

## tourist info



Built during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries by the Ikshvaku dynasty, this temple dedicated to Lord Shiva revels in its architectural glory

# The Age of Miracles

Less than two hours from Hyderabad is the Chhaya Someswara Swamy Temple in Panagal, a quiet little town in the Nalgonda district known for its religious significance.

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this ancient temple built by the Kunduru Cholas in the 12th century is considered to be an exemplary model of ingenious Hindu architecture. For there is a constant and unwavering shadow that falls on the main deity in the exact same way all through the day. Though it is this mystery as to the origin and the unchanging quality of the *chhaya* (shadow) that gives this ancient temple its fame. It is this unique feature that is also considered a striking testimony to the architectural brilliance of that era. It is believed that all the various pillars in the temple were placed so strategically that they together cast only a single unchanging shadow, no matter the time of the day and the direction of the light.

These very pillars are also famed for the exquisite sculptures carved into them. The immensely popular Chhaya Someswara Swamy Temple together with the nearby Pachala Someswara Swamy temple attract devotees in droves during the festival of Shivaratri.

### GETTING THERE

Panagal is 100 kilometer from Hyderabad and four kilometer from the district headquarters of Nalgonda on the Addanki - Narkatpally highway. ■

*Timings: 6 am to 12 pm and 4 pm to 8 pm.*

### NEARBY PLACES OF INTEREST

#### THE PANAGAL TANK

Also known as Udaysamudram is a 400-year-old tank that is today a Balancing Reservoir that not just meets the irrigation and drinking water needs of over five hundred villages here but is also quickly turning into a picnic spot.

#### PACHALA SOMESWARA SWAMY TEMPLE & MUSEUM

A little known 11th century temple dedicated to the same presiding deity, Someswara, the idol here is carved out of green onyx giving this temple its name, literally translated, it means the green Someswara Swamy temple. The ruins along with the museum here that is home to statues and sculptures from the Ikshvaku Dynasty of the first century, make for an interesting stopover on your way back from the more popular Chhaya Someswara Swamy Temple.

