



GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE TEKKALI

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

FIELD TRIP



26 MARCH - 2026



VISIT PLACES

SRIMUKALINGAM TEMPLE

Kurma Vedic village

Principal
PRINCIPAL

Govt. Degree College
TEKKALI-532 203

Srimukhalingam Temple – History and Importance

The Srimukhalingam Temple in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, is a 9th-century CE architectural marvel built by the Eastern Ganga Dynasty on the banks of the Vamsadhara River. Dedicated to Lord Shiva (Srimukha Lingeswara), it is famously known as Dakshina Kaasi and features three distinct temple complexes: Madhukeshwara, Someswara, and Bheemeswara.

1. Introduction to Srimukhalingam

Srimukhalingam is a small village situated in the Jalumuru mandal of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh. It lies on the left bank of the Vamsadhara River and is historically significant, having served as the capital of the early Eastern Ganga dynasty, known as Kalinganagaram.

2. Significance as Dakshina Kaasi

The temple is widely referred to as *Dakshina Kaasi* (Kashi of the South) and is considered one of the most sacred Shaivite pilgrimage sites. It is believed that visiting this temple and taking a dip in the Vamsadhara River relieves pilgrims of the cycle of rebirth.

3. Historical Origins and Construction

- **Built in the 9th Century:** The temple was constructed in the 9th century CE by the kings of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- **Key Builder:** Historical sources attribute the construction, specifically of the Madhukeshwara temple, to King Kamarnava II of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- **Duration:** The temple complex was developed over a period from the late 8th century to the early 11th century CE.

4. The Deity - Sri Madhukeshwara

- **The Faceless Linga:** The main deity is SrimukhaLingeswara, a form of Lord Shiva. The shivalinga is unique because it features a facial representation (mukha) of Shiva, unlike typical lingas.
- **Origin Story:** The Lord is often called Sri Madhukeshwara Swamy because it is believed the idol self-manifested from a Madhuka tree.

5. Architectural Style and Design

- **Kalinga Architecture:** The temple is a premier example of the Kalinga architectural style, characterized by intricate stone carvings.

- **Features:** It features magnificent stone pillars, detailed mandapas (porches), and tall vimanas (spires).
- **Renovations:** Although early construction was in the 8th/9th century, the Maharaja of Paralakhemundi Estate undertook renovation work in the 17th century.

6. The Temple Trinity (Three Temples)

The Srimukhalingam site is notable for housing a trio of major temples, all representing exceptional craftsmanship:

- **Madhukeshwara Temple:** The largest and oldest, housing the main deity.
- **Someswara Temple:** Known for its precise geometric carvings.
- **Bhimeswara Temple:** Located in the eastern part of the village.

7. Cultural and Religious Importance

- **PanchalingaKshetram:** Srimukhalingam is revered as one of the PanchalingaKshetrams (five sacred Shiva temples).
- **Chakratirtha Snana:** A major festival, the Chakratirtha Snana, draws lakhs of pilgrims annually from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to take a holy dip.

8. Geographical Location and Access

- **Location:** The temple is about 48 km from Srikakulam town.
- **Access:** It is easily accessible via road, often through Srikakulam or Paralakhemundi.
- **Nearest Railhead:** The nearest railway station is at Urlam, roughly 21 km away.



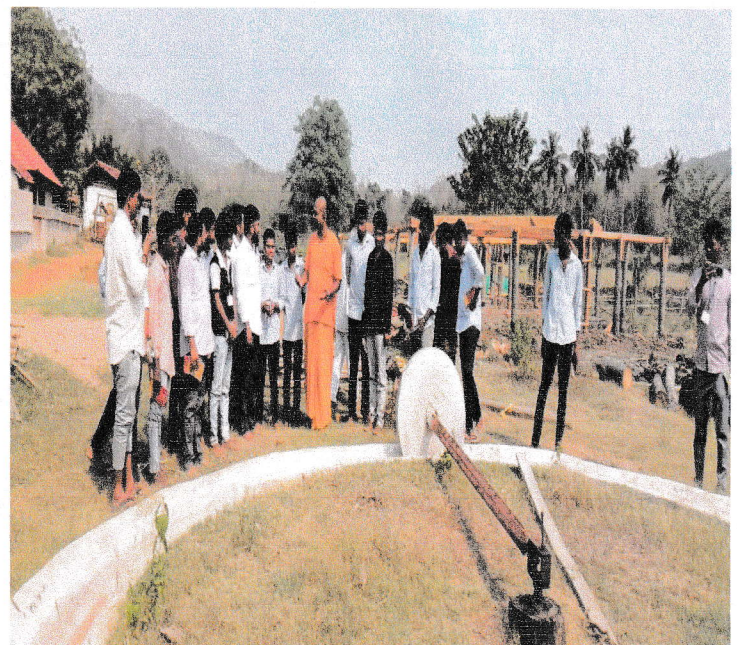
Kurmagramvedic village

Kurmagram is a modern, 60-acre Vedic farm community in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, established in 2018 by the Nanda Gokulam Goshala Trust. Dedicated to traditional, self-sufficient living, residents shun modern amenities like electricity, cement, and machinery, focusing on organic farming, cow protection, and Vedic education inspired by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Historical and Cultural Aspects of Kurmagram:

- **Establishment & Philosophy:** Founded in 2018 to showcase an eco-friendly, traditional lifestyle, it emphasizes living simply without electricity, using natural materials like cow dung for construction.
- **Lifestyle:** Residents live without modern amenities, weaving their own clothes and practicing organic, self-sustained farming.
- **Location:** Situated near the 9th-century Srimukhalingam temple.
- **Core Values:** The community operates under a "simple living, high thinking" philosophy, focusing on cow protection (Goshala) and Vedic learning (Gurukulam).
- **Activities:** The village houses roughly 80 residents who start their day at 3:30 a.m. for worship and engage in agriculture, producing their own food and natural products.
- **Recent Events:** The community recently suffered a devastating fire, as reported in June 2025.

Note: This Kurmagram is a specifically established Vedic community founded in 2018, distinct from the historic Srikurmam temple town in the same district, although both are influenced by Vaishnava traditions



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