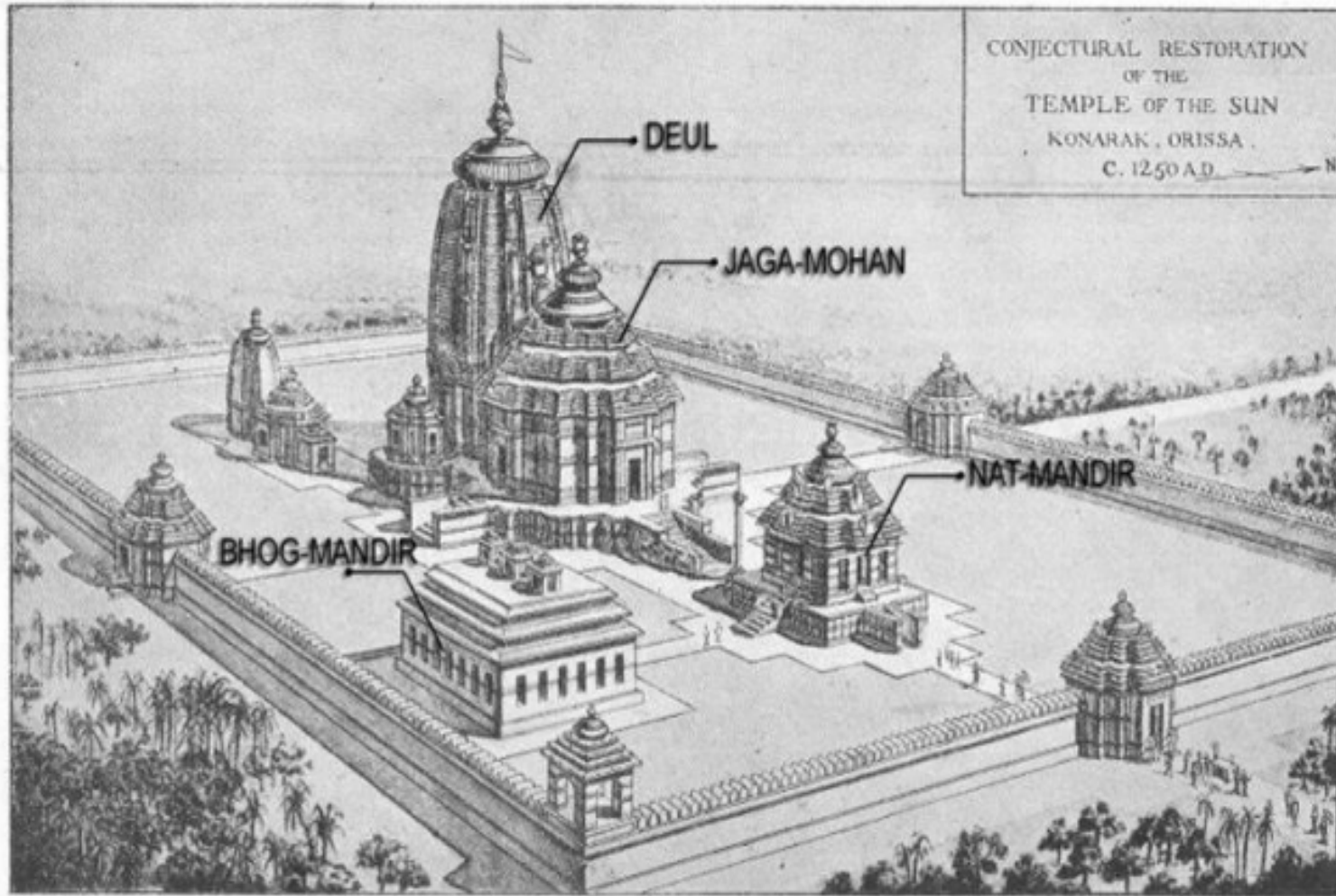


The Sea and Coastal Temples of Konark and Puri

S C Misra







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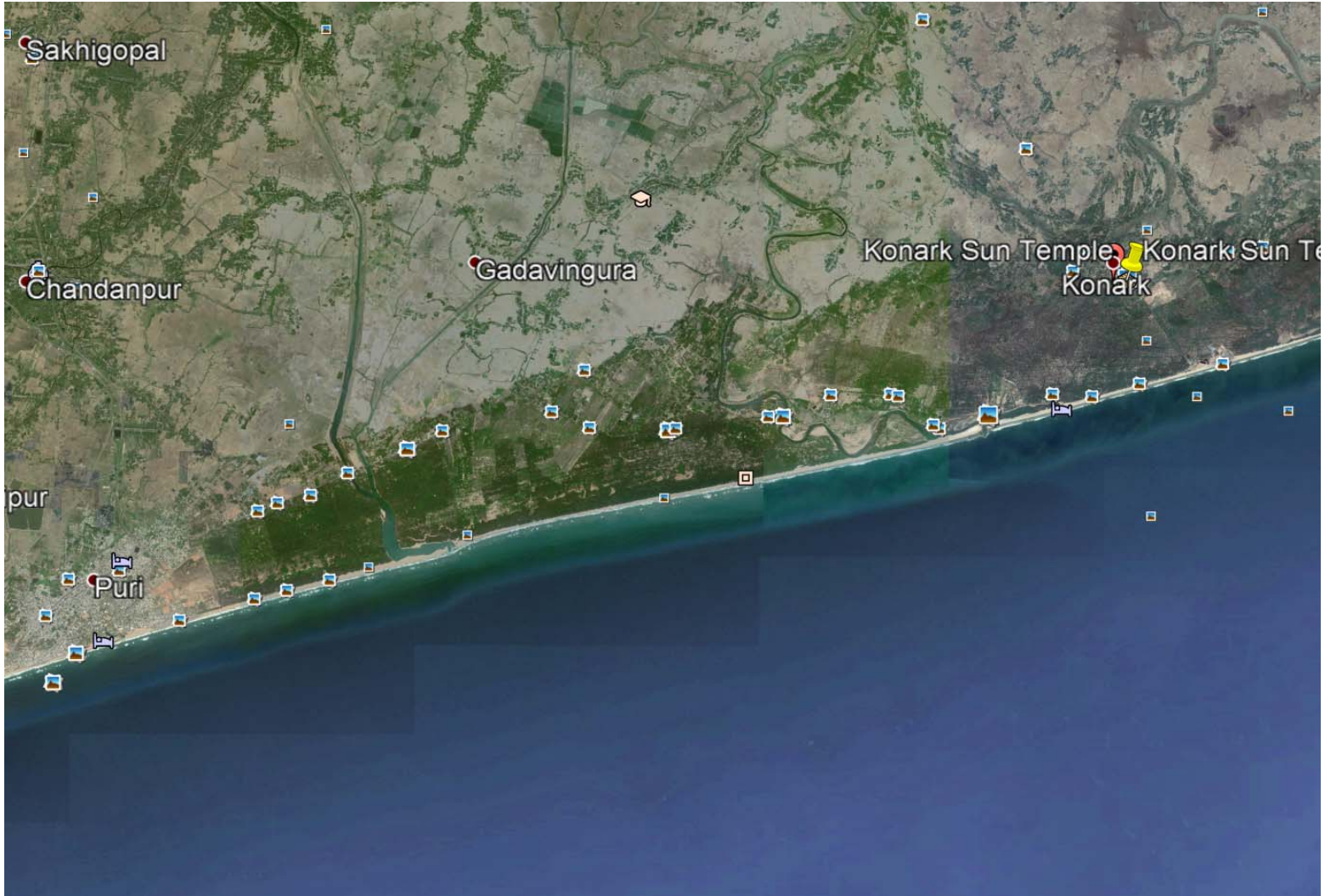
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When were the temples built

- Konark temple was built in the 13th century AD by King Langula Narasimha Dev, perhaps between 1242 and 1258.
- At the beginning of ninth century CE the then Kalinga king Maha Shibagupta Jajati, 2nd built a temple for Lord Vishnu in Puri in a temple known as Nrusingha Temple where the stone idol Sri Purusottam was worshipped.
- Construction of the massive Puri temple started during the reign of king Ananta Verma Chodaganga Dev at the beginning of 12th century and was perhaps completed during the reign of Anangavim Deb, 2nd at the end of twelfth century.
- Bhubaneswar Lingaraj temple was constructed between 1025 and 1065 A.D. by king Jajati Keshari of Soma Vamsa.

