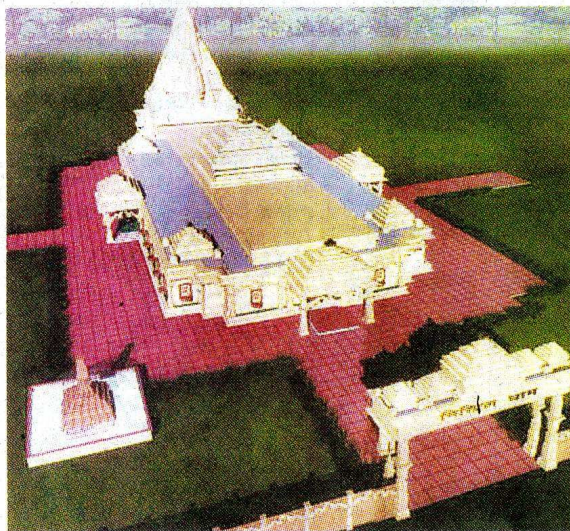


DELHI • MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2010

## Unique temple



**SHINING JEWEL** A view of Nikhildham

For those who have visited the Akshardham temples of Gujarat and Delhi, another temple of interest is Nikhildham, a unique place of worship.

Situated in Bhojpur, barely 30-kms from Bhopal, it is believed to be the only temple in India dedicated to the 'Dasa Mahavidhyas' or the Ten Mahavidhyas.

The ten Mahavidhyas are Kali, Tara, Chinnamasta, Tripura Sundari, Bhuvaneshwari, Tripura Bhairavi, Dhoomavati, Bagalamukhi, Matangi and Kamala. Though they are independent, they are connected to each other in an embrace. Usually a temple has just one deity or a few deities, but a place of worship dedicated to all the Mahavidhyas is rare.

Hence this temple attracts a lot of devotees from all over the country.

### **By the river**

Spread over five acres, the temple complex, situated on the banks of a river, sports a serene atmosphere.

It has the idols of all the ten Mahavidhyas, specially carved by the artisans of Rajasthan. Nikhildham is also home to numerous trees, herbs and shrubs.

Nikhildham is also famous for its Sarabeshwar, a crystal Shivalingam weighing 21 kgs.

Therefore followers of Lord Shiva make it a point to visit this temple. The place, usually a buzz of activity, comes alive especially during Shivratri and festival times.

**NIKHILDHAM IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR ITS SARABESHWAR, A CRYSTAL SHIVALINGAM WEIGHING 21 KGS**