



Sculptures related to the Shaiva-Cult received from Hoshangabad

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INTRODUCTION

Narmada Valley is the oldest valley in India. It has hidden many precious assets inside it. If we talk about prehistoric times, the oldest evidence of human civilization is found only in the Narmada valley. The history of Narmada Valley has been glorious. Since the period from the Paleolithic period to the historic period, humans have lived in many places along the river Narmada and since then the river Narmada has seen the rise and fall of many dynasties. Among the many historical events, the Narmada Valley has maintained an important place in the pages of history.

If talk of ancient texts, in the *Markandeya Purana*, the river Narmada has been said to have come out of Vindhya Mountain and it has been called by the name of *Rewa*. Similarly, the importance of river *Rewa* has been discussed in *Revdhaand* and '*Bhagwat Purana*' of *Skandpuran*. The *Bhagwat Purana* shows that on the banks of River *Rewa*, *Mahishmati* city was settled [1].

Key words:- *Narmada valley, Markandeya Purana, Rewa. Revdhaand, 'Bhagwat Purana, Skandpuran, Shiva, Timirani, Lalit Asana,kamandal, Uma Maheshwar, Kalyan Sundar, Ardhanariwar, Harihar, Sthanak Shiva, Chaturbhuji Shiva and Sadashiv.*

The important place in the history of the state on the banks of Narmada. Gond rulers ruled in many areas of Narmada from 12th Century to 17th Century. There were many important rulers in this dynasty, which expanded their empire. With these kings, they also provided shelter to religion and art. Apart from this, Parmara kings also ruled the region from 9th century to 13th century [2].

The temples and their remains made by Parmar kings can still be seen in the areas of Narmada valley. Historical evidence shows that the rulers of Parmar and Gond Dynasty were worshipers of Shiva. These kings had built many Shiva temples in this period. The fort of Gond Sotachakli, which was built by Gond King Sangram Shah in the 16th century, which is still present today [3].

Many Shiva statues can be seen here. Emperor Ashok had also traveled to the Narmada area, whose proof is derived from his palm inscription from "Panguradia" near Hoshangabad. In the Brahmin religion, Shiva's worship has been the dominant one, it is said to create and destroy the creation. This is a god whose worship is coming from the time of the civilization of the Indus Valley before the Vedic period. In India, many forms of Shiva are worshiped, in which the gentle, the dark form is the main form of the Rudra form. The Rudra form of Shiva is more famous in the Vedic period [4].

In India, there are many evidence of worship of Shiva on the banks of river Narmada which can be seen as temples, besides many ancient sculptures can be seen on the banks of Narmada. On seeing these, it appears that the area of Narmada has been a major center for worship of Shiva. The origins of Shaivcult in Hoshangabad are considered as old as the history of Narmada, in relation to the origin of Narmada, is described in the *Revakhand* section of Skanda Purana [5].

There is a lack of parallelism in connection with the origin of Narmada. Narmada is said to have originated from Shiva's body by *Tandava* dance, then the origins of Narmada have been told only by the sweat of Shiva [6]. The origin of Narmada is given in the beginning of the rectangle of the *Skanda Purana*. In it, Amarkantak the origin of Narmada has been told in north-west of Kalinga [7].

The history of Narmada is very ancient, not only on the basis of the Reclaim of *Skanda Purana*, but according to the text written before it, *Matsya Purana* [8]. We get statues from Hoshangabad area from 2nd Century to 13th Century. The time of development of Shiva idols is believed to be between 5th century and 8th century, in which from time to time, Janmans established Shiva as temples and idols in the form of sex and idols and worshiped them [9].

Several ancient statues related to Shaivism have been found in Hoshangabad district and surrounding areas. There are statues ranging from Gond period to *Parmara* and *Mourya* period. Statues of Shaivcult get more Gond and Parmara carpet, in these statues many forms of Shiva are depicted, such as *Somay*, *Rudra* and *Aghoora* form are prominent. Statues of *Somay* forms are

found in the Hoshangabad area, whereas on the second number, *Rodra* and the third number have huge idol forms which have been reduced [10]. In this research paper, the description of only Shiva Sculptures received from Hoshangabad region has been presented.

