



INTACH

## HRIDAY CITY- WARANGAL

### HRIDAY Scheme...

#### HRIDAY - National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana

It is a scheme for conserving and preserving the heritage of 12 cities. These are: Amritsar, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Ajmer, Mathura, Dwarka, Badami, Velankanni, Kanchipuram, Warangal (Telangana) and Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh). It aims at developing tourism and job creation in these cities rich in cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage.



Warangal is a city in south-eastern India and the administrative headquarters of Warangal district in the state of Telangana. The 11th-14th century inscriptions and literature refers Warangal as Omtikonda or Orugallu or Oruganti or Ekashila Nagaram, because of its presence to a monolithic hillock and was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty from



1195 CE until that ruling family was defeated by the Delhi Sultanate in 1323. The city was then renamed as Sultanpur. This area was continuously ruled by Sathavahanas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Kakatiyas, Bahamanies, and others. After the fall of Bahamani Kingdom, Warangal fell to the "Qutab Shahis" of Golkonda and thereafter it has come under the sway of Nizam's dominions. The city has a rich cultural heritage and attracts thousands of visitors every year. It has beautiful lakes, forts, architectural monuments, wild life sanctuary, musical garden, rock garden, Vana Vigyana Kendra, Regional Science Centre, a fine blend of new and old. The city's built heritage includes Warangal Fort (an impressive fort constructed in 13th century by Kakatiyas and famous for its beautiful carved four 'Kirthi Stambhas"; Thousand Pillar Temple; Bhadra Kali Temple and lake (Ramappa Lake, Pakhal Lake and Lakhnavaram lake); Siddeshwara temple (built in 3rd century), Kush mahal (built in indo-Saracenic style); 2,000-year-old Jain temple of Mahavira and many other magnificent structures.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The entire city was carved in a single rock, hence the name Ekasilanagaram in Sanskrit

### DID YOU KNOW?

Warangal hosts Asia's second biggest grain market located in Enamamula

## Built Heritage of Warangal...

- **Warangal fort-** The existing fortifications consist of two moats, one outer and the other inner, 2 rampart walls-mud and stone, 8 gateways 4 in each and a number of bastions, interspersed at regular intervals of distance all along the walls. Tradition says that the credit of building the fort to Queen Rudramadevi, who is said to have built the outer mud Fort called Bhunikota and the inner stone Fort called Kalukota. According to contemporary works like Pratapacharita, the foundations of the city of Warangal were laid in 909. There is a wide and deep moat, which encircles the mud rampart. The moat is described as Parikha in Kridabhiramam. After the moat, within 4-5mts distance from the inner side, stands the high mud rampart described as Prakara, which almost touches the sky.

- **GATEWAYS OF MUD RAMPART**

We have only four gateways in the mud rampart. These are known locally as Peddamma gate in the east, Talla Gandi gate in the south, Talupula bhavi Gndi or Karim shahid gate in the west and Lakshmiapur gate in the north. These gateways appear to be later additions,



being typically Muslim in design and construction built of dressed blocks of stone. A detailed study of north and south gates will tell us that they belong to a uniform type and design, whereas those on the east and west are of similar shape.

- **STONE FORT**

The stone fort of Warangal is massive, built of crude and irregular blocks of black granite measuring about 3mts. long and 80cms high.

There are four gateways in the middle of four cardinal directions, corresponding to the four principle Gavanis of Pratapacharita and a number of bastions i.e Kottalamulu. One important feature of the stone fort is the method of its construction i.e, piling up stones one above the other in horizontal and vertical orders alternatively, so as to balance the enormous.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The thousand pillar temple is in the shape of the star and contains three shrines dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu and Surya.

### • BASTIONS OF WARANGAL

Bastions or towers locally known as Kottalamulare are an important feature of Warangal Fort numbering about 46 in all. In the middle of all these bastions, stands a high turret or watch tower, square in shape and provided with a stair case of steps.



### • OTHER STRUCTURES OF WARANGAL FORT

Among the structures situated in the fort area, the most important is Ekasila or lane rock, standing in the south-eastern quadrant, on the left of the road. A few yards away from the Ekasila, towards south, are the temples of Jangamayya gudi and Masjid on the road side. Facing it, near the centre of the city in the northern quadrant, are four torana gateways facing the four cardinal directions; having in their midst a large mass of ruined temple said to be of Svayambhudeva. Facing the Torana gate in the south, by the road side, is the Sambhuni gudi. It consists of a raised mantapa and open porch, with a Chaturmukha linga in the garbha griha. Beside the Sambhuni gudi on the south, is an oblong building with two rooms and a pillared verandah in front. Near the centre of the city, after Sambhunigudi, lies the Kush Mahal in the southern quadrant, on the way to the west gate. Some other interesting structures include the Mandu Giddangi, the magazine and Varahala kottam or treasury.

- **Temples-** The group of temples and temple complex related structures in Warangal of Kakatiyan empire, signify a distinct architectural pattern, style and technology of the period and representative of the distinct regional style, exhibiting innovation in temple building tradition and establishment of a prominent temple of Ramappa during 1213 AD by General Recherla Rudra, during the period of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva.



