



TEMPLES IN INDI TALUKA, DIST VIJAYAPUR

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INTRODUCTION

A monument is a type structure that was explicitly created to commemorate a person or event, or which has become relevant to a social group as a part of their remembrance of historic times or cultural heritage, due to its artistic, historical, political, technical or architectural importance. Some of the first monuments were dolmens or menhirs, megalithic constructions built for religious or funerary purposes. Examples of monuments include statues, (war) memorials, forts, temples, historical buildings, archaeological sites, and cultural assets.



Kotilingeshwara Temple in Nimbai

Indi is the headquarters of Indi taluk and sub-division. It is 3^{1/2} miles south-east of Indi Road railway station. In the Bhima Mahatmya, Indi is described as Payakshetra (the milk-spot).

Shankaralingadeva and Shambhulinga Temples in Agarkhed.

Agarkhed is a large village on the Bhima River about 15 miles north-west of Indi and seven miles from Lachyan railway station on the Hubli-Sholapur section. It was originally called Agra-Khetaka in inscriptions. To the south of the village is an old temple of Shankaralingadeva with a tapering spire. The *linga* is of white marble and was consecrated in about 1800 by the proprietor of the village to replace the original *linga*, which was stolen. The temple has also two images of Virabhadra and Jakani.

Near to the above temple is Shambhulinga temple, this temple has a Sabhamantapa and a garbhagriha and in the sabhamantapa there are four pillars of Chalukya style pillars in a single row. In the garbhagriha there is a *linga*. The village has also a Hemadpanti temple called Dhairappana Gudi with an inscribed stone dated 1250 AD. There is a belief in the village that any person or cattle bitten by a snake would recover if brought and kept near this temple. In the old days, the place was a reputed seat of learning. The Peshwa gave it as an Agrahara village to Krishna Dwaipayanaacharya, a saint.

Siddheshvara and Mallikarjuna Temples in Horti.

Horti is a large village about lit miles southwest of Indi and has two old temples of Siddheshvara and Mallikarjuna and two small temples, one of Ishvara and the other whose name is not known. The lintels of the shrines in all the first three temples bear a figure of Ganapati and the fourth temple has lions, heads in addition to Ganapati.

Mallikarjuna Temple Nandargi.

Nandargi is a village in Indi taluka, located 48 Km towards North from District head quarters Bijapur and 14 Km from Indi. Built on a high plinth the temple consists of a garbhagriha, antarala and a sabhamantapa. An inscription of 12th century CE from the village calls this temple as Davapeshwara and informs about a land grant made by mahamandaleshwara Bijjala to this temple.

The doorframes of the garbhagriha are highly decorated and ornamented with yali designs there is a gajalaxmi on the head frame (lalata) there are damaru, Naga, Dwarapalakas and chauri

bearers on the walls of the entrance door of garbhagriha. There is a linga (phallus) in the garbhagriha. In the antarala there are ornamented pillars. There are four highly ornamented pillars and there is a nandi in the centre about 3 feet. There are devakoshtas with dravida style shikhara carvings and saptamatrikas ganesha carved on these pillars. There are remains of mukhamantapa outside the sabhamantapa which is completely in ruins and there are entrances on north and south to the mukhamantapa. The outer wall of the garbhagriha, antarala and the sabhamantapa are in stellate shape with fine with miniature carvings of gods and goddesses. There are veergals (hero stones), idols of saptamatrikas, nandi, etc.

Kotilingeshwara Temple Nimbal.

Nimbal is a village about 26 Kms southwest of Indi the taluka headquarter and 37 Km towards north from Bijapur taluka headquarters. Outside the village there is a temple called Kotilingeshwara, there are some inscriptions belonging to Kalachuris and Yadavas which call the Village as Nimbahalla and the temple as Koti Shankaradeva.

