

CLASS 5 TRIP TO WARANGAL: A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY, CULTURE AND NATURE

On 2nd October 2024, the students of Class 5 embarked on an exciting educational trip to Warangal, a historic city in Telangana, known for its ancient temples, scenic beauty, and rich cultural heritage. This trip aimed to give the students an opportunity to explore history and nature while learning outside the classroom. The major highlights of the trip included visits to **Ramappa Temple**, **Laknavaram Lake**, **Thousand Pillars Temple**, **Warangal Fort**, and **Swarnagiri Temple**.



1. Ramappa Temple – A Marvel of Kakatiya Architecture

Our first stop was the **Ramappa Temple**, also known as Ramalingeswara Temple. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for its exquisite Kakatiya architecture, built in the 13th century by the Kakatiya rulers. The students were fascinated by the intricately carved sculptures and the floating bricks used in the construction of the temple, which were explained by our guide. The temple dedicated to Lord Shiva stands as a testament to the exceptional craftsmanship of the Kakatiya dynasty. The students learned how the temple was constructed over a span of 40 years, making it one of the most remarkable temples in South India.



2. Laknavaram Lake – A Scenic Escape

Our next destination was the serene **Laknavaram Lake**, a perfect spot for the students to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. The lake, surrounded by lush greenery and dotted with small islands. The highlight for the students was walking on the suspension bridge that connects the islands. They also had a chance to appreciate the flora and fauna of the region. This part of the trip allowed the students to bond with each other while enjoying the scenic beauty of the lake.

In the evening, we headed to hotel, children had fun with camp fire and Bathukamma celebrations there.



3. Thousand Pillars Temple – A Symbol of Grandeur

On the next day, 3rd October 2024, we headed to the **Thousand Pillars Temple**, located in Hanamakonda. The students were in awe of the architectural wonder that this temple is. Built by the Kakatiya's in the 12th century, this temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya (Sun God). Though the name suggests a thousand pillars, the students learned that it is not the exact number but the stunning intricate carvings and geometrically aligned pillars that give it its unique name. The students observed the star-shaped architecture of the temple and the Nandi sculpture, which is carved out of a single stone. This visit gave the students a deeper understanding of ancient Indian architecture and art.



4. Badrakali Temple – A Divine Experience

Our visit to the **Badrakali Temple** was a spiritually enriching experience for the students. Located on the banks of the Badrakali Lake, the temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali, a fierce form of the Mother Goddess. The students were mesmerized by the large stone idol of Goddess Badrakali adorned with jewels and flowers. They learned about the religious significance of the temple, which dates back to the Chalukya dynasty, and its importance in the cultural heritage of Warangal. The peaceful surroundings and the temple's history left a lasting impression on the students.



4. Warangal Fort – A Journey into History

The **Warangal Fort**, one of the most prominent structures built by the Kakatiya dynasty, was an exciting stop for the students. The fort is known for its impressive stone gateways, or "Kakatiya Kala Thoranam", which are symbolic of Telangana's state emblem. As we explored the ruins, the students were captivated by the stories of battles and the fort's significance in

medieval India. The guide explained how the fort was an important stronghold of the Kakatiya kingdom and provided a glimpse into the lifestyle and culture of the time. The experience allowed the students to connect with the historical legacy of Warangal.

Kushi Mahal and *Ekashila Children's park* were also visited which are within the Warangal Fort premises.



5. Swarnagiri Temple – A Spiritual End to the Trip

The last stop on our journey was the **Swarnagiri Temple**, situated on a hilltop. The students enjoyed the short hike up the hill, which offered a panoramic view of the surrounding areas. The temple, dedicated to Lord Balaji, provided a serene and spiritual atmosphere for reflection at the end of a long and enriching day. The calmness of the place gave the students an opportunity to unwind and appreciate the spiritual side of their journey.



The trip to Warangal was a memorable experience for the Class 5 students. It provided a perfect blend of history, culture, and nature. The visit to these various landmarks not only enhanced the students' knowledge of Telangana's heritage but also gave them an appreciation for art, architecture, and the importance of preserving cultural treasures. The students returned home with a sense of accomplishment, having learned more about their history and environment while bonding with their classmates.