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YADAVA TEMPLES OF OSMANABAD & LATUR DISTRICTS

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ABSTRACT

In Maharashtra temple architecture developed during the rule of Vakataka, Rashtrakuta, Kalyani Chalukya, Shilahara, Hoysala, & Yadava. Today's existing temples belong to Later Chalukya, Yadav & Later Yadava period. A number of temples were erected during Yadava period in Maharashtra up to 13-14th century C.E. These temples are locally known as 'Hemadpanti Temples'.

In Osmanabad and Latur districts movement of Temple building was started from 4th cen C.E. and ends in 14th cen C.E. Most of the temples are dedicated to Shiva; which shows influence of Shiva sect on society. It suggests that temples of Shiva & Vaishnav sect were built

simultaneously; but the Shaivism became very popular.

KEYWORDS: Yadava, Temple, Architecture, Sculpture, Hemadpanti, Interlock, Balsur, Taka.

1) INTRODUCTION

Preface- The word 'Devaytan' is mentioned in the inscription of 1st century B.C.E. The term of 'Devalaya' or 'Devaytan' was existed four-five centuries before the Gupta period, but we couldn't get that kind of structures. The early shelters for such icons must have been made up of perishable materials, like humble shrines still built today all over the Indian countryside. As image worship came to predominance in organized

religion, monumental masonry temples began to build remains of brick/ stone structures. Temple architecture is developed in Gupta times. (Mate: 1974; 72)

Early Indian literature provides copious references to the worship of divinities. Panini, who flourished not later than the fourth century B.C., refers in his Ashtadyayi to numerous gods & goddesses and to images under worship which presume existence of shrines. Patanjali, who wrote his commentary on Panini's grammar in the second century B.C. Koutilyas 'Arthshastra' also mentions about it. (Krishna Deva: 1995; 4) Temples are divided into Nagara, Dravida & Vesara according to region. According to architectural plan; it divided into Nagara, Dravida, Vesara, Apsidal, Mandapa, Bhumiya.

Remains of temples built by Vakatakas were found at Ramtek & Nagardhan. In Maharashtra temple architecture developed during the rule of Rashtrakuta, Kalchuris, Kalyani Chalukya, Shilahara, Hoysala, & Yadava. Rock-cut Kailas temple is built

by Rashtrakuta. It is the finest specimen of rock-cut architecture. In the Marathwada region most temples were built by Later Chalukya & Yadava dynasties. Old Dharashiv (Osmanabad & Latur) has several temples. Today's existing temples belong to Later Chalukya, Yadav & Later Yadava period. These temples are locally known as 'Hemadpanti Temples'. Hemadpant was the prime minister of Yadava king Ramchandra & he built several such temples during his rule.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH:

- 1.To find out why Yadava dynasty built such temples hurriedly.
- 2.To study the Yadava style temple architecture in Osmanabad & Latur districts.
- 3.To discuss impact of Shaivism on Society & contemporary cultures.

YADAVA TEMPLES FROM OSMANABAD AND LATUR DISTRICTS-

After the Chalukyas this region was ruled by Yadavas. A number of temples were erected during Yadava period in Maharashtra up to 13-14th century C.E. Pillars; ceilings are similar to Chalukyan temples. Decorations on pillars, doorjambs & niches are reduced. The sculptures are slowly disappearing & the temple turns to simplicity; but in the earlier examples. Simplicity of form is limited to the exterior & the interior ornamentation is still maintained. There are twenty five Yadava temples in Osmanabad & Latur district. These temples are commonly known as 'Hemadpanti temples' in 13th to 15th century C.E.

SADASHIV TEMPLE, BHUTMUGLI:

Bhutmugli village is located in Nilanga taluka in Latur district, 14 k.m. away from Nilanga. Temple consists of mukhamandapa, sabhamandapa, antarala & tridial garbhagriha (3 shrines). Temple is facing east; in front of the temple there is step well.

Sabhamandapa: Nandi is placed in sabhamandapa. Ganesh is carved on lalabimba on the lower part of the doorjamb there are Chamardharini, Shaivdwarpalas & Nidhis carved. Shivaling & icon of Lakshmi- Vishnu is in the main garbhagriha. Icons of Vishnu & Shiv-Parvati are in the other two shrines.

