THE
EXISTING TREE GROVE



VIEW OF THE TEMPLE SET AGAINST THE MAGNIFICENT HILLS FROM THE CHAKRA THEERTHA

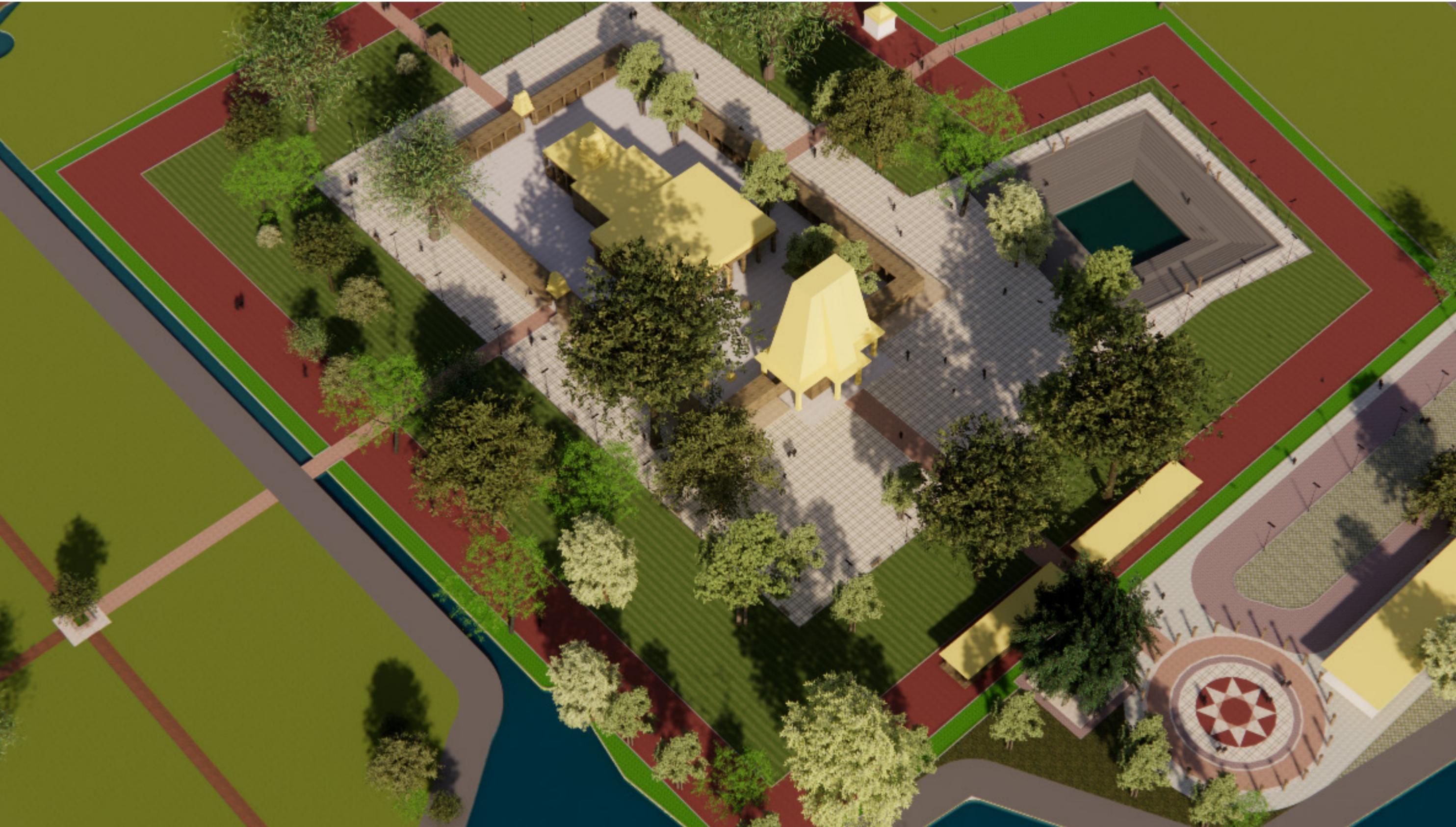






THE PROPOSED AMENITIES BLOCK NEAR THE CHAKRA PLAZA IN THE SOUTH EAST





PROJECT ESTIMATE FOR SHRI RANGANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE, RANGASTHALA

TOTAL SITE AREA (Acres) = 21.56

Sl.No.	Name	Legend number as per Master Plan	Description	Area (sqm) or Length (km)	Unit	No.s	Cost per unit	Total		
PHASE 1										
BUILT/SEMI-BUILT AMENITIES										
1	ENTRY KATTE	5	12.4m x 12.4m (Uplifting the existing katte)	154.00	sqm	1	2,500	3,85,000	Base build only	
2	CONTROL ROOM, KIOSKS, CAFETERIA, TOILET BLOCK	4	7.45m x 15.8m	370.00	sqm	1	25,000	92,50,000		
3	UPLIFTMENT OF KALYANI 1	13	34.3m x 34.3m	1,177.00	sqm	1	3,000	35,31,000		
4	UPLIFTMENT OF KALYANI 2 (16 sided)	17		1,093.00	sqm	1	3,000	32,79,000		
TOTAL								1,64,45,000		
								Contengencies @ 5%	8,22,250	
								Total Incl Contengencies	1,72,67,250	
								GST	31,08,105	
								TOTAL	2,03,75,355	
PHASE 2										
AMENITIES, LANDSCAPE & INFRASTRUCTURE										
5	UPLIFTING THE KATTE PERIMETERING THE TEMPLE	11	Topping the existing katte with stone	583.00	sqm	1	1,500	8,74,500	Taken from Prelim report by Culkey Fn.	
6	ART & SCULPTURE WORK							4,67,000		
7	SITE FENCING		1.5km total length (Chainlink fencing)	1.50	km	1	45,00,000	67,50,000		
