

Masroor Rock-Cut Temples

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Why in News?

The Masroor rock cut temples are the architecture marvels of India.

- **Located in** - Kangra Valley along the Beas River in Himachal Pradesh.
- They are a remarkable group of rock-cut Hindu temples.
- **Period** - Dating back to the **8th century CE**.
- **Significance** - This temple complex is among the most significant examples of monolithic rock-cut architecture in northern India.
- **Other names** - It is often called the "Ellora of Himachal" and the "Himalayan Pyramid."
- **Influenced by** - Gupta style of architecture.
- Despite their historical importance, there are no references to the complex in ancient scriptures or historical texts.
- **Discovered by** - The site came to scholarly attention in 1913 when it was reported by Henry Shuttleworth, followed by a detailed survey by Harold Hargreaves in 1915.
- **Key features**
 - The complex comprises 15 rock-cut temples designed in the Nagara style of North Indian temple architecture.
 - Dedicated primarily to Lord Shiva, Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana, the temples are carved from a single sandstone rock formation. Uniquely, they face northeast towards the Dhauladhar Range, unlike most Hindu temples that traditionally face east.
 - The layout follows a symmetrical square grid, with the central shrine surrounded by smaller temples in a mandala-like arrangement.
 - Intricate carvings, reliefs, and friezes depict deities and stories from Vedic and Puranic traditions.
 - However, many sculptures have been damaged or lost over time, largely due to earthquakes.
 - Despite this, the Masroor Rock-Cut Temples remain an outstanding testament to India's rich cultural and architectural heritage.

Reference

[Time of India | Masroor Rock Cut Temples](#)



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