Sculpture No-20 / Shiva - This 12th century red sculpture made of red stone is made on the Red Stone column, which is 79x29x23cm in size, it is from Hoshangabad which is part of a pillar, this statue in the right leg of left hand is broken, Shiva's weapons have trident and Shiva dance is in the posture. This statue is made in the middle of two pillars. On the head of Shiva, the crown of the hair is visible in the ear in the coil, in the wrist and the bracelet. Shiva statue has two hands.

Sculpture No-30 / Shiva- This statue is made on the sandstone of 11th-12th century, which is received from Timirani, its size is 30x18x11cm. This fourth part of the statue is left. Shiva's head is wearing a haircut crown and trident in the hand. Shiva is wearing necklace in his neck. On the back side of the trident, there is Ganesha sculpture its head is not visible. Aura circle is visible behind Shiva.

Sculpture No-32 / Shiva - This idol has been built on the basalt stone of 12th-13th century which has been received from Timirani region, in addition to Shiva's mouth, the whole sculpture is fragmented. The size of the statue is 36x33x14cm. This sculpture is in *Lalit Asana* style both the idols and the flowers necklace couple's idols have been made.

Sculpture No-37 / Shiva head-This brain is manufactured from 12th to 13th century black stone on which the fabric is made, the statue is received from the timor region, the size of Shiva's head is 20x10x14cm. The rest of the idol is not there.

Sculpture No-56 / Shiva - This statue has been constructed on the red stone of 11th-12th century which has been received from Seoni Malwa region. The size of the Shiva idol is 55x12x13cm. The figures of this sculpture are broken. The crown of hair on the head of Shiva, necklace in the neck and girdle in the waist is visible. There is a Nandi bull in the statue which is broken. Trident in arms of Shiva Murthy and *Kamandal* in the hands are giving a broken look.

Sculpture No-69 / Shiva - This idol is made of white stone which is obtained from the Seoni Malwa region. The idol size is 35x35 x14 cm. Shiva's four hands are visible in this idol. Trident in one hand of Shiva and water pot in his another hand.

Sculpture No- 77 / Shiva - This is a 12th Century black stone sculpture found from Suhagpur. The size of the statue is 77x57x20cm. This idol is very attractive in it, Shiva has been shown standing which has a crown of hair on his head, but the ear is broken. The necklace in the neck is folded in the hands and the waistband. Shiva is wearing dhoti. In the Shiva family, the cow is made up of *Gandharva*.

Sculpture No- 89 / Shiva - This is a 13th Century sandstone statue that was received from Sohagpur region. The size of this sculpture is small. This sculpture is built on a stone rock. Shiva has four hands in this idol and the idol is in the *Lalit Asana* style.

Sculpture No- 124 / Shiva - This sculpture made in the 12th-13th century. It has been obtained from Banjara region. The size of this Shiva sculpture is 64 x36 x17 cm. In this sculpture hair of the head is beautifully tied backwards. Statue weapons are broken. Shiva has shield in his left hand. Both knees of the statue are broken. Shiva is wearing a snake as necklace in the neck.

Sculpture No-148 / Shiva- This is a 13th Century idol sculpture found from Hoshangabad. It is built on a pillar the statue is 104 x34 x20 cm in diameter. This idol is broken. Shiva has a snake in one hand and trident in the other. The hair crown On the Shiva head, necklace and big earrings in the ears. This Shiva sculpture is made on the right side of the male figure and on the left female figure.

Sculpture No-149 / Shiva - This is the statue of 13th Century sandstone constructed from Hoshangabad. The size of this idol is 52 x46 x 22 cm. There is trident in Shiva's hand. There is a snake on the left side of the idol and the *Kamandal* on the lower side is holding the coil in Shiva's ears. In Shiva's jewelery, wearing a hair crown, Rudraksha garland and yajopavit are worn. Nandi's statue is broken down.

Sculpture No-205 / Shiva - This is a Shiva sculpture built on basalt stone in the 12th century. The size of this sculpture is 35 x21x13 cm. This sculpture is just fine, the rest of the parts are broken. In the ear of Shiva, the chakra coil is the crown of hair on the head. In this idol, small figures of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh have been formed with Shiva. Two pairs of idols are made with the garland on both sides of Vishnu.