8	ENTRANCE MANTAPA	6	Open pavilion	110.50	sqm	2	15,000	33,15,000		
9	STAMBHA, PARKING LOT, & ENTRY PLAZA	1, 2, 3		7,347.00	sqm	1	5,000	3,67,35,000		
10	GRASS PAVED PATHWAY AROUND THE TEMPLE	12		4,909.00	sqm	1	3,000	1,47,27,000		
11	PAVED PATHWAY AROUND THE TREE BUFFER	15		5,526.00	sqm	1	3,000	1,65,78,000		
12	SHRUBBERY AROUND PAVED PATHWAY			2,959.00	sqm	1	2,500	73,97,500		
13	TREE KATTES	20		9.00	sqm	4	3,500	1,26,000		
14	DIVERTING THE ROAD TO RESORT	21	6m road	2,918.00	sqm	1	2,000	58,36,000		
15	OVERALL LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CAMPUS			38,617.00	sqm	1	2,500	9,65,42,500		
16	SITE INFRASTRUCTURE		Lighting, DG, Seaters, waste bins, drinking water, signages,	10.00	acre	1	60,00,000	6,00,00,000		
TOTAL								24,93,48,500		10 acre of intense development
								Contengencies @ 5%		1,24,67,425
								Total Incl Contengencies		26,18,15,925
								GST	4,71,26,867	
								TOTAL	30,89,42,792	

ANNEXURE 3

PRELIMINARY REPORT PREPARED BY CULKEY FOUNDATION

Detailed Project Report

Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Rangasthala,
Chikkaballapur

Adoption through Namma Smaraka - Adopt a Monument
Scheme, Government of Karnataka

Adopted by:  **Discovery Village**  **INFRA.MARKET**
BUILDING REVOLUTIONS

Executed by:  **CULKEY**
FOUNDATION

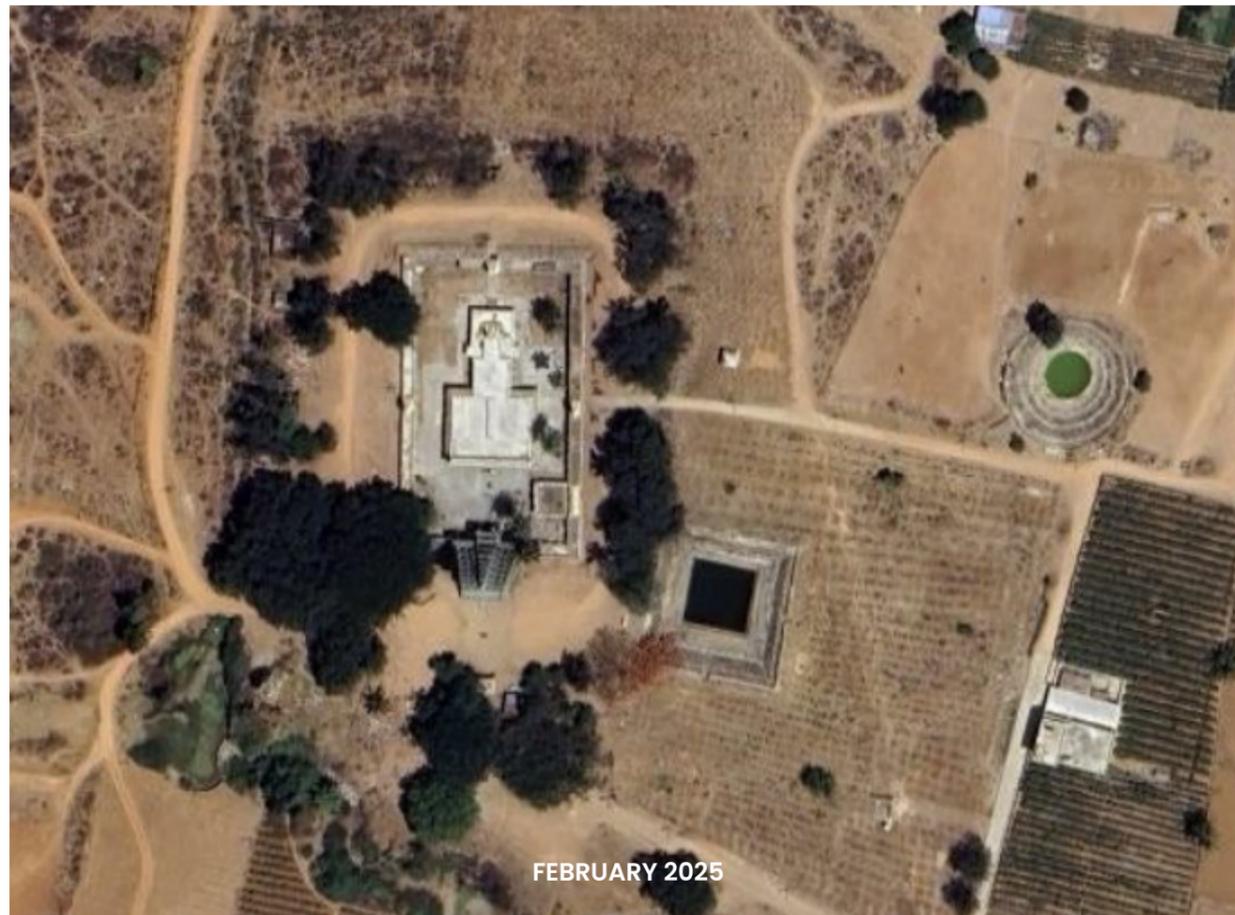
Submitted to:

