

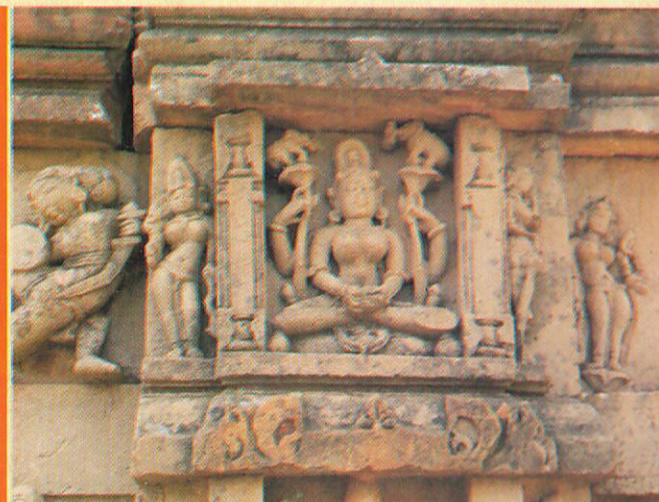
Kachchhapaghata Temples Kadwaha

District - Ashoknagar, (M.P.)



**Archaeological Survey of India
Temple Survey Project (NR)
Bhopal (M.P.)**

Kadwaha



Gaja-Lakshmi



Door-Sill

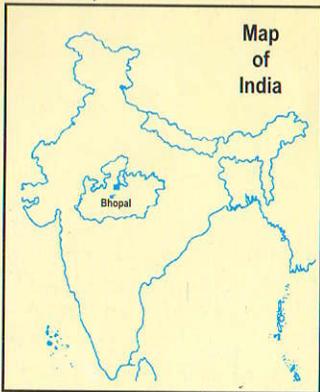
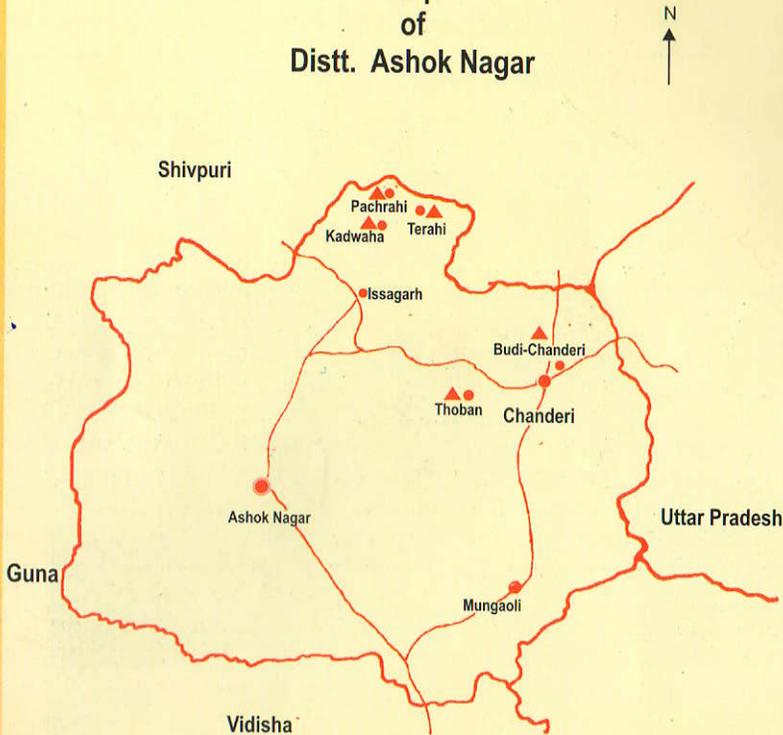
**Monuments are our National Heritage
Let's preserve them.**

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Map of Distt. Ashok Nagar



Sr. No.	Description	Symbol
1	District H.Q.	●
2	Village	•
3	Archaeological Sites	▲
4	Tehsil Place	●
5	Roads	—

KACHCHHAPAGHATA TEMPLES AT KADWAHA, DISTRICT ASHOKNAGAR, M.P.

