



Temple Art and Architecture of Gandikota

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Abstract: *This article reports on the art and architecture of Gandikota of Kadapa district of rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. RayalSeema area was ruled by many dynasties like the Cholas, Kakatiyas, Vijayanagara kings and Nawabs. In Gandikota there are inscriptions related to Telugu Kannada languages on the Prakara of the temple. Vijayanagara kings used the fort area as a rest area between their capital Hampi region and Madras(channa) on the eastern seaboard. More than 12 temples have been built here according to their respective styles. But at present only four temples are survived and rest of the temples are dilapidated. Notable among these are Mahadevaraya temple and Ranganatha swamy Temple are most prominent.*

Key Words: RayalSeema, Vijayanagara, Gandikota, kalyanamandapas, kalyanamandapas, vrushaba Kunjira, Penna river, Kummudam

1. INTRODUCTION:

RayalSeema area was ruled by many dynasties like the Cholas, Kakatiyas, Vijayanagara kings and Nawabs. Many forts and shrines were built. There in these holy places of their periods. They are amazing in their own style rich Temples sculpture built. In Kadapa, many temple construction took place in the areas like Atthirala, Nandalur ontimitta, sidhavatam and Gandikota areas Temples and forts were built at places. In the expansion of the Kakatiya Empire, Kadapa region was also ruled.

In the eleventh century Kadapa region was ruled by Kakatiyas. At that time it was about 80 km away from Kadapa region Bommalapalli village fort constructed. This fort was built by Kakaraju as a Vassal king of this area as Gandikota start calling. In Gandikota both sides Penna gorge on the other Gundi river are flowing. The fort was built like a small island to look in 1340 A.D. Vijayanagara kings Hara Hara Raya, Bukkaraya ccouped Gandikota area by whom Thimmanayudu was appointed as the vassal king¹. The fort and surrounding areas have made many structures in their style. Vijayanagara kings used the fort area as a rest area between their capital Hampi region and Madras(channa) on the eastern seaboard. Many temples were also built during the kakatiyas and Vijayanagara time. More than 12 temples have been built here according to their respective styles. But at present only four temples are survived and rest of the temples are dilapidated. Notable among these are Mahadevaraya temple and Ranganatha swamy Temple are most prominent. These the temples were built in Vijayanagara style

Kings of Vijayanagara The temple in construction. The unique style is shown by having a temple in the center as per the surrounding and this part of the temple has a pillared porch natyamandapam. Apart from that overcomplicated on with sculptures. The pillars of the temple are built to the East, South West corner the kalyanamandapas were constructed with richly carved pillars that represents the typical feature of Vijayanagara style. Apart from that, the front of the temple is also decorated. Group of Pillars containing pavilion: construction of main part form and this In structures Pillars in one one depending on to be whose in structures acquired priority. On pillars many rich caring are seen related to epics.

2. Madhavaraya Temple :

According to some evidence, the Madhavaraya temple was built in the 16th century A.D.. It can be said that in the temple from the source of art and architecture. It can be realized that this structure is ancient. The Madhavaram temple is in the south of the fort. The temple is surrounded² by a rectangle. the dome East facing. There are also three other minor entrances. This temple has important sections like Maha Mandapam, Mukhamandapam, Antralam, Garbhagriha, Temple Kitchen, Kalyana Mandapam, Navagraha Mandapam, Alwar Mandapam such as structured². The temple gopura is facing east 16.20 meters high. It has a width of 72. meters. The Gopuram is a four headed upright



