



Archaeological Survey of India



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Cover Image :  
Ceiling of Temple at Surwaya, Garhi, Shivpuri



Chandla Temple, Kadwaha,  
Ashoknagar Distt. (Kachchhapaghata Pd.)

## A Profile

### Temple Survey Project (N.R.) Bhopal

#### INTRODUCTION

The Director General of Archaeological Survey of India conceived a noble idea in order to have separate Survey Projects consisting of Temple Survey Project (Northern & Southern regions) for the study of architectural survey of the temples and a Building Survey Project for the study of secular architecture. Accordingly the Temple Survey Project undertakes projects with the aim of survey and documentation of temples of various periods in different parts of the country and research based field survey. In addition, it also aimed of interaction with various universities and research institutions. The two Temple Survey Project offices in ASI are existing to look after the study of temple architecture, one at Bhopal for the North and northeast Indian temples and the other one at Chennai for the South Indian temple architecture.

Since its inception 1955 onwards the Temple Survey Project (N.R.), Bhopal has been intensively involved in study of temples of northern region and regularly publishes its research works through informative notes, brochures, books, research articles and official quarterly magazine called *Kalash*. The scholars and experts on temple architecture like Shri Krishna Deva, Dr. B.L. Nagarch, Shri R.D. Trivedi, Mrs. Devla Mitra, Shri M.D. Khare, Dr. P.K. Trivedi, Dr. Narayan Vyas and others have done tremendous research works on temples of northern India by documentation and description along with their photographs and drawings illustrations. The students of temple architecture are certainly benefited by going through the various books, notes and research articles which are available in this office.

On the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Archaeological Survey of India a profile consisting of glimpses of various academic activities of the Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal since 1955 till this day has been published to remember and tribute to those great scholars who dedicated their whole life in pursuing the study of temple architecture.

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#### List of the Superintending Archaeologists headed the Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal, M.P.

Sl. No.	Name	Year
1	Shri Krishna Deva	07.12.1955 to 31.01.1962
2	Shri Vijay Kant Mishra	01.02.1962 to 16.04.1963
3	Shri M.D. Khare	17.04.1963 to 01.08.1963
4	Mrs Devla Mitra	02.08.1963 to 31.05.1966
5	Shri Sunil Ray	01.06.1966 to 09.07.1968
6	Shri M.D. Khare	10.07.1968 to 19.06.1977
7	Shri R. D. Trivedi	20.06.1977 to 06.07.1984
8	Dr. B.L. Nagarch	07.07.1984 to 29.12.1993
9	Dr. P.K. Trivedi	30.12.1993 to 15.04.1998
10	Shri K.K. Ramamurthy	16.04.1998 to 11.07.2001
11	Dr. D. Bengra	12.07.2001 to 09.09.2004
12	Dr. P.K. Mishra	10.09.2004 to 20.07.2006
13	Shri K.K. Mohammad	21.07.2006 to 02.08.2007
14	Dr. Narayan Vyas	03.08.2007 to 31.01.2009
15	Dr. S.V. Vankateshiha	01.02.2009 to 15.07.2009
16	Dr. K. Lourdasamy	16.07.2009 till this day.



Felicitation of Ex. Officials of ASI during 150th Anniversary Celebrations

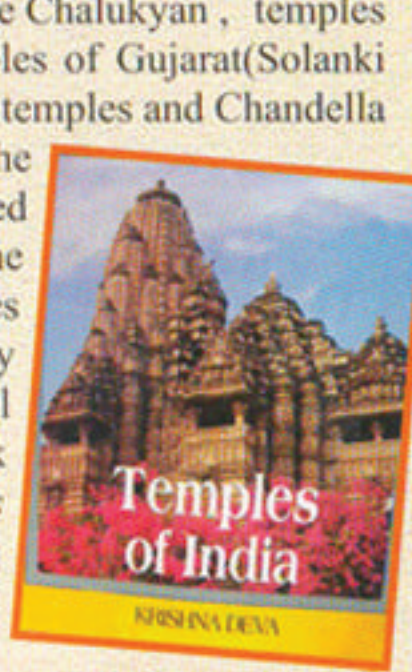
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#### SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

