

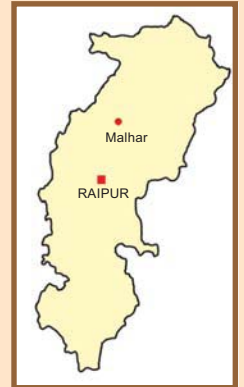
Group of Monuments, Malhar



The remains of this ancient mud fort, surrounded by a moat, are now in ruins. There was an inscription inside the fort area which was later shifted to Raipur Museum. The fort was under occupation from the second century BC to the 12th century AD. There are other monuments of considerable interest found here.



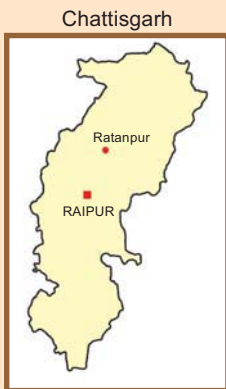
Chattisgarh



Contributions solicited in the range of Rs. 10 - 40 Lakhs for following activities:

1. Conservation of monuments.
2. Environmental development.
3. Providing tourist facilities

Fort and Kanti Deol Temple, Ratanpur



Historically, Ratanpur was founded by Ratnadeva, founder of the Kalachuri house of Ratanpur and it remained as their capital for centuries. Ruins of medieval structures including the fort still exist at Ratanpur. The place owns some beautiful sculptures of red sandstone with themes like Ravana's attempt to carry the Kailasa Mountain. An inscription discovered from the fort mentions its construction in AD 1149.

This three storied temple, dedicated to lord Siva, is unusually tall and unique in shape. It enshrines a highly polished *Sivalinga* of black basalt. Its two lower storeys are square shaped while the ground storey is almost plain with doors opening on all the four sides. The next higher storey is relieved with projecting *jharokhas* (bay-window) in the middle and small niches and alcoves on the sides. The structure is covered by a curvilinear *sikhara*. The temple combines features of both Hindu and Islamic architecture.



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Group of Temples, Barsur



The group of temples at Barsur is dedicated to lord Siva. The main temple is raised on a moulded base and attributed to two family members of the *Nagavamsa*. It is 16 m in height with a wall, preserved curvilinear *sikhara* over the sanctum and is devoid of the front hall (*mandapa*). An inscription found on the platform of this temple in Telugu characters is datable to the thirteenth century AD.



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Group of Monuments, Sirpur, Mahasamund

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The area around Sirpur village contains many ancient remains and temples with mounds of brick debris of varied sizes. There are a number of stone images, sculptured pillars, doorframes, beams and other architectural fragments. From the ruins of brick temples, it appears that these temples were dedicated to Hindu, Jaina and Buddhist pantheons. Ancient inscriptional records affirm that it was a large urban settlement in the Early Historical period. These epigraphical records started to appear from the 6th century AD.



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