

The Place of Taldhvajpuri (Talaja) in the prides of cultural pride of Gujarat.

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Paper Received on: 08/04/2012

Paper Reviewed on: 14/04/2012

Paper Accepted on: 19/04/2012

Abstract

There is no any exaggeration in saying that the Taldhvajpuri comes forth in the development of Gujarat State in ancient time, Talaja was known as Taldhvajnagar and Abhalji Vala contributed a lot in cultural development of the city Taldhvajnagar. It is also famous as the birth place of Narasinh Mehta. There are thirty caves in the mountain of Talaja, that becomes the part of cultural heritage of the city years ago, the city was one of the centre of coastal trade in Gujarat. The very famous Buddha caves are also situated there.

Keywords: *Taldhvajpuri, cultural pride of Gujarat.*

Historical Introduction Of Taldhvajpuri :-

Taldhvajpuri is mentioned as a part of Aanart Pradesh in ancient times, Diring 468-788 A.D. Valabhi Was one of the ruling state of Saurashtra, Many World famous priests & intellectuals lived here for long, There exactly at 108 Buddhist – ‘Math were built in Valabhipur where religious teaching was given. One of these Math was built in Taldhvajpuri and still there as a cave. Valabhi was rebuilt by the King Dharaditiraji Of Maitrak Dynasty. And for the protection of the state, he built some security posts at the sea coast. His soon Vratketji alias Vallabhadyaji (810 to 835 A.D.) had built a security post at Zanjmer and built Talaja.

From 835 to 1203 A.D. vgasengi alias ugavala who made free his nephew rakavat from the custody of anant chavda ugarsenji had defeated the king abu seventeen times.

One more famous legend of Abhalji is that he had brought rain and sacrificed his own son to cure a bord from leprosy. It is also said that Abhalji ,is that he had brought rain and sacrificed his own son to cure a bord from leprosy. It is also said that Abhalji, third had arranged a group marriage of 1600 brides.

After maitrak dynasty, that is after 1203 A.D. talajawas ruled by maher dynasty, Astone inscription is found saying that temples were built during maher dyanasty¹.

After 1480 A.D. Zanjmer was ruled by rather and Talaja was also under ther reign of him, There are certain evidences found in the history that in the time of king Harraj Munraj Vala, a vaja-king, one of his Diwans, (Royal Execulives), named Aalashah was killed by Aaishri Kagbai Mataji near Devali of Ganeshriya.

It is believed that Talaja was destroyed at that due to earthquake. Even Today, archeological evidences are found during digging Talaja was scattered in many parts them. Areas near Zanjmer and Gopnath were under the reign of Rothors.

There are memorial stones of marlirs of Rathor kings near Prithalpus who faught with muslim kings to protect Gopnath in 1470 A.D. Vala king of trapaj Sush Vala faught as a commander of army with a sultan and died. Thus was is known as ‘Gunjar Was’ and it is said that sush vala’s head was an during the was but histrunk fought till death. So a temple of sushvala was built in his memory near Mathavada, In 1560 A.D. the king Mendriji Rav of Padhiyar conquered Talaja and saratanpur, this successor kings had ruled nearby areas like devali, sendarda Monpur etc. In 1770 A.D. a British Gorvereor Killed pirates and gave custody of Talaja to the Nawb of khambhat Nawab ruled for two years and then Talaja was conquered by Vakhatsinhji Maharaja of Bhavnagar. He had conquered Mahava two & merged with Bhavnagar State².

The custody of this region was given to kjilaji vala of Dhank. There after Talaja was counted in Bhavnagar state. After independence of India the town gotsystems like Municipality, Nagar Panchayat and Nagar Palika, Thus Talaja with its historical importance was being developed by many government³.

The contribution of Abhalji Vala in Cultural development of Talaja.

Talaja is situated at base of mountain which is a confluence of rivers Shetrunji and Talaja. And it is 50 K.M. away from Bhavnagar in the southern direction. It is now a Taluka Talaja is described as Taldhvaj in an inscription of 1319 A.D. in a village Harabhani at the bank of Shentrunji⁴.

Ugavala the ruler of Talaja was a maternal uncle of Raja Kavati of Vanthali Kavati invaded Talaja and killed uga vala. This memorial stone is found near chitravav of Umarala⁵.

In 1065 to 66 A.D., Suroji, the son of Abhal Vala, First was place on a throne, After Suraji his son Abhal Second inherited the throne in 1108 A.D. and then his son An alias Aan in 1148 to 49 A.D. and then his son Abhal, Tird in 1230 A.D. was on the throne⁶.

It is said that, at that time the Brahmins of Talaja asked for great fees tp Kayastha hosts for the detrothal of their danghters. But they didn’t have enough money to pay so many of their daughters had to remain unmarried. Once they went to king to complain. Abhal Vala had arranged their marriages on the cave of mountain which is now known as ‘Abhal Mandap’. There were 1600 brides, this cave is the biggest one & it is believed that in ancient times, Saints and Monks used to workship here⁷.

It is an exaggeration to say that Abhal Vala made group marriages of 1600 brides but we can say that he had tried to start the tradition of group marriage at that time⁸.

Talaja & Narasinh Mehta :-

This means I born at Talaja, Bhabhi remarked me wockingly saying an idiot, asked a promise & worshipped an unworshipped in the jungle. This stanza was written by Narasinh Mehta supports the fact that his birthplace was Talaja. Many intellectual hiterary persons and historians found that Talaja is not only the birthplace of him but he had also passed his childhood, the commencement of his married here. Besider, certain evidences are found from the literature of his contemporaries which established a fact that he wandered many a times and made associations with saints (satsang) at the sea coast of Gopnath⁹.

Narasinh Mehta was born in 1414 A.D. this father's name was Shri Krishna Damodar Mehta & mother's name was Laxmibai. The lost his father at very young are of five¹⁰.

It is a watler of controversy among historians about tha birth place of Narasinh Mehta¹¹.

Conclusion:-

As we know that many people had give important contribution in the development of Gujarat Abhalji Vala, Third is among them. This effort for group marriages was the special one.

Many jain caves are also found on the mountain of Talaja. For such things Talaja is considered as an ancient town.

Many Jain saints used to come here for pilgrimage¹²

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