



drishti

Markandeshwar Temple

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The Archaeological Survey of India is taking up the **restoration** work of Markandeshwar

temple in Maharashtra.



- Markandeshwar temple is situated on the bank of River **Wainganga** in district Gadchiroli of **Maharashtra**.
- It is also known as the “**Khajuraho of Vidarbha**”.
- Markandeshwar temple belongs to the **Nagara group of temples** of North India.
- The temples belong to **Saiva, Vaishnava and Sakta** faith.
- Most of the temples have a simple plan, with **ardhamandapa, mandapa, antarala and garbhagriha** forming the component of the entire set up.

Key Terms

- **Ardhamandapa:** In Hindu temple architecture, Ardhamandapa is an entrance porch that forms a transitional area between the outside world and the mandapa or hall of the temple.
- **Mandapa:** It is a porch-like structure through the gopuram leading to the temple. It is used for religious dancing and music and is part of the basic temple compound.
Gopuram is a monumental entrance tower, usually ornate, at the entrance of a Hindu temple, in the Dravidian architecture.
- **Garbhagriha:** It is the sanctum sanctorum, the innermost sanctum of a Hindu temple where resides the murti (idol or icon) of the primary deity of the temple.