Exterior Part: Exterior part is very simple. It doesn't have decoration, floral designs, sculptures & niches. Only adhishtana part has moldings of lotus & inverted lotus. The temple was built in middle of 13th century C.E.

BHIMASHANKAR MANDIR, TAKA

Bhimashankar temple is located in Ausa taluka of Latur district. Temple is facing east & dedicated to Shiva. Interior part is carved. It consists of mukhamandapa, sabhamandapa, antarala & garbhagriha. Pillars, ceiling & doorjambs with makartoranas are highly ornamented. There are five doorjambs including pushpashakha, stambhashakha, vyalashakha, patrashakha. On the lower part of Chandrashila is there. Ganesha is carved on lalabimbba, on the upper side small motifs of shikhara is carved with peacock. Peacock motif is differently introduced here.

Doorjamb of antarala has decorated with floral designs. Lower part of the doorjamb has icon of Sursundari & upper part of the lintel has icon of Nataraj Shiv with makartoranas Small icon of Shiva is flanked by Brahama & Vishnu. Doorjambs of garbhagriha have icons of river goddesses Ganga-Yamuna, Chamardharini, Shivpratihari & Nidhi.

Exterior Part: The exterior of the temple is severely plain. It doesn't have plinth & adhishtana. Temple is dated back to 14th cen. C.E.

SOMLINGESHWAR TEMPLE, RAMLINGMUDGAD

Ramlingmudgad is a small village in Nilanga taluka of Latur district, 40 k.m. from Nilanga. The ruins of Chalukyan temple & sculptures have been found there. The temple is facing east & has open sabhamandapa. Temple consists of a sabhamandapa, antarala & garbhagriha. There are eight pillars in sabhamandapa. The shrine is small chamber contains Shiv-linga. Doorjamb & lower part of it is sculpted with floral decorations, chouribearer, Shivpratihari & Nidhi. Ganesha is carved on lintel.

Exterior Wall: The walls are severely plain. There is only one band runs round the entire exterior wall. The spire has disappeared leaving no trace of its shape & style. The temple was built in 14th cen. C.E.

MAHADEV TEMPLE, NARANGWADI

Narangwadi is located in Osmanabad district, 19 k.m. away from Umarga. Temple faces east. Interior part was decorative & exterior walls are severely plain. It consists of small mukhamandapa, sabhamandapa, antarala & garbhagriha. There are two inscriptions in the temples. In front of the temple nandimandapa is there, sculpture of Nandi is beautifully carved.

Exterior Part: The base of the exterior wall is on small plinth. Adhishthana is plain but on the wall there is one horizontal band. It has five projecting belts having triangular decorations. The Shikhara (spire) of the temple has been built later. Temple belongs to 14th cen. C.E.

NAGOBA TEMPLE, NAGUR

Nagur is a village in Umarga taluka of Osmanabad district. It is about 46 k.m. from Umarga. This is Shiv temple commonly known as Nagoba temple. Temple is in ruins, badly damaged by earthquake. Garbhagriha contains Shivalinga, earlier it was dedicated to Vishnu. Vishnupratiharis, pitha in the garbhagriha suggests the influence of Vaishnav deity. Walls of sabhamandapa have some painting older than 100 years. Ganesha is carved on lalabimba, Kirtimukha on Mandaraka (threshold) & Chandrashila on floor.

Exterior Part: There is one band of kirtimukha running all around the temple and some projections are presented.

NILKANTHESHWAR TEMPLE, KHAROLA

Kharola is a small village in Renapur tehsil of Latur district. Temple is known as Nilkantheshwar dedicated to Shiva. It consists of mukhamandapa, sabhamandapa, antarala & garbhagriha. On the upper part of lalabimba icons of Brahma, Vishnu & Shiv have been carved. Pillars are highly ornated, those are similar to pillars of Taka temples. Dwarshakha (Doorjamb) of garbhagriha is best piece of decorative art; on the lower part of these sculptures Ganga-Yamuna, Chamardharini, Shivparvati, Nidhi are carved. Motifs of Kirtimukha & elephant are found on Mandaraka (threshold). Ganesha is carved on lalabimba. Exterior wall are newly built. Temple was built during 14th cen. C.E.

