



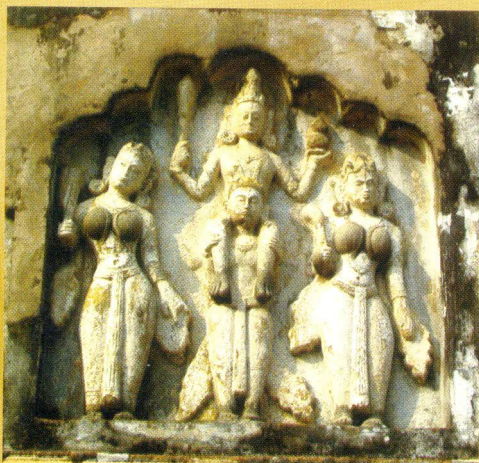
प्रत्नकीर्तिमपावृणु

CENTRALLY PROTECTED MONUMENTS OF HAJO



Sri Sri Hayagriva Madhava Temple, Hajo (AD 1583)

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
GUWAHATI CIRCLE**



Vishnu mounted over Garuda, Hayagriva-Madhava Temple

Hajo, A small township about 25 km north-west of Guwahati having immense historical importance occupies a unique place in the cultural history of Assam. It is a famous pilgrimage centre in the region with a number of standing temples along with holy shrine of Islamic faith lying on the

isolated hills in the locality. Reference of this place is found in the historical chronicles and puranic literature. The narration of the place is also found in the Tibetan traditions, believed to be associated with the Buddhist religion.

The Hayagriva-Madhava Temple, a famous Vaisnava shrine in the locality is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Standing on an isolated hill popularly known as Manikut Parbat, It is one of the graceful temples constructed by a Koch king. The Kochs, a power of the mid 16th century AD in the region had expanded their activities in Brahmaputra valley in the architectural tradition and political expansion of the kingdom.

The architectural tradition of the region prior to



**Sculptural Panel
Sri Sri Hayagriva Madhava Temple**

thirteenth century AD follows the prevailing trends as in the rest of India. Building activities which gathered momentum during early medieval period till the Pala rulers became extinct by the end of the 13th century AD due to



lack of patronage by the then rulers of the region. The building tradition revived with the advent of kings from the neighbouring countries of Tibet, Burma (Myanmar) described as the land of *Kiratas* in the epics connected with the region through the Brahmaputra valley.



Sculptural Panel of Shakti

However, the architectural tradition was continued by the Kochs in the late medieval period in this region. The trend emerged as a new model which is substantially traditional but assimilated the exotic architectural elements in the architecture. One notable example of such building activity is the temple of Kamakhya in the Nilachal Hill near Guwahati. The original ruins of the temple belong to C. 9th century AD which



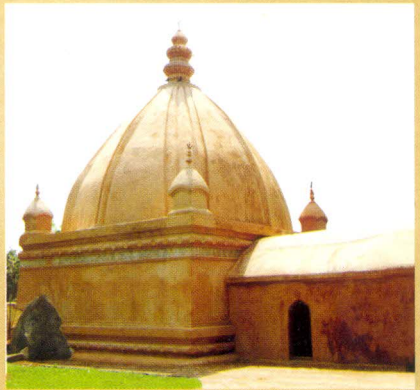
**Killing of an Animal
Sri Sri Hayagriva Madhava Temple**

was successfully renovated in AD 1565 under the patronages of Narayan (AD 1540-84), the celebrated king of the Koch dynasty. The revived architectural tradition had far reaching influence in the Ahom architecture in the late medieval Assam.