 <p>DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE Government of Karnataka</p>	<p>Sri Ravindra P.N I.A.S Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Chikkaballapura District</p>
---	--



Table of Contents

1. History and Significance of the temple	3
2. Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Details	4
3. Estimate	6



FEBRUARY 2025

..... DETAILED PROJECT REPORT

Adoption of the Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Rangasthala, Chikkaballapur

History:

The Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple, Rangasthala or the Rangasthala temple, has a fascinating history and significance. At the end of the Treta Yuga, when Lord Rama defeated Ravana and returned to Ayodhya, a coronation ceremony to crown him the king was held. The noble Vibhishana, the brother of Ravana, also attended it. As a token of gratitude and appreciation, Lord Rama gifted Vibhishana, an idol of Lord Ranganatha, in a bamboo basket to carry to Lanka. Commemorating Lord Rama's noble gesture, the Saptarishis or the seven sages, installed an idol of Lord Ranganatha and began worshipping it. The Hoysala rulers, in addition, later built a magnificent temple enshrining Lord Ranganatha.

Significance of the temple:

As per popular belief, devotees attain Moksha or liberation when they visit the Rangasthala temple after worshipping the Lord in Srirangapatna, Shimsha and Srirangam. Hence the Lord bears the name 'Moksha Ranganatha' in Rangasthala. Ranganatha is Adi Ranga in Srirangapatna (Karnataka), Madhya Ranga in Shimsha (Karnataka) and Antya Ranga in Srirangam (Tamil Nadu). Seeing these three temples from dawn to dusk on a single day is said to have had Triranga Darshan. The Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple, Rangasthala, thus serves as a sequel to the Triranga Darshan.

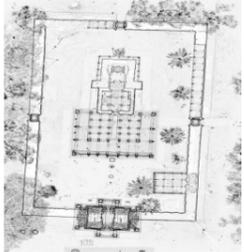
Also, the idols of Lord Ranganatha in Srirangapatna, Srirangam and Rangasthala were installed on the same day. Furthermore, Guru Parashara Bhatta composed the Sri Rangaraja Stotra praising the Lord in Rangasthala during the 12 century C.E.

