



A STUDY OF HISTORICAL TOURIST CENTRES IN BULDHANA DISTRICT (MS)

Pandharinath Popat Shejul

Research Student

Introduction:

India is the land of Historical monuments, which are the in the list of must see attractions in the country. These Indian historical tourist places offers heritage and cultural tourism in India and also at top of the list in international tourism. The roots of Indian history lie in its historic forts, the ancient temples, and the alluring Mughal architecture. Unravelling these marvels will offer you a peek into the rich Indian history. India's authentic wealthy trove of culture, crafts, mysticism, art, philosophy, tradition, music and architecture has been luring travelers, scholars and history buffs across the globe from long past.

Historical Tourist Centres in Buldhana District:

The Buldhana district is enriched with historical tourist centres. The analysis of the same is as below:

Malkapur:

Malkapur was the scene of several petty battles between *zamin-dars*, rural *talukdars*, Rajputs and Musalmans, during the period between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the Assignment of Berar to the East India Company in 1853. The most interesting and modern of the objects is the Gauri-shankar *mandir*. Constructed in 1952 by an industrialist of Malkapur on the Malkapur-Nandura road at a distance of about a mile from the railway station, it is a miniature replica of a peak of the Himalayas from where emerges the Ganga. At the top of the hill is a golden statue of the Ganga 5'—3" in height, with a pot (*kumbha*) in her hand pouring water. On the left of the statue of the Ganga, is the statue of Shankara with his hair dishevelled. To the right, are the statues of Parvati and Ganapati. Almost at the bottom of the hill is the statue of Nandi.



Sindkhedraja:

The *paragana* of Sindkhed was granted as *jahagir* to the *Kazi* of the town in about 1450 A.D., and was after about a century made over by him to the Jadhav family, the most famous member of which was Lakhuji, the father of Jijabai and the grandfather of Shivaji, the Great. Lakhuji was, according to one account, a Rajput from Karauli. According to another, the family claimed descent from the Yadavas of Devagiri. Lakhuji obtained a command of 10,000 horse under the Ahmadnagar government. His daughter was married to Shahaji Bhosle, the father of Shivaji.

Lakhuji's Palace.- Lakhuji Jadhav's extensive palace, the birthplace of Jijabai, except for its massive gate of stone and bricks and underground chambers, lies in total ruins. Above the gate is a drum chamber (*nagarkhana*). The cells are reported to have been cleared of debris and silt about four to five years back. In the underground chambers, still in good condition was housed the basic training college for some time. A memorial to Lakhuji Jadhav stands in the form of a masonry structure 40' x 40' with a brick dome crowning the *samadhi* of Lakhuji right below which is also installed a *linga*. Two stairways on both the sides of the main entrance lead up to the terrace. Of these one is blocked. By the side of the tomb is a temple dedicated to Rameshvara with a ruined brick wall enclosure. The temple is said to have been built by Lakhuji Jadhav in response to his mother's wishes.

Rohinkhed:

This village in Malkapur tahsil is situated 20 miles to the south of Malkapur the tahsil headquarters. The village has seen the scene of two battles. In 1437 Nasir Khan Faruqi, the *Sultan* of Khandesh, invaded Berar to avenge the ill-treatment of his daughter by Ala-ud-din Bahamani, to whom she had been married. Khalaf Hasan Basri, the Governor of Daulatabad, who had been sent against the invader, fell upon Nasir Khan Faruqi at Rohinkhed, routed him and pursued him to his capital, Burhanpur, which he sacked. A mosque was built at Rohinkhed in 1582 by Khudavand Khan Mahdavi, a follower of Jamalkhan. It is now in a dilapidated condition. It bears an inscription of which only fragments are legible. It records the fact that the mosque was built in A.H. 990 (A.D. 1582) by Khudavand Khan whose generosity is praised. It



is said to be second only to Kabah at Mecca in sanctity. The area surrounding Rohinkhed was once famous as a hunting ground where different game birds and animals were found.

Shahapur:

Shahapur is a historic place near Balapur near Akola, Maharashtra. At present it is small town in the Khamgaon Tehsil of Buldhana District. After this initial victory at Ahmednagar Prince Murad, son of Akbar settled in Berar Subah with Balapur as his headquarters. Near Balapur he founded a new city named Shahapur and constructed a beautiful palace near the banks of Mun River for himself during 1597. The shahpur forts / palace was built by Mirza azam shaha the son of aurangzeb .

Sakharkherda:

Sakharkherda is situated on the Bhogawati, an affluent of the Penganga, 12 miles to the north-west of Mehkar. About the well it is said that some merchants transporting sugar threw it into the well on being attacked and hence the water from the well used to taste sugary for some time. The place is of considerable antiquity, and a local tradition says that a saint named Palasi Siddha settled in Sankhedi, a hamlet of the town. It was here, in 1724, that the battle which decided the Nizam's supremacy in the Deccan was fought between Nizam-ul-mulk Asaf Zah. The mosque is a masonry work, only the top dome and the minar tops being of bricks and chunam. The mosque has a walled enclosure, the courtyard being cement-lined. It has an *inam* for its upkeep. The mosque is preserved under the Preservation of Monuments Act.

In memory of the saint, a large *math* has been constructed in which Palasi Siddha in a sitting posture. Below it is a marble *linga* with a bust of Shankara. The door-frame of the room is plated with silver. From an inscription on the door panel, it appears that the saint took *samadhi* in *Shaka* 980. Outside the compound of the *math*, nearly, a tamarind tree marks the *samadhi* of the saint. It is believed by the devotees that in the vicinity there was a spot from where a cow used to emerge, and disappear after being milked by those present. The *math* is said to have been constructed about 500 years ago. Besides, there is a temple of Ramananda Maharaja, a noted *saint* who is said to have taken *samadhi* about 35 years ago. Only



the *padukas* of the Maharaja who hailed from Chandani village in Akola district are kept there and one of his disciples by name Pralhad Maharaja looks after the temple. A fair attended by about 5,000 people is held from *Magha Vadya Navami* to *Dwadashi*.

Mehkar:

The town was in a very prosperous state until the inroads of the Pendharis began, and these, together with the famine of 1803, completed its decline. On the high ground to the east of the town there is an old Muham-medan shrine called the *Punch Pir*, and about a mile to the northeast are the remains of a palace which are known as the *Kasbini-cha Mahal*. The temple of Balaji finely situated in the centre of the town with a magnificent view of the surrounding country was built at a cost of a lakh and a half of rupees subscribed by the public to house an image of Vishnu which was found on the site in 1888 while some excavations were in progress. The *dhamiashala* at Mehkar is about 72 feet square inside and is formed by a deep covered colonnade with two rows of pillars surrounding a small central square 23 feet square, which is open to the sky, and the pavement of which is sunk a few feet below the level of the colonnade. There were 60 pillars in all. There is a marked absence of figure sculpture on this building, and the decoration on the pillars is almost entirely confined to geometric and conventional leaf designs.

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