



ANDHRA PRADESH  
TOURISM AUTHORITY

# MAGNIFICENT TEMPLES

## OF ANDHRA PRADESH





# A sacred spiritual legacy

If spirituality is a journey, Andhra Pradesh is the ideal place to find it.

The state is proud to be home to a plethora of beautiful temples, including the world's richest and most popular temple of Lord Venkateswara at Tirupati. The architecture and beauty of temples like Srisailam, Mahanandi, Ramappa and Kalahasti are sights to behold. Come, find peace of mind in Andhra Pradesh.

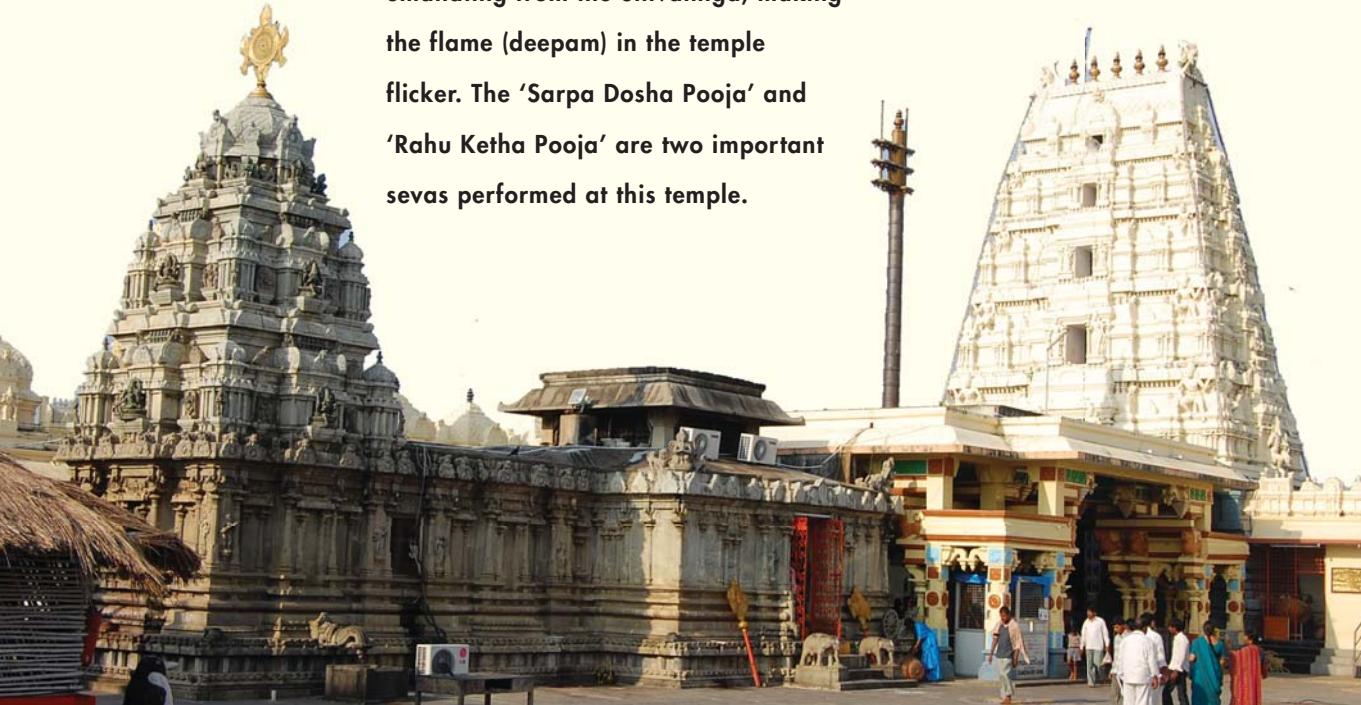
# Tirupati



Nestled among high Eastern Ghats, the Lord Venkateswara Temple, Tirumala is one of the oldest, richest and most famous temples in the world. Millions of devotees make the pilgrimage up the hills to the temple every year. It is a magnificent example of fine Indian temple architecture. The Vimana over the sanctum sanctorum and the Dhwajasthambam (temple flag-post) are plated with gold.

# Srikalahasti

The Temple of Vayulinga is almost 40 kms from Tirupati. In this Shiva temple, air is said to be constantly emanating from the Shivalinga, making the flame (deepam) in the temple flicker. The 'Sarpa Dosha Pooja' and 'Rahu Ketha Pooja' are two important sevas performed at this temple.



