

Historical Significance Of Devagiri Fort

Dr. S. R. Kattimani

Asst. Professor,
Dept. of History,
Vivekanand College, Kolhapur (Autonomous)
Affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Abstract:

Maharashtra is a state famous for its forts and rock cut architectures. Devagiri fort is one of the most beautiful and remote forts in Maharashtra. Devagiri fort is the main witness of many events in history, internal strife and political turmoil. In the 12th & 13th centuries, not only Maharashtra but the entire country was concentrated here. The mountain of gods is Devagiri and the abundance of wealth is Daulatabad. Devagiri fort is like the guardian of the south. Purpose of the research paper is to trace the political developments and upheavals in the context of Devagiri fort and the changing significance of Devagiri.

Keywords: Fort, Strife, Turmoil, Devgiri, upheavals

Introduction:

The first attack of Muslim rulers on South India was at Devagiri. By defeating the Yadava of Devagiri in 1296, Allauddin Khilji defeated and destroyed the glorious Hindu kingdom of Maharashtra. The fort of Devagiri, the capital of Yadava, fell into the hands of the Muslim rulers. From then until the success of Marathwada Muktisangram or Hyderabad Muktisangram (1948), Devagiri fort and its environs were under the control of Muslim rulers. During this period, Devagiri fort was under the control of Yadav, Khilji, Tughlaq, Bahamani, Nizamshah of the city, Mughals, Marathas and Nizam of Hyderabad. This is the only event in the history of Maharashtra where so many rulers took control of a single fort in the Middle Ages. From this we understand the importance of Devagiri. The longest Muslim rule in Maharashtra was in this area. Devagiri is a witness of political and cultural incidents. From the capital of Yadava, the capital of the Indian Empire, that is, the capital of the Tughlaq period, to the period of splendour and misery came to the fort.

Geographical location of Devagiri:

Daulatabad / Devgiri is situated between south 19°57'17" and 75° 15'43" east. Devagiri Fort has situated the northeast 14 km from Aurangabad

city. Which is currently located on the way of Aurangabad - Dhule . The fort height is about 221 meters from the base. fort is fortified fort inside this. So this fort is considered to be impenetrable. A.D 12th – 13th Politics, sociology and theology of Maharashtra and its environs revolved around the fort in the 8th century A. D.

The ancient name of Devagiri is Suragiri. The names of this fort are Devgad and Dharagiri which are mentioned in history. This triangular shaped fort extends from North to South. It is strategically located to prevent further attacks from north to south.

Description of the fort:

Although this Devagiri fort is hilly, from the point of view of architecture and this fort is a mixture of hill and Bhuikot fort. This fort looks like Bhuikot fort at the foot of the main fort. Also, the fort built on a 215 meter high hill which describes its Giridurg. The base of the fort is a Bhuikot fort. There is a strong fortification around the fort built on a high hill above the moat. This fort became famous and developed since it became the capital of the Yadavas. During the Satvahana period, the name of Devagiri was Devpoli.

Historical background of Devagiri fort:

There is not much information about who built the fort of Devagiri. However, it is said that the construction of this fort started during the reign of Rashtrakuta kings. Because, during the time of these

Rashtrakuta kings, the sculptures at Ellora were happening. Then some local artisans chose Devagiri hill which is very good in terms of protection and from its vertical edge this hill was transformed into a fort. Rashtrakut house is said to have started work there in the days of King Dantidurga.¹

This castle that is known as the subway, which dark way, it also seems to have been created during the same period Rashtrakut kings.²

Rashtrakut of Maharashtra came to power after the Chalukyas of Kalyani . But Yadavs were appointed at Devagiri fort. King Bhillam-V of the Yadav dynasty fought a fierce battle with the Hoysala dynasty of Karnataka at Lokkundi Soratur near Dhakhad. He later established power over Maharashtra. That is, he established power over Devagiri.

