

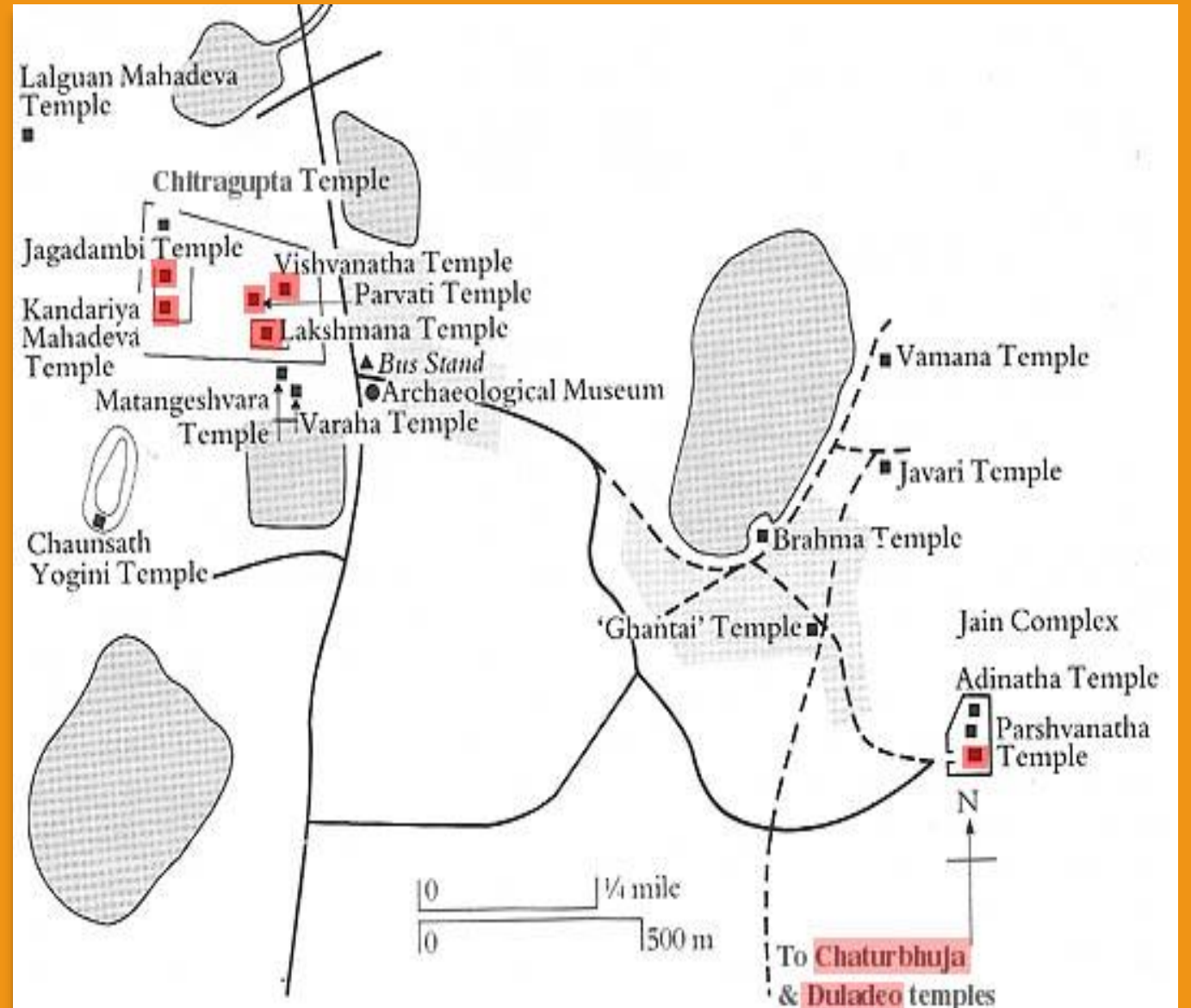
# WESTERN GROUP OF TEMPLES AT KHAJURAHO

B. A. (Hons.) History 3<sup>rd</sup> Year



PDF SIGNER DEMO VERSION

# LOCATION OF TEMPLES





# THE KANDARIYA MAHADEV TEMPLE



THE KANDARIYA MAHADEV TEMPLE , means " the Great God of the Cave ". This is the largest and the loftiest temple of Khajuraho . King Vidyadhar of Chandela dynasty constructed this temple around 1030 A.D and dedicated it to Lord Shiva



Its the most evolved and finished achievement of the Nagara ( central Indian ) building style and one of the most sublime creations of Indian Architecture .The temple is located in the Chatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh in Central India .



