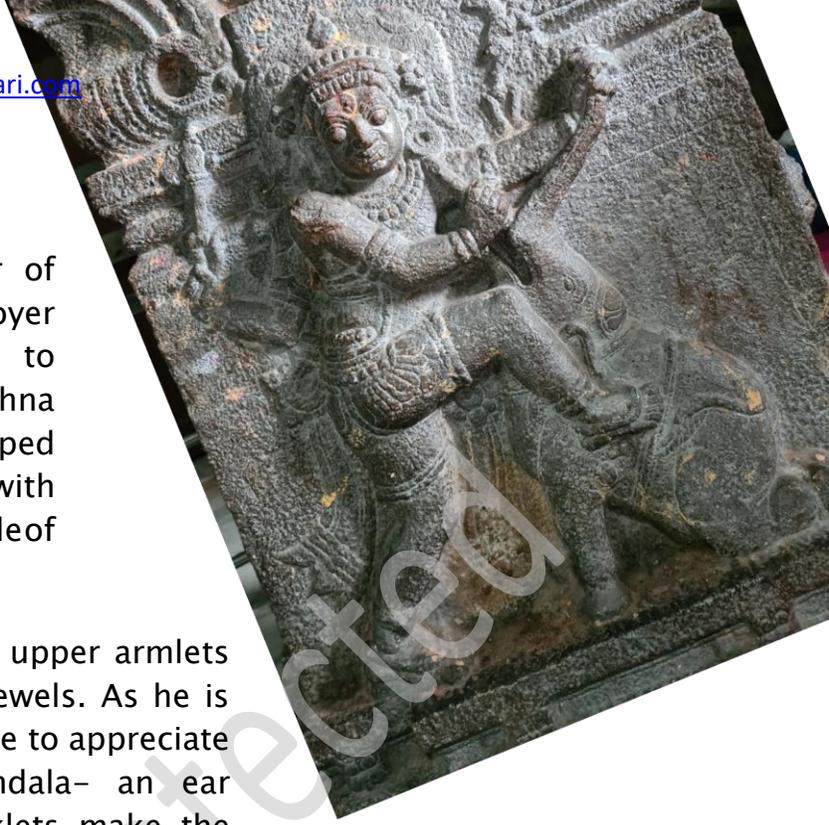


A scene from Gajasura Samhara on the pillar of Kurudumale Ganapathi temple. Shiva as a destroyer of the elephant demon, and Gajasura. according to Manasara Shiva belongs to the category of Rathna Kalpa- The ornaments adorned with flowers shaped jewels. We can see Shiva being adorned with multiples layers increasing size of necklaces made of gems.

We also notice wristlets and mid-armlets and upper armlets made up of thick strands of gold or similar jewels. As he is turned towards the elephant, we will not be able to appreciate his waist belt/s, He is seen wearing Kundala- an ear ornament. Double layers short and long anklets make the whole sculpture worth talking about !



A thing of beauty is a joy for ever...



A Mridanga player on the wall of Someshwara Temple, Kolar decorated with an ear ornament shaped as a half-blown flower and suspended from the earlobes was found. According to the researcher Govindu Surendra M A, *“Musicians and Dancing friezes in the Vijanagara Temples of Rayalaseema”* the plain circular ring is the most favoured ear ornament worn by musicians and drummers.

This carving shows the movements of intoxication, swoon and dizziness. The head is not straight its whirling. He may be clown too. Here we see a different waist band with huge ball shaped suspending from thin waistline belt, and broad necklace with 2 linked lockets. Otherwise, he is seen to be wearing beaded bracelets and circular ring suspended from ear lobes.

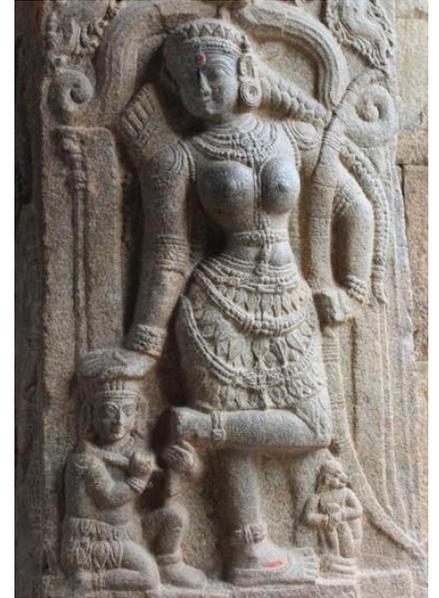


A sculpture of a Dwarapalike is shown adorned with a multitude of ornaments, ranging from hair-parting to ankle decorations at the entrance of Kolaramma temple, Kolara.

A decorated droplet or Baithalemani is worn in the parting of hair. Choodamani was a special ornament worn on the bun. A net of pearls was worn over the head and Koppu is a prominent hairstyle worn on the upper part of the head, to the side. She is not seen wearing any nose ring. She wears two necklaces of one flowing and the other/s circular. The flowing necklace, which extends beyond the chest, has beads of pearls that are small in size and has a locket. The circular necklaces have beads in a slightly bigger size. On each forearm and mid-arm an ornament having two bangles on one side prominent gem at the Centre, wears a like wristlet. It contains beaded circles with a clasp of rosette design. Her fingers are decorated with rings on both the hands. The Karna patra on her ears has circularly arranged gems which is prominently seen in the carving. What stands out is the layered Katibhooshana and as seen it is made up of different jewels with rosettes clasps. She has surprisingly kept her anklets simple.



Yet again at the entrance of Kolaramma temple one can see a gigantic picture of Chenchu Lakshmi¹, goddess who is on a hunting spree. She is following the Misra kalpa type (as mentioned in Manasara text)- which is class of ornaments adorned with string of leaves wound round her forehead. She is seen wearing skirts down to her knees again made up of layers of short leaves. The skirt looks like a drapery on her waist upon which we can see tied beaded belts i.e katibhooshana. The layered beads around her waist, arms, wrists, shoulders, neck appears to be made up of valuable jewels. She is not seen wearing nose rings or finger rings. A simple band works as her anklets. Her Karnapoorā or ear ornament is standing out with small beads arranged beautifully in circular fashion.



Our temple sculptures are repositories of the varied styles of jewellery and ornament. Indian jewellery has a long tradition too. The sculptures of Vijayanagara temples have revealed a highly advanced stage in the art and craft of making ornaments.

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¹ Mentioned in Virupaksha temple at Hampi_ a study, Balasubramanya.