

= Chausath Yogini Temple , Morena =

The Chausath Yogini Temple , Morena ( Hindi : चैतन्य योगिनी मंदिर ) , an ancient temple , also known as Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple ( Hindi : एकतारस महादेव मंदिर ) , " hypetheral on plan " located in Morena district in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh , is one of the few such Yogini temples in the country which is in a very good condition . The temple is formed by a circular wall with 64 chambers and an open mandapa in the centre , separated by a courtyard , which is circular in shape , where Lord Shiva is deified It is believed that the Parliament House , known as Sansad Bhavan , built in Delhi in the 1920s , has been patterned on the lines of this circular @-@ shaped Chausath Yogini Temple , dated to 1323 AD .

The temple has been declared as an ancient historical monument by the Archaeological Survey of India .

= = Location = =

The temple is located on a hill which is about 100 feet ( 30 m ) in height and there are 100 steps to climb leading to the entrance of the temple . It is in the Mitaoli village ( also spelled Mitawali or Mitavali ) , near Padaoli in Morena district . The temple is well connected by road , rail and air services . The nearest rail head is Morena which is 15 kilometres ( 9 @. @ 3 mi ) away . The nearest airport is at Gwalior , which is 40 kilometres ( 25 mi ) away .

= = History = =

According to an inscription dated to 1323 AD ( Vikram Samvat 1383 ) , the temple was built by Maharaja Devapala in 8th century . It is said that the temple was the venue of providing education in astrology and mathematics based on the transit of the Sun .

The Archaeological Survey of India has declared the temple as an ancient and historical monument under Act No . LXXI of 1951 , dt.28 / 11 / 1951 .

= = Features = =

The temple is externally circular in shape with a radius of 170 feet ( 52 m ) and within its interior part it has 64 small chambers , each with a mandapa which is open and a facia of pilasters and pillars . The roof of the entire structure is flat including that of another east facing circular temple within the outer circular wall . A large passage or courtyard lies between the outer enclosure and the central temple which is dedicated to Lord Shiva . There is an open porch entrance to this temple . The exterior surface of the outer wall has carvings of Hindu deities . Each of the 64 chambers in the outer circle has an image of Shiva deified in it . However , recent investigations have confirmed that originally these had a Yogini image deified in them and hence the temple is known as Chausath Yogini Temple ( ' Chausath ' here means " Sixty four " ) . It is said that the roof over the 64 chambers and the central shrine had towers or shikharas which were probably removed during later modifications .

Within the main central shrine there are slab coverings which have perforations in them to drain rainwater to a large underground storage . The pipe lines from the roof lead the rain water to the storage are also visible . The temple needs conservation measures to preserve the ancient monument in good shape .

The design of the temple has withstood earthquake shocks , without any damage to its circular structural features , in the past several centuries . The temple is in the Seismic Zone III . This fact was cited when the issue of safety from earthquake effect of the Parliament House which is also a circular structure , similar to the Chausath Yogini Temple , was debated in the Indian Parliament .