Kandariya Mahadeva Temple is considered as the "Pinnacle of North Indian Temple style". It conveys the greatest vertical momentum of all the temples in the Western Group. This tall structure is built in the shape of a mountain, which is symbolic of Mount Meru . All of the mandapas have their individual shikhara that converge into the grand shikhara . Decorated with graded and ascending series of smaller replicas of itself totalling 84



The temple faces the East and is built on a raised platform that can be reached by steps. The temple has many interconnected chambers which can be visited in sequence. Ardhamandapa, the rectangular entrance hall leads to a central pillared hall called mandapa. The mandapa leads to a dark area called garbhagraha.

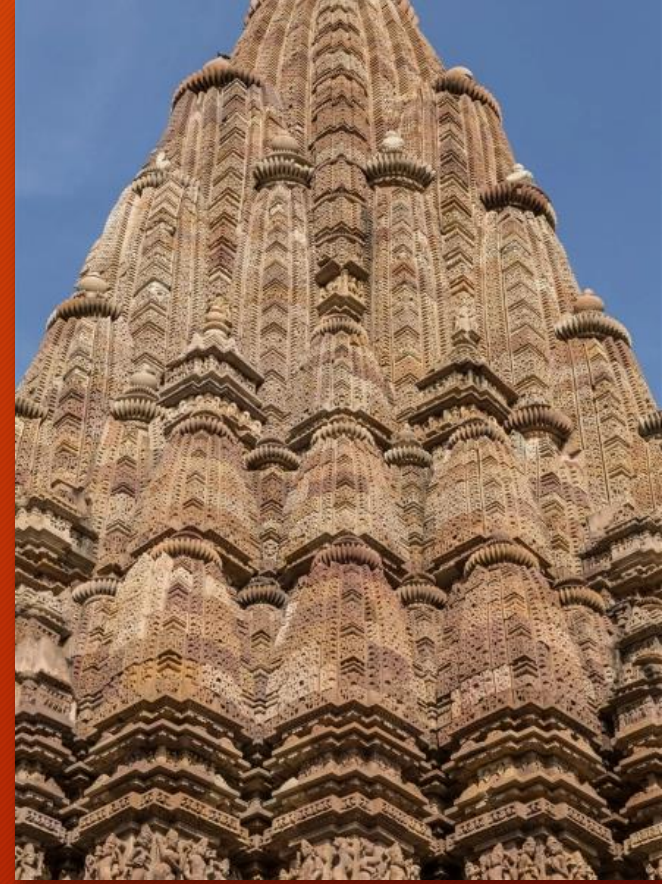
★ Constructed on a plinth of 4m height, this tall structure is built in the shape of a mountain, which is symbolic of Mount Meru which is believed to be the mythical source of creation of the world. The temple faces the East and is built on a raised platform that can be reached by steps. The temple has many interconnected chambers which can be visited in sequence. Ardhamandapa, the rectangular entrance hall leads to a central pillared hall called mandapa. The mandapa leads to a dark area called garbhagraha.

★ The temple architecture is an assemblage of porches and towers which terminates in a shikhara or spire, a feature which was common from the 10th century onwards in the temples of Central India. Finely chiseled, the decorative quality of the ornamentation with the sharp inscribed lines has "strong angular forms and brilliant dark-light patterns".

# MY EXPERIENCE

★ My eyes dazzled at the site of these colossal temples. I was really amazed at the craftsmanship of those artisans who build this temple complex. What we read in class about Khajuraho temples, it was just a trifle. This place is like Pandora's box holding many stories. The way guide described about the sculptures of apsaras, dancing ladies, gods like Yam, Agni etc the symbolic reason of icons all made me feel as if my mind was traveling to the during Chandela times.

