



# TEMPLE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF UMMATTUR VILLAGE

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**Abstract:** Ummattur Village is located 25 kms. from Chamarajanagar district. This region served as the capital of feudatory rulers of Vijayanagara dynasty Ummāṭṭur Pālēgar. This region has temples of Shaiva, Vaishnava and Jaina temples. In the village Ummāṭṭur we notice temples of Raṅganāthaswāmi and Bhujangēśvara.

**keywords :** ummattur palegar, vijayangara, mysore wodeyar, Ranganathaswami, bhujangeswara,

## **Raṅganāthaswāmi Temple:**

This temple is found in the center of the town and has trikuta in style. That means having three garbhagruha. Apart from this, this temple consists of Sukhanāsi, Navaraṅga Mandapa, Mukhamandapa, Dwāramandapa and garuda stamba. On the wall pillar of Sukhanāsi an inscription dated 1531 C.E. mentions blessings for the Vijayanagara ruler Āchutarāya. Further, the record mentions that Dalavāyi Raṅganāyaka son of Dalavāyi Gaṅganāyaka donated Baidula for one time prasada of the temple.

In 2008, the trustee of Dhārmasthala Sri Manjunāthēśvara temple, Directorate of State Archaeology Department, renovation committee of Sri Raṅganātha temple and devotee of temples took interest and renovated temple. Presently, priest is also appointed to conduct daily pooja.

The garbhagudi of the temple has Garuda Peeta on which, 7 meter long sculpture of Sri Raṅganāthaswāmi is installed. This sculpture is the sleeping posture facing towards east direction. Sri Raṅganāthaswāmi is slept on snake turned his face of right side and his head is adorned with snake with seven heads. The sculpture has image of Brahma along with Sridēvi and Bhudēvi showing as preming the feet of the God Sri Raṅganātha. This unique feature of the sculpture. Usually Sri Raṅganāthaswāmi is called as Pādmanābha, Gōvindarāja, Adhishēsha. In the ceiling the garbhagudi blossom lotus flower is found. Doorframes are broad in size but we do not find any sculpture in latāthabhimba. Sukhānasi is in plain nature. Here Utsava moorthi sculpture is kept. In the wall pillar of Sukhānasi an inscription is found.

Next to Sukhānasi we notice Navaraṅga with a height of nearly 30" is found. Navaraṅga has 4 pillars of Vijayanagara style. On the south and north of Navaraṅga we notice two garbhagruhas. In the south garbhagruha the sculpture of 3" feet Navanēētha Krishna or ghee Krishna is very beautiful in nature. Dwibhuja sculpture of Krishna holds *ghee* in his right hand and left hand is stretched towards floor. The sculpture is in seated posture folding one of his legs.

The ceiling of the garbhagruha has lotus bud in Bhūvanēshwari. Doorframes are simple in nature Lalatabimba does not consists any sculpture. The Raṅganāyaki sculpture with a height of 3 feet is noticed in the garbhagudi found north side. This sculpture having four hands is called chaturbhuja. The front two hands are in the posture of Abhaya and Varada mudra. The back two hands are holding lotus. The sculpture is very beautiful. Both the garbhagruha's do not have sukhanāsi, directly opens to Navaraṅga. On the north west of Navaraṅga Vishwakesena sculpture is found. This sculpture has left his one of his left leg down and has four hands holding Saṅka, Chakra and Gadha. One of the hands is in Abayamudra. Doorframes of the Navaraṅga is decorated with beautiful floral designs. Apart from this, door frames have beautiful carvings of Dwarapalakas. Further, on the walls of the doorframes there are Dwarapalakas. In the lalātabimba there is lotus carving.

Mukhamantapa has two rows of four pillars totally there are 8 pillars. Out of 8 pillars seven pillars are in Vijayanagara style. On the top of the pillars, several Vaiśhnava sculpture are found. The remaining one pillar has Chāturās, Aṣṭhās and on the top the pillar has 16 faces. Most probably this pillar must be added during the time of renovation. In front of

Navaraṅga on the both the sides there is Katañjana on both sides of the sōpāna Katañjana there are monolithic elephants. This type of Katañjana is called sōpāna Katañjana.

The upapitha of garbhagruha and Sukhānāsi has prathibaṇḍa. South and north sided garbhagruha of Navaraṅga has Adhistāna, which has Upana, Jagathi, Circular type Kumuda and walls have simple pattike. The prasthara wall is also simple in nature. Shikara of garbhagriha is made up of brick and cement is in Dravidian style. Three kalaśas are found in top of the Śhikara. Thulasi slab is found in front of the temple. In front of the temple on the eastern side we find Balipeetha which has Jagathi, Thripatta kumuda, on the top of it Balipeetha is found in the shape of lotus. The temple is covered with prakara wall with a height of 8 feet. The main door of the Prākara wall has found pillars in tow rows. In front of the Dwaramandapa there is a garudāstamba with a height of 80 feet. The lower part of this stamba has four beautiful sculptures. In front the temple i.e. on the west side, there is sculpture of a devotee. On the north direction we find a sculpture of Paravāsudēva, on the east side there is garuda sculpture and on the southern there is Hanumaṇtha sculpture. On the top of the stamba there is a sculpture, with 16 faces and in the top of the lotus is found in bōdigē. But this is fallen on the side of the pillar.

