Temples of medieval period of Sindagi region

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Temples play an important role in the life of humans. Basically, a temple is a place wherein prayers and worshipping are performed in groups. Temples hold an unique place in any caste or creed. The construction of temples on a large scale from tombs of Stone Age has taken place as a token of human birth and deaths. The lightening, thunder, fear, death, pain, fire, rain, air and phobia of other natural feelings might have given birth to the concept of god and worshipping. These control human life and thereby responsible for peace.

The Shatavahanas, Kadambas, Chalukyas of Badami and Kalyan, Kalachuris, Yadavas, Sevunas, Bahamanis and Adilshahis have ruled Sindagi region. A brief information of the temples of during the reign of these dynasties is given in this article.

I opted this article, to know the reason why the region of these Sindagi people show disinterest to carry the old tradition and charm of the medieval age temples. Is it because of lack of political interest or because of economic reason.

The cultural heritage was poorly developed and lagged behind owing to continuous political instabilities of this region. The temples instead of being more decorative are simple with an altar at a height and a hall in the front. In addition compound wall around with cement, bricks and stones instead of a single stone construction.

Tombs, Pillars, walls shows that. These are the mixture of Hindu-Muslim style of temples. This was happened because of change in political & sociological changes in the medieval age and it shows that they lived in a simple way.

1. Hanuman Temple: Devar Hipparagi

The temple is built at the entrance of the village facing towards West. This temple is belonging to 16th century and is completely newly built. Some of the salient features have been propounded in this paper on the basis of visit to the temple. The temple is having adytum and a hall built using cement, bricks and stones in an Indo-Islamic style. It has 2 feet Hanuman idol. Hall is spacious without columns. The ceiling is dome shaped with an arch in the front. The sculptures of Lion along with Sanskrit scriptures are inscribed on the outer wall.

2. Hanuman Temple: Chattaraki

This temple of lord Hanuman belongs to 16th century and is built on the North of the village facing Southern side in an Indo-Islamic style using cement, bricks and stones. The adytum has a hall built on a heightened podium. The temple has an idol of lord Hanuman which is 3 feet in height. The main idol is placed outside. Sculptures of flowers and the vine are found on the doors. The hall has four columns with 10 arches. The temples of lord Hanuman were much in existence in medieval days and were built village wise in the modern days. Accordingly, every village at its entrance has West or South facing temple of lord Hanuman. Therefore, the researcher has chosen and discussed about the temples that are convenient for his study.

3. Mallaya Temple: Devar Hipparagi

The temple is built on the North-Eastern side of the village i.e., towards the state highway facing North. Based on its structure and design it can be said that the temple belongs to 16th century. It is a complex temple and has emerged as a big one as a result of time to time up gradation. It would not be wrong to term this temple as the one with Indo-Islamic style. It has a half stage/pandal with arch and without door.
It is a building with Islamic architecture design of the period of Adilshahi sultans and pandal without any columns. In front of it a column less pandal with three doors is present. It is a subsequent upgradation. Adytum has throne. The ceiling of the pandal is dome shaped.

The outer surface of the adytum and pandal is angular with octagonal angle. It is called as 'Star model'. This model was first existed in the period of Rashtrakutas and gained popularity during the period of Chalukyas of Kalyan. Emperors of Vijaynagar dynasty brought Islamic style in some parts of their empire. In spite of this fact, monuments of Adil Shahis are in Octagonal form. Protective shrines and tower or turrets are widely used in the monuments of Vijaynur.

The half columns are decorated and tabulations are made in the angles. The 5 feet heighted petals of the flower on the brush wall are very attractive. Each corner of the brush has towers. The peak of adytum is in twelve angle model and has extended six times at the bottom. Each angle has tables. In the table man-woman, nooky architecture, music, worship, architectures of Shiva, Vishnu, animals, birds, laughter etc of heaven can be seen.

In spite the door has three branches only two of them have been utilized. The peak is being built with cement recently and because of this reason the old features are being extinguished. The fair of the temple takes place during the chatty new moon (chatty amavasye) and sunny full moon (shigi hunnime) every year.

6. Karidevar Temple: Devar Hipparagi
The temple belongs to 17th century and is built facing East on the South-Eastern part of the village using stone, mortar and bust. This temple also has Indo-Islamic features. The inner walls have arches. The ceiling of the pandal is dome shaped. The door is without any decoration. The congregation hall has an arched entrance. The pandal is without any columns and the arches are built on the inner walls. The ceiling with little domes of lotus together form the big dome. The outer walls do not have any decoration. The front arched door on it has small protruding board. The temple is surrounded with a compound wall and has the thrones of disciples. The Eastern portion of the compound wall is newly built with red sand stones. The 'deep sthamba' is built in 1990 and the worshipping of the temple is done by the people of shepherd society.

7. Lingayya’s Temple: Kalakeri
This temple is built towards the East in the field of Desai with a single adytum and is locally known as Lingayyana gudi. It belongs to 16-17th century and is built using bust, mortar, stones and bricks in Indo-Islamic style. It is in dilapidated condition and is in the collapsing stage. The idol is shifted. The peak is built in a stair case model using mortar and bricks. Presently the outer wall has collapsed and the peak stands on the inner wall.

These temples have been built during midst of 16th and 17th centuries. Some of which have been built using the remnants of 12th century. They are built using mortar, bust and stones. They have adytum and hall with navarang pandal. Some of the temples have compound walls around them.