★ No one can really understand Khajuraho without being in the premise. The beautiful intricate detailings on the sculptures both interior and exterior was mesmerizing. Even while the sun sets and sanctum is dark light reaches the deity illuminating it. Thousands of years ago making these monolithic stone cut structures must have been a momentous task. What interested me a lot was that these temples were used for tantric purpose I would really like to know about what kind of rituals were performed. The sculptures do show gods and figurines performing all kinds of activities. In conclusion I am thankful for this golden opportunity to be a part of this trip and explore wonders of Khajuraho.



# SHIKHARAS OF KANDARIYA MAHADEV TEMPLE

# ENTRANCE OF KANDARIYA MAHADEV TEMPLE





Kandariya Mahadeva's ardha-mandapa has one of the best examples of an entrance arch in Khajuraho.

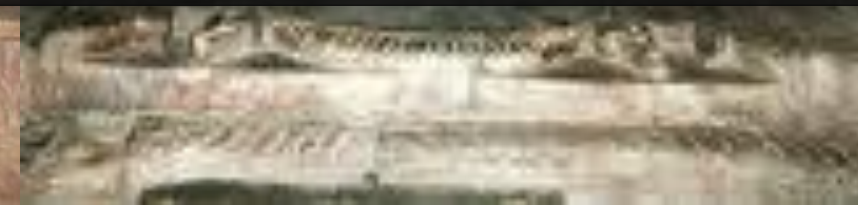




DECORATION ON THE CEILING OF KANDARIYA MAHADEV TEMPLE



# THE GARBHAGRIHA OF KANDARIYA MAHADEVA TEMPLE





INTERIOR OF KANDARIYA MAHADEV TEMPLE





# LAXMANA TEMPLE

- ★ Lakshmana Temple is one of the most well preserved temples in Khajuraho. This temple is considered to be one of the oldest existing temples in the Western Group and also one of the must visit places in Khajuraho.
- ★ Lakshmana Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple was built before 954 CE by Yashovarman, the seventh ruler of Chandela dynasty. It is believed that it took 20 years to build the temple. It is one of the first magnificent structures established in Khajuraho and also one of the three largest temples set in the Western Wing of the Khajuraho complex.
- ★ The temple is a Sandhara temple of the Panchayatana variety. The entire temple complex stands on a high platform and consists of all the elements of Hindu temple architecture. It has an entrance porch, mandapa, maha-mandapa, antarala, and garbhagriha.
- ★ The platform of the temple is beautifully decorated with patterns of elephants and horsemen carrying out parade. Apart from this, scenes of battles, hunting and processions are also engraved on the borders of the platform of the temple. Lakshmana Temple is unique for its four subsidiary shrines at the four corners of its rectangular platform.



The temple has only one entrance on the east side. The entrance porch has a toran above the entrance. The porch wall has two rows of sculptures including divine figures and erotic scenes. The sanctum doorway has seven vertical panels. The central panel is decorated with the various incarnations of Lord Vishnu. The lintel depicts goddess Lakshmi in the center flanked by Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu. The temple houses the three-headed and four-armed idol of Vaikuntha Vishnu. The central head is of human, and rest of the two depicts Lord Varaha and Lord Narshima. This image was originally

# My experience about the temple

★ It was an amazing experience to visit this place. The Temple is the oldest and best-preserved temple in the western temple complex, dedicated to the god Vishnu, built in the mid-10th century. The color is unique in the western temple complex. Very distinctive temple, the outer walls of the temple are all exquisite carvings, the carvings are ingenious. very beautiful. An independent temple, not as big as the West Temple, but the scenic spot is very clean and there is still a small garden around it. The scenic spot is cleaned by a dedicated person and no tickets are required, which is great. Totally loved this temple.