Uma Maheshwar Sculpture's

Statues of Shiva form of Shiva related to Shaiv Cult from the Hoshangabad region have also been found, in which there are many forms of Shiva, like statues of *Uma Maheshwar*, *Kalyan Sundar*, *Ardhanariwar*, *Harihar*, *Sthanak Shiva*, *Chaturbhuj Shiva* and *Sadashiv*. [11] Here only *Uma Maheshwar* sculptures have been discussed.

Sculpture No- 42 / Uma Maheshwar - This idol is made on the 12th-13th century black stone. The size of this sculpture is 42x33 x7cm. This idol is found in Timurni region. In this sculpture Uma is made with Shiva. Shiva has a crown of hair on his head, *Rudraksha's* garland in the neck and half the clothes on the body. Uma's face and legs are broken. Shiva's right-hand part is broken in the idol. This idol is in the *Parikrashana* style, the face under the seat of the idol is visible. *Kartikeya* on one side of Shiva and on the other hand *Ganesha* has been built, but both of these figures are broken.

Sculpture No- 45 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 12th-13th century is made of white stone. The size of this sculpture is 33x38x16cm. This sculpture has been received from Timurni region. Only in the idol the feet are visible and the Nandi bull is visible. Shiva and Uma are made to sit on top of the bull. Some part of this idol is broken. On the left side of the figure is the shrine sage. There is an article in Devnagari script on this idol in 3 rows.

Sculpture No- 46 / Uma Maheshwar - This 12th-13th century sculpture is made of basalt stone, the size of this statue is 44x34x11cm. This sculpture has been obtained from Timarni, in this sculpture Shiv and Uma have been made. In this idol, only part of the body chest is present. Shiva and Uma are sitting on the Nandi bull. The upper part of this sculpture is broken. Nandi bull, lion and a sage in the figures. This sculpture idol is made in the *Parikrashana* style. Sculpture weapons are broken.

Sculpture No- 48 / Uma Maheshwar - This 12th-13th century statue is made of black basalt stone. The size of this statue is 68 x43 x27 cm. This idol has got from Hirapur. In this statue, Shiv and Uma have been made, the statue has been polished but the idol is broken. Shiva has a haircut crown on his head; trident in his right hand and snake in left hand.

Sculpture No- 49 / Uma Maheshwar - This statue of 12th-13th century is made of black sand stone, the size of this sculpture is 59x38x13cm. This idol is made in two parts. Shiva holding Parvati with one hand is sitting with her on the back of Nandi Bull. Uma is sitting on the thigh of Shiva. Shiva is holding a snake and wearing a crisp in the wrist. Nandi bull, lion and sage have been built down in the sculpture.

Sculpture No- 53 / Uma Maheshwar - This idol of 12th-13th century has been obtained from Hirapur region, which have built on basalt stone. The size of this statue is 27x32x11cm. Shiva and Uma were made in this sculpture which is now almost broken. Only figures left in this sculpture. This statue has only feet. Below the sculpture is the Nandi bull, the lion and the sage.

Sculpture No- 72 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 12th-13th century is made on white stone, which was obtained from Seoni Malwa. The size of this sculpture is 56x39x20cm. Shiva and Uma sitting on the bull in this sculpture have been made. Trishul is seen in the left hand of Shiva. But Uma's face is broken in this idol.

Sculpture No- 91 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 11th-12th century has been made on white sandstone. This sculpture has been obtained from Sohagpur region. The size of this statue is 31x39x16 cm. In this sculpture Uma is made with Shiva. Shiva is wearing a crown made of hair on his head and there is a garment in the lower part of the body. In this sculpture, *Kartikeya* sitting on peacocks is seen, along with *Ganesh* has also been made. Nandi bulls and lions have also been built in the figures. Most of this sculpture has been broken.

Sculpture No- 93 / Uma Maheshwar - This 11th-12th century sculpture is made on basalt stone. This sculpture has been received from Seoni Malwa. The size of this sculpture is

46x32x16cm. In this sculpture, Uma was made with Shiva. Apart from this, Nandi bulls and lions have also been built in the sculpture. Most of the part of this sculpture has been broken.

