BUDDHIST SITES AND MONUMENTS
IN
KENDRAPARA DISTRICT
BUDDHIST REMAINS IN KENDRAPARA DISTRICT:

RAJAGARAH:
Lat 20°24' North, Long 86°42' East,
P.S. (Thana) Mahakalapara, Dist. Kendrapara, has yielded
a spectacular image of Buddha in Bhumisparsa Mudra
(2' by 4'2" by 2'1") worshipped by local inhabitants as
Dandavati Baba. The inscriptions engraved on the front
oblong slab, depict the sacred Buddhist Dhārani "Ye dharma
hetu prabhavā. . . . in the character of circa 9th-10th
century A.D. onwards.

An exquisite but imposing image of Jambhala (3' by 3'9"
by 2'6") with a bijapuraka or magic jewel and a mongoose
(Nakuli), disgorging the beaded gems in right and left hands
is being worshipped in the name of Vāsulei.

V I J A Y A N A G A R:
P.S. Mahakalapara, Dist. Kendrapara. An image of Buddha
(2' high) is being worshipped as a village godling
(Gramadevati).

BABKARPUR:
Lat 20°25' North, Long 86°42' East, G.P.-Alialo,
P.S. Mahakalapara, Dist. Kendrapara. A two armed and one
faced colossal image of Padmapāni Bodhisattva (4'2" by
5' by 2'1") with Varadā Mudrā and a long stemmed utpala in the
right and left hands, still commands habitual worship
from the local inhabitants under the pseudonym of Kālidāsa.

**BANIAMAL**

Lat 20°30' North, Long 86°20' East, Dist. Kendrapara, an isolated hamlet across the right verge of river Gobari, however enshrines in a modern shrine a thrice bent and colossal standing image of four armed Jatamukuta Lokeshwara with Varadā pose and a beaded rosary, long stemmed utpala and a water jar (Kamandalu) in two right and left hands. The image, worshipped as Nārāyana, measures 4'6" by 5'6" by 2'6" respectively.

**BINODBHIHARI JEW AND GOPINATHJEW TEMPLE**

Lat 20°26' North, Long 86°26' East, Dist. Kendrapara, sited across the right bank of river Gobari. The Binodbhārijew Gopināthjew temple has been explored as a veritable mine of loose Buddhist sculptures ascribable to the late Mahāyāna Vajrayāna period.

1. Buddha in Dhyāna or Samādhi Mudrā (1'6" by 2'1") is attached to the eastern wall niche of the said temple.

2. Seated image of two armed Vajradharma Raktalokeswara attached to the eastern wall niche of the temple carries a budding utpala in left hand against the breast while the right hand index finger is actively engaged in unveiling the petals. (65)

3. Tiny image of Buddha in Bhumisparsa Mudrā (1'3" by 1'6") is firmly attached to the Southern wall niche of Binodbhārijew temple.
4. Miniature image of Buddha in Samadhi or Dhyāna Mudrā is found embedded to the Western wall niche of the said temple.

5. A rectangular stone frieze (3'4" by 9") shows a miniature image of Buddha in Dharmachakra Pravartana Mudrā (9" in height) flanked by a Padmapāni and a pair of amorous couple (Mithuna) in dexter and sinister fag ends.

6. Buddha in Bhumisparsa Mudrā (2'6" by 3'6") is attached to the amalaka of the principal temple.

7. Seated image of two armed Padmapāni Avalokiteswara is found (2'3" by 2'8") attached to the Western wall niche.

8. Seated image of two armed Padmapāni Bodhisattva (2'3" in height) is firmly embedded to the Western wall niche of the temple.

9. Miniature image of two armed Padmapāni Bodhisattva (1'6" by 8") is affixed to the Western wall niche of same temple.

10. Two armed (seated) Padmapāni Avalokiteswara is attached slight underneath the Amalaka measuring 2'6" by 3' by 1'8" respectively.

11. Seated image of two armed Padmapāni affixed beneath the Amalaka is facing west. The image measures 2'6" by 3'4" by 1'8" respectively.

12. Image of two armed Padmapāni Bodhisattva (1'6" by 2'6" by 1'8") placed slight underneath the amalaka of Jagamohana, is facing north.
13. An image of two armed Jambhala (2'6" by 3' by 1'8") is found attached to the amalaka of Binodbihari temple.

