



HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES OF SHAHAPUR

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ABSTRACT

Shahapur is rich in ancient cultural traditions as also in historical associations. With its ancient capitals, historic battle-fields and architectural monuments. It attracts the attention of any enlightened visitor and takes him back to those days of the glorious past when kingdoms after kingdoms rose, reigned and declined over this ancient land. The Taluka provides many attractions not only to the historian, but also to the scholar, pilgrim, archaeologist, geologist and industrialist alike. A brief account of some of the more important places of interest in the Taluka are as the follows.

The place of Shahapura is the most historically and compatible in the all respects. In South Asia, megaliths of all kinds are noted; these vary from Menhirs, Rock-cut burial, chamber tomb, dolmens, stone alignment, stone circles and anthropomorphic figures. These are broadly classified into two classes Sepulchral in which memorial stones where mortal remains along with funerary objects are placed and Non-sepulchral including large patterned placement of stones over a wide area; 'non-sepulchral' type is associated with astronomy and cosmology in South Asia and in other parts of the world.

Keywords: historical sites, megalithic age, etc.....

INTRODUCTION

Shahapur is famous for **Chara Basaveshwara Temple**, which is surrounded by hills in all directions. Its annual function called "Jatre" is celebrated every year in April. Thousands of people gather for this special event. They believe that Charabasava will provide health, wealth and prosperity to whole family. The main attraction of this occasion is "bullock festival", thousands of bullocks from different parts of surrounding districts gather here

for trade, which used to take place for nearly 10 days. By the side of Charabasava Temple a Large Fort is there, which had seven gates to enter. Within the fort 7 cannons are still present in good condition. As per the historians the construction period of this fort was between 950 AD to 1100 AD. Till the attack of Aurangzebs General Afzal Khan we don't know the pre history of this fort. **Mandakini Lake** is situated within the fort and the "Lotus Lake" or the "Tavare ker" Beside the Fort surrounded by hills.

According to mythology "Sagar Chakravarti" was grandfather of "Bhagiratha" ()who brought river goddess Ganga to earth for cleaning his ancestor's sins. Mandakini was the result of Sagar king's tapasya. Thus the name Sagara Nadu.

The Bhoruka power company in the private sector to successfully commission a hydro power station in shahapur. The houses of village "Bendegumbali" are considered to be the well-constructed houses without the usage of modern tools (it has been officially stated by GOVT OF INDIA). Sannati is the only place in the whole of India where complete unbroken inscription of emperor Ashoka was found. Vishwamaata Goshaale is an aashram built to conserve the Indian cow breed, completely dedicated to Go seva without any profit. It is run by Sangameshwar Shankar Shaastri, a student of Vedanta, a teacher of Samskrut. It is run in a small hill called Nandi Betta, present at the footsteps of Charabasaveshwar Temple.

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GEOGRAPHY

Shahapur is located at 16.7°N 76.83°E.^[1] It has an average elevation of 428 meters (1404 feet). When you search the Karnataka physical map you will see in yadgir district map the hills mentioned by the name *SHAHAPUR HILLS* these hills spread along shahapur to surpur taluks.

DEMOGRAPHICS

As per 2011 Indian census, Shahapur had a population of 57,129 Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Shahapur has an average literacy rate of 52%, lower than the national average of 65.38% and also lower than the state literacy which is 67%: shahapur male literacy is 61%, and female literacy is 43%. In Shahapur, 16% of the population is under 6 years of age.

ABOUT

The Town Municipal Council (TMC) Shahapur was constituted in 1954. and this TMC is upgraded (in.2015) as a (CMC) (City Municipal Council). The CMC has 23 wards and equal number of councilors. Shahapura CMC stretches to an area of 13.65 km². Summer Temperature as high as 45 -43 degree Celsius and Winter Temp-27 degree Celsius

As per the mythology the old name of Shahapur was "Sagar". In support of this name there is historical evidence such as the sobriquet of the Vijayanagara Kingdom's last ruler Ramaraya (son in law of Srikrishna Devaraya), who was also called as "Sagara Sankramanaraya". After the Muslim attack the name of the city was changed to Nusratabad. As per historians after attack "Sagar" village is shifted to the other side of the hill line and the original Sagar has been abandoned for some time and it was called as "Halu Sagar". As time passes and now it is called as "Hali sagar" means Old Sagar. The area between Krishna and Bhima river is called "Sagara Nadu". It consists of Shahapur, Surpur (Shorapur) and Jewargi talukas.

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CONCLUSION

This paper finally shahapura is a one of the historical and cultural areas the pace of Shahapura is the most historically and compatible in the all respects. In South Asia, megaliths of all kinds are noted; these vary from

Menhirs, Rock-cut burial, chamber tomb, dolmens, stone alignment, stone circles and anthropomorphic figures. These are broadly classified into (potentially overlapping) of two classes (after Moorti, 1994, 2008): Sepulchral (containing remains of the dead) in which memorial stones where mortal remains along with funerary objects are placed and Non-sepulchral including large patterned placement of stones over a wide area, 'non-sepulchral' type is associated with astronomy and cosmology in South Asia and in other parts of the world (Menon and Vahia, 2010).

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