

A rock cut wonder

Badami is the modern name for ‘Vatapi’, the capital of the earlier Chalukya dynasty. The Badami cave temples represent some of the oldest hindu temples in the deccan and also features Buddhist and Jain sites. The rock-cut caves at Badami are carved into the red sandstone hillside overlooking a tank. It is an emblematic representation of the architecture popularised by the Chalukyas of Badami.

A city of many names

Badami is also known by the names; Vatapi, Vatapipura, Vatapinagari and Agastya Tirtha

The temple uses no cement or mortar, and was assembled solely by carving large rocks brought from Pattadakal. The temples of Aihole, Pattadakal, and Badami give the names of guilds of architects and sculptors, and the individual craftspeople who worked at these sites. The quarry site gives names of people involved in the construction. This marks a unique feature of the construction, seldom seen in temples and mostly observed in Buddhist Stupas and Viharas. The Badami caves are a UNESCO world heritage site and a site of great interest for all visiting the region,



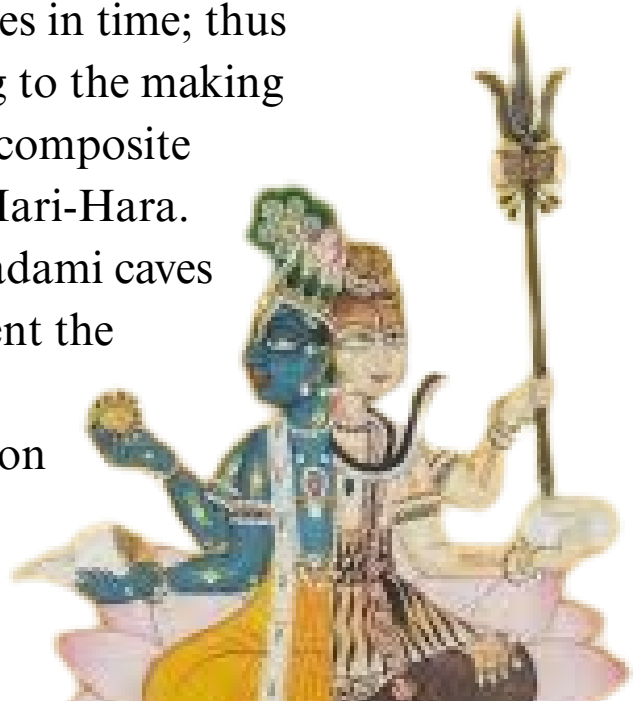
EDITORIAL



Confluence of cultures and traditions is a hallmark feature of our civilization. The Badami cave temples are one of the best avenues to understand this 'culture of confluence'. First of, the cave temples feature Jaina, Vishnu and Shaiva temples, the style of architecture is an amalgam of northern (Nagara) southern (Dravida) design styles, while also having a unique identity of its own. It also incorporates Scythian attire on the carvings of the dwarfs and doorkeepers, representing figures as tall with slender crowns.

The famed composite diety 'Hari-Hara' also represents the same tradition, half Hari (Vishnu) and half Hara (Shiva). One of the earliest sculptural depictions of Hari-Hara is carved in the Badami caves (late 6th century). Shiva forms the right side of this composite deity and Vishnu the left. The Nandi bull and Parvati stand on the right, while a pot-bellied garuda and Lakshmi stand on the left. The lower section of the panel is populated by Shiva's gana or entourage.

The Hari-Hara represents an attempt by the Chalukyas to reconcile the differences between Vaishnavites and Shaivites. The Chalukya rulers themselves used to be ardent Vaishnavites, and adopted shaiva practices in time; thus leading to the making of the composite diety Hari-Hara. The Badami caves represent the oldest depiction of the deity.



EARLY CHALUKYA



The dance of Shaiva - Cave 1

The celebrated multi-handed Shiva panel is located in cave 1, perpendicular to the entrance. In the panel, a fine carving of Shiva, multi-armed and dancing, is flanked by Nandi on the left, with Ganesha and a drummer on the viewer's right. Cave 1 is primarily dedicated to Shiva, also displaying a 'guardian shaiva' flanked by a female attendant or consort. The cave also includes many 'Ganas' or attendants of shiva, in the lower columns of the cave.