structure. The Adhistana is built of stone. The remaining four heads constructed of brick and lime mixtures. The Sikhara Collapsed. the sections of the temple can be seen as Apana, jagati, lotuses with creepers, floral arrangements, Kumudama UrduPadma, Pata, gala There is. Among these are the elephant and There are sculptures of warriors at the entrance are Sculptures known as Jaya Vijaya, Kumbha Panjaram and kudu on both sides. above the gatekeepers are the sculpture of Krishna doing Tandavam, and Krishna with gopis. Then the next pillar riding on simhayali. There are below them creeper consisting of there are statues of female figures in dance poses (**Image 1**). These idols fully equipped with decorations and hairstyle represents the Vijayanagara style. In the middle. Statues of Jaya Vijaya on the pillar at the end of the entrance. One of them plays the Shehanai, one plays the drum and the other plays the drum. To them It seems to be dancing rhythmically. Same kind of relief statue is also found in Bugga Venkateswara Temple in Tadipatri. This is That neighborhood refers to the folk dance of the people. The entrance at the top the turtle, lizard and lotus tooth symbols are seen. On the right side wall towards of the entrance, face of the temple is a single body carved at the top. A bird with two heads the statue can be seen. single body Idols with 2,3 heads In Vijayanagara Shilpa's. In Madhavaraya Temple there are approximately 60 pillars around it. These pillars resemble the Vijayanagara style (**Image 2**) (**Image 3**). And the Hindu temples of South India have structures in accordance with this. . The following up from upana, pata, Guda, kapotha And Verhanda divided by Vasara . These pillars The following from the lion kapota, mukha, Danda. kumbha, Padma Structures are seen. On either side of these pillars Vijayanagara style Flower alum pendants. an abacus-like structure is carved. There is a Kalyana Mandapam structure at the junction of the western verandah and the southern verandah Tortoise on the ceiling, Different Types of fish, Lizard-like shapes have been moulded and the shape of a fish body with an elephant's head has been fixed on the ceiling of the erandah towards the west. First in the temple Maha mandapa comes In this mandapa two were built in a row. The mandapam was built with 16 pillars on the inside and 24 pillars on the outside, totalling 40 pillars. It is rectangular in shape will belt was built as two ramparts. The central portion of the pillar is slightly elevated around the bottom. In this structure, a pedestal is divided into pillars. A pitala, uppana, gala, padaa kapotha, inverted Padma Vedika can be divided below the circle inside. All right Musical instruments for pillars Like playing There are idols of Yakshi. 12 Pillars with Gaja and Simhamukha Yali (**image 4**) There are. Maha Mandapam Two pillars in front Vijayanagara style two pillars with pendants But three at the back Saduramand two katchus pillars towards the mukha mandapam with lions are decorated with. 16 in the Maha Mandapam pillars The Yakshi idols on Patika have another shape on them. In the central part of each of the two pillars, the idols of deities on the walls are decorated with mythology. In Maha Mandapam, a woman dancing on the pillars in the east-northern corner, and in the south-west corner there are statues of Rama holding a bow. on a pillar vrushaba Kunjira together with the elephant and the bull the statue of Visually refined. Similar statues are found in many temples in the Vijayanagara Empire³. A similar statue is also found in the Ontimitta temple. Sculptures of three men holding musical instruments, playing A dancing statue can also be seen here, the peculiarity of which is that only four legs are visible. Vishnu, Anjaneya, Krishna, Rama Narasimha Swamy, Ganesha etc. are carved. In addition to these creatures like swan lion deer elephant are mentioned. On the middle wall from the Maha Mandapam to the Mukha Mandapam, half given Vishnu and monkey figures are carved in relief. The entrance of the mukha mandapam has three rings in the centre of which is the image of Goddess Lakshmi with elephants. Inside the mukha mandapam there are mainly four pillars in the middle and two more pillars towards the interior. In Mukha Mandapam four pillars are seen in the same way and two pillars are seen in the same way. The four pillars are Vijayanagara and Chola in style. Above the pillars in the mukha mandapam is the top of the first pillar from the temple to the left the lion Yali, Vinayaka, Krishna On the second pillar Garutmantuda, with Hanuman, Vishnu and floral ornamentation, on the third pillar is the Pandita, a small Krishna eating butter, Lakshmi Narasimhudas, the fourth pillar of Alwar is decorated with images of Garuda, Krishna, Hanuman and female deities. Outside on either side of the stairs towards the north door are 11 women in dance poses Sculptures OK on the rock are engraved. After a mandapa there are interstellar sanctum sanctorum structures containing only the peetha of the sanctum sanctorum, the idols of the deities were moved due to the invasion of the Namaus. Here People say that the idol of madhavaraya is being worshiped in Maidukuru. Madhavaraya Temple also has North Alwar Mandir and Navagraha Mandapam. On the walls of Navagraha Mandapam there are Shankhu Chakra and elephant statues carved incompletely.