The humble beginning of the Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal was initiated by the legendary scholar on temple architecture Shri Krishna Deva as Superintending Archaeologist who made an intensive survey and studied the Khajuraho group of temples belonging to Chandellas. During his tenure he studied central Indian temples at Bhojpur, Bhilsa, Gyaspur, Badoh, Pathari, Udaipur, Surwaya, Kadwaha, Amrol and Gwalior all located in Madhya Pradesh. These are datable to 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. In 1969 he brought out a book on *"Temples of North India"* published by National Book Trust, India, New Delhi highlight the salient features of basic north Indian type of temple architecture along with very good illustrations of various temples. This book is consisting of ten chapters dealing with Gupta & late Gupta temples (C.400-700A.D.), early Chalukyan temples (C.500-750A.D.) & late Chalukyan temples of Pratihara age, temples of Rajasthan, temples of Gujarat (Solanki style), Kachchhapaghata temples, Kalchuries temples and Chandella temples, Orissan temples etc. Besides, the temples of Khajuraho were firstly categorized by him and studied in systematic manner. In the year 1990 two volumes on Khajuraho Temples entitled *"Temples of Khajuraho"* published by DG, ASI, under the series of Architectural Survey of Temples, Number 5. One more book which must be taken into account i.e. *"Temples of India"* in two volumes is also an outstanding work of Shri Krishna Deva published in the year 1995.



Khajuraho Temples



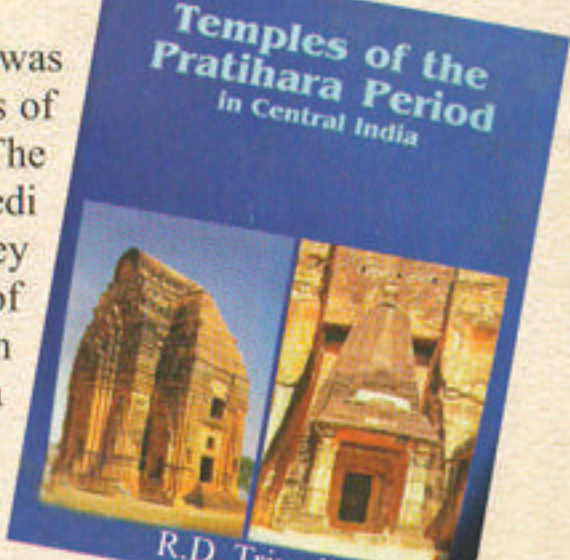
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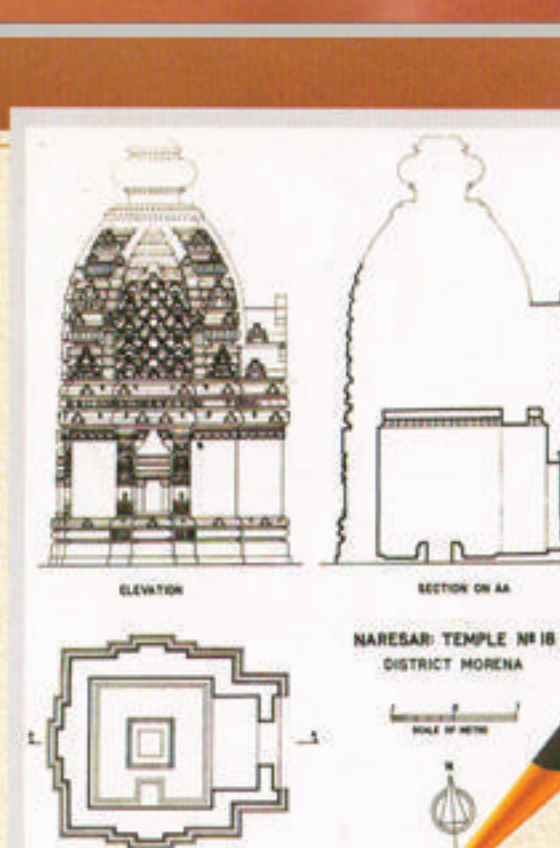
Group of Temples, Batesar Distt-Morena

From 1963 to 1977 the temple Survey Project (NR) Bhopal has been headed by many scholars (Superintending Archaeologist). Shri M.D. Khare surveyed the group of post Gupta temples at Thoban, district Ashoknagar in M.P. as a result of which several wonderful Vaishnava and saiva sculptures brought to light (IAR-1969-70, 72-73). Besides he has also studied on pre-Gupta temples at Besnagar, Nagari, Bairat, Mathura, Sravasti, kausambi, Nagarjunakonda and Taxila dating from circa 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to third century AD. (IAR-1969).