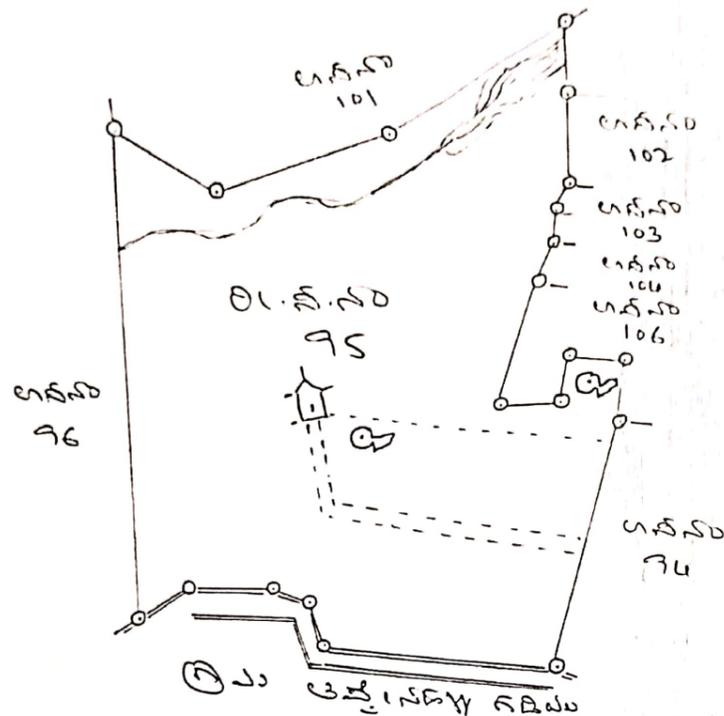


..... Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Details

1.	State/Dist/Tehsil	Karnataka	Kolar	Chikkaballapura
2.	Name of the monument/ built heritage / site	Sri Ranganatha temple		
3.	Date/Period	15 th – 16 th century A.D		
4.	Location Geo Co-ordinates	Latitude: 13.456657°N	Longitude: 77.700785°E	
5.	Approach: Airport Railway station Bus stand	Bengaluru Airport Kolar Rangasthala		
6.	Topological features	7. Brief History This is a large temple consisting of a sandhara garbhagriha, a sukanasi, a navaranga, a mukhamantapa and a varandah running round the mukhamantapa, all located in the middle of a large cloistered courtyard surrounded by a prakara wall. Its mahadvara, which faces south, is about 5.5 m high and there are doorways in the other three directions also. There are also pillared mantapas in front of the doorways except the east. In the garbhagriha is a fine reclining figure of Ranganatha, about 1.2 m long, with the head to the west canopied by a five-hooded cobra. There are figures of Sridevi and Bhudevi seated at the Lord's feet. The pradakshinapatha, has two cells facing each other and house the images of gods, goddesses and Alvars. The mukhamantapa, a fine structure, stands on an ornamental plinth supported by 24 sculptured pillars. The verandah which is on a lower level has 14 sculptured pillars, which are loftier and larger in size than those of the mukhamantapa. All the pillars are sculptured in three panels on all the sides. The sikhara over the garbhagriha resembles that of the temple at Srirangam, being in the shape of a basket, and is carved with figures. The mahadvara has a beautiful dvaragopura, renovated recently. It has two inner and two outer pairs of well-carved jambs, with male and female figures surmounted by scrollwork. In the navaranga are kept utsavamurtis of Ranganatha with consorts, Visvaksena, Ramanujacharya, Nammalvar and Chakrattalvar.		
8.	Local traditions associated with building / structure/ site	N.A		
9.	Architectural style	Dravidian		
10.	Description of the building/ structure/ site			
11.	Building/Structural material and other elements used	Stone, brick and mortar		
12.	Usage (s)	Worship		
13.	Ownership			
14.	Protection status	Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Mysuru		
15.	Condition of the built Heritage/site			
16.	Conservation assessment			



17. Photographs		18. Plan/elevation	
19. Published reference	MAR, 1914. pp. 10-11. EC, XVII, Cb 84 – 90. Karnataka State Gazetteer, Kolar District, ed. K.Abhishankar, Bangalore, 1968, p. 552. Mysore Gazetteer, Vol V, pp. 363-4. ed. C.Hayavadana Rao, Bangalore, 1930.	21. Lister (name and address) with date	
20. General remarks	N.A	22. Database number	



Survey Sketch of Temple - Issued by Revenue Department - November 2024



... Estimate ...

Category and Sub-Activity	Estimated Cost (INR)
Site Clearance and Securing	
Cleaning of the area	8,00,000
Erecting temporary and makeshift barricading	3,33,000
Disposal of unwanted materials	2,00,000
Enabling Works	
Providing earth movers and other equipment	6,67,000
Laying underground water lines	4,67,000
Laying underground electricity lines	5,33,000
Preparatory Works	
Laying property fencing (stone and steel barbends)	15,00,000
Constructing toilets	15,33,000
Constructing cloakroom	2,67,000
Constructing snack area	3,00,000
Providing drinking water facility	2,33,000
Constructing parking area	4,00,000
Installing CCTV security system	3,33,000
Painting and archaeological pressure washing	3,67,000
Conservation Activity	
Cleaning of 2 ponds	4,67,000
Structural rehabilitation of ponds	18,00,000
Water quality enhancement	5,33,000
Jet washing of stones (as per archaeology guidelines)	4,00,000
Internal and External Work	
Construction of amenities	5,33,000
Baby feeding room construction	3,33,000
Snack counter construction	9,67,000
Benches installation	2,00,000
Disability-friendly pathways	4,00,000
Gardening and land beautification	4,67,000
Beautification around 2 ponds	3,33,000
Information and Cultural Aesthetics	
Common area beautification	4,00,000
Signages installation	4,00,000
Lighting installation	4,00,000
Installation of traditional sculptures	4,67,000
Administrative	
Decorative elements	2,67,000
Permits and approvals	3,33,000
Documentation and publicity	4,00,000
Contingency	10,00,000
Execution Cost	20,00,000
Total Estimate	2,00,33,000

ANNEXURE 4

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS
- THE ONLY ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENT - V.ANURADHATHE ONLY ARCHITECTURAL MONU-
MENT – RANGANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE
AT RANGASTHALA

V.Anuradha

Rangasthala is situated in Chikkaballapura Taluk of Kolar district, Karnataka state, six kms away from Chikkaballapura Taluk headquarters (Plate-1). It is situated at the foot of Jwala Narasimha Swamy hills or Kalavara hills (Plate-2). It is the historic Ranganatha Swamy temple built in Vijayanagara and post Vijayanagara period. Because of this temple, Rangasthala has become popular in Karnataka.

