

Analysis of Veerbhadra Swami Temple/ Lepakshi Temple Paintings

Digital Hampi Lab

Funded By :

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Veerbhadra Swami Temple / Lepakshi Temple

Introduction:

Lepakshi is a small village in Anaparthi District of Andhra Pradesh. It is known for famous Veerabhadra temple, dedicated to Veerabhadra (form of Lord Shiva). The temple is built in Vijayanagar architectural style and is best known for its mural paintings that are present on its walls and ceiling. It is also famous for its sculptures and centuries old Kannada inscriptions on the walls. The temple is one of the finest and best preserved examples of Vijayanagara style.

From the understanding of various sources¹, the Lepakshi Temple was existent even before the reign of Acutarayadevraya, but it was during his reign under the fostering care of Virupanna (Official under the King) and Virana (Virupanna's brother) that the temple developed into an outstanding example of Vijayanagara art and architecture. Apart from royal grants, the temple also enjoyed immense popularity and patronage of the well to do.

Architecturally, the temple is divided into three parts - the 'Mukha Mandapa', (also called 'Natya Mandapa' or 'Ranga Mandapa'), the 'Artha Mandapa' and 'Garbha Griha', and the 'Kalyana Mandapa', the last mentioned part of the temple is unfinished and has 38 carved monolithic pillars in grey sandstone.

The temple is surrounded on all sides by an outer enclosure. A second inner enclosure contains the main portion of the temple. Its finest parts are the 'Natya' (Dancing) and 'Ardha' (worship) Mandapas. The former is decorated with superbly sculptured pillars on which are carved life-size representations of musicians and dancers in various poses.

Vijayanagar style of sculpture and mural paintings are found in the Natya and Kalyana Mandapams (dance and wedding halls). These sculptures depict puranic episodes like those of 'Ananthasayana', 'Dattatreya', 'Chaturmukha Brahma', 'Tumburu', 'Narada' and 'Rambha'.

1. Lepakshi Temple, A Cultural and Architectural Study by D. Hanumantha Rao. Pages 11- 16
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lepakshi>

Painting/ Mural Art of Veerabhadra Swami/Lepakshi Temple:

The painting art of Vijayanagara artists were an amalgam and development of the previous traditions which flourished under the magnanimous encouragement of the Vijayanagara kings and patrons of art.

The method was painting in lime medium on plaster, where durability is not long and pigments do not go much deep into the surface. In this the artist can do his job leisurely

In Lepakshi traces of paintings are available on numerous parts of the temple indicate that the entire ceiling of the buildings and walls of certain shrines were profusely painted. But now due to the ravages of time and negligence the paintings are damaged to a great extent. At present, the Natya mandapa including beams and cross bars, the ceiling of outer verandah all around the inner enclosures, the entire Maha mandapa including Sayanagara, the walls of Veerabhadra and Ramalingesvara shrines, the Mukhamandapa or Raghunatha shrine contain some of the most impressive paintings. And paintings on the other parts of the temple are too damaged and seem like ashy water stains.

The paintings are mostly done on the ceiling and to some extent on the wall surface of the main shrines. On the ceiling, the open space in between the horizontal beams was converted into long rectangular panels. The ceiling of the natya-mandapa have eight panels depicting themes from mythology, such as the manifestations of Shiva- Shiva as Kiratha (boar hunter), Dakshinamurthy and scenes from Shiva's wedding with Girija; the scenes from Krishna's childhood; and the legend of the compassionate King Manu-neethi-cholan who dispensed justice even to animals.

The subject matter is varied and can be broadly divided into:

- I. Scenes from epic and puranas
- II. Lrgendary Stories
- III. Gods & Goddess
- IV. Secular themes
- V. Miscellaneous

For analysis the painting are of two types:

- I. Narrative Panels
- II. Miscellaneous Images

Narrative Panels

Narrative Panel I



Narrative Panel II



Narrative Panel III



Narrative Panel IV



Narrative Panel V



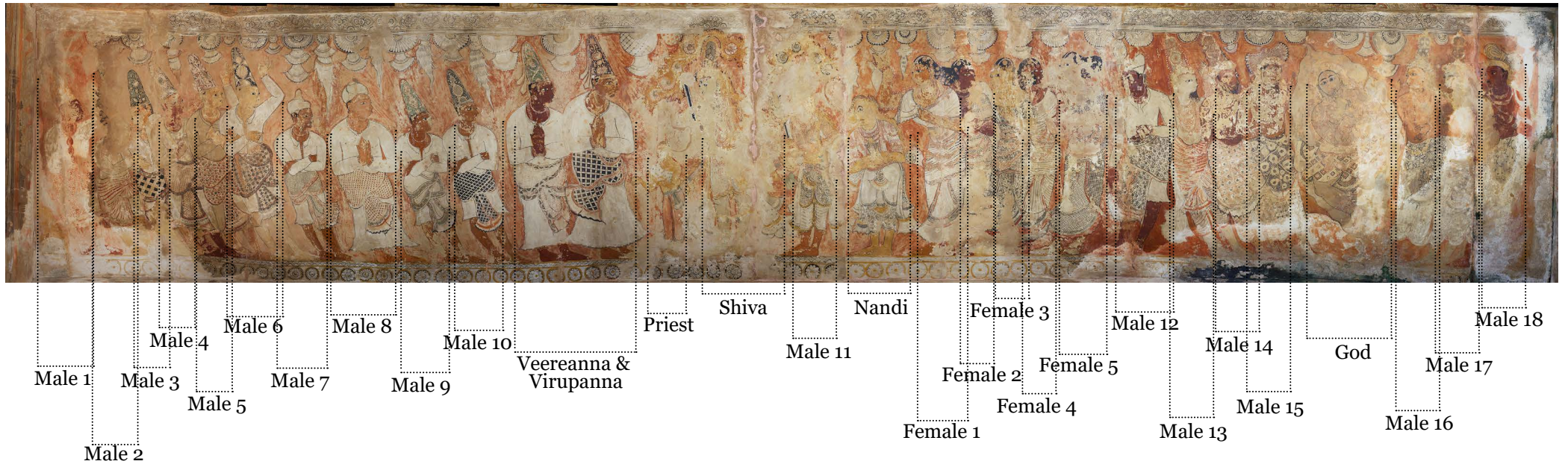
Narrative Panel I































Male 1 Male 3 Male 5 Female 1 Male 8 Female 2 Female 3 Female 4 Male 10 Bhairava
 Male 2 Male 4 Male 6 Male 7 Male 9 Female 5 Devotee

