

## Master plan for Belur, Halebid soon: Deputy Commissioner

Shama Sunder

*'Efforts on to get them included in list of World Heritage Sites'*

*KSRTC told to introduce night bus services*

*from Halebid*

*Seven acres of land behind Chennakeshava temple identified for hotels, parks*

File photo: K. Gopinathan



**Standing tall: A view of the Hoysaleswara temple at Halebid in Hassan district. —**

HASSAN: For the overall development of Belur and Halebid, a master plan will be prepared and submitted to the Government seeking more funds for tourism infrastructure, Deputy Commissioner Naveen Raj Singh has said. Efforts will also be made have the destinations included in the list of World Heritage Sites.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the two places along with Jyoti Hosagrahar, representative of the United Nations Education Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), on Thursday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* here on Friday, Mr. Singh said that although Belur and Halebid were important tourism centres in the State, people in other countries were not aware of them. If they were included in the list of World Heritage Sites, greater awareness could be created. This would give the local economy a boost.

Mr. Singh said attention would be paid to better sanitation and connectivity to the areas.

The swimming pool of queen Shantala at Hulikere and the Chatteswara temple in Chatachatti Halli would also be given a facelift. Tourists visiting Belur and Halebid could also visit these places. Mr. Singh said there were a number of places of tourism importance and ancient temples around Belur that people were still unaware of. The Department of Tourism, in association with the district administration, would ensure that signboards and details of temples were displayed, apart from creation and distribution of brochures detailing their history. He said that during his visit people told

him that there was no bus service from Halebid at night, which was causing inconvenience to tourists. Mr. Singh instructed the Divisional Controller of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation to operate buses to Belur, Hassan and Arsikere from Halebid.

Mr. Singh said that with the help of UNESCO, Belur, Halebid and ancient temples in the vicinity would be developed and basic facilities provided to tourists.

There was a seven-acre plot of land behind the Chennakeshava temple in Belur which the Government would purchase to facilitate parking of vehicles and provide space for hotels, parks and public toilets, he said.

Officials of the Department of Tourism were present.

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