Built in a wide premise in Black stone the temple consists of a garbhagriha, antarala, a sabhamantapa, a mahamantapa and a mukha mantapa. The doorframes of the garbhagriha ornamented with miniature idols of padma, petal designs, ornamented pillars, lotus in the lalata, on the upper beam of the doorframe are carvings of gods and goddesses and elephants on either side. There is a linga places on a small heightened platform of 2 feet. The entrance doorway of the antarala contains padma, ornamented pillars, makara torana on the upper side natya shiva in the centre and dancers and musicians on his either side. The doorframes are decorated with makara torana, kirtimukha and garlands. The sabhamantapa has entrances from East, North and South directions. The eastern entrance ornamented pillars, there are padma, designs of floral creepers and makarana torana at the lower side are trishul, damaru idols of dwarapalaks with maces. The Northern and Southern entrances ornamented pillars, there are padma, designs of floral creepers, goats, sow, elephant, lion and makarana torana. The four pillars in the entrance are highly designed and contain human figures, floral designs chain like designs. In the mukhamantapa adjacent to sabhamantapa there are four designed pillars. The west facing chamber adjacent to this mantapa seems to have been garbhagriha which is in complete ruin except two pillars standing at its entrance. The outer wall of the temple is in stellate shape with miniature carvings of pillars, shaiva and vaishnava gods and goddesses, shilabalikas and dancers playing musical instruments. The lower walls of the mukhamantapas contain rows of elephants. There is an entrance gate to the temple compound, door frame of this gate has dwarapalas, Vishnu idols and chauri bearers. The sidewall of this gate has elephants at lower case. The entrance appears to be of muslim style.

Ishwara and Revanasiddheshwara Temples Revatgaon.

Revatgaon is a village about 50 Kms Northeast of Indi the taluka headquarter and 90 Kms towards north from Bijapur taluka headquarters. There are two ancient temples in the village-Ishwara and Revansiddheshwara temples. The Ishwara temple which stands on a high plinth consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarala*, a *sabhamantapa* and a *mukhamantapa*. The entrance of the garbhagriha has beautifully carved doorframes with two half pillars on either side, beneath them are placed the dwarapalaks and chauri bearers and the lalata (lentil beam) has a carved idol of ganesha. Inside the garbhagriha a linga stands on a high plinth of 2 feet on which a copper veerabhadra head is placed recently. The sabhamantapa entrance has same as that of the garbhagriha and a linga at the bottom with carvings of Ganesha on its either side. There are four designed and ornamented pillars in the sabhamantapa and star shaped ceiling with floral designs. In the centre are the nandi and sculpture of maharaja of simhagadh in plaster of Paris installed recently. There are kakshasanas on either side of the mukhamantapa which are standing on pillars and wall. In front of the mukhamantapa are steps which have rounded sopanas. The outer wall of the temple is in stellate shape and have miniature designs of jagatis, pattikas, and small pillar sculptures and men and women in different naked statures.

There is another temple in the village- the **Revanasiddheshwara** temple. Built on a high plinth the temple might have consisted of garbhagriha, an antarala and a sabhamantapa but only antarala and

garbhagriha survive at present. The garbhagriha has a head sculpture of Veerabhadreshwara on a heightened and designed platform. The doorframes of the garbhagriha are simple with ganesh in the lalata and bottom beam. There are two designed and ornamented pillars in the open antarala. There is an open roof and compound wall around the temple and a large entrance gopura attached to it.

Shivayogishvara Temple Salotgi.

Salotgi (Indi taluk) is a large village six miles south-east of Indi. It is an ancient place and had been a seat of learning. It is recorded in an inscription dated 945 CE that there was a big college which attracted students from far and near. At the north end of the village is an old temple dedicated to Shivayogishvara. This temple is said to have been built by one of the kings of Bidar, and some lands granted by the Bidar kings are still enjoyed by the temple. The temple verandas were built in about 1680 by two bankers of Athani.

