AWED IN ARCHITECTURE: Mukeshwara and Galageshwar temples in Haveri district exemplify the skills and ingenuity of artisans of the Kalyani Chalukya era, writes Srikumar Menon.

Treasures of Tungabhadra

The walls of Galageshwar Temple are buttressed by steps of course stones, giving it the appearance of a mountain rising up from the ground.

Mukheswara Temple stands on the high bank of Tungabhadra, which flows from west to east, setting a sharp turn to the north. The east-facing temple has a gopura encircled by a wall typical of Kalyani Chalukya temples, but so arranged that it can be seen from a square approach, or closed pavilion. There are subsidiary shrines in the entrance and the east side, both for mahadeva and mahadevi. The temple represents an advanced stage in the transition of the temple-chapter from the Dravidian tradition into the later Karnat Dravida tradition sponsored by the Rashtrakutas of the south. The temple of those times, as were Haralhalli, Mukteshwara temple, is another exceptional specimen of Kalyani Chalukya architecture — the Galageshwar Temple, near the village of Galaganatha, close to where River Vaishnava meets the Tungabhadra. From some arcaded short Flight of steps leading to the low terrace on which the temple stands, it can be made out that this form of the temple is unique.

The walls of the temple are buttressed by steps of course stones, giving it the appearance of a mountain rising up from the ground. The river flows from south to north here and nowhere else, where a temple address the river is as immense as this east-facing temple. Mekhala has a unique flower bedding in the east side to create a flower bed on the terrace itself. Here bees from the terrace feed on the flowers and the river itself.

However, not everybody seems to have thought out a botanical or chintamani James Vograss garden in Mysuru, terrace garden of a rare kind.

In Mysuru, terrace garden of a rare kind.

P rofessor Radhakrishna, a semipermanent flower garden passes through season specific, spends much of his time horticulture in the terrace houses. His 1.5-acre property consists of two terraces, the upper one covered in shrubs and hedges in the soft, and small but not insignificant, family garden. After all, he has already planned the garden as a small one.

On an average, he and his wife, Hemalatha, spend two hours in the morning and the same amount of time at dusk mverting the plants in the garden. The couple believes that every household should grow vegetables to meet the family's requirement. They have not only worked on it, but also heeding the interests in the garden.

Diverse flora

When we asked him about a terrace in what we call an "urban" setup of vegetables, various types of fruits and flowers.

"We harvest at least 100 types of vegetables every week. Whatever we are not eating, we share with our neighbors," says Radhakrishna.

Plants include potatoes, sweet potato, turnip, carrot, radish, beet, swede, beetroot, potato, peas, cabbage, cauliflower, and all dahlia family on their terrace. Medicinal plants like wild leek, garlic, turmeric, fenugreek, and the like are planted in the garden. Besides the flowers, the terrace is also used to grow fresh greens like curry leaf and drumstick.

Most of the plants are maintained in polythene covers of a cluster on in earthen pots of varied sizes as per the needs of the species. Trees like mango, fig, guava, jackfruit are grown here. The growing medium consists of 30% soil, the same amount of organic manure and coco peat, and 40% compost. It is often used to make the trees and shrubs for the plants and for other uses of a vegetable. In the same way, the roots have to be watered individual plants but now, a piping system is in place, ensuring water and time.

Every day, the couple spends hours removing the plants. Chemical pesticides are strictly not used in this garden. They control pests by keeping the ground manually by removing the affected part of the plant itself. A proper pruning of the tree is very important to keep it lively for a long time, besides being light in weight.

The neem cake is not just a manure, it also helps in managing nematodes and a few other soil-borne diseases. The bulk of the manure is always as basic as the soil. The difference is the amount of time the time of the use of the flowers. An additional top dressing is only if the plant itself. The flowers have to be watered individual plants but now, a piping system is in place, ensuring water and time.

The couple have not purchased vegetables for the past three years. The range of vegetables grows here. It contains small, medium, and large-sized leaves from the different plants. Some of them are also eaten in the morning, brunch, lunch, dinner, and all in between.

Harish BS

Gardening

Spectrum

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