

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT VEERABHADRESWAR TEMPLES IN BIDAR DISTRICT

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Abstract: Temples of Veerbhdreswara in Bidar district are cultural ambassadors. They are the centres of religion, spiritual attainment, tradition, custom, beliefs, education, justice etc. A architecture of the temple convey the taste of the people and history of the time(1). They help devotees to lead a disciplined life. They unify the society. They works as centres of prayers, beliefs, music, dance, sculpture, architecture, education, public assemblies etc. (2).

Keyword:veerabhadreswar , Ambassadors , Spiritual Attainment , Architecture.

INTRODUCTION

Bidar is one of the thirty districts of Karnataka. It consists of five talukas, namely, Aurad, Basvaklyan, Bhalki, Bidar and Humnabad. (3). Its population is about 17 lakh. In ancient time Bidar is called as Bidruru(4). Karanja and Manjra are the major rivers of Bidar District.

Man is continuously struggling with nature. He believed in astonishing power of nature. Because of the fear of death, he started to worship nature, in the form of deity or image of God. He started to construct temple for the deity (5). Our ancestors lived in simple houses but they built temple magnificently. The study of the temple means the study of the life of that particular period(6).

Temples are built because of religious faith. The main function of the religion is to unify the society. It bring harmony among different class or section of society.

GROWTH OF TEMPLE

Initially in India temples were built in caves. There are no traces of temple antiquities in the Indus Valley Civilisation in India. Stupas are the earliest religious architecture in India. Hindu temples are influenced by stupas(7). They are the model for the construction of temple. Emperor Asoka of Maurya dynasty built many stupas in India(8).

Chalukyas of Badami used rough stone, Chalukyas of kalian used mixture of green and black stone, Hoysalas used lime stone, Vijayanagar used rough (kanaj) stone in the construction of temple. Red and black stones are used in the construction of Veerabhadreshwara temple in Bidar district.

Temples of Veerabhadreshwara constructed probably during 4th century A.D. Kanchi inscription of 4th century referred Veerbhdreswara as “Maheswaracharya guru”(9). Badami Chalukyas Ihole saiva cave inscription also referred to Veerabhadreshwara as “ saptmatrabhi parirakshata”(10).

IMPORTANT VEERABHADRESHWARA TEMPLES IN BIDAR DISTRICT.

We find Veerabhadreshwara temples in most of the villages in Bidar District. They are Basavatirtha, Meenkera, Gadvanti, kankat, Molker, Ghatboral, Khatak Chincholi, Chitguppa, Bemalkheda, Muttangi, Bambalgi, Changlera, Humanabad, Gadgi, Astur, Chamol, Kamthanna, Aurad, Diggi, Sundal, Karanji, Hulsur, Prtapur, Gokul, Bhatambra, Bhalki, kalsartuganva, etc. Among these most famous temples are Changlera, Humnabad, Sundal, Gokul Bhatambra etc

I. CHANGLERA VEERABHADRESHWARA TEMPLE.

Lakhs of devotees get darshana of Lord Veerbhadreshwara every year. Purnima and amvasya day, thousands of devotees dip in pushkarani and get darshana. Management committee of the temple runs free food distribution.



Changlera Veerabhadreshwara Temple.

Changlera village is 42 k. m. from Bidar city. This famous temple is situated at one k. m. towards north of the

village. It is surrounded by mango trees and garden. Temple is magnificently built.

Veerabhadreshwara temple consists of Grbhagraha (sanctum), Antarala (place between Grabhagraha and Mantap), and Mantapa. Grabhagraha measures 12*10 feet. Middle of it is Veerabhadreshwara in the form of linga. He wore linga karadige and saffron cloth. He is surrounded by prabhavali. Top of it is seven headed serphant in silver metal. Dwarpalakas are beautifully carved. In their hands there weapons like sword and gada.

Antarala: The place between Grbhagraha and Mantap is known as Antarala. It consists of twelve big decorated pillars. Right of it is Veerabhadreshwara statue in black stone. Middle of it is Veerabhadreshwara statue made of five metals. In his hands there are bow, arrow, sword and gada. He stood on havuge (spike foot wear). His crown is decorated with false diamond, rubies, and pearls. Five headed serphant is on his crown. He wore linga karadige and garland of skulls around his neck. He is surrounded by prabhavalli. Top of it is Yalli.

Navaranga: In front of Antarala is Navaranga, which consists of many decorated pillars. It measures about 100*20 feet. Bhadrakali's statue is carved in one of the pillars. She is very beautiful. In her hands are Trishula, Damaru. Many God's and Goddesses like Daksha, saraswati, Lakshmi, Veerbhadra are kept in the blocks of those pillars and walls.

