

Kakatiya Ramappa Temple declared a World Heritage site

July 26, 2021

In news- Telangana's Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple (also known as the Ramalingeshwara or Ramappa Temple) has been given a world heritage site tag by UNESCO. The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, held in Fuzhou, China.

Key updates-

- The temple is located in Palmapet in Mulugu.
- The temple was **constructed in 1213 AD** during the **reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recharla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.**
- The **presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.**
- It is also **known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work** in the temple for 40 years.
- It is the only temple that has been named after its sculptor.
- The temple stands on a **6 feet high star-shaped platform** with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiyan sculptors.
- The **distinct style of Kakatias for the gateways to temple complexes,** unique only to this region, confirm the highly evolved proportions of aesthetics in temple and town gateways in South India.
- One of the European travelers had remarked that the temple was the **"brightest star in the galaxy of medieval temples of the Deccan"**.
- It was proposed by the Indian government as its only

nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019.

- Now the temple has become the **39th site in India to gain the prestigious tag.**
- While Norway opposed the inscription being given to the Ramappa temple, Russia and many other countries backed India for the heritage tag.

About Kakatiya dynasty-

- The Kakatiya dynasty was a South Indian dynasty that ruled most of eastern Deccan region comprising present day **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of eastern Karnataka and southern Odisha** between 12th and 14th centuries.
- Their **capital was Orugallu, now known as Warangal.**
- Early Kakatiya rulers served as **feudatories to Rashtrakutas and Western Chalukyas** for more than two centuries.
- They assumed sovereignty under **Prataparudra I in 1163 CE** by suppressing other Chalukya subordinates in the Telangana region.
- **Ganapati Deva (1199–1262)** significantly expanded Kakatiya lands during the 1230s and brought under Kakatiya control the Telugu-speaking lowland delta areas around the Godavari and Krishna rivers.
- Ganapati Deva was succeeded by **Rudrama Devi (1262–1289)** and is one of the few queens in Indian history.
- Marco Polo, who visited India in 1289–1293, made note of Rudrama Devi's rule and nature in flattering terms.
- She successfully repelled the attacks of Yadavas (Seuna) of Devagiri into the Kakatiyan territory.
- In 1303, **Alauddin Khilji**, the emperor of the Delhi Sultanate invaded the Kakatiya territory which ended up as a disaster for the Turks.
- Another attack by **Ulugh Khan in 1323** saw stiff resistance by the Kakatiya army, but they were finally

defeated.

- The Kakatiya era also saw the development of a distinct style of architecture and notable examples are the Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanamkonda, Ramappa Temple in Palampet, Warangal Fort, and Kota Gullu in Ghanpur.
- Much of the information about the Kakatiya period comes from inscriptions, including around 1,000 stone inscriptions, and 12 copper-plate inscriptions.

A 1978 **book written by P.V.P. Sastry on the history of the Kakatias**, published by the Government of Andhra Pradesh also constitutes one of the sources.

More

information- <https://journalsofindia.com/38-unesco-world-heritage-sites-in-india/>