

Ramappa Temple & Proposed Opencast Coal Mine

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Why in News?

Heritage activists, including the Kakatiya Heritage Trust (KHT), have opposed the proposed PVNR Opencast Coal Mine.

Ramappa Temple

Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple

	Official name	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple
	Location	Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana
	Built by	Kakatiya dynasty
	Period	13th century
	Patron	Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva
	Architect	Ramappa
	UNESCO status	World Heritage Site
	Inscribed	2021
	Architectural style	Kakatiya temple architecture
	Associated water body	Ramappa Lake
	Important feature	Sand-box foundation

 **SHANKAR**
IAS PARLIAMENT



PVNR Opencast Coal Mine Project

- **Proposed at** - Venkatapur, Mulugu district, Telangana.
- The project is associated with **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)**.
- The proposed excavation depth is approximately **300 metres**.
- The site is located approximately **5 kilometers downstream** of Ramappa Lake and the Ramappa Temple.

Key Concerns

- **Groundwater and Hydrological Impacts** - Water from Ramappa Lake may influence regional groundwater movement through the following mechanisms:
 - Geological lineaments

- Faults
- Interconnected fractures
- Deep excavation downstream is likely to create a **hydraulic gradient**.
- This condition could accelerate groundwater **seepage**.
- **Stability of Ramappa Lake** - Concerns have been raised regarding the absence of a **cut-off trench**.
- The movement of water through interconnected fractures could compromise the stability of the lake.
- **Foundation of Ramappa Temple** - The Ramappa Temple is constructed on a distinctive **sand-box foundation**.
- Interconnected geological lineaments may affect the foundation through processes such as piping and seepage.
- **Vibrations Induced by Mining Activities** - The immediate impact of blasting activities has reportedly been assessed as **low**.
- However, concerns have been expressed that **repeated vibrations** may have cumulative effects on the nearly 800-year-old structure.
- Existing concerns include the following:
 - Fractures
 - Differential settlement
 - Distress in parts of the temple
- **Ecological and Socio-economic Considerations** - Potential impacts may include the following:
 - Biodiversity
 - Local environment
 - Communities dependent on Ramappa Lake
 - Local socio-economic and cultural interests.

Reference

[The Hindu | Threat to Ramappa Temple and Ramappa Lake](#)