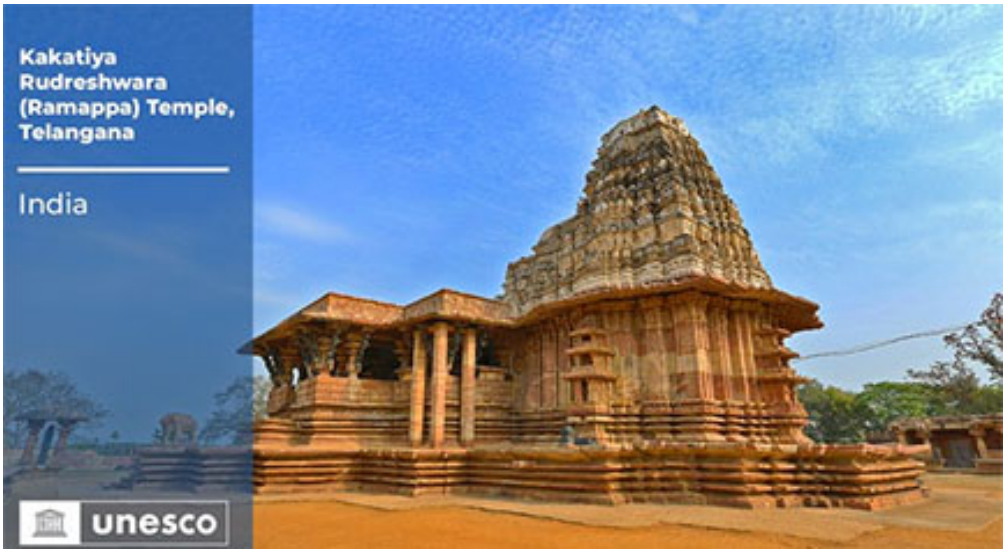
India’s 39th World Heritage Site: Ramappa Temple

Why in News

Recently, **Rudreswara Temple, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Mulugu district, Telangana** has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

> Ramappa Temple was proposed by the government as its only nomination for the **UNESCO World Heritage site** tag for the year 2019.



Key Points

- **About Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple:**
  - The Rudreswara temple was **constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra,** a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
  - The presiding deity here is **Ramalingeswara Swamy.**
  - It is also known as the **Ramappa temple, after the sculptor** who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
  - The temple stands on a **6 feet high star-shaped platform** with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with **intricate carvings** that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiya sculptors.
  - The foundation is built with the **"sandbox technique",** the flooring is granite and the pillars are basalt.
  - The **lower part of the temple is red sandstone** while the **white gopuram** is built with light bricks that reportedly float on water.
  - An inscription dates the temple to **1135 Samvat-Saka on the eight-day of Magha** (12^{th} January, 1214).
  - The distinct style of Kakatiyas for the gateways to temple complexes, unique only to this region, confirm the **highly evolved proportions of aesthetics in temple** and town gateways in South India.
  - European merchants and travellers were mesmerized by the beauty of the temple and one such traveller had remarked that the temple was the **"brightest star in the galaxy of medieval temples of the Deccan".**
- **Sandbox Technique:**
  - The technique involved filling the pit — **dug up for laying the foundation** — with a mixture of **sand-lime, jaggery (for binding) and karakkaya** (black myrobalan fruit) before the buildings were constructed on these 'sandboxes'.
  - The sandbox in the foundation acts as a **cushion in case of earthquakes.**
  - Most of the vibrations caused by earthquakes lose their strength while passing through the sand by the time they reach the actual foundation of the building.

Source: PIB