Height of the temples

- Mukhashala or the Jaga Mohan of Konark temple is 132'5" high.
- Bimana of the Konark temple is estimated to be 228' high above ground.
- Jagannath Temple at Puri is 214'8" high'.
- Lingaraj Temple at Bhubaneswar is 143' high.



Konark temple location w.r.t. sea

- “Konark temple was initially built on the sea bank but now the sea has receded and the temple is a little away from the beach.” - internet
- many web site as well as various references do not specifically mention that the temple was built on the sea front.
- There is mention that the temple was built on the banks of river Chandrabhaga where it met the sea and which has disappeared now.
- Madalapanji states that the temple was built on a deep lagoon (‘ganda’ in Odia) named *Padmatola*

Konark temple w.r.t. the sea

- Story of Sabei Santara
- Story of Dharmapada
- The above stories indicate the temple was built on a water front
- And waves/ current was prevalent on the temple boundary.



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11

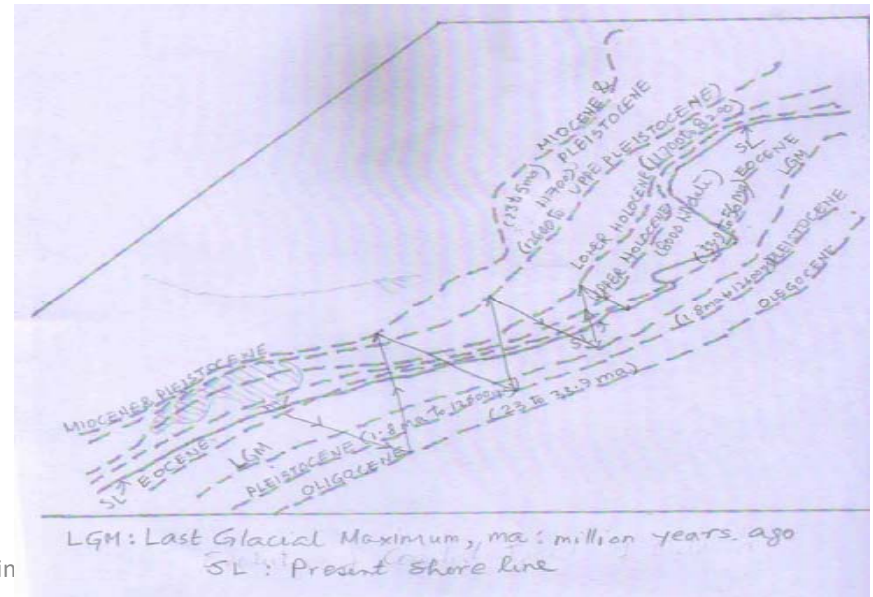
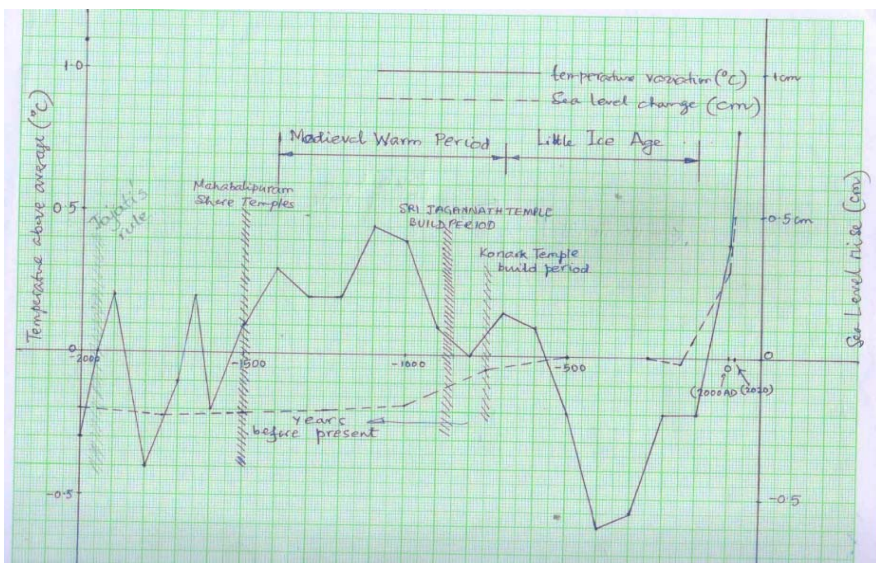
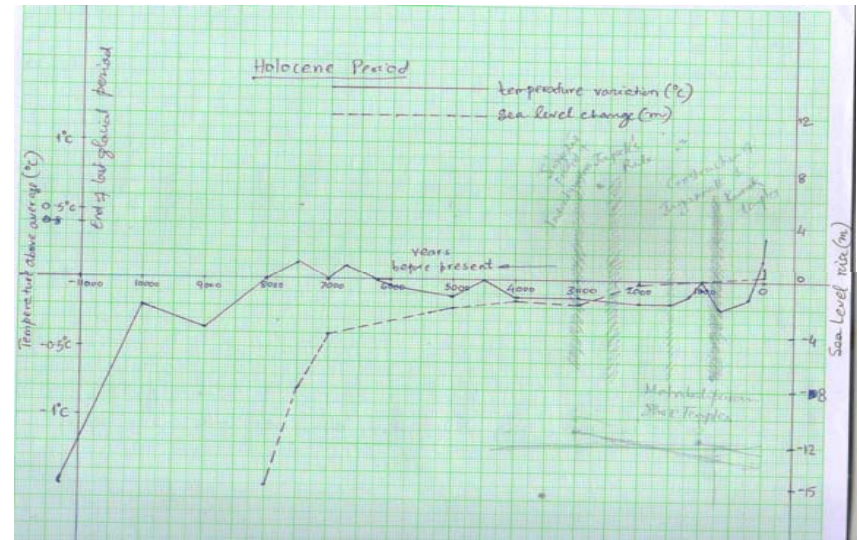
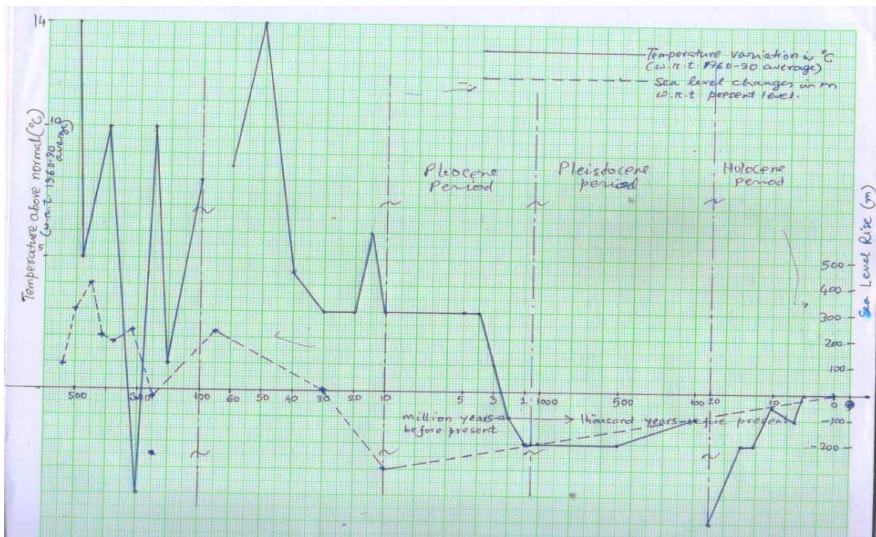


