

CHITRAGUPTA OR
BHARATI'S
TEMPLE.

The Chitragupta temple is situated at a short distance to the north of the temple described above and like most of the temples at Khajuraho faces east. Its plan is similar to that of the Devi Jagadambi temple, except that the square ceiling of the hall is reduced by the cutting off of its corners to an octagon, which in its turn is converted into a series of diminishing circles. The outside length, excluding the steps, and the breadth of the temple are respectively 74'-9" and 51'-9". The temple is dedicated to Surya or the Sun-god and an image of this deity, 5 feet in height, wearing high boots and driving in a chariot of seven horses, is enshrined in the sanctum; and another image of the god occurs, in the usual position, over the entrance.

Of the carvings on the outside a narrow recessed frieze in the plinth represents a party of stone carriers as well as elephant fights, processions, hunting scenes and dances. Another sculpture of interest is an eleven-headed image of Vishnu enshrined in the central niche to the south of the sanctum. The central head is of Vishnu himself, while the remaining ten heads are symbolic of his ten incarnations. There are no inscriptions on the temple except some masons' marks.

CHOPRA OR
SQUARE TANK.

Chopra is the name of a small square tank with flights of steps on its four sides, situated about two hundred yards to the north-west of the Chitragupta Temple. In the centre of the tank is a small pavilion supported on pillars which appears originally to have had four storeys. The two lower ones have alone survived and in a ruined condition. The structure was presumably a temple, but there is nothing now left to determine its dedication.

VISVANATHA
TEMPLE.

These two temples are the most northerly buildings of the east row of temples in the western group (Plate VIII). They stand facing each other on a common terrace which is ascended by two flights of steps on the north and south sides. The southern stair is flanked by a pair of elephant statues. The other stair was also once adorned with a statue of a lion on either side. Happily, both of these statues have lately been recovered from the debris at the foot of the steps.