



A STUDY OF FORTS AND WATCHING TOWERS OF AURAD TALUKA

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ABSTRACT:-

Bidar district is a area which has a special historical background in the Karnataka which has located top of the north Karnataka. It consists five talukas namely, Bidar, Bhalki, Humnabad, Basava Kalyan and Aurad along with rich culture. Among theses talukas Aurad is a historical background place. But of these talukas Aurad has contributed towards cultural heritage. Many forts of Aurad taluka stood for the protection of villages from the ancient period. The taluka were directly under ruled by many kingdoms like Rashtrakutas, Kalyan Chalukya, Shindas, Bahamani Sultan's, Nizam's and others. These kingdoms were contributed maximum towards cultural sectors.

KEYWORDS: - Forts, Kingdom, Culture, Heritage and Taluka etc.

BRIEF HISTORY OF AURAD TALUKA:-

Since before the ancient period of Ramayan and Mahabharat aurad Taluka has got good fame in the geographical history. Geographically Aurad taluka has located on the borders of North West area of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Usmanabad and Andhra Pradesh Nizamabad and Medak of East area.

As reference of the inscription 'Aurad taluka old name was 'Amarawadi'. In Nanded inscription of Maharastra mentioned as 'Santavenist Amarawadi'. The name 'Amarawadi' mentioned for the first time in the inscription of Vikramaditya – VI.

Forts and Watching Towers of Aurad Taluka:-

1. Wadgaon Fort:-

Wadgaon is a historical village which is located 25 km far from the Bidar and 20 km far from the Aurad. We found some excavations of pre historical period. The fort which has built in the heart of the village which covered 1.5 acre land. Half of the fort is destroyed, though it shows the richness of ancient culture. The fort has 200 feet long with bed stone floor, 10 ft. width and at the bottom ractangle type of stones were used. The fort has place of 10 ft. in front of the entrance door of the fort and beside wall of the fort completely destroyed. Fort has watching towers at four directions. These watching towers have built in shape of circle and it has easy steps to carry armaments on the top. Among these watching towers two towers are safe and two are destroyed.

2. Ujjani Fort:-

Ujjani is a historical village it is 25 km far from Aurad and 35 km far from Bidar. The fort is situated nearby the Patel home and it tells the heritage about the Ujjani village. The fort has built around in ½ acre of

land. But its excavations are scattered around the fort 20 ft. and east side wall is remained deterioration stage.

According to the people of the village, they are using a destroyed fort soil and stones for their domestic. At present Ujjani village Patel ancestors are staying in the fort parentheses.

3. Gudpalli Fort:-

Gudpalli is a historical village which is 28 km far from Aurad taluka and 36 km far from Bidar. The fort is belongs to the 13th and 14th century and it shows the historical glory of the Gudpalli village. The fort has built towards South face in 1.5 acre of land. It has created with local black stones and beds are the base of fort. The fort is 100 ft. height and built with the square type of engraved black stones. On the top of the fort people were created 20 ft. of stone wall and 20 ft. of mud wall. Totally it's made with three stages. It has around 20 ft. width, 30 ft. height. And fatherly, fort was used for the protection of the Deshmukh of the Gudpalli village.

4. Muskal Fort:-

Muskal village is 15 km far from taluka place Aurad and 35 km far from district place Bidar. It's a historical place. The fort is situated in the heart of the village and it is surrounded by the Patil's house. It highlights the glory of the village. It has the history of Bahamani Sultan and Nizams and it was the centre for the protection of the village. The fort was built with square shape of black stones in 2 acre of land. And it is a two rounded fort. The fort height is 200 ft. and fort has square shape of gun windows in between the walls. The fort has four watching towers at four directions and these watching towers built with 30 ft. height and consist 20 ft. stone and 10 ft. mud. Also on the watching towers there were 'U' shape rooms for watchmen's.

5. Chadari Belakuni Fort:-

Chadari Belakuni is a historical village which is 25 km far from Aurad taluk and 45 km, far from Bidar. Fort was built in the heart of the village. It is a second biggest fort in Aurad taluk. It has 200 ft. long and 30 ft. height. It has built on the base of bed stones and constructed with medium size stones. Top of the fort wall has built with bricks and stones. The top of the fort wall built as down slope arranged for the bullets from the outside to roll back. And there are gun windows in between at the middle of the fort. And also the fort has surrounded by trench with 20 ft. width.

6. Hippalgaon Fort:-

Hippalgaon village is historical village. This village 11 km far from the Aurad and 35 km far from Bidar. This fort is also belongs to 13th and 14th century it exhibits the historical importance of the village. This fort was built in middle heart of the village and constructed with octagonal triangle shape of stones. The fort is 200 ft. long, 150 ft width and 50 ft. length/height and outside of the fort wall has built with the medium size stones. The fort wall also consists small gun windows with the triangle engrave which expose the beauty of the fort.

7. Mudhol Fort:-

Mudhol is a historical village, which is 7 km distance from Aurad taluk and 47 km distance from Bidar. The fort was built outside the village of Aurad road. Earlier the fort was in huge forest. Now there is no forest. Therefore it looks, like desert. When we see towards the fort it looks like a Giri Durga/ the fort has 200 ft. long, 10 ft. height and constructed with black stones. And earlier there were 12 watching towers but today they all destroyed and scattered the excavations of the watching towers.

CONCLUSION:-

With reference to the above all Aurad is a historical taluka. It has many forts and included watching towers. These forts were built to protect their life. These are the symbols of our culture and heritage. And further I would like to suggest that the government should take care of these forts. And also should protect the forts and maintain the assets of the forts and watching towers.

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