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"HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE FORT CAPITALS IN MARATHWADA"



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ABSTRACT

Marathwada is a region of Maharashtra state. It consists of eight districts namely Aurangabad. Parabhani, Jalna, Nanded, Beed, Hingoli, Osmanabad & Latur. It has a great heritage of ancient history & Culture. Remnants of many historical monuments are found in this region. They include palaces. Water supply system, temples, mosques, caves, forts & monuments.

KEYWORDS : *Historical Review , historical monuments , Water supply system, temples.*

INTRODUCTION :

It can be said from the relics that more than twenty five forts existed in Marathwada. Of the



forts that exist today or their relics, the important once are Devgiri, Dharur, Mahur, Kandhar, Ausa, Paranda, Naldurg, Udgir, Dharampur, Patri.

Marthwada is the region of south India that first fell prey to the invasion by Allauddin Khilaji & it was the last region to get emerged in India due to Hyderabad freedom struggle after Indian Independence. There for this region experienced many political & cultural ups & downs.

Degiri was the capital of the last Hindu or native king in ancient India. This fort is in Marathwada. The fort has seen the rules of Yadav. Khilaji, Tughlaq, Bahamanashahi, Nijamshahi, Peshva & Nijam. It was the capitel of the dynasties of Yadavas, Tughluq & Bahamani Kingdom was established here.

Rashtrakutas rules over this region before Yadavas. The town of Kandhar (Krishnadurg) was the capital was Rashtrakutas in the year A.D 757. It is noteworthy that this place too is in Nanded district of Marathwada. Bahamani Kingdom was established at Daulatabad. Later they went to Gulbarga & Bidar in Kamataka. Later it was divided into five separate kingdoms namely Kutubshahi, Adilshahi, Nijarnshahi, Bar.idshahi, Imadshahi. Of these, Nijamshah made Ahmadnagar, which lies near Marathwada the capital of his kingdom. Nijamshah shifted his capital to the fort at Ausa. After he was defeated by Mughals & Adilshah. This place is in Latur district of Marathwada.

The fort of Paranda in Osmanabad district too is also important from historical point of view, because it was made the capital in A.D 1566 by the efforts to save Nijamshahi in the last days of Nijamshah.

There are also references that Dharampuri in Parali tehsil of Beed district was the capital of Rashtrakuta.

The entry of Islam in the history of Maharashtra happened during the period of Allauddin Khilaji kingdoms of Muslim rules existed in Marathwada since of the end of Yadav (A.D 1294) rule until there period. Marathwada was the centre of the cultural & political life during this period.

It is necessary to study whether this happened because of the geographical and political condition of Marathwada.

Marathwada was important during the periods of Yadav Khilaji. Tughluq, Mughal, Bahamani, Nijamshah & later the Nijam of Hyderabad. The forts of Devgiri, Dharampuri, Kandhar, Ausa, Paranda in Marathwada were the capitals during this periods. Devgiri which was the capital of Yadavas later become the capital of whole India. It later also become the capital of Bahamani Empire. After that is was turned into prison. Now it is only a village. Before Yadav period, the forts of Kandha & Dharampuri were the capitals of Rashtrakut Kingdom. Ahmadnagar, later Ausa & Paranda forts were the capitals of Nijamshahi. It is noteworthy that all these places are in Marathwada. It is seen that during the medieval period most of the prominent political activities of Maharashtra happened in Marathwada.

The present paper historical review of fort-capitals in Maharashtra. Marathwada in Maharashtra is a backward region. It is backward due to the lack of rivers & industrialization. However, it is very rich from historical point of view. If Devgiri, Ajantha Verala. Aurangabad and other important in the region. Are made known to the world, the Tourism in the region will receive a great boost. Tourism in this region which at present is centered on only Ajantha, Verul & Aurangabad will expand to other important historical places in the region, which will result into the boost to historical tourism of the region and thus help the progress of Marathwada.

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