Kadwaha (Lat.24° 55' N. and Long 77° 55' E) is located about 16 kilometers away on northern direction from Isagarh Tahsil and about 40 kilometers from Chanderi on northwestern side in district Ashoknagar of Madhya Pradesh. Kadwaha is a small village with the population of about five thousand and it is very well connected with Ashoknagar, Guna, Shivpuri, etc. by motorable road. The nearest railway station and airport are Ashoknagar and Gwalior respectively. The name Kadwaha was anciently known as *Kadamb Guha*. It is said that this area was donated by the Kachchhapaghata rulers to the *Matamayura* clan of Siva- cult under the supervision of *Mahanta* the chief priest. Kadwaha is much popular for large number of temples and sculptures of Kachchhapaghata dynasty. According to verbal tradition the Kachchhapaghata dynasty is said to have been come from Kusha, the son of lord Rama, who belongs to the solar clan of Kshatriyas. It is also presumed that the name Kachchhapaghata came into existence as they used to attack their enemies in the manner of *kachchhapa* (tortoise). According to another folklore due to hunting of tortoise the name Kachchhapaghata came into existence. Gwalior inscription of Sasa-Bahu temple is the main source to know the genealogy of Kachchhapaghata rulers. Based on the epigraphical evidences including folklore and traditions Kachchhapaghata rulers consolidated their power by 9th century. A.D. They were sub ordinate to Pratiharas. In 950 AD., the victory over Pratiharas by Vajradaman was a great event of early medieval history of India.

There were three branches of this dynasty :

1. Gwalior branch (950-1104 AD)
2. Dubkund branch (1000-1100 AD)
3. Narvar branch (1075-1125 AD)

Main characteristics of the Kachchhapaghata temple architecture

Shri Krishan Deva opined that a highly ornate temple style was developed with their principal seat at Gwalior and subsidiary centres at Kadwaha (District Guna presently Ashoknagar), Survaya, Mahur & Terahi (District Shivapuri), Suhania, Padhavli and Mitaoli (District Morena) and Kherat (District Bhind) all in Madhya Pradesh. The salient features of these temples are :

1. Generally the temples are raised on low plinth.
2. Porch with dwarf pillars which is open from three sides.

- Pillars are of low height and decorated with *ghatapallava* topped with a plain bracket.
- Sculptures on the wall (*jangha*) portion of the temple shown in double registers.
- Images of the Kachchhapaghata period are thin and short.
- Navagrahas are shown invariably, on the door lintel.



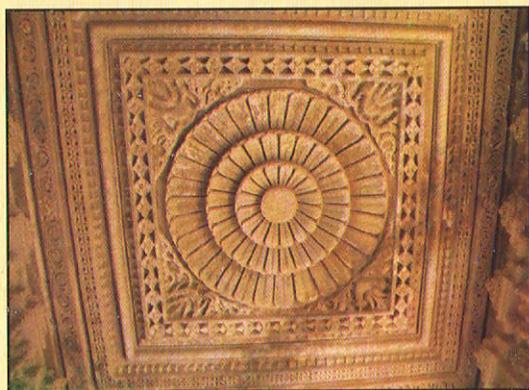
Pillared Porch

Temples at Kadwaha

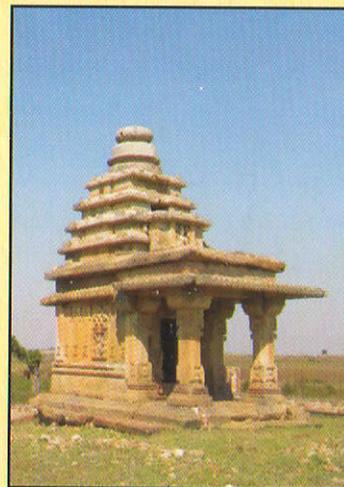
Altogether, fifteen temples made of sand stone are positioned in Kadwaha village. The surface morphology of the region is more or less plain. Presently, most of the temples are located around the cultivated land. The temples at Kadwaha are centrally protected and being looked after by the Bhopal Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. Temples are grouped into various names i.e. Ekla, Pachhali (A, B), Chandla, Bag Group (A,B), Marghat, Talao Group (A,B), Group 7 (A,B,C), Khirna Group (A,B) and Garhi.