14. Image of Manjusri (seated) affixed to the amalaka of the Pārśvadeula measures 1'3" by 1'6" by 1'5" respectively.

15. A stupendous head of Bodhisattva (2'6" by 3' ) firmly attached to the amalaka of the Pārśva deula.

16. A monolithic Votive stupa (1'4" by 3'4") engraved with an effigy of Buddha in Samādhi or Dhyāna Mudrā is lying weather beaten.

Besides, late Rām prasād Chandā is known to have yielded as many as five Buddhist sculptures from Kendrāparā for National Museum, Cālcuttā in 1928.

Those sculptures comprise as follows:—

1. A colossal and two armed thrice bent standing image of Vajrapāṇi (7' in height) shows Varadā Mudrā and a long stemmed utpala surmounted by a thunder bolt (Vajra) in right and left hands. (66) Dr. Chandā however comments that "with jewellery attendants and waving lotus stalks looks more like a decorative pattern of rhythmic lines than a solid image." (67)

2. An imposing and gigantic colossus of (thrice bent standing) two armed and one faced sthira Chakra Manjusri measures 6'11" in height) (68)

3. Four armed image of Bhrukuti (5'4" high) with Varadā pose and a beaded rosary, a long stemmed utpala as well as a tridanda in two right and left hands is poised on a
Viswapadma in Lalitasana posture. (69).

4. Seated image of two armed Padmapani (1'9" in height) enshrining on the crest of the chignon the five celestial Dhyani Buddhas, is placed on a Viswapadma in Bhadrasana or Ardhaparyankasana posture.

5. An imposing image of eight armed and three faced Sankhipata Marichi (3'6" in height) with the Tarjani pasa, bow, sword, and Asoka flower in four left hands, the needle, thread, (other attributes are missing including the two right hands) stands in Alidha pose. The charriot is drawn by a row of seven pigs. (70)

BAGADÁ :-

Lat 20°27' North, Long 86°26' East, G.P. Bagadá, Dist. Kendrapara, has yielded a monolithic votive stupa (1'8" by 3") engraved on the drum facade with an effigy of Buddha in Bhumisparsa Mudra. The stupa is now in situ under the shroud of a Bakul tree at the Marichiáni Thakurani precinct.

GUNDICHÁ TEMPLE, ICHHÁPUR :-

Lat 20°30' North, Long 86°28' East, Dist. Kendrapara, has yielded following Buddhist sculptures.

1. Seated image of two armed Padmapani (3'6" by 4'6") with Varadá pose and a long stemmed utpala in the right and left hands enshrines on the crest of the chignon, the effigy of Dhyani Buddha Amitabh.
2. Seated image of two armed Tara (3'6" by 4'6") enshrining on the chignon the effigies of five celestial Dhyāni Buddhas, exhibits the Varadā Mudrā and a long stemmed utpala in right and left hands respectively. (71).

**NARUĀ DERĀBISH**

Lat 20°30' North, Long 86°12' East, P.S.: Kendrapara,
Dist. Kendrapara, sited on an extensive valley or island of socalled Madhusāgar (The ocean of honey) and Khirasāgar (the ocean of milk), the compact area of Naruā Derābish Sanghati matha is profusely littered with Buddhist monuments of late Mahāyāna Vajrayāna period. The area right from Derabish high School down to Naruā Sanghati matha has yielded a huge bulk of Buddhist remains.

1. The traces of huge brick built stupas and monastic complexes of post Gupta period are lying buried in the accumulation of compact and quadrangular brick mounds, debrises and isolated domical brick mounds mushroomed with random brick bats, fulfledged ancient bricks (1'6" by 10" by 3", 15.5" by 10" by 3", 18" by 10" by 3"), brick courses and the dumped brick alignments. Further the presence of a fragmentary stone kerb of a stone paved court yard (3'6" by 2' by 1'8") as well as the massive hoard of ceramics comprising the terrācotta figurines of Tārā, Alasakanyās, the red slipped, buff red, greyish black, faded blue pot shreds, spouts, spouted jars, sprinklers,
pitchers and aims bowls, archaeologically corroborate that the site, no doubt sprang up as a flourishing centre of Buddhism during the post Gupta period.

