Chapter – IX

CONCLUSION

This study on ‘Temples of Goa - An Architectural Study’ fills a noticeable gap in the history of temple architecture of Goa. The land of Goa had a peculiar geographical setting. Hence it not only nourished the early cultures but also attracted the outside conquerors. As a result, it had experienced the rule of several dynasties which have left the remnants of cultural heritage of the past. It is not possible to indicate when exactly the custom of building stylized temples began in our country. But the image worship started much earlier in Indian sub-continent and it was traced in the Indus Valley Civilization. Though some Hindu mythological symbols like concentric circles, ring marks and trishul appeared in the Stone Age in Goa region, it was not ascertained that the worship was started during this period. But to cite the unique example of worship site near Curdi, Angod in Sanguem Taluka can be indicted where the Mother Goddess is found carved in bold relief on the outcrop of laterite. It shows the image worship started in Goa quite long back, in the Megalithic period.

Though the raw material for temple building is scanty in this region, attempts were made adequately to house a deity for veneration with or without shelter during early times. Discovery of Buddha images at Colvale and Rivona and Jain images at Cudne, Kothambi and Narve are good examples for
existence of religious structures, though they have not survived. Similarly, there
might have been many temples of worship built with perishable material. With
the arrival of Sastras, Agamas and Puranas in Hindu religion, the practice of
rituals increased in the temple activity, and the elaborate building activities also
developed with the help of Vastushastra.

First and foremost experiment of structural temples in Goa comes from
Chandor, the ancient capital of Goa. Here, the experiment started with bricks
joined with mud and mud brickbats. When the construction started with
imperishable material like stone, the number of components within the temple
and mouldings in the adhishsthana also increased. In the place of simple plan of
early temples with sanctum and porch, large and wider plans developed.
Ornamentation and skill in the icons became more sophisticated. In addition to
ancient Hindu architecture, Islamic and Portuguese architecture were
incorporated in Goa temple architecture, which became more sophisticated
during the course of time. This exhaustive analysis of Goan temples coming out
for the first time will prove the richness of Goan temple architecture in the
context of Indian architecture in general.