

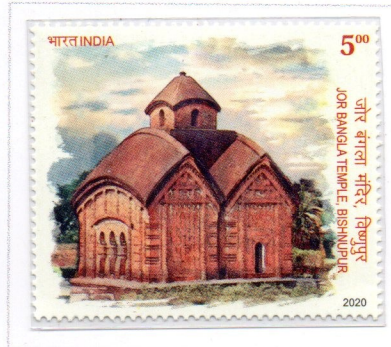
Terracotta Temples of India

by K V V S Sudhakar (Email: sudhakarkvvs@rediffmail.com)

The use of terracotta or burnt clay has been prevalent in India since the Indus Valley civilisation. In the eastern part of the country, especially in West Bengal, burnt bricks have also been used to build temples, often covered with beautifully carved terracotta panels. These terracotta temples found in the states of Chattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh in India. Some of such temples are illustrated on the stamps below.



Madan Mohan Temple
Bishunupur



Jor Bangla Temple
Bishunupur



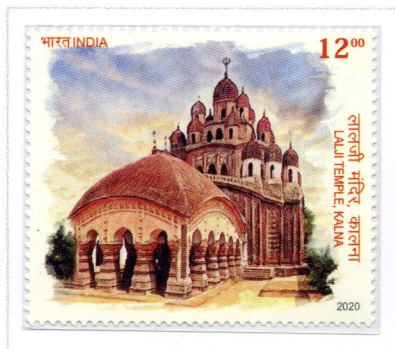
Shyam Rai Temple
Bishunupur

Bishnupur, the temple town in the state of West Bengal in India is famous for terracotta temples. During the seventeenth century Raja Jagat Malla of Bishnupur and his descendants built numerous temples made of terracotta and stone art.

A unique structure made entirely in brick and one of the tallest temples in Odisha is the Indralath Temple. This majestic temple in Ranipur Jharial is one of the few surviving brick temples in India.



Indralath Temple
Ranipur, Jharial



Lalji Temple
Kalna

Lalji Mandir, one of the oldest brick temples built by Maharaja Kirti Chand Rai. This architectural marvel was built in 1739 CE in the rare twenty-five pinnacles or peaks style.



Lakshmana Temple
Sirpur

← Located in Sirpur, Chhattisgarh, the Laxman Temple is an ancient and famous temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple was built by Queen Vasata, the mother of Mahasivagupta Balarjuna in 650 AD.



Brick Temple
Nebiya Khera

← The brick temple complex at Nebiya Khera is built in panchayatana style i.e. with a central shrine and four subsidiary shrines. The temples were build between 9th and 10th centuries during Gujara-Pratihara dynasty.