2. An exceedingly rare but bejewelled image of Buddha in Abhaya Mudrā (1'6" by 1'8" by 8'5"), enshrines on the front oblong slab a series of post Gupta (Nāgari Brāhmi) inscriptions stating the sacred Buddhist creed "Ye dharma hetuprabhava/ hetum tesām tathāgato hyavadat/ Tesām chayo nirodha/evam vādi Mahāsramanah/".

3. A pair of tiny and rare terracotta figurines of Tārā (7" by 4.5", and 3" by 1.5" respectively) with Varadā Mudrā and a long stemmed utpala in right and left hands, are preserved by Headmaster, Derābīsh High School.

4. An attractive and colossal head of Buddha (1'3" by 3' in height and circumference) is installed and worshipped in a modern shrine.

5. An exceedingly rare but headless terracotta figurine of Tārā (3.5" in height) is lying on the Verandah of a nearby modern shrine at Sanghatimatha.

6. A colossal but magnificent image of two armed bejewelled Bodhisattva (2'8" by 3'8") is being worshipped as Nārāyana.

7. Bust of a four armed Jatāmukuta Lokeswara (8" by 9.5") is lying nearby.

8. Torso of a Jatāmukuta Lokeswara (8.5" high) is lying forlorn.
9. Bust of Buddha (5" in height) is in situ.

10. Bust of a tiny image of Vajrasattva (6" in height) displaying the thunder bolt (Vajra) and a bell (ghanta) in right and left hands is in situ. (72)

11. The headless and slightly pot bellied (dwarfish) Buddhist Tantric image (1' by 1'2") tramples, on a prostrated lying corpse (human) presumed to be Kālarātri, in Alidha pose.

12. Headless image of four armed Jatāmukūta Lokesvara (2'2" by 2'6") is lying abandoned and weather beaten.

13. Truncated portion of a head of Buddha (6" by 1'6") is in situ.

DUM KĀ:

A square size harmikā (2' by 2') with a squarish hole (5" by 5") at centre is seen lying weather beaten under the shroud of a banyan tree.

Further, the remains of the ancient bricks, brick bats, and the mushroom hoard of ceramics bear the vestiges of a Buddhist settlement, flourished in early medieval period.

BELARPUR:
Lat 20°33' North, Long 86°20' East, Dist. Kendrapara, yields following Buddhist remains.
1. The monastic ruins are lying buried in the huge quadrangular brick mounds filled in mushroom brick bats and ful-fledged ancient bricks. (16.5" by 10" by 3", 16" by 10" by 3" respectively.

2. Of a pair of monolithic votive stupas (1’10" by 3’4") one is engraved with an effigy of two armed bejewelled Manjuṣrī; other votive stupa is installed on the back of a bull (Bāsuabalada) in front of a dilapidated Īśvara shrine. 

PANCHUPĀNDA V:—
Lat 20°33' North, Long 86°17' East, G.P. Ender, P.S. Kendrāparā, Dist. Kendrāparā, has yielded the ruins of a brick built sumptuous and structural monastery erected during early medieval period. The remains of side monastic brick wall, , habitational cell (10’ by 9.5”) the square shaped khondolite pillar posts, the huge brick bats and the full fledged ancient bricks (15.5" by 10" by 3", 14.5" by 10" by 3" respectively) have been yielded during exploration. The monastic mound covers an area of about one acre of land.

2. Headless image of four armed Lokeswara (11" by 1’3") with Varadā Mudrā and a beaded rosary, a long stemmed lotus and a water jar (Kamandalu) in two right and left hands is in situ.
RĀJNAGAR—BAZĀRĀMATHA:

Lat 20°33' North, Long 86°20' East, Dist. Kendrapara.

The Umākānteswar shrine at Bazārāmtha, Rājnagar has been littered with Buddhist remains, ascribable to Bhāumakara period.

1. The remains of a huge brick built structural and sumptuous monāstery (Vihāra or Sanghārāma) with the partially exposed habitational cells, the stone paved central courtyard are lying hidden in the womb of a far flung monastic brick mound, accumulated by mushroom brick bats, full-fledged ancient bricks, (measuring 16" by 10" by 3", 15" by 10" by 3") the depressed brick walls, and alignments. The antiquity of the site accross the left verge of river Gobari, may well go back to the flourishing period of Vajrayāna.