Even though there is a mention of this temple in Mysore Archeological Reports of 1914 and 1935 editions.¹ Kannada Vishwakosha of Mysore university and Karnataka Gazetteer of Kolar district, no one has been successful in bringing out the relevant information about the uniqueness of this great architectural monument.

From the point of view of architecture and sculptural art, this temple has a unique place not only in Karnataka but also in India. The temple faces south with a rectangular *garbhagriha*, rectangular *antarala*, a *navaranga*, *rangamantapa*, a large *maharangamantapa* and a *pathalankana* (Plate-4). The temple has a large *prakara* with four *mahadwaras* (Plate-3) at cardinal points. The *garbhagriha* and *antarala* possess a *Pradakshinapatha* which is a later addition (Plate-5).

The uniqueness of this temple lies in the ground plan of its *garbhagriha*. The *garbhagriha* measures 6 X 5.4 mts (Plate - 6). The shape of the *garbhagriha* is oval or ellipsoid. The *Vastu* texts on Indian architecture acknowledge this shape as "*vruttayata*".² While explaining the details of ground plans, Indian architectural texts prescribe different types and shapes. They are *chaturashra*, *ayatasra*, *trikona*, *vrutta*, *dwasravrutta*, *gajaprushta*, *ashtashra* and *vruttayata*. Square, rectangular, circular and *gajaprushta* ground plans are commonly noticed. But so far no body has noticed a triangular or an eight sided or *vruttayata* temples anywhere in India. Even though Prof S.K. Ramachandra Rao has provided illustrations and diagrams of all these groundplans in his work,³ no example of these temples has been given in his work. The *Vruttayata* ground plan of the Ranganatha Swamy temple is the only and the best example for an exact depiction of the texts.

In the elevation of the temple, *Adhithana*, *Bhitti* and *prastara* are seen. Hara is completely dilapidated. *Prasada* and *shikhara* are of recent constructions. This temple has *pratibandha* type of *adhithana*.

1402

IHC: Proceedings, 68th Session, 2007

The mouldings of the *adhithana* are *Upana*, *Jagati*, *vruttakumuda*, *kapota*, *pattika*, *kampa*, *gala*, *kampa* and *prati* (Plate-7,8 & 9). The *kapota* has both *kapota* and *pratimukha* within a single moulding. Same type of a plinth is noticed in the Lakshmaneshwara Temple at Avani.⁴ The outer line of the *adhithana* has many indentations. The centre has *subhadras*, the corners possess *karnas*, in between are *pratibhadras* and *pratikarnas* (Plate-8&9). These indentations and presentation of *Subhadra*, *pratibhadra*, *karna* and *pratikarnas* give a rich look to the outer contour of the temple (Plate-9).

The *bhitti* measuring 10 feet is also constructed on the same plan with many indentations. *Bhittipadas* and *koshtas* are neatly carved on this *bhitti*. Since the temple is found in a dilapidated condition, a closed *Pradakshinapatha* has been built to protect this *garbhagriha* and *vimana*. The pilasters of the temple possess cushion capital, abacus and bevel and corbels. The entablature of the temple has *uttara*, *Kapota*, *vajana* and *prati* mouldings (Plate-10 and 11). On the *uttara Yalis*, lions and other animal sculptures are carved. The *kapota* has *nasis* carved in pairs called *netra nasis* at regular intervals. The *nasis* are decorated with prominent *simhamukhas*. From these *simhamukhas* rich foliage and *mukthagrasas* emerge and flow out. This is an important feature of the *Nasis* of Vijayanagara dynasty. On the *vajana*, rows of lions, swans, elephants, *Kubjas* and *Ganas* are carved. The *Vitana* has *urdhwapadma* and *Prati*. The upper part of the *prastara* is in a dilapidated state. From the upana upto the stupa, the *vruttayata* form can be clearly noticed (Plate-18). *Vruttayata* temple is also known as *Manika* in the architectural texts. There are nine types of *vruttayata* temples mentioned in the *vastu* texts. They are *gaja*, *garuda*, *vrushabha*, *hamsa*, *rushinayaka*, *bhushana*, *bhudhara*, *simha* and *srijaya*. The author is still unaware of the exact type of *vruttayata* of Rangasthala temple.

In general the inner wall of the *garbhagriha* is found plain. The second uniqueness of Rangasthala lies in its inner wall. In the centre of the *garbhagriha* is the image of *sheshashayi Vishnu*. Just above the head is the *adishesha*. At the holy feet of the lord, *Bhudhevi* and *Sridevi* (Plate-12) are in the asina posture serving the lord. In the centre of the inner wall of the *garbhagriha*, the *saptarishis*, *kamadenu*, *kalpavruksha*, the five *ayudhas* of mahavishnu (*shankha*, *chakra*, *gada*, *khadga* and *dhanas*), the *ashtadikpalakas*, *Indra*, *Bramha*, *Shiva*, *Sudarshana*, *apsaras* are neatly depicted. This is the depiction of the concept of the *bhogashayanamurthy* in *vaikunta* (Plate-13 and 14).