Q- Try and count- how many hands does the shiva statue have?

The Grandeur of Vishnu- Cave 2

Cave 2 is dedicated to Vishnu and his 'avatars', the image of Vishnu Trivikrama is most celebrated among all. In this image Vishnu saves the world from Bali, the demon king. The story is displayed in the form of a continuous panel, which eventually results in the victory of Vishnu over the demon king. Other engraving within the cave displays the Varaha (boar), Narasimha (lion), and Vamana (dwarf) avatars of Vishnu .



The cave dedicated to Vishnu is the largest among all!

It should also be noted that the 'Varaha' was the symbol of the Western Chalukyas, often minted on their coins

Answer: 18



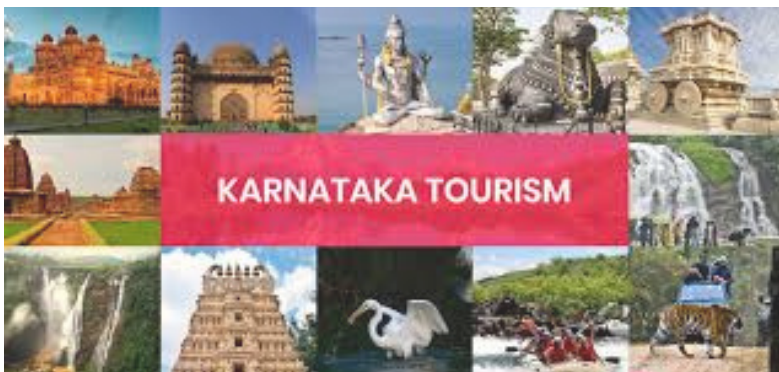
BEAUTY AND PIETY

A stroll in the garden- Cave 3

Cave 3, consists largely of mithuna figures (amorous couples), are exceptional in their craftsmanship. **Yaksha and Yakshi*** couples are also observed within this cave. It must be noted that while this cave too features depictions of Vishnu, its purpose seems less related to the veneration of a deity and tilts more towards artistic expression.



A **Game board** is carved into the temple floor, something often observed in Indian temples



The Jaina wonder- Cave 4

Architectural forms and sculptural ornamentation frequently cut across religions. There are notable similarities between Hindu, and Jaina cave shrines and structural temples. Shrines of various religious traditions shared a common group of auspicious symbols and ornamentation. The Jaina temple is the last among the 4 main shrines to be constructed and the temple is not as large or elaborate as its Hindu predecessors. Reliefs of Tirthankaras are populous among this cave. Like Parshvanath, Mahavira, and Gommateshvara (son of the first tithankara.)



Yaksha-Yakshi

These figures, often found in Buddhist sites are 'spirits' inhabiting rocks, trees, mountains, and are also considered to be

protectors of the site according to tradition. The female counterpart (Yakshi) is also seen as a symbol of fertility .



Bhutanatha group of temples (7th - 11th century AD), the temple platform extends into the east end of the water tank, resulting in a delightful temple compound surrounded by water on three sides. The sanctuary and inner hall are Early Chalukya, the outer hall overlooking the tank is a Later Chalukya construction

Yellamma Temple, Badami, (11th century). This Late Chalukya temple, located at the west end of the tank, is famed for its towers, whose crimped and layered roof represents an amalgam between the curved shikharas of North India and the pancake pyramids of the south.