Nandi temple is in front of Mahamantapa. It is ancient one. It is attached to parkara (twenty feet compound wall). Parkara has fourteen arched rooms. Here pilgrims rest and cook their food.

Veerabhadreshwara temple is built on five feet basement. The walls of sanctum are simple. They are twenty feet in height. Prastar is simple. Beautiful statue of Nandi and Veerabhadreshwara are kept in Grevakundi. Decorated and folded vimana is about twenty five feet in height. It is in three levels. Every level has small vimana, stupi and kalasa. Puranic deities are kept in devakostaka. They are very beautiful. Top of this vimana is round shaped stupi, consists of four side lions and it has brass kalasa.

Statue of Bhadrakali is in Antrala of siva temple, which is behind Veerabhadreshwara temple. She is beautifully carved and have four arms.

Aggimantapa is half k. m. from temple. Its face is towards east. It measures 60*30 feet. Aggikunda is in the middle, is about 20*20 feet. Devotees take rounds around aggikund during fairs.

Car is near aggimantapa. It is in seven levels. Lakhs of devotees pull the car during fairs up to Nandi mantapa and bring it back to car mantapa. It is in twenty five feet in height. Top of it is stupi and kalasa (11).

II HUMANABAD VEERABHADRESHWARA TEMPLE

Humnabad is an important historical place. It is 52 k. m. from Bidar. It is on national highway number 9. It is a talukas headquarter. In ancient period it was called Jayasimhapura (11). King Ramchandra who ruled this region built this temple. In the year 1725 (12). Veerabhadreshwara ordered king Ramchandra in his dream that his statue is in

Gadwanti village, which should be installed in newly constructed temple. King followed the order. He installed that statue in Humnabad temple with due rituals.

Veerabhadreshwara temple of Humnabad consists of Grabhagraha (sanctum), Antrala and Mantapa. The statue of Veerabhadreshwara is installed on pedestal or vedike. Pedestal is about three feet in height, constructed in black stone. The statue is five feet in height. It is in black stone. In his hands are sword, shield. His forehead is smeared with vibuti. In the middle of statins forehead there is a third eye. He wore ling karadige and scull garland. Daksha is in his right side. He is in standing posture. Veerabhadreshwara statue is surrounded by prabhavali (13).

Antarala consists of eight ornamental big pillars. Bhadrakali and Nandi statue are installed on left and right side of sukanasi respectively (14).

Newly constructed mantap measures is 25*40 feet. It consists of sixteen pillars. The first rays of sun fall on the right hand thumb of Veerabhadreshwara through Nandi horn (15).

Lamp pillar: Two lamp pillars are technically built. They are about 25 feet in height. Circumference of the basement of pillar is about 15 feet. Right side pillar is hanging one. If we touch it, feel the movement (16).

Pushkarani : Beautifully built pushkarani is right side of the temple. It has three side steps. Devotees get holy bath in it. In the middle of pushkarani is Nandi Mantap. It is about 20*28 feet.

Parkara or compound wall : Twenty feet height parkar or compound wall is built around the temple. Temple has two entrances namely towards east and west. Eastern entrance door or mahadwara is beautifully decorated. Tower of the mahadwara consists many beautiful deities. Arched rooms are constructed inside the parkar. They are used to cook food and pilgrims take rest.

Kalyanmantap: Right side of the temple is one side kalyanmantap. Here marriage ceremonies and other public functions take place. It is about 80*60 feet. In fair it is used for free food distribution.

Urdwamukh or bottom to top: This temple is established on five feet basement. Wall of the sanctum is about 20 feet in height. They are in simple black stone. Prastar is beautifully decorated. Nandi statues are installed in four corner of Grevkundi. Fully decorated viman is in 50 feet in height (17). It consists of five levels. Deities in the viman is made of gypsum and mortar. Viman is in Nagar-Dravidian style. Images Images are in Rajastani style. On the top of the viman is round shaped stupi have a brass kalasa (18).

Aggimantap or fire place: It is about one k. m. from temple. It is called car (theru maidan) groud. It is about 100*100 feet. Middle of it is aggikunda. It's circumference is 15 feet. Every year lakhs of devotees walk round aggikunda with bare foot. Devotees throw many kinds of wood in aggikunda.



Car of Humanabad Veerabhadreshwara

Car: Veerabhadreshwara car is right side of the aggimantap. It consists of many levels. Deities of sharanas and Veerabhadra are kept in the kostaka of car during the car pulling ceremony, on 26th January every year. Lakhs of devotees pull the car with devotion and get immense pleasure. Car is decorated with lamps and other ornaments. One cart of food is tied to the car, during pulling ceremonies. It is known as Booma(19).

