To mark a new Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) for preservation works at the Qutb Shahi tombs complex, the US Consulate General in Hyderabad organised a Kuchipudi dance performance at Taramati Baradari on March 1. The performance was choreographed by Lalitha Sindhuri, an alumnus of the Fulbright exchange program.

The grant, exceeding ₹ 70 lakh, awarded to the Aga Khan Foundation, will specifically go towards the restoration of the tombs and repair structural deficiencies. This is the second AFCP grant awarded to the Qutb Shahi tombs. The previous grant, awarded in 2014, supported the documentation of archaeological finds at the Qutb Shahi tombs complex.

US Consul General in Hyderabad Katherine Hadda said, “I can’t think of a better way to mark this occasion than with a performance that recreates in music and dance the lives of Taramati and Premamati, and further illustrates the unique aspects of Qutb Shahi patronage of culture and art.”

The SFCP is a US Department of State initiative. Since 2001, the programme has supported over 1,000 projects around the world. This is the third AFCP grant awarded in Hyderabad. In addition to the two AFCP projects at the Qutb Shahi tombs complex, in 2009 the programme supported restoration at the garden tomb of Mah Laqa Bai at Moula Ali.