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7	Female 1	Male 8	Female 2	Female 3	Male 9	Female 4	Female 5	Male 10	Devotee	Bhairava
Purnoruka																	
Uttariya																	
Adhovastra																	
Cabaya																	
Saree																	

Narrative Panel II



	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7	Male 8	Male 9	Male 10	Veere-anna	Viru-panna	Priest	Shiva
Purnoruka														
Uttariya														
Adhovastra														
Cabaya														

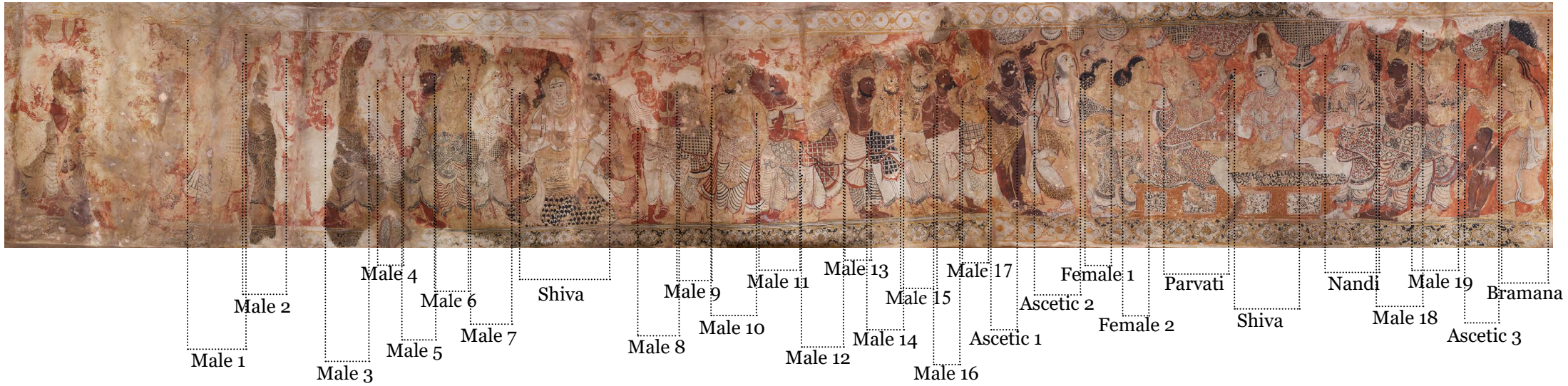
Narrative Panel II



Male 2: Male 4 Male 6 Male 8 Male 10 Priest Shiva Nandi Female 3 Male 12 Male 14 God Male 18
 Male 3 Male 5 Male 7 Male 9 Veereanna & Virupanna Male 11 Female 2 Female 5 Male 13 Male 15 Male 16 Male 17
 Male 1 Male 3 Male 5 Male 7 Male 9 Veereanna & Virupanna Male 11 Female 1 Female 4 Male 13 Male 15 Male 16 Male 17 Male 18

	Male 11	Nandi	Female 1	Female 2	Female 3	Female 4	Female 5	Male 12	Male 13	Male 14	Male 15	God	Male 16	Male 17	Male 18
Purnoruka															
Uttariya															
Adhovastra															
Cabaya															
Saree															

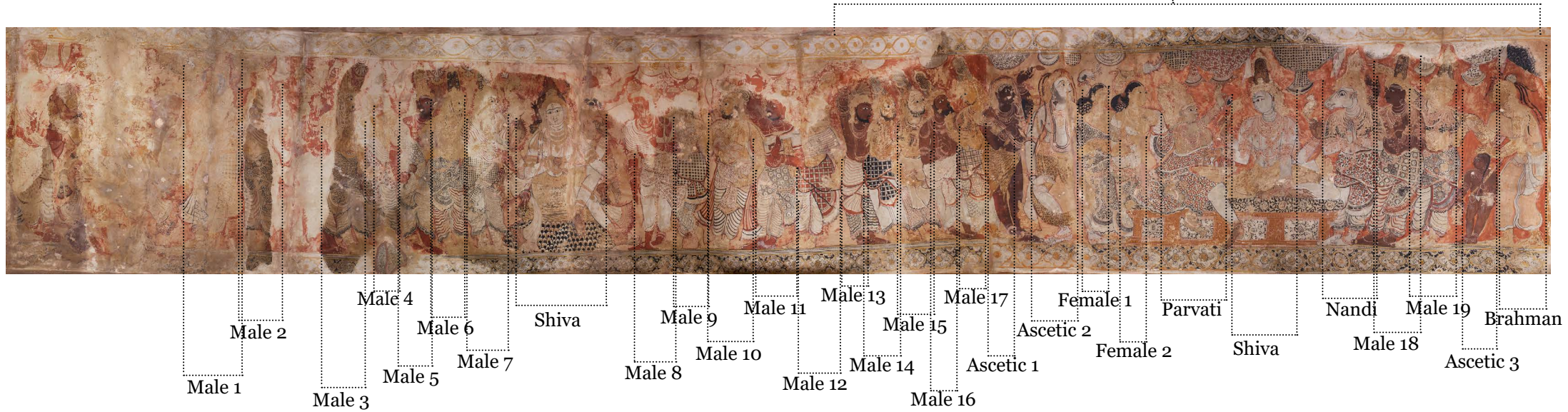
Narrative Panel III



	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7	Shiva	Male 8	Male 9	Male 10	Male 11	Male 12
Purnoruka													
Uttariya													
Adhovastra													
Cabaya													
Challadamu													

Narrative Panel III

The right side of the panel depicts Shiva and Parvati engaged in some activity (seems a board-game, maybe chess), which is attended by a host of people including ascetics and Brahman.



