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Two Days National Seminar on  
**“TEMPLE CULTURES IN TELANGANA –  
A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE”**  
(16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2018)

<p><b>Prof. Arjun Rao Kuthadi</b> Seminar Director &amp; Head</p> <p><b>Dr. G. Anjaiah</b> Seminar Convenor/ Organizing Secretary</p> <p><b>Dr. B. Lavanya</b> Seminar Co-Convenor/</p> <p><b>Organizing Committee</b></p> <p>Prof. G. Arun Kumar Dr. Indira Dr. S. Anjaiah Dr. P. Ramesh Dr. Aruna Pariti</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Date: 18.01.2018.</p> <p>To,</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Dear _____</p> <p>I am happy to inform you that the Department of History, Osmania University is proposed to organize a Two Day National Seminar on the theme <b>“Temple Cultures in Telangana – A Historical Perspective”</b> on 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 on the eve of Osmania University Centenary Celebrations. (Note enclosed)</p> <p>I request you to participate in the Seminar by contributing a paper on any of the aspects or any other related theme mentioned in the enclosed note. <b>The focus of the paper should be on Temple Cultures in Telangana.</b> However scholars are free to write on telangana and surrounding regions highlighting temple cultures. I request you to send your acceptance and the title of your paper as early as possible. You are requested to send the Abstract on or before 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and full paper in about 15-20 pages along with CD on or before 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 positively. All the scholars are requested to send their paper as email attachment:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:historydept_ou@yahoo.com">historydept_ou@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Local hospitality will be provided to the delegates. Second AC Train fare, T.A. &amp; D.A. will be paid as per University norms.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Arjun Rao Kuthadi</i> <b>(Prof. ARJUN RAO KUTHADI)</b> Seminar Director &amp; Head</p>
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## **“TEMPLE CULTURES IN TELANGANA – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE”**

(16<sup>h</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2018)

Temple reflects a synthesis of arts, the ideals of dharma, beliefs, values, and the way of life. It is a symbolic reconstruction of the universe and universal principles that make everything in it function. The temples reflect philosophy and its diverse views on cosmos and Truths. They are not just sacred spaces, they are also secular spaces. Their meaning and purpose have extended beyond spiritual life to social rituals and daily life, offering thus a social meaning. Some temples have served as a venue to mark festivals, to celebrate arts through dance and music, commemorate marriages, birth of a child, other significant life events, or mark the death of a loved one. Temples served as nuclei of important social, economic, artistic and intellectual functions through patronage. Thus the temple cultures are associated with the socio-cultural and economic aspects that play a crucial role in the transformation of cultures and economies. They act as networking sites bring people together. The temple culture therefore is not merely associated with the rituals, fairs and festivals performed in the temples but should be seen from its multifunctional dimensions. The term ‘temple’ which is derived from the Latin word *templum* actually means a physical structure housing one or more deities. *Alayam, Mandir, Gudi, Koil, Kovil, Devasthanam* or *Devalaya* are the commonly used terms for a temple in Telangana.

Telangana is the recently formed 29<sup>th</sup> State of India, which is unique and formidable in many ways. Telangana is, by its geographic location the realm where two diverse cultures from the north and the south of the country merge and create a region of composite culture with diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds. Thus, Telangana links the north and south of India. Although the region has its share of ups and downs, from centuries, it is still growing strong and in fact, it is the major financial, education and strategic center for the entire country.

Historically, Telangana region possesses a rich cultural heritage in the form of its extant temples. Dating back from the time of the Ikshvakus, till recent times, ruling elites, merchants, trading communities, local people, all played an important role in the patronization and

Promotion of temple cultures in Telangana. A study of the temples in the region shows that there was gradual evolution of temple culture. From the simple temple structures of the Ikshvaku period to the most magnificent and intricately sculpted temples of the Kakatiyan period, the temples in Telangana show gradual development. The richness of the temples also symbolizes the power and opulence of the kingdoms. The temple based land grant economy testifies the importance attached to temples as leading enterprisers of local and regional economies. As cultural centers, the role of temples is immeasurable. They are not only spaces for mental peace but also connect people spiritually. At times they also become moral and cultural points for passing down the essentials of traditions. As symbols of the rich cultural heritage, they evoke the ancientness of the history of a locality, region and country and hence become an important source for writing history of a locality and understand its pan-Indian, pan-global linkages.

Despite, its rich historical and cultural background, the study on temples in the Telangana State did not receive the kind of focus in historical studies as it had been done in the other regions of south India. Hence, in the context of the Centenary Celebrations of the Osmania University, the Department of History, Osmania University takes it as an opportunity to organize a two day National Seminar on sacred spaces of Telangana entitled *Temple Cultures in Telangana - A Historical Perspective* in connection with Osmania University Centenary Celebrations.

## **KEY ISSUES**

Some of the topics that can serve as guidelines for the scholars of the seminar are:

- *Temple Planning Culture*
  - Architectural styles, designs, manuals
  - Sculptural representations on temples
  - Iconography
- *Cultural Role of Temples*
  - Fairs and Festivals associated with temples
  - Theatre, Music and dance

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- Temples as centres of learning
  - Temples as Health centres
  - Unique practices associated with temples
  - Sthalapuranas,
  - Temples as Library of Manuscripts
- *Economic Role of Temples*
    - Temple economy - Land grants
    - Irrigation and Agricultural Development
    - Temple centred trade
    - Temple markets
    - Temples as financiers and treasurers
    - Temple based urban centres
    - Temple kitchens – Prasadam making and selling
    - Temple Fund Utilization schemes
- *Social Role of Temples*
    - Patronization patterns
    - Temple administration
    - Social groups associated with Temples (Professionals and non-professionals)
    - Temple as an employer
    - Temple Diaspora - Migration of Labour force
    - Temples as tourist centres
    - Dharmasalas - Tourist accommodation
    - Impact of Muslim Invasions
- *Present Status of temples*
    - Protection and Conservation of Heritage
    - Role of Government and Voluntary organizations
    - Promotion of Pilgrimage/ religious tourism in Telangana

Sd/-  
**(Prof. ARJUN RAO KUTHADI)**  
Seminar Director & Head