



PLACES IN NEWS : GINGEE FORT

A UNESCO team is set to visit Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu, which has been nominated for the [World Heritage Site](#) designation.

Gingee Fort – Facts:

- **State** – Tamil Nadu One of the most impregnable fortresses in peninsular India.
- **Location:** Atop three hillocks – **Rajagiri, Krishnagiri, and Chandragiri.**
- **Nickname:** Known as the “**Troy of the East**”.
- **Defences:** Includes a **60-foot-wide rampart** and an **80-foot-wide moat.**
- **Carnatic Wars:** Vital during the wars between the **French and British.**

History of the fort:

- Built by – **Ananta Kon** of the **Konar Dynasty (1200 CE)**; named as **Krishnagiri.**
- It was under the possession of several empires, such as the **Vijayanagar Nayaks, Marathas, Mughals, Nawabs, the French and British.**
- **Vijayanagar Empire:** Undertook significant renovations.

Control of the fort and Subsequent Rulers:

- **1677:** Captured by **Chhatrapati Shivaji.**
- **1677-1698:** Under **Maratha control.**
- **1698:** Fell to the **Mughals.**
 - **Rajaram I (son of Shivaji):** Last stronghold during resistance against Mughal forces.
- **Raja Desingh (Tej Singh):** Brief rule.
- **1714:** Taken over by the **Nawabs of Arcot.**
- **1714-1749:** Under Nawabs’ dominion.
- **1750-1770:** Held by the **French.**
- **Post-1770:** Passed to the **British.**



Architectural Features:

- **Temples and Shrines:** Several within the fort complex.



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- **Water Supply Systems:** Two systems ensuring continuous water supply, even at the highest points.
- **Rajagiri Hill features** Citadel and **Ranganatha temple.**
- **Krishnagiri Citadel** – Notable for **Indo-Islamic architecture**
- **Venkataramana Swamy Temple** – Intricate carvings from **Hindu epics**
- **Kalyana Mahal** – Architectural jewel with **8 storeys used as Royal ladies' quarters**



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