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Simhachalam temple

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Why is in news? Visakhapatnam, a graveyard for submarines

Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha temple, Simhachalam is a Hindu temple situated on the Simhachalam Hill Range, which is 300 metres above the sea level in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

It is **dedicated to Vishnu**, who is worshipped there as **Varaha Narasimha**.

Simhachalam is **one of the 32 Narasimha temples in Andhra Pradesh** which are important pilgrimage centres.

It was regarded as an **important centre of Vaishnavism** in the medieval period along with Srikurmam and others.

The **earliest inscription** at the temple belongs to **11th-century CE** recording the **gift by a private individual in the era of Chola king Kulottunga I**.

In the later half of the 13th century, the temple complex **underwent radical physical changes** during the reign of the **Eastern Ganga king Narasimhadeva I**.

Narahari Tirtha, a Dvaita philosopher and Eastern Ganga minister converted the Simhachalam temple into an **educational establishment** of renown and a religious centre for Vaishnavism.

It later received patronage from many royal families, of which Tuluva dynasty of Vijayanagara Empire is a notable one.

The temple **underwent 40 years of religious inactivity** from 1564 to 1604 CE.

In 1949, the temple came under the purview of the state government and is currently administered by the Simhachalam Devasthanam Board.

The architecture is a **mixture of the styles of the Kalinga Architecture, Chalukyas, Kakatiyas, and the Great Cholas**.

Simhachalam is the **second-largest temple, after Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh, in terms of income earned**.

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