Sculpture No- 101 / Uma Maheshwar - This 12th-13th century sculpture was obtained from Mankheda, which was made on red sandstone. The size of this idol is 13x8x6cm. In this sculpture, Uma was made with Shiva. Uma has made a beautiful haircut of hair on the head. Uma is wearing necklaces in the neck. Most of this sculpture has been broken. Only Uma is seen in this idol.

Sculpture No- 116 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 12th-13th century has been obtained from Mangrol, which is made on Basalt stone. The size of this sculpture is 27x33x15cm. In this sculpture, Uma was made with Shiva. Most of this sculpture has been broken. This sculpture is the figure of Shiva and Uma, which is now almost completely broken. Nandi bull, sage and two female slaves are seen in the sculpture.

Sculpture No- 117 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 12th-13th century has been obtained from Mangrul, which is made of white stone. The size of this sculpture is 63x36x20cm. In this sculpture Uma is made with Shiva who is sitting on Shiva's thigh. This sculpture is almost completely broken.

Sculpture No- 139 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 11th-13th century has been received from Sohampur, which is made on basalt stone. The size of this sculpture is 43x21x15 cm. This sculpture has left the upper part of Uma's body. *Brahmma* is sitting in the *Radhika* (upper middle panel) above the sculpture. Below is a small figure of Ganesha, two attendants have been made for the garland in the hands.

Sculpture No- 154 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 12th-13th century has been obtained from Sohampur, which is made on sandstone. The size of this sculpture is 62x42x23 cm. In this sculpture Uma has been made with Shiva and Shiva is sitting in the posture with the Uma in the *Lalit Asana* posture. The feet of this sculpture are broken. *Ganesh*, *Kartikeya*, *Nandi* bull built down side in the sculpture. Up side to sculpture *Gandharva* and *Apsara* have been made. Apart from *Brahma* and *Vishnu*, two female tens have been made.

Sculpture No-172 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 11th century has been obtained from Uwa, which is made on black stone. The size of this sculpture is 60x37x21cm. In this figure, Uma is made with Shiva who is sitting on Shiva's thigh. The most part of this sculpture is broken. In the sculpture Shiva has a snake and trident in one hand and the other hand is on Uma's chest. Uma has a mirror in one hand. Uma is seen wearing the jewelery in the idol. Nandi bull, lion has been built in the idols.

Sculpture No- 176 / Uma Maheshwar - This sculpture of 11th Century has also been received from Uwa. The size of this sculpture is 65x36x20cm. In this sculpture, Uma is made with Shiva Uma is sitting on Shiva's litter in *Lalit Asana*. Shiva's hands are broken in this sculpture. In

the sculpture Shiva has a snake, trident in one hand and the other hand is on Uma's chest. There is a crown of hair on Shiva's head but some part of Uma's head is broken. The Nandi bull and the sage have also been made in this sculpture.

Conclusion

After studying the sculptures related to Shaiva Cult received from the Hoshangabad region, it is found that the area of Narmada Valley has been a major area of worship of Shiva in entire India. From the originating site of Narmada till the last border of Madhya Pradesh, we find many small temples related to Shiva on many places. From copper era to many places of historical times, evidence of Shiva worship is found. But in the lower part of this valley, compared to the upper area of Narmada valley, Shiva worship and worship places and idols related to them get little less. While the area of Narmada, from Amarkantak to Hoshangabad area, I have received many sculptures associated with Shaiva cult at many places. On this basis, we can say that Shaiva cult has flourished in this region of the Narmada Valley for a very long time. Many areas of Shiva were worshiped in this area, whether it is Shiva's gender form or idol form. Upon studying the sculpture, it seems that Uma with Shiva was given equal sculpture in Shiva worship. This confirmation from us is that *Uma Maheshwar* from Hoshangabad area has many sculptures. In addition to this, the members of the Shiva family were also given place in the statues associated with Shaiv cult, among them *Kartikeya, Ganesh, Nandi, Leo* is the chief. On this basis, we can say that Shaiv cult is flourishing in the region of Hoshangabad since ancient times.

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