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Muslim Monuments in Solapur City During Medieval Period

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While studying the historical monuments of the medieval period of Solapur, it is always better to study the muslim monuments of those period. As in medieval period in Solapur the politics of muslim ruler were in air. Many monuments are built on the names of the invaders of Sultan. Bahamani, Mughals and Nizams. Here the word invader is used for the Muslim ruler as all the rulers for the Muslim rulers from Sultan to Nizam's of Hyderabad have ruled Solapur in either of the ways. Solapur had never gained any political importance nor it had become the capital of any power. In the medieval period, Muslims considered Solapur and the surrounding place as an important trade market and an important militarist station. Due to the Muslim rule, there were Masjid, Dargaah, Edgaah built around. Muslim monuments of Bahamani dynasty are found in large number. As Adilshah and Solapur district are closely related we can find maximum monuments built by them. Even Emperor Aurangzeb use to halt at Solapur district. during his South raid.

Masjid and Kabeeri's acquires an important place in Muslim. In Muslim architecture, dome and mohareb are the specialty. Muslims have given more importance to the art and architecture than the military and defense. The art and architecture also includes forts but also of Masjid and Kabeeri are found in Solapur.

Muslim Monuments and Solapur district

Solapur city and the district have a very important place in the history of Southern India of medieval period Gulbarga city is situated very near to Solapur, hence the Bahamani culture traces can be seen. After Bahamani Kingdom Adilshahi also made Vijaypur as its trading centre which is nearby Solapur hence Solapur once again more important as a trading center and it came in contact with Islamic culture. Later followed by the rulers, Solapur kept on gaining importance. To keep their marks behind, the rulers built up huge monuments and named after them. Main monuments i.e. Solapur Subha was built by the Bahamani and during Adilshahi regime. As the city was prospered and flourished, the raw material like wood etc. was available here in abundance. Many Islamic architecture monuments can be seen in Solapur.

More than hundred orders from Solapur revealed that Solapur had great importance in Adilshahi rule. From these orders we can come to the conclusion that there was a regular demand of skilled labour of Solapur. Mason, helpers, were much in demand. Similarly the demand for the people related to the construction department can also be concluded from these orders. From the order it is also clear that there was a separate department for construction. Therefore the demand of the raw material and skilled labours were

demanding on a regular basis. The construction department had a significant value in the Adilshahi regime. Today many magnificent Muslim monuments can be seen. In the Mughal dynasty, Aurangzeb had his residence during the southern raid in Solapur for more than 27 years, due to which many monuments built by Aurangzeb are seen in Solapur. And from such monuments we have dealt with them as follows:

Jama Masjid: Solapur In the medieval period, the Solapur city was under the Adilshahi rule. As per one of the Parsi records, it can be said that Solapur was an important Pargana for Adilshah. From the remains of the historical monuments we can conclude that Solapur had a great importance. Among many historical monuments, Jama Masjid has more significance. Water storage tanks and water pipeline transportation to Edgaah must be done from Jama Masjid. There are many evidences proving that this Masjid was constructed by Adilshah. On one of the pillars of the entrance there is an inscription inscribed on it. It informs us that the construction of Jama Masjid began in Hijri 978 i.e. 1557 and the engineer of it was Baba Zabeen. In the interior of the Masjid there is a cemetery of Ambar Malik, who was the wazir of Nizam Shah. Ambar Malik had captured the Solapur fort in 1623 and he died in 1628. His name is engraved on the cemetery. This Masjid has a great pride in the Muslim community even today. During the month of Ramadan, the Muslims pray Namaz in the Masjid. Every Friday in the Masjid people offer the prayer. The whole construction of the Masjid is made of stone.

Inside the Masjid there are two shilaleekahs inscribed in Parsi language. The inscription is of around 45cm x 45cm to the right of the entrance. The inscription states that, "During the Adilshahi regime Baba Zabeed Khan laid the first stone of construction." Zabeed Khan was the governor of the defence ministry. This inscription is inscribed in Hijri 988. The inscription proves that this Jama Masjid was constructed by Zabeed Khan under the kingship of Adilshah. One more inscription can be seen inside the Masjid. This pillar is inscribed half in Parsi and half in Marathi, this inscription is of dimension 37cm x 70cm. According to the shilaleekah, the water tanks, Masjid, gardens and the Adilpur peth were built during the Adilshahi period. In this way we can conclude from this inscription that when the Jama Masjid was constructed, in whose regime it was constructed, by whom it was constructed.

Shahi Alimgarh Edgaah Solapur : During the southern raid, the Mughal emperor had been residing in Solapur and especially when he was in Brahmपुरi. The emperor used to pray the Namaz and special Friday Namaz was also prayed in Solapur. But to pray a special Eid Namaz in Solapur, the emperor constructed Edgaah in 1692. This Edgaah is constructed on the playground of Zilla Parishad Pangala High School. Around this Edgaah two minars have been constructed on both sides of the Edgaah. Inside these two minars there are two more small pillars. A small podium is constructed with three staircases for the Muslim kazi for the inspirational talk with the Muslims on the east-facing Edgaah. The following matter is inscribed on the top of the Edgaah. The Kalma of the Kuran - e - Sharif was inscribed. In the interior it was inscribed as "La ilaha illaha Muhammad Rasul Allaha".