There are also some legends about the names of Devagiri fort. Once Shri Shankar and Adimata Parvati both sat down to play Saripat in Devagiri area. Parvati won the innings while playing. As a result, Shankara left the world and went to the forest. Then Parvati followed him. She changed her original form and started walking around Shankara. Seeing her, Shankar fell in love with her. Shankara forbade other deities to enter the area as he did not want anyone to come in contact with him. Then the other gods did the trick. All the gods lived on a nearby hill. The mountain on which this god resides is Devagiri Mountain. The hill where the gods resided is called Devagiri.

Devagiri fort is also known as Daulatabad. Wealth is wealth and prosperity is abundance. Daulatabad, where there is a lot of wealth, or the mountain which is rich in wealth, Daulatabad fort is also mentioned as Fatebad on some coins.³

Mubarak Khilji, son of Allauddin Khilji lived here for some time. He changed the name of Devgad to Qutubabad. To commemorate this occasion, he minted coins in Qutubabad Tanksali.⁴

Events on Devagiri during various rulers:

1) Yadav period:

Yadav was the dependent king of Rashtrakuta. After Rashtrakuta, Yadava ruled over Devagiri. Devagiri was ruled by 'Ramdev' after Allauddin's attack. When Allauddin reached Devagiri, he did not face much resistance. Because at the time, his daughter-in-law was fighting somewhere outside.

To resist Allauddin, Ramdevaraya prepared to fight with two-three thousand saunas and in the battle Ramdevaraya was defeated and he fled to Devagiri. Then Allauddin chased and besieged the fort and demanded gold, rubies and pearls.

Ramdev's son Singhandev rejected this demand and the war was ready and Ramdev was defeated in this battle and then Ramdev decided to give 600 manas of gold, 7 manas of footsteps, 2 manas of jewels to Allauddin. As planned, Allauddin went to Delhi with a lot of wealth from Daulatabad. In this robbery, Allauddin took Ramdevarai's daughter Jethai Hees and married her. It is said of Jethai that this girl was not only beautiful to look at, but she was also famous in music. She had taken her music lessons from Gopal Nayak, a musicologist at the court of King Ramdev. She used to worship Ragavidya as her deity. It is mentioned that the best harpist chidarinvarta or granthatuna⁵

2) Allauddin Khilji:

So your servant to accept the first part of the Allauddin ramadevarayansa invasion of South India. In this Khilji consolidated his power in the south. Ramdevrai paid the ransom for a few years as per the agreement reached in the battle, but he stopped paying the ransom as it seemed that Khilji was involved in the struggle against the Mughals. As a result, Allauddin This was the second attack on Devagiri in 1307 when his general Malik Kafur sent him to Devagiri.

Malik Kafur's gold plundered the region around Devagiri. This time Ramdevrai did nothing but watch. It is said that South India, and Islam was spread by Sufi sects or killyapasunaca Allah and His start was uddimane⁶

3) Harapaladeva:

south southern state had to pay very dearly for his mistake allauddin pudhe. Harpaldev, the son-in-law of Ramdev and a hero of the Chalukya dynasty, took possession of Devagiri and declared himself king.

4) Qutbuddin Mubarak:

After his death in 1316, the power of Delhi passed to Qutbuddin Mubarak. At that time, he attacked Devagiri again and Harpaldeva was arrested and brutally killed in a humiliating condition, literally skinning his body.

Tughlaq rule:

After the Khilji dynasty, the Tughlaq dynasty came to power in Delhi. Giasuddin Tughlaq is considered to be the founder of this family. He appointed his son Ulugh Beg as the Subhedar of

Devagiri. He was later known as Muhammad bin Tughlaq or Veda Muhammad. Since he lived in Devagiri for the first few years, he realized the importance of Devagiri.

In the time of Muhammad Tughlaq, he thought that the capital should be in the center of Hindustan to keep the whole of India in check. According to this idea, Daulatabad was chosen as the new capital. Similarly, Tughlaq moved his capital from Delhi to Moved to Daulatabad in 1327.⁷ But due to lack of proper planning, Daulatabad did not get the status of capital. She was shifted to Delhi again.