The time frame of 1977 to 1984 was prolific in terms of the study of temples of Pratihara art and architecture of India. The well-known scholar Shri R.D. Trivedi served seven years in the Temple Survey Project (NR) and did intensive survey of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh covering Shivpuri, Morena, Vidisha distt, in M.P. Jhansi, Lalitpur in UP, and brought out large number of Pratihara temples in to light. He surveyed the



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NARESAR TEMPLE NR II DISTRICT MORENA

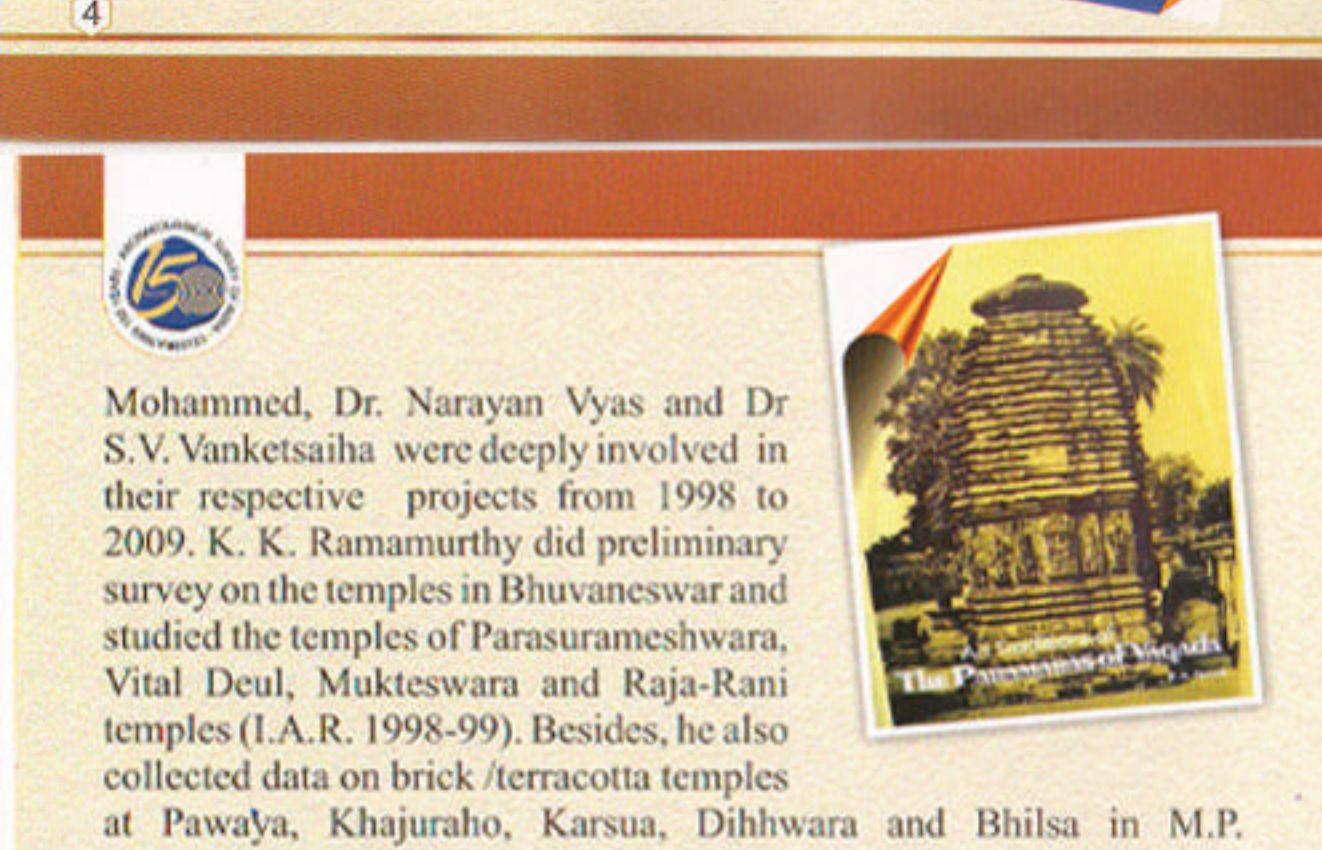
temples at Amrol in dist Gwalior, Naresar & Batesar in Morena district, Deogarh district Lalitpur (UP). According to him the Pratihara temple art and architecture had been developed in three phases. In first phase he has dated the temples from c.725-800 and encountered Naresar & Batesar group of temples at Morena district, and temples at Mahua, district Shivpuri. In second phase he has placed temples from c.800-850. They are temples at Amrol specially Santinath temple, Suraiya Bir in Lalitpur, U.P., Keldhar in Shivpuri distt, Umri Kun temple at Tikamgarh, MP. Finally in the third phase temples are datable from 850 to 950 AD. Among them Chamunda temple at Mahua, Siva temple at Terahi of Shivpuri distt., Chaturmukha Mahadeo temple at Nachna-Kuthara, Panna distt. in hilly area, Siva temple at Pathari & Kutakeshwara temples in distt. Vidisha. His entire work has been published by the Archaeological Survey of India as *Temples of the Pratihara Period in Central India* in the year 1990.

From 1984 to 1993 under the directorship of DR.B.L. Nagarch the projects were continued in connection with the study of central Indian temples datable from 9-10<sup>th</sup> century to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. (I.A.R. 1984-1993).