2. An exquisite image of two armed bejewelled Padmapāni Avalokiteswara (Poised in Lalitāsana pose over a Viswapadma) with Varadā pose and a long stemmed utpala in right and left hands is attached to the western wall niche of Umākānteswar temple. The front oblong slab enshrines the sacred Buddhist creed of Ye dharma hetu prabhavā... in post Gupta Nāgari Brāhmi character.

The damaged fore part (Breast)(1'6" high) of a bejewelled Bodhisattva is lying weather beaten on the huge monastic mound.

The head of a bejewelled Bodhisattva (8.5" in height) is embedded to the northern wall niche of said Umākānteswar temple.
JAGANNATHPUR-KARTTESWARA TEMPLE :

Lat. 20° 3 4' North, Long 86° 22' East, P.S. Kendrapara, Dist. Kendrapara.

The Kartteswara temple precinct across the left bank of river Gobari is glimpsed with the traces of a monastic ruins of early medieval period, lying buried in a huge quadrangular brick mound. No Buddhist sculptures other than the monastic remains are noticeable.

NILAKANTHAPUR :

Lat. 20° 3 4' North, Long 86° 22' East, Dist. Kendrapara
sited on the banks of river Gobari and Alikâ ganda. The traces of the huge brick built structural and sumptuous monastic complexes and stupas are found in situ in the womb of the quadrangular and domical brick mounds and debrises covering half a kilometre area from the Râmachandi (talâ) shrine up to northern extreme flag end of Alikâ ganda. Most of the monastic mounds are being succumbed to artificial vandalism and encroached by the local inhabitants (washer man class).

Besides, the square shaped monolithic khondolite pillars, the stone pedestal, the stone kerb with post holes, the huge accumulation of ancient brick bats and full fledged bricks (16.5" by 10" by 3", 16" by 10" by 3") archaeologically corroborate that the site was a flourishing Buddhist
centre of Vajrayāna ascribable to the Bhaumakāra period. The monastic mounds are too studded with the mushroom hoards of pot shreds, bowls, handis, sprinklers, begging bowls and other ceramic objects ascribable to the post Gupta period.

2. A tiny image of Buddha in Dharmaśakram Pravartana Mudrā (1'3" in height) is being mysteriously worshipped as a Hinduised godling called Rāmachandā.

SANTHAPURA :–
Lat 20° 34' North, Long 86° 23' East, Dist. Kendrapara.
The Garbheswar temple accross the left bank of river Gobari, stands on a singular monastic (brick) mound (of about 29 X 29 metre or 96' X 96') with the huge brick bats and ful fledged ancient bricks (measuring 16.5" by 10" by 3", 16" by 10" by 3") ascribable to the early medieval period. Except the monastic ruins, no Buddhist images have been noticed during an exploratory field study.

BARIMULA :–
Lat 2° 21' North, Long 86° 25' East, Dist. Kendrapara. The Kapileśwar temple accross the left bank of river Gobari, itself stands on a singular brick mound, explored as a huge brick built monastery. The brick bats and the ancient bricks can be traceable at the spot.
Besides, the site is littered with mushroom ceramic hoards, ascribable to the post Gupta period.

2. Tiny image of Maitreya (1' height) with Varada Mudrā and the Nāgakesara flower in right and left hands is lying weather beaten on a masonry platform.

The antiquity of the Buddhist site may well go back to the Bhāumakara period.

R A G H U D E I P U R : -
Lat 20° 34' North, Long 86° 20' East, Dist. Kendrapara,
a isolated hamlet has yielded following Buddhist ruins.

1. The headless image of four armed Buddhist Tāntric (Vajrayānic) goddess Chundā (2' in height) with Dhyāna, or Samādhi Mudrā in first pair of hands, a beaded rosary and the prajñāpāramitā text in corresponding pair is being worshipped as village godling (Grāmadevati). (93)

2. Standing image of four armed and three eyed image of Mahākāla (3' in height) with a skull cup (Kapala) full of blood and a severed (human) head, a kartrī or chopper and a sword (Khadga) in two left and right hands respectively, too commands popular worship as a local godling. (94)

I N D U P U R : -
Lat 20° 36' North, Long 86° 20' East, Dist. Kendrapara.

