

BEKAL FORT IN HISTORICAL AND TOURISM PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

The historical backdrop of man in certainty begins from the primitive age. During that period man was a wanderer. It was just on Neolithic Age onwards man had a settled existence and he turns into a sustenance maker. He find troubles to store surplus articles and his own particular possessions. Consequently, he pondered self-protection and that brought about working of safeguard system by man. It was the defense works worked by man prompted the erection of fortresses and bulwarks. With the advance of time man confronted frightening not just from wild creatures and his own kindred being yet in addition from other human gatherings. This constrained man to develop safeguard takes a shot at an extensive scale. Any structure proposed to monitor a place against assault by military or maritime is known as forts. Such fortress had an essential military part to play.

Keywords: *Bulwarks, Vapra, Balikulam, Durg, Saphthanga*

Introduction

The records of Megasthense and the Pali writings concentrate light on the utilization of wooden sleepers in the dividers of the town of Pataliputra^{lvi} The Silpasasthras have incredibly worried upon the significance of forts. The fortresses created as a focal point of the guard of various powers in the various period. In any case, the materials utilized for the development of strongholds change from various circumstances. In the antiquated period, mud and mortar were the principle material utilized for its construction. such fortresses were depicted as redoubts by the history specialists. Amid the medieval period, substantial squares of stones were utilized for the development of fortresses. The forts modified by land element and security of every realm.

In Indian History, one can follow out the development of forts like structure from Pre-Harappa times onwards. The most vital among them are found at Kotdiji and Kalibangan. Rig-Veda portrays Agni and Indra as the destroyer of strongholds. Ramayana and Mahabharata likewise have a complete reference about contemporary strongholds and fortresses. These sagas contain terms like 'Vapra' and 'Chataj' to allude strongholds, which implies fortress of mud. Smritis likewise contains reference about earthwork. Kautilya in his Saphthanga theory gave reference around seven appendages of the state and one of them was the fortification, which was specified as 'Durg'. In the old time frame, forts worked by utilizing mud as the fundamental substance. Mortar, wood, and blocks were utilized alongside mud. The Muslims, the Turks, and the Mughals constructed an extensive number of fortresses in the nation. Substantial squares of stones utilized for the development of fortresses.

Economically, strongholds assumed a noteworthy part for the conservation of resources. The Europeans manufactured the fortifications in Kerala for business and also military purposes. There are numerous references about Kerala association with strongholds in antiquated writing. Kerala got associated with fortifications amid the season of Perumals. It is trusted that the principal fortress in Kerala was worked amid the season of third Perumal from the Pandya nation. These fortifications had a place with the class of mud forts and the students of history depicted it as redoubts. Fort-engineering in Kerala subjected to a colossal change after the entry of Europeans particularly the Portuguese. They utilized European style of fortification building utilizing much better innovation. Fortress Manual was the main European forts worked in India at stronghold Cochin.

The shapes of the fortresses worked in Kerala were round, rectangular, triangular, hexagonal. For e.g. Vattakkotta, Palakkadu Fort, Saint Angelo, Pallippuram fortress correspondingly. The fortresses of Kerala, for example, Cannanore, Bekal, Tellicherry, Anjengo, Palakkad, Thangassery, and Vattakkottai in Kanyakumari area in Tamil Nadu, bear declaration to the strongholds of the medieval period.

Bekal fort

Bekal fortress is the biggest and the best-safeguarded stronghold in the state.^{lvii} It sprawls over a territory of in excess of 30 sections of land, and the Fort is pretty much in a reduced round shape. As indicated by Hand Book of South Canara by HA Stewert (1895) the Fort was constructed by Sivappa Naik of Ikkerly administration in 1645.^{lviii} It was the military center of Ikkerly kings.^{lix} Bekal Fort came under the control of Hyder Ali in 1763 and to the British Empire in 1799. In any case, a few history specialists are the

supposition that it was worked by Kolathiris of Kannur and later the Nayaks caught from them when they neglected to give standard levy to them, Sivappanayaka of Bednore caught the fort.^{lx}

It lies on the ocean shore of Pallikara town in Housdurg taluk, Kasaragod area. It lies around 17 km Southeast of Kasaragod town. Kasaragod is the northernmost locale in Kerala. It is limited by Dakshin Kannad locale (circumscribing Kasaragod taluk) at north and east, Kodagu region is flanking Housdurg taluk south-east of Karnataka state, Cannanore (Kannur) area at the south and the Arabian Sea at the western side.

The sea significance of Bekal expanded substantially under Kolathiries and it turned into an imperative port town of Thulunadu. Etymologically, the word 'Bekal' originates from 'Be' which implies consuming and 'Kallu' mean stone. It is in roundabout shape.^{lxi} According to another version Bekal is gotten from Balikulam, it implies huge castle. The place is said to have housed a major castle previously. The term Balikulam was possessed as Bekulam and later called as Bekal by the neighborhood individuals.^{lxii}

Bekal fort is developed on hoisted hillocks close to the Arabian Sea arranged north to south heading. Passage is through the primary entryway confronting the north, and is encompassed via ocean on the east, west, and the south. There was likewise an inward fortification. The fortress comprises of numerous bastions and a watchtower in the middle. Inside the fort there are four underground entries all prompting the ocean. Sanctuary devoted to the Lord Hanuman is found in one of the front bastions, and two depressed wells are seen amidst the dry canal.

