

Regarding need to submit nomination for recognition of Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple in Andhra Pradesh as UNESCO World Heritage Site- laid

SHRI G. LAKSHMINARAYANA (ANANTAPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for securing UNESCO World Heritage recognition for the historic Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple in Andhra Pradesh. Built in the 16th century under the Vijayanagara Empire, Lepakshi stands as a unique embodiment of Indias architecture and spiritual heritage. It houses the largest mural painting of Veerabhadra Swamy in Asia and the famous sky pillar that does not touch the ground, featuring exceptional craftsmanship, vibrant mural paintings and one of the worlds largest monolithic Nandi sculptures. Recognising its importance, India placed Lepakshi on UNESCOs Tentative List in 2022, underlining its outstanding universal value. However, inclusion in the tentative list is only the first step, recognition by UNESCO is essential to ensure long-term conservation. The Government has to expedite preparation of the comprehensive nomination dossier, as required by UNESCO norms. If recognised, Lepakshi will not only gain global protection and conservation support but also stimulate tourism, livelihood opportunities and development in the region. I request the Government to constitute a dedicated expert committee, draft and submit the final nomination at the earliest so that Lepakshi receives the recognition it truly deserves..