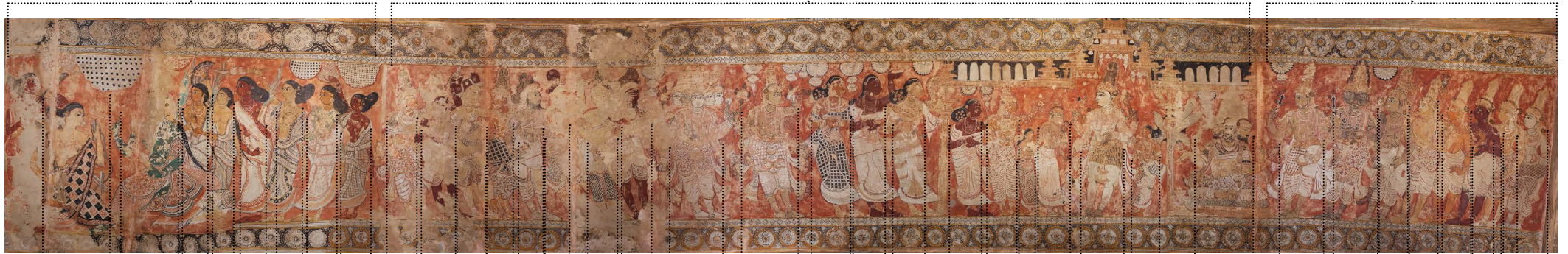
	Male 13	Male 14	Male 15	Male 16	Male 17	Ascetic1	Ascetic2	Female 1	Female 2	Parvati	Shiva	Nandi	Male 18	Male 19	Ascetic3	Brahman
Purnoruka																
Uttariya																
Adhovastra																
Ardhouka																
Saree																
Puttagochi																

Narrative Panel IV

Parvati dressing up, with ladies in waiting.

Marriage of Shiva and Parvati

Ashtadikpalas attending the wedding



Female 1 Parvati Female 5 Male 1 Male 4 Male 8 Vishnu Female 9 Female 11 Shiva Brahma Indra Agni Kubera Niruthi
 Female 2 Female 3 Female 6 Male 2 Male 5 Male 6 Brahma Female 8 Female 10 Male 9 Parvati Shiva Brahma Indra Varuna Yama
 Female 4 Female 7 Male 3 Male 7 Male 8 Brahma Female 12 Female 13 Vayu Isana

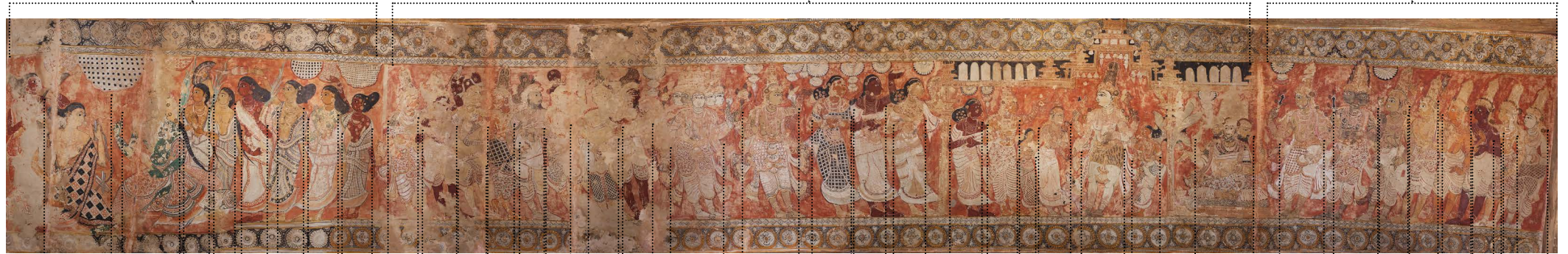
	Female 1	Parvati	Female 2	Female 3	Female 4	Female 5	Female 6	Female 7	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7	Male 8	Brahma	Vishnu	
Purnoruka																			
Uttariya																			
Adhovastra																			
Ardhouka																			
Saree																			

Narrative Panel IV

Parvati dressing up, with ladies in waiting.

Marriage of Shiva and Parvati

Ashtadikpalas attending the wedding



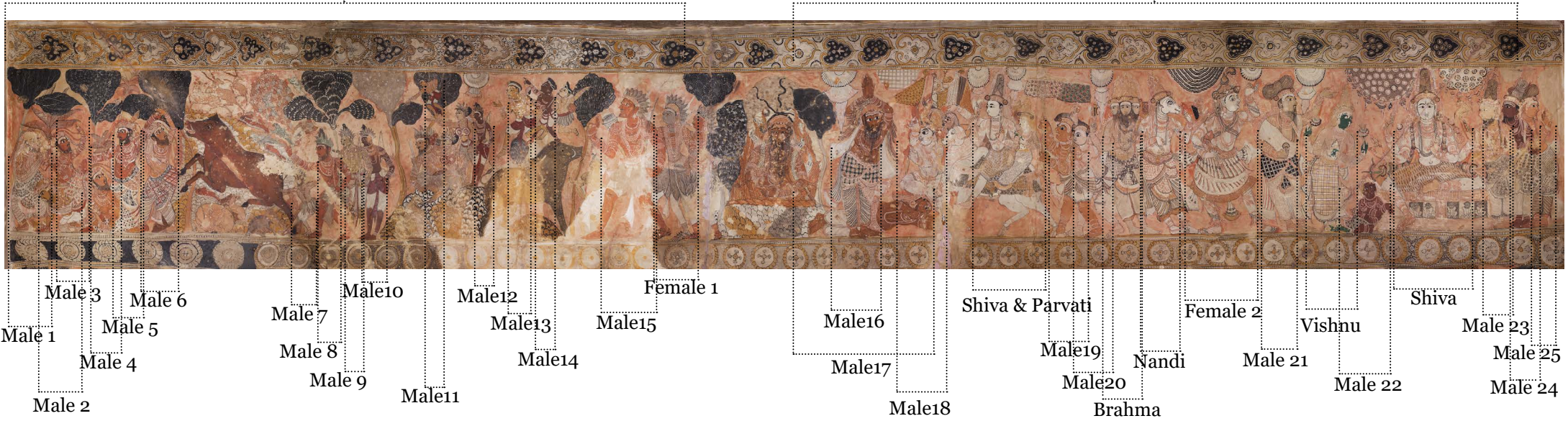
Female 1 Parvati Female 5 Male 1 Male 4 Male 8 Vishnu Female 9 Female 11 Shiva Brahma Indra Agni Kubera Niruthi
 Female 2 Female 3 Female 6 Male 2 Male 5 Male 6 Female 8 Female 10 Male 9 Parvati Shiva Brahma Indra Agni Varuna Yama
 Female 4 Female 7 Male 3 Male 5 Male 7 Brahma Female 8 Female 10 Male 9 Parvati Shiva Brahma Indra Agni Varuna Yama
 Female 12 Female 13 Vayu Isana