During the tenure of Dr. P.K. Trivedi Temple Survey Project (NR) has been conducted a project on Parmara art & architecture from 1993-1998 and a very authentic and informative book entitled as *"Art Traditions of the Parmaras of Vagad"* in the year 1995 was published by him.

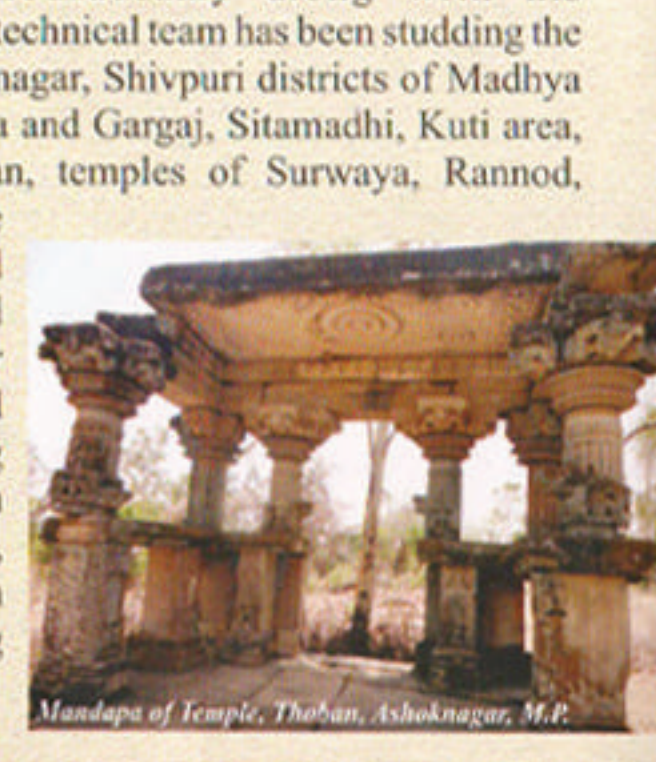
By following the legacy of Temple Survey Project (NR) Shri K.K. Ramamurthy, Dr. D. Bhengra, Dr. P.K. Mishra, Shri K.K.

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Siva Temple, Sitmadhi, Thoban, Ashoknagar, M.P.

Kachchhapaghata temples in Ashoknagar, Shivpuri districts of Madhya Pradesh. The temples of Kadwaha and Gargaji, Sitmadhi, Kuti area, Kuti extension in village Thoban, temples of Surwaya, Rannod, Mahua, Terahi and Ballarpur have been thoroughly studied and brought out in detailed documentation along with their colored digital photographs and Auto-cad drawings. The remaining Kachchhapaghata temples in Districts of Vidisha, Morena, Bhind and Gwalior have been taken up for this season as ongoing project of 2011-12.



Mandapa of Temple, Thoban, Ashoknagar, M.P.

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#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

##### Quarterly Magazine

Since 2008 Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal has been publishing a quarterly Hindi Magazine Known as Kalash. This magazine was introduced to bring out recent researches in temple art & architecture. This magazine also invites the scholars to incorporate their new discoveries in temple art and architecture.

##### Booklets

1. Kachchhapaghata Temples, Kadwaha, District Ashoknagar, M.P., 2010
2. Water Heritage of Kachchhapaghata Period  
(Special reference to Kadwaha, Thoban in Ashoknagar distt. and Surwaya Garhi, Rannod in Shivpuri district), 2011
3. Temples of Kadwaha, 2012

##### Cultural Awareness Programme

Apart from the regular project works the Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal also organized various cultural programmes to create awareness among the masses and particularly among students towards our rich cultural heritage.

##### Workshop

Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal organizes workshop on temple art & architecture. Recently a workshop on Kachchhapaghata art & architecture had been organized in Chanderi on the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Archaeological Survey of India.



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#### Glimpses of Cultural Awareness Programme & 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the ASI



#### Present Team of the Temple Survey Project (NR), Bhopal

**Project Director :** Dr. K. Lourdasamy (S.A.)  
**Team members :** Dr. M.C. Joshi (A.A.)  
(Tech.) Dr. S.K. Bajpai (A.A.)  
Shri A.H. Vyas (Sr. Pgr.)  
Shri L.K. Bhagchandani (D/M Gr.I)  
Shri S.K. Srivastava (D/M Gr.I)  
Shri K.R. Malviya (Pgr, Gr.II)

**Administrative Team -**  
Shri Sanjay Angre (H/C)  
Shri Pankaj Ramchandani (LDC)



Release of Booklet on Water Heritage of Kachchhapaghata Pd.



Release of Booklet on Temples of Kadwaha

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