# NANDI SHRINE



JOSHUA PAUMUANLIAN

# Religion & LOCATION

★ Affiliation : Hinduism

★ Deity : Nandi

★ Location : The temple is located in the Western Group of Temple Complex Khajuraho. Inside the temple complex, it is located opposite to Vishvanath Temple.[1]  
Khajuraho is a small village in Chhatarpur District of Madhya Pradesh, India

★ The Nandi temple is a Hindu temple located in Khajuraho city of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is dedicated to Nandi, the bull which serves as the mount (vāhana) of Shiva, in Hindu epic. As a common architecture trend, temples of Shiva (and Parvati) display stone images of a seated Nandi facing Shiva. Following the trend, this temple is located opposite to the Vishvanatha Temple, which is dedicated to Shiva. This structure is one of the monuments among Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a World Heritage Site in India.


★ The temple stands on a rectangular modest (*chabutara*). The plan of the main structure is of the shape of cross quadrate (combination of cross and rectangle), where the rectangle forms the sanctum and the cross edges form the four balconies (one on each side).- The temple walls are like balcony walls and do not completely cover the sanctum. The roof rests on the pillars (one at each corner).-The border design is made of carvings depicting elephant (front view with head, trunk and two legs).- Human figures are also depicted on both sides of the elephant. Erotic sculptures of couples are also seen on the outer roof.-The sculpture of Shiva (with trishula on right shoulder ; and snake on left shoulder) can also be seen on the outer roof and wall (along with border design).

★ The Nandi Sculpture (see image) is 2.2 m long and 1.8 m high


# SHORT NOTE ABOUT FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE

★ It was 2nd April 2022 when we visited Khujuraho village , firstly we move towards eastern group of temples with our teachers, friends and our tour guide there we spend a few hours exploring the temples and I learn many things there about our ancient past specifically to art and architechture,stone carvings and they were much more advanced in science and architechture beyond my expectation,than later on we move ahead towards southern group of temples which further enlightened my imagination practically ,there was much more to capitulate than what the syllabus had taught us ,later on the evening ,lastly we got chance to see ,explore,feel and experience the western group of temples and its viable surrounding .


★ It was a big compound with many temples and shrine such as DEVI MANDAP,VARAHA MANDAP,LAKSHMAN TEMPLE,KANDARYA MAHADEV TEMPLE,MAHADEV SHRINE,DEVI JAGADAMBI TEMPLE,NANDI SHRINE,VISHVANATH TEMPLE and many more,they were even bigger than most of the temples of eastern and southern temples ,most of them were dedicated to most of the hindu gods,there were many stones carvings which depicted loves between man and woman,war,culture ,fire,water,sky,sun and also there were many idols of hindu idols gods carved on stone showing different signs and meaning some were vere small as our fist and some are so big even larger than our body size .



The designs and formations were unique ,most of them especially the ceilings and the walls were interlocked system,and all the temples were above and much higher than the ground level, our guide told us that.”In the past all the surroundings of the western group of temples were flooded with water and people used to travel




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We learned the importance of Chandella dynasty who build the western group of temples giving us a brief record of our past art and culture , religion.For the conclusion this trip is a success as for me I got to learned and helps me in better understanding about the art and architechture of our ancient past and how arts decline on the course of years, overall critics was a positive one ,I would recommend everybody espicially a history student to visit at least once and experience its own unique capacity.

# JAGDAMBI TEMPLE






Jagadambi temple or also known as Devi Jagadambika Temple is one from group of about 25 temples near Kandariya Mahadeva temple Khajuraho, which is a world heritage site. This temple including other temples in the complex was built by the rulers of the Chandela dynasty between the time period of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. This particular temple was completed between 1000 A.D. to 1025 A.D. and is devoted to the Goddess Parvati. It is in the western temple complex of Khajuraho with the world famous temple Kandariya Mahadeva temple, Laxman Temple and other temples.



It is located and made on the same plinth as Kanadariya Mahadeva temple and stands on a lofty platform but is smaller in height. The square ceiling of the maha - mandapa hall is very much simple and sculptural embellishment of the temple is as rich as that of other best temples of Khajuraho. This temple has stunning sculptures, carvings and erotic sculptures which symbolizes the tantric meanings. It is built in the Nagara temple architecture style and has one Mandapa and no Pradakshina. In the Garbhagriha there is a massive image of Goddess Parvati or Jagadambi. Also there are images and sculptures of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma with their consorts and Varaha incarnation of Lord Vishnu carrying Bhumi Devi. There are various other carvings too of Apsaras, Gandharvas and others.




