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TERRAIN ANALYSIS OF ADONI FORT



ABSTRACT: -

Terrain analysis is new trend in the archaeology for studying and analyzing the historical site such as prehistoric sites and forts. Terrain analysis helps to understand the archaeological site in detailed manner. Terrain analysis can be done with the help of software called golden surfer. With the help of the golden surfer we have done Terrain analysis of Adoni fort.

KEYWORDS: Adoni Fort, Terrain Analysis, Archaeological Site, Forts, Golden Surfer.

INTRODUCTION

The Ancient Historical City Adoni (Yadogiri - Imtiaz garh) Kurnool District (A.P). Adoni Town Falls in Latitude: North 15 38'4" Longitude: East 77 17'4" The hill fort is situated on five rocky granite hills near to Adoni in Andhra Pradesh. It is thought to have been founded by Chandra Senin 1200 A.D.¹

Adoni lies in the present Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh about 40 miles north, north east of Bellary. Originally it was known as Adavani in Western Chalukyan inscriptions. Standing within a distance of 25 miles from the river Tungabhadra, it was an important strategic fort and played a major role in the Vijayanagara- Bahmani wars, who vied with each other

Dr. Meesala Ramakrishna

for supremacy over Krishna- Tungabhadra doab. Subsequently, it was a bone of contention between the Rayas of Vijayanagra and the Adil Shahis of Bijapur and it was under the occupation of the latter, for a long period. During this period, it was governed by Siddi Masood Khan, 1662-1687 A.D who built the great mosque in Bijapur style of architecture². Later it was occupied by the Aurangzeb and governed by Ghias-ud-Din Khan and then it went under the Nizam³.

Karvanpet in Adoni is the place where such merchants and pious people descended there. Dhool Shan Pahilwan Masjid (Dhool Shah) is such a Symbolic place⁴. Adoni Fort had been amidst of warfare in almost all the Bahmani rulers since 1518 A.D. At the same time it proved to be a strong fort for Vijayanagar rulers. Bahmani rulers often got victories of this fort. The construction of strong fort, fortified boundaries, domes, deep pits around, strong wells, mosques etc, were in progress. The three powerful Entrance Gates reflect of Bahmani art of construction. The temple of those days witnesses the attitude of religious tolerance of the sultans and they paved the way for construction of new Temples. Downfall of the Bahmani Dynasty. In spite of such glories rule, Bahmani rule faced its downfall; consequently four independent dynasties emerged from it, they are:

- 1) Bareed Shahi Bidar
- 2) Nizam Shahi-Ahmed Nagar
- 3) Outub Shahi-Golkonda
- 4) Aadil Shahi -Bijapur,

Adoni came under Aadil Shahi rule after crushing defeat of Vijayanagar in Talikota War in 1565 A.D.⁵

Under Aadil Shahi Reign, Adoni became a

more developed city. Nawab Malik Ryhaan and Nawab Siddi Masood's name a top in it. Enormous developments were made by Nawab Siddi Masood. Adoni city was the capital of such a vast area. The great achievement of Nawab Siddi Masood was the construction of Jamia Masjid which is enlisted in the great artistic construction of India Siddi Venkanna well was another technological construction done by his Prime Minister. The Jamia Masjid of Adoni (Big Mosque) was constructed in 1667A.D.⁶

When the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb won the thumping victory over the south, Adoni city became a part of Mughal Empire. It remained under the Mughal rule for a century even after the death of Aurangzeb.⁷

After the down fall of Mughal Empire, Adoni Came under Asaf Jahi Dynasty when Nizamul Mulk Asif Jah founded his dynasty. Asifiya Dynasty: Adoni become widely known as the residence of the famous Nawab Basaalath Jung of this dynasty.⁸

Nawab Hyder Ali and his worthy son Nawab Tipu Sultan founded Khudadaad Dynasty in Mysore in the 18th Century. There were close and friendly relationship between Nawab Hyder Ali and Nawab Basaalath Ali of Adoni in the beginning. They allied against the Marathas. But, the tie started to scatter at the time Tipu Sultan due to English Marathas disparity alliance. Nawab Tipu Sultan captured the Adoni fort after a terrible war against these allies.⁹

FATEH DARWAZA

After the conquest of Adoni Fort, Tipu Sultan and his Army entered here through this gate. So it is called Fateh Darwaza (Victory Gate). In the bygone days there was an arch at this place. There were bronze handles to this gate. Earlier that gate was 15-20 meters ahead to the present bridge (Rahman Dulha Dargah). That place is now called Budakal by Hindus and Fateh Darwaza by Muslims.

Adoni was under the rule of Tipu Sultan nearly for ten years. After the martyr of Tipu Sultan near Mysore, Adoni came under British Presidency, Madras after the Nizam, British treaty. Various Governors looked after this fort. The ancient glory of Adoni has come to an end by 1800 A.D.¹⁰

Among the famous remains of Adoni Fort include; Masjid-e-Rangeen, Kalamullah Masjid, Dhade ki Masha'l ki Masjid, (Dadai Mashall). Ek-Kamaan ki Masjid'. Aashur Khana at the upper fort; as there are also Ran Mandal and a Mosque. There remains a tank at the Eastern side to which Muslims call it 'Islam Jhara' and Hindus 'Ram Jala'. At the down words to Peerbalassa Saheb Dargah there is an old historical grave yard in which some graves of the deceased and martyred soldiers who fought in safeguarding the fort which is even today called as "Shaheed Gunj"¹¹

The rocks of the hills provide for raw materials perpetually that needs no replacement. But at the same time this also leads us to the problem of dating as the repairs and the enlargement of walls were continuous. This aspect is a problem that is seen in not only Adoni Fort also in the neighboring forts as they were in a war torn climate. The fall of the Bahmani and later the Vijayanagara was the larger political climate that conditioned the rise of fortifications in Adoni. One can definitively say that the rapid use of firearms was a necessity conditioned by war.