Generally *jalavathayanas* are not provided for the *garbhagriha*. But in Rangasthala, we find a *jalavathayana* of *Nagabandha*⁵ type on the eastern wall of the *garbhagriha*. This position of *jalavathayana*

allows the sunrays to fall on the holy feet of the lord on every 15th January i.e., Makara Sankranti day (Plate-15). The sculptures on the wall and the main image of Ranganatha are in Vijayanagara style.

The Navaranga and *rangamantapa* possess many ornate pillars. Many are of Chitra Khanda variety (Plate-16). There are 24 pillars in the *rangamantapa* (Plate-16). The *rangamantapa* has ornate *sribhogaadhistana* (Plate-17). The temple has an ornate Patalankana. The front pillars of the patalankana possess *ashwakanta* pillars (Plate-19). They are carved in two storeys. On the Patalankana an open pillered portico is noticed (Plate-4). It has got a painting gallery.

Another unique feature of this temple is the outer *pradhakshina patha* with a pillared portico. This type of an outer *pradakshina patha* is also noticed in the *Markandeshwara* temple at Vokkalere.⁶ This temple on the whole is constructed during Vijayanagar and post Vijayanagara period. The plinth, the wall, pillars have typical Vijayanagara influence. When we observe the temple under its decorative motifs and difference mouldings it becomes clear this temple was constructed by a rich patron but there no mention of any king or patron or dynasty.

The Ranganathaswamy temple at Rangasthala from all these points is a unique temple which is worth further study. This article is only a preliminary exercise.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. M.A.R. of 1914 and 935 mentions about this temple. There is no mention of the Vruttayata plan of this Garbagruha.
2. Agnipurana 54, 11, 13 and Kamikagama 35, 87, 91.
3. S.K. Ramachandra Rao "Evolution of Mandalā in Temple architecture" Kalpataru Research Academy p.25 and 26.
4. Lakshmaneshwara temple at Avani, Mulabagal Taluk, Kolar District.
5. *Nagabanda jalavatayana* see *Manasara* Chapter XXXIII.
6. Markandeshwara temple at Vokkaleri, Malur Taluk, Kolar District.



Plate 1 Fort at Chikkaballapura Taluk, Kolar District.



Plate 2 Kalavara hills and Jwala Narasimhaswamy hills. Chikkaballapura Taluk, Kolar Dist.



