

Lesser Known Archaeological Sites in District Gumla, Jharkhand

Archaeological Survey of India Ranchi Circle since its inception in the year 2003 has carried out various activities which includes Archaeological exploration / excavation, Conservation and Preservation of the centrally protected monuments and heritage awareness programmes etc. in the state of Jharkhand. The entire Chhotanagpur region is full of archaeological sites ranging from Prehistoric period onwards to the historical period and some of them even developed as major cultural settlements of eastern India. Jharkhand has yielded a variety of antiquarian remains which reflects its historical and cultural development in different cultural contexts. Our recent survey of the archaeological landscape of District Gumla revealed a number of religious settlements of Shaiva sects belonging to 11th to 13th century CE. These religious settlements have provided ample evidence of development of Shaiva shrines and monastic establishment in the region. A brief data is enumerated here to create awareness about the hidden heritage of Gumla region of Jharkhand. A total number of seven sites of Archeological importance located in District Gumla is illustrated showing either ruins or complete temple remains. The temples are dated to about 11th to 13th century CE as per their architectural affiliation. These temples are akin to Orissan style of architecture and having only the main shrine or deul without mukhamandapa. During the course of survey, a rock painting belonging to the Mesolithic period was found at a rock shelter in Devgaon is another remarkable evidence in the study of rock Art of Jharkhand.

Anjan Dham is located at Anjan village, situated about 20 kilometers north-west of the district headquarters Gumla, Jharkhand. The village located within the close proximity of granitic ridges and there is a rockshelter which is associated with Lord Hanuman's Mother Anjani and regarded the birthplace of Aanjaniputra Hanuman, hence it is also called Aanjan Dham. A Hanumana sculpture of late period is found there in the corner of the Shelter. A number of Broken sculptures of bhairava, mahisamardini and Shivalingas have also been recorded within and outside of Khapada Ghar (Tile House) in the premises of Aanjanmatamandir at Aanjanvillage. Ancient Shivalingas of various sizes are lying everywhere in the entire village. Brunt brick structures (Brick size 30x20x7) have also been

noticed in some part of the village indicating possible presence of a Shaivite monastery. The antiquarian remains of the village Aanjan reveal that the religious settlement of the area belongs to 11th century CE to 12TH CE.



Antiquarian remains in the locality of Anjan Dham, Gumla.

Devaki Temple is situated on the banks of river Ghag (or Ghaghra) in Ghaghra block of Gumla district on the Ghaghra-Netarhat road (NH 143A). There is a modern temple within an ancient Shivalinga is installed. An engraved Shivalinga is also noticed on the low profile rocky outcrop nearby the temple which is worshiped as footprint of Lord Shiva. On the opposite bank of the river some architectural members, a decorated door jamb etc. A mound consisting of brunt brick structures (Brick Size 32x20x7) has also been there which is possible indication of a small Shaiva monastery. Presently the ancient mound is leveled and a new temple built on top of it. The presence of two miniature amalakas and two Nandi image at the place, is seems to be related to the ancient Shiva sect and belongs to 11th century CE to 12TH CE.



Devaki Temple at Ghaghara, Gumla.

Basudev-Kona Temple is located in 3 km east from Raidih block headquarter of District Gumla. The temple at Basudev-Kona has followed Kalinga style of Stone temple and have only the main shrine or Rekha deul without mukhamandapa and triratha in plan. The Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, as shivalinga has carved over the stone surface. The two attendants (dwarपालs) holding trident in their hands are depicted at either side of door-jamb of sanctum sanctorum of the temple. The door frame of the temple is decorated with floral designs. A partially broken nandi is present at the front of the main shrine. A Ganesha image and a broken amalaka are the another antiquity kept outside of the temple premises. The temple can be dated to 11-12th century CE.



Basudev-Kona Temple, Raidih, Gumla.

Mahadev-Kona Temple is situated at tirra in Basia block of Gumla district of Jharkhand. This temple is at a distance of one kilometer from Ranchi - Simdega road. It is also known as tulsikonamahadev. Within the modern temple complex the architectural remains of more than a dozen of amalakas of various sizes and shivalingas and few broken sculptures, Lord Ganesha, Nandi etc. are scattered. Beside this, brick structure of earlier period (Brick Size 32x19x7) are present in the surrounding area of the temple complex. It seems that a number of miniature shrines and monastery belongs to Shaiva sect flourished and enlivened the place during 11-13th century CE.



Mahadev-Kona Temple, Basia, Gumla.

Shri Mrituanjay Mahadev Temple is situated at village Banpur in Kamdara block of District Gumla. The temple is another example of important Orissan style temple. The rekha temple is built in triratha plan. The door-jamb of the main shrine has depiction of Shaiva attendants (dwarपालs) at either side and a bigger size shivalinga placed inside. The door frame of the temple is decorated with flower design. The lalathimb is adorned with Lord Ganesha. Beside this, another two partially broken amalakas and sculptural fragments have been kept outside nearby a tree. The temple can be dated to 12th - 13th century CE.



