

UNDERSTANDING THE CHRONOLOGY OF RAIGADH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE GIVEN TO ITS STRUCTURAL MONUMENTS



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RAIGADH

- Raigadh (23°36'17" N, 73°10'42" E) – a village under Himmatnagar taluka of Sabarkantha district in the present-day state of Gujarat.
- Aim – To set up the chronology from the perspectives of structural architecture.
- From Maitraka temple of late 7th century CE to Goswami Samadhis of 20th century.



Raigadh on the map of Gujarat



Distribution of structural monuments on the map of Raigadh

- Shiva temple (late 7th century to 10th century) from Maitraka to Solanki period.
- Shiva temple of Saindhava period of 9th century known as Kashi Vishwanath temple.
- A couple of stepwells of Solanki period of 10th century.
- Solanki period Jain temple of 11th/12th century.
- Medieval period temples (15th/16th century) dedicated to goddess.
- Chhatri build of Marwar dynasty from Idar of 17th/18th century.
- Goswami samadhis (burials) of 20th century.

SHIVA TEMPLE OF MAITRAKA PERIOD

- Also known as Mota Mahadev.
- Late Maitraka period of 7th century.
- Reported in 1990-91 by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Gujarat.
- Phamsana style.
- Ksoni or Gandharic type of Shikhara.
- Original Maitraka plan – Shikhara and Gharbhagriha.
- Sculptures – Ganesha, Maithuna figures and





- Solanki addition — Mandapa with a kakshasana and no ambulatory path.
- Solanki addition of 10th century.
- Pillars on kakshasana are plain with lotus pattern on top holding the mandapa.
- Sculptures from Solanki periods — Nandi, Pranala, Goddess (Parvati?) and hero stones.
- Renovated with lime mortar and cement.

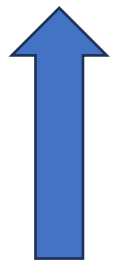


**Figure of Standing Ganesha
from Maitraka period of
late 7th century.**

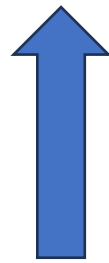


Kichaka bust

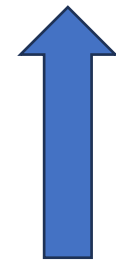




Headless Nandi



Goddess (Parvati?)



Pranala

KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE

- Saindhava period temple of 9th century.
- Built in sandstone.
- Phamsana type of vimana also called Supra vimana.
- Ksoni phamsanakara shikhara.
- Pyramidal or diamond shaped.
- Architectural plan – Vimana with a sanctum beneath it and no ambulatory path.
- East facing temple.
- Sculptures – Andhakasurvadha, Chamunda, and Bhairavi.





ANDHAKASURAVADH

- Form of Shiva.
- On the northern wall.
- Four handed.
- Holding trident with both the hands and Andhakasura on top.
- Upper right hand – Damru and lower left hand resting on thigh.
- Left leg on the head of a demon.

Bhairavi

- Feminine form of Bhairava.
- Rudra Tandav.
- On the western wall of the temple.
- Four handed
- Right and left hand in a particular mudra, whereas upper right hand is holding Khatvanga and upper left hand Trishula.
- Legs are bent; energetic dance.
- Attendant shown standing playing drums.



CHAMUNDA

- Form of Ambika/Katyayni
- One of the Sapta Matrika.
- On the southern wall.
- Two handed. Right hand – skull mace and left hand – trident.
- More of human form then skeletal form.
- Identification – Preta (goblin) as her mount and sagging breasts.



Present Condition

- Living temple and no retouches being done.
- Sculptures in a weathered condition.
- Pillars are in broken condition and amlaka being slightly shifted.
- Only worshiped on the auspicious days like Mahashivaratri.

SOLANKI STEP WELLS

- Solanki step well of 10th century.
- Reported in 1990-91 by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Gujarat.
- In front of Mota Mahadev temple.



- Bhadra stepwell with two entrances.
- Built in sandstone.
- Constructed in east-west direction and six storeys deep.
- Curved arches on each floor.
- A small chamber at the end of the step well with a Ganesha sculpture on lintel.
- Chamunda sculpture at the third storey.





← **Chamunda from
Raigadh
(Stepwell)**

**Chamunda from
Rani Ki Vaav,
Patan** →





- Stepwell of Solanki period from 10th century.
- Located in the east-west axis.
- Situated near the Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Saindhava Temple of 9th century).

SOLANKI JAIN TEMPLE

- Solanki period.
- 11th or 12th century.
- Build under Jayasimha Siddharaja or Kumarapal.
- Reported in 1990-91 by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Gujarat.
- Dedicated to the seventeenth Jain Tirthankara Sri Kunthunath.
- East facing temple.
- Sculptures — Shri Kunthunath, Vardhaman Mahavir, Vyali



- Architectural plan - Vimana, garbhagriha, mandapa, mukha-mandapa, ardha-mandapa, maha-mandapa and antrala.
- One storey temple.
- Couple of Vardaman Mahavira sculptures.

