

KHARGONE

(354) BALLESHWAR TEMPLE, OON



Village Oon is situated about 17 km west of Khargone and bus facility to there is available from the district headquarters. During Paramara period the place was developed as a temple town.

The east-facing temple is square in shape. Its *garbha-griha* is about 71 cm below the ground reached by a flight of three steps. The *garbha-griha* enshrines a *jaladhari*, which has no Shivlinga. The *dev kulikas* in *garbha-griha* are carved with *Alas nayikas*. A plate on

the temple depicts battle scenes. Another plate depicts an army on the march, soldiers riding horses, elephants as well as infantry. The third plate depicts *maladharis*.

The gate pillars of *garbha-griha* are carved with an image of Chaturbhuj Shiva in *tribhanga mudra*. The lintel piece is occupied by Ganesha. The *sirdal* portion is carved with figures of flying *maladharis*, *vidyadhars* and floral patterns. The top portion has *saptamatrikas*, Veenadhar Shiva, Ganesha and Shiva Natesh carved on it.

A rectangular *antatal* exists in front of *garbha-griha*. There is an inscription in Devnagari on the *antatal* and on the exterior wall, which mention the name of Vallabha, the son of Ahadhipati Paramara Udayaditya.

The temple plan is of Pancharathi style. The plinth is carved with figures of *kirthimukha* and floral patterns. Figures of *saptamatrikas* and *ekadash rudras* are carved in the niches on pillars. The *jangha* portion has images of Chamunda, Natesh and Tripurantak. The southern portion is carved with images of Varuna, northeastern portion has images of Indra and Vayu while the east northern portion is carved with an image of Ishan Shiva.

(355) Gauri Somnath Temple (10-11th century A.D.)

The plan of the temple consists of *garbha-griha* and *sabha-mandapa*. The *sabha-mandapa* is supported by many pillars and there are flights of steps on three sides to access it. A tortoise image exists in the center. The *garbha-griha* enshrines a huge stone Shivlinga. There is a flight of steps on one side to reach upto the high Shivlinga. There is arrangement for Abhishek. The temple was built by Gautma Bai, the wife of Malhar Rao I and a *sabha-mandapa* was constructed by Ahilya Bai and renovated by Krishnabai Maa Saheb (Holkar dynasty).

1- Ganesha Temple (18th century A.D.)

The *Garbha-griha* of the temple enshrines a colossal idol of Ganesha. The four arms of Ganesha hold *akshamala*, *parashu*, *gajhastha mudra* and *modak patra*, respectively. The *padpatha* is carved with a figure of *mushak*, the mount of Ganesha.

Besides, there are the Bhairav temple, Omakeshwar temple and a Digambar Jain temple in the vicinity.

(357) KALESHWAR TEMPLE, MAHESHWAR



Situated to the east of Jwaleshwar temple, this temple is made of sandstone. It is perched on the eastern mound of Mahaeshwari river. The plan consists of *mandapa*, *sabha-mandapa* and *garbha-griha*. The *mandapa* is based on four pillars. The *vitan* is carved with flowers. The *sabha-mandapa* is based on 12 pillars and including the pillars around it the number of pillars goes upto 22. The pillars are square and dome-shaped. The top is carved with the figure of an inverted bloomed lotus. The entrance of the temple was renovated in 1997 A.D. There are pedestals on both sides of the gate, which are devoid of idols. On the top of the left side pedestal a peacock is carved while on the right side a female figure is shown between and elephant couple.

The *garbha-griha* has also been renovated. An eight inch thick concrete wall has been built. The *shikhar* of *garbha-griha* is in the shape of a muskmelon and the *garbha-griha* enshrines a natural *jaladhari* Shivlinga. In front of it an image of *sthanak* Chatrubhuji Gauri is carved on a *laghu manchika*. Its arms hold *akshamala*, a Shivlinga on a lotus with stalk, Ganesha and *kamandala*, respectively. On both sides of the *padpitha paricharikas* are depicted holding *chanwars*. The drapery of Gauri image belongs to Maratha period.

On the *shikhar* of *mandapa* a *kalash* is built on a bloomed lotus. The *shikhar* of *garbha-griha* is made of bricks. The muskmelon shaped *shikhar* is carved with *urushringas* and *amalak* and below them are carved the figures of human, lotus and inverted *kalash*.

The temple was built around 11th century A.D. According to an inscription found here the temple was renovated during the reign of Emperor Akbar by Devdas Mandlaoi of Maheshwar in V.S. 1622 A.D.

(358) JALESHWAR TEMPLE, MAHESHWAR



The plan of this east-facing temple consists of *laghu* Nandi *mandapa* and *garbha-griha*. The Nandi *mandapa* is based on two decorated pillars. The top portion of pillars is carved with atlantes of ordinary stone. The pillars are decorated with floral patterns and *ghatikas*. On the *vitan* *laghu manchikas* are built on both sides. Elephants engaged in duel are depicted above. A stone Nandi idol is installed in the *mandapa*.

The temple is divided into two portions. Upto *jangha* portion the temple is built o stones and the upper portion of bricks. The *garbha-griha* is hexagonal and its upper portion is octagonal. The dome-shaped *shikhar* is made of lime and bricks. The *garbha-griha* enshrines a *jaladhari* Shivlinga. The *laghu manchika* opposite it is occupied by a marble image of Chaturbhuj Gauri, which is embellished by *jata mukut*, *harawali*, *kamarbandha*, *bajuband*, *katak valaya*, *padap valay* and a long *vakshamala*. *Paricharikas* are carved on both sides of *padpitha*. Built on a high mound the present temple is two-tiered. Probably, steps might have been built to reach the temple, which are now ruined. The brick built *shikhar* of the temple is now all but ruined.

According to Rewa Khand of the Skanda Purana, Lord Shiva threw the arm, which he used to kill Tripurasura in this Narmada water. The arm went down to the Rasatala after piercing the earth and from there a Vanalinga appeared. The temple is situated at that place.