



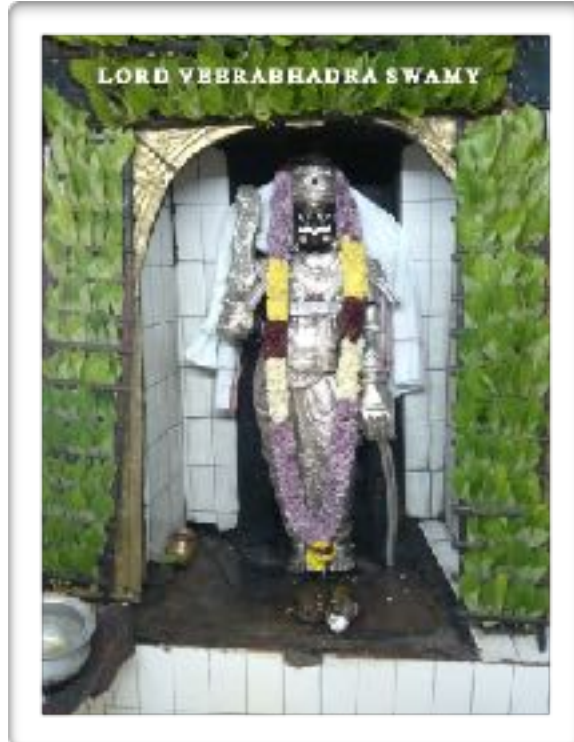
KHAIRUPPALA VILLAGE



Khairuppala village is located in Aspari Mandal, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh - 518465, India; near Mantralayam - Raghavendra Swamy Temple, a renowned religious centre. The village is about 50 Km away from the city of Kurnool.

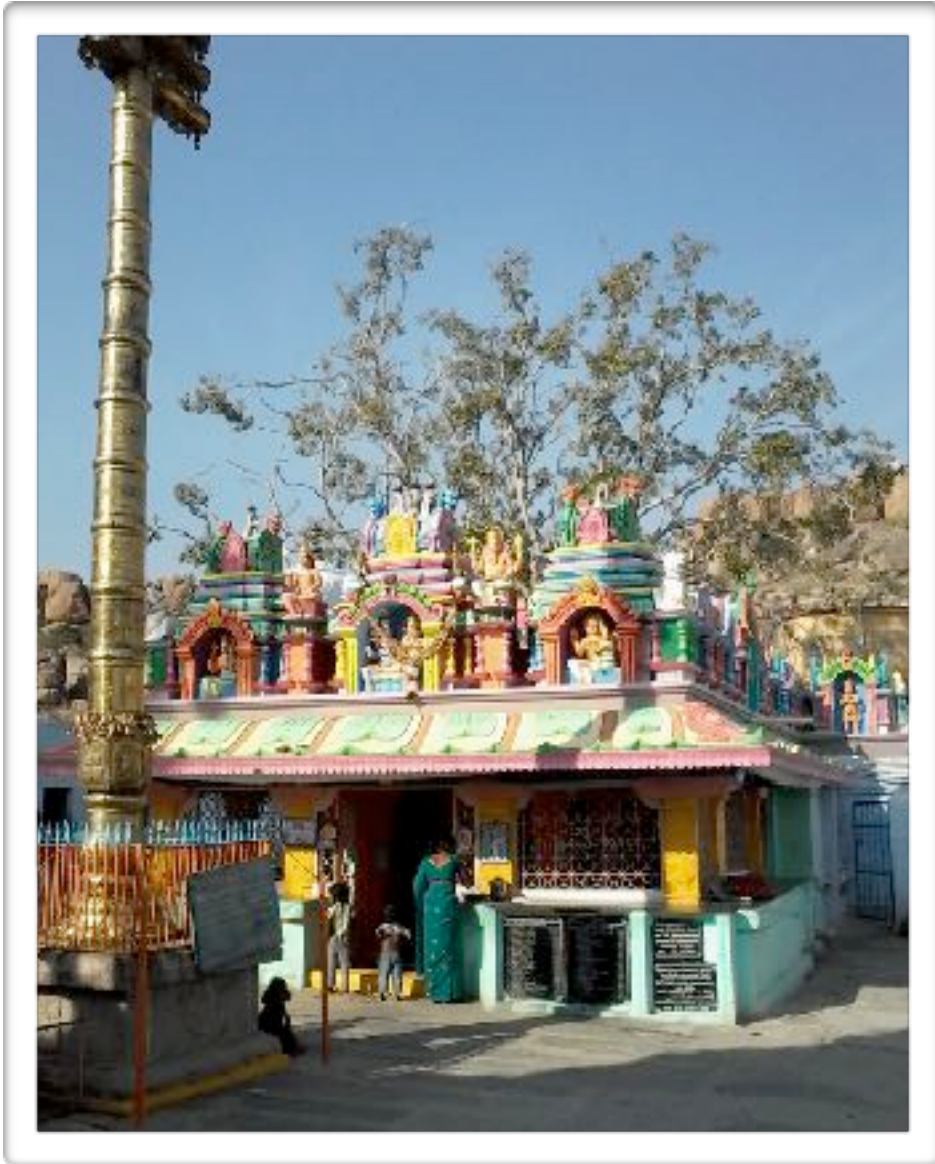
Veerabhadra Swamy Temple:

There is a famous ancient Hindu temple with presiding deity of Lord Veerabhadra Swamy in this village. There are also other deities of Shiva, Venugopla Swamy and Brahma (a rare occurrence) in this temple. According to folklore, this temple was built during the rein of King Thrishanku, ancestor of Lord Rama. The emblem of Thrishanku (Triple Conch) is carved at the entrance to the temple which reinforces the belief in this legend. That makes this temple, the oldest in the history of the world; more than about 8000 years old.

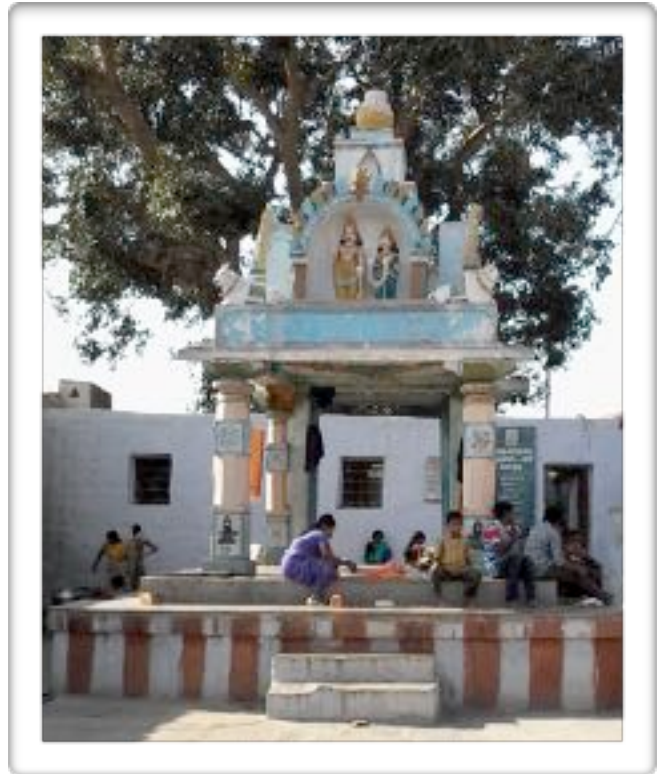
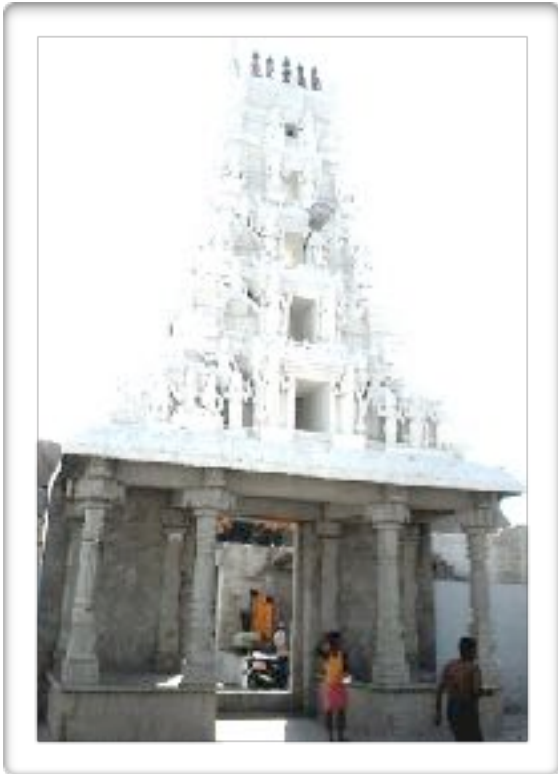




