

## = Rudra Mahalaya Temple =

The Rudra Mahalaya Temple is a ruined temple complex at Siddhpur in the Patan district of Gujarat , India . Its construction was started in 943 AD by Mularaja and completed in 1140 AD by Siddharaj Jaisinh , the rulers of the Solanki dynasty . The temple was destroyed by Allauddin Khilji , and later Ahmed Shah I ( 1410 ? 44 ) desecrated and substantially demolished this temple , and also converted part of it into the congregational mosque ( Jami Masjid ) of the city . Two torans ( porches ) and four pillars of the former central structure still stand along with western part of the complex used as mosque .

## = = History = =

Siddhpur , historically known as Srishthal . Siddhpur , under the rulers of Solanki dynasty , was a prominent town in the 10th century . In the tenth century ( 943 AD ) Mularaja , the founder of the Solanki dynasty of Gujarat , started the erection of the Rudra Mahalay temple . In his youth , Muladev had slain his maternal uncle , usurped his throne , and murdered the whole of his mother 's kindred ; and in old age his crimes hung heavily on his mind . He made pilgrimages and courted the favour of Brahmins from far and near . To a band of them he gave Srishthal , and committing the kingdom to his son Chamundaraja , he retired there to end his days in their company ( 996 AD ) . But the Rudra Mahalay was still incomplete , nor was it finished till 1140 AD .

An inscription and ballad regarding its construction says ,  
In Samvat ten ( ? ) hundred , begun by Maharaj Mahadev ,  
In Samvat twelve hundred and two , Siddharaj completed the work ;  
In Samvat twelve hundred two , Magh month , Krishna paksh ,  
On Monday the fourteenth , in the Nakshatra Shravan and Varyan Yoga ,  
Siddharaj , in the Rudra Mala , Shivashankar established .  
It was during the 12th century , in 1140 AD , that Siddharaj Jaisinh ( 1094 ? 1144 ) consecrated the temple complex and it became the principal temple complex of Siddhpur .

According to another legend , two Parmars from Malwa , named Govinddas and Madhavdas , took up their haunt among the rush grass that covered the neighbourhood of the Rudra Mahalaya , and lived by plunder . There they found the foundations of a temple and Shiva linga , and said that in the night they had seen heavenly beings . This was told to Siddharaj and led to the erection or completion of the temple .

In Mirat @-@ i @-@ Ahmadi , Ali Muhammad Khan writes , " The king on signifying his intention of building the temple , requested the astrologers , it is said , to appoint a fortunate hour ; and they at this time predicted the destruction of the building . " Then Siddha Raja caused images of " horse lords " and other great kings to be placed in the temple , and " near them a representation of himself in the attitude of supplication , with an inscription praying that , even if the land was laid waste , this temple might not be destroyed . "

Allauddin Khilji sent an army under Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan Jalesri who dismantled the temple complex in 1296 AD ( Samvat 1353 ) . The temple was further destroyed and the western part of it was converted into congregational mosque ( Jami Mosque ) by Ahmed Shah I ( 1410 ? 44 ) of Muzaffarid dynasty in 1414 or 1415 .

## = = Architecture = =

The original temple , completed in 1140 to lavish proportions with extensive ornamentation , consisted of a roof measuring 32 feet ( 9 @. @ 8 m ) , much larger than the Abu temple . Its overall dimensions were 300 by 230 feet ( 91 m x 70 m ) with the central building 150 feet ( 46 m ) in length . It was a triple storied temple with 1 @, @ 600 pillars , 12 entrance doors , and 11 shrines of Rudra positioned around it . The sanctum was located on the west and there was also a ' mandapa ' or hall which had porches on the eastern , northern , and southern wings . Today only a few remnants of this complex are seen , such as two " torans " ( porches ) and four pillars . One " toran " is

elaborately ornamented ; the eastern gate which leads to the Saraswati river still stands ; the remaining pillars have highly ornamented carvings . Kirti Stambh of North has survived . The western part of complex converted into the congregation mosque is also there .