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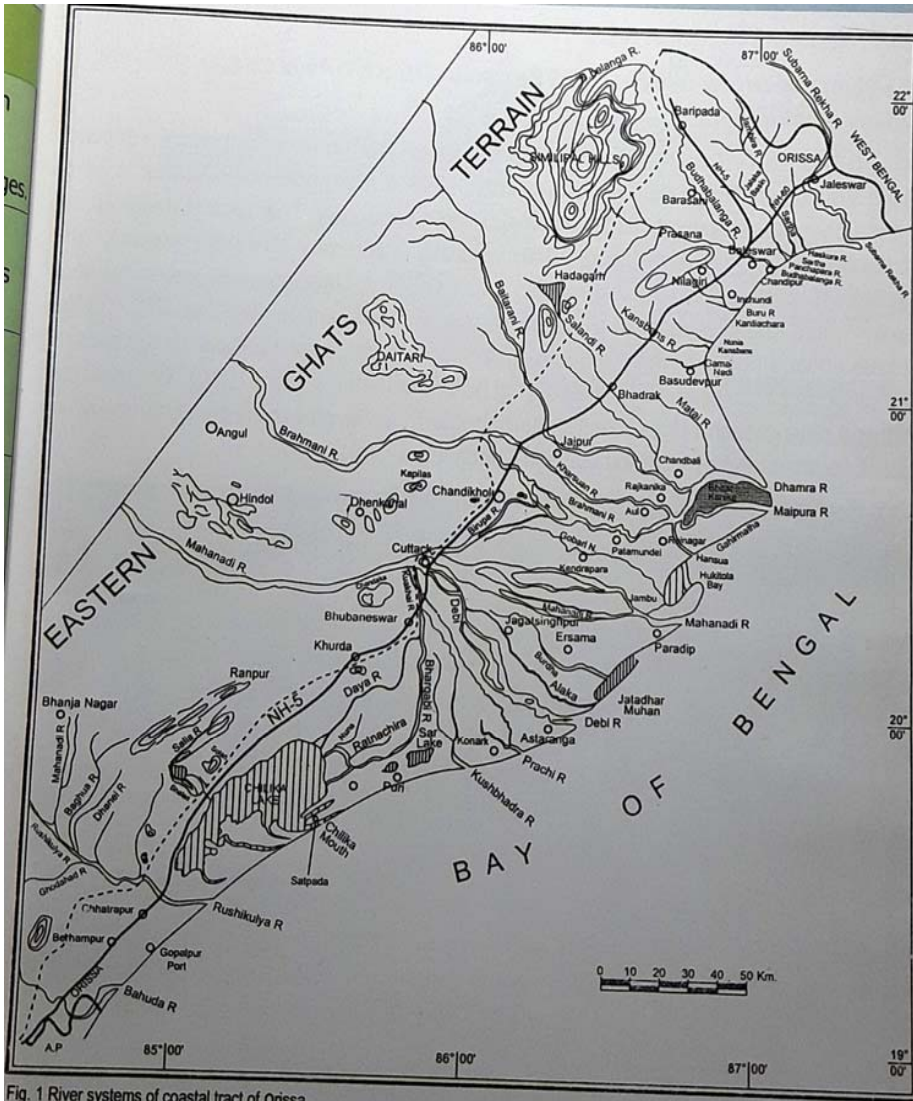
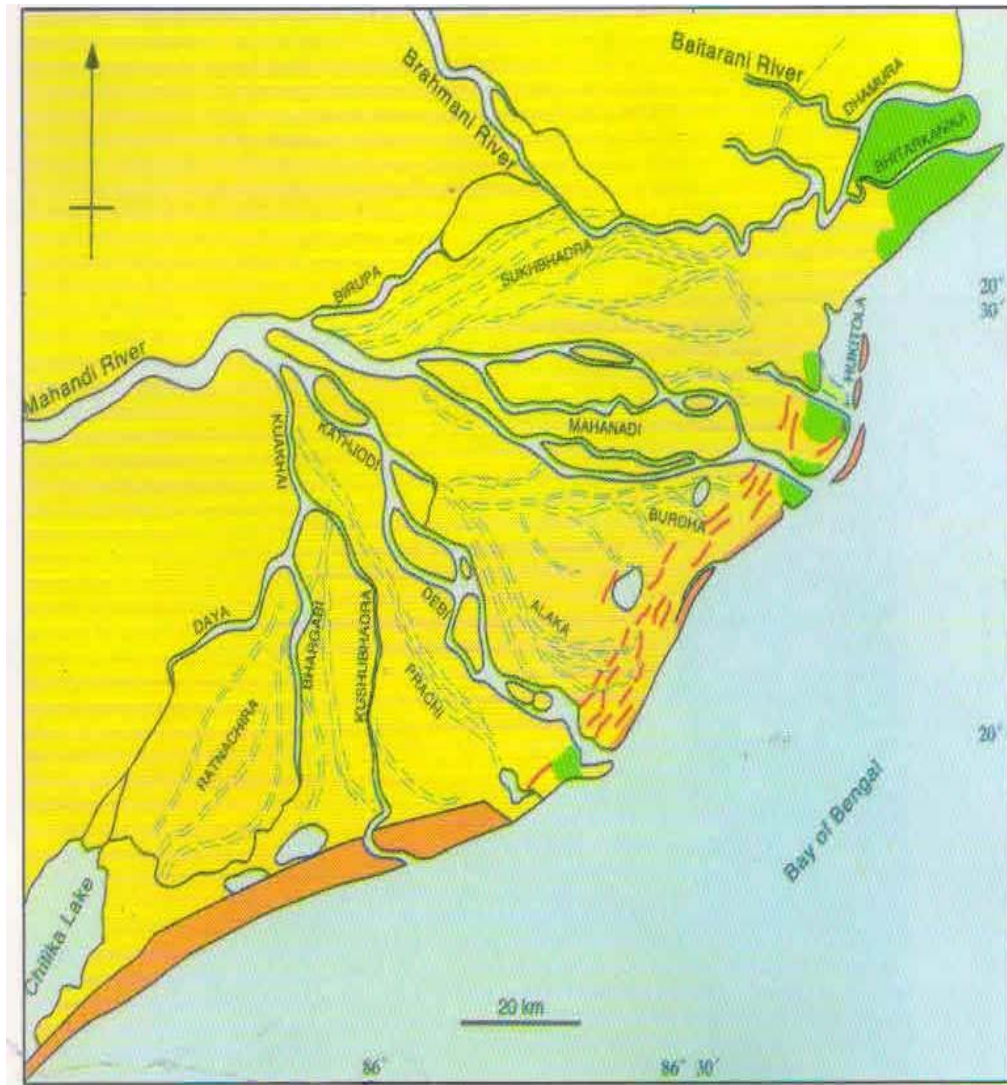


