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IMPORTANT FORTS OF TELANGANA (From the earliest times up to 18th C.A.D)



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Abstract: *A study of forts and fortifications is a desideratum to understand the system of defence and military architecture in India. The history of the forts has been attracting the attention of more and more researchers pioneering studies in forts were first made by late Sri G. Yazdani, Henry-Cousens and Syed Mehdi Ali, available in their accounts published in the volumes of Hyderabad archaeological reports, antiquarian remains in the Nizam's dominions and Hyderabad affairs, respectively. The work of 'Forts of Andhra Pradesh from the earliest times up to 16th C.A.D'. by Murthy, Ramachandra N.S made a study of a large number of forts, situated in present Andhra Pradesh alone, yet some important forts in Telangana like Golconda and Warangal do find a place through scantily. So far, no single work has appeared describing the forts of Telangana state. The present article is developed to make a systematic comprehensive study of the system of forts in Telangana and a list of important forts mentioned 58. These forts are based on their architectural data from the viewpoint of their functional aspects of defence, coupled with literary material, embodied in different texts on the subject, in Sanskrit, Telegu, Persian, Urdu and English. In doing so an attempt is made to study the system of forts and fortifications from theoretical aspects. Emphasis is laid on the forts of the medieval period, for it was during this period that forts played a major role in the field of warfare.*

Introduction

Telangana has the world's richest lineage of forts. A vista of heritage unfolds from these citadels-witness to history and the shaping of society. Telangana is a land of forts. Nowhere in the country, one would encounter such a profusion and variety of

forts. Ramparts, bastions and *Baradari's* remain switched in the light of a past that continues to hold the present.

The 200 odd forts of Telangana stand as silent sentinels to history. The Forts of Telangana span a thousand years and more, with folklore and legend going back even further, to the fenced enclosures and protective ditches built by *Bahmanis*, *Qutubshahis*, *Kakatiyas* and *Velamas*. Hardened earthwork gave way to stone with time, and sturdier defences came up everywhere rugged hills, scrubland and forests. Forts served as strategic posts and their Peculiar- constructional features as weapons of warfare.

Telangana is watered by many Rivers- Godavari, Krishna, Pranahita, Manjira, Bhima and Musi. Other rivers are smaller streams ultimately merging into one of the main rivers. The Godavari is the largest river system in Peninsular India and it is called 'Dakshin Ganga'. The total length of the river from origin to its outfall into the Bay of Bengal is 1465 km, of which 600 km in Telangana. Krishna is the second largest river system in peninsular India. The total length of the river from origin to its outfall into the Bay of Bengal is 1400 km, of which 612 km in Telangana. Presently, The Godavari and Krishna Rivers flow through many districts 20 and 18 respectively.

Telangana state is geographically located in a semi-arid area and has a predominantly hot and dry climate. The average or normal rainfall of the Telangana state is about 905.3 mm and about 80% of annual rainfall is received from the South-West monsoons alone from (June to September). The rainfall in the state is erratic and uncertain. Four centuries ago, when the forest cover was denser, the rainfall was much greater and the temperature much lower. In the monsoons, the forts of the Telangana were almost unapproachable and remained isolated.