## Kanipakam

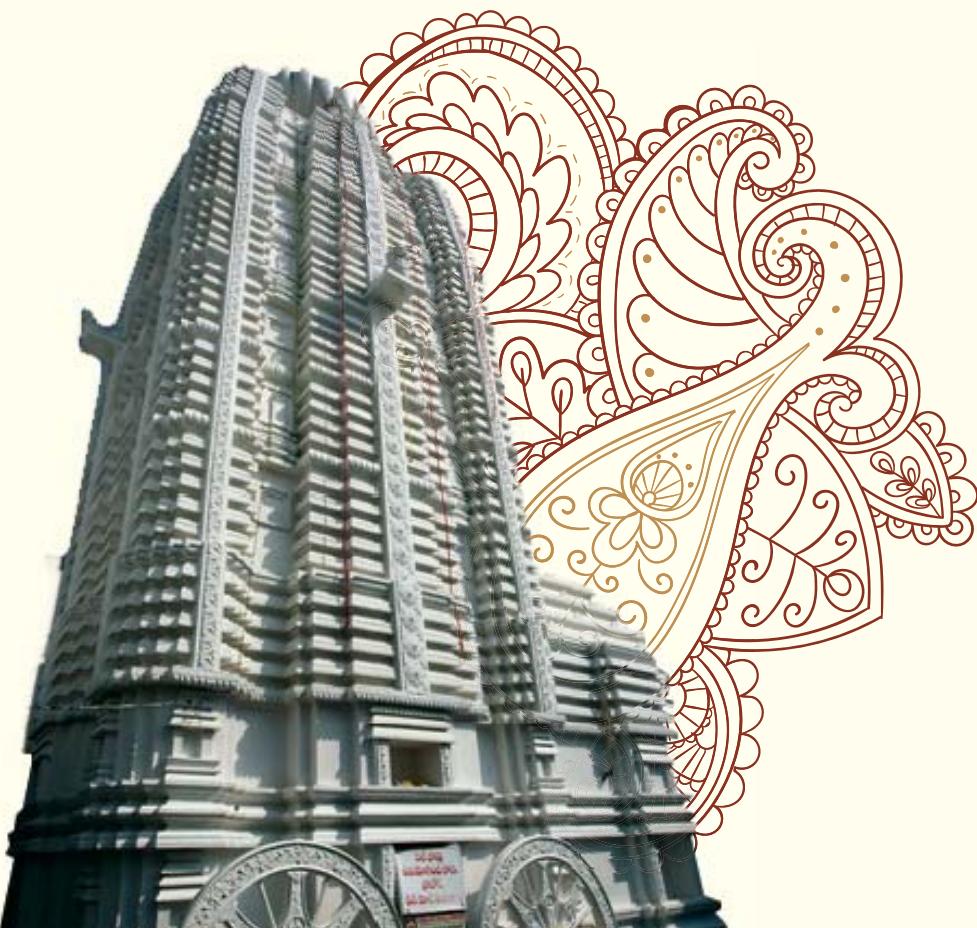
The Kanipakam Temple of Lord Ganesha was constructed in the 11th century by King Kulottunga of the Chola Dynasty, near Tirupati. The idol of the deity here is believed to be eternally growing in size, and the silver 'Kavacham' that was made fifty years ago has become too small to adorn the deity now.