Plate 3 Mahadwara of Ranganathaswamy Temple at Rangasthala

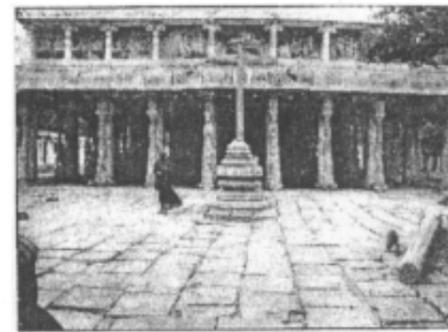


Plate 4 Front view of Ranganathaswamy temple at Rangasthala

RANGASTHALA - RANGANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE

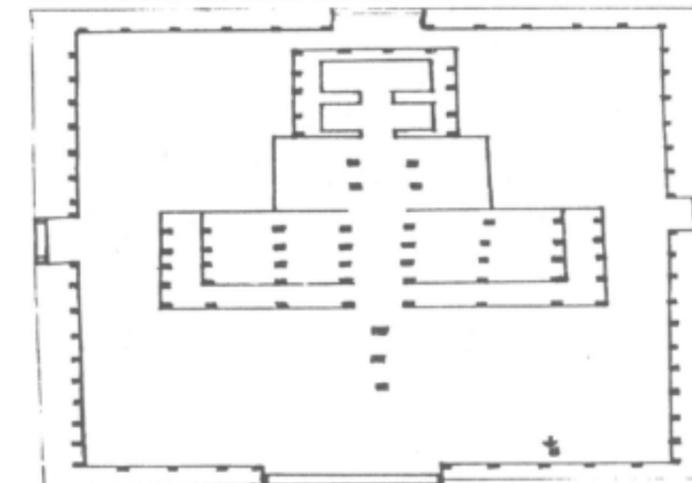


Plate 5 Groundplan of the Ranganatha temple at Rangasthala

RANGANATHA TEMPLE - RANGASTHALA
 CHIKKABALLAPUR TALUK, KOLAR DISTRICT
 KARNATAKA

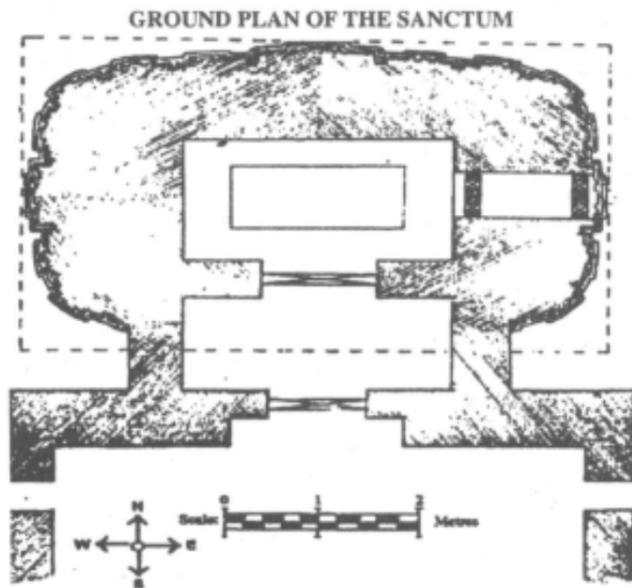


Plate 6 Groundplan of the Ranganatha temple at Rangasthala



Plate 7 Prathibanda Adhistana Ranganatha temple at Rangasthala

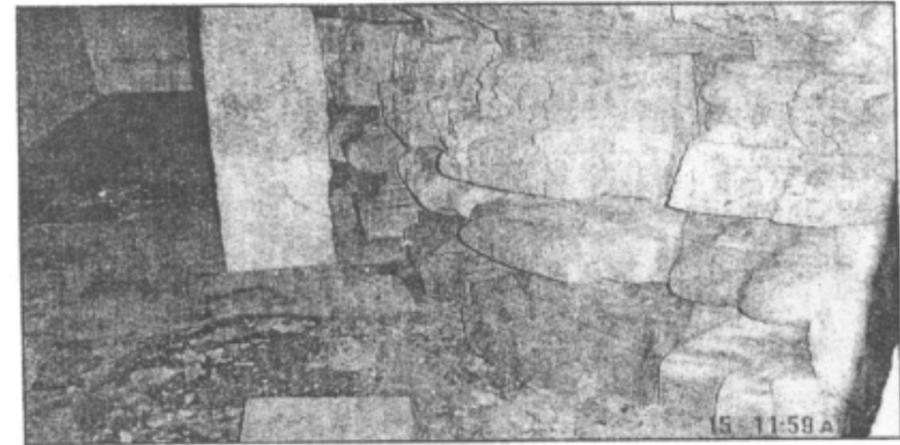


Plate 8 Adhistana Ranganatha temple at Rangasthala

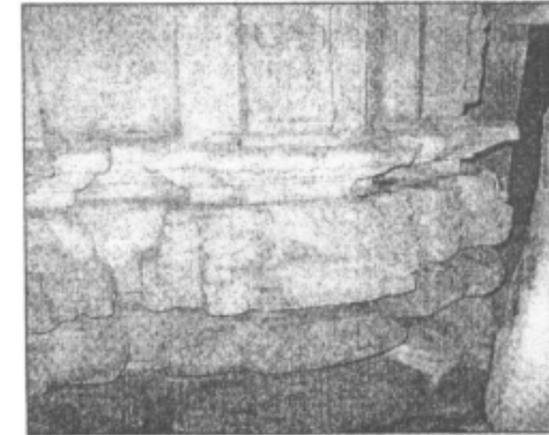


Plate 9 Prathibanda adhistana, Ranganatha temple at Rangasthala

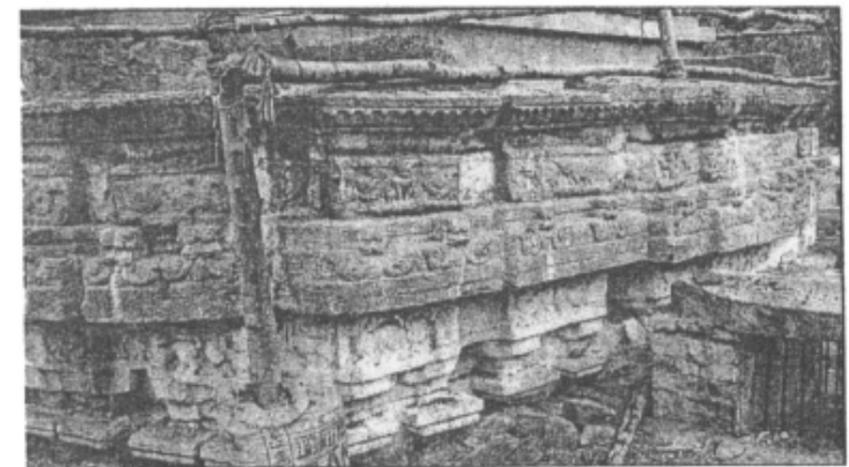