MALLIKARJUN TEMPLE, ACHLER

is a small village situated in Umarga taluka of Osmanabad district. The temple is dedicated to Shiva locally known as Mallikarjun Mandir. Temple consists of mukhamandapa, sabhamandapa, antarala, garbhagriha. Exterior walls, mukhamandapa & spire are the new additions. Temple is facing south. Pillars are of different style has square, decorative part in the middle; rarely found in this area. It has Navrang vitana. Earlier it had three shrines (tridala garbhagriha) but later changes have been done there. To the east side there is square shaped step well. Temple belongs to 12-13th cen. C.E.

JATASHANKAR TEMPLE, MULAJ

Village Mulaj is located in Umarga tehsil of Osmanabad district. Temple faces west, dedicated to Shiva known as Jatashankar. It consists of mukhamandapa, sabhamandapa, antarala, garbhagriha. Nandimandapa is in ruins. Mukhamandapa has kakshanas. Garbhagriha contains Shivalinga & icon of Shiv-Parvati. Doorjamb of garbhagriha is Nandini type. Gajalakshmi is carved on lintel. Lower parts of doorjamb have icons of Ganga-Yamuna, Shivpratihari, Chamardharini & Nidhi. Ceiling (vitana) is divided into nine square parts; so it is called 'Navrang Vitana'. Remains of the temple are scattered. Exterior part is later addition. Small pillars are similar to those of pillars on the exterior of Trivikram Temple. The temple is built in earlier period of 13th cen. C.E.

NILKANTHESHWAR TEMPLE, BALSUR

Balsur is located in Umarga tehsil of Osmanabad district. Temple is locally known as Nilkantheshwar

temple. It consists of sabhamandapa, antarala, garbhagriha. Spire & some exterior part are the later additions. There is one inscription. In the lower part of antarala Doorjamb has icons of Apsaras (Stambhaputlika). Ganesha is carved on lintel. Temple is built during Yadava period in 13th cen. C.E.

SIDDHESHWAR NAGNATH & NAVKUND ZARI TEMPLE, COMPLEX

Navkund Zari is a small village located in Ahmedpur taluka of Latur district. A Temple face north dedicated to Shiva is known as Siddheshwar Nagnath temple. In front of the temple there are two temples of Narsimha & Mallikarjun (Shiv) temple. Small temple of Chamunda situated in step well called 'Tirth'. Temple belongs to 13-14th cen. C.E.

MAHADEV TEMPLE, HIPPALGAON

Hippalgaon is located in Nilanga taluka dist Latur about 30 k.m. from Nilanga. Temple is dedicated to Shiva. Temple has sabhamandapa, antarala & three shrines (tridra garbhagriha). There are traces of Nandimandapa. Garbhagriha towards left is in ruins & right side has icon of Mahishasurmardini. Remains of temples are scattered. Temple is dated back to 13th cen. C.E.

CONCLUSION-

After the 13th century the temple architecture of Marathwada lost all its artistic charm. During that time invaders made the temple a special target for their iconoclastic activity. In such circumstances to secure religion & cultures the Yadava Kings and their prime minister Hemadpant built this kind of temples hurriedly. Yadava temples mark the further stage in the temple movement. This new temple style shows greater simplicity. The number of shrines is reduced from three to one. The exterior wall projections & recesses are also reduced. Temples were built in interlock system without using any binding material, which has sockets for locking stones. In Osmanabad and Latur districts movement of Temple building was started from 4th cen C.E. and ends in 14th cen C.E. Most of the temples are dedicated to Shiva; which shows influence of Shiva sect on society. It suggests that temples of Shiva & Vaishnav sect were built simultaneously; but the Shaivism became very popular. The observations stated that some Vaishnav temples were converted in to Shaiva. Because many people accepted Shaiv cult. Installation of Shivaling is easier because local sculptor can easily carved Shivling and that could be install in the empty Garbhgruha(Sanctum).

Charactristic features of Yadava temples are as follows:

- Temples are not decorated on its exterior wall.
 - Garbhagriha, antarala, sabhamandapa & mukhamandapa are the parts of temple.
 - The sculptural ornamentation on the pillars & doorjamb is also reduced. Sculpture of Ganesh was carved on Lalatbimba.
 - These temples are commonly known as 'Hemadpanti Temples'.
 - It has monotones structure hurriedly built.
- Most temples are dedicated to Shiva.

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