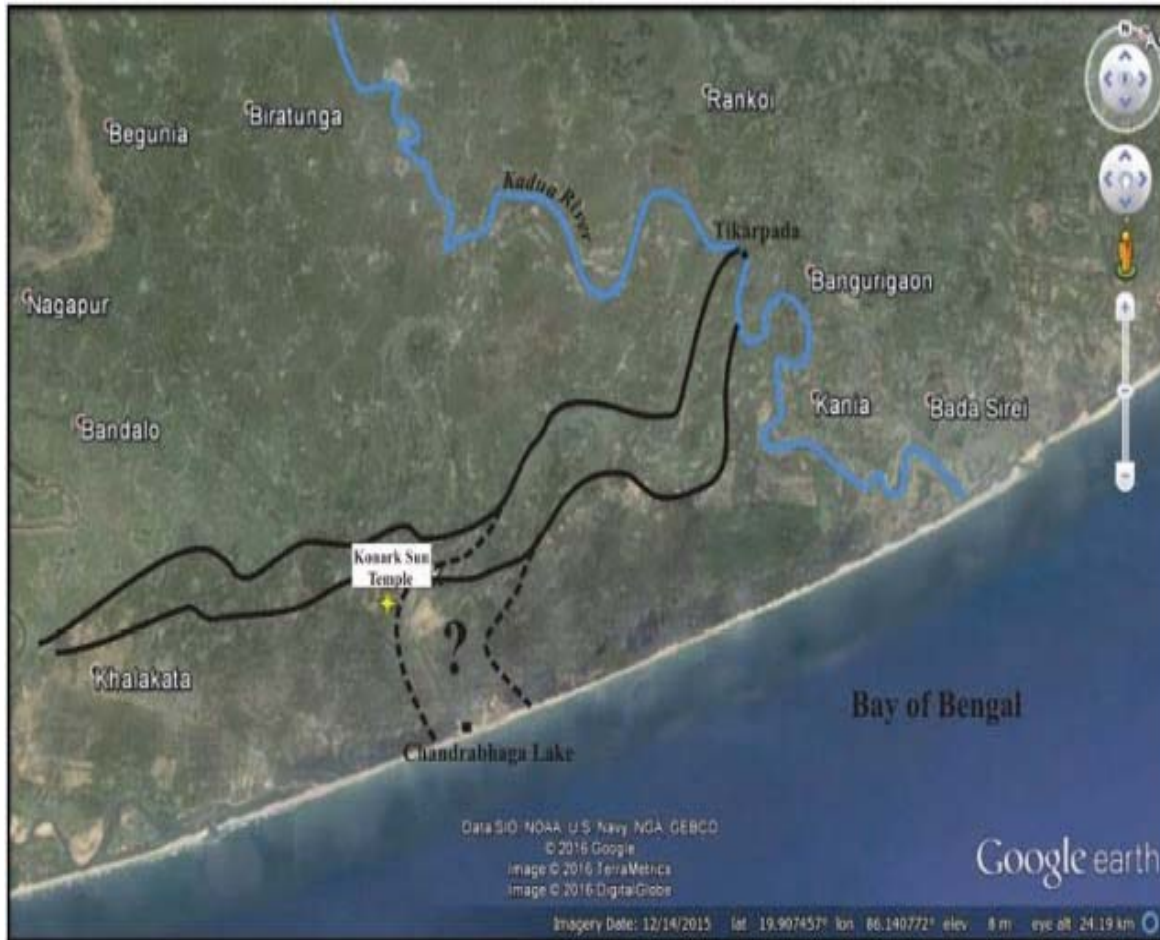
Fig. 1 River systems of coastal tract of Orissa