Fig.1

Terrain Analysis of Adoni Fort

The Adoni fort is built on undulate hill that has many rocks out covering, the entrance had general elevation from 1400meters that doesn't abruptly. At the entrance natural path offers many pathways but the road that leads to more gradual elevation that raises from 1400 meters and 1600 meters of the both right and left side. The most of buildings construction activity located as the elevations reaches higher altitude, beginning from 1400meters. The numbers of large building including Hindu and Muslim structure are located intervals of altitude and elevation.

One of the most important feature that emerges from the terrain analysis the fort is that the gradual elevation, which tape up after 16000 meters became more pronouns and site suitable for structural development therefore structures like religious structure and hall (mandapa) structure share pathways that are made of big stones but which are not site and flow the natural incline that's we have two types of structural elaboration of the terrain. The large number of functional and semi- fortified structural at the middle level and the highly fortified structural at high-level in the elevation begin at the entrance.

The analysis shows that by the entrance and the high elevation by height. Fortification and middle land is relatively free by the account of the large open place available. Therefore different structures that were more pronouns at the gateway at the higher altitude to emphasize the need for open security further the availability of large open palaces for foundation of functional settlement of higher area. The number of larger size religious structures including mosque that were later decorated with stucco point slow the importance and continue and wide usage. Similarly stucco buildings that are two stories have combination of pillar and arch together the large audiences by creating more space using the pillar model of the earlier period with combination of later models. Strategic use also made a natural occurrence description of lotus point, both which would accumulate large amount of water for later use.



Fig.2: Adoni fort ¹²



Fig.3: Adoni fort ¹³

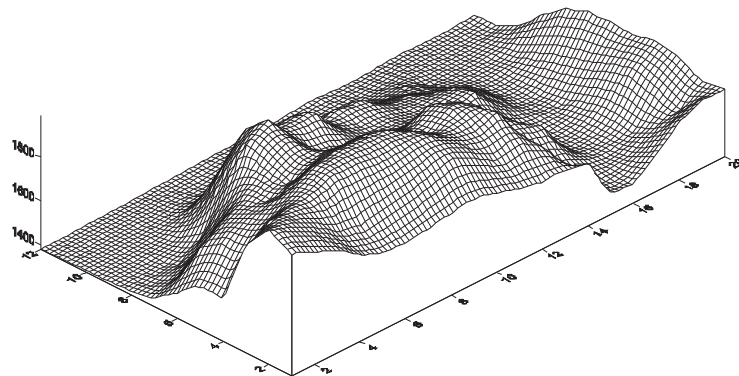


Fig.4: Adoni fort

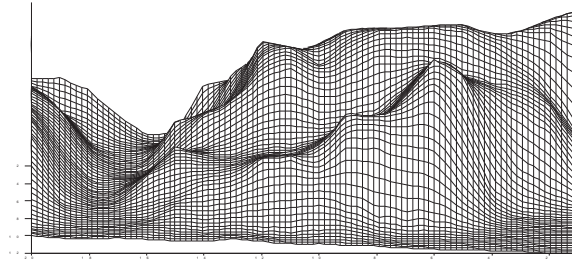


Fig. 5: Adoni fort

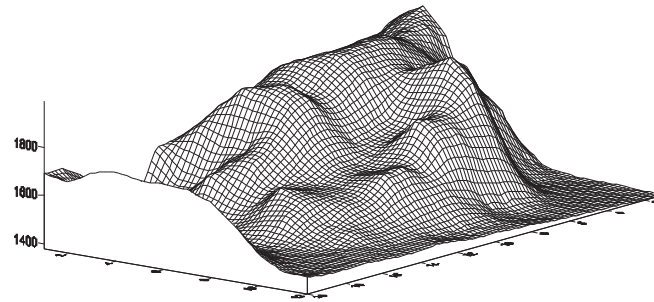


Fig.6: Adoni fort

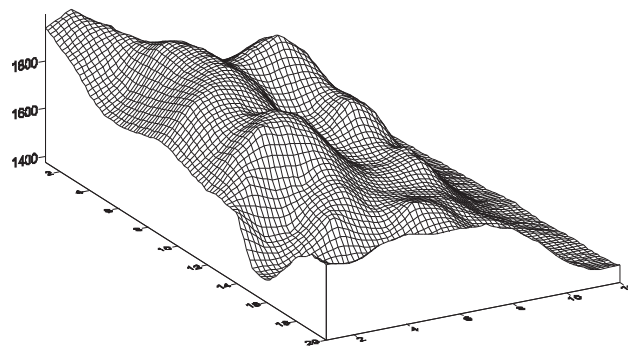


Fig.7: Adoni fort

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