LIST OF IMPORTANT FORTS OF TELANGANA (From the earliest times up to 18th c.A.D)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Fort | Period | District in which situated | Mandal in which situated | Village in which situated |
|---------|------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Nirmal | 17 th -18 th c A.D. | Nirmal | Nirmal | Nirmal |
| 2. | Utnur | 17 th c A.D. | Adilabad | Utnur | Utnur |
| 3. | Vadoor | 9 th -16 th c A.D | Adilabad | Neredigonda | Vadoor |
| 4. | Gandhari | 9 th -16 th c A.D | Manchiryal | Mandamarri | Thimmapur (Gandharikota) |
| 5. | Sirpur | 9 th -16 th c A.D | Kumurum Bheem Asifabad | Sirpur Kagaj nagar | Sirpur |
| 6. | Lakshettipet | 13 th -14 th c A.D | Manchiryal | Lakshettipet | Lakshettipet |
| 7. | Domakonda | 13 th -14 th c A.D | Kamareddy | Domakonda | Domakonda |
| 8. | Kaulas | 14 th c A.D | Kamareddy | Jukkal | Kaulas |
| 9. | Nizamabad | 16 th -17 th c A.D | Nizamabad | Nizamabad | Nizamabad |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 10. | Balkonda | 13 th c A.D | Nizamabad | Balkonda | Balkonda |
| 11 | Elgandal | 17 th c A.D | Karimnagar | Karimnagar | Elgandal |
| 12 | Ramgiri | 15 th c A.D | Peddapalli | Kamanpur | Begumpet |
| 13 | Mulangur | 16 th -17 th c A.D | Karimnagar | Kesavapatnam | Mulangur |
| 14 | Jagtial | 17 th c A.D | Jagtial | Jagtial | Jagtial |
| 15 | Kotilingala | 2 nd c B.C | Jagtial | Velgatoor | Kotilingala |
| 16 | Nagunuru | 10 th -11 th c A.D | Karimnagar | Karimnagar | Nagunuru |
| 17 | Pratapagiri | 13 th c A.D | Jayasankar Bhupalapally | Mahadevpur | Pratapagiri |
| 18 | Jammikunta | 12 th -13 th c A.D | Karimnagar | Huzurabad | Jammikunta |
| 19 | Ananthagiri | 12 th -14 th c A.D | Sirsilla | Illanthakunta | Sirsilla |
| 20 | Medak | 14 th -15 th c A.D | Medak | Medak | Medak |
| 21 | Warangal | 8 th -13 th c A.D | Hanamkonda | Warangal | Warangal Fort |
| 22 | Thatikonda | 13 th c A.D | Jangaon | Station Ghanpur | Thatikonda |
| 23 | Zaffargadh | 13 th c A.D | Jangaon | Zaffargadh | Zaffargadh |
| 24 | Wardannapet | 18 th c A.D | Warangal | Wardannapet | Wardannapet |
| 25 | Quilashapur | 18 th c A.D | Jangaon | Raghunathapally | Quilashapur |
| 26 | Malkajgiri | 16 th c A.D | Medchal | Malkajgiri | Malkajgiri |
| 27 | Golkonda | 12 th -13 th c A.D | Hyderabad | Golkonda | Golkonda |
| 28 | Shamsheer | 17 th c A.D | Hyderabad | Golkonda | Golkonda |
| 29 | Bhongir | 12 th -18 th c A.D | Yadadri- Bhongir | Bhongir | Bhongir |
| 30 | Devarakonda | 14 th c A.D | Nalgonda | Devarakonda | Devarakonda |
| 31 | Rachakonda | 14 th c A.D | Yadadri- Bhongir | Narayanpur | Rachakonda |
| 32 | Nalgonda | 13 th c A.D | Nalgonda | Nalgonda | Nalgonda |
| 33 | Raigir | 12 th -18 th c A.D | Yadadri- Bhongir | Bhongir | Raigir |
| 34 | Nagulapadu | 14 th -15 th c A.D | Suryapet | Penpahad | Nagulapadu |
| 35 | Lokanda | - | Suryapet | Suryapet | Lokanda |
| 36 | Phanigiri | - | Suryapet | Thirumalagiri | Phanigiri |
| 37 | Rajapeta | 17 th c A.D | Yadadri- Bhongir | Rajapeta | Rajapeta |
| 38 | Undrugonda | - | Suryapet | Chivvemla | Undrugonda |
| 39 | Khammam | 11 th c A.D | Khammam | Khammam | Khammam Town |
| 10 | Wanaparth | - | Wanaparth | Wanaparth | Wanaparth |
| 41 | Gadwal | 17 th c A.D | Jogulamba - Gadwal | Gadwal | Gadwal |
| 42 | Ghanpur | 16 th c A.D | Wanaparth | GhanpurKilla | Ghanpur |
| 43 | Pratapa Rudra Kota | 13 th -14 th c A.D | Wanaparth | Atmakur | Chandragupta Patnam |
| 44 | Panagal | 13 th -15 th c A.D | Wanaparth | Panagal | Panagal |
| 45 | Jetprole | 15 th c A.D | Wanaparth | Veepangandla | Jetprole |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 46 | Koilkonda | 16 th c A.D | Mahabubnagar | Koilkonda | Koilkonda |
| 47 | Atmakur | 13 th c A.D | Wanaparthy | Atmakur | Atmakur |
| 48 | Samangadh | 17 th -18 th c A.D. | Nirmal | Nirmal | Samangadh |
| 49 | Sonagadh | 17 th -18 th c A.D. | Nirmal | Nirmal | Sonagadh |
| 50 | Sadar Mahal (Part of Nirmal fort) | 17 th -18 th c A.D. | Nirmal | Nirmal | Nirmal |
| 51 | Nizamkonda | 17 th c A.D | Jogulamba - Gadwal | Itikyala | Thimmapur |
| 52 | Alampur | 17 th c A.D. | Jogulamba - Gadwal | Alampur | Alampur |
| 53 | Kolanupaka | 11 th -18 th c A.D. | Yadadri-Bhongir | Aler | Kolanupaka |
| 54 | Chilukuru (Chaitanyapuri) | 11 th c A.D. | Rangareddy | Saroonagar | Chilukuru (Chaitanyapuri) |
| 55 | Vadapalli | 12 th -13 th c A.D. | Nalgonda | Dameracherla | Vadapalli |
| 56 | Nagarjunakonda | - | Nalgonda | Thirumalagiri Sagar | Nagarjunakonda |
| 57 | Kallepalli | 13 th -15 th c A.D. | Nalgonda | Dameracherla | Kallepalli |
| 58 | Pochannapet | 17 th c A.D. | Jangaon | Bachannapet | Pochannapet |

Conclusion

The present study tries to Provide a List of the important forts of the Telangana for tourist places. If someone wants to know about the forts better to visit the nearest fort. As far as Potential places are concerned, after fieldwork, it was observed that few people only visited these forts who know about the places which should be published or advertised or marketing and the information should be reached to the tourists and they can visit the places. Also take an account of the domestic needs of the Telangana state by giving information such as cheap accommodation, and easy ways to transportation.

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