	Female 8	Female 9	Female 10	Female 11	Male 9	Female 12	Parvati	Shiva	Female 13	Brahma	Indra	Agni	Varuna	Vayu	Kubera	Yama	Isana	Niruthi
Purnoruka																		
Uttariya																		
Adhovastra																		
Ardhouka																		
Saree																		

Narrative Panel V

Hunting scene, with tribal hunters.

Brahma, Nandi & other devotees in veneration of Shiva

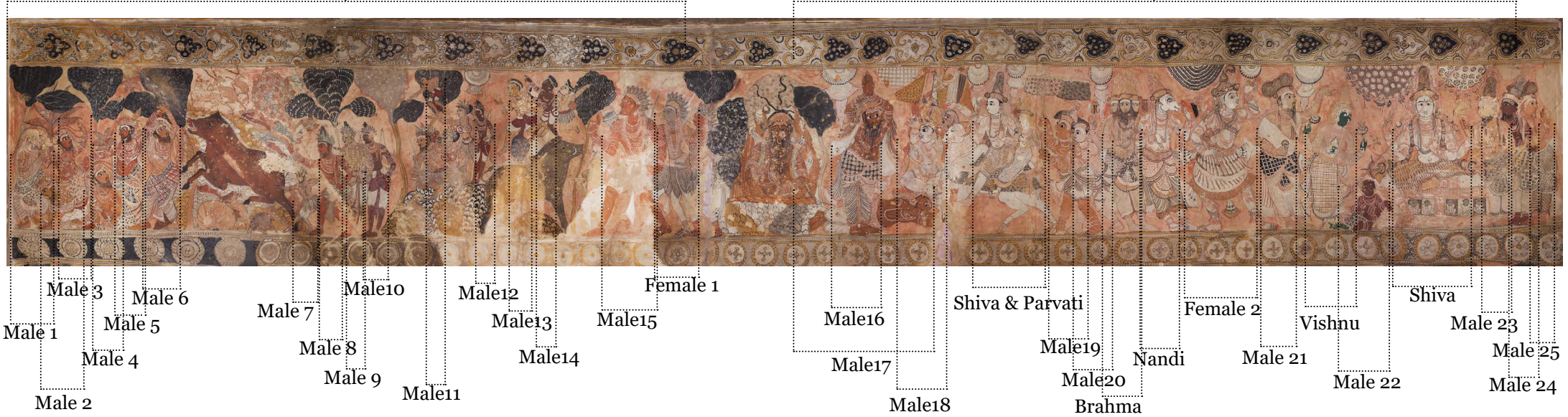


	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7	Male 8	Male 9	Male 10	Male 11	Male 12	Male 13	Male 14	Male 15	Female 1	Male 16
Purnoruka																	
Uttariya																	
Adhovastra																	
Ardhouka																	
Challa-damu																	
Long Challadamu																	

Narrative Panel V

Hunting scene, with tribal hunters.

Brahma, Nandi & other devotees in veneration of Shiva

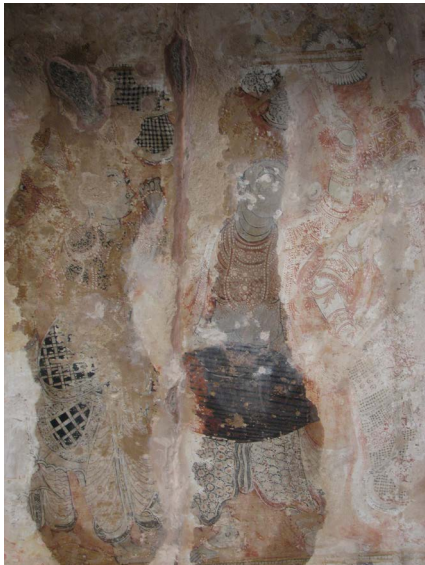


	Male 17	Male 18	Shiva	Parvati	Male 19	Male 20	Brahma	Nandi	Female2	Male 21	Vishnu	Male 22	Shiva	Male 23	Male 24	Male 25
Purnoruka																
Uttariya																
Adhovastra																
Ardhouka																
Saree																
Challa-damu																
Dancing Costume																

Individual Photos



Photos Courtesy: NID Team Bangalore



Photos Courtesy: NID Team Bangalore

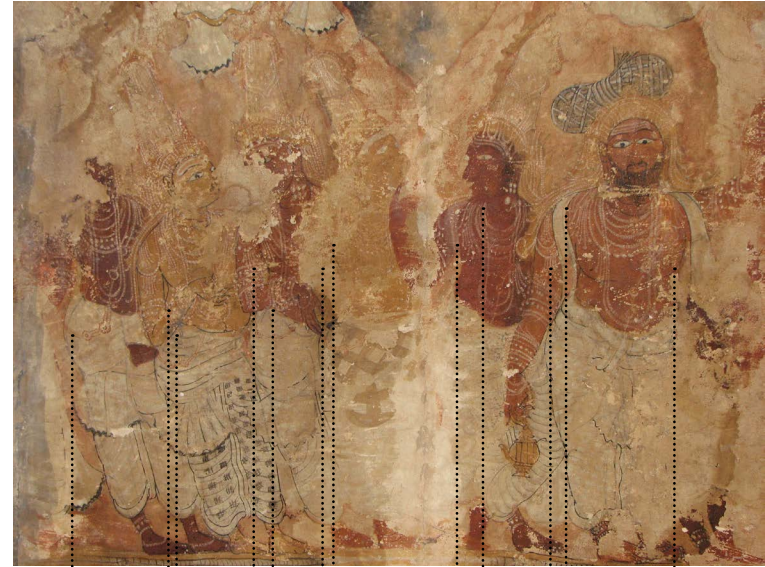


Photos Courtesy: NID Team Bangalore



Female 1
Female 2

	Female 1	Female 2
Saree		



Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5
Male 6

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6
Purnoruka						
Uttariya						
Adhovastra						



Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Shiva
Parvati
Male 5



Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Female 1
Female 2

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Shiva	Parvati	Male 5
Purnoruka							
Uttariya							
Adhovastra							
Ardhoruka							
Saree							

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Female 1	Female 2
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					
Saree					



Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5
Male 6
Male 7

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7
Purnoruka							
Uttariya							
Adhovastra							


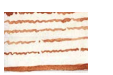








Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					
Ardhoruka					











Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4
Adhovastra				
Ardhoruka				
Challadamu				



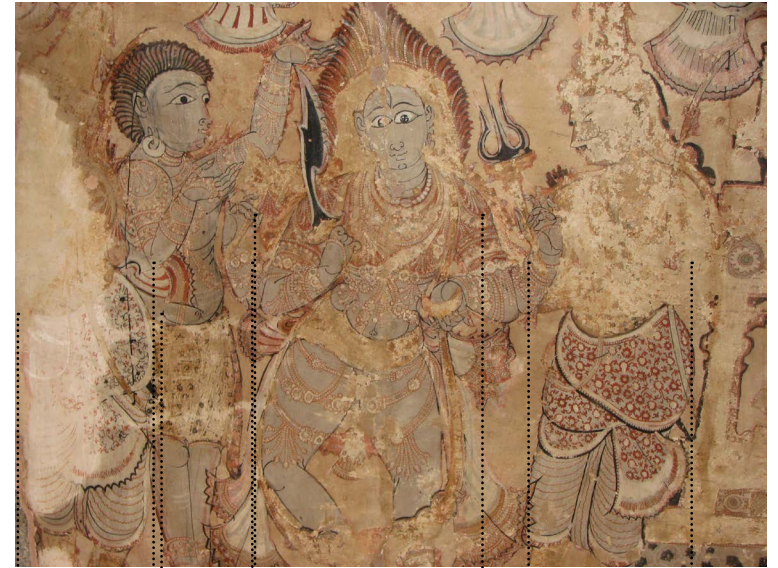
Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					
Ardhoruka					



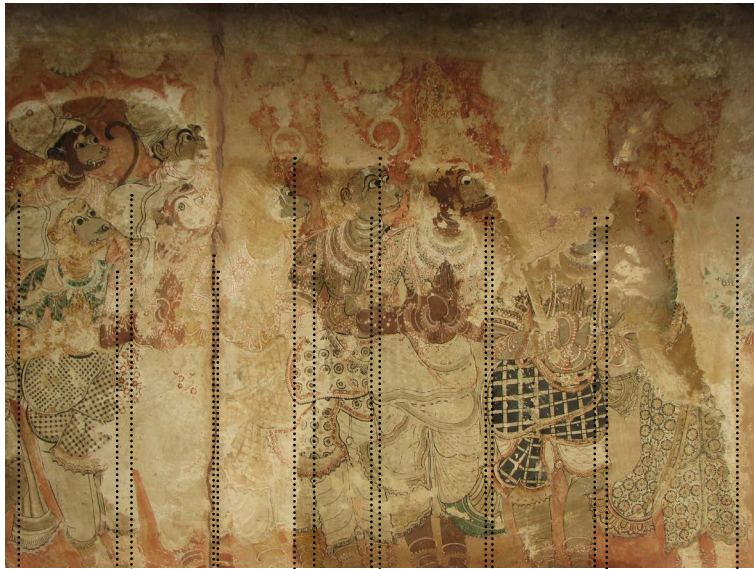
Male 1 Male 3
 Male 2 Female 1

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Female 1
Purnoruka				
Saree				



Male 1 Shiva Male 3
 Male 2

	Male 1	Male 2	Shiva	Male 3
Purnoruka				
Uttariya				
Adhovastra				
Challadamu				
Puttagochi				



Monkey 1
Monkey 2
Monkey 3
Monkey 4
Monkey 5
Monkey 6
Monkey 7

Purnorukha

Adhovastra



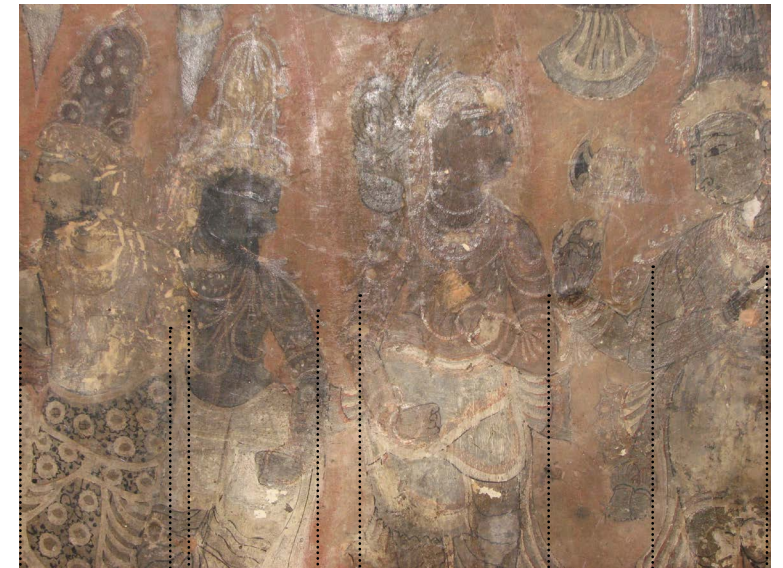
Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5
Male 6

	Monkey 1	Monkey 2	Monkey 3	Monkey 4	Monkey 5	Monkey 6	Monkey 7
Purnoruka							
Uttariya							
Adhovastra							
Ardhoruka							

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6
Purnoruka						
Uttariya						
Adhovastra						



Shiva Ascetic Male 1 Female 1 Female 2



Male 1 Male 2 Male 3 Shiva

	Shiva	Ascetic	Male 1	Female 1	Female 2
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					
Ardhoruka					
Saree					