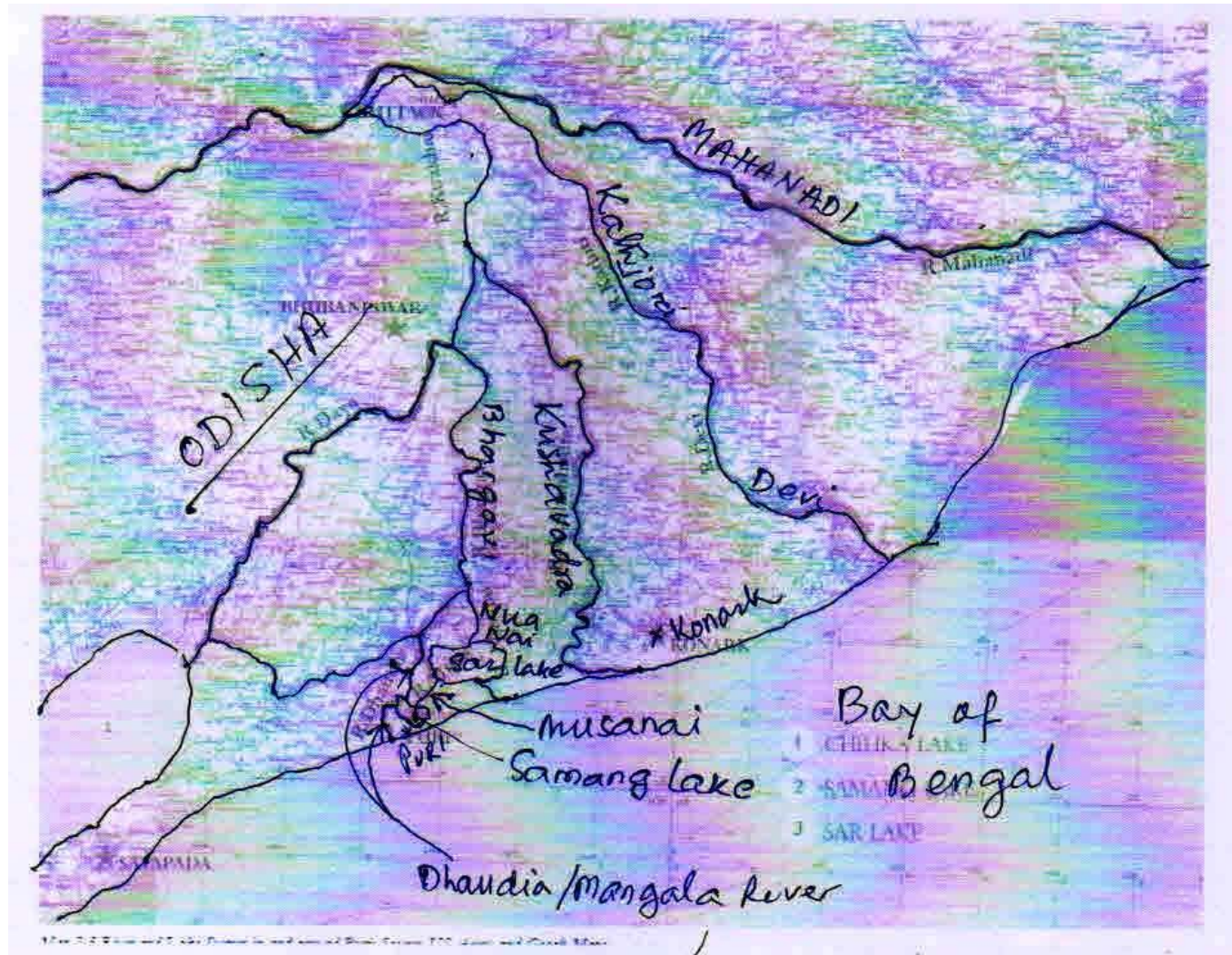
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14