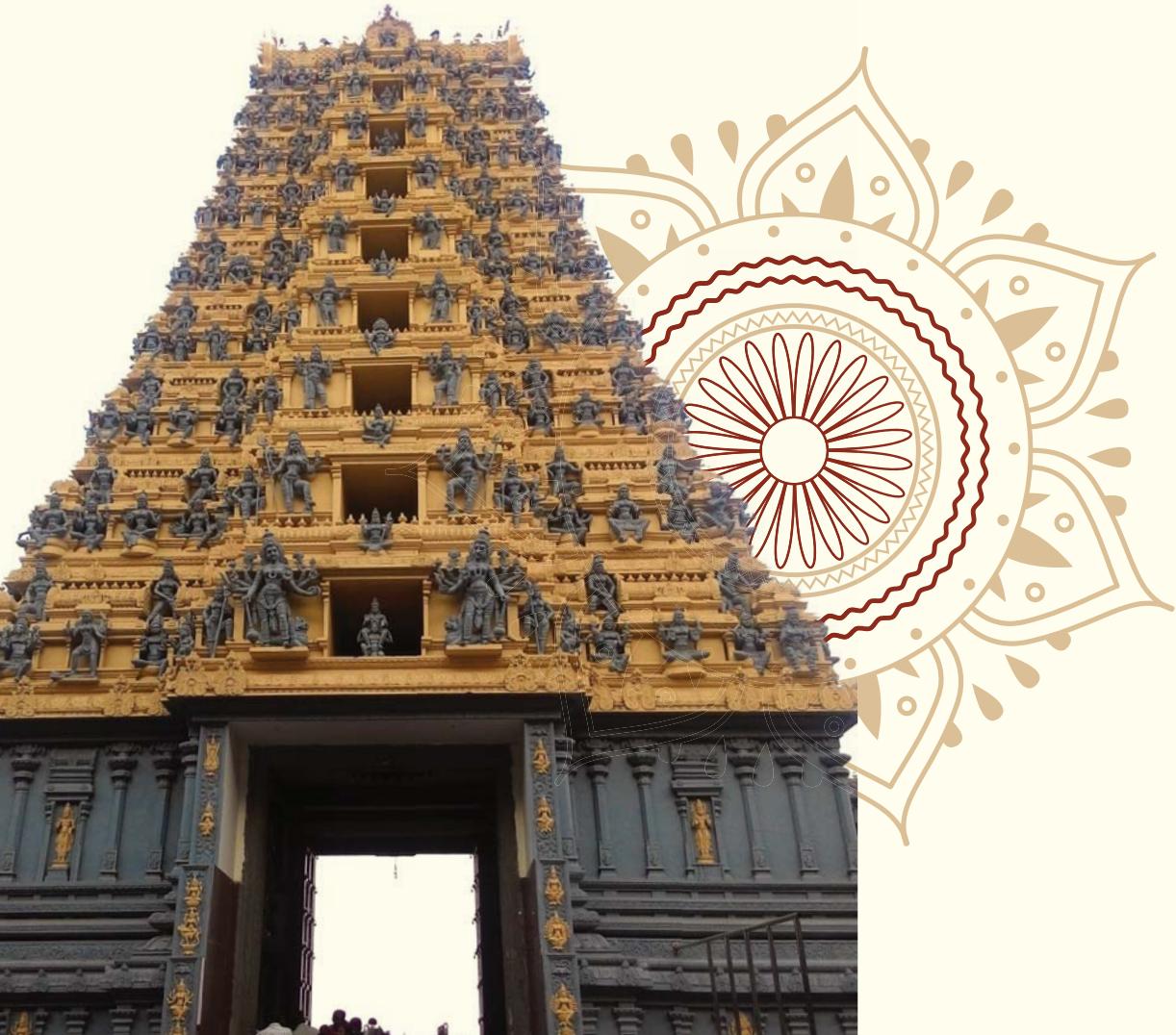
# Arasavalli Sun Temple

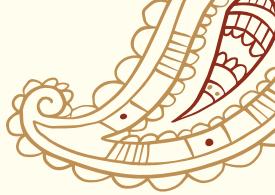
The Arasavalli Temple has been built in such a way, that twice a year (once in October and once in March), the first rays of the sun seep through invisible holes to shower Lord Suryanarayana's feet with crimson light. The rays gradually move up his body and once his whole body is drenched with amber hues, the rays recede within minutes.



# Kanaka Durga

On a hill at the entrance to the city of Vijayawada lies the famous temple of Goddess Kanaka Durga. Devotees throng the temple every Friday to dress the Goddess in silken finery and jewellery. The festival of Durgashtami is celebrated with great grandeur at this temple every year. It is a tradition to offer saris to the Goddess if the devotee's wishes come true.





