

CHAPTER- 21

Talagaon

The teacher said, "In class IV you must have read about the caves of Ramgarh. There are many places of historical interest in Chhattisgarh. One of them is Talagaon. Today, we shall talk about this place.

Arya : Teacher, where is Talagaon and why is it famous?

Teacher : It is 32 km's away from Bilaspur, situated on the banks of river Maniyari. Though it is like any other village but there are many ancient temples which are now in the state of ruins.

Does your town/village also have ancient temples or monuments for which it is famous?



Picture - Devrani Temple

There are two famous temples in Talagaon. They are popularly known as 'Devarani-Jethani temple. Looking at the picture given below, can you tell the material used for making these temples?

Tushar : Teacher, when were these temples built?

Teacher : As per the information given on the inscription rocks, they were built some 1500 years ago. Red sandstone was used for making these temples.



Picture - Devarani Temple

Kirti : Teacher, from where was red-sand-stone obtained in large quantities?

Teacher : Interestingly, red sandstone is found locally in Talagaon, which is situated on the banks of river Maniyari.

How was red-sand transported for the construction of temples?

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**Were there trucks and tractors some 1500 years ago?**

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How were big rocks transported from the river to the construction site?

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**If such temples were to be constructed in the present, how would the rocks/stones be transported to the construction site?**

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Ananya : Teacher, the idol of which deity is found in these temples?

Teacher : The temples made in Talagaon are known as Devarani - Jethani Temples.

Out of the two, the 'Devarani' temple has an idol of Shiva. Earlier, both were Shiva temples. Today, the Jethani temple stands in a complete state of ruin whereas two/ third of the Devarani temple is still safe. Being an ancient temple one can now just see the debris. In the process of clearing the debris, metal coins, idols etc. were found. A large, wonderful stone idol of Rudra Shiva was also excavated from the site. The idol is unique in itself as it is different from the idols of Shiva found all over India.



Picture - Jethani Temple

Mehak : Teacher, what is so special about this idol that it is different from the other idols of Shiva?

Teacher : As it is seen in the picture given, this stone idol of Shiva has 10 faces. All the faces are different from each other. On these faces there are carved images of a cobra, peacock, chameleon, crab, fish, snake and other such creatures. This idol is 9 feet high and 4 feet wide. Its circumference is about 2.5 feet and weight 5000 kgs. It is carved out of a single stone.

Krishna : Teacher, why are the images of different creatures carved on Shiva's idol?

Teacher : There can possibly be two reasons. Firstly, as Shiva is also called 'Pashupati', these images may symbolise that he's the lord of the creatures. With this imagination, the sculptor must have carved out the images of various creatures. Secondly, it could have been to save these creatures who are an integral part of nature. Keeping this in mind, the sculptor must



have carved out the images of various animals.

Have you taken any measures to save creatures found around you?

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**Do sculptors of today carve out images of birds/animals in the statues that they make?**

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Dolly : Teacher, why this village is named Talagaon?

Teacher : My grandfather said that in ancient times there existed a temple of Goddess Parvati in the form of Taradevi. Probably, that is why this village must have been Taragaon which slowly and gradually changed into Talagaon.

Find out from your elders how and why the name of your village/town was given to it.

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Vibha : Teacher, what are the other places of interest in Talagaon?

Teacher : Every year tourists from India and abroad come in large numbers to see the famous idol of 'Rudra Shiva' found in Talagaon. Seven days fair is held every year during Shivratri. Pilgrims from neighbouring areas visit the fair situated on the banks of river Maniyari. Talagaon has a lot of natural beauty. A few kilometres away is the confluence place of River Maniyari and River Shivrath.

The children were very happy to learn about Talagaon and requested their teacher to take them for a visit to Talagaon.

**Name some other ancient places in Chhattisgarh? Find out from your teachers or elders why those places are so special?**

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Some people write their names on historical monuments and building.

Do you think this is right?

What can you do for preserving such historical monument/buildings?

Is there any museum in your village/town or nearby city? Find out what all are there.

Museums are places where very old ancient things are kept. These things could also be those which were found while digging inside the earth. From these things we can know how people of that time lived, what all things they used, what all they made.

Think if these things were not preserved, could we have been able to know so much about them.

Make your own Museum -

Collect old items from your surrounding as utensils, farming tools, handicrafts, coins other daily use items as watches, slippers, bells etc. and display them in a place. Remember to write same words for each item.

What have We Learnt?

Oral

1. The ruins of which two temples have been found in Talagaon?
2. The idol of which God is there in 'Devrani temple'?
3. What kind of stone is used in the temples of Talagaon?

Written

1. Compare the temples of Talagaon with any other temple.
2. When and during which dynasty were the temples of Talagaon constructed?
3. What is special about the Shiva idol excavated from Talagaon?
4. From where were the stones used for the construction of temples, obtained?

Find Around You

1. Visit the nearby historical places and fill up the table given below with the information collected.

S. No.	Name of Place	Types of buildings (Temple/momument etc.)	Year of Construction	Name of the founder	Speciality

2. Observe the nearby ancient monuments and find out what measures are taken to preserve them?
3. Collect and paste picture of famous historical monuments and building of the world in your copy?