Remains of Ramappa Temple

The representative temples and temple complexes include Archaeological remains of Swayambhu temple and Keerthi Thoranas at Warangal fort, Rudreswara Temple, locally known as Veyi Sthambala Gudi (Thousand pillars temple) at Hanumakonda and Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple, which is located about 65 km from Warangal.

- **THOUSAND PILLAR TEMPLE**

It was built in 1163 A.D by King Rudradeva of Kakatiya dynasty and the deity is Rudreshwara Swamy, a form of Lord Shiva. The temple came to be known as Thousand Pillar because of



the 1,000 pillars in the structures both small and big, intricately carved pillars of different sizes. The combination of the three shines of the temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Surya is known as Trikotalayam. Very recently, sound and light show was introduced in the complex. Today there are around 300 pillars.

- **SRI BHADRAKALI DEVASTHANAM**- The Diety Bhadrakali is believed to be worshipped by the Historic ruler pulakesin-II of Chalukya Dynasty in the year 625 A.D. The minister of Kakatiya Ganapathy Deva namely 'Hari' has constructed the tank and road to the temple.



- **SRI SWAYAMBU TEMPLE**- It is a historic temple in which Lord Swayambhu was worshipped by the famous Kakatiya Ruler 'Prataparudra' every day during his life time. The presiding Diety is Lord Siva called as swayambhu (Lieterally means self incarnated

God)

- **RAMAPPA TEMPLE, PALAMPET**- The temple is built in the year 1213 A.D. by 'Recheria Rudraiah'. The sculptures were encraved according to the postures mentioned by Jayapa Senani in his famous work 'Nruthya Ratnavali'.



The postures pertaining to Bharata Natya, Shrunga, Bharunga, Rathi, Perini Nritya etc., are encraved on the pillars and top-beams of 'Mukha Mandapam', The mythological episodes such as 'Gopika Vastrapaharanam, Tripura samharm, Daksha Samharam.

Madhanam, Girija Kalyanam etc., stand for the highest standards of Kakatiya Sculpture.

- **Churches**



**FATIMA CHURCH-** Fatima Church at Fathimanagar in Kazipet is a unique Roman Catholic Church and is famous in Telegana Region. Many devotees from all over A.P in thousands visit the church to venerate Mary Matha and participate in festival celebration in the month of February every year

## **Natural Heritage of Warangal...**

### **Lakes of Warangal**

- **Ramappa Lake-** Ramappa Lake is a magnificent example of irrigation work of Kakatiya rulers constructed in 13- century A.D. during Ganapathi dava's time. Its water is spread over an area of more than 82sq.kms with lush greenery all around. The lake is over looked by beautiful hill ranges in the background providing a spectacular view especially at sunset time.



- **Pakhal Lake-** Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary is located 50 Km from Warangal, along the shoreline of Pakhal Lake and is named after it. It is a manmade lake, excavated in 1213 AD by the Kakatiyas. The sanctuary is spread over 880 sq.km.

- **Lakhanvaram Lake-** Lakhanvaram Lake is famous for a scenic beauty. It was formed by closing three narrow valleys each with a short bund, with hills being its natural barrier. Constructed by the Kakatiyas in 13th Century A.D, the lake offers irrigation facility of about 4500 hectres

## Warangal Wildlife

**Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary-** Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary is a manmade lake, completed in 1213 AD by the Kakatiyas. The sanctuary is spread over 860-sq-km consisting of a large plateau surrounded by low hills. The vegetation consists of tropical dry deciduous mixed forests, bamboo and mixed teak forests. Its natural scenic beauty and landscape is extremely beautiful and capturing, which makes this place worth visiting.



### ACTIVITY

#### 1. QUIZ CORNER

- a) This is the only courtly building to survive which is attributed to Sitab Khan, alias Sitapati a Hindu chief, and Governor of Warangal under the Bahmanis in the early sixteenth century. It is also the only royal palace in Warangal, though not belonging to the Kakatiya kings. Answer this.
- b) This temple was built in 625, c.e, by king Pulakesi II of the Chalukya dynasty. This has a stone image of a Goddess with eight hands holding eight weapons. Name this temple.
- c) This lake was formed by closing three narrow valleys each with a short bund, with hills being its natural barrier. Now this lake exists in isolated surroundings and is approachable by a metal road. Name this lake.
- d) An Environment Education Centre has also been setup for educating public about the nature and includes a small library, a museum and an auditorium in Warangal. The city provides an excellent example of protection of wildlife and to endangered species through innovating ideas. As a growing citizen of India, what can you do to the society to protect the endangered species. Share your opinion here-

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#### Sources

1. Forts of Andhra Pradesh (from the earliest times upto 16th c.A.D.) by Dr. N.S Ramachandra Murthy
2. <http://hridayindia.in/warangal/>
3. [http://www.warangalcity.in/home\\_wginfo.html](http://www.warangalcity.in/home_wginfo.html)