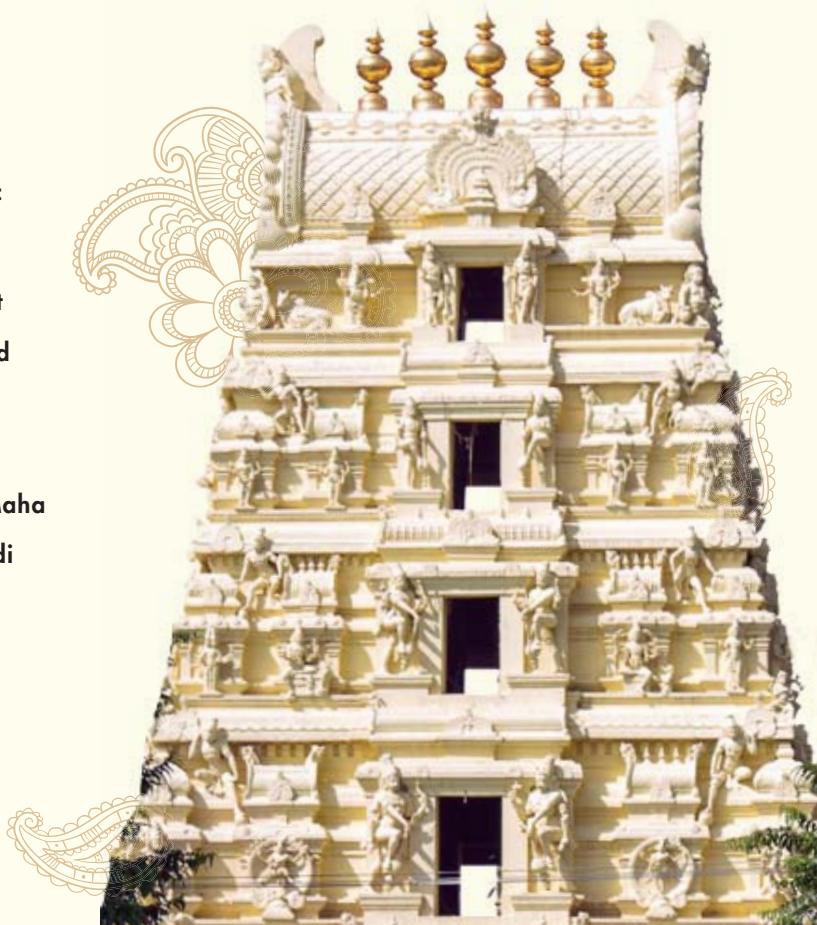
## Ahobilam



Ahobilam is a sacred destination with several shrines dedicated to Lord Narasimha. Situated in the Kurnool District, the temple is devoted to all nine forms of the deity (Nav Narasimhas). The roads to some of these temples pass through dense forests with scenic glades and waterfalls.

## Srisailam

Srisailam is a pilgrimage destination of supreme significance. Set atop the picturesque Srigiri Hill, this magnificent temple of Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Bhramarambha Devi are situated in a temple complex surrounded by lush greenery. Important festivals such as Maha Sivaratri, Makara Sankranthi and Ugadi are celebrated here.





# Dwaraka Tirumala

Dwaraka Tirumala, also known as 'Chinna Tirupati' is a pilgrimage centre named after the great Saint Dwaraka, who discovered the self manifested (swayambhu) idol of Lord Venkateshwara in an anthill. This temple, located on a hillock, is considered particularly sacred as it lies between the holy rivers Krishna and Godavari, where they are nearing their meeting with the sea. A visit to Chinna Tirupati is both physically and spiritually relaxing and soul satisfying.

The Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Temple is central to Dwaraka Tirumala and the town radiates from this sacred core.

# Pattiseema

Pattiseema is a unique stopover for tourists, because of its legendary history. The famous temple of Sri Veerabhadra is picturesquely located on a hillock in the middle of the River Godavari. Legend has it that Lord Veerabhadra was born here, out of a lock of Lord Shiva's hair. The temple is considered as Dakshina Kashi.



# Srikurmam

Lying 13 km east of Srikakulam, this temple is dedicated to Sri Kurmanatha, the second avatar of Lord Vishnu. Built in 1281 AD, the temple has 108 unique single-stone pillars bearing inscriptions.