3. Ranganatha Swami Temple :

This temple also located in Gandikota fort, facing east beside the Penna river. Outside In a dance pose women and decorated with a ribbon of creepers. In this temple The central hall, facade, space, Sanctum, sanctorum Mandapam on the south side of the structure and surrounded by a protective wall, Kalyana Mandapam at south west corner, Devi temple is also situated at the back of the main temple, At the north-east corner of the front of the main temple is a pillared mandapam. The entrance gopuram is completely dilapidated. In front of the Great Mandapam There is a staircase flanked with elephants on both sides (**Image 5**). The entire Mahamandapam consists of 24 pillars. Among the four pillars in front



of the Mahamandapam, the middle two pillars are lions Yali. The two pillars in the next row also have lions facing each other and all the other pillars in the middle are Vijayanagara style buildings on which are idols of deities, statues of animals and birds are engraved⁴. Images of Lord Narasimha is the most frequently found in the temple. Among these a figure of Yashoda carrying Krishna on a pillar can be seen here the statue Has Vijayanagara Futures The sari worn by Yashoda is well embellished and the necklace around the neck is a symbol of the Vijayanagara style. Kapotha from below the great mandapam to the top Pata, jagati, Patha, Padma Gala, Vijayanagara style Kummudam Gala is divided into compartments with figures of elephants, lions, battle scenes, dancing men and women playing musical instruments. A mandapam has line drawings of Dasavatars on its side and an image of Gajalakshmi is seen on the door. Outside the mukha mandapam there is a four-pillared structure. The pillars are made in the shape of plates and pots and there is a lion-faced kudu on them. The structure is the most visible during the Chola period and the least during the Vijayanagara period in temples also seen is the kudu structure on these which indicates the Vijayanagara style⁵. Another statue at the front door is a tall crowned statue in a bowing posture. This style is purely Vijayanagara. It can be said that it belongs to kings. It also containing a hybrid animal of Swan and elephant. There are several line drawings on the north wall of prakara which two women are seated on a pedestal and resting on the opposite side. Some of their clothes are fully decorated There are These line drawings are mostly rural paintings in Lepakshi (Image 6) style. The dress worn by the women includes the ornamentation of the hair bun which also indicates the Vijayanagara style⁶. Next to it there are also line drawings of Lakshmi Narasimha which are also just line drawings. On the west wall behind the main temple like hunting a man animal, A line image appears as another person protecting it from it. At the rear of the main temple is the Devi Temple which has a front porch with four pillars on which is decorated statues of women and animals and adjacent (Image 7) to which is the Kalyana Mandapam. Mandapam was built in 4 parts. The Kalyana Mandapam has a structure of 16 pillars with a pedestal in the centre having four pillars on it. The remaining 12 pillars are in the four directions of the Kalyana Mandapam. In Gandikota there are inscriptions related to Telugu Kannada languages on the Prakara of the temple.

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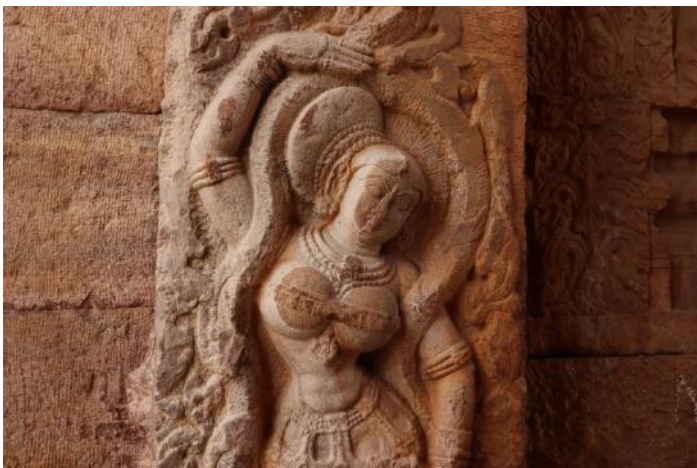


IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4

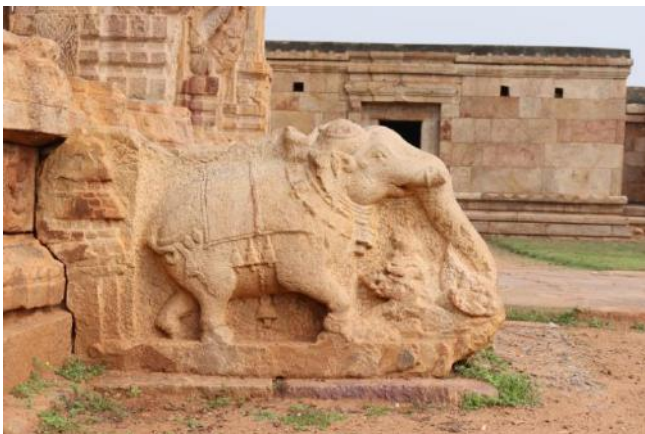


IMAGE 5



IMAGE 6



IMAGE 7