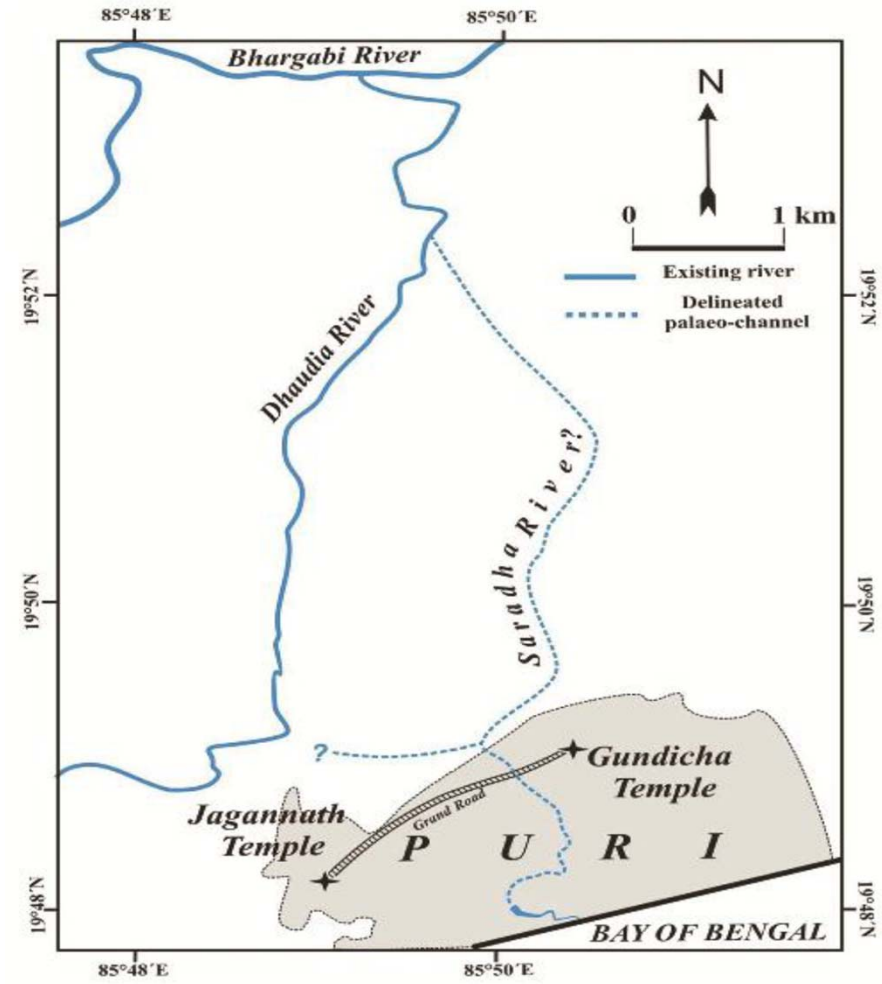






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17

Thank you