# Antarvedi

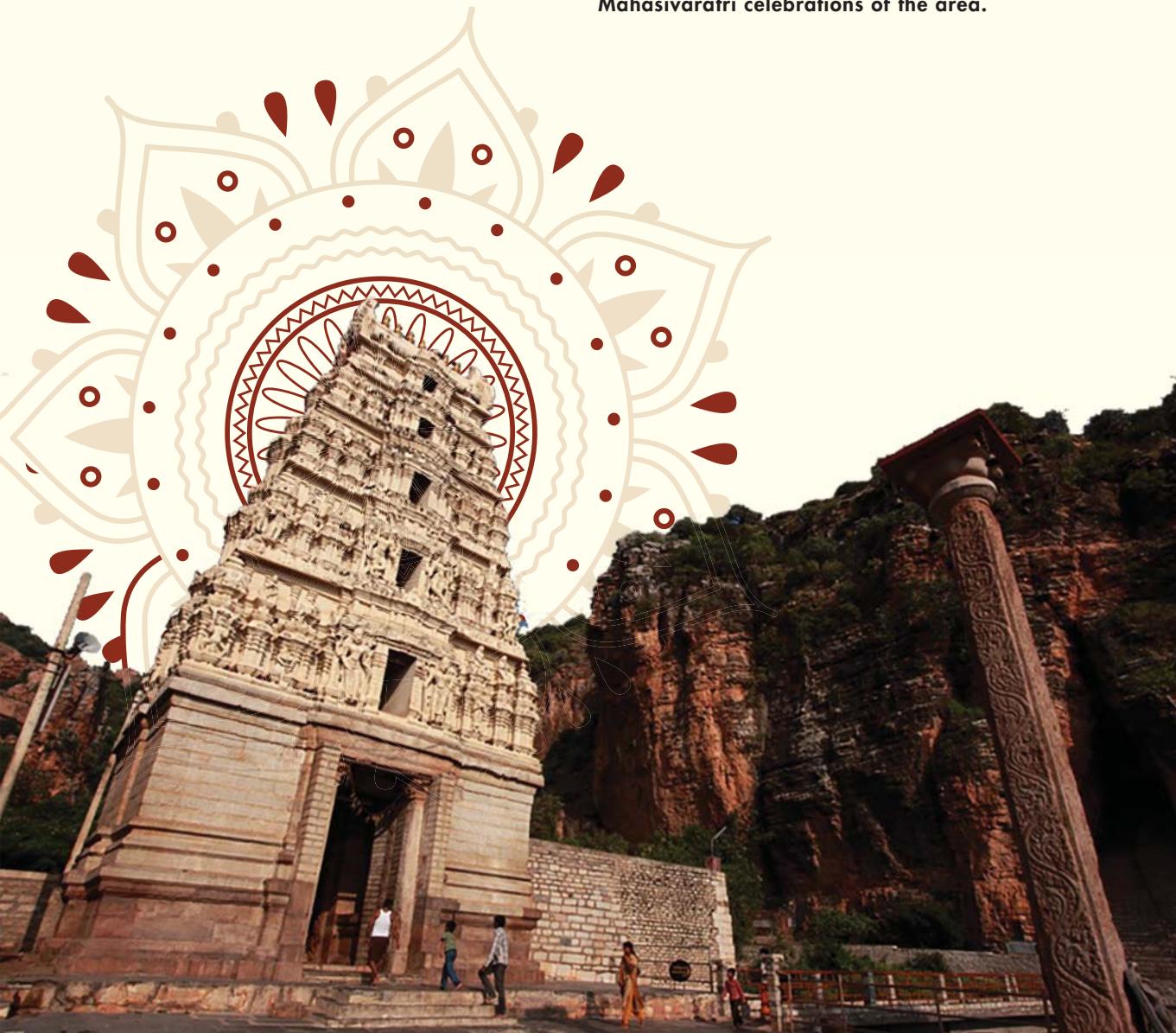
Located at the point where River Vasishta joins the sea, Antarvedi is believed to be the spot where Maharshi Vasishta is believed to have brought the Godavari River. Nestled amidst lush greenery, Antarvedi is famous for the Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple built during the 15th and 16th centuries AD.





# Yaganti

Yaganti is one of the state's most important and naturally beautiful pilgrimage destinations. Situated amidst caves and waterfalls, it is home to the temple of Umamaheswara, popularly known as Yagantiswami. The most striking feature of the temple is the huge 8 ft high statue of Nandi. Thousands throng the annual Mahasivaratri celebrations of the area.



# Annaram



Situated on the banks of the river Pampa, around 108 km from Vizag, the Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Temple is one of the most popular temples in north coastal Andhra. The temple resembles a chariot on four wheels. It is believed that one's wishes would come true by performing a vrata (fasting) at this temple. An estimated one lakh "vratams" are performed at the temple every year.



# Simhachalam



One of the 'richest' deities of the region is Sri Varaha Lakshminarasimha Swamy, the lion-headed avatar of Lord Vishnu, whose temple stands atop the verdant Simhachalam Hill. The deity is constantly covered with sandalwood paste, except during the Chandanotsavam in April-May, when devotees can have a glimpse of the deity in all its majesty.



# Ramanarayananam

Situated 35 km from Vizag, this sprawling temple is built in the shape of a bow and arrow. Spread over 20 acres, the temple took nearly a decade to build, and features the entire story of the Ramayana told through 3D sculptures.



# Srimukhalingam

The Srimukhalingam Temple is a Shiva temple built in the 8th century AD. Housing three temples in one compound, the entire structure is a testament to the architectural brilliance of the Kalinga kings.



# Puspagiri



The Puspagiri Temple Complex is situated in the Cudappah District on the banks of the Pinakini River. The temple is said to be mentioned in ancient texts like the Ramayana, and is popular because of its brilliant ancient architecture.





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