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Shiva
Purnoruka				
Uttariya				
Adhovastra				
Challadamu				



Female 1
Female 2
Male 1
Brahman
Ardha-nareshwara



Male 1
Male 2
Ascetic
Male 3
Male 4

	Female 1	Female 2	Male 1	Brahman	Ardha-nareshwara
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					
Saree					
Ardhoruka					

	Male 1	Male 2	Ascetic	Male 3	Male 4
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					
Saree					
Puttagochi					



Male 1

Male 2

Ascetic

Shiva

	Male 1	Male 2	Ascetic	Shiva
Purnoruka				
Uttariya				
Adhovastra				
Challadamu				



Narshimha

Male 1

Male 2

	Narshimha	Male 1	Male 2
Purnoruka			
Uttariya			
Adhovastra			



Male 1
Male 2
Vishnu
Lakshmi



Male 1
Male 2
Vishnu
Male 3
Male 4

	Male 1	Male 2	Vishnu	Lakshmi
Purnoruka				
Uttariya				
Adhovastra				
Saree				

	Male 1	Male 2	Vishnu	Male 3	Male 4
Purnoruka					
Uttariya					
Adhovastra					



	Male 1	Male 2	Vishnu	Hanuman
Purnoruka				
Uttariya				
Adhovastra				
Challadamu				

	Male 1	Male 2
Purnoruka		
Uttariya		
Adhovastra		



Male 1

Male 2

Male 3

Male 4

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4
Purnoruka				
Uttariya				
Adhovastra				



Male 1

Male 2

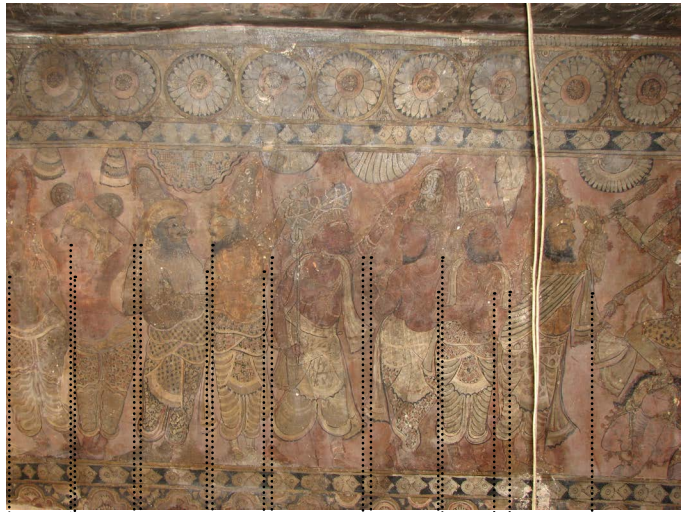
Male 3

Male 4

Male 5

Male 6

	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6
Purnoruka						
Uttariya						
Adhovastra						

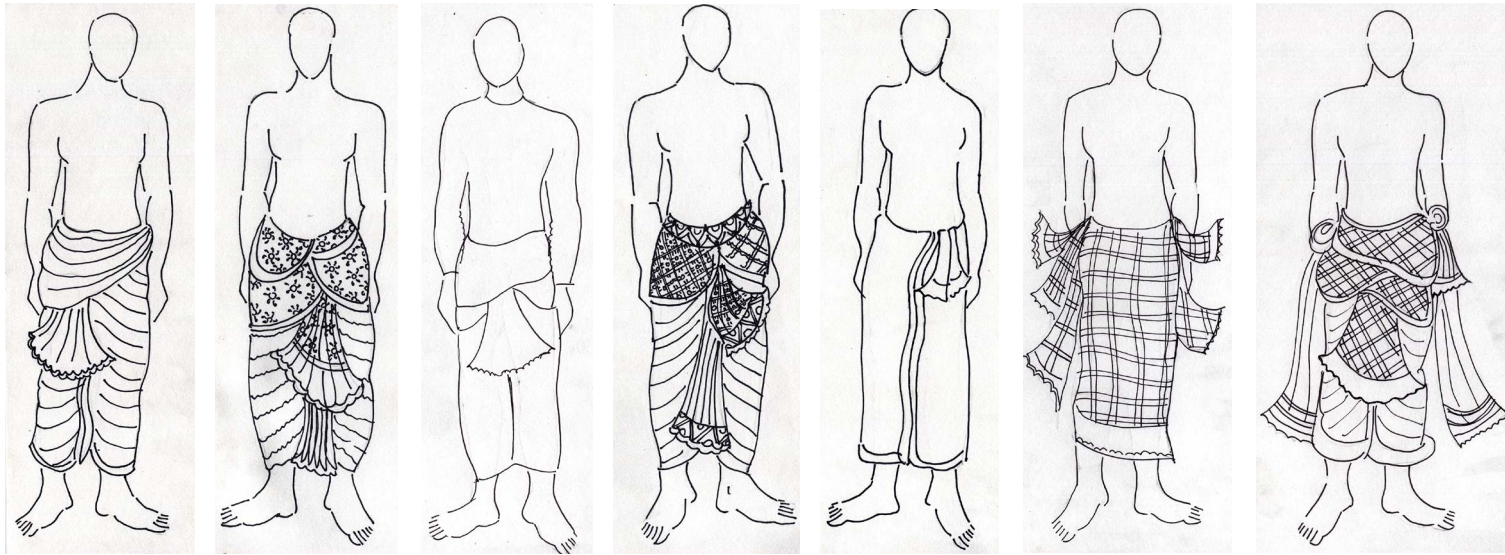


Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5
Male 6
Male 7
Male 8

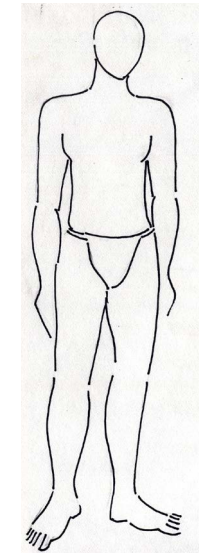
	Male 1	Male 2	Male 3	Male 4	Male 5	Male 6	Male 7	Male 8
Purnoruka								
Uttariya								
Adhovastra								