Plate 10 Prastara, Ranganatha temple at Rangasthala

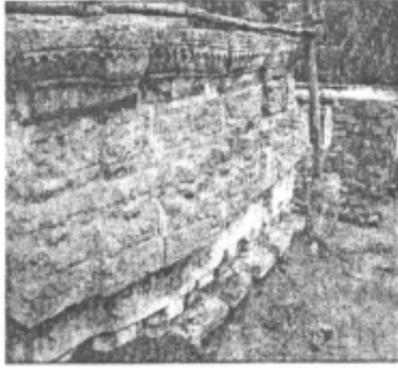


Plate 11 Prastara, Ranganatha temple at Rangastala



Plate 12 Ranganatha with Sridevi and Bhudevi

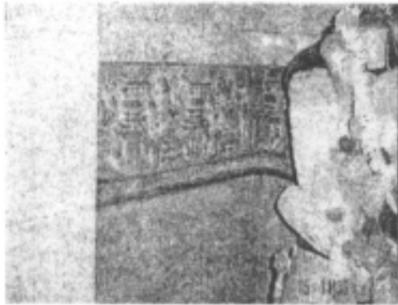


Plate 13 Wall Sculptures in the Garbhagruha



Plate 14 Wall Sculptures of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara

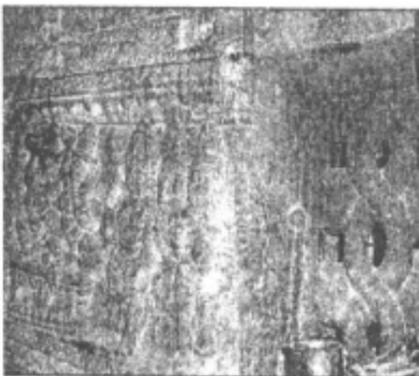


Plate 15 Wall Sculptures and Nagabandha Jalavatayana on the bhitti

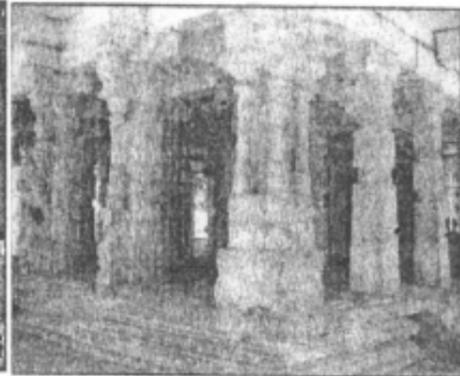


Plate 16 Pillars of the Vijayanagara style

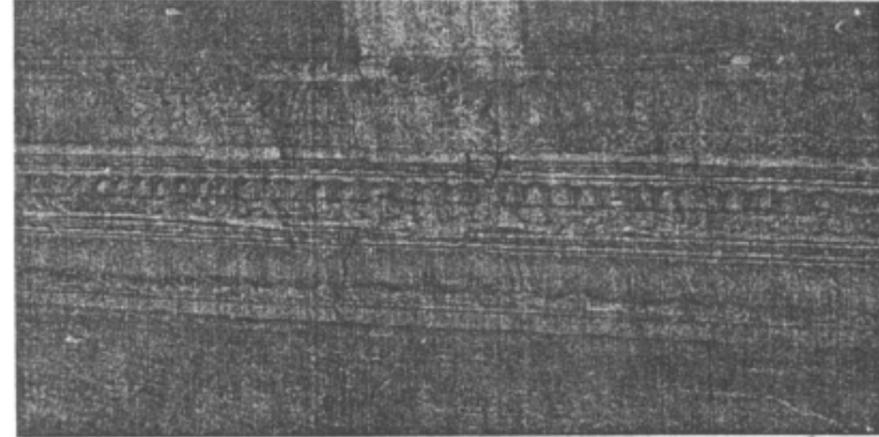


Plate 17 Sribhoga type of Adhistana for the maharangamantapa



Plate 18 Shikara of Ranganathaswamy temple, Rangastala

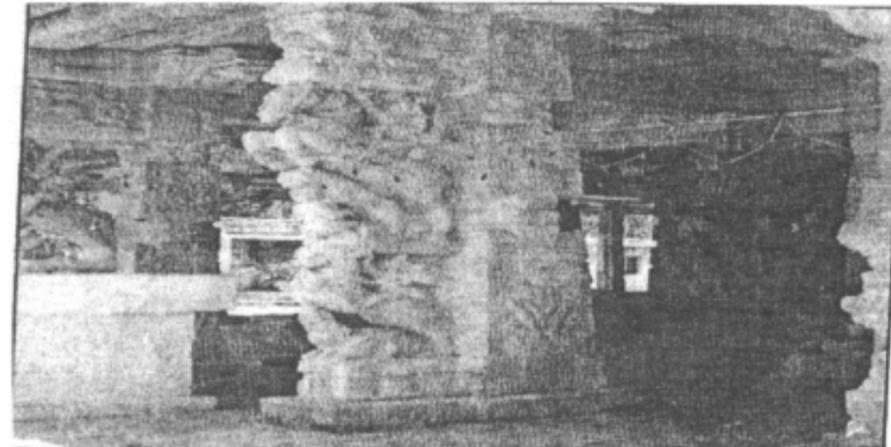


Plate 19 Ashwakanta Pillar in the patalankana of Ranganathaswamy temple, Rangastala