### **Bhujāṅgēśvara Temple, Ummattur:**

This temple is found in the center of the village, and is located in front of the Raṅganātha temple is in the east direction. This is a very big temple in a large temple complex. From the view point of art and architecture this temple attracts more. The temple has garbhagudi. Sukhānāsi, Navaraṅga and open Mukhamandapa. Apart from this there is Amma temple in kalyānamandapa, Pañchaliṅgēśvara temple and has prakara wall with Deepastamba. This temple has single garbhagruha. An inscription from dated 1545 C.E. of Sadāśivarāya of Vijaynagara kingdom mentions the grant made by Maharāsā of Āvubhalēśvara for the well being of king Sadāśivarāya. May be this temple was got constructed during Ummāṭṭur Pālēgara.

Garbhagruha of this temple is square in shape. 1.5" feet height of Sivalinga is found on the 1 feet height of stone slab. This Shivalinga is known as Bhujāṅgēśvara. The Bhuvānnēśvari of garbhagudi is simple with open carvings of lotusfigure. The door frames of garbhagudi in very plain and lalatabimba has no sculpture.

The sukhānāsi of the temple is in rectangular in shape. No sculpture is found in sukhānāsi and lalatabimba of sukhānāsi has no sculpture. Navaraṅga of the temple is in rectangular shape with a height of 40/30". Navaraṅga has short pillars like Gaṅga period. The lower portion of the pillar is in square shape and while moving upward the pillar took the shape of 8 faces (Asthāmukha) and further on the top of it, it has 16 faces above it a round shaped bōdige is found. Here no separate sculptures noticed. Door frames of Navaraṅga are decorated with floral designs and in lalātabimba Gajalakshmi sculpture is found. On both sides of doorframes Shaiva Dwarapalakas sculptures are found. In front of the Navaraṅga there is large open Mukhamandapa that extended till main entrance door. In Mukhamandapa Balipitha and Dwajastamba are found.

Adhistana of this temple is covered till Tripattakumuda. Probably this Adhistana had Upana, Jagati, Tripattakumuda and gala (sala) rows. On three sides of wall of garbhagruha has empty kōṣṭakas. This apart, kapota is very simple with Dravida shikara. Wall of Navaraṅga is plain and does not contain any Devakōṣṭha and pillars.

### **Temple of Amma (Goddess):**

Goddess temple is found on the left side of Bhujangēśvara temple. The sanctum of this temple has measurement of 8x8. Here Parvathi sculpture is found. Garbhagriha is very simple and Bhuvanēśwari is not noticed. Doorframe is not very simple and lalātabimba does not contain any sculpture. In front of garbhagriha an open Sukhanāsi is found which is also very simple.

Navaraṅga of this temple is measured as 30x20 which is rectangular in shape. Pillars of this temple represent Vijaynagara style. Here no separate sculptures are found. Doorframes of Navaraṅga are very simple and lalātabimba has sculpture of Umamahēśwari. Adhisthana of this temple is also very simple wall (Bhitti) of this temple is constructed with stone which is also simple to look. Recently on the top of garbhagriha shikara is constructed. On the backside of the temple adjacent to prakara wall, Pañchalingēśwara temple is found. Here, on one row five shivalingas are kept, each temple has doors. On doorframes of lalātabimba sculpture of Nandi is noticed. Among these five Shivalina one shivalinga has plate on the top of it gaṅge or shiva with chaturbhuja is found. This is very rare sculpture.

Shivalinga is kept on pitha of schist stone. Shivalinga is made up of schist stone. This Shivalinga is unique because on the top of the ling find a sculpture of goddess seated in Padmāsana posture having chaturbhuja. This sculpture is either Shiva or Ganga. As the carving is not clear, it is difficult to make out front hands of this sculpture are in Abaya and Varada mudra. The shilpa has Jatamukutha, in the middle of Mukutha image of goddess is found which in a way give different looks to Shivalinga. Offereing part of the ling is kept in different pitha as there is no co-ordination between linga and pitha. In total this linga is unique from remaining lingas. This type of linga is not found in any part of this district for which this linga totally different one. This temple is surrounded by prakara wall with a height of 15 feet. There is kalyānamandapa adjacent to prakara wall. This aspect in front of the temple we find in yōga school and kitchen. Inside the prakara wall we notice Bhairava, Saptamātrikas, Surya, Ganapathi sculpture are found.

Main entrance of the temple is in east direction outside there is large Deepastampa with 50 feet height. This is square in shape. In this square shape, we find sculpture of Bētāla which has open mouth with sharp probating teeth, swollen eyes, and shattered hair, lean in shape on the top of the Deepastamba we find 16 faces. In the end we find Bodige with lotus bud. At present the temple is in good condition and renovation work is going on.

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