The sculptures around the temple can be divided into three bands, where many of the images found in the lower two bands are dedicated to the Lord Vishnu and the third band has erotic sculptures. Visiting this temple and the entire temple complex was an amazing experience where we get to know about our remote past which has been lost in the due course of time.

# MY EXPERIENCE


- ★ Visiting this temple and the entire temple complex was an amazing experience where we get to know about our remote past which has been lost in the due course of time. We were mesmerized by the skills of the architects, workers and others who built this temple without any modern technology and the way in which first the temple was planned and then executed was commendable.
- ★ This temple with the entire complex tells beautiful and meaningful stories of our ancient past and displays innumerable activities which help a lot to understand the life of people of that time. We have a good time here and learnt a lot of things about our past.

# LAKSHMI TEMPLE





Lakshmi temple is dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, consort of Lord Vishnu. This structure is one of the monument among Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a World Heritage Site in India. Temple structure rests on square shaped modest (chabutara). It has small sanctum. The side and back walls do not have any sculptures. Lakshmi temple is a small yet notable shrine that belongs to the Western group of khajuraho temples. It stands North to the varaha temple and opposite the Lakshmana temple. It is dedicated to the hindu goddess who is concern as the deity of wealth, fortune and prosperity.



This shrine is built on a square shaped grapefruit (chabutara) and features a small a scared place (sanctum) . Simple carvings of two guards on the supporting pillar of the temples add the overall appeal of the shrine. Although this temple is not as big as other shrine in the khajuraho complex, it does capture attention of visitors. Tickets are required for entry which is very small amount. For the conclusion, this trip is awesome and memorable (yaadgaar trip forever) and this trip gave me lots of experience about the art and architecture of our ancient past. In last I would like to say especially a history students to visit this “WORLD HERITAGE MONUMENT OF MP“ ..

# MY EXPERIENCE

- ★ Our memories of khajuraho will remain fresh in our minds spectuclur temple architecture with plenty of erotic sculptures seen nowhere else in India. Khajuraho is akun to the taj in India. It'sa branch of temples - a masterpiece of art that is unique, beautiful and will leave a lasting impression. Clearly a “must visited” on any trip of India. The templs of khajuraho have been grouped into three sections based on there geographic location- Western, Eastern and southern. The Western group of temples are far the most beautiful and were some the earliest to be built.
- ★ Firstly we move towards eastern group of temples there we spend a few hours exploring the temples, than later on we move towards southern group of temples, it has a collection of interesting sculptures and art. Although we had a great view of the temples, later on in the evening we got chance to see and explore the Western group of temples, there were lots of stone carving which depicted loves between man and woman, fire, animal, sun and also they were many hindu idols gods which depict different meaning and signs and symbols, some are huge large, some very small and some are too small.

# CONCLUSION



Beautiful piece of architecture

•••• Represents artists cultures and beliefs



Elaborate detail in the building of the temple and the carvings on the wall

•••• Erotic and non-erotic



Major tourist destination in the world

# PHOTOGRAPHS



# Reported By

SHUBHAM SANDEEP	MUKESH SINGH	BITTOO SHARMA
SUMEDHA PRIYA	AJAY RAJPUT	SMRITI SUBRAMANIAN
KARTIKEY TRIPATHI	ALANKRITI VARSHNEY	YASH BACCHIL
AYUSH MUDGAL	ASHISH RAGHUWANSHI	PRIYANSHU YADAV
SHYAM KUMAR	SHRIYA BHARDWAJ	DILEEP KUMAR
RITIK RANJAN	SAHIL SINGH	ADITYA SINGH
UJJWAL SAKET CHAUHAN	ANOUSHKA KASHYAP	SUCHISMITA BANERJEE
SHIWANSHU SINHA	ARUNA PRASAD	WAJIB KHAN