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Pre historic sites of megalithic age in Surapura Taluka

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Abstract

Surapura is rich in ancient cultural traditions as also in historical associations. With its ancient capitals, historic battle-fields and architectural monuments., it attracts the attention of any enlightened visitor and takes him back to those days of the glorious past when kingdoms after kingdoms rose, reigned and declined over this ancient land. The Taluka provides many attractions not only to the historian, but also to the scholar, pilgrim, archaeologist, geologist and industrialist alike. A brief account of some of the more important places of interest in the Taluka are as the follows.

The place of Surapura is the most historically and compatible in the all respects. In South Asia, megaliths of all kinds are noted, these vary from Menhirs, Rock-cut burial, chamber tomb, dolmens, stone alignment, stone circles and anthropomorphic figures. These are broadly classified into two classes Sepulchral in which memorial stones where mortal remains along with funerary objects are placed and Non-sepulchral including large patterned placement of stones over a wide area, 'non-sepulchral' type is associated with astronomy and cosmology in South Asia and in other parts of the world.

Keywords: Pre historic sites, megalithic age, Surapura Taluka

Introduction

Megaliths in South Asia is dated before 3000 BC, with recent findings dated back to 5000 BC in southern India. Megaliths are found in almost all parts of the South Asia and there is also a broad time evolution with the megaliths in central India and upper Indus valley where oldest Megaliths are also found, while those in the east are of much later date. A large fraction of these are assumed to be associated with burial or post burial rituals including memorials for those whose remains may or may not be available. The case-example is that of Brahmagiri, which was excavated by Wheeler (1975) and helped establish the culture sequence in south Indian prehistory. However, there is another distinct class of megaliths that do not seem to be associated with burials.

In context of prehistoric anthropomorphic figures in India, (Rao 1988/1999, Upinder Singh 2008) [9] note that it is unclear what these giant anthropomorphic symbolize, they usually occur in association with megalithic monument and are located in a megalithic burial grounds, they may have been connected with ancestor worship.

Surapura is rich in ancient cultural traditions as also in historical associations. With its ancient capitals, historic battle-fields and architectural monuments., it attracts the attention of any enlightened visitor and takes him back to those days of the glorious past when kingdoms after kingdoms rose, reigned and declined over this ancient land. The Taluka provides many attractions not only to the historian, but also to the scholar, pilgrim, archaeologist, geologist and industrialist alike. A brief account of some of the more important places of interest in the Taluka are as the follows.

Indian history is very rich, varied and hoary. In other parts of the world a historical monument, say, 1000 year old becomes an eighth wonder of the world. But not so in India, where a 2000 to 2500 years old site is taken in our stride for granted in Karnataka we find pre historic sites of megalithic age going back to 1500 B.C. some of these sites are found in Hunasagi, Yadagiri district near surapur, a skirmish which was a part of India's first war of Independence took place in 1958. So surapur has been a witness to historical incidents from 1500 B.C. to the present day.

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Historic settlement have been discovered in Rajan Kolar in Shorapur taluk which is called as 'Giddar Mane'.

Hunasagi

Hunasagi is a town in the Shorapur taluk of Yadgir district in Karnataka state, India. A number of early Palaeolithic sites were found in Hunasagi. Hunasagi is 48 km southwest of the distinct headquarters, Yadgir and 33 km from Shorapur. The nearest railhead is in Yadgir.

Demographics

At the 2001 census, Hunasagi had 10,555 inhabitants, with 5526 males and 5029 females.

Archaeological sites

One late stage Old Stone Age site, excavated at Hunasagi, contained stone tools and weapons made from a reddish-brown chert. Tools found included longish blades with sharp edges and many multi-purpose instruments. At some sites, large numbers of tools, used for all sorts of activities, were found, suggesting that these were probably habitation-cum factory sites. In some of the other, smaller sites, there is evidence to suggest that they were locations where just tools were made. Some of the sites were close to springs. Most of the tools were made from the local limestone.

Hagaratagi

Hagaratagi is a hirorical village in Shorapur Taluk in Yadgir District of Karnataka State, India. And is archaeological interest in that some remains of old Dravidian culture are found. The archaeological survey of India have unearthed a number of objects for further study.

It belongs to Gulbarga Division. It is located 70 km towards the west from its district headquarters Yadgir and 473 km from its state capital Bengaluru. Hagaratagi Pin code is 585237 and postal head office is Kodekal. Hagaratagi is surrounded by Shahapur Taluk towards the east, Devadurga Taluk towards the east, Lingsugur Taluk towards the south, and Jevargi Taluk towards the north.

HagaratagiA Historical Village, here Pandavas came to vanavasa and Bheema killed Rakshasa by name Bakasura in the tenure of vanavasa. In puranas Hagaratagi is known as Ekachakra. Village has around 101 temples and 101 pounds. Few of the temples are Dharmaraja, Arjuna, Karna, Nakula, kunthi etc. All the Temples are carved with sculptures and beautiful paintings. Now the temples are all demolished and this place remains undiscovered and it needs a political and administration attantion.

This village placemark is situated in Bijapur, Karnataka, India and its geographical coordinates are $16^{\circ} 23' 57''$ North,

$76^{\circ} 23' 11''$ East. Original name (with diacritics) of the place is Tālikota. See Hagaratagi photos and images from satellite below, explore the aerial photographs of Hagaratagi in Talikota area.

Conclusion

The pace of Surapura is the most historically and compatible in the all respects. In South Asia, megaliths of all kinds are noted, these vary from Menhirs, Rock-cut burial, chamber tomb, dolmens, stone alignment, stone circles and anthropomorphic figures. These are broadly classified into (potentially overlapping) of two classes (after Moorti, 1994, 2008): Sepulchral (containing remains of the dead) in which memorial stones where mortal remains along with funerary objects are placed and Non-sepulchral including large patterned placement of stones over a wide area, 'non-sepulchral' type is associated with astronomy and cosmology in South Asia and in other parts of the world (Menon and Vahia, 2010).

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