Sri Kunthunath sculpture ➡



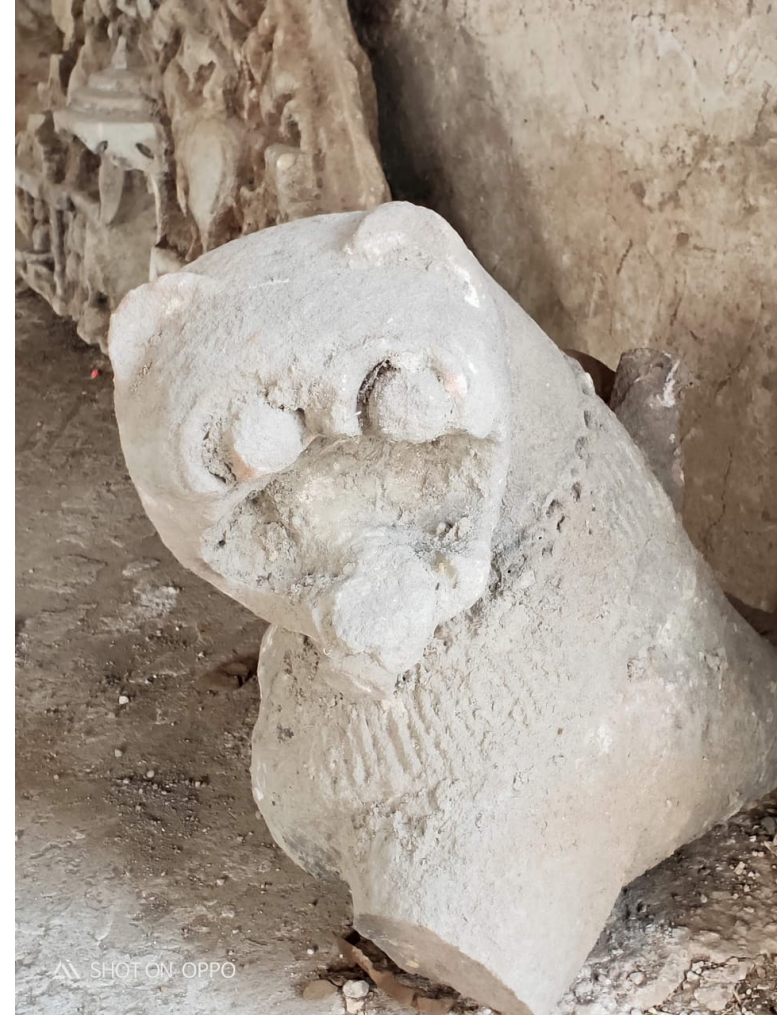


Sculptures of Vardhman Mahavira from the mandapa and outer walls of the temple.