The huge and broad Bekal stronghold bulwark dividers are penetrated through fifteen bastions with two primary passageways on the northern side. On western side a subterranean center underground door or section, which leads towards the Arabian Sea. The most elevated watchtower of Bekal Fortress. From the structural perspective, this kind of octagonal high watchtower goes under pilgrim design. It is in an Indo Portuguese style. This is the most astounding watchtower and the whole region can be seen from this watchtower.

The Fort is currently overseeing and kept up by The Archeological Survey of India (ASI).^{lxiii} A mystery entry found in the primary passage of the fortress in the eastern side by the Archeological unearthing directed amid 2005.^{lxiv} There is a Traveler's Bungalow inside the Fort, which is redesigned and kept up by the Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Ltd, a Government of Kerala undertaking. There is a Hanuman sanctuary at the passageway of the Fort. An old mosque is additionally arranged close to the Fort and it is accepted to have been built by Tipu Sulthan.

Tourism is frequently portrayed as the quickest developing and the second biggest industry of the world.^{lxv} Tourism the Department of Tourism in Kerala says, "Monetary enhancement and innovative change has made a helpful domain for tourism advancement in the present period of globalization.^{lxvi} Tourism is to be seen as a long haul sustainable asset. We can consider maintainable tourism advancement as a positive approach, which can diminish the strains and grindings made by the cooperation between the tourism business, the guests, nature and the host communities.^{lxvii} The Economic Review 1999 comments: "the rate offer of Kerala in the nation's tourism income is a decent eight percent with incomes approximately at Rs.500crores in 1999. The state has turned into a multidimensiona1 tourism goal, with voyagers ready to browse an assortment of alternatives backwaters, shorelines, Ayurvedic resorts and high ranges-all inside a span of 200 kms".^{lxviii}

Bekal is an up and coming worldwide tourism goal Government of India, with an end goal to create potential shoreline areas, which could be produced as waterfront goals, had the western drift studied in 1990. In view of the examination, 6 areas along the drift were distinguished as appropriate for advancement which incorporates "Bekal", the drowsy town in Kasaragod region in the northernmost piece of Kerala. In 1992, the Government of India proclaimed Bekal under the 'Exceptional Tourism Area' for the incorporated resort advancement. From that point Government of Kerala endowed a multidisciplinary group comprising of Planners, Landscape Architects Urban and transport pros, auxiliary advisors, and tourism relaxation industry specialists for the arrangement of task blueprint for Bekal.

In 1995 Government of Kerala framed Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Limited (BRDC) as an open part Company under the Companies Act 1956, for fast execution of Bekal Project. The undertaking territory comprises of 134 Sq.Km. spread more than 4 Panchayath's of Chemnad, Uduma, Pallikere and Ajanoor of Kasaragod locale. BRDC has obtained 233.37 sections of land of land for improvement of 6 Resort destinations and Bekal Beach Park. fortresses around Bekal Kasaragod is known as the "place that is known for Forts", About 3.5 lakhs visitors visits this Fort annually.^{lxix} Tourism has created work in Kerala to the tune of almost 7 Lakh.^{lxx}

Kerala likewise advances shoreline tourism. Most of India's best shorelines are in Kerala. Kerala appreciates an uncommon connection with the ocean. Magically conceived from it, Kerala's bond with the

ocean is that of a tyke and mother. Kovalam, Varkala, Alleppey, Kappad and Bekal are the principle shorelines in Kerala draws in sightseers from in and abroad.^{lxxi}

Bekal Resort Development Corporation (BRDC)

The BRDC was produced particularly to profit tourism and travelers attractions in Bekal and its encompassing effect territories. Their fundamental concentration is to give showcasing assets and to be effectively engaged with nearby, local, and statewide promoting .A quiet town in Kasaragod region, Bekal is a land with a storied past. Here the old fortifications and brilliant shorelines whisper to the breeze legends obscure to mankind. The sun kissed shorelines, the magnificent strongholds, grand slopes, winding streams and the rich social convention of this land all could not hope to compare to the old stories it needs to share. To protect the rich legacy, characteristic vegetation and the flawless appeal of this curious town, the Government of Kerala has begun the Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Ltd (BRDC). It is a wander expected to make Bekal a 'Shoreline Tourist Destination' at standard with global principles. Situated in the southwestern tip of India, the broad shorelines, various estuaries and backwaters and the unexplored virgin environs all qualify Bekal as a site with huge potential to end up a universal visitor goal. ^{lxxii}

End Notes

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