Variations of Clothing Elements for Male (Lower Body)

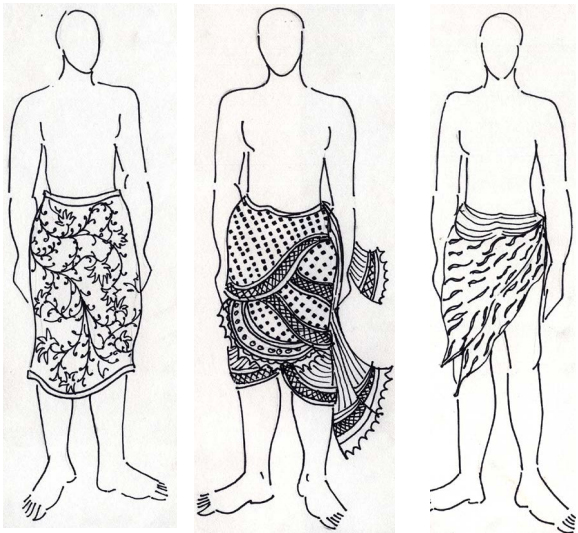
Purnoruka



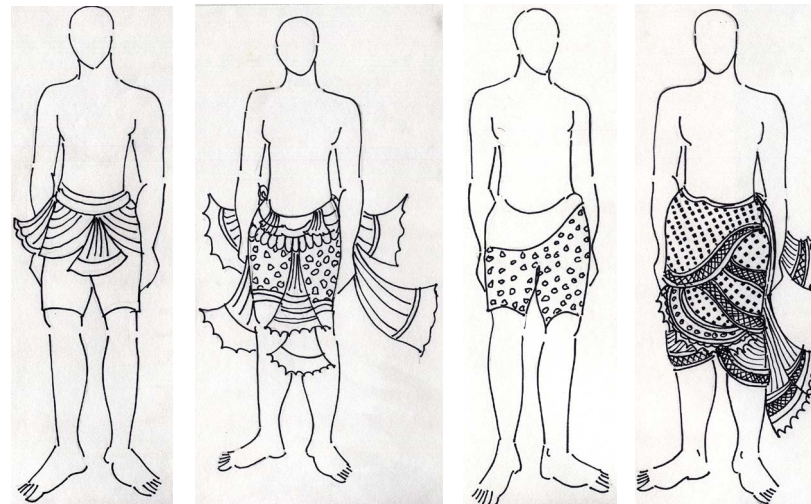
Puttagochi



Ardhoruka

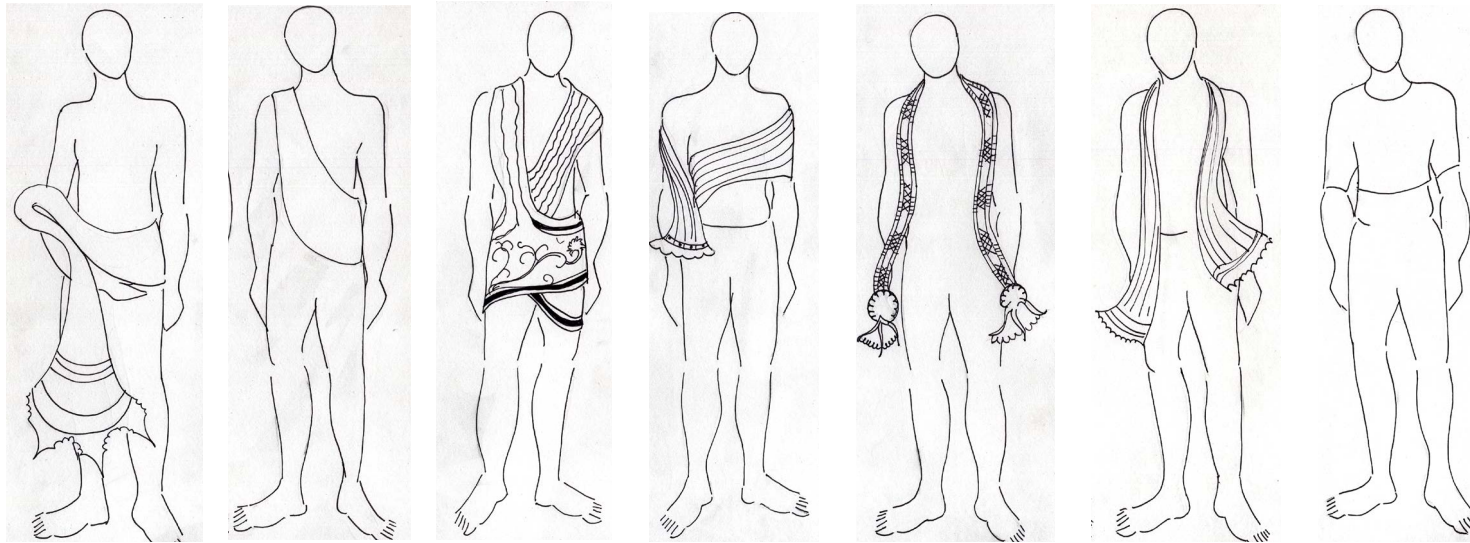


Challadamu

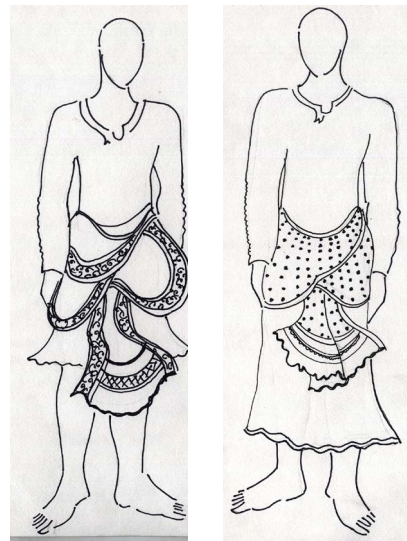


Variations of Clothing Elements for Male (Upper Body)

