

Some Aspects of Odishan History



Editor

Dr. Prabhakara Mahapatra



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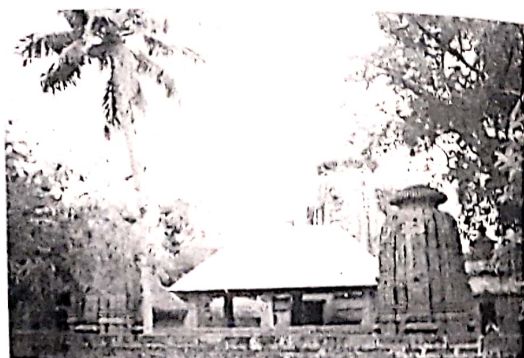
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SOMANATHA TEMPLE AT GHORADIA

Dr. Ratnakar Mohapatra

Introduction



The Temple of Somanatha is situated at the village of Ghoradia near the Daya river in the Delanga Block of Puri District. This is a *Panchayatana* type of temple with four corner shrines located within a spacious compound surrounded by a low masonry wall. Architecturally the four corner shrines are replica of the main shrine (*deula*) and these subsidiary shrines are devoid of sculptural embellishments. Generally on the *Panchayatana* type of temples, the four corner shrines reproduce on a smaller scale of all the features of the main shrine without the

ancillary hall.¹ Here all the four corner shrines are about half of the height of the main temple (shrine). The *pabhaga* of the corner (subsidiary) shrines have four mouldings only.² The temple of Somanatha consists of two structures such as *vimana* and *jagamohana*. There is an additional *mandapa* built in front of the *jagamohana*. Both the *jagamohana* and the *natamandapa* are the later additions. T.E. Donaldson opines that the main *deula* (*vimana*) of the Somanatha temple is closely related to the small Vaishnavite Manibhadresvara temple next to the Sisiresvara temple of Bhubaneswar.³ The temple faces to west. A modest attempt has been made in this article to highlight the detailed art and architecture of the temple of Somanatha.

Art and Architecture of the Temple:

Vimana:

The *vimana* of the temple is a *pancharatha rokha deula* and its height is about 35 feet from the surface of the temple complex.⁴ The base of the *vimana* is square of 14 feet.⁵ The *bada* of the *vimana* is trianga type i.e. having three vertical divisions such as *pabhaga*, *jangha* and *baranda*. The *pabhaga* consists of five conventional mouldings of *khura*, *kumbha*, *patta*, *kani* and *basanta*. The vertical band is joined at the centre of each *paga* of the *pabhaga*. All these mouldings are devoid of decorative elements. The *kanika* and *anuratha pagas* of the *jangha* are decorated with *vajra mundis*. The *vajra mundi* niches of the *anuratha* and *kanika pagas* are framed by flat band of decorative scroll work. All these niches are crowned by a projecting eave. The *tala garbhika* beneath the *raha* niche is relieved with a *khakhara mundi*. The *raha* niche is also