

***PHOTO FEATURE ON SACRED TEMPLES AND RARE WATER BODIES  
NEAR BADLAPUR, INDIA***

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**Pictures by Tejas Garud**

Badlapur (Dist-Thane, Maharashtra) is an integral part of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. It has a railway station on the central line of the Mumbai Suburban network. The city encompasses the old villages of Badlapur, Kulgaon, Manjarli, Belavali, Katrap, and many other small villages. Shivaji Maharaj and other warriors changed their horses at the town in anticipation of the difficult climb through the Konkan.

**Lotus Pond Shiva-Temple, Ambernath (India)**





Badlapur has a lot of natural spots including ponds along with temples. There are two prominent waterbodies near the city, those are associated with temples.

Shiva Temples is situated about 2.5 km to the west of Badlapur station near Patil petrol pump. The temple has more than hundred year history. Presently this temple is made with “Nagar” style. It has a famous lotus-pond with the large capacity of water storage.



**Vinayakeshwar Shiva Temple, Kulgaon (Badlapur)**





Gaon Devi Temple is situated just 10 minute walk or 5 minutes to the east of Badlapur station. There is another temple of Lord Shiva situated near the lake. Recently Gaondevi Temple has been rebuilt very beautifully at the site. Temples belong to the hybrid of “Nagar” and “Hemadpanthi” styles. Every year in the month of March–April or on the day of Hanuman Jayanti (birth of Lord Hanuman),”Yatra” is held. There is another temple known as Vinayakeshwar, Shiva Temple in this premises. The temples also have a sacred pond.

The above mentioned ponds were conserved and preserved with the great “Vedic” philosophy regarding the “Save & Respect the Natural Element” since centuries. The holy places (temples) also helped the conservation of these water bodies.



**Bio**

**Dr. Krishna Chandra** is the Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science & Information Technology in Bharat College of Arts & Commerce, University of Mumbai since the year of 2011. After completing his M. A. in the subject of Ancient Indian History & Archaeology, he has clear the NET organized by the U. G. C. in June 1998. Further he has awarded for Junior Research Fellowship by the U.G.C. in December 1998. After completing of his Ph. D. from Patna University, he has awarded for the Post-Doctoral Research Fellow by the ICHR, New Delhi. His Ph. D. thesis published with the title of “Vedic Shiksha Vyavastha Ka Anusheelan” from Susheela Prakashan, Saharsa (Bihar) in the year of 2007. He has presented paper in seminar and published many research papers in different Journals of repute. He has also edited the Research Journal.