Uttariya

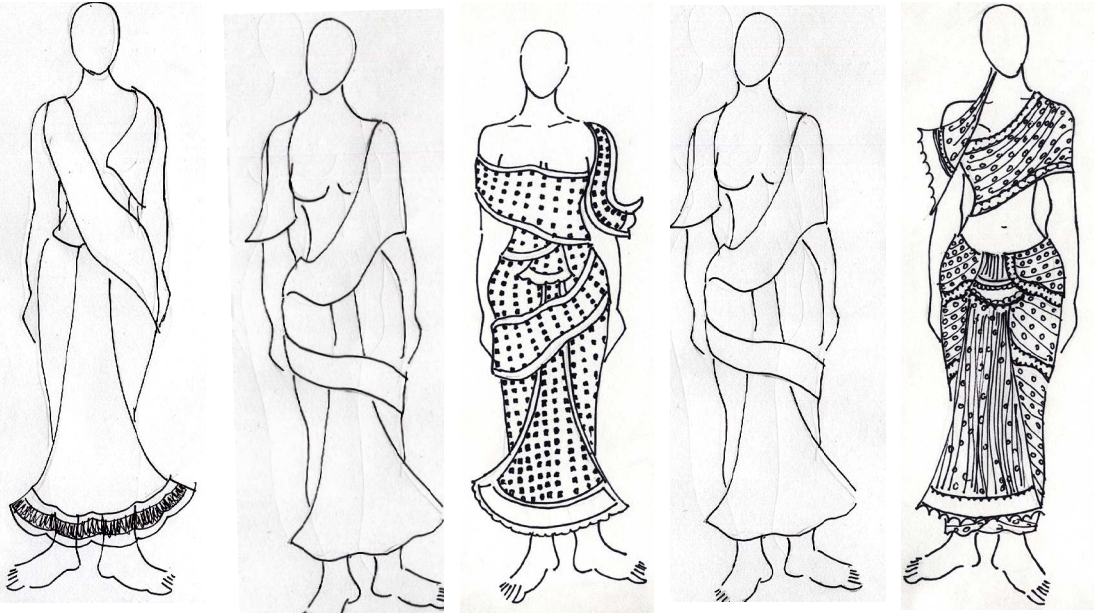


Cabaya

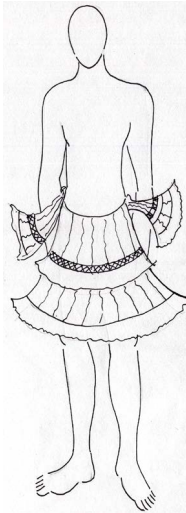


Variations of Saree for Female

Saree

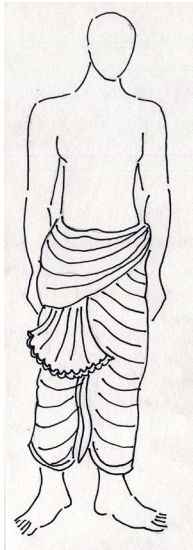


Dancing Costume



Variations of Palettes for different elements of Clothing

Purnoruka



Plain



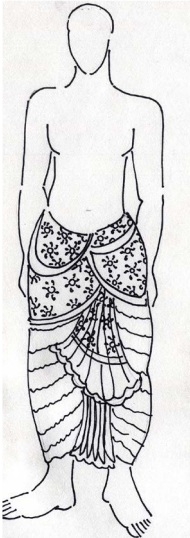
Striped



Pattern



Adhovastra



Plain



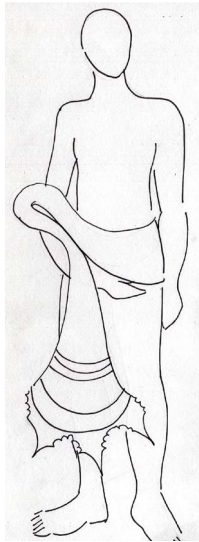
Chequered



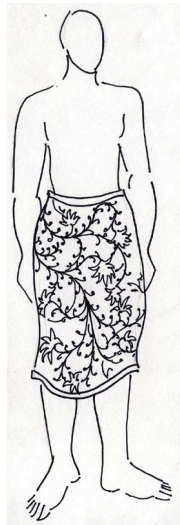
Others



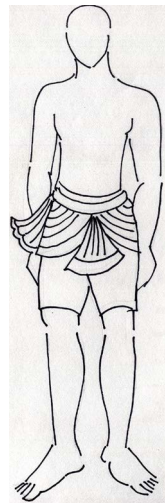
Uttariya



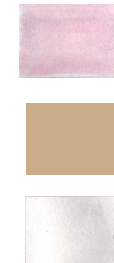
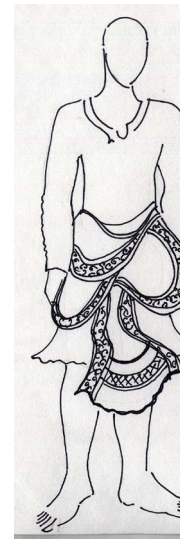
Ardhoruka



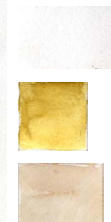
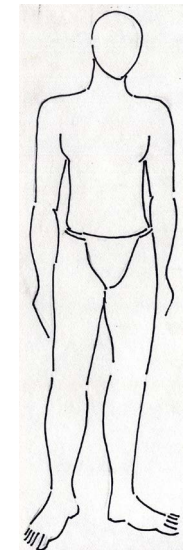
Challadamu



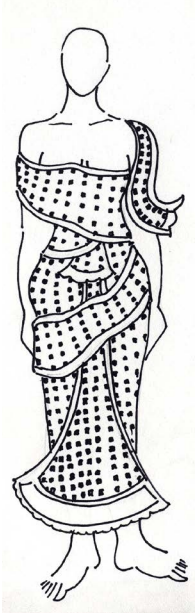
Cabaya



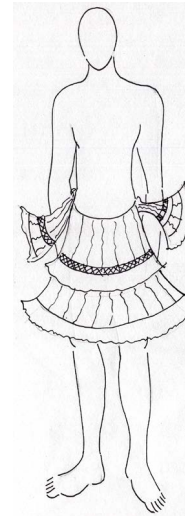
Puttagochi



Saree



Dancing Costume



Digital Hampi Lab
National Institute Of Design R&D Campus, Bangalore
2016