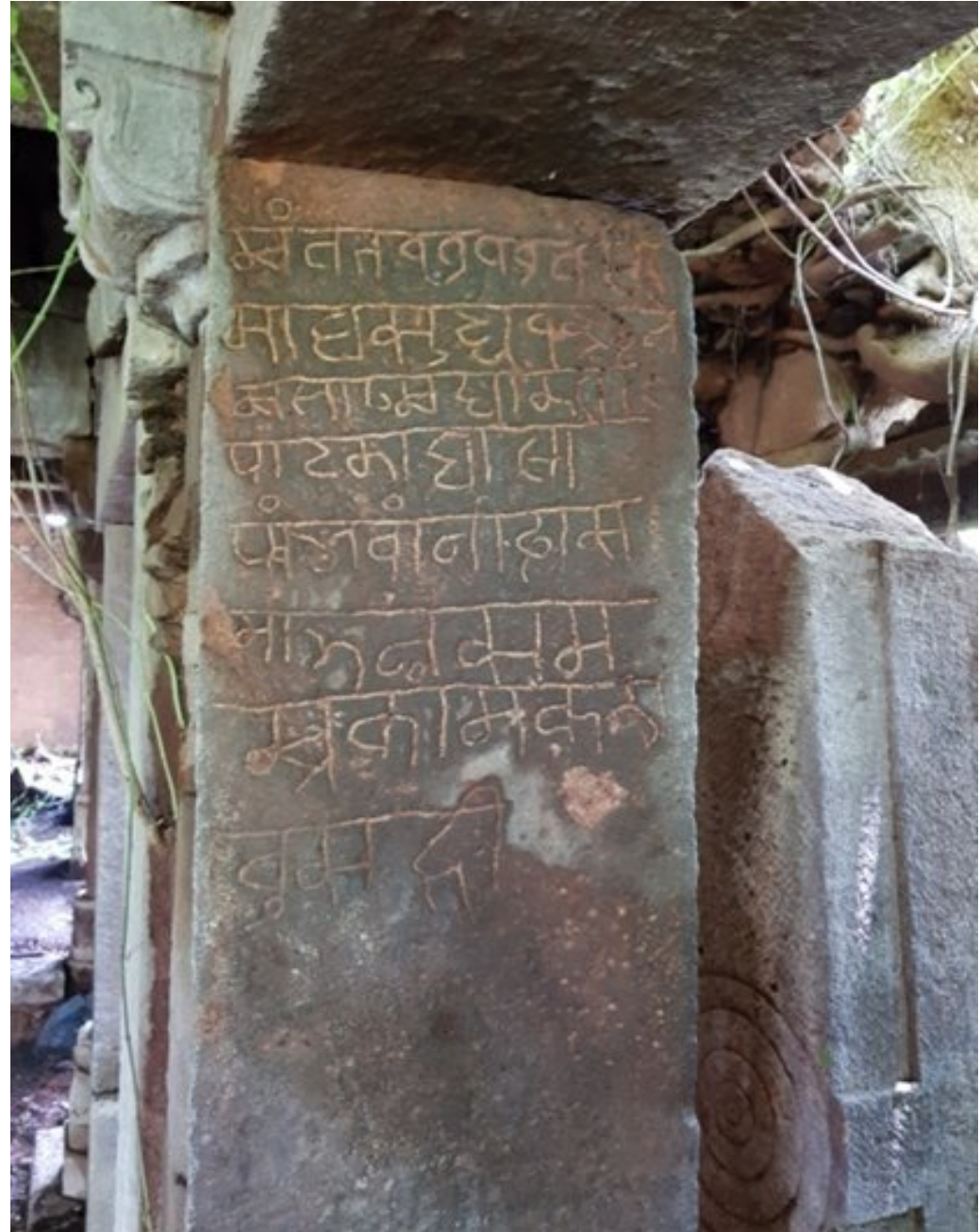
Lintel

Vyali



INSCRIPTIONS

- Two inscriptions.
- One on the temple wall and other on the sculpture of Sri Kunthunatha.
- Starts with Samvata 1717 this inscription talks about the donations made by Bhavanidas and his forefathers.
- Devanagari script.



- This inscription talks about a person called Lakha, also sculptor of Sri Kunthunath's sculpture.
- Lanchana of goat present in between of inscription.
- Talks about rituals being practiced.
- Devanagari script.



SHAKTI TEMPLE

- Locally known as Repri Mata Temple.
- Originally dedicated to Amba/Ambika.
- Built in Marru-Gurjara style of architecture.
- 14th/15th century.
- Architectural Plan – Gudha Mandapa, Garbhagriha and Shikhara.





CHHATRI (CENOTAPH)



- Located on the southern side of the village.
- Situated on the nearby foothills.
- Mostly in ruins.
- Dedicated to the rulers of Marwar dynasty of who were ruling Idar during 17th-18th century.
- Local legend – Dedicated to Pratap Rai Singh (ruler of Raigadh)
- Build in Maru-Gurjara style of architecture.



GOSWAMI SAMADHI



- Build by Gosai/Goswami community which came in early 20th century.
- Located in between Mota Mahadev (late 7th to 10th century) and Solanki stepwell (10th century).
- More than 50 smadhis made; currently 28 present.
- Build after 14 days of person's demise.
- Disturbance during Gujarat earthquake in 2001.



Samadhi dedicated to children or a person dying unmarried or at a young age.



Samadhi with footprints



Samadhi dedicated to Brahmins



CONCLUSION

- Structural architecture of Raigadh from Late Maitraka period (7th century) to Goswami samadhi's (20th century).
- Evolution of structural temple architecture.
- Mota mahadev temple of Maitraka period still in worship till Solanki period as one can Solanki addition as well in 10th century.
- Kashi Vishwanath of Saindhava period shows Saindhava power in north Gujarat as well.

- Stepwell of 10th century, has the same architectural features of the mandapa from Mota Mahadev temple, especially pillars.
- Another reason is the sculpture of Chamunda from stepwell which is in human form are the iconographical changes done in 10th century.
- Jain temple – ruined state.
- Department of Archaeology, Government of Gujarat reported this Jain temple and described it of 17th century. But the inscription is of 17th century (Samvat 1717) whereas the architecture is of 11th or 12th century AD.

TIME PERIOD	MONUMENT	DYNASTY
7 th – 10 th century CE	Mota Mahadev Temple	Maitraka and Solanki
9 th century CE	Kashi Vishwanath Temple	Saindhava
10 th century CE	Couple of Stepwells	Solanki
11 th /12 th century CE	Jain Temple (demolished)	Solanki
14 th /15 th century	Shakti Temple	Rajput period
17 th /18 th century	Chhatri	Marwars of Idar
20 th century	Goswami Samadhi	Modern Period

THANK YOU