According to A.S. Altekar the village of **Salotgi** in Bijapur District of the Bombay Presidency was a famous centre, probably of Vedic learning, in the 10th and 11th centuries AD. The Sanskrit college that flourished at this place must have existed for a long time, for it eventually transformed the original name of the place, Pavittage into Salotgi, which is an abbreviated and Prakristised compound of Sala and Pavittage. The college was located in a spacious hall, attached to the temple of *Tray-Purusha*, which was built by Narayana, a minister of the Rashtrakuta emperor Krishna III. Owing to its far spread fame for efficiency, the college could attract students from different parts of the country. The strength of the college is not known, but it seems that 27 houses were necessary for lodging the students. An endowment of 12 **Nivartanas** (probably equal to 60 acres) of land was made for meeting the lighting charges of the boarding houses. The students were offered free boarding, an endowment of 500 **Nivartanas** having been received for that purpose. It would appear that at least 200 students were offered free boarding, lodging and education at this institution.¹² But there are two temples in Salotgi-Shivayogishwara and Ramalingeshwara which seem to be of the Muslim period or rejuvenated during Muslim period. Some remnants of Hindu temples can be seen in the premises of these temples.

At the north end of the village is an old temple dedicated to Shivayogishvara. This temple is said to have been built by one of the kings of Bidar, and some lands granted by the Bidar kings are still enjoyed by the temple. The temple verandas were built in about 1680 by two bankers of Athani. This temple has been completely renovated during Muslim rulers (probably Adil Shahis of Bijapur), which consists of a garbhagriha and a large sabhamantapa.

Yogeshwara and Trikuteshwara Temples Umaraj.

Umaraj is a village on the bank of Bhima River it has prominence as an important cite of stone-age period, an Inscription of 12th century from this village informs about donations made to this temple (Yogeshwara) by one Basavarasa.¹⁴ The name of this east temple might have been changed as Revansiddeshwara temple later on. The temple has a *garbhagriha*, *Antarala* and a *sabhamantapa*. The entrance door to the *garbhagriha* (which is little deeper than the *antarala* and *sabhamantapa*) has idols Padma, Gajalaxmi in the *lalata*, *Dwarapalas* holding *trishul*, mace, *damaru* etc and *chauri* bearers carved on door frames. The outer wall of the garbhagriha is in stellate shape with miniature carvings of *nandi* and shikharas. A shikhara of nearly 15 feet stands on the garbhagriha. The sabhamantapa has entrances from East, North and south. The eastern entrance has some fine idols of Ganesha in lalata, and lions and horses on both sides which are worth noticing. The northern and southern entrances are simple with simple pillars.

In this village itself there is another east facing temple mentioned in an epigraph of about 13th century CE, which informs about donation of land for the god Trikuteshwara by Mattharasa.¹⁶ Built on a high basement only sabha mantapa of the temple remains. There are four Vishnu images, four beautifully carved pillars, a linga and a nandi of about 3 feet. The outer wall has completely fallen.

CONCLUSIONS

We can agree with A. L. Rowse who says, "One might regard Architecture as History Arrested in Stone", because history tells us how we were and how we changed to survive as the time passed. History is a bridge that connects us to our future. Unless we know how our past was, we will never know how our future is going to be.

Indi is the headquarters of Indi taluk and sub-division. There are several temples in the villages of the taluka. They are, **Shankaralingadeva and Shambhulinga Temples in Agarkhed, Shankaralinga Temple in Dhulkhed, Siddheshvara and Mallikarjuna Temples in Horti, Mallikarjuna Temple Nandargi, Kotilingeshwara Temple Nimbal, Ishwara and Revana siddheshwara Temples Revatgaon, Shivayogishwara Temple Salotgi, Yogeshwara and Trikuteshwara Temples Umaraj.**

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Mallikarjuna (Ishwar) Temple in Nandargi,



Trikuteshwara (Ishwara) Temple in Umaraj.