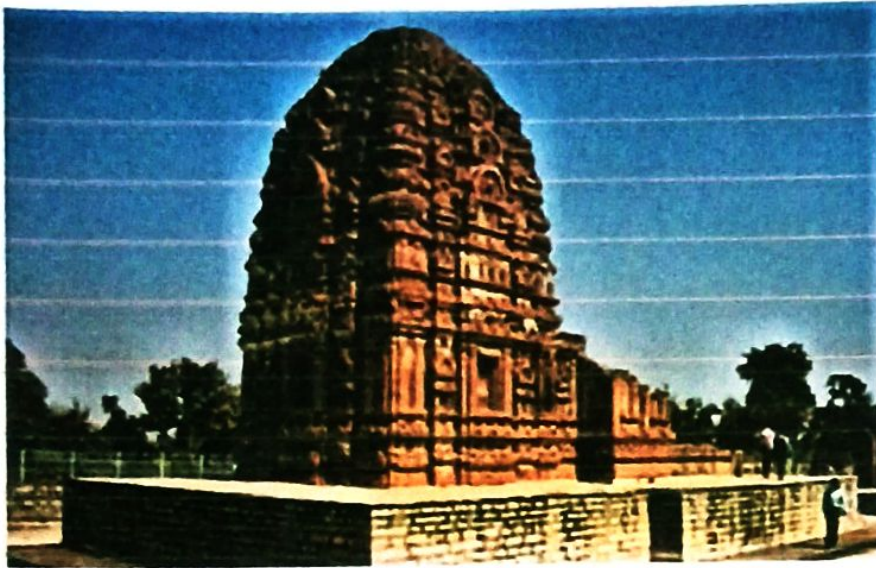


STORYLINE

The Ancient Brick Laxman Temple of Sirpur

By **deepak das**

Dec 8, 2021 [Ancient Temple, Brick Temple, Laxman Temple Sirpur](#)



Dolly Chouhan// Bhilai. Situated in the heart of India, Chhattisgarh is endowed with a rich cultural heritage and attractive natural diversity. The state is full of ancient monuments, rare wildlife, exquisitely carved temples, Buddhist sites, waterfalls, caves and prehistoric sites. One of the best places to visit in chhattisgarh is the Laxam Temple of Sirpur. Sirpur is situated on the banks of the Mahanadi river. Sirpur was known as Sripur in ancient times and was the capital of South Kosala. Sirpur is known for its Buddh viharas. Laxman Temple is the major tourist attraction of the place. Laxman Temple is one of the finest bricks temples in India and perhaps the oldest. It is characterised by exquisite carvings and precise construction. Sheshnaag serves as an umbrella to lord Shiva on the top of the entrance, while incarnations of Lord Vishnu, Krishna Leela ornamental symbols and erotic carving adorn the sides. The religious segments of a temple Vatayan, Chitya Gawaksha, Bharwahakgana, Aja, Kirtimukh and Kama Amalak are engraved in the pillars of this panchaeth type temple. The inside has the Mandap (shelter), Antaraal (passage) and Garbha Griha (the main house). The archaeological survey of India has established a museum in the temple premises, which houses a collection of rare statues and other relies significant to the Shiva, Vaishnava, Buddhist and Jain faiths.

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STUDENTS WRITE

Legendary Mahadev Temple of Deobaloda

By deepak das

Nov 28, 2021 Charoda, Deobaloda, Heritage, Students Corner, Vaishali Nagar College



The Mahadev Temple in Deobaloda, in the Indian State of Chhattisgarh, is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple dates back to the Kalchuri Period. This heritage site is protected under the Archaeological Survey of India. The temple is complete with "garbhgriha" (The Sanctum Sanctorum) and Mandap, but the dome seems to be missing. The temple witnesses high footfall during Mahashivratri when the devotees from nearby villages gather here for Lord Shiva's blessings. The event is also accompanied by a small fair. The fair is famous far and wide. What makes the temple special are the stories handed over from generation to generation by word of mouth. It is said that the architect who was engaged in building the temple had left it incomplete and jumped into the pond adjacent to it. Hence the dome could not be built. It is also said, that, there is a secret tunnel inside the pool which comes out in Aarang. The architect found the tunnel and escaped to Aarang where he built a similar temple, complete with the dome. Devotees claim that the temple was built in "Chhamasi" (meaning six months). Hence it is also called a Chhamasi temple. They also say that it was a time when there was no sun for six months at a stretch. But there is no mention of any such period in the history of Astronomy. Culturalist and teacher Ramkumar Verma says that perhaps the construction of the temple took a long time and people converted this long time into a six months. The temple can be reached by road across the railway track in Charoda toward

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ARTICLES STUDENTS WRITE

Consent to marriage: Two more years in waiting

By **deepak das**

Jan 4, 2022 Child Marriage, Consensual Marriage, NITI Aayog



By Priya Sharma. More girls will be graduates by the time they can give consent to marriage. The Union Cabinet has raised the minimum age for girls to marry, by two years. It was proposed by a NITI Aayog task force headed by Jaya Jaitley. It will also bring them at par with boys, as now both will be able to enter consensual matrimony after attaining 21 years of age. The NITI Aayog task force has tried to hit multiple targets with a single stone. Women have proved their mettle in most areas. We need more qualified women, atleast graduates, in our workforce. Further, by pushing the age of marriage, we can slow down the birthrate and contain the population growth. This will also ensure a girl's say in the match making process. Though there is no data to suggest that girls cannot bear healthy child before 21, it will certainly help them plan their motherhood.

Young uneducated widows have been a matter of grave concern in our society. They are exploited and abused physically and mentally by their inlaws. Even in areas where they are able to get employment on compassionate grounds, lack of education sets their limits. An educated mother, who has a say in family matters will be able to take better care of her child, keep the number of children in check and provide better education to her offsprings.

Betterment of the girl child is easier said than done. Our socio-cultural beliefs are the biggest hinderance. The deep rooted belief that a girl will fall prey to her carnal desires, if not married at the right time, poses a major threat. Moreover, traditional 'Match Making System' makes it difficult to find a suitable match. Though there is no data to suggest that 'Muhurtas' make any difference to a marriage, "Akha Teej" (Akshay Tritiya) push people into hasty marriage rituals. In many clans, education of the girl child threatens her marriage prospects.

To make the NITI Aayog proposal truly happening, a lot more needs to be done on the socio-cultural front as well. Child marriage was banned as early as 1929 but it is still happening. A girl's age becomes a factor only in cases of love marriage, when there is a need to prove her age of consent. Now, that the age has been raised to 21 before a girls can marry, let us hope that more girls graduate before they are married off.

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