Beneath that it was inscribed as "Sange buniyad ba daste mubarak najrat" and in the center it was inscribed as "Alimgarh" and followed by A. D. 1692. Shahi Alimgarh Edgaah was inscribed. As well as in the centre of Edgaah on the right and left hand side "Allah" and "Mohammad" are inscribed in the stamp script and lastly "Allhahu Akbar" was inscribed on it. This Edgaah have a very significant importance in the religious view.

Hahrat Shah Jahur Dargha of Solapur: This Dargah is situated near the Siddheshwa temple. This place is well know for the Sufi Saints and it is a very important place. The construction was financed by the royal treasury. The nagarkhana was constructed by the Aurangajedb. Besides this Dargha there is a Mazar of Sultan Shaha. Here we can also find the residual of broken Inscription Some of the Mughal emperor have donated the lands to the Suphi Saints. The dimension of this Dargha is 4.57cm. x 4.57cm. The entrance gate is 3.4m high and 1.82m wide. In this way this Sufi Saints Dargha has an importance place in the Solapur monuments.

Hajrat Haji Mahi Dargha of Solapur: In the Datta Chowk of Solapur there is a Sufi Saints Dargha which is called as Hajrat Haji Mahi Dargha. There is a full dome shape construction on which it is named as SahibGhumad. The Mazar of the Hajrat Hidayat Allaha Shaikh Shah. his follower Parishaha are constructed under this dome. The length of this Mazar is 6.96m and its width is 6.96m. The measurement of the door is 75cm x 1m x 21cm. It can be said as one of the most best sculpture of muslim architecture.

Black Masjid of Solapur In the heart of the Solapur city, the black masjid is situated. It is one of the best examples of muslim architecture. This masjid was constructed by Adilshaha of Vijapur. The dimension of this masjid is 9m x 14cm x 4.57cm. This masjid has a very beautiful dome shape which is finely encraved. During the survey it was very much clear that this masjid is very old and made up of stones. There are 3 wide entrance gates on three sides of this masjid and for vazoo (i.e. washing hands and legs) there is a rectangular shaped water tank. There are few Inscription inside the masjid which have urdu inscription indicating the builders name. date of construction of the masjid.

Jabidkhan Dargaha: Adilshahi Hawaldar jabidkhan Dargaha is situated in Solapur's Guruwar Peth . Jabidkhan was one of the loyal servants of Vijapur's Adilshah. He has constructed many buildings, water tanks, gardens etc. From the Inscription of the Jamamasjid it is clear that Jabid khan was the engineer of Jamâ masjid and he constructed it from 1557 to 1567 period. The mazar was beautiful and every stone was encraved by the letters from Kuran. This is one of the best examples of muslim architecture. This Dargaha have many small madari, which have encraved royal symbols of Adilshahi. There is a underground room where there is one more mazar. There are total mazars and each mazar have Adilshahi symbol. It is recognized as one of the muslim architect of Adilshahi period.

Conclusion

During the study of the historical monuments of Solapur. The study of muslim monuments is important. As in medieval period, in Solapur was ruled by many muslim emperors. All the rulers of Sultan to Hyderabad's

nijam have visited Solapur and ruled Solapur. Solapur never had an political importance any time , but still Solapur and its surrounding place was an important trading centre and a miltrious centre. Due to this muslim invaders there were many masjid, dargha a and idgaha belts. And under the names of Bahamani, Adilshahi many more construction was done. During Aurangzeb raid in South, he used to reside in solapur. Hence many buildings were constructed by him. During Sultans period the construction was done by the Indian people. The muslims destroyed the Hindu tempels and used them for the construction of masjids. The speciality of these muslim monument was Moharab and Dome. The muslims soldiers have not only constructed the defence department, fort but also beautiful encraved buildings. The forts are also the part of the muslim architecture, but masjid and kabaries are found in Solapur. During the Adilshahi regime medieval period Solapur had great importance. Jama masjid was constructed in Adilshahi regime in Solapur has a historical importance. From the Arabic and Parshi shilalekh we can conclude that the masjids were constructed in Adilshahi regime in the medi-
eval period. From the diary news of the court we can conclude that Aurangazeb used to offer his praying Namaj in this masjid. Similarly, the Edgaah have an historical importance in his regime. Even he used to offer his Eid namaz in this masjid. We can observe that this masjid have been constructed according to the Islamic archite-
cture. In Solapur on the bank of Siddheshwar river there is a Sufi Hajrat Shah Jahur dargaha is constructed. In this dargaha we can find the remains of many Adilshahi shilalekh . From the authentic papers we can say that this dargaha had received some lands from the mughals. Hajrat haji mahi dargaha built in haji mahi chowk is a best example of the Islamic architecture. Even the kali masjid built in the centre of the solapur city by Adilshaha is a other example. The history of the dargaha can be read out from the inscription on the dargaha in the urdu language. Javed khan was a efficient officer of Adilshaha have constructed many building, water tanks, gardens etc. even his dargaha is constructed in Guruwar peth. The mothersa built behind him is one of the best mothersa of Solapur city. On each mothersa there is a royal Adilshahi symbol inscribed. In this way we can study the monuments built by the rulers in their regime which needs to be preserved.

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