III. SUNDAL VEERBHADRESHWARA TEMPLE



Temple's Viman

Sundal is 48 k. m. from Bidar. It is eight k. m. from Aurad (b) town or Amarwadi- 700 (20). Once upon a time this village is famous for cotton cloth manufacture and market. Every Tuesday market is held even today. Ancient Veerabhadreshwara temple is renovated in 2008 A.D.

This temple can be divided into two parts: (1) cave temple and (2) upper cave temple. Veerabhadreshwara statue of cave is ancient one. It is a unique statue due to its sixteen arms. In these hands he bears bow, diamond, stick, shield, damaru, trishula, arrow, sword etc. His left as well as right foot are tilted towards left. He wore garland of rudra beads, skulls around his neck. On his forehead there is an eye and volute. His height and breadth is 3.5*3.5 feet. He wore crown. This statue is beautifully carved. Bhadrakali is in his left side. She has four arms.

Upper cave temple is newly built one. Veerabhadreshwara got four arms. Bow, arrow, sword, and shield are in his hands. He wore nine skull garlands and linga karadige around his neck. His height is three feet and width is two feet. In the hands of Bhadrakali there is a lamp, sword etc. She wore eleven skull garland. She is left side of Veerabhadra.

Mahamantapa is used for Bhajjan and small functions. In front of Mantapa is Aggikunda. It is in 2*2 feet.

Statue of Siva, Parvati, Linga, Nandi, Veerabhadra giving linga to Hanumantha are very beautifully carved, on the tower of the Mahadwara or entrance.

Urdwamukh or Bottom to Top: This temple is built on five feet basement. The walls of the sanctum are in simple black stone. Nandi statues are placed in Greevkundi. The viman is about 25 feet in height. It consists of six levels. Deities of Nandi, Ganapati, Siva, Sarswati, Lakshmi, Veerabhadra are kept in those kostakas. Stupi is in round shape, on which there is a brass kalasa.

IV. GOKUL VEERBHADRESHWARA TEMPLE.

Gokul is famous for Veerabhadreshwara temple. It is 72 k. m. from Bidar and eight k. m. from Basavaklyan. The face of the temple is towards east. Veerabhadreshwara statue is established in the middle of the sanctum, on five feet pedestal. He is in two feet height. He wore crown. Pillars of Antarala and Mantapa are decorated. Nandi is placed in Antarala.

The temple stood on five feet basement. It is built in black stone. Sanctum is in square shape. Six level viman is in vesara style. It is about 25 feet in height. Puranic (Mythical) deities are kept in kostaka. Dome shaped stupi is beautiful. The priest of this temple belonged to kuraba community.

Car of Veerabhadreshwara is one k. m. away from the temple towards east. It is decorated with lamps and ornaments during fairs. Arch shaped kostaka in car. It has stupi and kalasa.

V. BHATAMBRA VEERBHADRESHWARA TEMPLE.

Bhatambra village is famous for ancient antiquities. It is 07 (seven) k. m. from Bhalki. Ancient name of Bhalki is Bhalunkenadu (21). Bhatambra is famous for its fort. In the middle of the village is Veerabhadreshwara temple. Face of it is towards north. This temple is referred in eleventh century Bhatambra inscription (22). Statue of Veerabhadra is beautifully carved. In his hands he has Damaru, Sword, Trishul and Sivalinga. He stood on Havige (spike shoes). He wore chennvira (necklace) around his neck. His knee is surrounded by a hooded serphant. To his right Daksha stood

with folded hands. Deer is carved left side and serphant is his left side (23).

Bhadrakali is in his left side. She is in a standing posture. She wore Rudra beads. The sivalinga is kept in her hand. Her hair is combed back.

Prabhavali consists of Balbasava, Veerabhadra, serphant, Narasimha face etc. Antarala consists of twelve big pillars. Mantapa is newly constructed one. In front of temple there is a 20 feet heigh lamp pillar.

The temple is built on five feet basement. The wall of the sanctum is simple in black stone, about fifteen feet in height. Viman is in pyramid shape, consists of many steps. Top of the viman is in round shape stupi and has beautiful kalasa.

Car: Infront of the temple there is a beautiful car, which has five levels. Thousands of devotees pull the car during fairs.

Thus Veerabhadreshwara temples give solace to the devotees. Architecture of the temple shows the worldly and religious life of the people of this region.

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