



JOURNEY TOWARDS
WORLD HERITAGE

KAKATIYA RUDRESHWARA (RAMAPPA) TEMPLE, INDIA
THE CREST JEWEL OF KAKATIYA HERITAGE

TELANGANA INDIA



RAMAPPA TEMPLE

State Party: India

Province: Telangana State.

Name of the Property: Kakatiya Rudreshwara
(Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Mulugu
Distict, Telangana, India

Location: Latitude: N 18° 15' 32.88"
Longitude: E 79° 56' 35.54"

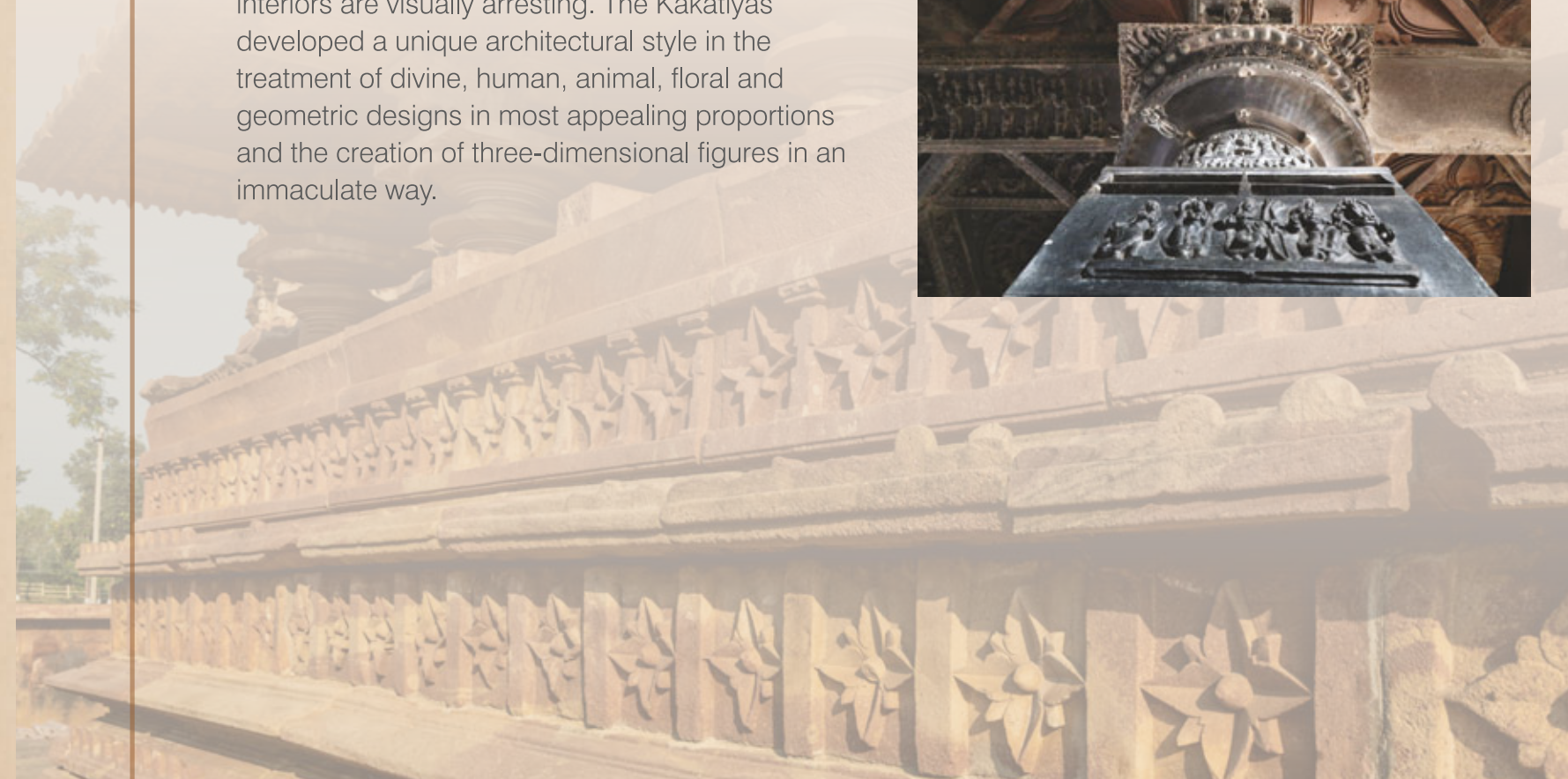
HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The Kakatiya dynasty ruled between 12th and 14th centuries over the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, parts of eastern Karnataka and southern part of Odisha with their capital at present day Warangal in Telangana. The rulers constructed irrigation tanks, towns and temples.

The Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, the Crest Jewel of Kakatiyan art and architecture, is unique as it is the lone testimony of the technological excellence and the fine technique of exquisite craftsmanship with the use of different and diverse materials. This masterpiece of Kakatiyan style of Temple architecture in existence for 800 years was ingeniously built with foundations of sandstone and the use of light-weight bricks (floating bricks), while the main structure was built with stone and bricks on roof. Unlike most temples which are dedicated to Emperors, the credit for the Rudreshwara temple is given to Recharla Rudra, the Commander-in-Chief, as he protected the kingdom and reinstalled the Emperor Ganapathi Deva who was abducted by the neighbouring Yadava kings after a war when he was a young boy.

An architectural marvel, the entire temple has been conceived with the design sensibility of focusing on one form: the Lotus, the Padma. The bracket figures adorning the exteriors of the *sabhamantapa* and the dancing figures adorning the pillars in the interiors are visually arresting. The Kakatiyas developed a unique architectural style in the treatment of divine, human, animal, floral and geometric designs in most appealing proportions and the creation of three-dimensional figures in an immaculate way.

Socio-religious and cultural notions of the times are well captured and presented by the architects. The *Nrittaratnavali*, a dance text of the 13th century contemporaneous with the Kakatiya rule, also corroborates the dances held in those times which are reflected in the Rudreshwara temple.



NOMINATION OF RUDRESHWARA TEMPLE BY INDIA

This temple, along with two others, was in the tentative list for nomination from 2014. Work for the nomination of the Rudreshwara temple as a UNESCO World Heritage site began in 2016-17 whereby a dossier was prepared for this purpose. This was a comprehensive document containing the full-fledged identification and complete description of the property, justification for inscription, state of conservation and factors affecting the property, protection and management of the property, monitoring, documentation, contact information of responsible authorities and signature of the state party. This exhaustive document includes maps, images, measured drawing plates, illustrations for criteria and tables too. The dossier was subsequently revised and resubmitted in 2018. This temple was India's nomination for 2020.

The Rudreshwara temple was nominated under three criteria:

- To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius
- To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design
- To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared



ICOMOS EXPERT'S VISIT

In September, 2019, a confirmation on the completeness of the dossier was informed by UNESCO World Heritage Centre. On behalf of advisory body ICOMOS, an ICOMOS Expert had visited for the evaluation and examination of the sites. This visit of the Expert included the evaluation of the Nominated property, interaction with the local communities, Administration and state of the site and property.

Additional Information was sought after the submission of ICOMOS expert's information to ICOMOS Evaluation unit, Paris in October 2019. This additional Information was provided on the following:

- Note on Ramappa Temple festivals
- Map of land location for Visitor infrastructure, Tourism Village at Incherla Village (10 Km from Ramappa Temple)
- Development Plan site map around Ramappa Temple

A comprehensive scholarly book by Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal on Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple titled: "Ramappa Temple: The Crest Jewel of Kakatiya Art and Architecture" was published and sent as soft copy along with additional information.

INDIA'S RESPONSE: ICOMOS MEETING IN PARIS

ICOMOS World Heritage Panel invited Government of India for presenting the case in Paris in November, 2019. The team presented the case in ICOMOS World Heritage Panel meeting on 22nd November, 2019 from 9.50am – 10 35 am (Paris Time) at the ICOMOS Headquarters.

The Convener of ICOMOS World Heritage Panel meeting asked certain questions, based on evaluation documents. These were replied by the State Party (India) in detail specific to the queries.



ICOMOS EVALUATIONS AND DEFERRAL AND INDIA'S RESPONSE

ICOMOS EVALUATIONS	INDIA'S RESPONSE
Redefine the nomination approach to include the wider context of Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple and accordingly enlarge the property boundaries and buffer zone to include the architectural and engineering structures as well as natural features which form the historic dharmic context as well as the economic and functional basis of the temple.	The nomination of the property is the representation of Kakatiya Temple Architecture for its creative genius in light weight brick making, sand box foundations and selection of material. The wider context is well protected under various departments of village administration, Irrigation, Forest, agriculture under Special Area Development Authority maintaining the cultural integrity of the dharmic context of the Kakatiya Cultural Landscape. Nomination approach is justified
Develop the comparative analysis in line with the selected nomination approach to compare the property with all other testimonies of the Kakatiya Dynasty and other dynasties in Deccan India to support its revised approach as a representation of the way Kakatiya temples were developed as part of large landscape complexes with water tanks and towns, and which fully portrays the architectural, artistic and engineering testimony of this productive dynasty.	The comparative analysis in the nomination dossier has precisely compared the Kakatiyan temple of Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple with other temples in Deccan India like the Hoysala Temples, the Chola Temples, the Group of Monuments of Pattadakal and many other national and international comparable sites to showcase the unique features of Kakatiya temple as well as the evolution of the temple form. The wider context of Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple is also compared with HWS SamborPreiKuk Archaeological and Cultural Landscape. Comparisons were made after an elaborate research and consultations by experts in Hindu Temple Architecture. State party (India)has justified the nomination approach