Bahamani Power:

Due to the reckless performance of Muhammad Tughlaq, many chiefs revolted against him. Allauddin Hasan Gangu Bahamani was a subhedar at Devagiri in the time of Muhammad Tughlaq. While at Devagiri, he revolted against Muhammad Tughlaq and established a new Bahamani kingdom in 1347. What is special is that his coronation ceremony took place in Devagiri fort. He later moved to Gulbarga, the capital of his Bahamani kingdom.

Nizam of Ahmednagar:

After the fall of the Bahamani Empire, control of Devagiri passed to the Nizam Shah of Ahmednagar. After the fall of Ahmednagar, mainly after the death of Chandbibi, Malik Amber shifted the Nizamshahi capital from Ahmednagar to Daulatabad.⁸ But the Mughals defeated Malik Amber and he had to migrate to Khadki (Aurangabad). At that time, while developing Devagiri, Malik Amber was helped by many local Maratha chiefs. These included Shahaji Bhosale, Maloji Bhosale, Parmoji Bhosale, Kheloji Bhosale. Even today, the remains can be seen that in the name of Aurangabad 52 puujam in malojipura, parasojipura, khelojipura

Mughal Power:

After the death of Malik Ambar Mughals Daulatabad fort was Conquered in 1635 and established his dominance there.⁹

In 1636, Shah Jahan stayed at Devagiri fort for a few months. Aurangzeb named the village Khadki after Aurangabad. Aurangzeb built the tomb of Bibi Ka under the guidance of Ataullah, an architect and Hastapatraya, an engineer. This building is very grand and beautiful and stands

proudly on the banks of the river Kham. This is the last building to tell the legacy of Mughal architecture in Mughal Shauli.¹⁰

Aurangzeb used to say that after his death, his tomb should be at Khuldabad and his tomb was built at Khultabad. Therefore, the importance of Daulatabad decreased and the importance of Khultabad or Aurangabad increased. About Daulatabad, he also said that Begum Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb's first wife, was a beautiful woman from Safavi's family. She hated the Daulatabad area. She did not like the area at all. So he left Daulatabad with her and came to Aurangabad and later on, Aurangzeb and Aurangabad became two sides of the same coin.¹¹

Sayyid Mubarak Khan, the fort keeper of Daulatabad When he met her in 1682, it is recorded in the book Masire Alamgiri that Aurangzeb gave her Khilji's clothes. Aurangzeb did not accept the request to transfer him to Daulatabad. The above incident shows the connection between Daulatabad and Aurangzeb.¹²

Marathas:

Shivaji Maharaj gave more importance to Raigad than Devagiri. In 1760, a battle took place between the Marathas and the Nizam at Udgir. In this battle the Nizam was defeated and the Udgir treaty was signed.¹³ It was decided to give Daulatabad fort to the Marathas. But on hearing the news of the defeat of the Marathas in the north, the Nizam refused to give the fort. At that time Nanasaheb Peshwa sent Gopalrao Patwardhan to teach the Nizam a lesson. But Gopalrao Patwardhan refused to take the fort. Then Nanasaheb Peshwa writes in a letter to Gopalrao Patwardhan, "Your temper is raging, therefore you have not written so hard for so many days. Now you have started writing thoughts again and again, then this letter has been written knowingly.¹⁴ After the death of Nanasaheb Peshwa, Govindrao Patwardhan writes a letter to Madhavrao Peshwa, saying, "He who has Daulatabad will not prosper. Less than six months later, the wealthy Bhausahab died. In less than a year, he became a wealthy Nanasaheb Kailasavasi. For this, the rich should give it to the Mughals.¹⁵

The Peshwas had handed over control of Daulatabad to Dinkar Ballal. It seem to have heeded particular, the Peshwas this advice. The Peshwa then

informs him in 1716 that it is now decided to hand over the fort to the Nizam. Then the fort should be handed over to the Isma who brought the letter from the Nizam. ¹⁶ From the, the corrupt view of above Marathas and Peshwas about Daulatabad fort can be seen.

