

Masroor Rock-Cut Temples

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Masroor Rock-Cut Temples Latest News

Tucked away in the hills of Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Valley lies Masroor Rock-Cut Temples, an extraordinary piece of Indian heritage that is mostly ignored.

About Masroor Rock-Cut Temples

- Masroor Rock-Cut Temples, also referred to as **Masroor Temples**, is an **early 8th-century complex of rock-cut Hindu temples** in the **Kangra Valley of the Beas River in Himachal Pradesh**.
- They are often referred to as the **Ellora of Himachal and the Himalayan pyramid**.

Masroor Rock-Cut Temples History

- Archaeological surveys say that they have been **built around the 8th century** — almost 1200 years ago — due to their **resemblance to the "Gupta style** of architecture" from the same period.
- However, there is **no mention** of the temple in any of the **scriptures or historical records**.

- The temple complex was **first reported by Henry Shuttleworth in 1913**, bringing it to the attention of archaeologists.
- They were **independently surveyed by Harold Hargreaves** of the **Archaeological Survey of India** in **1915**.

Masroor Rock-Cut Temples Architecture

- The **15-monument temple complex** resembles the **North Indian Nagara architecture style** and is **dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, and Lord Lakshmana**.
- Unlike other Hindu temples in the country that face the east, this one **faces northeast towards the Dhauladhar mountains**.
- The temples were **carved out of monolithic rock with a shikhara** and provided with a sacred **pool** of water.
- The temple complex follows a **symmetrically laid-out square grid**.
- The **main temple**, with a **square plan**, is **surrounded by smaller temples** arranged in a **mandala pattern**.
- **Three entrances** adorn the temple, facing northeast, southeast, and northwest. Interestingly, evidence points towards a planned but unfinished fourth entrance, often overlooked in historical records.
- The Masrur Temples display elaborate **reliefs portraying significant Vedic and Puranic deities**.
- These reliefs are **accompanied by captivating friezes** that narrate **ancient tales** from Hindu texts.
- Much of the Masroor temple's **sculpture and reliefs** have been lost. They were also quite **damaged, most likely from earthquakes**.

News: **TOI**

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