The compact area right from the Chandidevi temple precinct (across the right verge of river Birupa) down to the
Pataleswar and Indreswar temples are glimpsed with the brick built monastic remains, ascribable to the early medieval period. The full fledged ancient bricks measure 16.5" by 10" by 3", 15.5" by 10" by 3" respectively.

2. A colossal image of two armed and one faced Vajrayanic goddess Tārā (4'6" in height) with the Varadā Mudrā and a long stemmed utpala in right and left hands is being worshipped as a Hinduised godling called Saraswati.

ADALAT SITE KENDRAPARĂ :-
Situated accross the right verge of river Gobari, the site has yielded a miniature and monolithic votive stupa (1'8" by 3'6") lying weather beaten accross the nearby road.

2. The bust of a tiny image of Padmapāni Bodhisattva (1' high) is lying abandoned.

GARADPUR :-
Lat 20° 28'. North, Long 86° 24' East, Dist. Kendrapară, an isolated hamlet accross the river Chitrotpala, is honey combed by the brick built monastic establishments lying buried in the womb of the quadrangular brick mounds and debrises. The antiquity of the bricks and the monastic ruins points to the flourishing period of Vajrayāna i.e. circa 9th-10th century A.D. onwards.

Besides, no Buddhist sculptures have been noticed so far in course a whirl wind exploratory field survey.
RĀULIĀ - DARIĀSAHI:

Lat 20° 28' North, Long 86° 32' East, situated across the bank of river kharasrota, the Buddhist monastic (brick built) complexes and stupas are lying buried in the womb of the huge brick mounds right from the river embankment down to the extreme fag end of the village.

2. An unidentified image of (Tārā) daubed in dense layers of Vermillion all through the limbs, is inconspicuously articulated by an utpala and Varadā pose in left and right hands.

3. The site, honey combed by the huge accumulation of the brick bats and the ful-fledged ancient bricks (measuring 16" by 10" by 3", 15" by 16" by 3" respectively) represents its Buddhistic appendage ascribable to the Bhaumakara period.

4. The restoration of the boat ruins at the spot reveals that, the site seems to have flourished as an important early medieval riverine port cum a land mark centre of Vajrayāna.

Ā U L :— Lat 20°45' Long 86°50' East, Dist. Kendrāparā, An exceedingly beautiful image of two armed Tārā (4'6" in height) with Varadā pose and a long stemmed utpala in right and left hands is attached to the niche of the compound wall of Laxmi Varāhajew temple. The mystic syllable (Om Tāre Tuttāre Ture Swāhā/) of Tārā is engraved on the top oblong back slab in Nāgari Brāhmi character.
BENIPUR DHIASAI :-

Lat. 20° 37'. North, Long. 86° 19’. East.
The headless chlorite image of two armed Vajrasattwa (1' in height) with a thunder bolt (Vajra) and a bell (ghanta) in right and left hands is in situ in the sāntum of the grāmadevati shrine, Dhiasāl. The bluish black miniature image of Vajrasattwa is being worshipped as a Hinduised godling called Jagulei. Besides, a remarkable hoard of ancient bricks varying in dimensions from 15" X 10" X 3" to 16" X 10" X 3" archaeologically confirms to the remnants of a brick built structural Buddhist edifice (Vihāra) built at the spot during circa 10th-11th century A.D. A half buried and upright monolithic khondolite pillar post (3'6" in height) seems to have adorned the stone paved courtyard of the earlier monastery in affinity to those at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri.

CHANDIDEVI SHRINE (INDUPUR) :-

The sāntum of the Chandidevi temple, Indupur is a mini museum housing a sizable number of Buddhist ruins, ascribable to late Mahāyāna Vajrayāna period. Particularly noteworthy among those are badly defaced image of Buddha in Dhyāna Mudrā (1' in height), a disrupted image of two armed and one faced Manjuvara (variant of Bodhisattwa Manjusri in Vyākhyāna Mudrā (1'3" high) a tiny image of two armed Padmapāni, a miniature image of Tārā etc. Besides the site profusely yields the huge bulk of ceramics. Remarkable among those are the spouts sprinklers, begging bowls, hāndis, lamps and dishes of daily use.