^TEMPLE ENTRANCE^



^Temple View and the Deities^



^TMPLX COMPLEX^

UGADI FESTIVAL:

The annual festival (*Thirunala*) of Ugadi is celebrated in this village with much fanfare. Thousands of devotees throng this place during the festival to witness week-long celebrations, to participate in rolling the Chariot of the Gods and to pray Lord Veerabhadra Swamy at the temple.

There is a strange custom of throwing cow-dung cakes at each other during a mock battle enacted during this festival. There are two sides to the battle, with one group of fighters throwing cow-dung cakes (*Pidakalu / Nuggulu*) in the name of Bhadrakali and the others doing so in the name of Lord Veerabhadra Swamy. According to folklore, Lord Veerabhadra Swamy wanted to marry Goddess Bhadrakali. However, there was some opposition to the match which led to a dispute resulting in a battle. Cow-dung cakes were used as weapons by both sides of the warring groups. There is a happy ending by marriage of Veerabhadra Swami and Bhadrakali. Devotees believe that the practice of the mock battle enacted during *Ugadi* Festival brings health, prosperity and rains to the village. The mock battle is known as '*Pidakalata or Nuggulata*' (battle with cow-dung cakes) by the locals. Any injuries sustained during the mock battle are healed quickly by application of sacred ash at Veerabhadra Swamy temple.



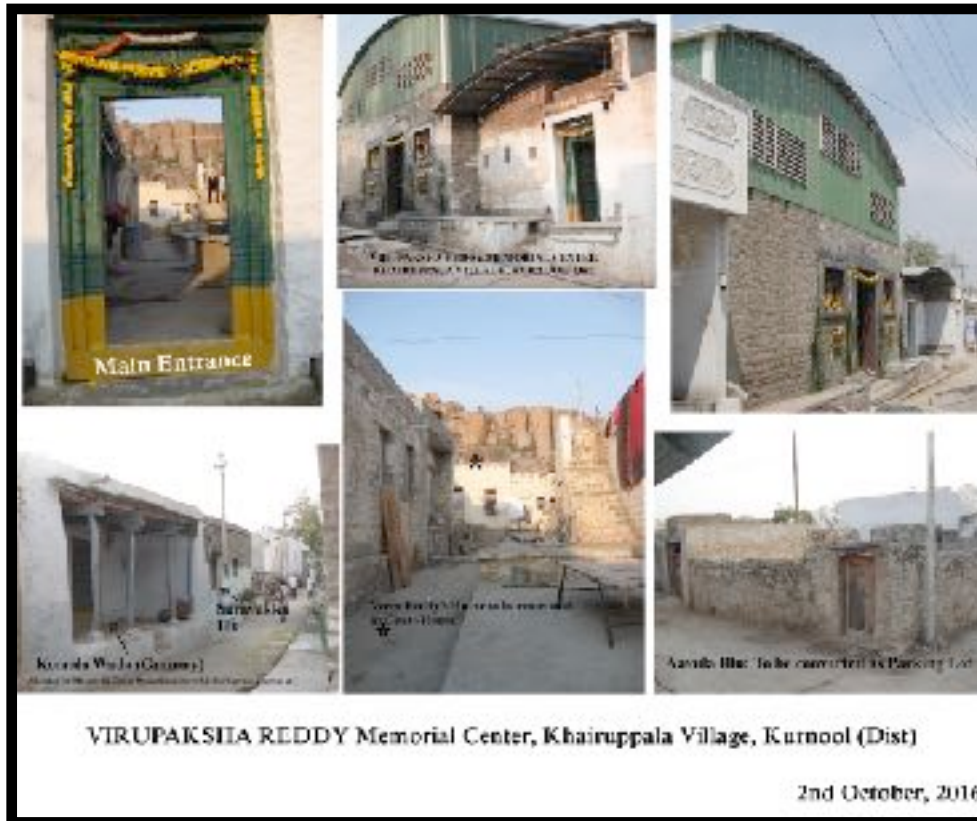
^Preparation for Mock battle with cow-dung cakes^