The graceful Vaishnava shrine of Hajo popularly known as Hayagriva-Madhava was rebuilt in AD 1583 by Koch king Raghudeva (AD 1581-16-03), over the foundation of the ancient temple ruins of 10th



- 11th century AD as reflected in the plinth moulding of friezes of elephants (*Gajathara*) and geometrical designs of shadow relief in the basement. The *nagar sikhara* of the temple is gracefully executed with the sculptures of various divinities of the Brahmanical pantheon and the ground plan consist of



Sri Sri Ganesh Temple, Hajo

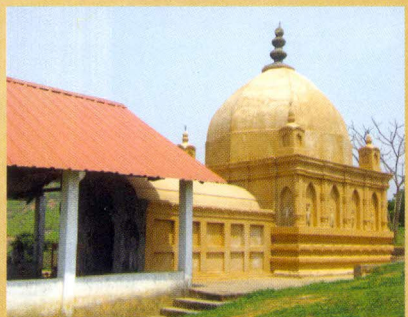
garbhagriha, *antarala* and *mandapa* in order. The flat-roofed *mandapa* with arched doorway is supported by massive four pillars on the four corners of the structure.



Sri Sri Kedar Temple, Hajo

referred in the *Tantric* and *Puranic* literature. An inscription attached to the temple shows that the Ahom king Rajeswara Singha (AD 1751-69) had erected two masonry walls along the temple.

The masonry building of the temple of Kameswara was built in the late medieval period and the temple of Ganesha which encloses a



Sri Sri Kameswar Temple, Hajo



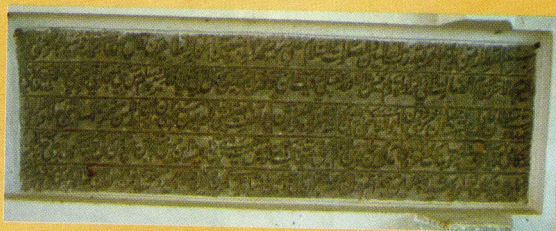
giant elephant shaped stone is believed to be constructed during the reign of the Ahom king Pramatta Singha in AD 1744.



Fakuwa Dol
Sri Sri Hayagriva Madhava Temple

Another monument lying near the Hayagriva-Madhava temple with stepped plinths & domical finial is called Fakuwa Dol. The architectural features of the structure do not show any relevance with the prevailed architectural norms during the period. The super structure of this temple is raised on an octagonal plan with arched opening and engrailed designs on the edges.

The shrine of Poa-Mecca at Hajo is situated on the top of another isolated hill in the locality. It is the tomb of Giyasuddin Aulia who spread the message of Koran in the region. The renovated old mosque near the tomb depicts a Persian inscription donated by Mohammad Sujauddin, son of Mughal emperor Shahajahan in AD 1657.



Persian Inscription, Poa-Mecca, Hajo

Archaeological ruins of temples, tombs, forts, palaces, historical buildings, sculptures, inscriptions & monoliths, etc. are

lying scattered in various parts of this region. It is our bounden duty irrespective of caste, creed and religion to preserve these cultural heritages of our nation in its true historical and aesthetic character. Let us pledge not to destroy, injure, alter, deface, imperil and misuse our precious heritage.



WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA (CULTURAL HERITAGE)

1. Ellora Caves	— Maharashtra
2. Agra Fort	— U.P.
3. Ajanta Caves	— Maharashtra
4. Taj Mahal, Agra	— U.P.
5. Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	— Tamil Nadu
6. Sun Temple, Konark	— Orissa
7. Khajuraho Group of Monuments	— M.P.
8. Fatehpur Sikri	— U.P.
9. Group of Monuments at Hampi	— Karnataka
10. Churches & Convents at Goa	— Goa
11. Chola Temples	— Tamil Nadu
12. Group of Temples, Pattadakal	— Karnataka
13. Elephanta Caves	— Maharashtra
14. Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	— M.P.
15. Qutub Minar & Its Monuments	— Delhi
16. Humayun Tomb	— Delhi
17. Mahabodhi Temple Complex, Bodhgaya	— Bihar
18. Rock Shelter of Bhimbetka	— M.P.
19. Champaner-Pavagarh, Archaeological Park	— Gujarat
20. Red Fort	— Delhi
21. Jantar-Mantar, Jaipur	— Rajasthan

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