Temples at Kadwaha appeared to have been constructed in three phases. In the earliest phase, the temples are simple and plain in terms of sculptural art, ground plan, elevation. *vedibandha* of the temple is also plain. In the second phase, temples are comparatively decorated and sculptures are shown in panels on the exterior of the temple. Mouldings of *vedibandha*

are also increased. In the third phase there is only one temple known as Shiv Temple Talao Group 'A' which is decorated with mouldings of various designs and height of this temples has been increased considerably. The main features of



Ceiling of the Mandapa, Talao group 'A'



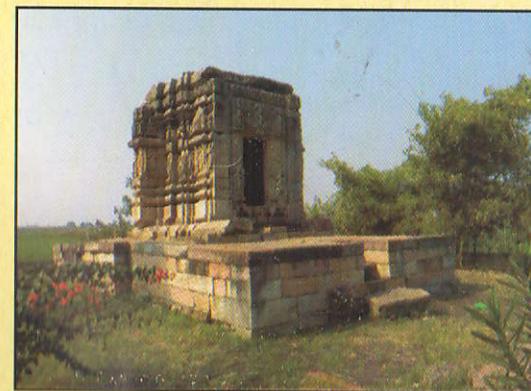
Chandla Temple

Chandla Temple

The temple locally known as Chandla is located at the western most part of the village. This east facing temple probably constructed in the earliest phase of temple architecture at Kadwaha. It is dedicated to lord Siva and directly elevated from the *jadyakumbha*. Most striking feature of this temple is its pyramidal *sikhara* which is similar to the Dravidian style with bell-top. *Sikhara* is decorated with *chaitya*- arch motifs. Exterior of the *jangha* is adorned with the sculptures of Surya, Chamunda and Ganesha on three sides in shallow niches. *Sukanasika* is shown with a seated figure of lord Siva.

Ekla Temple

Ekla temple represents the second phase of development of temple architecture at Kadwaha. The temple is surrounded by a compound wall, having *tri-ratha* plan, facing east, stands upon a low and plain *jagati* which is approachable through a flight



Ekla Temple

temples at Kadwaha are plain square or rectangular *garbhagriha* with a small porch which is supported on low height pillars in front and pilasters at the rear. They are decorated with vase-foliage motifs with plain brackets. The most common feature is the door-sill which is decorated with fighting scene of elephant with lion on both the corners. In between, the figures of Udahi Kumaras seated over *makara* with *kalasa* have been carved out elegantly.



Door jamb, Ekla Temple

of three steps on the eastern side. The temple is dedicated to lord Vishnu. However, there is a lately planted Siva-linga with *yoni-pitha* in the sanctum. The temple consists of a square *garbhagriha*. The pillared porch and *sikhara* of the temple are also lost. The interior walls as well as the floor of the *garbhagriha* are plain. However, southern side wall possess panels depicting Seshasaye and Mother with Child (probably Krishna-birth) while Mother and Child in standing posture has been shown on

the northern wall of the *garbhagriha*. The ceiling of the *garbhagriha* is adorned with full blown lotus in a square border. Door jamb of the *garbhagriha* is decorated with various divinities and sculptures. *Lalatabimba* is shown with lord Vishnu seated over Garuda and figures of Brahma and Shiva have been depicted in the terminal points. Recesses shows friezes of *navagrahas* and *matrikas*. The architrave of the doorjamb is depicted by a row of *ekadasha rudra* in seated posture. On the pedyas the river goddess Ganga and Yamuna are shown holding water pots on the right and left side respectively. The vehicles *makara* and *kurma* are carved prominently below the river goddess respectively. The anthropomorphized nagas stand on the rupa sakha (human figures) are depicted in anjali pose. Door sill is adorned with a scrolled *Mandaraka* in the centre and fighting scene of elephant with a lion at both the ends. Further, a pair of foliage tailed or Udadhi Kumaras holding *purna kalasha* on either side is noticed on door sill.