Shri Mrituanjay Mahadev Temple, Banpur, Kamdara, Gumla.

Ancient Temple at Pahadgaon is located about 4 km from Pakra railway station (Ranchi- Raurkela Rail line) and 10 km from Ranchi simdega road at village Pahargaon (Aamtoli) in block Kamdara of District Gumla. The main shrine is in Orissan style of rekha temple built in triratha plan. The Shivalinga placed inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and a partially broken Nandi outside. A number of architectural members i.e. amlakas, sculptural fragments, architectural members etc. lying within the modern temple complex. The temple belongs to 11th -12th century CE.

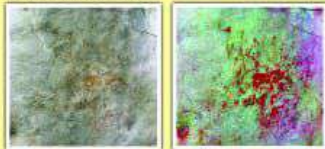


Ancient Temple at Pahadgaon, Kamdara, Gumla.

Deogaon Rock Shelter The lesser known rock shelter of Deogaon is located in the vicinity of the village of the same name in Palkot Block in District Gumla. The location of site is at a distance of 40 kms via NH 143 in southeastern direction from Gumla, the District headquarter and 120 kms south - west from Ranchi the State capital of Jharkhand. The site is locally known as Shree Shree 1008 Budha Mahadeo, Manda dham. Geologically, it is an area of intrusive granite formations with abundance of granite exposed in the hills around the area. The granitic outcrop areas of the region form natural rock shelters, water springs and provides other photogenic granite exposures. In the southeast direction of the rock shelter a pictographic representation of hunting scene is depicted whereas in the southwest direction a group of stone temples and huge numbers of architectural members are present.

The Rock Painting: The rock painting is found in the proximity of the group of the temples site. Paintings are in very poor condition due to

weathering. The painting depicted multiple human figures, painted in red ochre color, and surrounded a large animal, which is not clear due to poor state of preservation. The painting gives the resemblance of a hunting scene; involve five different animals, surrounded by a group of human figures (probably eight). The profile of the animal indicates that it is cattle, which has slightly elongated body and two small feet and a tail is visible at back. The face of the animal is completely faded, painted in silhouette style. Four other animals are depicted in line drawing. One is a wild boar, superimposed with another smaller one. Few arrows can be seen, embedded in the abdomen. There are two smaller animals depicted above the boar, miniature in size. All these four animals are having rectangular profile, which is a typical of Mesolithic style of paintings, comparable to Central India. The human figures are painted in stick shape, having triangular head, stylistically comparable with the Mesolithic paintings of Central India, as Dr V.S. Wakankar have dated such triangular headed stick shaped human figure to the Mesolithic period.



Rock Painting at Deogaon, Palkot, Gumla.

The Group of Temples at Deogaon: The temple site is located further southwest of the rock painting. A total 11 Nos. of standing stone temples are located in the rock shelter. A part from that, a huge numbers of architectural members of temple remains including amalaka (08 Nos.) are present there. Basically, these all miniature shrines are representing Orissan style of rekhatemples and built in triratha plan with a small sanctum sanctorum. More specifically, these temples are appearing to be formed in a circle (mandala). The temples are devoted to lord Shiva however Shivalingam is not present in any of them. A few shrines have

lalatimba on which Ganesha is depicted. Besides this, a shivalinga (25x50 Dia cm) a sculpture of Uma-maheshwar (62x32x15 cm) and Lord Vishnu image (66x42x15 cm), a broken Nandi (50x37x25 cm), a broken attendant image (26x18x16 cm) is also found. The temple part of the rock shelter is covered with modern brick walls and concreting inside.



The Group of Temples at Deogaon, Palkot, Gumla.

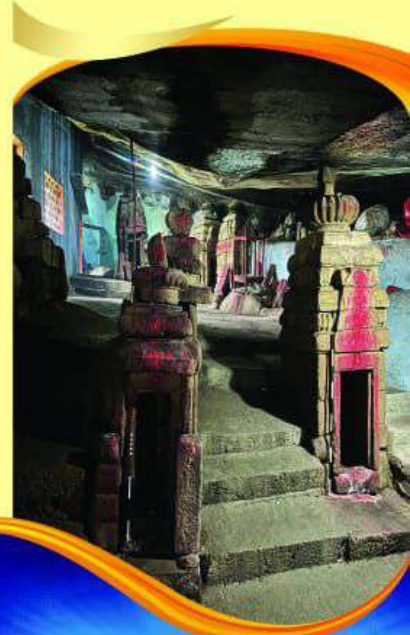


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P. P Compound, Jain Villa, Ranchi



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