

MARKANDEO

A GRANDEUR OF ART VIDARBHISM KHAJURAHO

Markandadeo village is a popular place of God 'Shiva' and is grandeur for religious people not only in Maharashtra but also everywhere in India. It comes under the revenue jurisdiction of Chamorshi Tahsil in Gadchiroli sub division. Village population is about 1000. The village is situated on the bank of Vainganga River

How to Reach Markanda ?

Markanda village is situated at 65 kms away from Chandrapur and 184 kms from Nagpur. It is at 40 kms distance from Gadchiroli and 25 Kms from Mul in Chandrapur District. Bus services are available through out year from Nagpur, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli to go to Chamorshi and then Markanda. Nearest railway station to the Gadchiroli / Markanda is Mul.

The bus routes to go to Markanda are as follows;

- 1) Chandrapur - Gondpipari - Ashti - Chamorshi - Markanda
- 2) Chandrapur - Gadchiroli - Chamorshi - Markanda
- 3) Nagpur - Gadchiroli - Chamorshi - Markanda
- 4) Chandrapur - Mul - Saoli - Markanda.

History of Markanda :-

It is the historical and tourist place in the Gadchiroli District and is famous for Markanda Temple. The population of Markanda is about 1000. The Markanda temple is constructed on the bank of Vainganga in the east side in 196 x 168 Sqft. area. Earlier, there were 24 temples. At present, there are only 18 temples existing, out of them only 4 temples are in good condition. The main temple of Markanda was distracted by striking of Lightening 300 years before. Therefore, no one could tell how the main temple formerly was.

Indian Archaeological Department first time had recorded this 120 years before in its survey. Late Dr. V.V. Mirashi popular discoverer of antiquities and Padmabhushan, Mahamahopadhyaya wrote that Markanda temples are excellent which are not found anywhere in southern part. Habitual tourists would line up there if they attends to the temples Late A. A. Almelkar a popular painter of Bombay, during his visit to the temples' in 1981 to the group of sculpture said that the temples' are the matchless incarnation of art on the bank of Vainganga.

Some part of Stories of Ramayana, Mahabharata are connected with these group of temples.

A great fair is held here on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Thousands of devotees gather at the place. The district administration maintains peace and discipline during the fair. Some people shave their heads in the name of their fathers, some worships God Shiva for the long life of their son. On this occasion, the ceremony goes on, on the bank of Vainganga. The record of this place is made in the gazetteer of Chandrapur district in

1973 as well as the information of Markanda is given on page 373 in part 13 of encyclopedia.

In tramlines of external part of the main temple there are many records of Gods, Goddess and hermits i.e. Vyal, Ashtadikpal, Apsara, Sursundari and Devangana. The records of many birds, and ShivParvati are kept there in too. The courtyard of temple is world popular for lady images. The ladies here are engrossed in the action of dance. Every image of the God and Goddess here is ornate with various ornaments. The style of standing and gesture of the image is very becoming and attractive. The tri images here are matchless and of first grade at the base of every image there is its vehicle. Therefore it is easy to know of what God the image is? There are also many records in the internal part of the temple which witness the history. The experts say that the total images counted so far are said to be 409. They also compared this art to the art of Khajuraho.

Surrounding of the fortifications of the group temples there is temple of Dashavtar. There are 12 Pithas, there are shown extra 2 Pithas here. One of the experts of culture opinioned that these extra 2 Pithas influences the minds of the people more during this period and so more of the 2 Pithas might have been constructed. There are 12 Shivlingas in the temple and courtyard of the temple. Would this thread worn Shivlinga be called a Jyotirlinga ?

There are still to opinions among experts as who the original builder of the temple was? Late Dr. V.V. Mirashi says that, this might be the work of the man who ruled from Himalaya to Srilanka during 11th Century.

There was not any such king. On the contrary, Rashtrakutas ruled during 8th Century in Vidharbha. There were formal copper inscription of them in Chandrapur and Akola. Their capital city was Mayurkhandi which is so far undiscovered. It is hidden some where here. It is necessary to discover it.

Rashtrakuta 3rd Govinda might have constructed the temples' of Markanda, it is said by Dr. Mirashi. In all the groups of temples might be built during 8th and 9th Century.

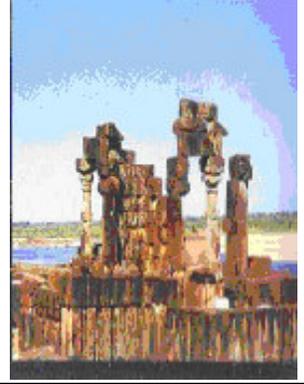
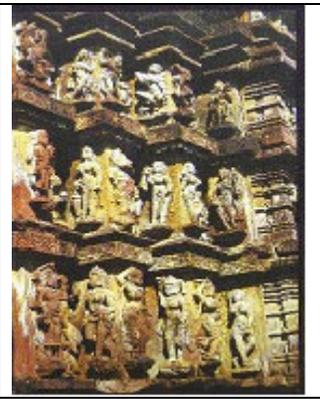
There are seen constructions of Gajlakshmi, Garud etc. on the sculptures of Markanda. There is Mahal Amgaon at 12 Kms. distance to the east. On the temple there are records of Gajlakshmi and Narsimha Avatar. Now a days, our image of Garud was found in the field. The Villagers installed the image in 2003. The image sculpture is in meditation and Anjali Mudra. The image is wing. There is a script on a column found along a street leading to Rekhegaon. This column might be of soldiers killed in war. The experts have read this script.

The authorities of Vidarbha should save this temple. The Government of Maharashtra should provide money for this purpose. The Archaeological Department should protect these temples'.

Markanda is middle place in India which is a place of matchless art and grandeur. It makes us to remind places of art like Khajuraho, Konark, Ajanta, Ellora. We get mental satisfaction here.

We can not understand its matchless glory and art unless we see it. Best accomodation for sleeping, eating etc. for tourists is in Maratha Dharmashala here.

Various Arts and Sculptures found in the Markanda Temple are as follows;

				 <p>मार्कंडी मंदिरातील शंभुसुतदेवताची मूर्त</p>
				
				
				 <p>मार्कंडी देवता</p>