Jangha portion starts from a pair of plain pitha. A *jadyakumbha* forming *pitha* and usual *vedhibandha* consisting of *khura*, *khumbha* mouldings. *Bhadra* projection is given more prominence as a projecting subshrine occupying almost full height of the *jangha*. The *prathirathas* and *karnas* of the lower *jangha* display figures of *apsaras* and *dikpalas* and the upper row shows

Surya figures including *mithunas*, while *salilantar*s shelter *vyalas* and *apsaras*. *Kapili* at the south preserves the image of Brahma. *Bhadra* niches in all three sides are empty and a *pranala* is shown on the northern side of the temple.

Siva temple at Garhi Area

This temple is located in a deep dried up tank or dug out area from the surface ground level surrounded by a rectangular stone wall. Dedicated to lord Siva, this temple represents the second phase of temple architecture at Kadwaha. Its front view is hampered due to a mosque probably constructed by Ala-ud-din Khilji as there is an inscription found on the floor of this temple. The inscription is datable to *samvata* 1366 which refers to the name of Ala-ud-din Khilji. Most probably he destroyed this temple badly. The temple consists of a rectangular *garbhagriha* and a small porch. *Sikhara* of the temple is missing. The temple stands upon a *jadyakumbha* pitha above which the *khura*, *kumbha* mouldings adorned with small sculptured niches on each projection are observed. *Garbhagriha* possess a *linga* which is planted in a high *yoni-pitha*. The door frame is decorated with *panchasakhas*. The mandapa has a pair of heavy pillars and pilasters ornamented with *patravalli*, *kirtimukhas* and *kumara* brackets. Pillars are decorated with *purna ghatapallava* on the top and below. Base of the pillar is square having *khura*, *kumbha* mouldings. The *khura* bears four miniature niched sculpture on each cardinal direction having figures of dancers. *Jangha* is divided into two rows by a medial



Siva Temple Garhi

pattika of *tamala patras* but shows a single row of sculpture. The *prathirathas* and *salilantar*s possess the figures of deities, *naikas*, *vyalas*. While the *karnas* show *dikpalas*. *Kapili*-walls have deities in niches with *kutacchadyas*

whose crowning *udgamas* occupying the upper register of the *jangha*.

Siva temple, Talao Group, 'A'

The temple facing east is located in the eastern most part of the village near by a dried up tank belongs to the developed phase of temple architecture at Kadwaha. This temple can be approached through a flight of steps on the eastern side. The artists did their utmost efforts in this temple to reach the zenith of temple architecture.



Siva Temple, Talao group, 'A'

The temple consists of a *garbhagriha* with a Siva - *linga* and a porch in front. *Garbhagriha* is plain but *dwarsakha* of the temple is attractive which is adorned with couples of *Trideva* along with their consort. The most striking element of the temple is ceiling of the decorative porch which is with full blown lotus. The porch of the temple is provided with high *kakshasanas* with various inscriptions. The corner projections of the *sikhara* are consisting of *antarpatta* in alternate height and *jangha* portion is resting upon an elaborate mouldings. Large number of images are carved out elegantly.