^NUGGULATA (Battle with cow-dung cakes): MAIN ATTRACTION AT THE FESTIVAL ^

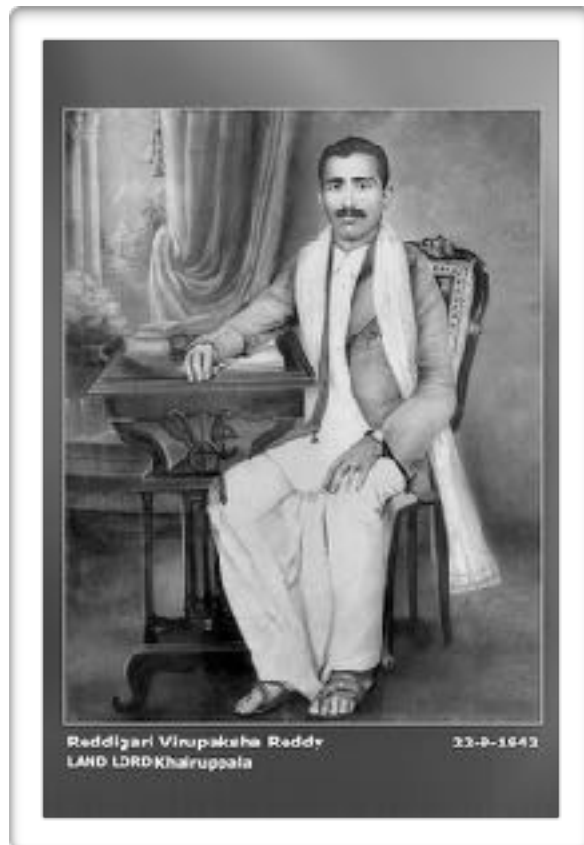
FUNCTION HALL:

There a function hall built as part of “VIRUPAKSHA REDDY MEMORIAL CENTRE” at Khairuppala Village; built in honour of Lt. Sri Reddigari Virupaksha Reddy

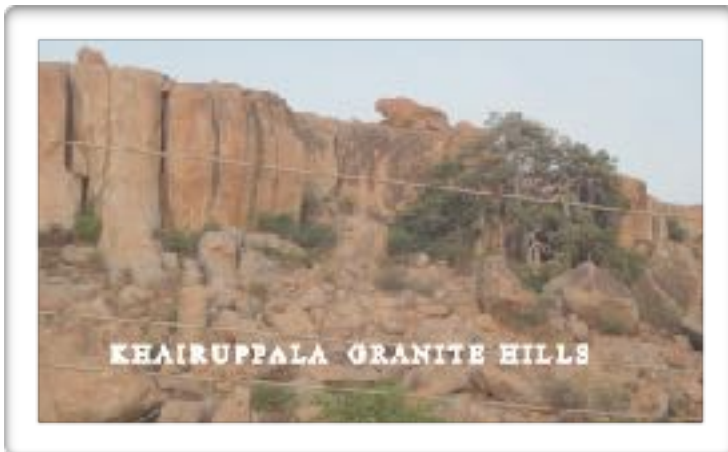




^At the inaugural function of Virupaksha Reddy Memorial Centre^



Mythology - Antiquity:



According to legend, Agastya, the revered Vedic sage of Hinduism chose this place to conduct annual conference of rishis (sages) near the lake by the side of the granite hills at the village.

Origin of the Temple:



According to folklore, this Veerabhadra Swamy temple was built during the rein of King Thrishanku, ancestor of Lord Rama. The emblem of Thrishanku (Triple Conch) is carved at the entrance to the temple which reinforces the belief in this legend. That makes this temple, the oldest in the history of the world; more than about 8000 years old.

Etymology of the village name:

Long long ago, the statue of Lord Veerabhadra was discovered in river Hundri near the village and was carried to the village on a bullock cart drawn by a pair of bulls, one with black colour and one with white colour. In Telugu, Black Bull= “*Karre Eddu*” and White Bull = “*Pulla Eddue*”. The village name derived by the colours of the bullocks ie. *Karre + Pulla = Karrepulla* ; transformed to “*Khairuppala*” in course of time.

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