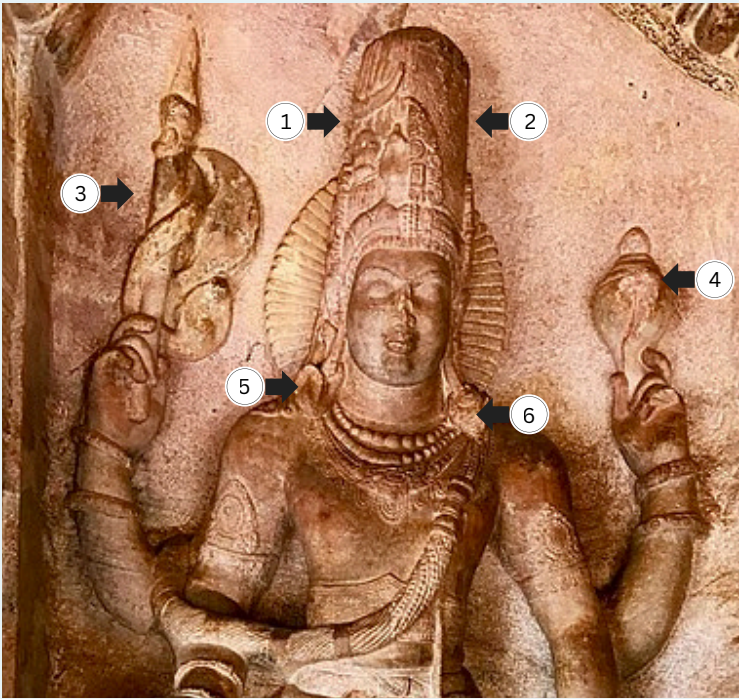
Mallikarjuna Temple Group
Badami, (11th century)

Symbolic of typical Late Chalukya features include plain walls, angled eaves over the mandapas, and pyramidal towers with deeply carved and closely spaced horizontal courses. The temples are located on the northeast side of the tank and feature geometrical columns, said columns are often topped with a diamond shaped head, a dish shaped top and a square slab which supports the beam.



ACTIVITIES

Look at the numbered items on the Hari Hara sculpture, and write the number associated with the object in front of the statement best describing it



_____ Battle axe entwined with a snake

_____ A conch shell

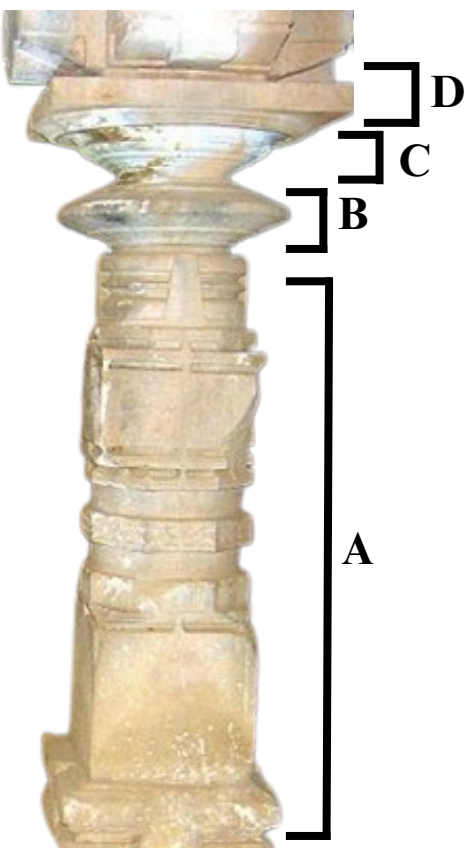
_____ Shiva's matted locks (jata-mukuta)

_____ Kirita mukuta of Vishnu

_____ Shiva's sarpa kundala

_____ Vishnu's nakra-kundala (or makara-kundala).

Answer (correct sequence): 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 6



To the left is one of the pillars from the Mallikarjuna Group of temples Badami. Place the alphabet associated with the specific part of a pillar to its best suited description.

_____ - Alternate cubical and cylindrical lower beam

_____ - Compressed diamond-shaped head

_____ - Dish-shaped

_____ - Square slab on top which support the beam

Answer (correct sequence): A, B, C, D

Match the Avatars of Vishnu to their name and description



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A

Narasimha Avatar
(lion)

1



B

Vamana Avatar
(Pot bellied dwarf)
(symbol of the Chalukyas)

2



C

Varaha Avatar (Boar)

3



D

Matsya Avatar (Fish)

4

Answer: (correct matches): A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

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