

Draksharamam Temple

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Why in News?

A man was detained for desecrating the century-old 'Shiva Lingam' at the historic Draksharamam temple in Andhra Pradesh.

- It is known as the **Lord Bhimeswara Swami Temple**, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- **Location** - East Godavari District, **near the Godavari River**, accessible from Kakinada and Rajahmundry.
- **Main Deity** -
 - Lord Bhimeswara Swamy (Shiva) in the form of a 2.6 m tall **Spatika Linga (crystal)** and
 - His consort goddess Manikyamba.
- **Other shrines** - The temple complex also contains several smaller shrines dedicated to deities such as Vishnu, Ganesha, Durga, and others, collectively referred to as **Daksha Vatika**.
- The Bhimeswara temple, one of the five powerful temples of Lord Shiva (**Pancharama shrines**) and also known as **Dakshina Kasi Kshetram** (Southern Varanasi).
- **Construction** - It was built by the **Eastern Chalukyan King Bhima** (892-902 A.D.).
- **Patronage** - The temple was patronised by dynasties like Chalukyas, Cholas, Kakatiyas, Reddi Kings, Vijayanagaras, and others.
- **Architecture** - The temple is large, built in **Dravidian style**, with three concentric compound walls.
 - The temple is in a two-storied complex resembling a fort.
 - It has two main halls—the Mukha Mandapa and the Ardha Mandapa—and is surrounded by tall walls.
 - It has four gateways in cardinal directions, each associated with a goddess (Gogulamma, Nookambika, Moodhambike, Ghattambike).
- **Sacred Water** - The **Sapta Godavari Kundam** is a sacred pond, revered for performing religious rituals.
- **Festivals** - Devi Navaratrulu, Kartheeka Masam, Subrahmanya Shasti, Bhisma Ekadasi, Maha Shivaratri, etc.
- **Cultural Significance** -
 - It is mentioned in the Skanda Purana.
 - Celebrated by Telugu poet Srinatha Kavi Sarvabhowmudu in Bhimeswara Puranam.
 - It was associated with Lord Rama, Surya, and Indra, who are believed to have

worshipped here.

References

1. [The Hindu | Vandalization on Shiva Lingam at Draksharamam temple in A.P.](#)
2. [Jyotirling temples | Bhimeswara Temple](#)
3. [East Godavari District | Bhimeswara Temple](#)