Nizam of Hyderabad:

After the fall of the Mughal Empire in 1724 AD, Asafshahi was established in Hyderabad. After this Daulatabad fort came under the control of Nizam. After the battle of Udgir in 1760, according to the treaty between Nizam and Marathas, Aurangabad and Daulatabad region and this fort came under the control of Marathas. During the reign of Sawai Madhavrao Peshwa, the fort of Devagiri was handed over by the Peshwas to the Nizam of Hyderabad. He was then in the possession of the Nizam of Hyderabad till 1948. In late 1937, Hyderabad was liberated from the control of the Nizam. The Hyderabad Liberation War was established under the leadership of Ramanand Tirtha. Even after India got independence, the people of Hyderabad could not enjoy freedom. Devagiri's slavery ended on September 17, 1948, when the central government, led by Vallabhbbhai Patel, took action after the Nizam's allegations of injustice against the people reached Delhi. After the police action, the state of Hyderabad merged with India. Along with this Daulatabad fort came to Maharashtra. In this way we can describe the historical significance of Devagiri fort.

Concluding remarks:

- 1) Devagiri was a religious and commercial place during the Yadav period in the Middle Ages. So she got importance. Realizing this importance, Yadav established a capital here.
- 2) Due to the attraction of wealth, Allauddin Khilji invaded and destroyed the Yadava and looted the wealth here and the glory of Devagiri declined.
- 3) Recognizing the geographical and military importance of Devagiri, Muhammad Tughlaq moved the capital of India from Delhi. So it got glory again. The importance of this ended when the capital moved back to Delhi.
- 4) The Bahamani Empire was established on this fort. During this period, the center of political affairs came back to Devagiri. After he moved

the capital to Gulbarga, Devagiri remained important as a military base.

Foot notes:

- 4) Bedekar Ninad, Durgakatha, page 48.
- 5) Deshpande Brahmananda, Devagiri, Daulatabad, page 6.
- 6) Mate m. Shri., Medieval Maharashtra, Page 9.
- 7) Morvanchikar Ra. Shri., Bhanage Pradeep (Anu) Medieval Water Conservation - Water Management, Page 25.
- 8) Malkar Anjali, Classical Music of Marathas, Page 19.
- 9) Gadre Prabhakar, Famous Forts of History in India, Page 169.
- 10) Morvanchikar Ra. Shri., South Delhi, Aurangabad, Page
- 11) Deshpande Brahmananda, Devagiri - Daulatabad, Page 109
- 12) Morvanchikar Ra. Shri., South Delhi, Aurangabad, p. 11.
- 13) Kitta, pp. 24-25.
- 14) Kitta, page 12
- 15) Turban Setumadhavrao, Marathe and Aurangzeb page 23
- 16) Turban Setumadhavrao, letters from Mughal court, part - I, page 10.
- 17) Sardesai b. S., Historical Correspondence, pp. 51-52
- 18) Bhave va. Kr., Peshwa period Maharashtra, page 220.
- 19) Wad, Parsnis, Peshwa diary, page 121

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- 2) Devagiri Daulatabad - Deshpande Brahmananda
- 3) Medieval Maharashtra - M. M. Mate
- 4) Medieval Water Conservation - Water Management (Devagiri - Aurangabad)
- 5) Classical music of Marathwada - Anjali Malkar
- 6) Famous forts in the history of India - Prabhakar Gadre
- 7) South Delhi - R. S. Morvanchikar
- 8) Marathe and Aurangzeb - Setumadhavrao turban
- 9) Letters of Mughal court - Setumadhavrao turban
- 10) Historical correspondence - B. C. Sardesai
- 11) Peshwa period Maharashtra - V.K. Bhave
- 12) Second Bajirao, Peshwa Roznishi - Wad. Parsnis.
- 13) R. S. Morvanchikar, Pradip Bhanage.