

## RATLAM

### (407) BILKESHWAR SHIVA TEMPLE, BILPANK



Dedicated to Shiva the Paramara period (Gurjar Chalukya style) temple may be ascribed to 10-11<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It is a state protected monument. The temple is raised on a low platform and its *garbha-griha* enshrines a mutilated Shivalinga. There are four pilasters on all four corners of the *garbha-griha*, which support the roof. The *mandapa* of the temple is based on 22 decorated pillars.

The *antaral* has images of Uma Maheshwar, Ardha narishwar, Harihar, Ganpati etc. An inscription of Gujrat's Chalukya ruler Siddharaja, belonging to Samvat 1196, has been found from the temple. It shows that the temple was renovated by Siddharaja Jaisingh. The *garbha-griha* enshrines a Shivalinga with *jaldhari*. The entrance gate of the *garbha-griha* is carved with images of Ganga, Yamuna, Dwarpal and other decorations.