Other Structures

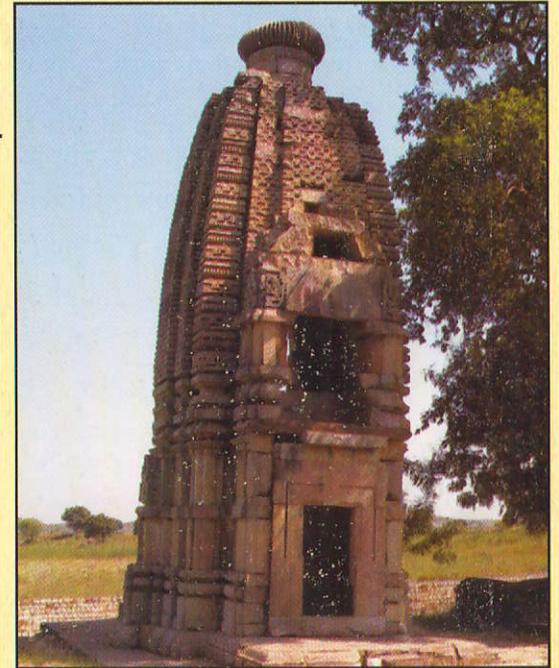
There are some instances of experiments in temple architecture at Kadwaha. One example may be seen in a temple with twin *garbhagriha* as Talao group 'B'. In addition, there is a monastery which was perhaps constructed for the Saiva Acharyas of Matamayura sect.

Sculptures in temples at Kadwaha

A good number of deities of Brahmanic pantheon in sculptural

art are found in Kachchhapaghata temples at Kadwaha. Sculptures at Kadwaha temples comprising various forms of Siva, Vishnu, Ganesha, Surya, Dikpalas, etc. Besides, there are the figures of Brahma, and female deities i.e. Chamunda, Saraswati, Lakshmi, Saptamatrikas, etc. The doorways are very attractive in terms of sculptural representation in which the *lalatabimba* is shown with the deity to which the temple is dedicated, In some cases, deity on *lalatabimba* is flanked by the *Tridevas* with their consort. Normally Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesha are depicted on top of the *dwarsakha*. In addition, there are the figures of Ganga - Jamuna, Apsaras, Naikas, Vyalas, Wrestlers, etc.

Indeed, Kadwaha deserves special mention for its temple architecture, various forms of deities of Hindu pantheon which are datable from 10th to 12th century AD. Kadwaha is not only important from the point of temple study of the central India but there is enough

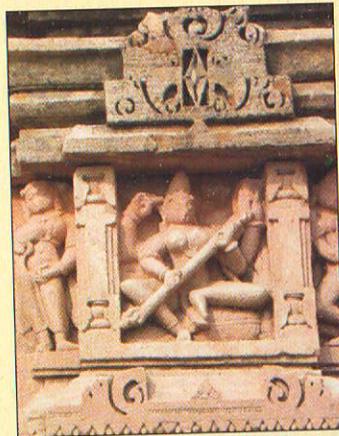


Temple, Talao group, 'B'

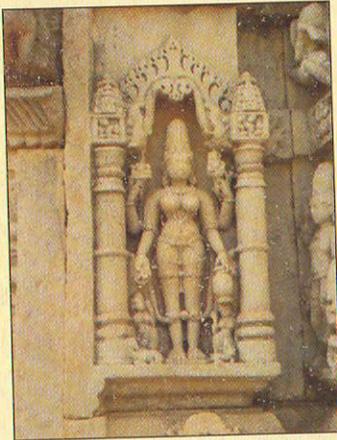
potential for excavations which may throw new light in the history and cultural activities of Kadwaha itself. It is worthful to quote that previously a good number of stone tools were reported from Kadwaha.



Dancing Ganesha, Temple Gr. 7, B



Saraswati, Temple Gr. 7, B



Parvati, Temple Gr.7,A



Dikpala (Naratriya), Shiv Temple Garhi



Chamunda, Chandla Temple



Naika, Ekla Temple

Site plan showing
Group of Kachchapaghata Temples, Kadwaha
 Distt. Ashok Nagar (M.P.)