ICOMOS EVALUATIONS	INDIA'S RESPONSE
Revise the justification for inscription based on the most appropriate criteria and amend the title to match the revised focus of the nomination.	State party (India) strongly justifies the criteria; so, a revision in focus of the nomination is undesirable.
Provide adequate legal protection to the wider complex of Rudreshwara Temple and expand the programmed conservation approach to cover the additional architectural and engineering features, including Ramappa Lake bund, the water distribution and irrigation channels, and the smaller temples in the wider temple setting.	The Government of Telangana has initiated the process of creating a Special Development Zone (Authority) to regulate the development and to ensure any development to be in consonance with the Integrated Conservation and Management Plan(ICMP), addressing lake bund, irrigation, agriculture, forest, village infrastructure administration and the smaller temples in the setting.
Following the redefinition of boundaries , review the stipulations of the proposed special development zone in terms of their ability to protect the visual integrity of the extended temple complex.	The boundaries of the proposed property remain unchanged. The Special Development Authority which is proposed to protect, manage and maintain as per the guidelines given in the Integrated Conservation and Management Plan, has specifically considered the viewing areas and ensured that no development to take place in that area to keep the visual integrity of the property intact.
Finalize the integrated conservation and management plan as well as update the tourism development plan, to integrate risk preparedness strategies, visitor management at festive events with overcrowding, and cautious assessment criteria for approving any additional visitor infrastructure in and around the property.	The Process of finalizing the Integrated Conservation and Management Plan and Tourism plan is initiated by Government of Telangana.
Undertake Heritage Impact Assessments for any projects located near the property, in particular the development projects near the Ramappa Lake.	Heritage impact assessment is a mandatory step as part of Special Development Authority for any projects in the vicinity. This is in particular near Ramappa lake and is also included as part of ICMP considering the integrity and authenticity of the heritage precinct.
Any revised nomination should be visited by a mission to the site	As the nomination is strongly justified, visit of a mission and revision of nomination is undesirable.
ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the nomination of The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways - Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Telangana State, India, to the World Heritage List be deferred in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to	As the criteria and nomination approach stands justified State party (India) strongly urges for the Inscription of the property.



Ramappa Temple

Ramappa Tank

FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE HIGHLY SECURED AND WELL MANAGED WITH THE PROPOSED INITIATIVES

A **Special Development Area Authority (SDA)** is proposed to plan and regulate the area around the Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple in the Palampet Village. The composition of this Authority will include officials from Archaeological Survey of India (National Conservation Body) and Department of Heritage, Telangana and other State and District level officials. This team will have Experts from the field of Heritage, Urban Planning and Non-Governmental Organizations working towards the objectives of Heritage conservation and management.

Objectives set out for the Special Development Area Authority:

To make **spatial planning** of the SDA comprising heritage zone, Public Infrastructure zone, Residential zone, Agriculture Zone and Forest Zone related to the land use

To **incorporate the regulations and implement the recommendations** and general development for spatial planning designed around the temple

To undertake **Heritage Impact assessment** for any development project in the designated area.

To keep a **regular check** on the unregulated development in the SDA

Tourism development:

Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple is part of the

Warangal- Mulugu Tourism Region of Telangana State. The temple is gaining popularity since the formation of Telangana State. This requires infrastructure development for a better experience of the tourists and at the same time for the economic growth of the region. Therefore, tourism centric developments are proposed in the region. A master plan is prepared for this region demarcating the locations for visitor infrastructure by Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC) and Department of Tourism, Government of Telangana.

Integrated Conservation and Management Plan:

The Integrated Conservation and Management Plan is prepared in consultation with ASI by the Government of Telangana State. The Management plan acts as a guiding statement for future activities in and around the site with the vision of:

“A Value based, Environment Sensitive, and Sustainable development of the living temple by its local custodians by maintaining its authenticity and integrity.”



REQUEST FOR INSCRIPTION

Indian Government requests the
members of World Heritage
Committee to vote for
Inscription of the Property.



