

UGC Minor Research Project Summarized Report

Title-: Archaeological Heritages of Thane City

UGC MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT NO. - 23-270/12(WRO)/2013

Principal Investigator

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- **Objectives-:**

- 1) To find out the importance of Thane city in the past.
- 2) To collect detailed history of old architectural structures of Thane city which are invaluable heritage.
- 3) To find out the present condition of these architectural structures.
- 4) To ascertain whether they are receiving government grants or not.
- 5) To create awareness among the people of Thane regarding the importance and value of our heritages.
- 6) To make an appeal to the government for the preservation and protection of these monuments.

- **Methodology**

The present study is based on primary and secondary sources. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are used.

A) **Primary Sources** consulted are as follows -:

- 1) Government records.
- 2) Field work
- 3) Interviews – Structured and unstructured
- 4) Information through questionnaire.

B) **Secondary Sources-:**

Sufficient secondary sources such as books written by renowned writers, Journals, newspapers, websites were referred.

C) **Tool and Analysis-:** The data information are tabulated and analyzed through simple statistical tools like tabulation form and using bar graphic representation.

- **Limitation of the Study-:** The study has some limitations.

- I) Some difficulties were faced while collecting information from religious monuments. In some temples they denied to share any information and photographs. Since ladies are not allowed to enter inside the mosques, present condition of these structures could not be observed. Information of these monuments was collected from secondary sources.

- II) Faced difficulties to get appointments of trustees.
- III) A sample size of 100 local residents was studied.

- **Findings**

Suitable geographical condition, easy navigation and natural beauty of Thane attracted many indigenous dynasties as well as foreigners to colonize and rule the land. Available historical sources prove that Thane remained an important Port city from ancient time to British period. The city took a leading part in internal as well as external trade. Thane port gained popularity under Shilaharas in 12th century AD. The importance declined during Muslim rule in 14th century AD. The reason behind this was, transfer of capital from Dualatabad to Gulburga. Construction of forts at Vasai and Thane made the city a busy trading centre under Portuguese. Rapid development in trade and commerce started after introduction of first railway in 1853 from Thane to Bombay under British. Cultural, political and social development was at apex during Shilahara period. From ancient period to present days, Thane has possessed a cosmopolitan nature. The secular and tolerant attitude of Shilahara rulers encouraged people from different religions and diverse communities including Parsis, Christians, Muslims and Jews to migrate to Thane. This trend has been still continued.

Continuous connection and penetration of foreigners and indigenous dynasties left traces of different culture in the form of historical and religious monuments. Most of the architectural structures are religious. The land was dominated by Hindus therefore many temples were constructed. Arrival of Muslim community took place in this city due to trade connection with Arabs and also during the rule of Muslim rulers of Gujarat. Existence of some old mosques is witness of this. The land was ruled by Portuguese and British therefore there is existence of Catholic and Protestant churches. Arrival of Parsis and Jew trading community is proved from the presence of structures related to their religion

Many architectural heritages were renovated and are still used for administrative purposes. For example, Sur Subhedar of Thane, Ramji Bivalkar's bungalow was constructed during Maratha period. From British period, it has been used as Thane court. Buvaji naik's Bungalow has been used

